

Phoenix Rising



May 2016

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MSR REPORT

CHAPTER:	USS Dark Phoenix
REPORT FOR:	Apr, 2016
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FLEET MEMBERS

SCC	EXPIRE DT	RANK	NAME
44342	04/13/2017	ADM	Sunnie Planthold
46072	06/23/2016	COL	Patrick Malone
49691	04/13/2017	RADM	Ralph Planthold
55881	06/23/2016	CRMN	Michael Malone
61751	06/09/2016	PO3	Teague Banister
61754	06/09/2016	CDT	Ethan Banister
64850	06/09/2016	CDT	Emma Banister
70180	09/19/2016	ENS	Karessa Kow
71621	03/03/2017	LTJG	Jeremy Schroeder
73140	01/26/2017	LCDR	John Bevan
73223	02/22/2017	CRMN	David Morton
73240	02/27/2017	LTJG	Carolyn Kaberline
73257	03/04/2017	CRMN	Ruth Lichtwardt
73652	06/05/2016	LTJG	Carrie Mills
73696	06/14/2016	ENSJG	El Johnston
73697	06/14/2016	ENSJG	Jean Martin
73875	08/02/2016	PO2	Travis Jackson
73876	08/02/2016	CRMN	Jamie Jackson
73877	08/02/2016	CDT	Gabriel Jackson
73878	08/02/2016	CDT	Larissa Jackson
73879	08/02/2016	CRMN	Venita Jackson
73886	08/02/2016	LTJG	KLar Batt
73954	08/20/2016	LT	Brent Barbee Mr
74062	09/19/2016	ENS	Josh Levering
74085	09/27/2016	LTJG	Rezty Felty
74086	09/27/2016	LTJG	Laura Felty
74087	09/27/2016	CDT	Tesla Felty
74088	09/27/2016	CDT	Sagan Felty
74089	09/27/2016	CDT3C	Dyson Felty
74246	11/13/2016	CRMN	Nicole E Blackburn
74365	12/23/2016	CRMN	Jim Robinson
74366	12/23/2016	CRMN	Mary Robinson
74487	08/02/2016	CDT	Hannah Batt
74503	02/03/2017	ENS	Reuben Juarez
74504	02/03/2017	ENS	Selena Juarez
74509	02/05/2017	CRMN	Carol Jean Walker
74601	02/23/2017	ENS	Fahad Far
74613	03/01/2017	CRMN	Brian Cervantez
74659	03/12/2017	ENS	Martin Peterson
74775	04/18/2017	CRMN	Lisa Brown
74796	04/24/2017	CRMN	Tim Burns
74802	04/29/2017	CRMN	Sara Fisher
74803	04/29/2017	CRMN	William Fisher
74804	04/29/2017	CRMN	Troy Fisher
74805	04/29/2017	CDT	Lacy Fisher

ACADEMY :

KLar Batt
 IOMS - College of Starship Operations (IOMS:COSSO)
CSO-106 - Extreme Measures
DISTINCTION 04/24/2016
CSO-107 - Bridge Operations
DISTINCTION 04/24/2016

Rezty Felty
 IOAS - Caitian Orientation College
CTOC - 101 Geography & Physiology
DISTINCTION 04/05/2016
 IOLSS - College of Medical Knowledge
CMK 101 - School of Medical Knowledge Part 1
DISTINCTION 04/15/2016
 IOLSS - College of Medicine (IOLSS:SACOM)
COM-112 - Nursing Certification
DISTINCTION 04/21/2016
COM-131 - Basic Health Field Medic
HONORS 04/21/2016
COM-111 - Counselor Certification
DISTINCTION 04/22/2016
 IOMS - College of Strategy and Tactics (IOMS:COST)
COST 101 - Strategy and Tactics: The Basics
DISTINCTION 04/01/2016
 IOPFR - College of Survival Studies (IOPFR:COSS)
TSS-101 Basic Training
DISTINCTION 04/12/2016
 ISO - College of SpecOps Resources
WPN 101 - Small Arms Identification Pt. 1
DISTINCTION 04/18/2016
WPN 110S - Weapons Safety Pt 1
DISTINCTION 04/18/2016
 ISO - College of SpecOps Training (CSOT)
DEFT 107 - Martial Arts Overview Pt 1 (Far Eastern)
DISTINCTION 04/16/2016
DEFT 104 - Defensive Techniques Against Weapons
DISTINCTION 04/17/2016

SFA Awards
BOCP - Chief Communications Officer Certification
Awarded 04/08/2016

Laura Felty
 IOLSS - College of Medical Knowledge
CMK 101 - School of Medical Knowledge Part 1
DISTINCTION 04/15/2016
CMK 102 - School of Medical Knowledge Part 2
DISTINCTION 04/27/2016
CMK 103 - School of Medical Knowledge Part 3
DISTINCTION 04/27/2016

Hannah Batt
 IOCS - Cadet College of Security (CCOS)
CCOS 111 - Basic Security ages 6 - 12
HONORS 04/20/2016

OTHER INFO

MEETING DATE : 04/23/2016.

PROMOTIONS :

SCC	NAME	NEW RANK	EFFECT DT
73140	John Bevan	LCDR	04/18/2016
74775	Lisa Brown	CRMN	04/18/2016
74796	Timothy Burns	CRMN	04/24/2016
74802	Sara Fisher	CRMN	04/29/2016
74803	William Fisher	CRMN	04/29/2016
74804	Troy Fisher	CRMN	04/29/2016
74805	Lacy Fisher	CDT	04/29/2016

ACTIVITIES :

04/01 SO hosted Game Night at his home with LTJG KLar Batt, Laura Felty, and Rezty Felty; Cadet LTJG Dyson Felty; Cadets Sagan Felty and Tesla Felty; and Mary Crosson and David Nicol (along with their two-year-old daughter) as guests of the Felty's.

04/09 Command Staff met LTJG K. Batt, CDT H. Batt for dinner at Puffy's Steak & Ice House in Maple Hill.

04/09 NEKAAL (NorthEast Kansas Amateur Astronomers' League) hosted its monthly Open House at the Farpoint Observatory in Eskridge, KS. The Command Staff attended along with LTJG KLar Batt and Carolyn Kaberline; and CDT Hannah Batt. Carolyn was there as a member of the NEKAAL Board of Directors as well as to represent our ship.

04/14 SO published *Phoenix Rising* a day early due to 04/15 being a busy day-- Tax Day and Game Night.

