

USS Mighty Mississippi NCC 201151

Engaging the Galaxy

A Starfleet Command chapter in Davenport, Iowa





The Mississippi Current

OCT - 2011



Captain's Log

Rose Compton

With our acceptance into Starfleet Command, we embark on a new journey in fandom. We are The USS Mighty Mississippi NCC 201151, a Danube class runabout, making our homeport in Davenport Iowa and we base the group in the TNG timeline. Our goal is to meet with others; via email and in person; who have the same interests, such as Star Trek and sci-fi, thereby allowing us an outlet for discussing both. We hope that you will be patient with us as we learn the ins, outs, ups and downs of SFC and as we blaze a new trail for ourselves.

At this time, it is my pleasure to announce the promotions of:

Cadet Ed Ciccarone to Ensign Ciccarone.

Cadet Rose Compton to Lieutenant JG Compton

I'd also like to mention that the USS Mighty Mississippi has been awarded a certificate of appreciation from Starbase 03, for outstanding service for the 3rd quarter of 2011.

Thank you, Fleet Captain Olson. We appreciate that you notice our endeavors.



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Introductions

My name is **Rose Compton** and I'll be commanding our little ship. I am originally from southern Virginia, but have lived in Davenport Iowa since 1978. I work for Purina Pet Care and have been with the company since January of 2000. In my free time, (which there is not nearly enough of) I have several hobbies. I like to read, crochet, watch TV and movies, work in the yard and on our house. As to sports, I don't actually play any, but I am a fan of the Green Bay Packers. My musical interests tend to vary and I can be just as pleased with Aerosmith, Alice Cooper or the Eagles as with George Jones, Willie Nelson, or Reba, depending on my mood.



My name is **Ed Ciccarone** and I am the First Officer of the U.S.S. Mighty Mississippi. I am originally from New Jersey, but I've lived in Davenport, Iowa since 1979. I've worked for Midland Information Resources full time since 2006, and I also have a part-time job teaching the Iowa Course for Drinking Drivers for the Eastern Iowa Community College District. I am also a part-time student, working on my Business degree. In my free time, I like to read and watch all things Sci-Fi. I also enjoy reading real science books such as, "The Elegant Universe," and "A Brief History of Time." I only follow one sport, which is professional football, and being from New Jersey, I'm a die-hard Philadelphia Eagles fan. My taste in music is eclectic, but I enjoy Classic Rock and Hair Metal most of all.

We have no children, but do have two large-ish Labs who have yet to discover that they aren't human. As there are only 2 of us onboard at the moment, they will provide security. (We wouldn't dream of leaving them behind.)

Houdini, a black lab-red chow mix, is the oldest, at age 12. He's lived with us since he was a two month old fuzzy little ball of energy. Due to his age, he's more content now to just kick back in the AC and let life pass by. He likes his 'me' time, in that he is a bit of a loner. When he's tired of our attention, he turns his back and finds a spot to lay down. (with his back still to us.)

Max is the newest addition to the family. A two-year-old blonde/yellow Lab so full of energy we have issues keeping up with him. We've had him for a little over a year and he's still in the process of settling in. He likes his routines, hates being left alone and thinks he's a lap puppy. We just don't have enough 'lap' for him. (They are spoiled rotten and we live for *their* pleasure.)





Quote of the Quarter

Rose Compton

"We're going to stumble, make mistakes...I'm sure more than a few before we find our footing. But we're going to learn from those mistakes. That's what being human is all about."

- **Jonathan Archer**, [2152](#)



Mess Hall Chit Chat

Rose Compton

The Better Captain

Upon receiving our lil vessel from the shipyard, we proceeded to have everything stocked and loaded, including personal supplies. We knew we'd have a shakedown cruise as we needed to learn about our new home. What was the ship capable of and how would it respond to our demands? How would we respond to the vessels demands? Human action versus technical and mechanical reactions were all questions that needed answers. To succeed it would all need to work as one well-oiled machine.

Within a few hours of leaving the shipyard, with the vessel on autopilot, we sat down to our first 'meal' together aboard the Mighty Mississippi. Looking skeptically at the replicator, I asked, "What do you want to try?"

"You choose." came Ed's response as he looked over a tech manual.

"Well.... I'm going to try the meatloaf, I think. Kind of get it over with,... you know?" Ed nods his acceptance and I place the order. Within seconds, the replicator has our meal ready.

After a few test bites, Ed digs in and I push mine aside, contenting myself with the garlic mashed potatoes and gravy. Noticing my frown, he asks, "So is it the meatloaf ... or are you worried about what kind of Captain you'll be?"

Looking up, I swallow a mouthful of potatoes, and answer.... "Both ... but let me ask, ... Who do you think is or was a good Captain? Who has or had the better style?"

