



BISMARCK'S REMARKS

August 2013



Back to School Time!

From the Guest Editor

It's that time of year when our midshipmen take the infamous yellow shuttle back to their studies. School has started up in Middletown and other school districts. Please be aware of all kids in your neighborhoods in the morning and afternoon. They don't always look both ways before crossing the street!

Kevin Johnson
Guest Editor



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.



From the Captain

I'm pleased to say that I'm finally back to work again!

I know the way money is in short supply in everyone's pockets, so I want to give everyone the maximum amount of time to find and afford a gift for the gift exchange this year. Now do we want to a generic gift or draw names? If we draw names I want us to do that by our August meeting.

The next Senior Staff Meeting will be held in September.

Kaley Cuoco, who is Penny from *Big Bang Theory*, is a nerd. Here's proof:



And here's an amazing high-resolution image of King Tut's tomb, put online by Factum Arte:



<http://archaeology.org/news/993-130614-egypt-tutankhamun-technology-factum-foundation>

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

New Starbase Commander

After serving over 5 years as Starbase Commander, Vice Admiral Kevin Johnson is stepping down as SBCO in order to take a different position in SFC. The Deputy Fleet Commander, Admiral Mark Williams, will be attending the *Bismarck*'s August General Meeting to introduce SB05's new Commanding Officer, Colonel Derek Sauls. Be sure to join us this coming Saturday for the meeting!

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

Perfect Day for a Picnic

To avoid the worst of the summer heat, the *Bismarck* moved its annual picnic to June 9th this year. And what a perfect day it was! The temp was in the upper 70s with a slightly overcast sky. A light rain started only when we were loading the cars at the end of the day. Dennis brought pulled pork from Tipp City, and Anthony grilled up hamburgers, hot dogs, and bratwurst. We had a smaller turnout than we expected, but we sure had a great time!



MMO Review: Star Wars: The Old Republic

Our second feature of MMO Review covers Star Wars: The Old Republic (SWTOR) by Bioware. Much like Star Trek Online, SWTOR really puts you into the universe. If you're on a balcony on Coruscant, you'll hear the wind blow. If you're on Huttta, you'll swear you can smell the stink of the polluted swamps.

Players can choose from 4 Republic characters (Jedi Knight, Jedi Consular, Smuggler, and Trooper), and 4 Sith characters (Sith Warrior, Sith Inquisitor, Imperial Agent, and Bounty Hunter). Each class also splits into 2 advanced classes. Would you prefer your Sith Inquisitor to use a double-lightsaber like Darth Maul, or use Force Lightning like Darth Sidious? Not enough choices? Each of the 16 advanced classes has their own skill tree with three different branches gives additional benefits (skill points can be re-distributed during the game).

Each of these classes has their own unique storylines. The Jedi Consular is trying to stop a deadly virus, while the Smuggler is searching for famous treasure. Players choose how they interact with NPCs. These choices aren't just cosmetic; they can impact how other NPCs interact with you - even change the final result of a mission! Are you all about the money? Are you a Jedi that's drifting towards the Dark Side? The race and gender of your character also make a difference! You'll want to have multiple characters to experience all SWTOR has to offer!

The game takes place approximately 3600 years Before the Battle of Yavin (BBY). The Sith Empire and the Galactic Republic are in a cold war, and the temperature is heating up!

SWTOR is free, but there are some limitations for Free-to-Play (F2P) accounts. The movement rate is reduced; the experience amount gained is reduced; vendor prices are higher, etc. These limitations are annoying, but they do not prevent you from enjoying through the game. (You can also alleviate most of these penalties by either subscribing for \$15 a month, or by spending Cartel Coins (real money) to permanently eliminate some of those handicaps.)

The basic mechanics of SWTOR are easy to learn, but Bioware did leave out some instructions for some of the advanced tasks. However there are a good number of resources available online. Upper elementary age children can get the hang of the mechanics, but I highly encourage them to only play the Jedi Knight or Jedi Consular classes. There is a Light Side icon on some decision points so they know what the ideal Jedi answer is.

If you love Star Wars, I highly recommend you try SWTOR. It can be downloaded from www.swtor.com. Play for free! If you love it, they you may want to consider spending some money for an upgraded experience.

Santa and Frodo

Tom Stiver, who is the *Bismarck*'s Santa Claus, 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 Tom Stiver

Awesome Accomplishments

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

- Mark Williams (an honorary *Bismarck* member) will be the feature of the TV show *FanAddicts* on the Reelz Network on August 28th. Tune in to see Mark's extensive collection of Trek memorabilia.
- Rebecca received her Senior Green belt in TKD in June.

Upcoming Conventions

Ohio Comic Con, Sep 20-22, in Columbus

Special guests include Patrick Stewart, William Shatner, Stan Lee, Val Kilmer, Henry Winkler, and many others.

Weekend pass is \$70 in advance (children free with adult ticket)

www.wizardworld.com/home-midohio.html

Pandoracon, Oct 11-13, in Cincinnati

Weekend pass is \$40 in advance (children 5-12 are \$20)

www.pandoracon.com

Starbase Indy, Nov 29-Dec 1, in Indianapolis

Special guests include Rene Auberjonois, Armin Shimerman, Claudia Christian, Jay Acovone, Teryl Rothery, and Musetta Vander

SFC's Annual Meeting is held at this convention

Weekend pass is \$45 in advance (children free with adult ticket)

www.starbaseindy.com