

# The Wyvern's Tale

Official Newsletter of USS Wessex NCC-74207  
Issue 1, February 2011

**Happy New Year everyone!**

2011 is upon us, and it's the year of the Rabbit. This is a good time to unfold new horizons and realize new dreams. Take the time to rediscover the strength and faith within and rejoice in the simple pleasures. Hear's to a very productive and prosperous New Year. Bring it on!

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## CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE



Greetings Gallant Crew,

Pretty slow couple of months all the way around. Everybody pretty busy with personal life and not much time to be aboard a Starship! We are looking at some upcoming changes very soon. Our go daddy web page is going to have to be revamped to allow greater access for editing.

As you all are now aware we have a new Commander Starfleet with Fleet Admiral Dave Blaser. Haven't seen much in the way of change yet, maybe that's a good thing. I think it's time to take a hard look at the future of the Wessex. We currently have seventeen members. Most of the SFI memberships expire with the first six months.

Please let me know how you all feel about the way we are heading, how we can possibly raise crew interest, or is it just that time of year where things are in a lull. I have a renewed commitment from your First and Second Officer to do the best we can to improve on participation.

Remember, this is our ship. I greatly appreciate every one of you for spending your hard earned money on an SFI membership, then showing your trust to join the Wessex! You guy's are awesome, and I am proud to serve with all of you!

*Captain Dave Jamison*  
CO, USS WESSEX NCC-74207



## AROUND THE FLEET



### We have more at Starfleet Academy!

New and improved **College of Federation Studies** is now out there for your educational enjoyment. These are newly rewritten and those who already have credits for the old version may take the new exams. Students should go directly to the Request Courses tool, as the website has not been updated yet. <http://acad.sfi.org/courses/courserequest.php>

Schools of learning include:

**Starfleet Captains** - explores the early lives and the early and later careers of various Starfleet Captains. The topics skip over their televised and movie Captaincy years, since this period of time is covered in the College of Treknology.

**History of the Enterprise** - covers specs and details about the Starfleet starship known as Enterprise. Missions of the Enterprise are covered in the College of Treknology.

**History of Federation Law** – classes cover Articles of the Federation, Early UFP Treaties, Treaty of Algeron, Klingon-UFP Treaties, and Cardassian-UFP Treaties

**History of the United Federation of Planets** - covers the history of the United Federation of Planets and the Presidents who led the UFP.

### Gathering of the Fleet!

The 2011 STARFLEET International Conference is less than a year away and will be sponsored by the **USS Challenger**. The conference will be held in the Poconos, which has been a **vacation destinations for years. Enjoy shopping and many recreation options. There is a package available to satisfy any budget. Take advantage of all the Poconos has to offer and join your fellow Fleeters.** I'll be representing our ship and I hope to see you there as well.

For more information go to [www.IC2011.com](http://www.IC2011.com)





## AROUND THE FLEET



### A request for volunteers

Greetings Members of STARFLEET, I once again come to you looking for volunteers for a committee. This time the committee will be reviewing the 2011 Membership Handbook (MHB) and making recommendations on changes to the MHB to the Admiralty Board.

This is a nine member committee, two from the EC, three from the AB and the last 4 from the membership. This committee will meet over email primarily. This has the potential to be a very intense committee to serve on and could take several hours of time each week. We are looking to have the MHB revised before the International Conference in August.

### SFI Medical Patch Contest

The STARFLEET Medical Department (SFMed) is holding a patch design contest. We are looking for someone to design a STARFLEET Fire-Rescue patch as well as a STARFLEET EMT/Paramedic Patch to be worn on a newly designed uniform for those departments. We are going to be unveiling a new SFI Fire-Rescue Department in the next few months and hope to get Academy Courses out to the membership in that time frame as well.



#### Requirements:

The patch must be uniquely identifiable as a STARFLEET patch, yet incorporate the fire/rescue designs of a ladder and star-of-life.

Be no more than 4" in diameter. (finished product)

A design that can easily be made into a real patch.

