

Spring 2020

Volume 1 Issue 3



Index

<i>Attention Crew</i>	1
<i>Chapter News</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	2
<i>Birthdays</i>	2
<i>Academy Grads</i>	2
<i>Recent Promotions</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Renewals</i>	2
<i>Star Trek D&D</i>	3
<i>D&D Synopsis</i>	4
<i>Member Spotlight</i>	5
<i>Around the Fleet</i>	5
<i>Voyager Celebrates 25 yrs</i>	6
<i>Mission Logs</i>	7
<i>For Your Padd</i>	8
<i>End Credits</i>	9

USS SOLSTICE



Retrograde Review

SOCIAL DISTANCING



**BECAUSE THE NEEDS OF THE MANY
OUTWEIGH THE NEEDS OF THE FEW**

**Attention Crew: This is your 3rd
Officer speaking by Matthew Barclay**

Right now, the ship is in a bit of a bind. The coronavirus (COVID-19) has been canceling our events and keeping us apart from each other. However, just like the crews of the *Enterprise*, we must have hope that we will get through this (aside from Shotts, as he wears red a lot).

The good news is that when this is all done, we have plenty of things to look forward to, such as *Star Trek D&D* and various cons, including 3Rivers Con, SteelCityCon, and the Kecksburg UFO festival.

Since January, we have procured a Bridge Console unit

that we can use at cons, and we have been fostering relationships with other ships by going to their events and hosting the aforementioned D&D game.

We need to stick together (digitally, of course), and manage to have fun through these dark times. Live Long and Prosper.

Chapter News

January's crew meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

The February meeting was held on the 15th at the Greengate Panera Bread. During the meeting Glenn announced that he is testing out using Google Docs to publish the meeting agenda beforehand.

Glenn signed the crew up to work 3 Rivers Con,

which is the weekend after Memorial Day on May 30th and 31st. Glenn wants to fundraise by offering photo shoots for attendees with members of the crew dressed in costume. Rocco acquired a console prop to use for 3 Rivers Con. It will need a little TLC.

Matt reported that the Marine Strike Unit has a tentative name/motto/

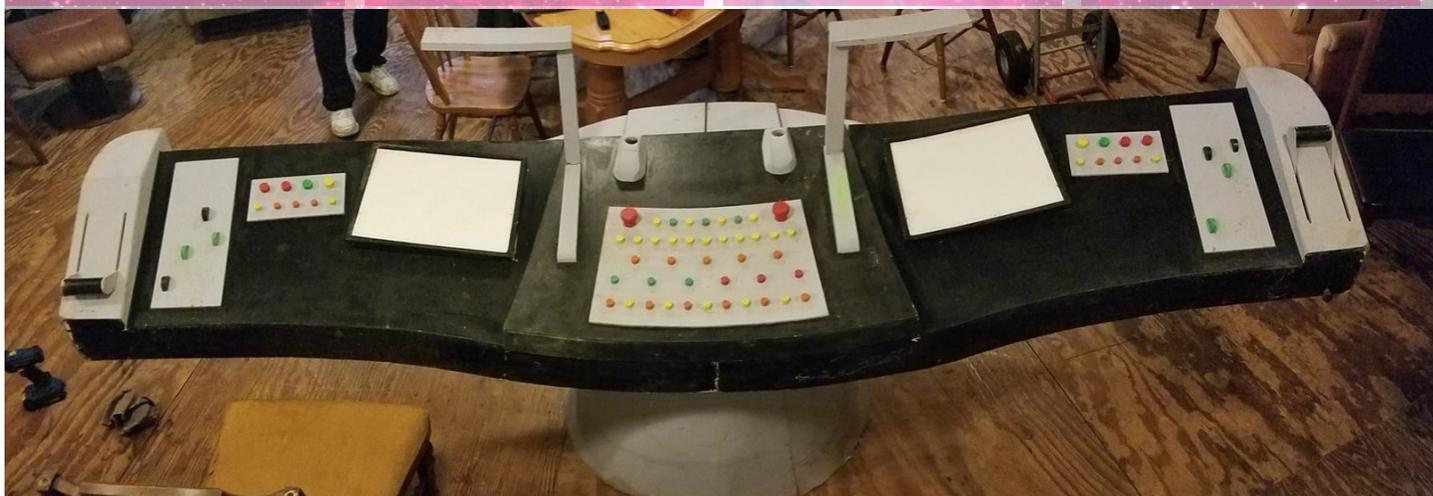
logo and 4 potential members.

