

Winter 2019

Volume 1, Issue 2



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USS SOLSTICE



Retrograde Review

Officially Commissioned!



Wayne Augustson ▸ STARFLEET Region 7

22 hrs · 🌐

Welcome U.S.S. Solstice as
the newest commissioned
starship in Region 7!!



You, Maria Dutilly, Stephen J Rocco and 23 others

22 Comments

Attention Crew: This is your SO speaking by Amy Riegner

Thank you all for a great 2019!

The Solstice accomplished so much this past year. I can speak for everyone on the command staff when I say that we are all very proud of this ship and its crew. We have a very dedicated group

of individuals and the Solstice would not have made it this far without them.

Each one of you who have attended an event, cosplayed with the group, sewed a tribble, etc etc have made this ship worth serving on. Thank you.

As we move into the New Year, lets keep this momentum going. Lets keep having fun. Lets keep building friendships. Lets keep shining bright and being a beacon of Starfleet ideals.

Happy New Year, Solstice, and thank you!

Launch Party

On December 21, 2019, the USS Solstice, NCC-1221 held its commissioning ceremony. The crew, along with several members from the USS Venture and USS Stella Pirata, gathered in the Buhl Planetarium at the Carnegie Science Center after normal hours of operation. Nelson Lowes, captain of the USS Venture, mother ship to the USS Solstice, opened the cere-

mony with a short speech, and then, along with his XO Mark Adams, offered the promotions of Glenn Smith to Captain, and Stephen Rocco to Commander. Glenn and Stephen called up several members of the USS Solstice to offer promotions for the crew. Mike Hennessey, honorary member of the Solstice and manager of the planetarium, took the

planetarium controls and entertained those in attendance with a trip through the galaxy, and then an informative program about the Apollo moon missions. Before and after the festivities at the Science Center, those attending were invited to the home of XO Stephen Rocco for food, drinks, games, and of course, to watch a few episodes of Star Trek.

Upcoming Events

- Star Trek DnD
January 11th
- January Meeting
January 18th
- Picard Watch Party
TBD
- February Meeting
February 15th
- Online CAH
March 1st
- March Meeting
March 21st



Chapter News

The ship's VRR was submitted in early December. Shortly after, the Solstice was officially commissioned.

Matt was appointed as Chief of Stellar Cartography. As such, if you see any issues or if you would like to add something to the website, please contact him at trekviolist@yahoo.com. Additionally, if you would like a blurb of yourself added to the crew side of the website, please send it to Matt.

A poll was created on the crew's FB page to determine whether the ship should have a table at the April Steel City Con. By a single vote, the table was approved and purchased.

The upcoming DnD event has been scheduled for January 11, 2020. Please contact Jimmy Zimmerman if you have any questions. And, yes, you can play as Q. Matt has volunteered to take on the Marine Unit for the ship. If you are interested in

serving on the Starfleet Marines, please contact Matt.

The Vessel Readiness Certification is almost complete. Once the SFI.org database is working properly again and grades are updated from Starfleet Academy, we should have enough classes taken to certify all departments.

Lastly, if you had agreed to purchase a Nemesis Duty Vest, please contact Glenn about payment.

Recent Promotions

- CAPT Glenn Smith
- CMDR Stephen Rocco
- LTCMDR James Zimmerman
- LTCMDR Matthew Barclay
- LT Joyce Pagley
- LT Richard Donoghue
- ENS Tom Kroll
- ENS Kristin Spencer
- MID Jonathan Engel
- MID Michael Hennessy
- CRMN David Earhart
- CDT Kenneth Boyle



Several crewmembers working on Tribble construction at Amy's house. Through trials and tribble-ations, the crew has found that the psychedelic colored tribbles sell best.



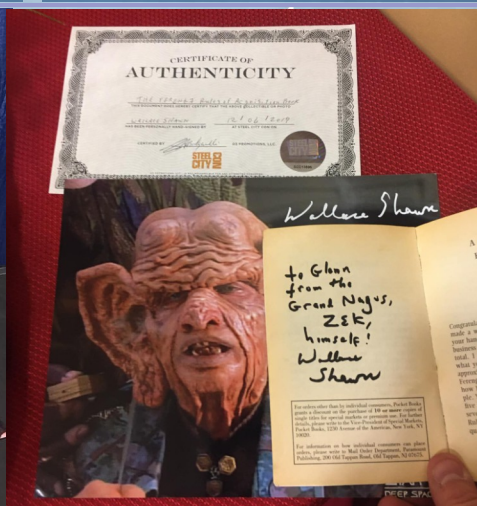
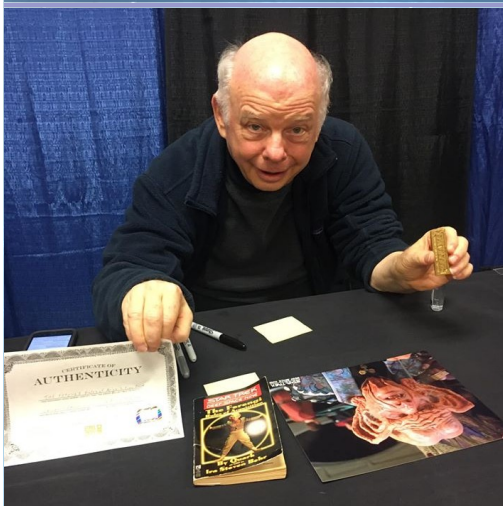
Happy Birthday! October

