

THE SILVER BULLETIN

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NOVEMBER 2003



U.S.S. Pioneer
NCC-5280-D

“Closest to the Final Frontier”

November 2003

1

The Silver Bulletin

USS Pioneer-5280-D

Denver Chapter---UFPI, Starfleet and Grand Alliance

Email: info@usspioneer.net Phone:

www.yahoogroups.com---PioneerCrew@yahoo.com

Event Alert!!

Call Natalie Peck @

Newsletter Exchange Address:

USS Pioneer
PO Box 350206
Westminster, CO
80035-0206

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Pioneer Staff

Command Staff

Commanding Officer
Fleet Cptn Debby Horst
co@usspioneer.net

Executive Officer
FtCptn David Horst
xo@usspioneer.net

Departments

Chief of Engineering
Lt Gary Hudson
engineering@usspioneer.net

Assistant Chief of Engineering
Position Open

Chief of Security
Position Open

Assistant Chief of Security
Alan Shaklee
ashaklee@wgc-corp.com

Navigator
Lt Doug DeCounter

Quartermaster
Dan Gallegos

Propmaster
Tristan Cloud

Chief of Medical
Lt Bob McKeal
Cmdr Laura Evans-McKeal
medical@usspioneer.net

Assistant Chief of Medical
Position Open

Chief of Science
Darrell Harrod
Harrodthegreat@yahoo.com

Counselor/OCP Coordinator
Fleet Captain Audi Jack
audicj@aol.com

Recreation Officer
Position Open

Chief of Communications
David Horst (temp)
Communications@usspioneer.net

Assistant COC/Librarian
Lt Karina DeCounter
karidrgn@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor
Karina DeCounter
newsletter@usspioneer.net

Historian
Lt Bob McKeal
drbob@usspioneer.net

Event Alert
Natalie Peck

Correy Corp Coordinator
Kathryn Johnson
kathrynkj@earthlink.net

Webmaster
FT Cptn David Horst
dhorst@usspioneer.net

Captain's Log

Another birthday party for the Pioneer! Wow, what a turnout! Thanks to everyone who contributed to make it a great success, Bob and Laura who OICed and did a great job with decorations, Kari and Doug who hosted and also did more decorating--They all met David and me before the meeting so we could get ready for everyone, and then Bob stuck around while we went to the meeting so he could finish decorating. Rob Briscoe spent money and time on a wonderful inventive treasure hunt that most of us joined in to play. Gary Hudson once again supplied us with some wonderful tunes on Karaoke. Thanks all, and to anyone I might have missed in my enthusiasm.

The awards committee did a great job of getting the awards nominations out there, and making sure that we had awards for our winners. David Horst spearheaded this committee--thanks, David, we appreciate all you did, once again. The commemorative shot glasses were a nice touch as well (if you would like to buy one, please let us know, we have extras for sale).

Congrats to our winners, and congrats to David on his promotion to Fleet Captain. Also, Riker Bear was recently promoted by the region to 'captain'. He was a happy pirate!

We had a great time working the library book sale; we've been having a great time at all the weddings, working the Mile Hi Con Suite was a blast (hope we see a few visitors we met there), and on Thursday nights, we've been enjoying the new game that Mitch introduced last month.

Coming up.... The Matrix movie outing, Timeline movie outing and the LOTR/Thanksgiving dinner marathon, the Dinosaur display at the Pepsi Center, Riker Bear's birthday party (to benefit needy children at Christmas), and the very first USS Pioneer New Year's Eve Bash. Of course, there is that third LOTR movie, if enough people actually want to see it;-> We've got lots of other little things on the menu (still trying to hook up for one of those Star Trek meetups) and whatever else comes up. We also need to look towards January for the After-Holiday party.

Until next time;
Fleet Captain Debby Horst
USS Pioneer
Commanding Officer

XO Files

As we journey on into our ninth year and Debby and my seventh year as CO and XO I look back on all that we have accomplished and also look forward to what there is still to accomplish. We are one of the oldest and strongest clubs of our kind in the area. We have a great mix of members and thanks to you all, we are able to have a lot of fun and keep things new and exciting. We are able to do a lot of good work in our community, like the Furry Scurry and the DPL book sale, and in our world at large by way of the Blood Drive and Overseas Coupon Project. When the year is out we will contribute close to \$50,000 in coupons to help our military families defending our Freedom. It is an easy way to show how much we appreciate their efforts and is a simple way that we can contribute to making our world safe. A coworker of mine that gives me their unused coupons asked me how the project was going and was amazed at how much we had done for the year out of stuff that most people just throw away. She congratulated us on all that we do and I think gave her a new insight into what our club is really all about. It made me feel good that I am apart of this group and through it have a chance to do good work.

Congratulations to all the Annual Ship wide award winners this year and thanks to the awards staff for helping come up with nominees for the ballot. Congratulations especially to:

Crewmember of the Year - Debby Horst

Recruit of the year - Mitch White

Cadet of the year - Tristan Cloud.

Keep up the good work all of you!