Jimmy reported that DND has been going well. There has been a lot of buzz about it on the Starfleet FB pages. Killing Shotts each game has been a highlight. Maria from Stella Pirata and Mark from Venture have joined. A DC area ship is interested in joining. Jimmy would like to see

the game expanded so it covers multiple tables with different crews playing the same game at once. Jimmy is encouraging the more the merrier.

The March meeting was canceled due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

(Update: 3 Rivers Con has been canceled for 2020.)



Upcoming Events

- April Meeting
TBD
- Star Trek DND
TBD
- May Meeting
TBD
- Steel City Con
June 12-14th

Happy Birthday!

January

- 10 Vasco Haughwout
- 30 Richard Donoughe

February

- 21 James Zimmerman

March

- 24 Glenn Smith
- 24 Kathleen Ferrenberg
- 29 Mike Hennessey

Academy Graduates

(January 2020-March 2020)

- Matthew Barclay

Recent Promotions

(January 2020-March 2020)

- GSGT Steve Shotts
- CRR Gary Kinsey

Starfleet Renewal Reminders

- April 2020

Richard Donoughe

- May 2020

Stephen Rocco

James Zimmerman

- June 2020

George Edwards

To renew, please visit SFI.org

Star Trek Dungeons and Dragons ver. E5 ish? or Just Call Me Star Lord by James Zimmerman

Roughly 11 months ago while driving to work, I saw hunk of rubber come flying off truck tire. This image spawned an idea of our little group hurtling through space. Which lead to another thought of how awesome would it be if we acted out being space more often. How can we explore our characters we admire on the show and try to emulate?

Many of us cosplay in this group, but not many of us Roleplay (which is a shame, but to each their own). So I pitch the idea to our group during a meeting to see what they thought. In fact I think I was one of three out of 25 members of our crew who ever Roleplayed before. Honestly, if it wasn't for Big bang Theory half wouldn't have a clue what I was talking about. They seemed curious enough to warrant a try.

I had not played for good three years and I haven't lead a game as dungeon master for at least 15 years. This was going to take some work, I had to re-educate myself with the new rules version e5, then try to teach a novice group to these rules.

the new rules version e5, then try to teach a novice group to these rules. As I went looking for literature I had to keep in mind that A) I might have to drop the complexity of rules down to Monopoly. 😎 Keep an open mind so that no one is excluded!

That being said I must explain that our cosplay group aboard this ship has Borgs. Yes, we have Borgs aboard our ship. There is a Star Trek version of Dungeons and Dragons out there. It's a lot of fun, suggest giving it a spin if you have the experience to do so.

Unfortunately, Borgs are non playable, Androids either, go figure. I didn't want to lose the appeal of playing a character that you also cosplay! So I consulted the experts gamers in or area, they suggested I do this: I started what is called a "home brew". It's a turn by turn combat evo. with Warhammer percentage heal/ special talent counter, an e5 Ability bar, and D20/ Craig system Race and Classification/ talent selection.

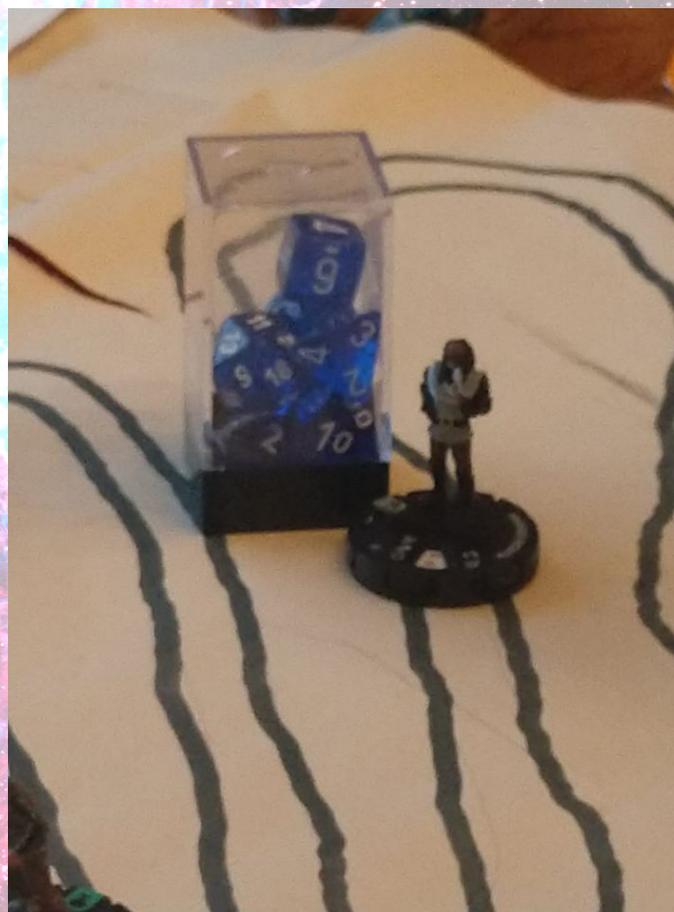
Wow, that's a mouth full! What that all means is