The winning design(s) will each get a two-year prepaid SFI Membership!! The prize will be paid directly to Membership Processing and not the member, so please don't ask. In addition, the winning submissions become the property of SF Medical. The designer gives up all rights to the design. If you have an issue with this, then don't enter the contest. By making a submission, you agree to these terms and conditions.

All submissions should be sent to [star-medical@sfi.org](mailto:star-medical@sfi.org) This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it .

**The contest will run until April 15, 2011.**



## FIRST LOOK: POTATO HEAD

### First Look: Star Trek Mr. Potato Heads

By StarTrek.com Staff and submitted by LTJG J. Coleman

Talk about a hot potato. One of the most eagerly awaited *Star Trek* toys of all time is finally, finally, finally set for release. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, humans and aliens, *Star Trek* (TOS) Mr. Potato Heads are on the way, and they'll be available at stores and via e-tailers by August, 2011. *StarTrek.com* has an exclusive First Look at the upcoming Trek product – check out the photo above – and some additional information to share as well.

PPW Toys will release *Star Trek* Mr. Potato Head collectible figures in a series of TOS-centric sets, and they'll kick it off with Captain Kirk – going from stud to spud – and his old Klingon foe, Kor. Subsequent sets will include Mr. Spock and Lt. Uhura, for example, and they may also feature familiar TOS equipment and Enterprise components.

“Even though it's taken a lot of time and hard work, this project is like a dream come true for me, speaking personally,” says Dean Gorby, PPW Toys' business manager. “I grew up in the 70's and TOS was my favorite show. So to work on a project like this is surreal.”

Gorby deemed it a “challenge” to design products that were true to TOS and Mr. Potato Head, but he believes the PPW team did “an amazing job” of attaining that balance. “It was very important for us to base the first *Star Trek* Mr. Potato Head figures on TOS,” Gorby says. “Mr. Potato Head was created in 1952 and in the 60's he grew more popular, so his history overlaps with TOS. Plus, it just seemed like the right fit; the 'classic' series works perfect with this 'classic' toy character.

“One thing we aim for in our design is to represent Mr. Potato Head emulating or paying homage to these *Star Trek* characters,” Gorby continues. “We don't look at the figures as 'hybrids' of two different brands. We try to capture this lovable Spud imitating his favorite characters. Obviously, he can't be as cool as Kirk or as intimidating as Kor, but he's trying, and that's what makes them so funny and charming.”

At the end of the day, Gorby notes, the *Star Trek* Mr. Potato Head figures are designed to appeal to people just looking for fun toys and also to serious collectors of Mr. Potato Heads and/or Trek products. “These are actual Mr. Potato Head toys,” Gorby says. “So the components can be mixed up in any combination. But we wanted to ensure that the figures could be enjoyed and displayed even if they were never played with. So the level of detail and the quality of these figures is really impressive. We also made them slightly smaller than the 'standard' Mr. Potato Head toys so they can be displayed more easily.”

The Kirk-Kor Mr. Potato Head set will be priced at \$30. Anyone eager to get an up-close-and-personal advance look at the *Star Trek*-themed Mr. Potato Head figures can do so next month, when PPW Toys showcases them at the annual New York Toy Fair. For additional information visit [www.ppwtoys.com](http://www.ppwtoys.com) and keep an eye on *StarTrek.com*. So *Star Trek* fans, which other *Star Trek* characters should get the Mr. Potato Head treatment?





## JAPAN ADVENTURE

### A Japan Adventure

By LT R. Coleman

Over the holidays, Christmas and New Years, my team and I spent our time in Japan. It's one of the only times the US Navy ships are available in port to modernize. Over one weekend I decided to get out of the hotel and do something. It had been a few years since I visited the Port of Yokohama so I got a map of the area and set off.



