



Vice Admiral Joseph P Hoolihan
Commanding Officer

Commander John D T Hancock
Executive Officer

Fleet Captain Matt G Haley
Second Officer

Greetings from the Center Seat!

It's been a while since we've had one of these issues, and my apologies for taking so long! A lot of us have been experiencing some Real Life issues (myself included) so time kinda got away from us!

We welcome FOUR new members to the USS Matrix! Eric Schulman, his wife Caroline Cox and daughter Emily Schulman, and Constance Potter! I've included some brief info about them in an article in this edition to help introduce them! Eric and Caroline will be in Sciences, while Emily and Connie will go to Engineering!

By now, most of you will have seen the new movie! I know several have not, some by choice and some by circumstance, but by and large, most of us have gotten a peak at it. The opinions I've seen are mostly positive, but I also see that most of us agree that it's a new imagining of Gene Roddenberry's idea. To use an old phrase "It's not your Father's Star Trek!"

Our RPG "Project Skyview" is ongoing! We have a brief synopsis also in this issue, so check it out! If you aren't on the RPG list, our Second Officer, FCAPT Matt Haley can send you an invite so you can get in on the fun!

I've also included a short collectibles article, this time on what Burger King restaurants have to offer! I was going to do a big article on the various toys coming out, but our parent organization, SFI, beat us to it and put it in the last issue of Communique. It has a "permission granted" statement, otherwise I'd reprint it wholesale here!

Interest in Trek worldwide has taken off, thanks to the new movie, and I am glad to see it! Still, the USS Matrix has been here for quite a while (15 years this November!) so we true dedicated Trekkies have known the value of Star Trek for a long, long time!

Speaking of our anniversary, I've included a proposed design of our anniversary challenge coins also in this article. I am currently getting bids for them from various vendors, and will keep you all informed! Our current plans are to have an all day chat session on Saturday, November 21st to commemorate the occasion. Details to follow!

It's been a fun ride for the past 15, and I look forward to many more!

CO Joe

New members Corner:

Eric Schulman provided this info about himself and his family:

Eric Schulman grew up in Los Angeles, California, where he played a lot of Star Fleet Battles. He received his bachelor's degree in astrophysics from UCLA and his PhD in astronomy from the University of Michigan. He then lived in Charlottesville, Virginia, for three years, where he was a research associate at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and an instructor in the astronomy department at the University of Virginia. In 1998, he moved to Alexandria, Virginia, where he works for a non-profit research organization. He fondly remembers watching the Animated Series when he was growing up and has a Captain Kirk animation cel on the wall next to a signed picture of John Glenn and above a letter from Carl Sagan.

Caroline Cox grew up in Arlington, Virginia. She received her bachelor's degree in astrophysics from UCLA and her PhD in astronomy from the University of Michigan. She and Eric got rid of their cable television when they started working on their theses, so they had to walk to the food court on Sunday mornings to watch new episodes of The Next Generation. After grad school, she lived in Charlottesville, Virginia, for three years, where she was a research assistant professor and instructor in the astronomy department at the University of Virginia. In 1998, she moved to Alexandria, Virginia, where she worked as an astronomy education consultant to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. Now she teaches physics and astrophysics at a small private high school in Springfield, Virginia.

Emily Schulman is a 13-year old who was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, and who has lived in Alexandria, Virginia, since 1998. She enjoys reading, writing, and role playing of all sorts. She really liked the new Star Trek movie!

Constance Potter (Connie) had this to say about herself:

I live in Carbondale Illinois USA, home of Southern Illinois University, and work with People with Disabilities. I am single and have no children. I have an interest in American Indian history, folklore and customs. I am on face book under Connie Potter. I watched the Original STAR TREK series when I was a kid. I have seen all of NG and ENTERPRISE but have missed a few episodes of DS9 and VOYAGER. I like all STAR TREK. I have seen all the STAR TREK movies except for the current one.

I became a part of STARFLEET and The USS LOCKSLEY in November 1993, until February 1997. I let my STARFLEET membership expire when the LOCKSLEY folded due to lack of membership. At the time there was not a ship close enough for me to get to due to lack of transport. I also was not sure if STARFLEET was going to be able to continue because of some problems in the STARFLEET Command Staff I heard about. I am glad that STARFLEET is still going strong. I liked being in STARFLEET and decided to join it again after finding and joining the STARFLEET group of face book.

I was just learning about the Internet at the time I first joined STARFLEET. What I know about computers and the Internet I learn by the 'trial and error; method. I have not had any computer training.

I think I will like being part of a Correspondence Chapter of STARFLEET because I like meeting new people.

Statistics:

18 SFI, 8 affiliate
8 non-SFI
Total 34

Courses completed:

Eric Schulman has completed **60** courses in SFI's Starfleet Academy since joining on May 12th! Incredible!!

He also has done NCOS, OBT, CQC, and the Targ Expert Course from our Matrix University!!

Emily Schulman has completed the TOS recognition course from SFA, as has Caroline Cox.

