



BISMARCK'S REMARKS

October 2013



**No, son, you can't take R2-D2
home with you....**

From the Guest Editor

As you can see on the cover, we had an Away Team Mission to Ohio Comic Con 2013. Read on for more information about the convention! We have many events planned between now and the end of the year including Tom's Maze, Starbase Indy, and our annual Holiday Party. Check out all the news inside!

Kevin Johnson
Guest Editor



From the Captain

Between Harry Potter Days at Loveland Castle, PandoraCon and Comic Con, and all of our upcoming activities, I hope you find something fun to do. I know not everyone can make it to everything. Pick what you want to do and have FUN. That's what we are here for!

Admiral Anthony Day
Captain, USS Bismarck, NCC-1797-E



Bismarck Remarks is the official newsletter of the USS *Bismarck*. Issues usually issued every 2-4 months. Submissions and comments should be emailed to the CO or FO.



Crewman in the Corn

An Away Team Mission is planned to Tom's Maze on Sat, Oct 19. Most will be arriving around 3 PM and staying until well past dusk. For more details on Tom's Maze, see www.tomsmaze.com. The cost is \$8 for ages 5 and up, but there is a \$1 off coupon on the website. The maze opens at 1 PM and closes at 10 PM

(We were originally planning on Adventure Acres, but they are closed for the 2013 season due to crop rotation.)

Holiday Party Planning

Time flies quickly, so it's time to plan the Holiday Party before it gets too late! The party will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Saturday, Dec 14, at 7 PM. The church will not be available until 6:30 PM. Santa Claus hopes to attend, if the reindeer don't cause him any problems.

We will be having our usual gift exchange. To give members plenty of time, please fill out a gift exchange form and turn it into Anthony as soon as you can. (If you don't have a form, email Anthony.) We will be drawing names at the October General Meeting. The gift limit is \$20-25.

Santa and Frodo

Santa Claus, who sometimes hides among us using the name Tom Stiver, starred with Elijah Wood (Frodo from the *Lord of the Rings* movies) in an episode of *Wildfred*. This was especially exciting as Tom had previously played the role of Gandalf in two *Lord of the Rings* productions in Cincinnati.



Elijah Wood and Santa Claus

Bismarck Vacation II starts

By popular request, the Bismarck Vacation Fund has restarted! There is interest in either going to Universal Studios (and the Harry Potter Experience), Walt Disney World, or another cruise.

The crew decided they can save \$20 per adult per month with additional savings as able. For children, plan on saving \$15 per child per month. Our goal is \$1200-1500 per adult, or about 5-6 years from now. The Bismarck Vacation Savings Account is available to all *Bismarck* members. *Bismarck* members may save via this account or on their own. Non-*Bismarck* members will be invited, but the Bismarck Vacation Savings Account will be for *Bismarck* members only. Anyone may pull their money out of the Bismarck Vacation Savings Account without penalty until we start making deposits about a year out. (There will be no collection taken at the October meeting as the Johnsons will be out of town.)

Like last time, the vacation would be as all-inclusive as possible. If we do Disney or Universal, we would likely use the local pre-paid meal plans. Universal Studios has two major parks, plus CityWalk. Disney has 4 major parks plus Downtown Disney. There is plenty to do for the entire family at either location. You don't need to be a kid to enjoy Disney!

If we decide to cruise, the vacation would include the costs of the ship cabin, all-you-can-eat meals, on-ship entertainment, taxes and gratuities. Both choices will include some incidental spending money.

The vacation will be a total of 7-10 days long, depending on where we go, how we want to get there, and what the total price of the trip will be.

Those who save get to make the decisions on where and when we go!



New Chief of Membership Services

Vice Admiral Kevin Johnson has been appointed SFC's newest Chief of Membership Services, replacing Admiral Vince Williams. Admiral Williams is retiring after many, many years of service to SFC. As Kevin takes this new Admiralty Board position, he steps down as Starbase Commander for SB05

Admiral Mark Williams, Deputy Fleet Commander, attended the *Bismarck*'s August General Meeting with Colonel Derek Sauls, the new Starbase 05 Commander. Admiral Williams presented Kevin and Derek with their new respective duty orders. Rick and Anthony pinned on Kevin's new Admiral pips. (Kevin's new position is effective 9/1/13, but his promotion to full Admiral will not be effective until 11/30/13.)