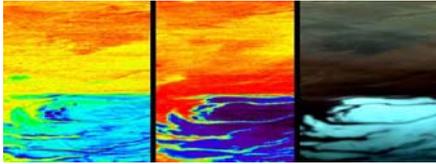
Yokohama is one of my favorite places in Japan. There is a lot to do but not as busy and crowded as Tokyo and it's only a 30 min train ride from my hotel. Just south of Yokohama is the historic 1853 landing of Admiral Perry's U.S. Navy Fleet who demanded that Japan open several ports for commerce. The event is commemorated with images of the Admiral, and his Flag ship, on colorfully decorated manhole covers.

As I reacquainted myself with the city, I could see many of the old attractions. In the historic port area I saw Yamashita Park and the Yokohama Marine Tower. According to the map it's the tallest inland lighthouse in the world. I had lunch in a small snack bar and explored the Chinatown area. On my way back I noticed the train would pass by the Hamagin Space Science Center. I had never been to a Japanese science center and decided to give it a go.

The Science Center is geared for children but I still had an extraordinary time. There were over 5 levels of space discovery and the majority of the exhibits were hands on. The museum's Staff perform science shows and experiments which reinforces the principles of science. There is also a Planetarium, but I decided to skip the show since the programs were only available in Japanese and cost extra. Some of my favorites were but not limited to: the landing on a planet simulator, a radio wave machine, tons of robots, and an actual piece of the moon. You can see the other attractions by visiting the Science Center website

<http://www.ysc.go.jp/ysc/info/exhibi.html>.





# WHERE IS ALL THE WATER?



## Where's all the water in our Solar System?

By Paul Gilster - Centauri Dreams — excerpt IO9 website.

Our view of the Solar System has changed utterly in the last fifty years. Mention that at a cocktail party and your listener will assume you're talking about Pluto, the demotion of which has stirred more response than any other recent planetary news. But in addition to all we've learned through our spacecraft, our view of the Solar System has gone from a small number of orbiting planets to huge numbers of objects at vast distances. Fifty years ago, a Kuiper Belt many times more massive than the main asteroid belt was only theory. And the early Solar System models I grew up with never included any representation of a vast cloud of comets all the way out to 50,000 AU.

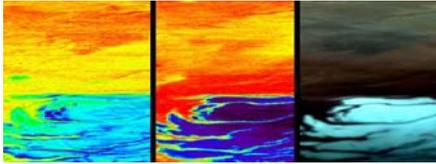
We've also begun to learn that liquid water, once thought confined to the Earth, may be plentiful throughout the system. Caleb Scharf goes to work on this in a recent post in *Life Unbounded*, noting what our models are telling us about internal oceans on a variety of objects: "Much can be done with purely theoretical models that seek to determine the appropriate hydrostatic balance between an object's own gravity and its internal pressure forces – be they from gaseous, liquid, or solid states of matter. Thermal energy from formation, and critically from radiogenic heating (radioactive decay of natural isotopes), all play a role. Throw in a few actual datapoints, measurements of places like Europa or Titan, and these models get much better calibrated. The intriguing thing is that one can play around with compositions and the internal layering of material in a planet-like body to find the best looking fit. As a consequence the nature and extent of any subsurface zones of liquid water can be estimated."

## **Detecting Interior Oceans**

The numbers get to be striking, as Hauke Hussmann and colleagues show in a 2006 paper in *Icarus*. Start with Galileo, the mission to Jupiter that brought home how much we needed to modify our view of the giant planet's moons. Galileo discovered secondary induced magnetic fields in the vicinity of Europa, Callisto and Ganymede, offering strong observational evidence for subsurface oceans on all three. The fields are thought to be generated by ions contained in the liquid water layer underneath the icy outer shells. Europa has, of course, become a prime target for future study re astrobiology thanks to the prospect of water combined with a possibly thin ice layer. The Hussmann paper goes on to calculate interior structure models for medium-sized icy bodies in the outer Solar System, assuming thermal equilibrium between radiogenic heat produced by the core and the loss of heat through the ice shell. Now we really start expanding the picture: The paper shows that subsurface oceans are feasible not just on the now obvious case of Europa, but also on Rhea, Titania, Oberon, Triton and Pluto. A case can also be made for the Trans-Neptunian Objects 2003 UB313, Sedna and 2004 DW. And note this:

For the bodies discussed here, the liquid layers are in direct contact with the rocky cores. This contrasts with subsurface oceans inside the large icy satellites like Ganymede, Callisto, or Titan, where they are enclosed between ice-I at the top and high-pressure ice layers at the bottom. The silicate-water contact would allow the highly efficient exchange of minerals and salts between the rocks and the ocean in the interiors of those medium-sized satellites.