We have had some success in moving off of Yahoogroups, our new mailing list is running smoothly after a few snags here and there and it has no ads and messages get out timelier. All active crewmembers have been added to the new list and you are encouraged to use it instead of the yahoo list. We have birthday reminders running off of our web server as an automated process and in addition to our Crew Birthdays we also have a fairly complete list of Star Trek ones as well. We are still looking for other birthdays so send me 5 fields;

First_name, Last_name, Birthday, email (can be blank), affiliation
- Were/what their tie to sci-fi/fantasy is IE: Harry (Harcourt Fenton) Mudd, his affiliation would be Star Trek, and we will add them to

XO Files (con)

the list. We are still working on the calendar and hope to have an update soon. We are always looking for help on the web site, www.usspioneer.org <<http://www.usspioneer.org>> please sign up on the webstaff@usspioneer.net <<mailto:webstaff@usspioneer.net>> email list to get all the news of the web front.

Last month we welcomed the Hamman Family to the Pioneer and this month we congratulate them on their new shuttle the Falcon. Chris and family have been long time friends of the USS Pioneer and we wish him smooth sailing on their journeys ahead. Keep in touch!

Congratulations to Darrell and Carissa on their recent wedding and are happy that they chose to share it with us. Our 8th anniversary party was another huge success and saw two promotions; David Horst to Fleet Captain and Riker Bear to Captain! Thanks to everyone who helped out setting up, tearing down, and helping us have a great time. Thanks especially to Rob 'Rotok' Briscoe for the Treasure hunt and to Gary 'Mr. Karaoke' Hudson for the entertainment. We had many special guests and one even from out of state, Rex (Capt T'Rex) Rouviere from I-Sci-Fi (www.i-sci-fi.com <<http://www.i-sci-fi.com/>>), we are happy you could join us and come on back anytime!

There is a shipload of events going on and we are a little behind on getting them updated on the we site so stay tuned to your USS Pioneer channel so you don't miss out!!! Congratulations again to all the crew of the Pioneer and thanks to those that put in their efforts each month to keep us flying high. Qapla' Until next time ...

"People may doubt what you say, but they'll always believe what you do." - Lewis Cass

"Successful people are not without problems; they are simply people who have learned to solve their problems." - Earl Nightingale

Fleet Captain David Horst
Executive Officer
USS Pioneer NCC 5280-D

Medical Musings

Greetings Pioneer,

Congratulations everyone on another successful Anniversary Party. A special thanks to Robert McKeal for doing much of the decoration for the party while everyone was at the meeting. Everyone seemed to enjoy the goofy pirate names David came up with for party. As always, thank you to Gary for providing the mood music and karaoke. We also want to give Kari DeCounter special thanks for managing to get the clubhouse despite many, many trials and tribulations. Thank you everyone for coming.

On the OCP front, the USS Pioneer collected \$3,280.25 food coupons and \$7,851.25 nonfood coupons for a total of \$11,131.50 in October. Previously the USS Pioneer had collected a total of \$32,575.67--so now our year-to-date total is (drum roll here) \$43,707.17! Thank you Audi Jack for successfully managing this program.

	food	nonfood	total
Gary	\$71.05	\$105.36	\$176.41
Kari & Doug	\$135.80	\$291.99	\$427.79
Audi	\$212.05	\$404.90	\$616.95
Debby	\$2,561.35	\$6,449.00	\$9,010.35
Carissa & Darrell	\$300.00	\$600.00	\$ 900.00
Grand Total	\$3,280.25	\$7,851.25	\$11,131.50

Upcoming projects for the medical department include a trip to the Museum of Nature and Science for the Space Odyssey exhibit and possibly a trip to a candy factory where they hand make candy canes.

As always, your pictures for the scrapbook are appreciated.

Laura Evans-McKeal
Bob McKeal



Engineering Log

I think summer is officially over. Brrrrrr! Time is flying by as we are having fun here in the Engineering Department! First was the Pioneer Anniversary/Halloween Party. Now this was a blast! Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum. The costumes were as creative as ever and Nikki and I had fun dressing as matching pirates. Rotok and Natalie set up a mysterious treasure hunt, which was a lot of fun! Thanks again to Doug and Kari for setting up to use the clubhouse despite some problems with the folks who rent the place out.

Mr. Bob got to the clubhouse early and decorated the place up in fine pirate fashion. Everyone outdid themselves on food, as usual and some tasty treats were there for the eating. There was gaming, conversation and a special guest, Rex from I-Sci-Fi stopped in for a surprise visit. Add music, singing and did I mention the food? And you have all the elements of a great party!



Next up, the wedding of our very own Region 17 Admiral Gumby and Fran, which was, held at Mile Hi Con 35 no less! Engineering set up the holodeck arch at their request as part of the ambiance. To see so many people there in costume to support our friend's nuptials was a unique experience. It was certainly a fun and unforgettable wedding ceremony. I think the entire convention went to the reception upstairs as it was standing room only in the deluxe suite our Admiral and his new bride were lodging in.

Saturday had the world premiere of Longpork- The Other White Meat. As you know this flick stars several people we are all familiar with from the Pioneer and other clubs in the Denver area as well as others who helped on the project. I am confident that the audience was laughing with us, ok, maybe they were laughing at us, but that was part of the idea. The movie was a blast to shoot and a lot of hard work by all those involved. To see it on screen and viewed by people who didn't have to be there (you know, like

Engineering Log (Cont)

family, friends etc) was exciting and satisfying. The bloopers were hysterical and I can't wait to get my copy of the movie. (hint, hint Alan) We're not done yet!

