

The Wyvern's Tale

**Official Newsletter of USS Wessex NCC-74207
First Quarter 2010**



BRING IT ON!

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The Wyvern's Tale is an internal document produced by and for the crew of the USS Wessex and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of STARFLEET International, Paramount Pictures, and do not imply any endorsement thereby. The Wyvern's Tale is published quarterly by the Communications Department.



Captain's Corner

Greeting Gallant Crew!

What a great quarter we had! First and most importantly, we finally have been commissioned! This would not have been possible without your help and support, and I will be eternally grateful to you all for your confidence in me.

First thing I would like to mention is we have a couple of members of the crew who have not been feeling well. Our First Officer Ros has been down for a number of weeks with the flu, and our Chief of Communications Ted has also not been feeling well of late. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

I would also like to give a heartfelt thanks to our new newsletter editor Ensign Ron Coleman. I appreciate you stepping up to the plate to take this over Ron! Your dedication is noteworthy sir! Huge thanks to Ros for getting the newsletter up and running, and for maintaining it during shakedown.

Congratulations are in order for our newest Ensigns! Ron, Russ, and Jen. It was an absolute privilege for the three of you to be my very first promotions! Thanks so much for your participation. And of course our newest Vice Admiral! WOW! Congratulations Anne! Well deserved!

During our commissioning chat, Shaun, Ros, Chris, Russ and I were discussing how to keep things interesting on the Wessex. We all agreed that doing things that were fun for each of us was the key. I think we all realize just how much time real life can take up! We definitely have to pay the bills! ☺

I see some really interesting posts on the list, especially about the new online game! I really want to try it also, sounds like great fun! I know I need to finish up the current RPG so we can move on to the next one. Please do not be afraid to post or start a discussion on the list!

This is a place we can all write what is on our minds, what like, or dislike. That's the beauty of a correspondence chapter! So please everybody, check in every once in a while with a post to let us know how your doing. And it goes without saying; my ready room is always open for your comments, suggestions or criticism. I have a very thick skin! ☺

You are all the best! I am honored to serve with you all!

CO Dave

Captain Dave Jamison
CO, USS WESSEX NCC-74207



On the deckplates

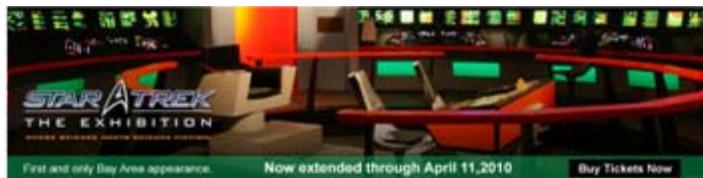


Hailing Frequencies Open! *By Ensign Ron*

We in the Communication Division, welcome you to the first newsletter of the commissioned vessel USS Wessex NCC-74207. Our newsletter will be published quarterly we would love to publish your original stories, book reviews, press releases, or any content that would be of interest to the crew.

In this edition I would like to introduce a new section I have titled "On the Deckplates". This will highlight the goings on of the crew both on and off the ship. Recently received a promotion at work, family member received an award, or something you would like to share. It's up to you.

Since this is our newsletter your feedback and participation is greatly encouraged. Our next edition will be arriving in May so please have your submissions ready by 15 April. See you about the deckplates.



Away Mission San Jose, Ca.

Transport into parallel universes of the past and future! Connect with iconic Star Trek moments and characters and celebrate the creative spirit of science fiction that gave rise to many of today's modern marvels.

This exhibition will be spread across more than 15,000-square-feet and features all five television series and eleven films that span over 40 years.

STAR TREK: THE EXHIBITION - the world's most comprehensive collection of authentic Star Trek objects - features over 200 artifacts including:

- * An authentic replica of the bridge from the U.S.S Enterprise NCC-1701 as featured in the original Star Trek television series
- * Iconic gadgets from the Star Trek universe: a tricorder; a phaser, and a communicator - all from the original series. Devices that have inspired innovators of today.
- * The actual shooting model for the Borg Cube, as seen on Star Trek: The Next Generation, Voyager and in the movie Star Trek: First Contact
- * A chance to ride through a Star Trek adventure in a full-motion flight simulator (extra fee)
- * And lots, lots more!

Astro News

By Liz Kruesi, Astronomy Magazine
<http://www.astronomy.com>

STRIKING VIEW.

To commemorate the International Year of Astronomy 2009, the Great Observatories rereleased a composite image of the Milky Way's center November 2009. The never before seen view combines Hubble Space Telescope's near-infrared, Spitzer Space Telescope's infrared, and Chandra X-ray Observatory's X-ray exposures. The white position to the right and just below the middle of the image is our galaxy's turbulent center. The composite's width is about half degree – the size of the Full Moon.



New Kind of Star Found

A team of astronomers discovered two white dwarfs, certain dense stellar remnants, that have way too much oxygen. The astronomers say these are likely failed supernovae and may be the endpoint of stars that are between 7 to 10 solar masses.

COOLING early Earth

A study in November 11 Nature magazine suggests Earth's early oceans were cooler than expected. Likely 104 F (40 C) instead of 176 F (80C).

Free Mars Spirit!

NASA began attempts to free one of the Mars rovers, Spirit, from its sandy trap of the past 8 months, November 16.

March 2010: New visions reveal the violent universe

This month's issue of Astronomy magazine reveals the latest news from the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, examines 5 of the biggest mysteries in the universe, reviews Astro-Tech's 6-inch Ritchey-Chretien telescope, and more.