Interestingly, given the continued examination of the moon by the Cassini spacecraft, Enceladus does not fit the Hussmann model, the paper noting that sources other than radiogenic heating would be required to sustain such an ocean, the obvious option being tidal heating. We have much to learn about Enceladus (and the paper goes into issues regarding the orbital history of the moon, and the comparison between it and Mimas, where tidal forces are much stronger). But the upshot is clear: We need more observations to confirm whether subsurface oceans are not a common phenomenon in our system's moons and icy bodies like Trans-Neptunian Objects.



## WHERE IS ALL THE WATER?



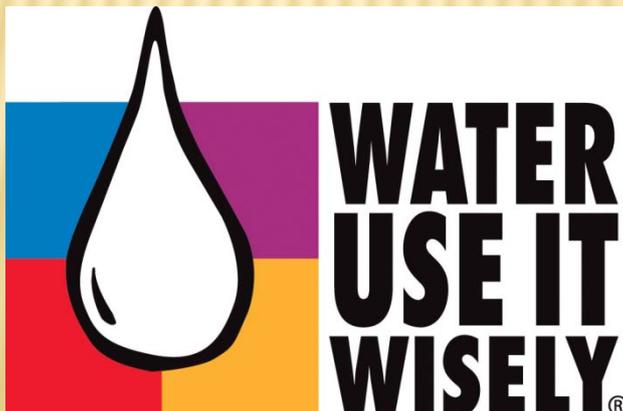
### Oceans in the Outer Dark

Hussmann and colleagues assume that subsurface reservoirs on these outer worlds are located beneath a thick ice shell of more than 100 kilometers in thickness - thick enough, in fact, that there is little link between internal oceans and surface features. But study of the interaction between these internal oceans and the surrounding magnetic fields and charged particles, and the response of the objects to tides exerted by the primary, may help us to confirm whether the oceans exist. There's work here for generations of spacecraft, but get the model right early on and we can make reasonable extrapolations about water's ubiquity. The paper's model, say its authors, is not applicable to Ganymede, Callisto and Titan, but I see that Scharf's article cites Titan as having possibly ten times the volume of Earth's oceans in water. This is lively stuff. Quoting Scharf: "...from these bodies alone there could readily be 10 to 16 times more liquid water slurping around off-Earth than on it." Then factor in those Trans-Neptunian Objects, add the prospect of radiogenic heating, and you wind up with at least the possibility that TNOs could be the largest source of liquid water in the entire Solar System.

Did I say our view of the Solar System has changed? This revolution continues as we push into the Kuiper Belt. New Horizons, it's hoped, will locate a small Trans-Neptunian Object for study at some point during its journey past Pluto/Charon, but eventually we can hope for the kind of instrumentation around outer planet satellites and other objects that will help us understand their internal composition. If the prospect of internal water bears out on the kind of scales mentioned above, then we have astrobiological potential, even if faint, all the way into the Kuiper Belt.

The paper is Hussmann et al., "Subsurface oceans and deep interiors of medium-sized outer planet satellites and large trans-neptunian objects," *Icarus* Vol. 185, Issue 1 (2006), p. 258-273. Image: Triton as seen by Voyager 2. Credit: NASA.

*This post originally appeared on [Centauri Dreams](#).*





## MOVIE NEWS

### Roberto Orci Says *Star Trek XII* Script to be Delivered in March, Simon Pegg Says Movie Begins Shooting in August

By GustavoLeao

Today *Star Trek XII* co-writer **Roberto Orci** posted the following message on Twitter regarding the status of the script of the *Star Trek* sequel :  
"aiming to turn in first full draft of *Star Trek* in six weeks or so."