04/15 SO hosted Game Night at his home with LT Brent Barbee; LTJG Rezty Felty, Rianna Melton, and Jeremy Schroeder; Cadet LTJG Dyson Felty; and CDT Sagan Felty. This evening was also a test run of the bridge simulation Artemis across the Internet with another ship (the independent USS Loma Prieta from California). The test was highly successful, and we are now coordinating future gaming sessions.

04/23 USS Dark Phoenix monthly chapter meeting, 6 PM at Perkins Restaurant in Lawrence. In attendance were Command Staff; LT Brent Barbee; LTJG KLar Batt, Laura Felty, Rezty Felty, Carolyn Kaberline; ENS Reuben Juarez and Selena Juarez; CRMN Nikki Blackburn and Brian Cervantez; CDT3C Dyson Felty; CDT Sagan Felty and Tesla Felty; and friend Tim Burns. Burns joined that evening after the meeting.



L-R: CDT3C D. Felty; CDT S. Felty; CO; SO; LTJG K. Batt; ENS S. Juarez; LTJG Kaberline; ENS R. Juarez; CRMN Tim Burns; LT Barbee; LTJG R. Felty; CDT T. Felty; LTJG L. Felty.



Topeka Gang: LTJG K. Batt; CRMN Cervantez; ENS S. Juarez; ENS R. Juarez; LTJG Kaberline (foreground); Guest; CRMN Blackburn.



LTJG K. Batt receives his promotion certificate from CO as XO looks on.



SO receives his LCDR promotion certificate from CO.



CO pins 3rd pip (LCDR) on SO.



CRMN Cervantez receives his promotion certificate from CO as XO looks on.

04/23 LTJG Batt met with SO at his home after monthly meeting.

04/24 Dark Phoenix worked with crews from USS Valiant and USS Missouri for recruiting and photo opportunities at Star Trek 50th Anniversary concert. Those from Dark Phoenix were Command Staff; LTJG Rianna Melton (in full Klingon gear); and CRMN Tim Burns. Other crewmembers only attended the concert.



Recruiting table manned by SO; CO; USS Valiant's LT B. Calhoun, CO COL M. Calhoun.



TopCon 2016 table manned by USS Valiant's CMO LTJG Naas; unknown Stormtrooper; "Gypsy" Mike George.



STAR TREK the Ultimate Voyage
50th Anniversary Concert
Official Merchandise table.



XO with USS Valiant's Dahar Master William "Bear" Reed.



Backstage during intermission to meet the **STAR TREK** 50th Anniversary Concert conductor at the Topeka Performing Arts Center.

L-R: XO; CO; LTJG Melton; the Conductor; LTJG Naas; Dahar Master Reed; LT B. Calhoun; ADM Herring; COL M. Calhoun; CRMN Burns; SO.



L-R: CO; XO; USS Oklahoma's CMDR Shawn Lytle; USS Missouri's CO ADM Herring; SO.

Not pictured: CMDR Mary Lytle.

04/24 Command Staff met with LTJG Schroeder over dinner at Godfather's Pizza in Topeka.

04/24 Command Staff had weekly meeting at

SO's home upon returning to primary patrol area of Lawrence.
 04/27 CO and SO met for lunch at Conroy's Pub.
 04/29 SO hosted Game Night at his home with only CO in attendance.
 Rather than gaming, we watched the movie RED 2 and discussed ideas for future activities.

FUTURE PLANS

05/13 **Game Night** at SO's home!
 05/15 **Away Mission** to firing range--arranged by USS Valiant--for pha-ser training. LTJG Rezty Felty, Chief of Security, will be the Away Team Leader for those from the Dark Phoenix.
 05/15 **Meeting of Shuttle Bahamut** set for 5:15pm at Baker's Dozen in Topeka upon conclusion of independent Sunday Funday gaming event. SO will attend this meeting on behalf of the Command Staff.
 05/15 Command Staff dinner with **Shuttle Bahamut** Command Staff, 6:15pm at Godfather's Pizza in Topeka.
 05/20 Planet Comicon Kansas City 2016.
 05/27 **Game Night** at SO's home!
 05/28 **USS Dark Phoenix monthly chapter meeting**, 6 PM at McAlister's Deli in Lawrence.
 06/25 **R12 Kansas Sector Picnic** at Shawnee Mission Park in Johnson County, KS.
 07/22 **Away Mission** to see STAR TREK: BEYOND in theater.
 08/12 **STARFLEET IC2016** in Louisville, KY.
 08/12 KANSAS CITY COMIC CON 2016.

COMMENTS :

- 04/18: Welcome aboard to CRMN Lisa Brown!
- 04/24: Welcome aboard to CRMN Tim Burns!
- 04/29: Welcome aboard to CRMN Sara, Troy, William, and CDT Lacy Fisher!
- The following crewmembers are reminded that their memberships are now APPROACHING expiration date, and that they should renew NOW:

SCC	RANK	NAME	EXPIRE DT
73652	LTJG	Carrie M Mills	06/05/2016
61751	PO3	Teague Banister	06/09/2016
61754	CDT	Ethan Banister	06/09/2016
64850	CDT	Emma Banister	06/09/2016
73696	ENSJG	El Johnston	06/14/2016
73697	ENSJG	Jean Martin	06/14/2016
46072	COL	Patrick N Malone	06/22/2016
55881	CRMN	Michael Malone	06/22/2016

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

SCC	RANK	NAME	EXPIRE DT
70978	LTJG	Rianna Melton	04/26/2016

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



Happy May Day, one and all! Spring is truly sprung as one can tell with all the nice days, fresh air, open windows, and the pollen that drives so many people nuts with allergies! This month, the newsletter is running late as I was down and out with some damned Cardassian virus but I am back on track now. ☺

Loss of Two Great Men

Since our newsletter last month, we have had two losses in our Starfleet family. First, the big man himself, Fleet Admiral Wayne "Hunter" Killough, passed away due to complications after a fairly routine surgery. He was only 39 years old and his passing was quite unexpected. His presence in our Fleet and lives and his friendship will surely be missed. It is for him that we wear mourning bands on our comm badges and dim our running lights through the time of the May ship meeting.

The second loss was much closer to home. Commodore John Dubose, Commanding Officer of the USS Dragonstrike in Oswego, Kansas, has passed away. He had been ill for some time, so he was surrounded by his friends and loved ones at the time of his departure from this plane of existence but of course any loss

diminishes us all. We add his loss to our mourning bands and dimmed running lights throughout this month.

