



"To Watch, To Explore and To Grow"

May Issue

From the Bridge

Welcome to our fourth issue for the year 2012. Above is our new logo design and our ship's motto. I originally picked the Nova class starship because of its unique design. But as time went by, I realized the title Silver Fox and the Nova class starship had an excellent personality/style to provide. Let us all explore new things and grow from the experience.

The Enterprise Flies Again

Reprinted from SPACE on MNBC News



By Mike Wall



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Two space shuttles down, two to go.

The prototype [shuttle Enterprise arrived in New York City](#) Friday morning (April 27) atop a specially modified 747 jet, on its way to Manhattan's Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum. [Enterprise's](#) flight came just a week after the shuttle fleet leader, Discovery, was delivered to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

NASA's two other remaining orbiters — Endeavour and Atlantis — are also [headed to museum retirement homes](#) soon. Endeavour, the agency's youngest shuttle, is the next to move.

Endeavour will go on display at the California Science Center in Los Angeles. The orbiter currently sits at NASA's [Kennedy Space Center](#) (KSC) in Florida, and it's slated to make the piggyback trip across the country this September, officials have said.

[\[NASA's Shuttle Program in Pictures\]](#)

But the long flight may be the most uneventful part of Endeavour's journey. To get to its final resting place from Los Angeles International Airport, the shuttle will have to creep along city streets for about 12 miles (20 kilometers), perhaps at just 1 mph (1.6 kph) or so, [according to the Los Angeles Times](#).



NASA

Shuttle Endeavour lands.

Endeavour flew 25 space missions during its career, which stretched from May 1992 to May 2011. It was built to replace the shuttle Challenger, which exploded shortly after liftoff in January 1986 in a tragic accident that killed all seven astronauts aboard.

Like Endeavour, Atlantis is now being processed at KSC. But it won't have to hop aboard a jumbo jet; the orbiter is destined for the KSC Visitors Complex, and it should make the short trip down the road in November, NASA officials have said.

NASA retired its storied space shuttle fleet in July 2011 after 30 years of orbital service. A total of five shuttles reached space between 1981 and 2011, but only three of these vehicles remain. Like Challenger, the shuttle Columbia was lost along with its entire

crew during a mission. The orbiter broke apart while re-entering Earth's atmosphere in February 2003.

Enterprise never made it to orbit. But the prototype shuttle performed a series of key approach and landing tests in the late 1970s, helping [pave the way](#) for its sister vehicles to reach space.

Enterprise had resided at the Smithsonian since 1985, and it had been on display at the museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va., since 2003. But Enterprise was shifted to New York to make room for Discovery, which notched 39 spaceflights — more than any other spaceship in history — during its 27-year career.

www.scifinal.com – For those who are interested in independent video and podcast websites on the Internet, try the above website. What it contains is a portal for dozens of websites featuring amateur and semi-pro series of videos or podcasts (done like novels on tape or the old-time radio shows) – done as sci fi, fantasy, horror, or comedy. Space opera, virtual reality, vampires, zombies, and post-apocalyptic futures predominate the story lines, but there are such a large number of examples and sources that most viewers can find something to interest them.

Among the list of examples, Star Trek and Dr. Who fans will find some good websites. If the readers are familiar with www.hiddenfrontier.com, with all its various series (two series just added are [Star Trek: Grissom](#) and [Star Trek: Odyssey](#)). www.starshipexcelsior.com/ features podcast episodes with three seasons plus eight specials (the series starts in the Specials section with [The Excelsior Returns, Act 1: "There You Are"](#); and the rest of the series continues in season one). As for Doctor Who, podcasts can be heard at <http://brokensea.com/drwho/>. There are four seasons of about thirteen episodes each (Brokensea also has a variety of other media universes on their website – Planet of the Apes, X-files, The Prisoner, etc.).

From BBC News: Sonic Screwdriver Created – (April 19th) Scientists claim to have invented their own version of the sonic screwdriver as seen in *Doctor Who*.

Researchers at **Dundee University** have created a machine which uses ultrasound to lift and rotate a rubber disc floating in a cylinder of water.

It is said to be the first time ultrasound waves have been used to turn objects rather than simply push them. The study could help make surgery using ultrasound techniques more precise, the physicists said. Surgeons use ultrasound to treat a range of conditions without having to cut open a patient. The ability to steer ultrasound waves to the precise spot where they are needed could make those treatments even more effective.

The ultrasound waves could also be used to guide a drug capsule through the body and activate it, for instance right inside a tumour. Ultrasound waves could already be made to push objects and scientists believed they could also turn them - but the Dundee University team claims to have now proved it

May 5th: Free Comic Book Day – For those comic book fans out there, don't forget that Saturday May 5th is national free comic book day at your local comic book shop. The shop here in Jamestown is Chautauqua Comics, and always has a great crowd drifting in and out. Fan boys and girls looking for their favorite collectable, people in costumes (last May, Spiderman, Wolverine, Captain America, two authentic-looking Star Wars troopers, and a cute little blond in a very nice Supergirl outfit showed up), and a comics pro as guest (last May there was a comics writer, I forget his name, but he had worked for both Marvel and DC in his time).