Speaking around a mouthful of meatloaf and without hesitation, he answers, "Archer." My expression must have shown my surprise in his choice because he continued. "If it weren't for him and the risks he took to prove the NX-Beta's readiness, we might not be sitting here today." With a fork full of meatloaf, he indicates the vessel we sit in.

"Correct me if I'm wrong, but he wasn't a Captain at that point. And, wasn't he reprimanded for that stunt? What about Kirk and his feats or Picard and his diplomacy? Not to mention their accomplishments?" I ask.

"I'm just saying," he continues "That Archer truly loved traveling among the stars and he realized that being a Captain was more than being a duty manager or a diplomat. He did, after-all, make Earth's first contact with dozens of alien races. Granted he made a few enemies along the way, but still."

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“Sure” I agree, “but, if first contact is the criteria that you are basing this on, you also have to consider Captain Kathryn Janeway. She also made several first contacts and being forced into the Delta Quadrant, she had to do whatever she deemed necessary to keep her crew alive and get them home, including taking on Maquis members to fill major positions in the crew.”

“Which ...” he points at me with forkful of meatloaf, “Only proves the old adage about ‘making everyone happy all the time.’ An adage I think you would do well to remember.”

Almost snorting out the mouthful of potatoes, I managed to respond. “I don’t think you’ll have any need to worry on that score, my dear. Haven’t I had lots of practice saying ‘no’ to you over the years?” I added with a smile and a wink in his direction. “but, I do agree that they both had to brave unexpected circumstances especially since they didn’t know what was out there, and didn’t have Starfleet to fall back on.... But, at least she didn’t alienate the Klingon’s right from the start AND she did manage to forge a temporary alliance with the Borg, an unheard of thing, as well as bringing her ship and her people home.”

“Archer saved Earth from the Xindi and paved the way for **founding** the United Federation of Planets and then went on to become one of the first Presidents.” Ed retorted.

“Yeah,” I respond, “but upon her return, Janeway has become an Admiral in the UFP.”

After a few moments thought, Ed looks at me, and with a smile that would melt a candle, he adds, “Archer brought Porthos along for the ride.”

Smiling, I reach down to pet the head of our yellow lab. “Yeah, you have a valid point there.”

“Meatloaf’s not bad.” Ed comments.

“So you say” I nod, as I sneak my remaining meatloaf under the table to the pups.



New Frontiers

Ed Ciccarone
Via Fox News

Private Spacecraft Plans Landmark Docking With International Space Station



Fly me to the moon? Sure thing.

Private spaceflight company Space Exploration ([SpaceX](#)) has received tentative approval from [NASA](#) to send its Dragon [cargo craft](#) on a landmark first mission to the [International Space Station](#) on November 30, which would make it the first private company to dock with the space station.

A successful docking on December 9 would be a dramatic validation of NASA's plan to replace the now-retired space shuttle fleet with cheaper, private vehicles -- though how the space agency would send astronauts to space remains an open question.

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The Dragon capsule, one of several vehicles competing to haul cargo for NASA into space, had planned two test missions for this winter. One would gauge the capsule's ability to do a "drive-by" of [the space station](#), where it would approach close enough to test navigation and communication gear. A second mission would test the craft's ability to dock. But [SpaceX](#) is ready now, the company argues. Why not combine the two and hit the milestone earlier?

"We technically have agreed with SpaceX that we want to combine those flights," William Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator for space operations, said at a July 21 media briefing at the [Kennedy Space Center](#) in Florida. "We are doing all the planning to go ahead and have those missions combined, but we haven't given them formal approval yet."

If approved, SpaceX would deliver [cargo to the space station](#) in early December. And if successful, it would validate NASA's plan to replace the shuttle with dramatically cheaper private spacecraft. SpaceX will charge NASA at least \$1.6 billion for 12 cargo shipments to the ISS, or \$133 million per flight.

The space shuttle costs exceed \$1 billion per flight. SpaceX is not alone, however: [Orbital Sciences Corp.](#) also has a contract with NASA to supply cargo ships. And it plans to launch the Cygnus resupply ship into space in February 2012. [David Thompson](#), chairman and [CEO](#) of Orbital Sciences, recently noted that the addition of the final Atlantis flight allowed NASA to stock up on food and other consumables, giving private industry a little wiggle room -- but only a little.

"This most recent space shuttle mission ... was able to stock up the space station with supplies and consumables to buy some time for both us and SpaceX to get our cargo systems operational, but the pressure is on to get both of these delivery systems proven and into service over the course of the next year," Thompson told industry blog Spaceflight Now.

SpaceX's craft consists of two parts: [the Falcon 9 rocket](#), a multistage reusable rocket capable of lifting significant amounts of cargo, and Dragon, a reusable space capsule that will carry the cargo, dock and parachute back to Earth, ultimately splash-landing in the ocean.