Orci estimate would mean that the *Star Trek* sequel script draft would be handed in around the last week of March.

Plus, BBC1 posted a new video interview with *Star Trek* actor **Simon Pegg** in which he said that he will be doing "*Star Trek* in August".

The full video interview is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00y205z>

It looks like Paramount Pictures has decided at least on a tentative release date June 29, 2012. At this time, it is the only movie scheduled for June that summer, and absolutely nothing is known of the sequel except that one expects most of the cast introduced in the first movie to return.



### Upcoming Movie Releases

Here are a few movies to look for in 2012,

#### March:

- 04 - Rango
- 04- The Adjustment Bureau
- 11 - Battle: Los Angeles

#### April:

- 04 - Mother's Day
- 08 - Arthur (remake)
- 15 - Rio
- 22 - Apollo 18

#### May:

- 06 - Thor
- 20 - Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
- 26 - Kung Fu Panda 2





## BITS AND PIECES

### **Star Trek The Animated Series Episodes Now Available Online**

By GustavoLeao



According to TrekToday, fans can now watch *Star Trek: The Animated Series* online at TV.com. The success in syndication of the original live action series and fan pressure for a *Star Trek* revival led to *The Animated Series* from 1973–1974, as the source of new adventures of the *Enterprise* crew, the next being the 1979 live-action feature film *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*. *TAS* was the first *Star Trek* series to win an Emmy Award.

The series was produced by Filimation in association with Paramount Television and ran for two seasons from 1973 to 1974 on NBC, airing a total of twenty-two half-hour episodes. An early Filimation proposal for this series had children assigned to each of the senior officers as cadets, including a young Vulcan for Mr. Spock. According to interviews with Norm Prescott, Paramount offered Roddenberry a substantial sum of money to abandon creative control of the project and let Filimation proceed with their "kiddy space cadet" idea. Roddenberry refused. Filimation would later develop the idea into its own original live action program, *Space Academy*, in 1977.

The writers of the animated series used, essentially, the same writers' guide that was used for the live-action *Star Trek: The Original Series*. (A copy of the "series bible", as revised for *TAS*, is held in the science fiction research collection at the Samuel Paley Library, Temple University, Philadelphia.)

If you are located in the U.S. The shows can be seen here : <http://www.tv.com/star-trek-the-animated-series/show/2363/videos.html>

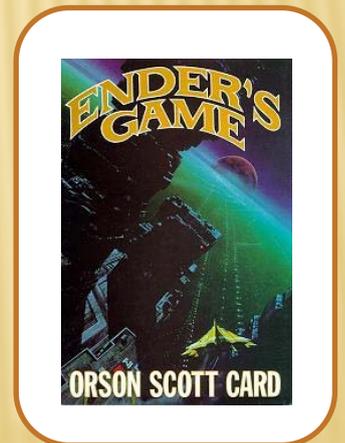
### **Roberto Orci Talks Upcoming *Ender's Game* Movie Adaptation**

By GustavoLeao

MTV posted a new interview with *Star Trek* writer **Roberto Orci** and here is an excerpt.

Orci spoke about the upcoming movie adaptation of the beloved science fiction novel *Ender's Game* that he and Alex Kurtzman will be producing. "Like '*Cowboys and Aliens*,' it was in development for a long time so I think it became somewhat of an institutional feeling that somehow it can't be done," Orci said. "This is one of those books, since it came out in '85, it turned into a classic, but there was always this feeling that somehow you can't be faithful, because the audience isn't sophisticated enough."

"We're finally in the year when an audience is sophisticated enough," he continued. "And they crave original stuff, and that is why we decided right now to take it out, and hopefully we'll have good partners."



The full video interview can be found at <http://moviesblog.mtv.com/2011/02/08/enders-game-roberto-orci/>