

# Phoenix Rising



December 2016

# Table of Contents

Monthly Status Report by RADM Ralph Planthold	2
Second Officer's Report by LCDR John Bevan	4
Marine Unit Status Report by ADM Sunnie Planthold	9
Marine Unit Report by ADM Sunnie Planthold	10
Chief Engineer's Report by LT Rezty Felty	13
Communication Officer's Report by Ensign Tracy Mengel	16
Chief Medical Officer's Report by LT Laura Felty	20
Astronomer's Report by LTJG Carolyn Kaberline	21
Fun & Frivolity	23

## MSR REPORT

CHAPTER:	USS Dark Phoenix
REPORT FOR:	November, 2016
SUBMITTED:	12/02/2016
SUBMITTER:	RADM Ralph Planthold
ADDRESS:	2200 W 26th St #C-15
CITY:	Lawrence
STATE:	Kansas
ZIP/POSTAL:	66047
COUNTRY:	United States
PHONE:	813-244-9733
CHAPTER TYPE:	MEETING
REGISTRATION:	NCC 74920
CLASS:	Prometheus
CO:	RADM Ralph Planthold
XO:	ADM Sunnie Planthold
NEWSLETTER:	Phoenix Rising
PUBLICATION DT:	11/14/2016

## 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
73697	09/26/2017	ENSJg	Jean Martin
73886	08/02/2017	LT	KLar Batt
73954	08/20/2017	LT	Brent Barbee Mr
74062	09/19/2017	ENS	Josh Levering
74085	09/27/2017	LT	Rezty Felty
74086	09/27/2017	LT	Laura Felty
74087	09/27/2017	CDT	Tesla Felty
74088	09/27/2017	CDT	Sagan Felty
74089	09/27/2017	CDT2C	Dyson Felty
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	LTJG	Martin Peterson
74775	04/18/2017	CRMN	Lisa Brown
74796	04/24/2017	CRMN	Tim Burns
74802	04/29/2017	ENS	Sara Fisher
74803	04/29/2017	CRMN	William Fisher
74804	04/29/2017	ENS	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
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
75656	09/26/2017	ENS	Tracy Mengel
75789	10/23/2017	CRMN	John Eppich
75790	10/23/2017	CRMN	Connie Arensman

## ACADEMY :

### John Bevan

IOFHS - College of the Fantasy Realm

OW 107.1 - Highlander (TV)

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016

WW 113 - Hocus Pocus

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016

OW 107.2 - Highlander (1986)

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016

IOMS - College of Security in Trek (IOMS:CST)

IOMS CST 001 General Security

**HONORS** 11/12/2016

IOMS CST 002 Section 31

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016

IOMS CST 003 Federation Security

**DISTINCTION** 11/13/2016

IOTA - Chaplain Services College of Spirituality

CSCS 101 - Duties of the Chaplain

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016

CSCS 102 - Spiritual Counseling

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016

CSCS 103 - History of the Civil War Chaplains

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016

CSCS 104 - Chaplains of the Revolutionary War

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016

CSCS 105 - Religion in Star Trek

**HONORS** 11/12/2016

### Tracy Mengel

IOFHS - College of the Fantasy Realm

WW 101 - Harry Potter & Sorcerer's Stone

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016

WW 102 - Harry Potter & Chamber of Secrets

**HONORS** 11/12/2016

WW 103 - Harry Potter & Prisoner of Azkaban

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016

WW 104 - Harry Potter & Goblet of Fire

**HONORS** 11/12/2016

OW 107.1 - Highlander (TV)

**HONORS** 11/12/2016

WW 105 - Harry Potter & Order of the Phoenix

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016

WW 113 - Hocus Pocus

**HONORS** 11/12/2016

OW 107.2 - Highlander (1986)

**DISTINCTION** 11/12/2016  
IOLS - Officer's Command College (IOLS:OCC)

**HONORS** 11/09/2016  
IOST - College of Chemistry

CC 101 Periodic Table Part 1

**DISTINCTION** 11/17/2016

CC 102 Periodic Table Part 2

**DISTINCTION** 11/17/2016

## OTHER INFO

**MEETING DATE :** 11/19/2016

## PROMOTIONS :

## ACTIVITIES :

- 11/04 SO hosted ENS Mengel at his home for Academy courses that covered various movies that they watched together.
- 11/04 CO and SO met ENS Mengel for lunch.
- 11/04 CO, SO, and ENS Mengel attended the premiere showing of Doctor Strange.



- 11/05 SO began notifying members of the crew regarding professional development opportunities.
- 11/05 SO hosted ENS Mengel at his home to continue pursuing completion of Academy courses.
- 11/06 Command Staff met over dinner at SO's home and discussed the various professional development programs designed for various members of the crew.
- 11/07 SO met with ENS Mengel at her home for dinner to discuss her professional development opportunities and to provide the movies she required to complete her current round of Academy courses.
- 11/09 SO hosted ENS Mengel as she started her tests toward completion of her Bridge Officer certification.
- 11/10 Four members of the SOU-666 met in Tonganoxie for dinner. Those who attended were SO/Team Leader LCDR Bevan, LT L. Felty, LT R. Felty, and ENS Mengel.
- 11/10 SO hosted ENS Mengel while she worked on her Bridge Officer certification tests.
- 11/11 SO hosted Game Night at his home. As ENS Mengel was the only one who attended, the evening was spent watching episodes of TNG and taking a break from tests.
- 11/16 SO assisted ENS Mengel in packing and moving some of her belongings

- 11/19 to her new quarters.  
ENS Mengel relocated to other quarters and SO assisted her in this task. CO and XO/MSG 269 OIC provided furniture to help make her new domicile more homey.
- 11/19 Monthly ship meeting held at Conroy's Pub in Lawrence KS.



L-R: CRMN Eppich and Arensman; SO; ENS Mengel; CO.  
Behind the camera: XO/MSG 269 OIC.



ENS Mengel receives Willard Decker Award from CO as SO looks on.

- 11/19 ENS Mengel continued with her enjoyment of pursuing Academy courses and took another test at the SO's home while they screened the original Ghostbusters movie.
- 11/20 ENS Mengel returned to SO's home to screen Ghostbusters II, Underworld, and Underworld: Evolution in order to complete those Academy courses.
- 11/23 Command Staff and ENS Mengel met for lunch at Conroy's Pub to discuss her goals aboard the ship.
- 11/24 ENS Mengel accompanied SO to his family Thanksgiving gathering.
- 11/24 CO and XO/MSG 269 OIC were out of town visiting family. SO had the conn.
- 11/25 SO hosted Game Night at his home but the only one who attended was ENS Mengel. Therefore, episodes of TNG were watched instead.