Sunday brought us to the Utopia Planitia Spaceship Building Panel. Several members of Engineering and the crew came to help out as well as bring additional supplies. The panel had a good turnout with twenty some people participating. My favorite part was seeing two little kiddos zooming their newly built spaceships back and forth through the lobby and obviously having a wonderful time. Dan built a very detailed and symmetrical spaceship. Must be the model builder in him!

I've been very under the weather this week, however, once I feel better I'll be back on the phaser rifle project in earnest.

Till next time! Gary



Newsletter Notes

Well, it's my 1st time editing the newsletter mostly on my own and since I was completely ignorant of what any article goes through to make it into the newsletter I thought you folks might like a rundown of the process. For the most part it's pretty simple now that Dave & Deb have put together a template, mostly it's time consuming but it can also be fun. 1st I cut and paste your documents into a Word document, convert it from whatever font you've given me into Ariel, reduce it to 9 or 10 font size (depending on how much room I've got in the space). Then I fix any spelling errors and perhaps do some other minor tweaking like either adding or removing carriage returns to make it easier to read and then save it. Then I open the newsletter template in InDesign.

The reason we're using InDesign rather than Word is because as far as I can make out Word can't create a newsletter in book format like we're doing. There may be a format available for MS publisher but I don't have that installed on my system so I've got a version of InDesign courtesy of David. He's thinking of getting the Pioneer licensed copies of various software used by the club that can travel from person to person as they take over each position.

The next part is the easiest and the most fun. Once InDesign is open and I have the newsletter template in front of me, I go looking for the various links to the previous month's articles and then I relink to the new documents that I just created. There is some more editing to make the article fit the space and of course some articles come and go each month so the headings have to change as well. Also the links to the previous month's pictures are deleted so that I can figure out where there's room for new pictures. I then send the finished (or almost finished product) to Dave & Deb where they can put the finishing touches on it (like adding pictures) and then do whatever they do to get it printed.

I wonder if I could impose on you folks sending in next month's articles. Could you put them into a word or text document attached to your e-mails? Also, a real help would be if you used the automated word wrapping instead of hard carriage returns except for when you're starting a new paragraph. Finally, if you could put your document into Ariel in 9 or 10 point and use the built in spell checkers that would save me some time as well. It doesn't sound like these changes would take a lot of time, but just doing the pre-edits on everyone's articles takes at least a couple of hours before I can put them into InDesign. If you still want to do the articles as an e-mail rather than an attachment that's fine but if you could do some of these pre-edits I would appreciate it. Don't let this request stop you from sending in an article, I'd prefer having to do some editing and have a robust newsletter than saving time and having a lousy newsletter.

Newsletter Notes

Well, that's about it except that one other thing I'm thinking of adding to the newsletter. Quotes, any quotes from your favorite movies (with a note on the character and show or movie) or short space, sci fi or science jokes. I'll collect them and add them to the blank spaces in the newsletter. Remember this is a family newsletter so they need to be appropriate.

Thanks for your articles, I really appreciate them.

Lt. Kari

--No boom today, boom tomorrow....there's always a boom tomorrow.
Cmdr Ivanova Babylon 5

Husband and Wife

**Congratulations to
Darrell and Carissa Harrod
on their recent marriage!!**

**Congratulations also to
Johnathan and Francis
Simmons
on their recent marriage!!**

**Best wishes to both couples--may
you be very happy!!**

Housecalls

A little something off the UFPI list ...

Time for Your Flu Shot!

It's that time of year again, time for a flu shot. Now, not everyone should get a flu shot, but many will. Flu shots are given in late October and throughout November in order to develop adequate antibodies for the peak flu months of January and February. Check with your doctor to see if they have begun giving flu shots, and if you're someone who should receive one (that's not the scope of this brief email update column). And there is a new "no-needle" way to get the flu shot this year -- by nasal spray (ask your doctor as it's not yet approved for those over 50). Remember that influenza (the flu) in an average year will kill 36,000 people in the US; will hospitalize 120,000 with complications; and results in over 70 million missed workdays and 38 million missed school days.

Cholesterol Meds and Leg Pain

A recent study from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston suggests that a class of new cholesterol lowering medications, called "statins", may reduce leg pain and increase walking and exercise tolerance in patients with peripheral artery disease (where excess cholesterol plugs up smaller arteries and veins in the legs resulting in less blood and oxygen reaching the leg muscles during exercise).

Smoking Related Disease Deaths Increasing in Women

The Wisconsin Public Health and Health Policy Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School and the American Lung Association of Wisconsin report that the deaths of women from COPD (chronic obstructive lung disease, a disease of smoking) increased more than five times in 1989

(27 per 100,000 deaths) versus in 1979 (only 6.3 per 100,000 deaths). Interestingly, the death rate among men due to COPD is on the decline.

Soy and Breast Cancer

Now here's an interesting study. A report by Japan's National Cancer Center suggests that Japanese women who drink miso soup (a soy bean rich broth) three or more times a day reduced their risk for breast cancer by a whopping 40%, as compared to women who only drank one bowl a day. That's a significant reduction! Apparently soy products are rich in "isoflavones" which may block the growth of certain tumors. (I'm sure there'll be much more research on this.)