The first and second stages of the Falcon 9 rocket for SpaceX's cargo flight are already at the company's Cape Canaveral launch pad. The Dragon spacecraft is due to arrive in August or September, [the news site noted](#). "We're doing all the planning to go ahead and combine those missions," Gerstenmaier said. "The capsule is being designed that way and the software is being built that way, and we're just kind of waiting for the right formal time where we collectively agree that this is the right thing to go forward."

A half-century of America sending Americans [into space](#) came to an end July 21, when space shuttle Atlantis became the final shuttle to touch down from space.

"Job well done, America," mission control told Atlantis pilot Doug Hurley and the thousands watching and listening to the landing in the pre-dawn dark. [Russian space agency Roskosmos](#) used the occasion to give a nod to America's contributions -- and signal the beginning of the era of its spaceships instead.

"From today, the era of the Soyuz has started in manned space flight, the era of reliability," Roskomos said. SpaceX and Orbital Sciences Corp. may see things differently.

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/07/26/private-spacecraft-plans-first-docking-with-international-space-station/#ixzz1TiF7Tn1x>





Rec Dec

July 2011

Rose joined in a meeting as a guest, with FC James Olson SB 03/Lobo Project, USS Lobo Captain Mike House, his first officer Bill Van Brunt, and USS Nyota Uhura Captain Mike Francis. As soon as club business was cleared, a very lively discussion ensued with the debate centering on why some movies do not make good TV series.

Ed & Rose recently visited the newly remodeled, historically restored Blackhawk Hotel, in downtown Davenport, IA. Built in 1915, the eleven story brick and terra cotta building was originally known as the 'Hotel Blackhawk'. It is a beautiful Hotel, from the massive marble staircases to the plush carpeting. While we were there, we partook of the morning brunch at the Bix Bistro. The food was acceptable, but we'll most likely not be returning for that function as the price out-weighed value of the experience.



Photos courtesy of the Blackhawk.

August 2011

Rose was honored to be invited to the first official meeting of the USS Winfield Scott, Captained by Faith Raley, as they set in motion their chapter. Along with the crew of the USS Winfield Scott, also attending were FC James Olson, SB 03, and USS Lobo FO Bill Van Brunt. Several items were discussed in regards to setting up new chapters and what is required.



(IA-IL. SFC Chapter members. L to R= Bill Van Brunt, FO & Mike House, CO of the USS Lobo, James Olson, FC of SB03, Faith Raley, CO of USS Winfield Scott, and Rose Compton, CO of USS Mighty Mississippi.)

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Ed & Rose attended a 'wine walk' in the Historic East Village of Davenport, IA. The proceeds went to Gilda's Club and if the size of the crowd was any indication, they did well. 22 types of wine were offered for sample and while nothing jumped out at us, some were quite good.



USS Mighty Mississippi FO Ed Ciccarone.

September 2011

Ed & Rose attended the anniversary celebration of Faith and Ken Raley as they celebrated their lifetime commitment to each other. The day was perfect for a picnic in the park with sunshine and mild temps. We also used the opportunity to show off our new club shirts.



Ed & Rose



The Mighty Mississippi also attended the local Celtic Highland Festival and Games. Along with the food, games and bagpipes, we discovered some unusual merchandise.





Trek Tidbit

Ed Ciccarone

Did you know....? Rocker musician **Mick Fleetwood**, drummer of 'Fleetwood Mac' fame; is a major Star Trek fan. He appeared as the Antedean ambassador in ST TNG (Manhunt). He was later found to be the assassin. He also had a role in 'The Running Man' (w/Arnold Schwarzenegger) as a resistance leader.



In Review

Rose Compton

Ender's Game a science fiction novel by **Orson Scott Card**.

The Novel is set in Earth's future and presents an imperiled humankind who have barely survived two conflicts with the 'Formics', an alien insectoid species. In preparation for a third invasion, an international fleet (IF) maintains a school to find and train future fleet commanders. Wiggin Ender, the title character, has been identified as one of the world's most talented children and at a very young age, he is sent to the training center to learn the art of war.

In 1985, *Ender's Game* won the *Nebula Award* for best Novel and in 1986, the *Hugo Award* for best novel. It has also become suggested reading for many military organizations, including the United States Marine Corps. There are four sequels and has been adapted into two comic series.

Source: Wiki

I really enjoyed the book, but have to admit that it was an emotional reading. Within just a few chapters, I wanted to break out some serious 'whoop 'em' on several characters. By the end of the book, I was pleasantly surprised with the outcome.



Special Thanks to the Admirals of SFC, especially FADM Roy Jackson, ADM Mark Williams and ADM Vince Williams for getting this chapter up and sailing.

Thank you to Ke'reth epetai Makura for assisting us in developing the Mighty Mississippi seal.

Join us on facebook @ USS Mighty Mississippi (people page)

Comments can be directed to USS.MightyMississippi@gmail.com

Sources also include Wikipedia, Memory Alpha and StarTrek Encyclopedia

