

Intercom

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Official Newsletter

USS Matrix NCC-72296

"Cyberspace - The Final Frontier"

www.ussmatrix.org

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CAPTAIN'S BLOG

Summertime! And time for Vacations and Conventions! There's the annual Shore Leave Convention here in Baltimore, MD on July 13-15. I'll be there all day on Saturday the 14th, and folks are welcome to join me. There will be a Region 7 meeting at 9AM, plus the usual fun activities (guests, panels, and assorted merriment).

For the SFI Folks: We are now in an election cycle for Commander, Starfleet. The schedule is as follows:

June 1 to July 15:	Nominations
July 16 - Nov 15:	Candidates' campaigns
September 1:	Ballots mailed to members
November 15:	Closing date to accept votes
November 20:	Winner announced
January 1:	New CS takes office

There are three people who have declared their intentions to run:

Joost Ueffing, one of our esteemed affiliate members
Emmett Plant, who lives in PA but is a member of the USS Peacekeeper in CA
Sal Lizard, former VCS under Les Rickard

Joost's web site is <http://www.votejoost.org/>
Emmett's web site is <http://www.starfleetreboot.com>
Sal's web site is <http://sfimembersmatter.org>

There is also an election list server at
<http://lists.sfi.org/listinfo.cgi/sfele-2007-sfi.org>

Be warned, though! The election list puts out 40-60 messages a day!

I would encourage all SFI members to check out the web sites of each person seeking the Nomination, and let me know your preference. I get to send in ONE, and only one, Nomination by July 15th.

I will share my views ***privately*** if anyone asks, but won't post them publicly.

CO Joe

The Early Years

The Matrix originally started as a project on the USS Vanguard, when Fleet Captain Roger Stearns was CO of the Vanguard. It originated as a Star Trek style chat/MUD; the Chat part was Star Trek based, and the MUD part was fantasy role-playing. Cmdr John M. Ross (CO, USS Immortal) and he were the project leaders. This project started in July of 1993. Other crewmembers who signed onto the project were ENSjg Rod Jacobs, ENSjg Jesse Hobbs, ENSjg Jeff Bateman, LtCmdr Don Tribble, Civilian Specialist Keith Johnson, and Ambassador John Whitney.

January 1st, 1994: FCAPT Stearns stepped down as CO of the USS Vanguard and transferred his membership to the USS Rainbow Warrior in Kansas City, Missouri (then under the command of Commodore Rich Pearce). Three weeks later, the Runabout Matrix launched as a shuttle off the USS Rainbow Warrior, with FCAPT Stearns as the CO, and Cmdr Ross as the XO.

At the time, the majority of the crew was based at the University of Arkansas. Then the U of A computing service banned MUDs on our campus. Well, as this was the foundation that the Matrix was being built upon, with that path blocked we had to find a new path. So we changed the emphasis of the Matrix to being an email correspondence ship with an e-mail newsletter. Around this time, Second Officer Donald Tribble moved into the XO position.

On Stardate 199411.18 we commissioned as a Starship; with the opening of Star Trek: Generations, we celebrated our commissioning.





**Avast, Ye Mateys!
It's time to plan on attending
The 2007 Region 7
Conference!!**



**14-16 September 2007
Baltimore, Maryland**

Announcing STARFLEET Region 7's 2007 Regional Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, from 14-16 September, 2007, at the Holiday Inn BWI Conference Center!!

Our theme for this year is PIRATES!! We will be having a Friday night Get-Together, Saturday meetings, A Saturday night Dinner and Dance, and a Farewell on Sunday. There will be Pirate-Themed activities all weekend long.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Baltimore for the 2007 R7 Conference!!