Synthetic Drugs/Alcohol in Kids

Two reports caught my attention this week. A recently released report by the United Nations notes that synthetic drugs (such as Ecstasy and amphetamines) have overtaken cocaine and heroin as the most popular and most used drugs. And a recent federal report indicated that 54% of

Housecalls (cont)

children had tried alcohol by the eighth grade. And what influenced them the most? Parental involvement and parental attitudes (no surprise there).

Helping to Hold Alzheimer's Disease at Bay

While there is, as yet, no cure for Alzheimer's Disease, recent studies of newer medications for Alzheimer's (Reminyl and Aricept) have shown significant results in delaying the natural course of the disease and maintaining higher brain function (cognitive abilities such as thinking, reasoning, and learning). So the prospects of this devastating disease are looking up somewhat, I expect even better medications to be developed over the next 5-10 years.

Hospital Complications

Potentially avoidable injury and death from medical errors or complications is a big item of discussion in the medical community right now, and an article in the most recent Journal of the American Medical Association sheds more light on this important topic. A review of results from 994 hospitals in 2000 by the US Agency for Healthcare Research concerning 18 "complications sometimes caused by medical errors" revealed more than 32,000 deaths, more than \$9 billion in extra costs, and 2.4 million additional days in the hospital -- potentially due to these complications. What kind of complications? Well, some were preventable but many were also unavoidable, including: post-surgical sepsis, surgical wounds re-opening, medical items left in patients after surgery, and medication errors.

Death Rates Continue to Decline for Four Leading Cancers

A new report entitled "Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer, 1975-2000", produced by the CDC, the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, and the National American Association of Central Cancer, found that the death rates from the four most common cancers (lung, breast, prostate, and colorectal) continued to decline in the late 1990s. Specifically: "the death rate from lung cancer continued to decline among white and black men; the death rates from breast cancer continued to decline despite a gradual, long-term increase in the rate of new diagnoses; prostate cancer death rates have been declining since 1994, but incidence rates have been increasing since 1995; and colorectal cancer death rates have been declining for both blacks and whites." More info on this report is available online at www.cancer.gov/newscenter/pressreleases/2003ReportRelease.

Laughter IS Good Medicine

Here's another great study out of Japan (see previous miso soup and breast cancer story above). Diabetics in Japan were found to have a smaller rise in their blood glucose levels after a meal if they "laughed well"

Housecalls (cont)

at a comedy show versus listening to a monotonous lecture. Thoughts as to why included: perhaps the physical act of laughing increases/improves how the body uses glucose after a meal; or perhaps laughter adds the body's neuroendocrine functions to reduce the levels.

Smoking Exposure Increases Missed School Days

A study in the American Journal of Epidemiology noted that asthmatic AND non-asthmatic US children in 4th grade missed more days of school if they lived with smokers versus those who lived with non-smokers. (Yet another side effect of "second-hand" smoke exposure!)

VADM David A. Miller, MD
Dean, MOTS
CO, DT A.M. Valsalva

Coupon Followup

LET'S CLIP THOSE COUPONS!!!

I don't know if you saw this in the news but it really impressed me. Funny, our US Senate/House took 2 days off, as they couldn't work. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that, because of the dangers from Hurricane Isabelle approaching Washington DC, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They refused. "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment; it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930. We can be very proud of our young men and women in the service no matter where they serve.

God Bless them.

Darrell Harrod

Broncos Roundup

It's midseason, the Broncos 5-3. And, obviously, there's a big disappointment in the air. We still have the second half of the season to go. And the Broncos are going to have to play their best football in the second half of the season. And this is the Broncos right now: a struggling team just trying to hang on after a promising start and, hopefully, healthy enough to muster a late push. Kansas City is running away with the AFC West.

Do you believe the Broncos, at 5-3, still have a shot to do something this season.

That means they might as well admit the obvious: They are going to get healthy, and fast, or their season is down the toilet. Does anyone have a roll of toilet paper I can borrow? With Jay Fiedler's unstable knee making his status uncertain, team officials introduce Brian Griese as the starter for the Monday night game against San Diego. The son of former Dolphins quarterback Bob Griese will make his first start in aqua and orange, replacing injured starter Jay Fiedler. Griese, 28, started 51 games for the Denver Broncos from 1999-2002 before signing with the Dolphins this offseason. Last season Fiedler missed six games because of injury, and the Dolphins posted a 2-4 record in those games. The Dolphins wanted to upgrade at the backup quarterback spot this season to ease the blow of losing Fiedler for any period of time. Griese has played five games against the San Diego Chargers as a Denver Bronco. Brian Griese, in his first start for Miami, completed 20 of 29 passes for 192 yards and three touchdowns in the Dolphins 26-10 victory over the Chargers.

--- Darrell Harrod

--- darrellwharrod@earthlink.net

Pioneer Calendar

November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Save the Date!!

November

- 1 Darrell Harrod and Carrisa Moyer wedding
- 8 Pioneer Meeting, noon
- 8 Matrix Revolutions movie outing Colorado Center, 7:00 pm
IMAX screen (buy tickets early) (Debby, OIC)
- 9 1 pm World of Dinosaurs at the Pepsi Center (talk to the
DeCounters for more info)
- 28 Timeline Movie Outing in costume. time and place to be
announced, should be early evening time. (Debby, OIC)
- 29 Lord of the Rings movie marathon and Thanksgiving
dinner. 1:00 pm to whenever. We'll have the expanded
versions and all the extras!!! See Debby for details.