### FUTURE PLANS

- 12/09 SO will host Game Night at his home.
- 12/10 ISS Katana 25th Anniversary Dinner at Riverfront Community Center in Leavenworth KS. CO and XO/MSG 269 OIC will attend.
- 12/16 Premiere of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story." Who wants to see it that evening in Lawrence as an Away Mission for \$10 per person?



- 12/17 Salvation Army bellringing, 2-4 PM, Hy-Vee west door, Clinton Pkwy & Kasold Dr. in Lawrence KS.
- 12/17 USS Dark Phoenix monthly chapter meeting, 6 PM at Perkins Restaurant in Lawrence, KS. We meet on 3rd Saturday this month to avoid conflict with Christmas weekend.



- 12/25 CO, XO/MSG 269 OIC will be out of town visiting family. SO has the conn.

### COMMENTS :

- The following crewmembers are reminded that their memberships are now APPROACHING expiration date and that they should renew NOW:

SCC	RANK	NAME	EXPIRE DT
74365	CRMN	Jim Robinson	12/23/2016
74366	CRMN	Mary Robinson	12/23/2016

- 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	El Johnston	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
70180	ENS	Karessa Kow	09/19/2016
74246	CRMN	Nicole Blackburn	11/13/2016

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



Well, ladies and gentlemen, we have all gobbled our fill of turkey and now move on to the Christmas festivities, so Merry Christmas to everyone!

### Crew Changes

Since our last edition, we have had a few changes aboard the ship. To start, we have had a change in the position of Chief Engineer. Cadet Lieutenant Dyson Felty resigned the position after realizing that his time was limited and he had overcommitted himself. He remains aboard our crew and is a valued and appreciated member. We are honored by his dedication to serving as a member of the Senior Staff for the past year and I am very glad that he continues to be with us and look forward to continuing the friendship and camaraderie that we have shared for well over a year now.

To fill the void left by Cadet Lieutenant Felty, Lieutenant Rezty Felty (his father) has transferred to that post as he has stated that his first love has always been Engineering. Therefore, he is now the Acting Chief Engineer and the post of Chief of Security is open. If there is one who wishes to be considered for that post, email me at

[sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com) at your earliest convenience.

Also, the position of Chief Weapons Officer, previously held by Lieutenant KLaR Batt, is once again available. KLaR has stepped down from the post but remains on the ship as an honored member of the crew. We appreciate the time he has taken previously to serve on the Senior Staff and look forward to his continued participation in our Dark Phoenix family as well as the friendship that we have formed over the past year and a half.

We still have a number of critical positions that remain open:

- Chief Tactical Officer
- Senior Cadet Instructor (Cadet Corps)
- Senior Teacher (Education)
- Ambassador
- Senior Flight Control Officer (Helm Control)
- Intelligence Officer
- Logistics Officer
- Navigator

Of the aforementioned positions, the only ones that are considered Senior Staff and therefore require articles are Chief of Security, Chief of Engineering, Chief Tactical Officer, Chief Weapons Officer, Ambassador, and Intelligence Officer. All other positions may contribute articles as desired but it is not a requirement.

### Fleet Leadership Election

For those who may not already know, the Fleet election has concluded. There were approximately 1500 votes cast by the eligible membership and the candidate who came out on top was Admiral Robert Westfall, CO of the ISS Katana next door in Leavenworth. The one who created the big brouhaha over his dismissal from his Fleet post of Chief of Operations, Admiral Robin Vitasek, received only 88 votes, thus coming in a very distant last place from the field of five candidates. In accordance with SFI regulations, Admiral Vitasek will turn over the leadership to Admiral Westfall throughout the month of December so that we can have a smooth transition to the next elected leadership as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

### The Vitasek Saga Continues

As I predicted would be the case before the votes for the new leadership were even allowed to be submitted, Robin Vitasek has turned in her resignation as the Acting Commander, STARFLEET, (CS) effective as of December 1<sup>st</sup>, the date that I add this information to my report. She is unwilling to carry out her appointment to the end of the term that she agreed to serve as the Acting CS and her Acting Vice Commander, STARFLEET (VCS), Rear Admiral Theresa Bristow, now must try to organize the office that Robin vacates,

prepare it for a smooth transition over to Robert Westfall, and do both of these tasks in less than one month's time. The open letter of resignation from Robin follows:

Greetings,

This transmission is to serve as my formal resignation from the position of Commander, STARFLEET, effective 01 December 2016. It has been a difficult decision but I am tired of playing with all of the attitudes and issues. When not many from the CS' Staff, the Executive Committee, let alone the Admiralty Board, seem willing either to respect the authority of your position or work with you in many ways, it seems that it has come to this. In the greater interest of the organization and enabling a smooth transition, I feel that this is the only choice left open to me.

With respect to the proceedings on IG Investigation 1608-1001, this decision should eliminate the need for a long, drawn-out hearing (where I highly doubt that my position on things would be decided objectively) and the further disruption of business, which would inevitably fall upon the shoulders of the next administration in the early days of their term while they

are still trying to get on their feet. Therefore, effective 01 December 2016, I request that my membership to STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. also be terminated. As my membership is already due to expire on 17 March 2017 and I have seriously doubted the usefulness of renewing anyway, I have no plans to request any type of prorated refund for the dues that I have already paid. This action should further eliminate the need for any sanctions being filed against me and save everyone a great deal of anguish during the holiday season.

In service,

Robin

ADM Robin Woodell-Vitasek  
Commander, STARFLEET

She has stated various reasons for her desire to remove herself from the position but, if I may be blunt for a moment, it is her own actions that have caused her the headaches that she is now experiencing: the Executive Committee, Admiralty Board, and the membership of SFI as a whole have lost faith in her ability to lead appropriately. Therefore any actions that she tries to take are being watched carefully and, yes, that does impede her ability to take such actions. If she had

previously acted with honor, integrity, and proper dignity, she would not be feeling the heat she has endured for the past few months.

Further, given the fact that she has brought up the issue of "the need for any sanctions," it seems to me that indicates that she knows that she will be admonished when the investigation is complete and therefore is trying to save face by exiting before the IG's decision is made and presented to the Executive Committee. I commend her for trying to leave with at least a shred of her honor still intact but it is far too little and far too late to accomplish that.

Given her resignation from SFI, I wish her well in her future adventures and hope that her future endeavors are more peaceful and pleasurable than the past several months with SFI have been. I also hope that she takes what has happened here as a learning experience and will insure that she will not make the same mistakes again.