12 Amy Riegner

December

20 Kristin Spencer

21 Joyce Pagley



Steel City Con

On December 6-8th, the USS Solstice descended upon Steel City Con, held at the Monroeville Convention Center. Steel City Con is a triennial event held in April, August and December.

Special Star Trek Guests of the December Convention included Wallace Shawn, Ethan Peck, and Anson Mount. Other Special Guests included Neve Campbell, Denise Richards, Carmen Electra and Cary

Elwes.

Our Captain scored an autograph from the Grand Negus himself, Wallace Shawn. As payment, Glenn slipped him a slip of gold pressed latinum, only to be told that the price was two bars. (Apparently no one has ever tried paying Wallace Shawn with gold pressed latinum before!)

During the Convention, the Solstice meet up with members from several other Starfleet

vessels, including the USS Stella Pirata from Pittsburgh and the USS Renegades from Youngstown. Our crews had a good time mingling and dinning out together.

The next Steel City Con (in April) will see the likes of Wil Wheaton and Sonequa Martin-Green.



Halloween Party



On Stardate 1102.19, the Holodeck Program "Halloween Party 1" was run for the crew.

Members were encouraged to embrace the environment by wearing costumes.

A costume contest was held. James Zimmerman, with his oddly specific “Pittsburgh Sinkhole” narrowly beat out Stephen Rocco’s “Freddie Mercury Krueger.”

Culinary treats fit for a party of this type were also programmed into the holodeck. Joyce's pulled pork was crowned the winner of the food contest.

Party games were also in order, including Stupid Deaths and Cards Against Humanity.

Special thanks to Joyce Pagley for hosting the party in her Holodeck.



Member Spotlight: Lt Cmdr Matthew Barclay

Raise a glass of Romulan Ale in honor of Lt Cmdr Matthew Barclay.

Matthew has performed admirably for the Solstice, stepping up to run the website and to run the ship's Marine Unit. He has earned his title of Chief of Stellar Cartography and is the Solstice's Third Officer.

Matthew has earned a Doctorate in International Studies and Technology Studies from Starfleet Academy. In addition, he

has earned a Masters in Technology Studies, a Bachelors in Technology Studies and an Associate in International Studies— all in the span of two months.

Matthew has also been awarded several Boothby awards, with the highest being the Diamond Boothby.

In total, Matthew has taken a whopping 255 Starfleet Academy courses and 24 Starfleet Marine Corp Academy courses.

Matthew is a frequent participant in Solstice events and can be counted on for group cosplaying.

Matthew recently earned his promotion to Lt Cmdr at the Solstice's Launch Party on December 21st.

Thank you, Matthew, for being a dedicated and reliable member. Even if you are a Romulan and we can't tell if you're a spy for the Empire. Hopefully you are on our side...



Around the Fleet

Starfleet Headquarters: Starfleet Elections were held this past November. For 2020-2022, FADM Steven Parmley will be the Commander, STARFLEET. James Herring will serve as Vice-Commander.

The move to use online voting for elections has been controversial to say the least. Approximately 35% of members voted. This number is higher than the previous 3 elections.

Starfleet has also updated their

Database site. Currently there has been some bumps. Hopefully they will be ironed out soon.

The next International Conference will be held in San Francisco on May 22, 2020.

A new requirement has been added in regards to the MSR (monthly status reports.) Chapters can no longer submit blank reports.

The Marines have started to export their academy over to

Moodle so that it can be more easily integrated with Starfleet Academy.

The most current issue of the Starfleet Communique has been published. It can be found on the database.

Region 7 Headquarters: The 2019 Region 7 Conference was held October 25-27th in Cherry Hill, NJ at the Crown Plaza. While no one from the Solstice could attend, Mark Adams from the Venture and

Maria Dutilly of the Stella Pirata did. I have been told that it was very informative and a good time.