Registration Rates:

(Includes Friday night events, Saturday meetings, and Sunday morning meetings)

Adult: \$30
Child (ages 4 to 12): \$15
Children under 4 are free (but must be registered)

Banquet: \$40
Child Banquet Price: \$20

Location:

Holiday Inn BWI Conference Center
890 Elkridge Landing Road
Baltimore, MD 21090
(410) 859-8400

Rate: \$99 (plus tax) per night per room (double or king)

Banquet Options:

- A) Plated Roast Prime Rib of Beef—Served in Natural Juices with Creamed Horseradish Sauce.
- B) Chicken Parmesan
- C) Hot Vegetarian Option

If thou believest thyself to be a likely party to the Region Seven Conference, make speed to let the editors know of thy voyage, and they will plot thee a course for thy correspondence.

Connect thyself to ye mystical web known by some as Ye Internet and go to www.region7.com for further information.

Each Newsletter, we will be featuring a different member of the crew of USS Matrix...

LT Commander Troy 'Troyski' Muller (Assistant Chief of Communications)

Always one for beta sites, I requested an invitation to the beta testing of the new "Joost" service sometime last year. Disappointed that I wasn't chosen for the first tranche of testers I waited, and recently was rewarded with an invitation for the second tranche....but what is Joost? (aside from a crew member of the Matrix of course), I hear you ask...and what has it to do with the Matrix?

Well firstly, Joost is a new kind of internet TV. It essentially streams video to your PC, and if you are one of the increasing number of people who have a fast (greater than 2Mb/sec I would suggest) broadband connection, the quality is quite good.

And secondly, Joost has a SCI-FI channel! Yay!

Sadly, there is no Star Trek on that channel (yet), but "Earth : Final Conflict" is there, along with others two of which I hadn't seen before; "Total Recall 2050" and "Riverworld".

If you are already tempted, this is the point to be warned that the latter two programmes at least, have an adult content to it. Certainly I would not watch this with my younger children around as the "naked" quota seemed, to me anyway, quite high initially.

Also on the downside, if you run your own proxy at home (you'll know if you do), Joost will not currently work with it - a big disappointment in my view. So, in my case I have had to give my laptop direct access to the internet.

I must say that when I'm in the kitchen at the weekends, cooking for my numerous children, it's great to use Joost on my laptop.

Joost has a nice, smooth interface, changing channels and programmes is fairly easy, and there is also a "widget" screen. This screen overlays your program with small, semi-transparent windows that do various things; a clock, a RSS feed, a chat box. Each TV "channel" has it's own chat room, so you can interact with other Joost users watching the same programme.

If you've overdosed on Sci-Fi there are plenty of other channels to select including Bridezilla's (?), Guinness World Records, music channels, a cartoon channel. The last time I looked there were about 20 channels, and the list is growing.

Remember, being a BETA, there will be problems, but as the product is ironed out it's set to become a popular choice for Internet TV.

Now then, how do you get Joost? You have to be invited, a bit like gmail used to be. I do have some invites, so if you email me at troyski@gmail.com, I will send you an invite on a first-come-first-served basis. More information is on Joost's website at <http://www.joost.com>.

[Editors' Note: Not to be confused with one of the candidates for Commander, Starfleet!]

This year, the IC will be held at Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver, Colorado on August 10-12 2007. One of the Committee members is Wayne Snyder, who will be remembered fondly by some of the crew who have been aboard longer. Visit www.ic2007.org for further information.

FRIDAY			
Time	Title	Description	Host
2200	The Great Dalmuti Tournament	An IC tradition (more details to follow)	TBA

SATURDAY			
Time	Title	Description	Host
0600	Fit For Fleet: Swim	An early morning swim in the rooftop pool to get the blood flowing (over 5,280 feet up)	D Foster
1500	Meet the Candidates	Introduction and open forum discussion with the candidates for Commander of STARFLEET	TBA
2000	How to play poker	Basics of playing and betting five card (stud/draw), seven card stud, and texas hold'em	D Foster
2030	Hosting a poker party	The ins and outs of how to host your own poker party	D Foster
TBA	Ask the Fleet Brass	STARFLEET's leaders will be on hand for face-to-face discussion and questions	The Brass
TBA	Retention & Recruiting	How to create a recruiting plan for your chapter, and keep members once you have them	TBA
TBA	Building an SFA course	Cover the expectations and requirements for course creators/directors	TBA
TBA	Costuming & Makeup	Learn the basics and then go the extra mile with your creation	TBA
TBA	Jeopardy	Region 5 will bring this amazing game to Fleet for the first time. This creation is complete with buzzers/buttons, lights, and a full screen projection	R5 personnel