Academy Night

March 11<sup>th</sup> will be the next Academy Night. For the newer members of our crew and those who may not remember the details, this is when the Dark Phoenix crew may take Academy courses in a studious environment within my home, whether for fun and interest in various subjects, completing the requirements to

earn that Bridge Officer certification or Special Operations grade advancement that is desired, or for other personal goals that one may wish to achieve. As always, there is no cost to taking Academy courses. If you wish to participate in Academy Night, please review the Course Catalog located at <http://acad.sfi.org/courses/index.php> and start thinking about what courses interest you. We suggest that you select at least five. When you have your list prepared, send it to me and I will request the courses on your behalf so that the materials can be ready when you arrive to take the tests this day. To help insure that your tests arrive on time, be sure to have your requests to me no later than February 25<sup>th</sup>.

When you send the list of courses, please give not only the course numbers but also their names and in which Institutes they are located. The reason being that there are some courses that have the same course numbers and I want to make sure that I get the correct tests for you. For example, COC-101 could be Cardassian Union and Its People (from the Institute of Alien Studies: Cardassian Orientation College), Interspecies Interaction (from the Institute of the Arts: College of Communications), or even Circus History Part I (from the Institute of Performing Arts and Entertainment: College of Circuses).

Academy Night will, as always, take place at my home and

the doors will be open for arrivals from 12 noon to 12 midnight. The time of your arrival is up to you and completely at your convenience. You may even come and go repeatedly throughout that day if it is easier on your schedule. The only exception is that when the stroke of midnight arrives, no further entries will be permitted. Anyone here at that time may stay until the tests are complete or the student decides to leave for the evening.

Any tests that are not finished during Academy Night may either be completed here at a later time by scheduling such time with me or can be transferred to the student's direct responsibility and can be completed at home at their leisure. My recommendation is to schedule times with me to complete the tests as historically those who do so more consistently accomplish their goals.

Something else to consider is that the more courses that one completes since his last advancement in grade, the more weight will be in favor of promotion when such consideration for the crewmember arises, even more so for grades of Honors and Distinction. You can read more about this in Section 4.0 of the Crew Handbook.

Also, for anyone who has not yet taken Officer Command College (OCC), at least starting the test at this time will allow the person to be eligible for immediate promotion in rank upon

successful completion of the OCC course. To request this course, however, one must previously successfully complete Officer Training School (OTS). For more details about this opportunity, please consult Section 4.0 of the Crew Handbook and/or contact me.

To send your test requests and for any questions you have, please contact me at [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com).

### Christmas Lights



Before we get on with our review of the events of this past month and our upcoming adventures, let me mention that since winter is nearly here (and the temperatures sure are!), it is time for Christmas lights to go up. For those who are interested to see some of the public displays in the Lawrence-Eudora area, be sure to check out <http://www.kansastravel.org/lawrence/lawrencechristmasdisplays.htm> and find some of the most fun displays in the area...complete with street addresses so you can go see them yourself!



## Events

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, we were to have our Second Annual Brrr Brrr Bowling event but due to the lack of RSVPs (read: zero received by noon that day), we cancelled the event.

The monthly ship meeting scheduled for that evening was very lightly attended with only the Command Staff, Ensign Tracy Mengel, and Crewmen Connie Arensman and John Eppich attending. The meeting was held a week earlier than usual, as mentioned in last month's newsletter, to avoid conflicting with Thanksgiving.

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, I hosted Game Night at my home and only Ensign Mengel attended. As it was only her and me, we instead watched episodes of The Next Generation and took a break from Academy courses.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Command Staff and Ensign Mengel communed over dinner. Admiral Sunnie Planthold completed two Academy courses this evening out of interest and enjoyment of the educational experience.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, I screened Iron Man and Iron Man 2 so that both Ensign Mengel and I could complete the Academy tests on those two movies.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Command Staff and Ensign

Mengel met at my home for dinner and to discuss the open Senior Staff and other important positions.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Ensign Mengel hosted me at her home and cooked dinner for us during the screening of Iron Man 3 and completion of the Academy test over said movie.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, Ensign Mengel returned to my home for dinner and completion of tests pushing her along her path of Bridge Officer certification.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, Ensign Mengel came to my home for dinner and to take some fun Academy courses on the Fantastic Four movies.

December 9<sup>th</sup> was Game Night but, due to a lack of RSVPs, the event was cancelled.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, the Dark Phoenix will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army in front of the HyVee located at the corner of Clinton Parkway and Kasold Drive from 2pm to 4pm. While we will be there for two hours, those who wish to volunteer do not need to be there that entire time. Come share in the camaraderie and the effort toward a positive humanitarian goal. Be aware that since this is a public appearance, ship uniforms are required, even if they may be covered by heavy winter coats due to cool temperatures. ☺ Those who have already committed

themselves to the event are the Command Staff, Ensign Tracy Mengel, and Ensign (Junior Grade) Jean Martin. Any others who would like to join us, please email us at [dpcommand@bdcusa.com](mailto:dpcommand@bdcusa.com).

Additionally, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, we will have our next ship meeting. As usual, the start time will be 6pm and it will be at Perkins this time. We are meeting on the third Saturday this month to avoid conflicting with Christmas. Please RSVP by noon on December 17<sup>th</sup> so that we know how many to tell the restaurant to be prepared to serve as part of our group. Send RSVPs to [dpcommand@bdcusa.com](mailto:dpcommand@bdcusa.com)

December 23<sup>rd</sup> would be our next Game Night event but, due to the proximity of 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).