In honor of his passing, his wife Fleet Captain Norma Dubose (who served as his XO), along with the rest of the crew of the Dragonstrike, requested that the Dragonstrike be retired from service as it was John's pride and joy. Therefore, the crew has transferred to the USS Oklahoma under the command of Fleet Captain Shanon Lindbloom Sr., which was originally launched off the Dragonstrike, and the Dragonstrike has been retired in honor after 11 years of exemplary service to the Fleet.

As with all our departed comrades, we wish these fine gentlemen well in their new commands in the next dimension of our universe and we look forward to serving with them again in the future. Fight the good fight and continue to bring us honor, Wayne and John, as we will do in your honors here!

Medical Updates

Cadet Tesla Felty made it through her back surgery with flying colors and, according to her parents Lieutenants (Junior Grade) Laura and Rezty Felty, she was sitting up and watching TV without a whimper of discomfort or wanting to rest after being in the operating room for about 12 hours. She has taken the past few weeks at home to recuperate under

the loving care of her parents and brothers and will be rejoining us at our upcoming Game Night and ship meeting later this week.

Now one of our other crewmembers is going through some equally serious medical issues. Our Deputy Officer in Charge of the 269th Marine Strike Group, Colonel Patrick Malone, has gone into the hospital as of Wednesday, May 25th, for a heart catheterization so as to determine what to do about blockage in his coronary arteries. It turns out that rather than some stents, he will require triple bypass surgery. The surgeon is scheduling this for within the next week.

This causes Pat even more anguish, however, because he works as a security guard and this surgery means that he will be out of work for six to eight weeks while recovering from said surgery. Unfortunately, he has no savings off which to live while effectively unemployed and therefore needs assistance amounting to \$2000 to pay his bills during those two months. Therefore, the Command Staff asks our gracious crew and friends for any assistance for one of our own in his time of need. Any assistance that can be offered would be appreciated. Any of the Command Staff will be happy to collect your offerings and forward them to Pat on your behalves.

Fleet Administration Updates

On a happier note, while the succession of Wayne to the seat of the Commander, Starfleet, position is still being debated, Commodore Robin Vitasek, formerly Chief of Staff for Vice-Commander, Starfleet, has been promoted to the position of Vice-Commander, Starfleet, upon the resignation of Rear Admiral Hayden Segel. Currently filling the position of Commander Pro Tempore, Starfleet, is Admiral Robert Westfall, Fleet Chief of Operations.

The person to hold the position of Commander, Starfleet, for the rest of Wayne's term is being deliberated with the help of SFI legal counsel (on a pro bono basis). The remainder of the term is only a few months since the next election for the three-year term will be this fall.

There have been some rumblings about who might run at this point but, in accordance with Fleet regulations, campaigning cannot yet commence, so no official announcements can yet be made. Once such information can be shared, we will be sure to let you know.

As many of our crew are new and have never been involved in the election process for Commander, Starfleet, the election is a general election. This means that every active member of the Fleet at the time of the mailing of the ballots will get to have a vote.

In other words, if you want to help decide the leadership, make sure that your membership is either still in force through or renewed by November!

Crew Changes

Our friend Lieutenant (Junior Grade) John Buttimer is back in town briefly after his reassignment to another US Army unit in Indiana and I will be having dinner with him, his wife Shelby, and his new son Miles just before Game Night. As he is the former Game Master of our Game Night events, I have asked him to join us and revisit his Star Trek family.

This month, we have had an explosive expansion of our crew! We have added 19 new members to our crew roster, thus making our crew complement stand at 59 souls! We welcome aboard Crewmen E. Bevan, Judith Bevan, Lisa Brown, Tim Burns, Sara Fisher, Troy Fisher, William Fisher, Charles Hays, JoAnn Hays, Natasha Maklakova, Shelby Peek, David Planthold, Robert Planthold, and Josie Thompson and Cadets Lacy Fisher, Flynn Planthold, Corbin Thompson, Kira Thompson, and Lea Thompson. We are now by far the largest ship in Region 12 with the next largest being the USS Horizon at 43 souls and the recently-augmented Oklahoma (with the transfer of the crew from the USS Dragonstrike) coming in close behind at 41 crewmembers. Way to go, Dark

Phoenix! Keep on spreading our fun and enthusiasm!

Promotions and Honors

For this edition of the Phoenix Rising, we have only one promotion to report: Lieutenant John Bevan has been promoted to Lieutenant Commander. Further, he has been selected as the Officer of the Year for Region 12. This enters him into the running for the Officer of the Year at the Fleet level. The Officers of the Year from all regions are entered into that contest and the winner is announced at the International Conference.

Also, the USS Dark Phoenix herself has received an award: she has been named as the Support Ship of the Year for Region 12 and therefore is also entered into the Fleet level contest for Support Ship of the Year.

Ship IDs and Uniform Hardware

We still have some ship IDs that have not been paid for or picked up by our crew who ordered them, so please make sure you do that soon. As a reminder, they are \$4 per card for this order. If any of our crew missed out on the order the first time around and would like cards of their own, let me know and I will be glad to arrange that with you. The cost, however, will be slightly higher at the regular price of \$5 per card since the \$4 was a special one-time offer from our card printing service.

On another note, recently I have had the frustrating experience of losing hardware due to the loss of the butterfly clutches (informally known as "dammits") on the backs of the pins. First, I lost the new black pip from my promotion. In fact I lost the pip the day after said promotion! Next, I lost the Region 12 lapel pin. To say the least, I was not a happy camper. So, this prompted me to find the information on these handy devices called Pinsavers that Ralph mentioned to me that he and Sunnie use for their uniforms. I got a pack of 12 in and put them right to use.

These devices are little sleeves that go over the bayonet pin on the back of the pip or other uniform device and then have the aforementioned pin held in place by a screw in the side of the sleeve. Attached in this fashion, there is no chance of those blasted things going anywhere.

Seeing how easy they are to use and how inexpensive they are, I have procured another five packs and stand ready to sell them at cost: 50 cents per Pinsaver. They will be on my uniform at the meeting or other events attended in uniform, so feel free to check them out.