SUNDAY			
Time	Title	Description	Host
1300	Hosting an IC	Discussion of planning, budgeting, organizing and pulling off a STARFLEET IC	IC2007 Committee

CREW REPORT

STATUS

New Members: FCAPT Steve Ives

Promotions: Chris Bayonet to LT Colonel

Crew Strength: 43

SFI	24
SFI Affiliate	5
Non-SFI	14

Reorganization of Communications Division

CDR Ros Haywood has been promoted to Chief of Communications. The crew of the Matrix wish to say a huge 'thank you' to **Luke Davis** for his work in this role. Luke remains aboard as Systems and Database Administrator.

LT Commander Troyski Muller steps up to become the Assistant Chief of Communications. Thanks, Troyski!

Ed Meiman becomes a Civilian Technical Advisor.

FCAPT Steve Ives joins the Division as Website Technical Coordinator.

SENIOR STAFF

Commanding Officer

VADM Joseph P Hoolihan

Executive Officer

CDR David Jamison

Second Officer/Training Officer

FCAPT Matt Haley

Chief Communications Officer

CDR Ros Haywood

Chief Operations Officer

LT CDR John Wagner

Chief Engineer

LT CDR Tomas Kocvara

Chief of Security

CDR Ryan Smith

787th OIC

CAPT Shaun Kenyon

Chief Science Officer

CDR John Hancock

Chief Medical Officer

CAPT Minka Leeser

TRAINING /DEVELOPMENT

Our Second Officer, FCAPT Matt Haley, runs the Matrix College of Command, which gives out the three Matrix-specific courses:

- ❖ Non-Commissioned Officers School
- ❖ Officer Basic Training
- ❖ Command Qualification Course

Note to our newer members: EVERYONE needs to take Non-Commissioned Officers Course, or NCOS, as a minimum to start up the promotion ladder! Matt Haley has this course, and it is EASY to do!

We have a number of SFI folks that have taken loads of courses and could be getting promoted if they would just take NCOS as well.

Contact [Matt](#) if you have questions...

Internet Starfleet Academy Courses (ISFA) Completed:
None

Being Written: Tables Primer

SFI Starfleet Academy Courses Completed:

Matt Haley

College of Genealogy

Level 1 - HONORS

Level 2 - DISTINCTION

Level 3 - HONORS

Ros Haywood

College of Mythological Studies

Bajoran – HONORS

Celtic - HONORS

College of Starship Operations

Rescue/Evacuation Operations – HONORS

Medical Operations - DISTINCTION

College of Down Under

Australian Flags - HONORS

College of Xenanthropology

Alpha Quadrant - DISTINCTION

Alpha Quadrant Ext - DISTINCTION

Amy L'Abbe*College of Survival Studies*

Useable Plants - DISTINCTION

Stuart Lee*College of Star Trek Chronology*

Trek Chronology 101 - DISTINCTION

Professional Development

PD-10 - HONORS

College of Down Under

New Zealand Flags - HONORS

For those of you not SFI members, I strongly encourage you to go to www.sfi.org and join Starfleet: The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc.! It's only \$15 per year, and you become members of the largest Trek Fan Club on the planet.

You also get a bi-monthly newsletter, access to Starfleet Academy, and become part of a great bunch of folks. [Email](mailto:COJoe@sfi.org) CO Joe, Dave Jamison, or Matt Haley if you have any questions.

13 June 2007: Memory Alpha.org reaches 25,000 articles

SHIP'S LOG

RPG: PIRATES OF ORION

March saw the beginning of the current Matrix RPG: Pirates of Orion, with over 100 scenes so far.