January 6<sup>th</sup> will be the next Game Night. As always, it will be at 7pm in my home. Please RSVP by January 5<sup>th</sup> so that I can have plenty of light snacks and other supplies on hand. Send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

January 20<sup>th</sup> will be the next Game Night. As always, it will be at 7pm in my home. Please RSVP by January 19<sup>th</sup> so that I can have plenty of light

snacks and other supplies on hand. Send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

January 28<sup>th</sup> will be the date of our next ship meeting. It will be held at McAlister's Deli located at 2108 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street (the northwest corner of 27<sup>th</sup> and Iowa). 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. Send RSVPs to [dpcommand@bdcusa.com](mailto:dpcommand@bdcusa.com)

February 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the next Game Night. As always, it will be at 7pm in my home. Please RSVP by February 2<sup>nd</sup> so that I can have plenty of light snacks and other supplies on hand. Send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

February 17<sup>th</sup> will be the next Game Night. As always, it will be at 7pm in my home. Please RSVP by February 16<sup>th</sup> so that I can have plenty of light snacks and other supplies on hand. Send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

February 25<sup>th</sup> will be the date of our next ship meeting. It will be held at Jin Shan Chinese Buffet in the 10 Marketplace located at the northeast corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> and Harper. 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)

March 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the next Game Night. As always, it will be at 7pm in my home. Please RSVP by March 1<sup>st</sup> so that I can have plenty of light snacks and other supplies on hand. Send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

March 11<sup>th</sup> will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Academy Night. Please see the section above titled Academy Night for more details about this event. All course requests for this event are due by February 25<sup>th</sup> so as to insure that the materials arrive in time for the event. Please send your course requests to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

March 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Day, will be the next Game Night. Given the holiday, be sure to wear something green when you attend! ☺ As always, it will be at 7pm in my home. Please RSVP by March 15<sup>th</sup> so that I can have plenty of light snacks and other supplies on hand. Send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

March 25<sup>th</sup> will be the date of our next ship meeting. It will be held at Conroy's Pub located at 3115 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street. 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)

March 31<sup>st</sup> will be the next Game Night. As always, it will be at 7pm in my home. Please RSVP by March 29<sup>th</sup> so that I can have plenty of light snacks and other supplies on hand. Send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

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."*

**STARFLEET Marine Corps  
Unit Report Form v3**

Date and time submitted: **Wed Nov 30  
13:32:36 PST**

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

**\*\*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: **06/22/2017**

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  
Planhold



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

**SFMC: Historical Perspective**

As a Starfleet Marine, you are the bearer of a combat tradition that literally spans time and space. Today's Corps is a blend of the military traditions of each of the Federation's member worlds. However, few of the Federation's member worlds have had such an impact on the history and doctrine of the Corps as Earth. Seventy percent of Earth's surface is covered with oceans of water, and the dry land that makes up the other thirty percent is crisscrossed with rivers and lakes. Since humankind began, it has been using these waterways for communication, trade and conquest. Many ancient Earth civilizations lived and died through control of the seas.

The ancient Greeks and Romans enhanced the fighting power of their rowed war vessels by stationing squads of foot soldiers in the prows. These soldiers would harass and distract the enemy by showering sling stones and arrows on opposing rowers from a distance. As the opposing fleets closed, the Romans switched to conventional

pilum, shield and short sword, leaping aboard enemy vessels from a specially designed bridge attached to the war galley. These "sea soldiers" were the first professional marines.

In the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries (Earth's Age of Sail), the development of reliable and accurate firearms precipitated the reemergence of the marine.

Reprising the role of their ancient counterparts, the Marine Corps of the English, Dutch, and later American navies stationed foot soldiers in the masts and on the decks of their vessels to pick off enemy officers, repel boarders, and serve as a raiding force to capture enemy vessels



at close quarters. Due to their training in land warfare, Marines often participated in ground operations, disembarking from their ships to conduct raids and provide security and firepower to naval landing parties.

**Earth's Ancient Marine Forces**

We need to look to the past and to take a moment to study the basis of some of the Marine forces of the various nations in Earth's history. These "marines of the world" and their founding history and military successes helped lead to the culmination of what is today, the SFMC. While the SFMC can generally point to the structure and historical success of the USMC as providing most of its original base elements, the marine history, structures, and

successes and failures of other nations of Earth, also had a part to play. The first documented use of Marines as a class of soldier in a standing army belongs to the Greeks and Romans.

Themistocles, leader of the Athenians, issued a decree that his navy "enlist Marines, twenty to a ship" to turn back a Persian attack.



Rome had special legions of "Milites Classiarri" or "soldiers of the fleet." Roman Marines served throughout the

remainder of the Empire's life, not only at sea but also on land.

During the Dark Ages, Vikings performed many ship-to-shore raids. Although not as orthodox as their predecessors, their amphibious tactics would qualify them as Marines.

**Spanish Marines**

It has already been remarked that it was the development of firearms in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries that saw the use of soldiers in maritime conflicts--and the introduction of the first marines saw these soldiers referred to primarily as "naval infantry," a term that many of Earth's military forces used for centuries. The very first nation to recognize the strategic and tactical advantages of including such armed personnel on their ships were the Spanish. In the year 1537, the *Infantería de Armada* (Navy Infantry) was created by Carlos the First (king of Spain), when he permanently assigned the

*Compañías Viejas del Mar de Nápoles* (Naples Old Sea Companies) to the *Escuadras de Galeras del Mediterráneo* (Mediterranean Galley Squadrons). Thus was born the concept of Marine Forces. For the Spanish, Marines (Naval Infantry) remained a major part of their Armed Forces right up until the end of the Third World War--serving with distinction in many countries and operational theatres.

### Royal Marines – United Kingdom

While the USMC is well-recognized as being the most successful and dominant theorist and practitioner of amphibious warfare, the Royal Marines of the United Kingdom provided the major basis for the manner by which the USMC was originally formed.

On the October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1664, an Order-in-Council was issued, calling for 1200 soldiers to be recruited for service in the Fleet, to be known as the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot. As the Duke of York was The Lord High Admiral at the time, it became known as the "Admiral's Regiment." The Regiment was paid by the Admiralty. It and its successors were the only long service troops in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century navy. They were therefore not only soldiers but also seamen who were part of the complement of all warships. This was the fourth European Marine unit formed (the Spanish were first in 1537, the

Portuguese in 1610, and the French in 1622).

The name "Marines" first appeared in official British records in 1672. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries, the Royal Marines served the British people very well indeed. For example, a large seventy-four gun, ship-of-the-line in the year 1797, often consisted of more than twenty percent Marines who served in gun crews, with boarding parties, and as sharpshooters or sentries. The Corps played a major part in fighting to win Britain the largest empire ever created. Marines were aboard the first ships to arrive in Australia in 1788. They fought at Trafalgar and at many at places far and wide across the globe, providing the British government with the ability to land military troops on virtually any soil at any given time. For the next four hundred years, the Royal Marines and the Royal Marine Commandos were at the forefront of many of the military actions with which the United Kingdom Armed Forces were involved.