December

- 6 Laser Quest, noon
- 13 Pioneer Meeting, noon
- 13 Happy Birthday Riker Bear!!! Captain's quarters, in the
evening. Bring an unwrapped toy or game (in new or
excellent condition) to the meeting or the party. (more
details coming up) Riker Bear plans to donate his gifts to
needy children. We'll have a few holiday movies to play
- 31 New Years Party at Karina's & Doug's
- TBA Karoling, rescue mission visit and Lord of the Rings, Return
of the King movie outing.

January

- 11 Pioneer Meeting, noon
- 17/24 Tentative dates for Space Odyssey expedition at DMNS
- 31 Tentative date for after Holiday Party. Details to be
determined.

Enterprise/Smallville viewings are back on again on
Thursday nights at 7:00 pm at David and Debby's. Bring
a snack to share. Thanks to Mitch, we've now added a
fun new Enterprise game to the mix.... Come 'engage'
with us! (note: holidays and reruns may be cancelled!!)

Happy Birthday

NOVEMBER

Armin (Quark) Shimerman	11-05	Star Trek Deep Space Nine
Alfre (Lily Sloane) Woodard	11-08	Star Trek: First Contact
Robert Duncan (Paris) McNeill	11-09	Star Trek Voyager
Daniel Morse	11-09	USS Pioneer
Max (Rom) Grodenchick	11-12	Star Trek Deep Space Nine
Whoopi (Guinan) Goldberg	11-13	Star Trek Next Generation
Ivan Horst	11-15	USS Pioneer
Terry (Jadzia Dax) Farrell	11-19	Star Trek Deep Space Nine
Robert (Chakotay) Beltran	11-19	Star Trek Voyager
Alexander (Bashir) Siddig	11-21	Star Trek Deep Space Nine
Laurence (Sybok) Luckinbill	11-21	Star Trek V
Denise (Tasha Yar) Crosby	11-24	Star Trek Next Generation
Dwight (Barkley) Schultz	11-24	Star Trek Next Generation / Voyager
Ricardo (Kahn) Montalban	11-25	Star Trek Original / Star Trek II

DECEMBER

Natalie Peck	12-1	USS Pioneer
Fran Terry	12-8	USS Pioneer
Michael (Worf) Dorn	12-9	Star Trek Next Generation / Deep Space Nine



Congratulations

PRESENTED AT THE PIONEER ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Promotions:

David Horst to Fleet Captain
Riker Bear Horst to Captain

Awards

Debby Horst	Crewman of the Year
Mitch White	New Recruit of the Year
Tristan Cloud	Cadet of the Year
Gary Hudson	Captain Janeway Award
Rob Briscoe	Captain Janeway Award
Darrell Harrod	Delta Flyer
Doug Davenport	Delta Flyer
Sarek of Vulcan	Distinguished Services Audi Jack
Audi Jack	Talaxian Star
Gary Hudson	Benjamin Sisko Administrative Services
Doug DeCounter	Benjamin Sisko Administrative Services
Debby Horst	Deanna Troi Empathic Services



Distinguished Service Awards were given to:

Laura Evans-McKeal	For organizing the Brewery Tour
Bob McKeal	For organizing the Brewery Tour
Doug DeCounter	For organizing the Dinosaur Trip

Final Frontier Awards were given to:

Audi Jack	UFPI Summit
Riker Bear Horst	UFPI Summit
Riker Bear Horst	Starfleet International Conference
Gary Hudson	Albuquerque Bubonicon and Anasazi Birthday party
Audi Jack	Albuquerque Bubonicon and Anasazi Birthday party
Riker Bear Horst	Albuquerque Bubonicon and Anasazi Birthday party
David Horst	Albuquerque Bubonicon and Anasazi Birthday party
Debby Horst	Albuquerque Bubonicon and Anasazi Birthday party
Doug DeCounter	Dinosaur National Monument Away Mission
Karina DeCounter	Dinosaur National Monument Away Mission
Doug Davenport	Dinosaur National Monument Away Mission
Riker Bear Horst	Dinosaur National Monument Away Mission
David Horst	Dinosaur National Monument Away Mission
Debby Horst	Dinosaur National Monument Away Mission
Kathryn Johnson	Dinosaur National Monument Away Mission
Brooks Williamson	Dinosaur National Monument Away Mission

More Dinosaurs

At the Pepsi Center there is an exhibit of dinosaurs. It includes a large skeleton collection as well as full scale animatronics animals. For more info on the show itself go to <http://dinosaurworldtour.com/index.html>

The best meeting place probably will be at the entrance to the show which is in the Pepsi Center parking lot under a bunch of tents. We will meet at 1pm on Sun Nov 9th. Further details will be gone over at November monthly meeting or you can call.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, kids under 12 are \$7. You can get a \$2.00 coupon from Wendy's and I have a couple of extras. You can buy the tickets at the door, at King Soopers or through Ticketmaster.

Directions:

Traveling south on I-25 take the Speer Boulevard South exit. At the second stop light, turn right onto Chopper Circle.

Traveling north on I-25, take the Auraria Parkway exit. Turn left on 7th Street to enter the grounds of Pepsi Center.

From downtown Denver, take Speer Boulevard to Auraria Parkway. Go west on Auraria Parkway and turn right on 7th Street.