Events

Friday Night Game Nights continue to be a blast and we enjoy having more and more people join us. The last Game Night on May 13th, however, was

cancelled due to my illness but we are back on track for having Game Night this Friday, May 27th, at the regular time of 7pm. For those new to our crew, I host the Game Night events at my home located at 2625 Moundview Drive here in Lawrence. If you wish to come and need directions, feel free to send me an email or give me a call. My contact information is at the end of this article.

The ship meeting of April 23rd was very well attended by both the crew of the Dark Phoenix and the prospective crew of the USS Bahamut. Those in attendance were the Command Staff; Lieutenant Brent Barbee; Lieutenants (Junior Grade) K Lar Batt, Carolyn Kaberline, Laura Felty, and Rezty Felty; Ensigns Reuben Juarez and Selena Juarez; Crewmen Nikki Blackburn, Tim Burns, and Brian Cervantez; Cadet Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Dyson Felty; Cadets Sagan Felty and Tesla Felty; and guest Tyler Logan. During this meeting, the first inaugural meeting of the USS Bahamut was set for two weeks hence at 5:15 at the Baker's Dozen, just after the conclusion of Sunday Funday.

April 24th saw the Command Staff and a few of the crew at the Star Trek 50th Anniversary Concert. From the crew were Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Rianna Melton and Crewmen Nikki Blackburn and Tim Burns. We were also joined by folks from the USS Valiant, USS Oklahoma, and USS

Missouri. Two of the folks were in full Klingon mode: Rianna and, from the Valiant, Gunnery Sergeant William "Bear" Reed. During the intermission, we were taken backstage for a photo opportunity with the Director.

On May 14th, the Linda Hall Library hosted their Second Saturday Conversation titled "Of Tribbles and Technology: Star Trek at 50." The guest speakers were two Kansas City-area Star Trek novelists: Dayton Ward and Kevin Dilmore. The first half of the presentation was the two of them detailing their experiences within the Star Trek realm while the second half was a Q&A session. Both gentlemen were quite approachable and entertaining. Members of our crew at this gathering were the Command Staff and Crewman Ruth Lichtwardt.

Now that the summer approaches and kids are getting out of school, things will get a bit busier for us regarding our events.

To start, we have our next Game Night (with the triumphant return of Cadet Tesla Felty) on May 27th. As usual, it will be at 7pm at my home. We have various board, card, and dominos games that we can play but we also have a computer game that we enjoy called Artemis: Spaceship Bridge Simulator. No matter what is your speed, come join us and take part in the frivolity and camaraderie.

The next day, May 28th, is our monthly ship meeting, which will be at McAlister's Deli located at 27th and Iowa in the strip mall on the northwest corner of the intersection. The meeting time will be at 6pm but about an hour prior to that, the photographer for Lawrence Magazine will be taking pictures of us for Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Carolyn Kaberline's article about us. Any who can join us for the photos, please let us know as soon as possible so that we know whom to expect and will then go in caravan fashion in our various personal shuttles to the photo site. After the meeting, those who wish to do so may reconvene at my home for more gaming fun, hanging out, and spending time in the company of your crewmates.

June 4th has a conflict: it will be the next Open House at Farpoint Observatory but it will also be the day of the memorial service for Commodore John Dubose in his hometown of Oswego, just north of the Oklahoma border in the southeast corner of the state.

For those wishing to go to the open house, it will start at 9pm rather than 8pm since the sun is staying up to later times during this part of the year. Since the school next door will be out for the summer, we should be able to have as much darkness as possible since the school and sports field lights will be extinguished.

Those who wish to join the Command Staff in the journey down to the memorial service, it is scheduled for 1pm at Derfelt Funeral Home, 203 Illinois Street, Oswego 67356. The journey for the Command Shuttle will be about 2.5 hours. We do have a spare seat available in the shuttle if anyone wants to ride with us. Anyone who wishes to drive down in caravan, let one of the Command Staff know and we will gladly coordinate with you. The wearing of uniforms is authorized, so feel free to wear your ship polo shirts or other uniform that you may have.

Game Night will occur again on June 10th and June 24th. The folks of the independent ship USS Loma Prieta patrolling the California Sector have said that it will be around this time when they are able to rejoin us in our efforts to learn more about Artemis and help to raise us to their veteran level. (They have just a few years of experience on us, after all.)

June 11th will see the return of the P⁴ event that was such a hit last year. P⁴ stands for Pizza, Pop, Phlicks, and People. This is a gathering of people to hang out, eat, drink, be merry, and enjoy watching movies together. Those who wish to attend, please let me know so that I can make sure to have plenty of drinks and other light snacks before we get to ordering the pizzas. The gathering will start at 4pm and we will order the pizzas about 6pm. There is no set end time: the event is over

when the last person's shuttle departs. Last year, that was 5am (after starting at 3pm).

June 25th will be the annual Region 12 Kansas Sector Picnic hosted by the ISS Katana and Acting Fleet Admiral Robert Westfall. This year, the picnic will be at Shawnee Mission Park, located at 7900 Renner Road in Shawnee, Kansas. Robert has asked for people to RSVP as soon as possible so that he knows how much to buy since he will be grilling up steaks to order for us all. For this event, he asks that each person pay \$10 to reimburse for the steaks and other things that he and his wife, Rear Admiral Michelle "Chel" Westfall, are providing. Those who wish to do so can bring side items, desserts, or soft drinks.

As the Sector Picnic is scheduled on the day of our regular ship meeting, we will have our meeting at the Sector Picnic. Further, attendance at the Sector Picnic does count toward promotion eligibility. If you recall from Section 4 in your Crew Handbook, attendance at two sector events or one Region or Fleet event makes one eligible for a promotion. Since the Region 12 Summit was cancelled this year, we have given our crew special dispensation so that attendance at a single event--most notably the Sector Picnic--earns said eligibility. As such, I recommend that everyone strongly consider attending since this is a very easy way to earn that next rank. ☺

Though we have not yet set a specific date, sometime in July we will have our annual ship picnic. If anyone has a suggestion of a date, feel free to let me know. Like last year, it will be casual (cold cuts and other such extravagant eats) and probably be held at Centennial Park near 9th and Iowa, just west of Biemer's BBQ and across the street from The Merc.

Also, not yet set in stone, we are planning to have our annual trip to the Cosmosphere in August. We went there last year and had a grand time meeting up with folks from the USS Jeannette Maddox. Last year, the trip was at the end of the month, right around the time that kids are going back to school. Since we have more Cadets in our crew this time, we intend to schedule this Away Mission earlier in the month. Therefore, those who wish to attend with us, especially those with Cadets, please let me know what dates are preferable.