more math for me, more imagination and freedom for my group.

We meet a total of two times to times thus far. Each session has grown to include other members of other ships and other organizations. Last session we had Three Federation ships represented, as well as Klingon Ship. We had interest come in from outside our region via the internet. A representative of a ship located

in Washington, D.C. has requested to sit in on the next session via Skype.

That only leaves one piece of business left. In regular Dungeons and Dragons the leader of the group, the host of the game is called Dungeons Master. Beings this is campaign is in space just call me Star Lord.



Star Trek D&D Synopsis: Episode 1 Season 1

Spit polish and shine
Fresh and new the crew
of the USS Solstice
1221 is given the duty
of taking place in and
embargo over the

planet Cereise.
Cereise is looking to
defect from the Klin-
gon Empire, and ask
for help stem the

flow of slave trading,
and the theft of cultural
artifacts from the
planet.
All is well till a convoy

of three star ships come
to the blockade. One of
these ships is not quite
like the other....



Star Trek D&D Synopsis: Episode 2 Season 1

The Empress of Cereise
is looking for justice of
the 30 dead slaves
found aboard the Nova.

Due to the failing Klin-
gon control Captain
Carl is set free. The
crew of the Solstice

have to make some
tough decisions. Violate
Federation Law and go
after Captain Carl on

the planet surface or
wait for him to try to
jump off the planet.

Star Trek D&D Synopsis: Episode 3 Season 1

Oh Captain , not my
Captain! Captain Carl in
cuffs, the crew is forced
to honor a spur of the

moment deal. Lines be-
tween good and evil are
blurred aboard the Sol-
stice and her crew. Out

in the black of space,
shadows move to start
another Klingon - Fed-
eration War!



Member Spotlight: Cmdr Amy Riegner

Amy has been nominated by Captain Glenn Smith for her work on the chapter's quarterly newsletter, Retrograde Review.

Along with being the editor for the newsletter, Amy is also the ship's

Second Officer and Communications Officer (she takes the minutes at the meetings.)

Amy has opened her home up for the November 2019 meeting and tribble making party. She

is a tribble making extraordinaire.

Unlike most of her shipmates, Amy does not identify as another alien race and enjoys being human. Hats off to Amy, for all her hard work.



Around the Fleet

Starfleet Headquarters:

BayCon 2020, host of the IC, has postponed from Memorial Day weekend to November 6-8th.

Because of the COVID-19 situation, COMMANDER Stephen Parmley urges all chapters and members to exercise due caution and care in their decision making to

host, plan, or attend public gatherings.

In some unfortunate news, Robin Fleming of Starfleet Academy passed away.

Region 7 Headquarters:

Bob Vosseller of the USS Challenger interviewed Maria Dutilly of the USS Stella Pirata on the pod-

cast Voice of Olympus by Hercules Invictus found at

www.herculesinvictus.net. Bob has been invited back to host a regular Star Trek & Sci-Fi segment on the podcast. Perhaps we will see more Region 7 ships interviewed by Bob in the future?

Maria Dutilly has started

a movie watching group on the Region 7 Discord channel. Every Saturday, a pre-chosen movie (by poll on the Region 7 FB page) is watched simultaneously by the members. If you are interested in joining, please see the Region 7 FB page.



The Crew of the USS Solstice wishes a fond good-bye to Captain Nelson of the USS Venture, who has retired from STARFLEET. We also extend our congratulations to Mark Adams, the new Captain of the USS Venture.