The badge of the Royal Marines is designed to commemorate the history of the Corps. The Lion and Crown denotes a Royal regiment. King George III conferred this honor in 1802 "in consideration of the very meritorious services of the Marines in the late war." The



"Great Globe itself" surrounded by laurels was chosen by King George IV as a symbol of the Marines' successes in every quarter of the world. The laurels are believed to honor the gallantry they displayed during the investment and capture of Belle Isle, off Lorient, in April–June 1761. The word "Gibraltar" refers to the Siege of Gibraltar in 1704. It was awarded in 1827 by George IV as a special distinction for the services of four of the old Army Marine regiments (Queen's Own Marines, 1st Marines, 2nd Marines, 3rd Marines). *Per Mare Per Terram* ("By Sea, By Land"), the motto of the Marines, is believed to have been used for the first time in 1775. The regimental quick march of the Corps is *A Life on the Ocean Wave*, while the slow march is *Preobrajensky*.

### Other Marine Corps

Many of Earth's other countries raised either Marine Corps units or branches of their military (especially naval) that could well qualify as "marines." The most obvious of these were those countries that, like France, Spain and Portugal, first committed soldiers to accompany their ships as 'naval infantry.' Some of these Marine Corps were founded well before the British or American services.

Some of these nations include:

**Portugal** – the Special Marines (*Corpo de Fuzileiros*), established 1621.

**Netherlands** – Royal Netherlands Marine Corps (*Korps Mariniers*), founded in 1665.

**France** – the *Troupes de marine* (Marine Troops) which despite the name, were a branch of the French Army and were first raised in 1622.

**Germany** – the German Imperial Marine Infantry (*Die Kaiserliche Marine*) were first formed by the German Admiralty in 1872.

**Russia** – the Russian Naval Infantry (Морская пехота) were first formed in 1705.

**Italy** – The Marines of the Italian Navy (*Marina Militare*) were formed as the San Marco Regiment, but originally as the *La Marina Regiment* in 1713.

**Japan** – the Japanese did not have specified marine forces, but did have the Special Naval Landing Forces (*Rikusentai*). These were originally formed around 1932 but did last after the end of WW2.

**China: Republic of China** – the ROC Marine Corps were formed from the former Navy Sentry Corps in December 1914.

**China: Peoples Republic of China** – The Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy Marine Corps (PLAMC) was established in the 1950's during the Chinese Civil War.

*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.*

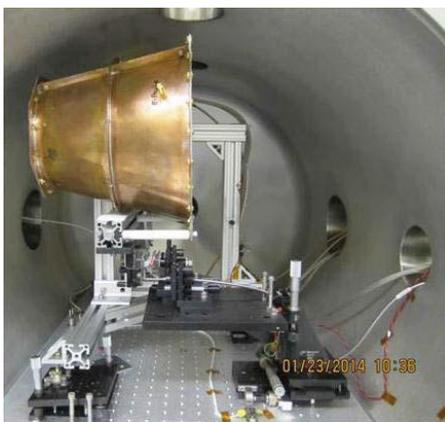
Chief Engineer's  
Report  
By Lieutenant  
Rezty Felty



The Impossible  
Drive

I wrote briefly about the EM drive, dubbed "The Impossible Drive," in one of my Propulsion reports in an earlier issue. I'm going to go over it in more detail this month as more tests have been performed and more data gathered.

The EM Drive is commonly called the impossible drive because under our current understanding of physics, it shouldn't work: no drive should be able to provide thrust without some sort of propellant being ejected (as in a conventional chemical rocket) or an external force of motive power being applied (such as a laser drive), yet this drive does just that!



The EM Drive--AKA the Impossible Drive, the RF Resonant Cavity thruster, the Cannae Drive, or the reactionless

thruster--was first theorized in the late 1990s by Roger Shawyer, who built the first working model in 2001. Physicists have repeatedly denied such a thing is possible as it would violate the law of conservation of momentum. Yet, test after test has measured thrust from these engines.

Models have been built and tested by Shawyer, Cannae, The University of Dresden, NASA, the government of the UK, JPL, North Western Poly Technical University, Boeing, and many others. Boeing has licensed the technology. Early tests by the inventors have been criticized as hoaxes and accused of sloppy measurements or failing to account for outside elements such as air currents but NASA, JPL, and the aforementioned universities have tested repeatedly--taking great care to eliminate any of these--and still consistently find thrust being produced.

So, why is this important? In any form of space travel, hauling along propellant to provide thrust is a major fraction of mission mass; in conventional chemical rockets, it is common to have 90% of the launch mass be propellant. It has been said that conventional space travel is akin to packing a car for a cross-country trip, and throwing away 90% of the car before you arrive! A reactionless drive eliminates the need to spend most of your fuel hauling your fuel. There are other forms of travel that allow you to

travel without hauling the fuel--laser propulsion, light sails, and gravity slingshots to name a few--but none of those work in deep space, between solar systems. A reactionless drive would work here as well.

What's new now about the EM Drive? Well, more and more tests have been performed and it just keeps working despite the fact that physicists say it shouldn't. The list of testers is above but an important detail is that NASA and JPL have been testing this engine since 2011, have tested at least 5 different models to date, and continue to achieve measurable results. As of November 2016, they have a published peer-reviewed paper sharing their methodologies and results in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics' Journal of Propulsion and Power. Modern science is based on reproducible results and public peer review. The EM Drive has passed both of those hurdles.

What is missing are the equations and a theory to explain how this is working. There are five theories currently under consideration to explain how this thrust is being produced:

1. Radiation pressure

Shawyer describes the drive as not being reactionless, instead proposing that thrust is caused by a radiation pressure imbalance between the two faces of the cavity caused by the action of group velocity in different

frames of reference within the framework of special relativity. He has published a peer-reviewed paper based on his presentation at the International Astronautical Congress 2014 describing how he believes the drive works. In an EM Drive engine, microwave energy is converted to mechanical force according to the thrust equation, derived from the basic radiation pressure equation:

$$F = \frac{2P_0}{c} Q_u \left( \frac{\lambda_0}{\lambda_{g1}} - \frac{\lambda_0}{\lambda_{g2}} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{\lambda_0^2}{\lambda_{g1}\lambda_{g2}} \right)^{-1}$$

where F is the force, P<sub>0</sub> is the incident power, c is the speed of light, Q<sub>u</sub> is the unloaded Q factor of the cavity, λ<sub>0</sub> is the wavelength of the microwaves in free-space propagation, λ<sub>g1</sub> is the wavelength at the end of the largest cross-section, and λ<sub>g2</sub> is the wavelength at the end of the smallest cross-section.

## 2. Vacuum energy

White suggested in 2014 that their model could be an example of a quantum vacuum thruster (QVT). A QVT is a theoretical system that would use magnetohydrodynamics to generate thrust similar to conventional plasma thrusters, only using the fleeting quantum vacuum fluctuations of the zero-point field as an extremely low-density plasma. White's 2016 paper states that pilot-wave theories--non-mainstream interpretations of quantum mechanics--may help explain how QVTs could "push off of the quantum vacuum and preserve the

laws of conservation of energy and conservation of momentum."