Something else we have in the works is a presentation by a Topeka-based screenplay writer who has written for various series of Star Trek, The X-Files, and much more. We don't have all the details nailed down yet but as soon as we do, we will let you know.

This summer holds much promise for the fun that we all seek to share, so be sure to come and join us as often as you can. We look forward to seeing you!

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

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

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: An Historical Perspective

A Starfleet Marine is 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 17th, 18th, and 19th 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

Before we can go forward, 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.

United States Marine Corps

The United States Marine Corps was originally organized as the Continental Marines in 1775 to conduct ship-to-ship fighting, provide shipboard security, and assist in landing forces. Its mission evolved with changing military doctrine and American foreign policy. Owing to the availability of Marine forces at sea, the Marine Corps served in every conflict in U.S. history. It attained prominence when its theories and practice of amphibious warfare proved prescient and ultimately formed a cornerstone of the Pacific campaign of World War II. By the early 20th century, the Marine Corps became the dominant theorist and practitioner of amphibious warfare. Its ability to rapidly respond to regional crises made it an important tool for American foreign policy.



November 10, 1775 is the celebrated birthday of the US Marines. After several attempts by the American colonies to work out some sort of reconciliation between the Crown and the American people, the Colonial Congress decided to take a sterner attitude. A committee of the Congress drafted a resolution to create a new military unit, called the Continental Marines. This resolution was drafted in a popular Philadelphia inn called Tun Tavern and was later approved by the entire legislative body. From



there followed a long and rich history from a Branch of the US Armed Forces, that truly embodied the term "Marine." The USMC emblem consisted of a globe (showing the Western Hemisphere) intersected by a fouled anchor, and surmounted by a spread eagle. This was finally adopted as the official Marine Corps Emblem in 1955, following the approval of the new USMC seal by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. On the emblem itself, the device is topped by a ribbon inscribed with the Latin motto "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful).

The general design of the emblem was probably derived from the British Royal Marines' "Globe and Laurel." The globe on the U.S. Marine emblem signified service in any part of the world. The eagle also indirectly signified service worldwide, although this may not have been the intention of the designers in 1868. The eagle they selected for the original Marine emblem was a crested eagle, a type found all over the world. On the other hand, the eagle pictured on the great seal and the currency of the United States was the bald eagle, strictly an American variety. The anchor, whose origin dates back to the founding of the Marine Corps in 1775, indicated the amphibious nature of Marines' duties.

The Marine Corps adopted Semper Fidelis as its official motto in 1883 (*Semper Fidelis* is also the title of the official musical

March of the Marine Corps – referred to as the *Marine Hymn*). U.S. Marines used an abbreviated verbal version, "Semper Fi," to voice loyalty and commitment to their Marine comrades-in-arms. Previous mottos of the Marine Corps were (1) *To the Shores of Tripoli*, adopted in 1805; (2) *Fortitude*, adopted in 1812; (3) *From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli*, adopted in 1848; and (4) *By Sea and by Land*, adopted in the 1850's.

No historical referencing of the USMC, brief or otherwise, can be considered complete without some mention of the famous battles and events in which the USMC were the major combatant force. The history of the Corps will always include famous place names such as

- First Barbary War (1801-1805)
- Battle of Bladensburg (1812)
- Mexican-American War (1846-1848) where the Marines made their famed assault on Chapultepec Palace in Mexico City, later to be celebrated as the phrase "from the Halls of Montezuma" in the Marines' Hymn
- Guantanamo Bay during the Spanish-American War of 1898
- Boxer Rebellion in China (1899-1901)
- Battle at Belleau Wood during World War I (1914-1918) where popular media at the time claimed the German opponents gave the Marines the name of

Teufel Hunden which is a loose translation of "Devil Dogs"

- Guadalcanal, Tarawa Atoll, Saipan, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and Okinawa during the Pacific Campaign of World War II (1939-1945) where the Marines earned their hardest won glory
- the Pusan Perimeter, and the landings at Inchon of the Korean War (1950-1953)
- Da Nang, Hue City, and Khe San of the Vietnam War (1968-1973)
- Invasion of Grenada (1983)
- Invasion of Panama (1989)
- Persian Gulf War (1990-1991)
- Somalia (1992-1995)
- Iraq War
- Afghanistan (2003)

Steeped in tradition, resolute in action, efficient and effective in mode of operation, the US Marine Corps soundly established the footprint for the Marines of the future.

Next time: The Rise of the SFMC

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

Sunday. The quickest way to befriend her is to offer her a bite of chocolate.

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



All Starfleet personnel should have a basic familiarity with weapons and be able to demonstrate weapons proficiency unless they have a moral objection to the use of weapons for defense. Our mission is to explore and interact in a positive manner with other species but others do not always desire positive interaction and at times you may be called upon to defend yourself, your crew, or your ship. This month I will cover the basic types of long projectile firearms in common use on 21st century Earth, how they work, what the different types are, and good techniques for use. Future features may include automatic weapons, phasers of all different types, disruptors, energy whips or other weapons commonly in use in our quadrant that you may encounter while exploring the galaxy.

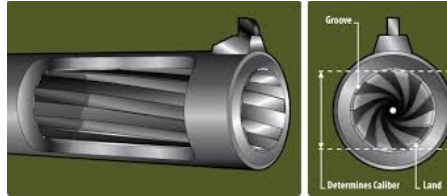
Rifles & Shotguns

Rifles



Rifles are weapons with a long barrel and stock, designed to be fired braced against the shoulder. The name "Rifle" comes from the helical groove or grooves cut into the inner surface of the barrel, known as "rifling." This rifling imparts a spin to the

bullet, imparting gyroscopic stability to prevent tumbling and greatly improving range and accuracy.



Types of rifles

Muzzle-loaders. The first rifles were loaded by having powder and shot rammed down the barrel, but the rifling and fouling that went with these early rifles did not go well together; even when one could load this type of weapon, it had poor range and accuracy.

Minie System. The minie system was an improvement on earlier muzzle-loaders. It too had to have powder and round rammed down the barrel, but was designed for use with a bullet that had a flared skirt which expanded on ramming down the barrel to catch the rifling. These weapons made for much faster loading, less fouling, and improved range from about 50 yards to around 300 yards. This type of weapon was the most prevalent in use during the American Civil War.