The Crew of the USS Solstice would like to extend our congratulations to Stella Pirata Captain, Maria Dutilly, as the recipient of the Order of Darmok and Jalad STARFLEET Order of Merit Award for her efforts in outreach.



Voyager Celebrates 25 Years

by Amy Riegner

Star Trek: Voyager premiered on January 16th, 1995 and is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Voyager featured the first ever female captain of the franchise and ran for seven seasons. It concluded on May 23rd, 2001.

Voyager seems to garner mixed reviews from the fandom. Some people love it while others hate it. Some think it was just “okay.”

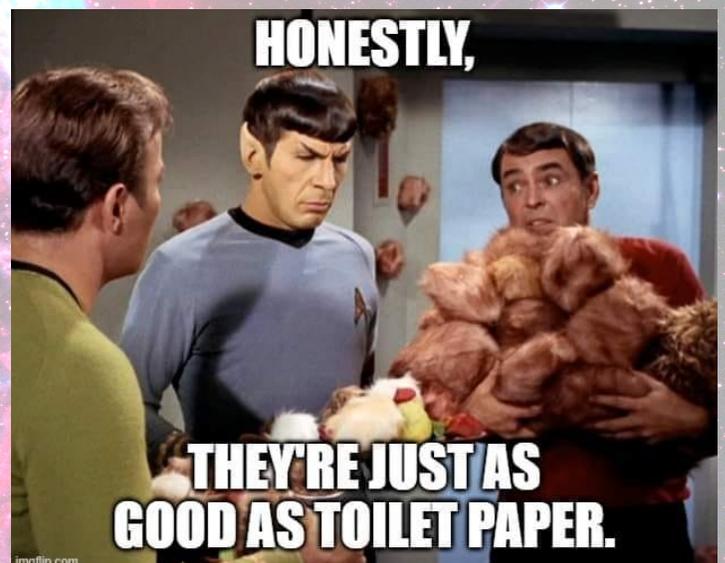
For me, Voyager holds a special place in the Trek world, as it was the first series that I got to watch live and not in syndication. I was too young when Next Generation aired and not a fan yet when Deep Space Nine aired. So for a nerdy middle schooler who recently fell in love with the franchise from the original series movies (rented

from my local library), getting to watch a new series unfold was an amazing feeling.

Recently, David Zappone, one of the producers for the Deep Space Nine documentary “What We Left Behind” announced that they were going to film a Voyager documentary.

By stalking the producer’s Twitter, it looks like they started filming during the March Star Trek cruise, which wrapped shooting on March 9th.

While no further details of when this upcoming documentary will be released, I’m sure it will be just as interesting and educational as “What We Left Behind.” Though it will lack Ira Steven Behr and his wit, who- in my humble opinion, was the best part of the DS9 documentary.



David Zappone
@davidzappone



I asked if people were interested in seeing in seeing a 25th Anniversary Star Trek Voyager documentary, and the answer a resounding YES! Happy to announce that we kick off filming on @startrekruise next week. @StarTrek

♡ 668 7:24 PM - Feb 21, 2020



🗨 104 people are talking about this



Mission Log: Carnegie Science Center by Amy Riegner

On Leap Day, Matt and I went to the Carnegie Science Center with the crew of the *Stella Pirata* to see the Mummy Exhibit.

It seemed like everyone in the Pittsburgh area also decided to join the *Stella*

Pirata that day. The Science Center was packed!

The exhibit had a variety of different mummies from across the world. It was certainly unique, even if I found it a bit unsettling. After the mummies,

we explored the rest of the Science Center, including the Sports Works section. They had a robot that shoots hoops! How cool is that?

After looking around, we watched a planetarium

show on the constellations. Unfortunately fellow Solstice crewmember, Mike, was not the emcee, but it was a good show nonetheless.

Afterwards, the group had dinner at a local Eat 'n Park.



Mission Log: Picard Watch Party by Matthew Barclay

On 23 January, LCDR Matthew Barclay took a shuttlecraft to Carnegie to join the crew of the *USS Stella Pirata* in a watch party for the premiere episode of *Star Trek: Picard*. Many people from the *Stella Pirata* came, though due to the fact that it was a Thursday and that it was on the other side of Pittsburgh, nobody from other ships were able to come.