Promotions: Emily Schulman and Caroline Cox to Crewman Apprentice as of 6/15/09.

**USS Matrix
SCIENCE DIVISION**
<http://sci.ussmatrix.org/>



Monthly Status Report

14 June 2009

Science Division Crew Roster and Status

Chief Science Officer	position vacant
Assistant Chief Science Officer	position vacant
Chief Stellar Cartographer	Jim Strait (Civilian Scientist)
Chief Astrophysicist	Crewman Recruit Eric Schulman
Assistant Astrophysicist	Caroline Cox (Civilian Scientist)
Sensor Chief	position vacant
Environmental Chief	position vacant

New Science Division Members: Eric Schulman, Caroline Cox

Science Division MU Courses Completed: 4

Science Division SFA/SFMCA courses completed: 35

Astrophysics Report

Why do astronomers believe the Big Bang happened and the Universe is expanding? First, we see that the farther away a galaxy is from us, the faster it is moving away from us. Second, we find that the Universe is composed of about 75% hydrogen and 25% helium, which is what nuclear physics predicts would have resulted from nuclear fusion during the first few minutes after the Big Bang. Third, we see microwave radiation coming from all directions, which is what we would have expected if the Universe had expanded 1000 times or so since electrons and protons came together to form neutral atoms about 400,000 years after the Big Bang. Stop by the Astrophysics Department to learn more!

Collectors Corner:

Burger King restaurants have joined in the parade of Star Trek Movie related premiums and give-aways. They currently have two different types of giveaways.

Four different glasses are available with images from the movie:

Nero and the Nerada
Kirk in Captain's uniform, with the USS Enterprise
Uhura and the USS Enterprise
Spock and Spock Prime



Also, in kids meals, there are 16 different toys: 8 figures, 6 ships and two props:

Kirk, Spock, Uhura, McCoy, Scotty, Chekov, Sulu, Spock Prime, Enterprise, Jellyfish, Kelvin, Shuttle, Klingon cruiser, Police speeder bike, Communicator and Tricorder.



The glasses are 1.99 each with a purchase, and the toys come in the kids meals.

For those of you who use eBay they are readily available for purchase; make sure to check out all the auctions to get a best price!

RPG:

The current RPG “Project Skyview” is underway. Here is a plot synopsis:

The Federation is rebuilding after the long war with the Dominion. The Romulan Empire is in chaos, having survived the vicious coup by Shinzon and the Remans. It is struggling to rebuild as well.

The Klingons haven't fared any better, and Chancellor Martok has survived a coup on the Klingon homeworld that cost him his be'nal, his wife Surilla.

Starfleet has tasked the USS Matrix to assist the Starfleet Corps of Engineers in rebuilding a Scientific outpost, used before the war for long range stellar observation. Project Skyview is the restoration and upgrade of a small scientific station located on a large asteroid, situated in an asteroid field near the Romulan Neutral Zone. From its vantage point, a number of stellar phenomena are visible, but newer and better equipment is needed to continue the scientific studies.

The Matrix will ferry a number of larger pieces of equipment, as well as a team from the SCE ship USS Da Vinci. Matrix personnel will also do a large amount of the rehabbing and installation of the new facility.

Of course, the Romulans will be very interested in this station, being so close to the Neutral Zone.

And, there is something else in the asteroid field that neither Starfleet or Romulans anticipated...

Currently, the ship is enroute to the Asteroid, and the crew are making final preparations. Unknown to them, the Romulan Warbird Khazara is also heading in that direction!

And, also unknown to the Matrix is the presence of the USS Wessex. Admiral Hoolihan thought they were near, but they never answered his hails; very odd...

Come join us for the fun!!

15th Anniversary Challenge Coins

Our 15th Anniversary will happen on November 18th of this year, and to commemorate it, I'm having Challenge coins made! The front side will be our standard ships logo, like this:



The back side will be an image of the ship, and the words 15th Anniversary, Nov 18, 1994 – Nov 18, 2009



Feel free to comment on the design. I hope to be placing an order sometime next month, and to have them in hand, package them up, and send them out by late September or Early November. I'll need mailing addresses for all of you, of course!

This will also go out to our affiliate members, in recognition of their long friendship and participation!

CO Joe

Upcoming events:

While I list mostly the Region 7 events, folks should feel free to post information on activities in their area so that crew can take advantage, should the opportunity arise!

Shore Leave Convention, Hunt Valley, MD July 10-12. I'll be there on Saturday, July 11 for the Region 7 meeting, and for FUN! Let me know if you might want to join me! Check out www.Shore-Leave.com for a list of guests!

Franklin Institute volunteering:

Attend the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia's showing of Star Trek The Exhibition! Get in for free, get free parking, and get free lunch! Uniforms are required though, but I have a few extras in size Medium to lend. Dates are June 27th, July 18th and 25th, August 8th and 22nd, and September 19th. The show ends on September 20th. Please contact me if you want to attend!

CO Joe