Revolving Rifle. Around the same time as the Minie system, gunsmiths began experimenting with using revolving cylinders in rifles. These weapons never saw widespread use, as revolvers tend

to spray metal fragments out the front of the cylinder. This wasn't much of a problem in handguns, and both hands are behind the cylinder, but in rifles, one hand goes in front to stabilize the weapon, and having hot metal flying in this area was an insurmountable problem.

All of these weapons were in use by hobbyists in the 20th & 21st Century but were not considered "modern" weapons.

Breech-loading (Modern) Rifles

Bolt-Action Rifle. The bolt-action rifle has a simple mechanism for catching a round and loading it into the chamber as the bolt slides forward.



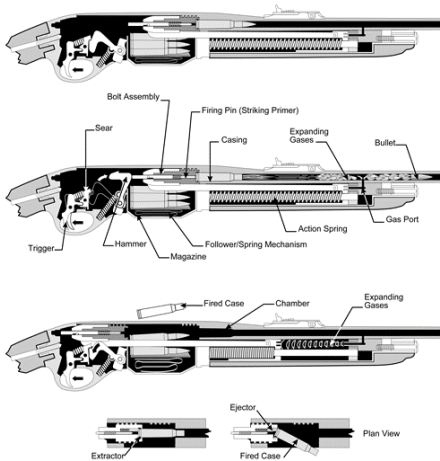
As the bolt pushes the round into the chamber, it generally swivels and locks in place, sealing the chamber. After firing, most bolt action rifles have an extractor mechanism which pulls the used casing from the chamber as the bolt travels back and ejects it. This is a very simple and reliable mechanism. Other single firing rifles (One bullet each time you pull the trigger) use pump or lever action mechanisms to load a round in the chamber but bolt-action is the most common. Modern cartridges and breech-loading rifles have dramatically increased the range and accuracy

of the rifle with the longest confirmed kill being a sniper hitting his target at over 1.5 miles.

Semi-Automatic Rifle



A semi-automatic rifle uses gases from the cartridge, blowback, or springs to make the bolt slide back, eject the spent round, and pick up another round, so you may fire over and over without stopping to load the weapon.



As such, many semi-auto weapons have a cocking lever rather than a bolt to load the first round. This ease of use, and the ability to have 5, 10, 15, or 30 rounds at a time in your weapon, with easily interchangeable magazines, makes the semi-automatic rifle popular with sportsman and soldiers alike.

Automatic Rifle (AKA Machine Gun)



The automatic rifle functions like the semi-automatic rifle, except it will continue to fire as long as you hold the trigger down and it has ammunition. Most modern automatic weapons are selective-fire weapons, which means they have multiple modes of fire, general having a selector switch allowing the user to select safe (won't fire), single (fires one round like a semi-auto), burst (fires three rounds), or auto.



You may wonder why they have different modes. The reasons are (1) it is difficult to be accurate when firing in full automatic mode, (2) the repeated shots tend to make your barrel rise up off your target, and (3) it is wasteful of ammunition. Automatic fire is useful for suppressing an enemy by putting a lot of lead in the air to make him keep his head down but if you are trying to kill him, single fire or burst mode will be much more accurate and likely to accomplish your goal. As well, if you are in the field and do not have a ready source of re-supply,

limiting your firing to single or burst mode will help you conserve ammunition.

There are other rifle variants, such as the mini-gun, which has multiple spinning barrels to enable a large number of rounds to be fired rapidly without melting the barrel but discussion of the more exotic rifles is beyond the scope of this article.

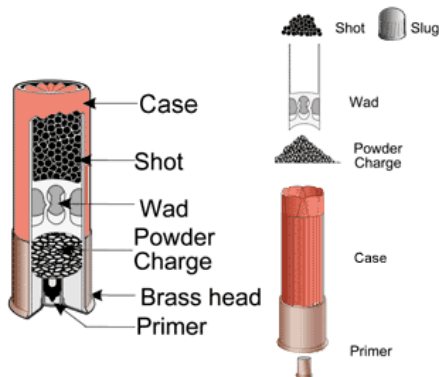


The basic parts of a rifle are shown above.

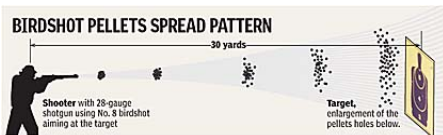
Shotguns



Shotguns have a large smooth bore to their barrels. Shotguns fire a shell which has propellant and a large number of small projectiles, or "shot" in them.



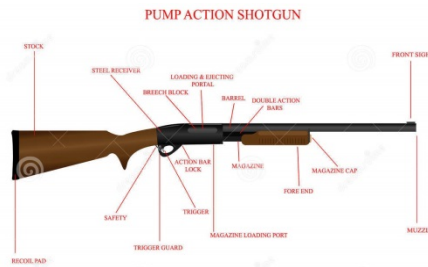
The smooth bore and shot projectiles mean the shot gun has less range and accuracy than a rifle; however, they are useful for hitting targets rapidly when you might not have time to aim accurately because the shot spreads as it leaves the barrel and hits a wider area than a bullet.



Shotguns are widely used in bird hunting, because they can be rapidly brought to bear on a bird on the wing, and a bird can be taken even if only a few of the shot pellets hit it. They are also used in law enforcement as a "less-lethal" alternative to rifles and hand-guns. Loaded with birdshot, they may neutralize an opponent without killing him. Specialized shotgun rounds firing rubber bullets or beanbags have been developed as well to discourage aggressors without killing them.

Shotguns come in pump, breech-loading, bolt-action, semi-automatic, and automatic variants,

though pump action is most common. Some have multiple barrels, with double-barrelled side-by-side and over-and-under being commonly seen. Some double-barrelled shotguns chamber a different caliber shell in each barrel, for example a 12 gauge barrel over a 20 gauge barrel.



The basic parts of a shotgun are shown above.

Safety & Technique

First and foremost, always, always, ALWAYS, remember that a gun is a lethal weapon that if misused can kill you or others, regardless of your intentions. Always assume a weapon is loaded, even if the magazine is out and lying on the table in front of you. One round may well still be in the chamber. Assuming that the weapon is loaded and may go off at any time will avoid 90% of the misfortunes one may have with a weapon. Assume anything that looks weapon like is a weapon and treat it as such. It doesn't matter if it looks like a toy and your kid said he got it at the 5 & dime; assume it is real. There are weapons that look like toys, and assuming all weapons are real will avoid mishaps.