Annual award submission for Region 7 open March 1 and run to April 15. If you are interested, please visit <http://www.starfleetregion7.com/web/awards>.

The Solstice has also been added to the Region 7 website, now that it has been fully commissioned



Welcome to the Fleet! The USS Solstice would like to extend congratulations and friendship to our fellow Region 7 ship, the USS Stella Pirata. Formerly the USS Inferno, the Stella Pirata has undergone a transformation and a re-branding. We wish her fair winds and following seas.



Mission Log: Food Bank

Away Mission Report (10 November 2019)

On 10 November, MCPT Matthew Barclay took a shuttlecraft to assist members of the 740th Marine Strike Group, hosted by the *USS Stella Pirata*. Our mission: collect food for the humanitarian crisis via an organisation the humans of this era call the "Food Bank". In order to complete this mission, MCPT Barclay, along with LTC Allison James, COL

Maria Dutilly, DC Barricella, and Chris Herman beamed down to the Giant Eagle Market District at the Waterworks Mall, Pittsburgh, PA.

Unfortunately, the replicator did not seem to work well, as MCPT Barclay appeared wearing a Starfleet Polo, his Aerospace wings, and his 23rd century combadge. Other members of the away team were clad in various other pieces of clothing. Unlike usual, this

time it wasn't Zimmerman's fault, as it was the *Stella Pirata* transporters that messed up. During the mission, MCPT Barclay attempted to convince people to donate to the Food Bank, and thanked people when they donated. We redirected people wanting to donate units of the local currency (known as "dollars") to the "service desk" or to the "checkouts".

The mission was a success, as

the bin provided was nearly full when we beamed out at 1500. Fewer people on this primitive planet will go without food due to our efforts.



Mission Log: Pittsburgh Zoo

Away Mission Report (29 November 2019)

CAPT Maria Dutilly of the *USS Stella Pirata* invited LT Barclay to run their holodeck program, "Dutilly-47-Zulu-Oscar-Oscar", so I took a shuttlecraft over and went to

their holodeck.

On entering the holodeck with the Captain and a few of her crew, we realised that Jimmy Zimmerman, who'd wrote the program, had messed up on the environmental controls, as it was freezing. On top of that,

Mr Zimmerman's knowledge of Zoology was lacking, as certain animals weren't present.

We went through the program, and ended up spending a couple of hours in the holodeck. We had a great time, as well.



Mission Log: Christmas Party

Away Mission Report (14 December 2019)

On December 14, I went over to Carnegie to take part in the *USS Stella Pirata* holiday party. A few members of their crew showed up, as did Mark of the *Venture*. Maria, their captain, was so happy to have representatives of the three Western PA chapters of STARFLEET present.

Our first order of business was to prepare the meal. Fortunately, the food was already

prepared, and all we needed to do was to heat it up again. There was ham, rolls, many litres of soda, green beans, chicken, and many desserts. Mark from *Venture* brought a pan of baklava, which was very good.

Next, we played some *Star Trek: Scene-It*, a DVD-based trivia board game. My team, which included Mark, narrowly beat the team from the *Stella Pirata*. After we played a round of that game, we recorded our holiday greeting for Region 7,

as represented by Maria and her crew, Mark representing the *Venture*, and myself representing the *Solstice*.

After that, we cleaned up the food from dinner, and sat in front of the TV to watch the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey game. The Penguins managed to win the game in the shootout (so I suppose lots of fans got free bonus hockey that night!). A few members of their crew participated in a gift exchange with Mark.

Maria ended up getting a hypodermic that Mark created using a 3-D printer. He also brought patches for the *Stella Pirata* crew, and gave Maria her first Terrible Towel.

We had a good time, and certainly went home a lot fuller after having eaten large quantities of food.



Mission Log: Holiday Lights

Away Mission Report (30 December 2019)

On December 30th, Matt and I joined Maria from the *Stella Pirata* on an adventure to Kennywood Park's Holiday Lights. During the Christmas Season, the amusement park is trans-

formed into a festive light display. Several of the rides were open. We can proudly say our group rode every adult ride. And no one can prove that we rode that one kiddieland rollercoaster. Nope. You can't prove anything.

All in all, it was a gorgeous night and good company. Holiday Lights is definitely something to visit next year. Not that I need more motivation; Kennywood is one of my favourite places.

And we only mildly froze...