## 3. Quantized inertia

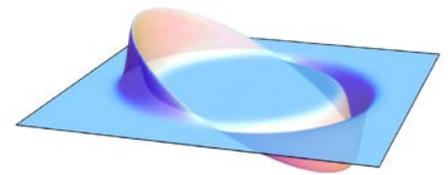
A paper in EPL by Mike McCulloch, a Lecturer in Geomatics at Plymouth University, describes a possible method in which thrust from resonant cavities can be predicted using the theory of quantization of inertia (MiHsC). McCulloch hypothesizes that inertia arises from an effect predicted by general relativity called Unruh radiation: an accelerating object experiences black body radiation. Thus inertia is the pressure the Unruh radiation exerts on an accelerating body. At very small accelerations, Unruh wavelengths become so large they can no longer fit in the observable universe. When this happens, inertia is quantized. He pointed out possible observational evidence for this in the form of the otherwise unexplained jumps in momentum observed in some spacecraft as they fly past Earth toward other planets.

## 4. Photon leakage

Scientists in Finland have proposed an explanation of this phenomenon involving the propagation of microwave photons leaking from the closed metal cavity and thereby producing an exhaust momentum, satisfying the classical action-reaction principle. This explanation relies on the wave-particle duality of electromagnetic radiation, postulating that the stochastic phases of the microwaves will

(with some probability) result in destructive interference between microwaves which cancels their electromagnetic fields but allows continued propagation of the microwave photon pairs, generating net thrust consistent with the impulse-momentum theorem.

## 5. Warp field



It has been suggested that time-varying electromagnetic energy density in resonant cavities could produce a local gradient in the gravitational potential (a distortion or warping of spacetime) which could be tested using interferometry. Harold White at NASA Eagleworks used the White-Juday warp-field interferometer to attempt to detect such a warp field in a resonant cavity and did observe anomalous effects. Physicist Fernando Minotti calculated, upon the work of Matt Visser, the forces on asymmetric electromagnetic resonant cavities using Brans-Dicke theory (a type of scalar-tensor theory) with the scalar coupling field providing the effective negative energy source. In his model, thrust results from gravitational forces on the cavity walls. Minotti suggests that the theory is testable with experiment, as the direction of the force produced by a tapered resonant

cavity should be dependent on its resonant mode and the thrust magnitude should increase with the thickness and mass of the material of which the cavity is made.

So, while it seems to be more and more accepted upon repeated measurable results that the drive works, there clearly remains much work to be done to figure out exactly how it works. Personally, I'm hoping for a warp field! And all tests so far have been small-scale and in labs, although North Western Poly Technical University is planning on equipping a cubesat with an EM Drive and performing real testing in orbit. Clearly, this is a technology to watch!

*Rezty Felty insures the proper operation 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.*

Communications Officer's Report  
By Ensign Tracy Mengel

*[Author's Note: I have heard though the grapevine that several of our members are interested in Ham Radios. For those of you who have little knowledge about them, I have found this article that might help and get you interested.]*

**HAM Radio Facts**  
by Alan Wolke

First let me introduce myself--W2AEW. Amateur radio, commonly known as "ham radio" is a venerable hobby dating back to the inception of radio itself. With roots in the experiments of some of science's greats, there is a homebrew aesthetic associated with radio that exists to this day despite the plethora of communications methods available to us now. While the lure of communicating around the globe drew many hams into the hobby in the past, the draw today is generally an interest in technology or public service or even designing and building equipment.



**A Brief History**

The development of radio for communication was preceded by the telegraph and many conventions were carried over into radio communications. These include the use of various codes

and abbreviations as well as the term "ham" itself.

Since telegraphy required a physical connection, communications by telegraph were handled by professional operators. Many of these operators went on to handle radio communications, bringing their vernacular and culture with them. "Ham" in telegraphy was a derogatory term used to describe a poor operator and was thus carried over to radio and used against amateur operators (possibly for good reason). Amateurs, in turn, owned the term and now wear it proudly.

As radio developed further, a need for regulating the available frequencies became apparent and amateur transmissions were restricted to a range of shorter wavelengths, essentially crippling them for long distance communications at the time. Hams were given access to "200 meters and down," meaning frequencies with wavelengths shorter than 200m. In other words, anything above about 1.5MHz was fair game. These bands were deemed "useless" for commercial and government use. Unknown to the regulators at the time, the HF bands about 1.5MHz turned out to be ideal for world-wide communication via ionospheric propagation (lucky hams!). Even these modest frequencies were banned through World War I but the restriction was lifted thereafter.



Ham radio soon saw a flourishing that led to wireless communication between the UK and the USA and subsequently many other locations around the world. This prompted a need for international standards which were established by treaty around 1928.

Ham radio was interrupted once more during World War II and subsequently went through a few revisions to the allocated frequency bands leading to the current standards. Today, about two million hobbyists worldwide participate in ham radio.

**Modern Ham Radio**

While Morse code proficiency had always been one of the requirements for an amateur radio license, it is no longer a requirement in many countries including the US. Although not mandatory, many amateurs still enjoy operating Morse code, or "pounding the brass." Amateur operators today communicate via Morse code, voice, pictures, video, and even digital data.

Ham operators can communicate with other hams

around the world and even off it--many astronauts are also hams, and have been known to communicate with the more Earth-bound of us fairly often. ARISS, or the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station is a cooperative program between NASA and other international amateur radio organizations which fosters education primarily through scheduled amateur radio contacts between the International Space Station and school classrooms around the world, giving kids the opportunity to speak directly to astronauts in space. Amateur radio satellites rebroadcast ham radio transmissions but even without them signals can be bounced off the atmosphere to reach far beyond the visible horizon.



Meeting people from remote locations is a lot of fun but a large part of ham radio is local. This is due in part to the nature of shortwave radio, as well as power requirements. Many hams carry handheld radios with them all day, tuned to their favorite repeater. Also common are radios in cars and work or hobby places. Next time you see a car driving down the road sprouting antennas, with a weird license plate code, that's probably a ham. A common occurrence during the warmer

months is the hamfest, which is a flea market where hams buy and sell all sorts of parts, tools, radio equipment, antennas, and other items.