There is also a bus and light rail stop right near there.



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Science Report

Gravity Probe B To Test Einstein's Theory of Relativity

NASA's spacecraft, Gravity Probe B is scheduled to launch from Vandenberg AFB aboard a Boeing Delta II rocket December 6, 2003. The GP-B mission is expected to be approximately 16 months long and its objective is to test Einstein's unverified theory of relativity that states space and time are very slightly distorted by the presence of massive objects.

To accomplish this, the mission will measure two factors, how space and time are warped by the presence of the Earth, and how the Earth's rotation drags space-time around with it.

Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, published in 1916, proposed that matter causes space to curve.

The method that took years of intense research to develop will check very precisely, the expected tiny changes in the direction of the spin axis of four gyroscopes contained in the GP-B Space Vehicle as it orbits a 400-mile altitude directly over the poles. The gyroscopes, free from disturbance, will provide an almost perfect space-time reference system.

The gyroscope, first invented in 1852 by the French physicist J.B.L. Foucault, was an instrument for studying the Earth's rotation by means of a freely suspended flywheel. Over one hundred years of improvements have made it the defining element in the GP-B satellite.

Gravity Probe B is NASA's most thoroughly researched program since the beginning of space exploration. A whole range of new technologies have been invented by physicists and engineers to produce the fine-tuned instruments that make up the GP-B Space Vehicle. Some of the technologies developed for this spacecraft are already being used for other science and engineering projects.

So far the question remains, will Einstein's unverified theories be confirmed by Gravity Probe B and Newton's theories be negated? Or will finding more about the space-time continuum provide us with more questions than answers? More will be revealed after GP-B has transmitted its invaluable information to us in the next year.

Newton vs. Einstein:

Here, I summarize the differences between Newton's theory of gravitation and the theory of gravitation implied by the General Theory of Relativity. They make essentially identical predictions as long as the strength of the gravitational field is weak, which is the usual experience. However, there are three crucial predictions where the two theories diverge, and thus can

Science Report (cont)

be tested with careful experiments.

1. The orientation of Mercury's orbit is found to process in space over time. This is commonly called the "precession of the perihelion", because it causes the position of the perihelion to move. Only part of this can be accounted for by perturbations in Newton's theory. There is an extra 43 seconds of arc per century in this precession that is predicted by the Theory of General Relativity and observed to occur (a second of arc is $1/3600$ of an angular degree). This effect is extremely small, but the measurements are very precise and can detect such small effects very well.

2. Einstein's theory predicts that the direction of light propagation should be changed in a gravitational field, contrary to the Newtonian predictions. Precise observations indicate that Einstein is right, both about the effect and its magnitude. A striking consequence is gravitational lensing.

3. The General Theory of Relativity predicts that light coming from a strong gravitational field should have its wavelength shifted to larger values (what astronomers call a "red shift"), again contrary to Newton's theory. Once again, detailed observations indicate such a red shift, and that its magnitude is correctly given by Einstein's theory.

4. The electromagnetic field can have waves in it that carry energy and that we call light. Likewise, the gravitational field can have waves that carry energy and are called gravitational waves. These may be thought of as ripples in the curvature of space-time that travel at the speed of light.

Just as accelerating charges can emit electromagnetic waves, accelerating masses can emit gravitational waves. However gravitational waves are difficult to detect because they are very weak and no conclusive evidence has yet been reported for their direct observation. They have been observed indirectly in the binary pulsar. Because the arrival time of pulses from the pulsar can be measured very precisely, it can be determined that the period of the binary system is gradually decreasing. It is found that the rate of period change (about 75 millionths of a second each year) is what would be expected for energy being lost to gravitational radiation, as predicted by the Theory of General Relativity.

Darrell Harrod

Gift Of Groceries

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3, 2003--With the holiday season right around the corner, officials at the Defense Commissary Agency are encouraging the American public to show its support for U.S. service members through its highly successful "Gift of Groceries" program.

The program, which enables anyone to purchase and donate gift certificates good at all 280 military commissaries worldwide, reached the \$1 million mark just six months after its launch in September 2002, according to Kaye Kennedy, the agency's corporate communications chief. Now that figure has climbed even higher, with \$1.6 million in gift certificates purchased through the program.

Jean Villerreal, DeCA's gift certificate program manager, said the program "has really exceeded all our expectations as customers, industry and military charities embrace the service."

Kennedy attributes the program's success to the fact that it gives friends, family and the public an opportunity to show their support for military families. Donors can present the gift certificates to military families directly or send them to a local military relief organization. They can also elect to donate them to one of the three nonprofit organizations supporting the program: the Air Force Aid Society, the USO and the Fisher House Foundation.

"Our priority is to get these gift certificates to the families of service members wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom," said Jim Weiskopf of the Fisher House Foundation. He said families staying in Fisher Houses at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, and the National Naval Medical Center in nearby Bethesda, Md., while their wounded family members undergo medical care are already benefiting from the program.

Military chaplains' funds purchased more than \$500,000 in gift certificates for the 2002 holiday season.

Civilian organizations are jumping on board as well. One regional family-support effort near San Diego netted \$50,000 in donated gift certificates last spring. In addition, employees of large defense contractor location in Dallas donated \$25,000 in gift certificates for military families.