Bill Andrews, Assistant Editor

Astronomy's 5 big questions

Join Editor David J. Eicher as he takes on 5 of the biggest mysteries in the universe, and the answers that science now offers. "The current mysteries of the universe follow a long pedigree of apparently unexplainable phenomena that sky watchers have pondered ever since they first looked up," he writes. Whether writing about the size of the universe or the nature of dark matter, Eicher's explanations clearly explain the science behind, without diminishing the wonder of, the night skies.

Okuda Joins Call For Congress to Save Constellation Program

By: Dennis Rayburn 02/11/2010



On his blog site, Michael Okuda, whose graphic work has been featured, not only in the entertainment world, but also in patches that he has designed for space shuttle missions and the Ares 1-X Developmental flight, has raised his voice to join the growing chorus of individuals from the world of entertainment, scientists, space explorers, and members of Congress of both parties, who are calling for the salvation of the Constellation program from the scrap heap that President Obama seems determined to place it in.

In his post, Okuda writes, "As long-time supporters of real-life space exploration, Denise and I were disappointed to learn that the proposed NASA budget for 2011 would cancel Project Constellation and the planned return to the Moon." Okuda continues with a brief overview of the project, which started in 2004 in the wake of the tragic loss of Space Shuttle Columbia and all hands on board, and especially how it was designed on a tighter budget than the Apollo project. "Unlike Apollo, Constellation is designed to run on a comparatively constrained budget. Constellation's Ares boosters are based on Space Shuttle technology, reducing their development costs and improving safety and reliability."

Okuda goes on to speak about the need for a national goal for manned space flight. "Without a goal and a specific plan, we believe that NASA, however well-intentioned, will simply end up spending a lot of money without actually going anywhere. It's happened before. We don't want it to happen again. And while we believe that commercial spaceflight will be a reality in the relatively near future, the fact is that no such capability exists yet. Spaceflight is a difficult, dangerous enterprise, and it would be foolish to gamble the future of our nation's space program by abandoning systems that are already well into development. With so much progress already made, we believe that canceling Constellation would be a serious mistake."

Okuda has created a website, SupportConstellation.com, which contains links to more information on the Constellation program, which includes the Ares booster, the new Orion spacecraft, and the Altair moon lander, all technologies being developed for not only the Moon, but other destinations in space beyond low Earth Orbit. The site also contains tools and information on how to contact the President and members of Congress to express opinions of the new plan. To read Michael Okuda's complete blog entry, [click here for his blog site](#).

Okuda, by speaking out, has joined a constantly growing chorus of individuals who are calling for the continuation of the Constellation. While some individuals of note have spoken out in favor of President Obama's proposals, most notably Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin, his opinion is not shared by other members of the fraternity of men who have walked on the Moon. Among those who oppose the President's proposal are both of the last two men to ever walk on the Moon. Gene Cernan told a reporter that the President, "...is somehow unwilling to invest in the future of this country and the future of this country is important to me." Dr. Harrison Schmitt calls the decision, "a colossal mistake." Schmitt went on to say that the Moon is the logical place to prepare for any future manned mission to Mars.

The chorus of voices calling for Constellation to continue is growing rapidly, but it must be heard by those in Washington, DC who make the decisions and control the purse strings. As Okuda pointed out, the budget so far is simply a proposal. It is the Congress of the United States that will make the final decision.

My feelings on this subject have been clearly stated in a previous column. I urge you to visit the SupportConstellation.com site and lend your voice to those who want to continue space exploration. The ancient writer said that without vision, the people perish. Let's keep a vision for our future in space and a goal in that vision. See you tomorrow!

Photos: web.me.com/michaelokuda





Academy news

<http://academy.sfi.org>

New Colleges, New Staff!

Three new Colleges were unveiled last night on the SFA Website.

College of Dr. Who under Grady Glover
College of Stargate under Annie Wheeler
College of Charmed under Debbie French

Expect Dr. Who to grow very quickly as Grady's exams come through the CDC

FAC Program -

The Fully Automated Course (FAC) Program provides a "Warp Speed" solution to taking Academy courses. You can view or download the course materials, take the exam and have a customized diploma presented to you, all online!!!

All FAC program courses are started from: www.sfaquiz.com

A growing list of FAC program courses are available from:

The Gorn Academy
College of Intelligence in Media
Officer Training School
College of Security
STARFLEET Officer's Radio School

It's never too early to begin an education!



Bits and pieces



London Star Trek Fans Set World Record

The Millennium Bridge in London hosted an unusual gathering yesterday, when *Star Trek* fans dressed as various *Star Trek* characters tried to make a Guinness world record for most fans dressed as *Star Trek* characters.

In an event organized by Namco Bandai as part of a promotion for the *Star Trek: Online* MMORPG game, fans were encouraged to appear at the Millennium Bridge on Valentine's Day to set the new record.



Cruise and Abrams Set For Fourth Mission: Impossible Movie

Paramount has announced that **Tom Cruise** will be returning as Ethan Hunt in *Mission: Impossible IV* and that he will be producing the fourth installment of the *Mission: Impossible* series along with **J.J. Abrams**.

Abrams, who directed *Mission: Impossible III*, will not be directing *Mission: Impossible IV*, which is due out Memorial Day weekend 2011, going up against *The Hangover 2*.

"Tom and J.J. are great talents and we are excited to be working with them to re-launch this legendary franchise," said Paramount Pictures Chairman and CEO **Brad Grey**.

The search continues for a director for *Mission: Impossible IV*.



Some Star Trek: The Experience Assets To Be Sold

According to TrekMovie.com, fans wanting a piece of Star Trek: The Experience will be able at a future date to purchase some of the items formerly featured at the Trek-themed attraction formerly at the Las Vegas Hilton.

To read more of these Headlines, navigate your browser to www.trektoday.com.