While high power transmitters help when communicating around the world, they're not a requirement. World-wide propagation is governed primarily by sunspot and ionospheric activity as well as operating frequency and antenna efficiency, more so than by power alone. There are many hams who enjoy the challenge of communicating with hams thousands of miles away using a transmitter they built themselves which produces only milliwatts of power and fits in an Altoids mint tin or tuna can.

### BTW

The cost of sending a message by telegraph was at one time quite exorbitant. As a result, messages by telegraph became concise, to the point, and made use of many acronyms that are today associated with internet chat and text messaging to save on word count. These too were brought to common usage in amateur radio. Imagine the mortification of the teenager who learns her grandpa was using terms such as OMG some 80 years ago. The Titanic tragedy highlighted the use of the wireless code "CQD," which was an internationally recognized distress call. This later migrated into the more familiar "SOS."

### Emergency Situations

One of the most important functions of amateur radio is communication in times of distress. Hams are diverse, dispersed around the world, knowledgeable, and disciplined. In the event of a natural disaster or other emergency, amateur radio can provide a means of communication when centralized systems are down (overloaded cell towers, downed telephone lines, power outages, etc.).



Hams take this responsibility seriously and can often be found assisting families and authorities. For example, the incident with the trapped Chilean miners made big news but little was mentioned of the Radio Club de Chile and Radio Club Copiapo, both of whom provided communication and equipment during the ordeal, going so far as to establish a radio communication system inside the mine itself. About 80 members installed and subsequently manned the equipment right from the start.

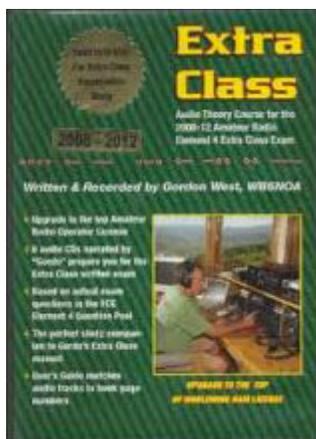
Emergency traffic always takes priority on the airwaves and the likelihood of assistance is high if anyone listening can help. In

some areas, operators can even be granted special license plates that qualify them as emergency vehicles.

Every year, hams around the world participate in an event designed to reinforce the ability to setup and operate an effective station using emergency power and temporary antennas during a weekend long event called Field Day. Structured as both an exercise as well as a contest, it draws participation from hundreds of thousands of hams worldwide during the 4<sup>th</sup> full weekend of June.

### Regulations and Licenses

Since radio equipment has the potential to interfere with other radio transmissions, operators must learn some information about radio, how it works, and the regulations governing amateur radio. There used to be six license classes in the US but that has more recently been reduced to three: Technician, General, and Extra. Each subsequent class requires more knowledge and grants further privileges with regards to permitted transmission bands.



Ham operators abide by various rules of conduct such as refraining from strong language and keeping personal disputes off the air. They are required to identify themselves by their call sign periodically when they transmit; there is a public database of call signs that can be searched for basic information about any licensee. The combination of a strong code of ethics and personally identifiable transmissions helps to keep amateur transmissions civil.

### Call Signs

Each licensee is assigned a call sign. Call signs are made up of three parts and look something like this: ZS1NAT. The structure of the call sign was prescribed by an international committee and allows for localized assignment of unique IDs. The prefix of the call sign, usually composed of two or three letters and numbers, define the operator's country of origin, and often a specific region within the country. The suffix of the call sign, usually 1-3 letters, is uniquely assigned to the licensee.

Going back to our example, ZS1NAT, we can tell that the license was issued in South Africa ("ZS"). The "1" indicates the Western Cape. Finally, "NAT" is the unique suffix identifying the license holder.

### Elmers and more...

In amateur radio, the term "Elmer" refers to a mentor, or to the act of mentoring others. This is integral to the ham radio spirit of helping others. Many more-experienced hams will volunteer their time to answer questions, provide tutoring or teach classes to anyone wishing to enter amateur radio ranks or who simply wishes to learn more about it. The amateur radio community is a diverse network of clubs and individuals with expertise in a variety of areas. For some, sharing or publishing practical information is their way of giving back to the ham radio community. There are many engineering and scientific professionals involved in ham radio as well as many celebrities. Journalist Walter Cronkite, baseball pitcher Ron Swoboda, TV/radio personality Jean Shepherd, Senator Barry Goldwater, and musician Joe Walsh are among the thousands of famous personalities who are or were hams. Nobel Prize winner for Physics Joseph Taylor is an avid ham and has developed several modulation formats that are suitable for extremely weak signal communications.

## Getting Involved

Hams are a friendly and inclusive bunch in general. There are local clubs in many places that will give you a place to learn or provide equipment you may not have access to. All you have to do is be courteous and you're sure to find someone to help you along. Study up, get your license, and before you realize it, a whole range of possibilities becomes available.

[Source:

<http://www.tek.com/blog/ham-radio-facts>]

*[Author's Note: I will be looking into where to get tests done around here and will let everyone know in next month's newsletter.]*

*Tracy Mengel has been a member of SFI since September 2016 and has become an active member of our crew. She serves in the billets of Communications Officer and Ship Historian. Be aware that she is Betazoid, so watch your thoughts when she is around. Similar to our XO, the easiest way to befriend her is by hot chocolate or peppermint, preferably both! Oh, and as this is KU country, please excuse the fact that she often wears purple. ☺*

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



Hi! Welcome to the holidays. This is a very fun time of the year filled with festivities and family gatherings. Unfortunately it is also surrounded by food. Thanksgiving dinner and all the leftovers, then comes Christmas Dinner and leftovers there too, and then the New Year's Eve parties. We are surrounded by food. Being surrounded by this much food makes it very difficult to stay on any sort of diet or to eat healthy. Grandma is just begging you to eat just a few more cookies or have another serving of her pie.

My information today is regarding eating properly. Let me first add this for the average person. If you have any medical issues such as heart disease, diabetes, being overweight, renal failure and the list could go on, please check with your physician or your dietitian.

Let's start with drinking water, which is very important. Drinking a glass of water before you eat a meal can help you feel more full and as a result eat less. It is very important to eat many vegetables. They should include a variety of dark green leafy, red, and orange vegetables. It is very important also to include whole fruits. My kids like to include fruit juices but remember to check the label. A lot of the juices out

there do not contain that much real fruit juice and they are also full of sugar--both natural and artificial--and will cause a trip to your local dentist if you are not careful. It is also important to include grains in a healthy diet; at least half should be whole grains. A healthy diet should also include protein as well as fat-free or low-fat dairy such as milk, yogurt, or cheese and limited amount of oil.

