

U.S.S. Sol's

A F I S T F U L O F C R E D I T S



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Editor: Michael Thomas
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"Happy New Year"

EDITORIAL

By Commander Michael Thomas

In my opinion the last three months were quiet, but the meetings were interesting. We haven't had much activity in the last three months except for the gift exchange during Christmas and one promotion, PO 1st Class Will Baker.

The Club agreed to try a radio program then another movie. The reasons? Radio programs don't take years to make and they're not such a back-breaking project and besides we don't actually have the people or time at this point to try another movie, or the money.

All the Club needs to do is to decide what kind of program. Most of the crew wants to use the Trek universe using the Sol and her crew as the setting.

I have no argument on that. But in my opinion I think if you're going to use the crew an interdiction program would seem to be a good idea to let your listeners know who are. Maybe a first mission or something similar should be considered.

It's been my experience that if your reader or listener doesn't know you they will lose interest. **Yours truly** has had the same problems with his own work during the Fair.

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

By Captain Brian Swift

Captain's log, Stardate
10702.01

The club is once again committed to creating a new piece of fiction. An Audio Drama, in this case we which should test our acting talents in an all new way. First, of course, we need a plot, then a script. I have already secured Commander Don Carlson's enthusiasm and effort for this production and with the talents of Carlson Video and Sound (TM) I feel confident in quoting professor Zaeoff- "No-ting in zee World Can shtop me now!"

FIRST OFFICER'S REPORT

By Commander Michael A. Wyant

First Officer Report

well, this is my first report as First Officer of the USS Sol, so here it goes.

For the last few meetings, the crew has been discussing notions of creating a radio drama that is Star Trek-themed, initially focusing upon stories involving the Sol. As always we are all brought up to date with the world of Science Fiction and Starfleet Command.

Captain Swift suggested that a separate meeting be scheduled for those interested in writing a radio drama script rather during our normal club meetings. I fully endorse this idea because I feel that

when the crew gets together for our monthly meetings that it is important to catch-up on each other's lives and rekindle friendships.

We have also seen a fairly predictable increase in attendance by both registered members and guests. I think that we as members of the Sol crew need to reach-out to these guests and try to not stay in our little conversation groups. That way these guests will return and become active members within the club. I know we all will need to work on that.

I also strongly encourage the members of the crew to bring-up pertinent news, announcements, or just information that they find interesting and that follows the theme of the ship: science, science fiction, etc. I think that the Captain and Admiral are getting a bit burned-out from supplying all the news and information at the meetings. With that said, we all need to work on allowing other people to speak, say their peace, pay attention, and not cut each other off. We're a crew of many, not few.

I think that is all for now. Work on your crew characters, for I am interested in learning what each of your have created. With each character there is a wonderful story within.

"Until next time..."

Cmdr. Michael A. Wyant, CMO/XO
USS Sol

MEETING NOTES

By Admiral Carol Thompson

FOURTH QUARTER 2006

The chapter has settled into a routine in the CO's home. We come, we eat, we have a meeting, and we also watch a sci-fi movie or episode on Brian's large-screen TV. There is something predictable and stable in this world, after all! Life is good.

Our usual attendance is 6 or 7 with an occasional visitor. Our finances remain untouched, as we have nothing going out or coming in.

We had one promotion this quarter, Will Baker to Petty Officer First Class.

Mike Whyant was officially installed at XO with his paperwork going through Starfleet HQ within three days.

Carol announced that her move to Eagle River was off due to the vagaries of the real-estate market. She will remain as the chapter's Chief of Communication.

Mike Thomas assembled the first online newsletter we have had in a long time. Carol copied it up to our website.

Donovan announced that the University would be hosting Articon, a role-play convention to be held in February or March.

At the December meeting, the chapter had a gift exchange and everyone went away with something cool. There was also a pile of used novels that we sifted through, taking what we hadn't read.

Brian started a Science Fiction Movie club at the school where he teaches. The students view and discuss vintage sci-fi movies one day a week after school.

The chapter planned a bowling party to be held in January. Carol said

she would see to the reservations and details.

We listened to a well-produced audio play to inspire us to produce our own. We planned a work party to be held at Spring break so we could begin to lay out the work we have ahead of us, namely the script, the sound effects, the actors, the equipment ... well you get the idea. The days of talking into one mic on an old cassette recorder are long gone.

Mike Thomas reminded us that in January he would be asking for articles for the newsletter, and so, here is mine!

Adm. Carol Thompson
Chief of Communications, USS Sol
Vice Regional Coordinator R10
And a whole lot of titles at SFA.

*P.N. Big Wigs have big titles
As Q said in Q vs. Spock "My name is
two light years long."*

THE CRITIC'S CORNER

By Commander Mike Thomas

I watch The New Voyages (N.V.) and I must say I was impressed it goes to show what you can do with the right equipment, time and the money.

Not knocking what the Club has put together. I don't know if the cast of N.V. has anything else to do with their time. Most of them look to be about college age which could mean during spring break and summer vacation instead of going wild they do something constructive, if you consider making fan videos constructive.

I thought our first movie was good for a first try; All right it was OK. It was something new to us. We found out it can be fun and a lot of hard work and a little exhausting. for everybody. Our second one was 100's times better we

learn what we did wrong the music for one. A better camera helped immensely.

Review on *Journey to Babel*. Even though I like the original show I enjoyed the re-mastered version. Better effects especially in the shuttle bay and the battle sense. It goes to show you what today's technology can for a 40 year classic. I think Gene Rodenberry would have liked what Paramount is doing to his Star Trek.

A review of Disney's 1954 movie "2000 Leagues under the Sea"

By Captain Brian Swift

I've often said that "2000 Leagues" is the only Disney movie I really liked. A recent viewing confirmed belief. Despite being a Disney flick there's only one real musical number. And the square jawed wise-cracking blond American causes many of the problems in the story and ruins any chance of obtaining the peaceful resolution that the nominal villain seeks.

This is a movie about terrorists with no clear good guys or bad guys. While Capt. Nemo qualifies as the most obvious "villain" a closer look at what each person says and does reveals that each character is deluded in some way

Ned, the aforementioned American, can't see beyond his own personal life and freedom and thus damns dozens of other people to death in a desperate bid to escape.

Prof. Arronax can't see beyond the scientific marvels that Nemo has created. His absolute faith that these marvels can benefit humanity would make him seem right at home in Rodenberry's utopian future. However in this story his inability to accept that Nemo's breakthroughs could and would be used as weapons makes him seem stunningly naive.

Captain Nemo believes humanity is inherently evil and sees himself as the

only one willing to risk his life to stop the construction and use of weapons purchased through slavery. Each sinking of American arms freighter saves lives from his point of view.

All of these roles are excellently acted, especially that of Nemo who subtly steals the show even when Ned is attack crewmen and shouting.

And for those of you who think old sci-fi = unbelievable monsters I challenge you to watch this film. The Giant Squid looks really good even by today's standards – it must have unbelievably amazing when seen in the pre-computer graphic light of 1954.

STARFLEET ACADEMY NEWS

By Admiral Carol Thompson

The academy is growing by leaps and bounds. It has also gone through a process of streamlining in which we've eliminated duplicate courses and categorized the courses into Institutes by general subject matter.

New courses for 2006 include

College of Genealogy
Cadet College of History
Cardassian Orientation College
Romulan Orientation College
Cadet Cardassian Orientation College
Cadet Romulan Orientation College

And there are new courses in the College of History, the Institute of Intelligence and Espionage and the College of Security. I highly encourage crew members to take these courses. They are free online to all Starfleet International members in good standing.