Never point a weapon at another lifeform unless you intend to kill it. Remember, we are assuming all weapons are real, and all weapons are loaded, right? So there is no reason to point a weapon at another living thing unless you aim to put a large bleeding hole in it. Yes, one may defend themselves by pointing a weapon at an aggressor but if you do, the situation had better be serious enough that the possibility of you having to kill that aggressor exists. These very basic safety rules will allow you to own and use a rifle or shotgun without undue risk. If we pursue an away mission to a range for training, I will show you additional safety rules that apply to ranges, or any place where you have a large number of armed people gathering.

Knowing how a weapon works, what its parts are and how they function, is half the education you need for weapons proficiency. The other half is good technique and care of your weapon.

Rifle and shotgun stance (Standing)



You stand with your left foot forward, and your right foot back. You lean slightly forward, with your weight on your left foot. Your right arm is cocked, with your right hand gripping the weapon at the trigger, and "socking" or pulling the stock into your shoulder. Your left arm is forward of the trigger. The gentleman in the picture, who is a champion shooter, is holding his left hand very close to the trigger; I tend to have my left hand further forward than that, but as you work with a weapon, you will find a hold that is comfortable and natural to you. You lean your head slightly to your right, and sight down the barrel, lining up your sights on the target. When you have the target in your sights, you release the safety, take a deep breath, release it halfway and hold your breath to avoid jiggling the gun as you breathe. When the sights are steady and settled on the target, you gently squeeze the trigger, never jerk it, as this will move the weapon and take it off target. After firing, if you have hit your target and achieved your goal, put the weapon safety back on before laying it down. Reverse these directions if you are a left-handed shooter. The safety on some weapons is difficult to reach for left-handed shooters; you may need to use a left-handed weapon or develop your own techniques.

There are other stances: squatting with your elbows on your knees makes for a much steadier weapon and if you have the time to assume a prone

position, lying down with your weight on your elbows gives the steadiest shooting platform of all. It is important to note that performing these actions takes practice and some of it feels unnatural. That is why it is important to spend time at the range practicing and qualifying on your weapon. If you are ever in a life-threatening situation and have to use a weapon, you want these actions to be second-nature, something you do without thinking. When I was weapon-training my cadets as young children, if they forgot to put the safety back on after firing, I would make them jog around the block; they didn't forget too many times before putting the safety on became an automatic action they performed without thought!

If you want your weapon to serve you well, fire when you need it to fire and not jam at the worst possible moment, you need to know how to care for it. Most weapons are very reliable and as long as you keep them dry and clean, they will function as expected for decades. So the obvious things to do are avoid exposing your weapon to water if possible; if it does get wet, make sure to clean and oil it as soon as possible. You should get in the habit of cleaning your weapon after each use. Not after every single time you fire it, but if you spend a day at the range or out hunting, when you get home before you put your weapon away (preferably locked in an area inaccessible to children without

weapons training!), take some time to clean it. Before you start cleaning, remember our safety rules; ALWAYS assume the weapon is loaded. Many gun accidents occur when owners are cleaning their weapons they are sure they unloaded! A basic gun cleaning kit will contain gun oil, some swatches of cloth, and a rod to go down the barrel. First remove any rounds, and clear the chamber. You can check a rifle or shotgun by looking through the chamber FROM THE REAR! Never check your weapon by aiming it at yourself. Working the cocking lever, bolt or pump should clear any rounds from a rifle or shotgun chamber. Remove any obvious dirt or grime, dry the weapon if necessary, then lightly wipe down with gun oil. You don't want it dripping with oil, as this will attract dirt, just lightly coated to avoid rust and repel water. Drip some gun oil on a swatch, and attach it to your cleaning rod, then work it down the barrel to clean it, sliding it in and out while twisting to clean the inside of the barrel. Do not point the weapon at yourself while doing this, you may need to have part of your hand in front of the barrel while cleaning but a wound in your hand is survivable; one in the head usually isn't. That's all it takes to clean and care for your weapon so it will continue to provide you with years of safe reliable service.

That concludes my coverage of the basic mechanisms, safety and techniques of 21st

century Terran long guns. Until next month, keep your photon tubes loaded, and watch your 6!

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

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



This month, we will talk about the starships and how warp propulsion works.

The speed at which a starship can travel is based on the ship itself and the technology available at that time. The Galaxy-class starship Enterprise's maximum speed is Warp 9.8 but anything over Warp 9.6 can be maintained for only a few hours while Warp 9.6 and below could be maintained for much longer. The fastest ship class is the Intrepid class and it has a top sustainable warp speed of 9.975.

How all this occurs is by the use of a matter-antimatter reaction within the Warp Core. As many know, this reaction is the only 100-percent efficient reaction in the known universe: all of the reactants are changed into pure energy. Considering the unimaginable amount of energy that comes about from just an infinitesimal amount of matter (as shown by the famous equation of $E = mc^2$), the engineers of Starfleet had to come up with a way to regulate those reactions and discovered that dilithium crystals were the solution to this very destructive puzzle.

Dilithium, as the name implies, is a crystal made of two lithium atoms.



Lithium is not found free in nature on Earth (it is discovered in minerals such as petalite ($\text{LiAl}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5)_2$) and composes only 0.0007 percent of the Earth's crust, none of which is in the form of Dilithium. Dilithium crystals

are very rare and found on only a few planets in the Federation and elsewhere in the known universe. Despite its rarity, it is the basis of warp propulsion in all Starfleet vessels and, therefore, is a necessary commodity for which Starfleet frequently trades both within its borders and with other friendly or neutral powers.

The dilithium crystals are placed into the reaction chamber with the matter injector suspended above it and the antimatter injector installed below it. When the warp core is active, measured amounts of matter and antimatter in a precise ratio of 1:1 are delivered to the reaction chamber and the output of the reaction--warp plasma--is then delivered to the warp nacelles and other areas of the engineering section so as to propel the ship and provide power to all its functions. It is the warp core that provides the primary power generation for the ship, so it remains active even when the ship is either in orbit or sitting idle in space, though to a much lesser degree.

When in warp flight, the amount of reactants being processed is increased to allow larger factors of warp to be achieved. This is accomplished by the warp nacelles forming additional layers of the warp field. The field strength is measured in cochranes (named after Zefram Cochrane, the man in Montana who invented the first warp drive for Earth). The higher the field strength, the faster the ship can speed through the galaxy.