So here are the restrictions that are recommended for a healthy diet. It is recommended that a normal diet contain less than 10 percent of its calories from sugar and less than 10 percent of its calories from saturated fats. This is on a daily basis. For those who love their salty foods, it is recommended for a healthy diet that the daily intake of sodium be less than 2300 milligrams.

Keep in mind these are daily recommendations. It is OK to splurge one day but try not to overdo it too much. It is recommended that if there is a day of diet splurging, that it be followed up by an increase in physical activity.

It is recommended by the current US Department of Health and Human Services that the average "healthy" adult needs 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity and should perform muscle strengthening and bone strengthening two or more days per week. Easier said than done, I know. Youth ages 6-17 years of age need at least 60

minutes of physical activity per day.

Strong evidence shows using this as a guideline can help maintain a healthy lifestyle. It can also decrease the risk of death caused by stroke, coronary artery disease, or high blood pressure. A healthy diet and exercise can also decrease depression. So remember do your best to eat right and exercise during this holiday season.

If you or someone you know would like more information about getting healthy and staying healthy with diet and exercise you can gain more information from going to <https://health.gov/>

*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.*

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



If you missed last month's super moon, you have one more chance: December's super moon, which occurs on December 14<sup>th</sup>, is the third one this year and will give you the last opportunity to view a super moon for several years--until November of 2034 to be exact. The title of super moon is conferred on this moon as it will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun, thus allowing its face to be fully illuminated. It is also at its closest approach to earth and will look slightly larger and brighter than usual. The early Native Americans also referred to this December moon as the Full Cold Moon because this is the time of year when the nights are long and dark, and the cold has set in.

Also, if you have access to binoculars or a small telescope, you should be able to see the bright orange star Aldebaran, one of the stars in the constellation of Taurus, near the moon. It will be briefly eclipsed by the moon at 10:13 CST.

If you like meteor showers, there are two this month. The first of these is the Geminids Meteor Shower which will be at its peak December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. This shower is considered by many to be one of the best if not the best meteor shower as it can produce

up to 120 meteors per hour at its peak. Produced by debris left over from an asteroid called 3200 Phaethon which wasn't discovered until 1982, this meteor shower runs from December 7 through the 17<sup>th</sup> with its peak on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Although the peak will occur at the same time as the full moon this year, the Geminids are so bright and numerous you should be able to see plenty of them. The meteors will seem to come from the constellation of Gemini although they can appear anywhere in the sky. Once again the best viewing should be just after midnight from a dark location.

The Ursid Meteor Shower is a minor shower that only produces 5 to 10 meteors per hour. This shower is produced by dust grains left over from Comet Tuttle which was first discovered in 1790. Although this shower occurs every year from approximately December 17<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>, this year's peak will occur the night of December 21<sup>st</sup> and the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Since the second quarter moon may block some of the fainter ones, a dark viewing area is a necessity. The meteors will seem to come from Ursa Minor although they can appear anywhere in the sky.

Be prepared to begin 2017 with a meteor shower as well. The Quadrantids will produce about 40 meteors an hour. Produced by dust grains left over from the extinct comet 2003 EH1 they usually appear annually from

January 1<sup>st</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>, with its peak occurring January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> next year. The first quarter moon should set shortly after midnight, so if the skies are clear, this meteor shower should provide some good viewing.

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, look for the moon to point the way to the Beehive, a star cluster in the constellation of Cancer. The cluster is visible as a faint and tiny fuzzy patch to the naked eye under dark skies but it is easy to find with binoculars or a small telescope.

Winter officially begins this month on December 21<sup>st</sup>. This marks the first day of winter for those of us living north of the equator and the first day of summer for those living south of the equator.

Mercury will be easiest to see this month on December 11<sup>th</sup> as it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for it in the western sky just after sunset.

If you get up early on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, you should also be able to get a glimpse of Jupiter next to the moon.

While there are no more open houses at Farpoint this year, visitors next year will be able to look directly through the Tombaugh, the large telescope that has been used only for computer searches in the past. With the addition of an eyepiece,

this telescope should provide some exceptional views.

*[Source: Information from this article taken from "Supermoon Meteors and 7 More Can't-Miss Sky Events in December" by Andrew Fazekas, Nov 30, 2016 on the National Geographic website and also from the Sea and Sky website.]*

--Carolyn Kaberline

*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 card game Captain Kirk invented in "A Piece of the Action?"

TNG: Geordi's VISOR is an acronym. What does it stand for?

DS9: What historical figures inspire the name "The Maquis" in Deep Space Nine?

VOY: Who did B'Elanna Torres beat out (and beat up) for the position of Chief Engineer?

## Logic

1. When is the beginning of the 24<sup>th</sup> Century:

11:59:59pm 12/31/2399

-or-

12:00:01am 01/01/2400?

2. Even though the odds are always in the favor of the casino, why does the establishment insist on a house limit on stakes?

3. If boiling water is poured into a thick drinking glass and a very thin wine glass, which of the two is more likely to crack?

## Logic Puzzle

The other day, my wife asked me to swing by the drugstore on the way home from work to pick up a bottle of shampoo. I thought it

would be a simple errand but I was stunned when I stepped into the healthy-and-beauty-aids aisle. There had to be at least 500 different kinds of shampoo from which to choose! I eventually narrowed down my choices to five brands (including Blecks), each of which contained a different special ingredient, was designed for a different type of hair (one was for normal hair), and bore a different fragrance. Not wanting to make the wrong choice, I simply bought all five bottles. When I finally got home, I told my wife that she'll have to be more specific the next time she sends me on such a mission: I nearly tore my hair out try to make a decision! From the information provided, determine the special ingredient in each brand of shampoo, the type of hair for which it is designed, and its fragrance.

Given #1: Garden herb-scented Prelk shampoo contains neither honey nor Vitamin E oil. Debonair shampoo is formulated for dry hair.

Given #2: The shampoo containing wheat germ has an alluring papaya scent. The shampoo containing aloe is not for damaged hair.

Given #3: Vital Season shampoo is neither the shampoo with the jasmine fragrance nor the one with the papaya scent. The shampoo containing honey doesn't smell like mixed fruit.

Given #4: Hair & Neck shampoo (which contains mango extract) is neither the shampoo for damaged hair nor the shampoo for sensitive hair.

Given #5: The shampoo that contains Vitamin E oil (which is for oily hair) is neither the shampoo with the mixed fruit fragrance nor the one with the rose scent.

[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/download/s/december2016.pdf>. For previous month's answers, change the URL to the appropriate month such as <http://www.bdcusa.com/download/s/november2016.pdf>.