In Memoriam: D.C. Fontana

Dorothy Catherine Fontana, a writer on the original “Star Trek” series who had a long association with the franchise, died Dec. 2. She was 80. Fontana’s death was confirmed by the official “Star Trek” website, which described her as “the legendary writer who brought many of ‘Star Trek’s’ greatest episodes to life.” The

website reported that she died after a brief illness but offered no other details. Fontana was active in the Writers Guild of America for many years, and most recently worked as a lecturer for the American Film Institute. A native of New Jersey, Fontana was the rare example of a female scribe on the

original NBC edition of the enduring sci-fi franchise, although she used the gender-blind screen credit of “D.C. Fontana.” She was credited with creating key elements of the “Star Trek” mythos, including the details on the backstory of Mr. Spock’s upbringing by his human mother Amanda and Vulcan father Sarek.

Fontana decided to mask her gender with her screen credit in order to avoid discrimination as she sought work in what was then a decidedly male-dominated business. Her introduction to TV writing came after she landed a job as a secretary to Roddenberry in 1961.

Earlier in her career, Fontana penned episodes of such series as “The Wild Wild West” and

“Ben Casey.” After the original “Star Trek” ended, she worked on a range of 1970s primetime series including “The Streets of San Francisco,” “Bonanza,” “Kung Fu,” “The Six Million Dollar Man,” “Logan’s Run,” “The Waltons” and “Dallas.”

Fontana was feted for her years of service to the WGA with honorary awards in 1997 and 2002.

Fontana is survived by her husband, cinematographer Dennis Skotak. The family requests that donations be made in Fontana’s name to the Humane Society, Best Friends Animal Society or the American Film Institute.

Obituary provided by Variety at variety.com.



In Memoriam: Rene Auberjonois

René Auberjonois, best known for his roles in “Boston Legal” and “Star Trek: Deep Space Nine,” died at his home in Los Angeles due to metastatic lung cancer. He was 79. His son Remy-Luc confirmed the news to the Associated Press. Auberjonois was a prolific television actor, appearing as Paul Lewiston in 71 episodes of “Boston Legal” and as Clayton Runnymede Endicott III in ABC’s long-running sitcom “Benson” — a role that earned him an Emmy nomination for best supporting actor in a comedy in 1984. He played shape-shifter Changeling Odo in “Star Trek: Deep Space Nine,” and carried that role into video games, voicing Odo in “Harbinger” and “The Fallen.” His appearance as Judge Mantz in ABC’s “The Practice” earned him another Emmy nod for guest actor in a drama in

earned him another Emmy nod for guest actor in a drama in 2001. His first film role came with “MASH,” in which he played Father Mulcahy in the first of several collaborations with Robert Altman. He would go on to appear in Altman’s revisionist Western classic “McCabe & Mrs. Miller,” “Brewster McCloud,” and “Images.” Other film credits include Roy Bagley in 1976’s “King Kong” and Reverend Oliver in “The Patriot,” as well as parts in “Batman Forever,” “Eyes of Laura Mars” and “Walker.”

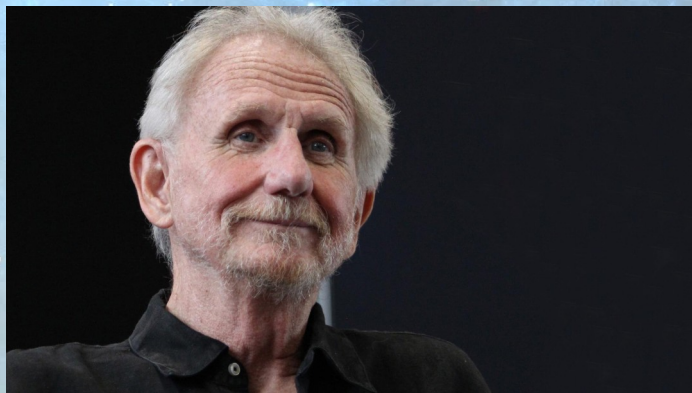
Before his entry into Hollywood, Auberjonois worked in theater, earning a Tony for best lead actor in a musical for his role opposite Katharine Hepburn in “Coco.” He received further Tony nominations for

1973’s “The Good Doctor,” 1984’s “Big River,” and 1989’s “City of Angels.”

In addition to his son, he is survived by his wife of 56 years, writer Judith Auberjonois; sisters Marie-Laure Degener and Anne Auberjonois; daughter Tessa Auberjonois; son-in-law Adrian Latourelle, daughter-in-law Kate Nowlin and three grandchildren.

He was remembered on social media by his “Deep Space Nine” co-star Armin Shimerman, who played Quark. “His last message to me was entitled ‘Don’t forget...’ I know that I, Kitty and all that knew him will never forget. The world seems noticeably emptier now. I loved him.”

Obituary provided by Variety at variety.com.