And now with the holidays approaching, officials are hopeful that the public's generosity will continue.

Gift Of Groceries (cont)

The Gift of Groceries program operates through a business agreement with CertifiChecks Inc., at no cost to the Defense Commissary Agency or the federal government, Kennedy said. Only authorized commissary shoppers can redeem the gift certificates.

To buy purchase commissary gift certificates, visit www.commissaries.com [http://www.commissaries.com] or call the toll-free 1-877-770-GIFT. The certificates are not sold in commissaries, Kennedy said.

A standard charge of \$4.95, paid by the purchaser, covers the cost of handling, printing and mailing. Additional charges may apply for large orders or special delivery, but installation charities can apply for a waiver by checking with their local commissary.

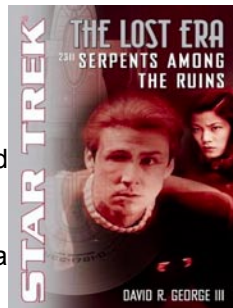
Capt David T'SroH Horst
Executive Officer
USS Pioneer NCC 5280-D
dhorst@usspioneer.net



Turn the Page

Greetings Fellow Crew!

This month's review is "Star Trek: The Lost Era 2311 Serpents Among the Ruins" by David R. George III.



Set some 18 years after James Kirk is presumed dead, this story follows the crew of the *USS Enterprise* 1701-B, under the command of Captain John Harriman and commander Demora Sulu. At this point in history tensions are high between the Federation and the Romulans -- and relations with the Klingons by both parties are tenuous to say the least. This story covers the background of both the infamous Tomed Incident and the Treaty of Algeron (both of which were very important events in the history of the Federation and Starfleet). For those of you who have read the *Deep Space Nine* series of books that take place after the conclusion of the television series, we get to meet a young Elias Vaughn as a Starfleet Lieutenant on his first 'mission'. We also get to briefly meet Romulan Fleet Admiral Vokar, a man with whom Harriman has a great deal of experience. We also get an update on how Chancellor Azetbur is doing in the Klingon Empire since she assumed her position during the events of "Star Trek VI". Additionally, we learn what caused the Romulans to initially break off all contact with the Alpha Quadrant until the events in the first season TNG Episode "The Neutral Zone" (which takes place in 2364). Most of us have heard of the events, but the story of "what really happened" is a must read (even if it's not recognized as cannon by Paramount). One last note. You'll want to read everything including the Epilogue (all I can say is that there is an extra twist or two right at the very end). My Ranking: Rear Admiral.

Until next month . . . the reading lamp is definitely on!!!

Doug Davenport

"No matter where you go...there you are" Buckaroo Banzai

Sci-fi tidbits

A source told TheForce.net fan Web site that Lucasfilm Ltd. has registered the domain name www.revengeofthesith.net, a title which corresponds to an early draft of the script for the upcoming Star Wars: Episode III.

Johnny Depp will also reprise his starring role in Pirates of the Caribbean 2. Disney had already made sequel arrangements with key cast such as Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley, though it is uncertain which other cast members will return, the trade paper reported. No start date has been set.

Jim Carrey is set to star in the comedic return of the 6 million dollar man. Fans of the original series are shocked and disappointed.

Glen Larson announced last night that he has purchased the rights to do a MOVIE version of the original Galactica!!!! If there is still interest in the old show after the miniseries airs, then he and Tom DeSantos would like to try to continue the old story 25 yahren after it ended.

Keith Hamilton Cobb comes back for two eps of Andromeda in November. He reprises the role of Tyr, and we'll see just how nasty an enemy he has become to Dylan Hunt and the rest of the crew.

Kate Mulgrew is starting to pitch a new Voyager movie... even if it's on TV.

New DVDs just out.... The original Battlestar Galactica Series, (in a great case shaped like the head of a cylon), the Indiana Jones Trilogy, and Season 8 of the X files. November 18, the special edition version of the LOTR:The Two Towers comes out.

After the last James Bond movie, we all heard that Halle Berry was going to reprise her role as Jinx in her own movie... word is that the movie has been cancelled. No word on exactly why that is, but I'm sure we'll hear why soon.

Speaking of Bond, looks like this is Pierce Brosnan's last outing as the suave spy. On the supposed short list of replacements is Hugh Jackman, better known to genre fans as Wolverine. So far, this reported can't quite picture Jackman with the sophistication and style we have come know James Bond to have. But, I'll bet he cleans up nicely.

Smallville and Enterprise continue in their weekly head to head battle. Smallville, while having more numbers, is losing ground to the Star Trek Series. Enterprise is steadily picking up those numbers. Who will win? Of course, the true losers will be the fans who enjoy both series.

By Kaity Storm

Battlestar Galactica

The late seventies were a terrible time for series television. The three main networks were turning out their standard (low) quality schlock, and we were happy to view it. Then something unusual happened. Glen Larson, one of the kings of formulaic television, brought to life a science fiction/fantasy series to the screen on a major network. To be sure, he probably would have never have sold it had it not been for the success of Star Wars, to be fair he had been working on it long before anyone knew what a cult phenomenon Star Wars would become under the title "Adam's Ark". Battlestar Galactica (whom critics have charged was just a play on the title "Star Wars") was a fully realized, if inconsistent, universe. It spun the space opera concept on its ear by having the heroes loose, and loose big (twelve entire worlds destroyed before the end of Act Four). The series continued on as the survivors lead by the Battlestar Galactica sought out a lost thirteenth tribe, the one that settled the planet Earth.