The Orion Syndicate has taken advantage of Starfleet's weakened state and incidents of piracy have increased.

The Fleet is spread thin, the Orion Syndicate has grown stronger, bolder, smarter...

Vida Nova, an otherwise quiet agricultural colony, is also masking a covert Federation intelligence op to fact-find all they can about foreign powers. Crew from the USS Matrix are tasked with recovering the data and safeguarding it from the Orions.

Upon arrival, USS Matrix is involved in a space-and-air battle with Orion fighters. The Marines have headed down to the planet to repel the invaders, while a mission to retrieve the intelligence data is carried out by three members of the Communications Division. The retrieval has

been successful; however, the team has been discovered by members of the Syndicate, and a firefight has ensued. Matt Haley and Ros Haywood have been injured, and Luke Davis has got them back to the shuttle, where Matt flies them back to the safety of the Matrix, using his internal sensors only. However, there are now only two in the shuttle. The evac team searches desperately for Luke, but doesn't find him, because - Luke has been captured by Klingons working for the Orions!

Matt conducts self-repairs in the Matrix Cybernetics Lab, while Drs Leaser, L'Abbe and Talak work

frantically on Commander Haywood, saving her life as her bioreadings plummet.

Meanwhile, CAPT Leaser and LCDR L'Abbe have discovered a strange microchip in one of the unfortunate colonists who perished while being abducted by the Orions. This has led to speculation about personal cloaking devices.

What is this strange chip?

What will happen to Luke and Leia...er, Ros (plus Matt!)?

Will the Matrix make space garbage out of the Orion Battlecruiser?

Stay Tuned for the continuing exciting adventure!

(including the occasional commercial break)

By The Way...

The Orion Syndicate have proved more real than we thought, having procured an email address and inserted themselves onto the Matrix-I mailing list!

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Heard of the USS Genesis? She's brand new!

The USS Genesis, together with the other two chapters in the region, the USS Southern Cross and the USS Mawson work to ensure that Region 11 continues to grow and develop within Starfleet as a whole.

The Genesis also joins the Southern Cross members for regular weekly chats, and jointly participates in many fun activities.

CO: Commander Gary Amor !!!
(an Affiliate crewmember of the USS Matrix)

LATEST SFI NEWS

IC 2007 Press Release

Written by STARFLEET Webmaster

Greetings from the IC 2007 Team! We are hard at work to provide you, the member, with the very best in IC programming and events. The STARFLEET International Conference is the place to be this summer. Friends and Fandom will meet in Denver, Colorado for a weekend of Fun and Fleet!

Are you registered for STARFLEET's premiere annual event yet?

We are using the PASSKEY service for registrations. Do not call the hotel directly. Please call 877-642-9212 or use the REGISTRATIONS link on the IC2007.org website. If for any reason you experience a problem, please call Jennifer Scott at 720-270-2975 and she will personally see to it that you get taken care of.

More IC 2007 updates are coming...

REPORTING SCHEDULE

[taken from USS Matrix SOM]

Division Reports will be published by each Division using the following schedule each month:

Division	Day of Month
Command	7th
Science & Medical	14th
Operations & Communications	21st
Engineering & Security	28th



Have an activity you'd like to see happen? Let a Senior Staff member know, and we'll see what we can do! Remember the Prime Directive:

HAVE FUN!

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Got something to say that you want to appear in this newsletter? Make it fun, and interesting, and informative, and keep the humor family-friendly, and send it in to the Intercom Editorial Board ([Ed Meiman](#) and [Ros Haywood](#)), and send it by **August 15, 2007** for the September Newsletter.

We welcome all articles, stories, and URL links. Just because we welcome it, does not guarantee that your submission will appear in the newsletter. Sorry. Ros and Ed reserve the right to edit all submissions for spelling, punctuation, grammar, and so on. If you are sending in a URL, please add a brief description of what it links to. If you are sending in anything else, please check that you are able to do so under relevant copyright laws.