The Influence of Star Trek on Modern Technology By Stephen Rocco

In the mid 1960s, Gene Roddenberry had a vision for the future. In September of 1966, the first episode of Star Trek aired as science fiction and for over fifty years, it has influenced science and technology. Many things we take for granted as the year approaches 2020 might not exist, or may be years behind if not for Star Trek.

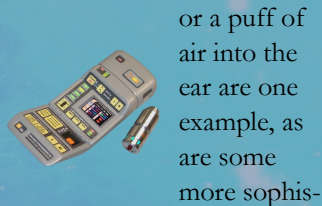
Maybe the most obvious contribution to modern technology that Star Trek predicted is the flat screen television and computer monitor. Captain Kirk had the best TV in the galaxy on the Bridge of the Enterprise, and now those screens, which have eliminated the need for the big and bulky cathode ray tube televisions of that era are everywhere.

The communicators that appeared in the show are as representative of the Star Trek franchise as the Enterprise itself. Those handheld, two-way devices that flipped open came to reality in the 1990s, with the increased popularity of cellular flip phones. That design remained common for over a decade until the advent of touch screen smartphone. The Bluetooth earpieces that allow for hands free use of our mobile devices were also predicted, as we see Uhura wearing a device in her ear that allows her to communicate with incoming transmissions.

Star Trek featured ships with

cloaking technology. While we still haven't found a way to make an object invisible, we do have stealth technology that hides or modifies the methods by which we track objects. Stealth technology is used in everything from aircraft to ocean going ships, and submarines. Scientists are still working on full scale cloaking technology, and maybe within our lifetime, we'll see it come to reality.

The medical industry has developed non-invasive diagnostics equipment which can be linked to the tricorders used in Star Trek. Modern thermometers that instantly tell a patient's temperature via a swipe across the forehead



or a puff of air into the ear are one example, as are some more sophisticated equipment such as MRIs that can look into a person's body without ever cutting into the patient.

The world of computer data storage was also predicted by Star Trek. Isolinear chips were used on the show, which resemble flash drives of today. Prior to that, the now dated floppy disks were foreseen as colored storage cards. At the time, the idea of storing information in such a compact device really was science fiction. Over time, we have seen storage devices get progressively smaller, while having the

capability to store exponentially more data.

It is impossible to determine whether or not technology would have developed at the rate that we have witnessed had it not been for Star Trek. Perhaps our computers would be less powerful, our wireless communications systems would not be as developed, and our televisions wouldn't be able to hang on the walls had it not been for Star Trek. Gene Roddenberry's vision has been morphing from science fiction to reality, and in time, maybe his entire vision will become our reality.

Upcoming Starfleet Renewal Reminders

• February 2020

Jessica Burkley

• April 2020

Richard Donoughe

To renew, please visit SFI.org

Academy Graduates (October – December 2019)

- Matthew Barclay
- Richard Donoughe
- Kristin Spencer



USS Solstice

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XO Cmdr Stephen Rocco
roccostarfleet@gmail.com

www.starfleet.center

We meet at 6pm the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Greengate Panera Bread– 300 Greengate Center Circle, Greensburg, Pa. Join us!

*Time and dates subject to change. Please check our FB page for meeting updates.



Our Organization

The U.S.S. SOLSTICE – NCC 1221 is the Greensburg, PA-based chapter of STARFLEET International fan association. We are a ship in the 7th Fleet. We are a friendly, community-minded organization looking for Star Trek fans to join our club. If you are interested in joining the USS Solstice, please contact us!

Our Mission

- We go to conventions
- We participate in public service events
- We attend social events with other Star Trek and other Sci-Fi fans
- We have game nights or movie nights
- We encourage you to attend STARFLEET Academy and learn something new
- We hold a (fictional) rank or position within a local, regional or international organization.
- We raise funds and take donations for charity that are near to our hearts, to inspire young minds, and to promote the club.

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End Credits

This publication, “The Retro-grade Review” is a quarterly fan made publication, distributed by the USS Solstice.

The USS Solstice is a meeting chapter of Starfleet, the International Star Trek Fan Association. For more information on the Star Trek Fan Association, please visit sfi.org.

The USS Solstice is a member of the 7th Fleet. For more information about our fleet, please visit www.region7.com/web/

If you are interested in taking courses with Starfleet Academy, please visit sfi.org/academy/login/index.php

If you wish to submit an article for the next publication, please send them to Amy at akr4764@gmail.com by March 22, 2020.

If you wish to nominate a member for the member spotlight, please send your submissions to Amy at akr4764@gmail.com by March 1, 2020. Submission need to include the member’s

name and a brief list of accomplishments. All nominations will be confidential.

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