In contrast, when the ship is not flying at faster-than-light speeds, the warp core's output is measured in millicochranes and is being utilized only for powering the ship. This has no effect on the speed of the ship

since the field strength is so insignificant and so fleeting.

Though there are undoubtedly other technologies in use for controlling matter-antimatter reactions that are employed by the vessels of other races, for our technology if we had not found Dilithium crystals, Starfleet propulsion would have been forestalled and we would not be as advanced as we are today.

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. He is a high school sophomore but has shown the same enthusiasm and dedication of any of the Officers, so his desire to serve has been approved by the Command Staff. Joining the crew only a few months ago, he has proven himself worthy of his title. As he challenges the same Officer training tests as his adult colleagues, he has been granted the rank of Cadet Lieutenant (Junior Grade) (abbreviated as CDT3C) and will receive a commission to the rank of Ensign upon his 18th birthday.

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



My article today is of a subject very dear to my heart. I was a Hospice Nurse for many years. It is an experience I would not trade for anything in the world. Hospice is end-of-life care. It is generally recommended to the patient when it is believed that they have approximately 6 months left of life.

Hospice care can be in home or in a facility or more recently introduced in a hospice house. Hospice care is introduced to a patient and family when it is believed that all medical options have been exhausted or when a patient chooses to discontinue care. Patients or families who chose to do in home hospice care receive similar care to that provided in a facility. The patient stays in the home. He is visited frequently by hospice staff. Hospice staff includes Registered Nurses, home health aides, social workers, chaplains, and volunteers. Also included with hospice care is physical therapy to assist with safety in the home and occupational therapy to assist in positioning as well as speech therapy for assistance in eating and communication. All of these services are based on keeping the patient as comfortable as possible.

Hospice care is paid for by most insurances and Medicaid and Medicare. With this coverage, the

hospice company pays for any durable medical equipment necessary for the patient living as independently as possible and making things as convenient as possible. Durable medical equipment would include a bedside commode, oxygen, handheld shower head, grab bars for showers, and a toilet seat raiser. The hospice company is also responsible for sanitary care such as bathroom wipes, adult briefs, and chux (bed protection pads).

When entering hospice care, the patient should get two to three nurse visits per week. During a nursing visit, the patient would be visited by an RN or LPN. The patient's vitals should be checked--blood pressure, pulse, oxygenation, weight, and temperature. The nurse will also perform a head-to-toe assessment including bathroom use, quality of sleep, appetite, range of motion of their joints, ability to walk, ability to take care of daily needs, and how much assistance is required in completing these activities. The nurse should assess the patient's needs of any assistive devices that may be required, such as a grabber. The nurse should also assess for pain. The goal of hospice is for the patient to be as comfortable as possible. The nurse is responsible for getting doctor's orders for all medications or durable medical equipment required for the patient, getting orders and communicating the needs of the patient to the rest of the team, and for educating the

family how best to care for their loved one.

The Home Health Aide (HHA) usually comes two to five times a week. The HHA can assist with showers, give bed baths, assist with making meals and feeding meals, and assist with household chores such as washing dishes, doing the laundry, and such. The HHA can also stay with the patient for short periods while the family is able to leave the house for some time away. The HHA can also go grocery shopping for the patient (with the patient being financially responsible for the purchases). All of these activities would be assigned and supervised by the RN.

The social worker usually will visit once every two to four weeks. The social worker can help families get through issues so that the patient can have closure before he passes away. The social worker can assist with families coming to terms with the way the patient wants to go. The social worker also will help make sure that all the proper paperwork is in order. She makes sure that there is a durable power of attorney so that one particular person knows the conditions in which the patient wants to pass. She will also make sure that a "do not resuscitate" order signed by the patient and a physician is completed. The social worker will assist the family and the patient as to where to keep this information such as on the refrigerator where EMS workers

can easily locate it when called during an emergency event. The social worker will also help the family and the patient with final arrangements so that the family is not burdened with guessing how the patient would have wanted things. Social workers can also notify the RN if she recognizes a need of the patient/family that may have been missed by the nurse.

Hospice Care is very valuable as an end-of-life choice. The patient has the ability to die with dignity. He is able to make the choices regarding how to go and hopefully is able to reconcile any relationships that may need to be sorted out prior to his passing.

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

Veterinary Specialist's
Report

By Lieutenant (Junior
Grade) Rianna Melton



No Article Submitted.

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

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



May-June 2016 stellar events

Hopefully everyone had a chance to see the transit of Mercury across the face of the sun on Monday, May 9th. This is a relatively rare event that occurs only once every few years. While there will be one other transit of Mercury in 2019, the next one won't occur until 2039. This year's transit was visible throughout North America, Mexico, Central America and South America as well as parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The last time this happened was in 2006. You might want to check out <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/transit/2016-may-9> for more info on this event.

I'm sure you've all heard the saying "once in a blue moon." Well, you will have the chance to see one this month. While it won't really be blue in color, it will be the fourth full moon of the season. A season usually has only three full moons to it but since the moon has a period of 29.53 days, a season will occasionally have four. That fourth one is referred to as a blue moon. A blue moon usually occurs only once every 2.7 years. As a note, this moon was known to early Native American tribes as the Full Flower Moon due to the number of flowers usually seen. It is also referred to as the Full Corn Planting Moon.

(If you've driven into the country recently, you should have seen numerous fields being planted with corn.) It has also been referred to as the Milk Moon.

Mars will be at its closest to Earth on May 22nd. Since its face will be fully illuminated by the sun, a small telescope should allow you to see some of the surface features on this planet.

June 3rd will see Saturn at its closest approach to Earth. That means its face will be fully illuminated by the sun making it visible throughout the night if the sky is clear. Since it will be brighter than at any other time of the year, you should be able to see it and some of its moons with a medium or larger sized telescope. (www.seasky.org)

Activities are still a little slow this month as you can see but don't forget the next open house at Farpoint Observatory on June 4th beginning at 9 p.m. In addition, guests are always welcome at the NEKAAL (Northeast Kansas Amateur Astronomers' League) monthly general meetings held at the Topeka Public Library. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on May 26th. Check the message board as you come in for the specific room.

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 & Frivolity

Sorry, one and all but this month, due to the tardiness of this issue, we are not putting in games. We will see them return next month for your puzzling pleasure! ☺