Galactica was not short of critics, even at the time. There were serious questions as to how the Cylons (the cybernetic villains that had destroyed the homeworlds of our heroes) could wipe out a whole civilization, but consistently loose every engagement after that point with the remainder of the Colonial Military. The special effects, which were incredibly expensive to produce at the time, were reused so often that they barely forwarded the story. The fact that within two hours of storytelling, the entire surviving population of the human race decides to go and party at the outer space equivalent of Las Vegas and propose peace with the Cylons (those chrome-plated bad guys that just wiped out 99% of the human race). The series ran for one year, and produced far more gems than glass, but in the end, it proved far more expensive to produce than its ratings warranted, at least by ABC's criteria (I believe that it is the only top ten series to ever have been canceled). Most of us fans of the series try to forget the bland revival Galactica 1980, which had more in common with bad fan fiction than a serious attempt at telling the story. For over twenty years there was little new in the way of Galactican tales. Richard Hatch, Captain Apollo of the series, worked tirelessly to revive the franchise. At one point, a proposed series was to be launched by Bryan Singer, known to genre fans as the director of X-Men. In the end former Star Trek scribe Ron Moore was the one who won the right to bring Battlestar Galactica back to the small screen.

SPOILER WARNING!

Recently I acquired a copy of the mini-series script. How accurate it will be compared to the finished product due out in December is hard to verify. It is labeled as a First Draft, but note this: *every scene that has been seen in the ads on Sci-Fi channel are in this script.*

This is not the Galactica of old. Their society far closer parallels modern Western society on Earth. Their military is closer and more recognizable

Battlestar Galactica (cont)

as a military from anyone who has ever been in the service. These Cylons are far more frightening in their capabilities than the Chrome Centurions of the classic series. Our heroes are not archetypes; they are human beings with passions and flaws like we ourselves.

The initial reaction is "NOOOOOO! Don't monkey with my BSG!" The net has been rampant with rumors as to what the show is; very little has rung true. The one rumor that this script does support is that in this version of the story the Cylons were created by humans, not some long dead alien lizard civilization. That basic change to the storyline creates the theme; the relationship between parents and (rebellious) children. The relationship is seen from the Cylon's point of view, where they feel it is necessary to destroy their parents. It is seen between Commander Adama and his son Lee (Apollo), where a terrible rift has occurred between them over the death of Zak (Adama's younger son and Apollo's brother). It is even viewed from the point of view of Boxey; who has been orphaned, both of his parents killed in the attack on the Colonies.

The story holds together better than the original; the Cylons achieve overwhelming superiority over the Colonial forces due to a virus planted in the Fleet's computers. The Galactica is able to fight because its equipment is so old that it can't support the new software that was used to deploy the virus (never thought you'd be grateful for still having a computer still running DOS while everyone else has Windows XP, but there it is). The whole primitive postindustrial look to the Galactica is explained as a way to combat the technological sophistication of the Cylons; dumb down the technology and computer viruses are ineffective.

Much of the mythic quality of the original is missing or tucked into the background, but this tale still has the epic quality of the original. It feels more like Midway than it does Clash of the Titans, but the underlying spark, the human resilience against devastating odds is still there. One could argue that it is even more present in this incarnation than it was in the original; the writer does not pause to have the saccharinely-sweet side stories that plagued the original. These characters are driven by survival, duty, and honor.

Truth be told, we won't know if this version will hold up to fan scrutiny and the ratings war. I think it has a fair chance. Edward James Olmos (who will be portraying Adama) warned fans that if you are expecting the original avoid this. One should remember that he joined this project on the strength of the script alone; Adama is an imposing commanding figure here, rather than the paternal one of the original. I think the strength of the characters alone will carry this series. On December 8th we'll know for sure.

Cool Links/Contacts

Websites / Email Contacts

USS Pioneer

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Email: info@usspioneer.net

Mailing List: pioneercrew@yahoogroups.com

Newsletter Exchange: PO Box 350206,

Westminster, CO 80035-0206

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Mesquite, TX 75181-4015

www.ufpi.org

Starfleet International

www.sfi.org

Starfleet Membership Processing

PO Box 460

Gaithersburg, MD 20884-0460

Region 17

Website: <http://www.Region-17.org>

Yahoogroups: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/region-17>

Star Trek

startrek.com

Grand Alliance

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TOP TEN THINGS YOU'LL NEVER HEAR AN AGENT SAY

10. My guns are shinier than yours, so neener neener neener!!!
9. The way you dodge bullets is almost hypnotic...
8. I'm feeling kinda down today, so I'll just shoot you in the foot and pretend you got away, k?
7. Can I come too?
6. OHMYGOD YOU SHOT ME!!!!
5. I've only got one question for you, Mr., Anderson. Does this suit make my butt look big?
4. [BLAM BLAM BLAM click click] dammit, out of ammo!!!!
3. I'm not sure I feel comfortable with the whole "taking a human life" thing.
2. I can't stand the pressure!!!!!!

And the number one thing you'll never hear an Agent say:

Gimme the codes to Zion! No? Aww come on, I'll be your best frieeeeeeend!

The Silver Bulletin

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