Kevin will continue to serve as the *Bismarck*'s Chief of Operations.

MMO Review: Mathblasters

Now that it's school time, it's time to feature a game for the kids. Mathblasters has been around a long, long time. It's newest incarnation is a MMO for kids of any age. The setting is a space station. Players can fly space missions, having to do basic math problems as they go. Mathblasters will also email weekly worksheets to the registered account based on the kids' ages. It makes math fun.

On the down side, the kids can set their own difficulty levels. Parents need to make sure their children are being challenged. There is also many things to do in the game that don't involve math at all. Players can spend lots of time decorating their space pod, playing with their alien pet, checking out the space station's park, etc.

Mathblasters has both free and pay account. The pay account is less than \$10 a month. It gives the kids more math related games, which is the point of Mathblasters. There can be up to 5 players for each account. Unlike other MMOs, multiple players can play on the same account at the same time. If you have two or more children, both can be on Mathblasters together.

Ohio Comic Con 2013

The Johnson family attended Ohio Comic Con on Sept 21-22 in Columbus, Ohio. Stars included William Shatner, Stan Lee, Sean Astin, Ray Parks, Jason David Franks, Summer Glau, and many, many more. While it was a large convention, it did not feel crowded. Everyone was polite and friendly, from fellow attendees to staff members to guests of honor. The few lines we saw moved very fast.

Stan Lee is over 90 years old, but is just as vibrant as you would expect him to be! William Shatner has mellowed a good deal and is not the egotist he once was. (Nor can he figure out his own Priceline.com phone app.) Both Jason David Franks (*Power Rangers*) and Ray Parks (*The Phantom Menace*, *X-Men*, *GI Joe*) started learning martial arts at a young age and both have high-level black belts in multiple styles.

It was the kids' first convention, and it was a very kid-friendly experience. The kids got to see R2-D2 moving and chirping as soon as they walked in the con. They got their pictures taken with stormtroopers, bounty hunters, and even a Predator. The con gave them many take-home goodies, as did several vendors. While there was no children's programming track, there was a lot for children to see and do. The big moment was when the kids got to meet Jason David Franks, get his autograph, and be part of his martial arts "power hour" (where they got to do martial arts with Mr. Franks).

Ohio Comic Con 2014 will be held Halloween weekend in Columbus. There will also be a Louisville Comic Con 2014 in March (within a weekend or two of Millennicon, if not the same weekend.) Con tickets were not much more expensive than tickets to Millennicon, Starbase Indy, or other local cons. Children were free.



Don't mess with these three!



I bet she could beat him!

Upcoming Conventions

Starbase Indy 2013 will be the usual weekend after Thanksgiving. Guest stars include “Odo” and “Quark” from *Deep Space Nine*, “Dr. Fraiser” and “Maj. Kawolsky” from *Starbase SG-1*, and others. The cheapest hotel rates are at the La Quinta, a mere 10-20 yards from the Marriott. Rooms are \$49 a night before tax.

The SFC Annual Meeting will on Sat, Nov 30, from 2-4 PM. You do not have to have a con membership to attend the meeting. As usual, the *Bismarck* and her members will be competing for several Fleet awards, including Large Ship of the Year. The *Armstrong* and her members will also be competing for several awards (in different categories).

Millennicon will be March 14-16, 2014. The *Bismarck* is planning to have a room party at Millennicon instead of a fan table. We’re thinking about a “B movie” theme, perhaps MST3K style. We hope to get 2 adjoining rooms so we can have a movie room and a social room, much like the Dr Who party of Millennicon 2013. (We would get both rooms for both nights, so there’s plenty of *Bismarck* crash space.)

It is rumored that Starbase Indy will not be on Thanksgiving Day weekend in 2014! Regardless of the date, SFC will be celebrating that weekend for 2 reasons: There will be a new Fleet Commander taking command (or FADM Jackson will start his 2nd term). It will also be the 40th Anniversary of Starfleet Command. SFC hopes to have quite the party!

Awesome Accomplishments

In this new column, we highlight the recent real-life accomplishments achieved by our members and other friends in Fleet:

- Mark Williams and his Star Trek man-cave were featured in the TV show *FanAddicts* on the Reelz Network in September.
- Rebecca, Isabella, and Cici each graduated to their next belt level in TKD over the summer.