After Mr Barclay arrived at the location, we had pizza and various snacks. After we finished eating, we decided to warm up CAPT Maria Dutilly's PS4 by watching a couple of *Star Trek: Short Treks*. We then brewed some Tea, Earl Grey Hot, and watched the first episode of the series.

When the episode was done, we voiced our

opinions about what we thought of it (I was of the opinion that it looked promising, and I must say that I agree with earlier me), then we watched "The Drumhead", an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

We finished off the night with a small trivia contest, where I ended up winning a DVD box-set of TNG: Season 1.

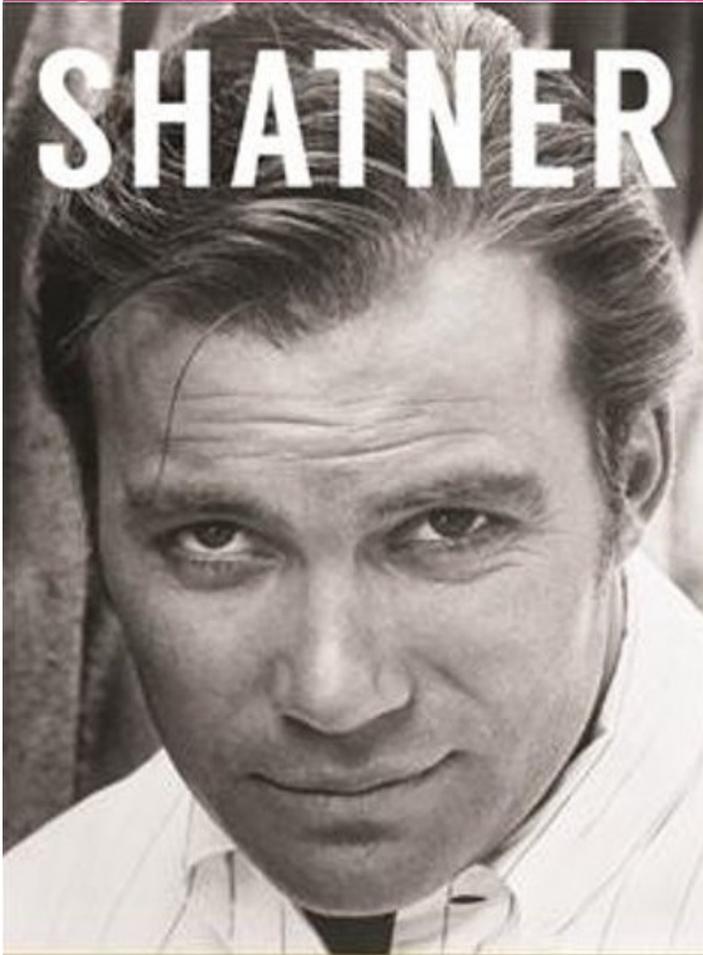
We watched another episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* afterwards as well.

It was a fun night with the crew of the *Stella Pirata*.



For Your Padd: Shatner

By Amy Riegner



MICHAEL SETH STARR

For starters, as a librarian this book was very difficult to obtain. After fruitlessly searching three different county library systems, I finally broke and submitted a request for purchase from my own library. I found it rather unusual that a biography whose star is as large and well known as William Shatner was not more widely available.

This is an unauthorized biography, which may turn some people off. My interests were peaked after Shatner blocked the author on Twitter and refused to have anything to do with the publication. How bad could the dirt be?

The answer? Not much.

There are some subtle (okay- a couple are not-so-subtle) jabs thrown at Shatner, but if you are familiar with William Shatner's career, nothing said in this book is earth-shattering.

I did have a hard time trudging through it. I couldn't help but feel like I've read most of it before. Probably because I have! The author's cites Shatner's own autobiographies repeatedly throughout the text. I suppose if the subject of your book refuses to speak with you, the only other option is to reference other publications.

Verdict: Skip it and read one of Shatner's own autobiographies.

LIVE

breakyourownnews.com

BREAKING NEWS

BORG CANCELS INVASION

12:33

AMID COVID19 CONCERNS, INVASION CANCELLED. "NO, WE'RE GOOD"- BORG QUEEN

USS Solstice

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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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Zimmerman

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End Credits

This publication, “The Retrograde 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 June 20, 2020.

If you wish to nominate a member for the member spotlight, please send your submissions to Amy at akr4764@gmail.com by June 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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