Finally

A new Star Trek TV Series - (April 19, 2012) Blastr.com ("Imagined by Syfy") has recently reported that the new proposed Star Trek TV series won't be coming out till after the Star Trek 2 theatrical movie comes out next year. This is the proposed series that Bryan Singer (X-Men movie) and Bryan Fuller (Pushing Daisies TV series) had pitched to Paramount. I recently heard that Paramount didn't like what these two were planning for the series, and so turned them down on making it. But, with the above news, I guess Paramount was really expecting the Bryans to tweak the concept for a Trek series more to Paramount's liking (and, yes, that is only a guess on my part). So we may get a chance to see some Trek TV after all.

Let's pretend: So if I had a chance to input into a new Star Trek series, what would it be like? Star Trek has always had some means of stretching out to where ever the situation in a story took place. That usually happened by means of our ever popular starship concept (Star Trek: Deep Space Nine didn't really take off till the crew got off the space station and into their own starship). So some means of travel is needed, probably by starship but maybe some other way.

Also, critics have been saying that with ST: Enterprise, the franchise had lost its way and was running on empty. I disagree, the Enterprise episodes I remember seeing seemed to hold up rather nicely. The critics then said that the reason for the downfall was because the more current TV series (they included Voyager in their observations) lacked one of the features of the original series - each story made a statement about the universe in general or human nature in particular. This having been said then we can correct that flaw (if there was one) by reentering the comments on human nature back into the storylines.

As for the rest...hmm...one notion I like is a show based around a squadron star fighters. They would have a Starbase to hail from, but most of the time advance outside into space for most of their adventures. Agreed, some fans would complain this is a cross between the Deep Space Nine series and Battlestar Galactica (or the 1980s Last Starfighter, which I very much would like to see and have a hand in making an updated version of for TV).

Or, how about this -- back in the late 1970s/early 80s I remember a series of fan fiction stories that were written around a group of characters called Landing Party 5. Or was it called Landing Party 7? I don't even recall who the author was; all I know is the author was female because the lead character was a thinly disguised version of the author. Anyway, the storylines involved these characters whose permanent station aboard a Starfleet starship was as a crew specializing in landing parties on planets. Part of their adventures were aboard the starship and part was on those planetary explorations, both situations allowed for the characters to interaction with themselves and others, offering plenty of chances to express the Star Trek ideals. A TV series based around a similar set of characters might be easier to make as a half hour cartoon series than an hour long live action show, but I think the idea is worth looking into.

And, as always, you readers out there are free to comment on anything in this newsletter. Readers of this newsletter and I would both enjoy hearing what your ideas for a new Trek series would be.

A Different Star Trek: The Next Generation – Last issue I mentioned that some fans would be surprised to hear that at the time Star Trek: The Next Generation first came out (in the late 1980s) that the fans of the time weren't sure if that new series would be good or not. It didn't have the beloved original cast in it, and it took place a hundred years after the original five year mission. The show had Gene Roddenberry at the helm making it; that was good. But the general notion was "what was he thinking doing it this way?!". Well, it all worked out and since then we have three more spinoff shows based around the ST universe. The upshot of all this is that I could have mentioned one more thing concerning the above subject – ST: the Next Generation could've been a little different than the way it turned out.

No, I'm not talking about the failed 1970s Star Trek 2 series that Roddenberry and Paramount tried to start. As the older fans know, that was an effort to restart the original series, and use it as the flagship (so to speak) for a proposed independent TV network created by Paramount. An independent TV network was too new an idea for the 1970s, the TV stations around the country didn't like it, and so the project got dumped. The only good thing out of that was that the pilot film for the Trek #2 turned into Star Trek: The Motion Picture (plus all of the rest of the theatrical movies after it). Nope, I was referring to something else.

Follow – back in the early 1990s I had the chance to go to a variety of science fiction conventions up around the Buffalo, New York area. And as is the custom with most conventions, they had special guests from movies and TV shows. The guest I leading to is George Takai – good old Mr. Sulu himself. At the time, Takai had just started being included in the theatrical films as captain of the USS Excelsior. And at the talk section of his visit at our local convention he let slip an interesting new idea – for 15 years he had been campaigning Paramount into creating a new Star Trek TV series and use the Sulu character as the new starship captain. He said that at that time period Shatner (Kirk) and Nimoy (Spock) weren't interested in doing a television series (I believe this was after Shatner ended with his J. T. Hooker TV series). And since they weren't interested doing a TV version of Star Trek, then Takai was more than happy to step forward to play the role of "the Captain".

Of course Takai's idea was never taken up; but if it had, we would've seen a very different Star Trek: the Next Generation show. Picard, Will Ryker, and the rest of the cast wouldn't have been there on Captain Sulu's version of the show. Maybe characters like them might have been there, but different actors would have been used. Also, would this version of the Next Generation be placed a hundred years in the future of the original show, or closer to the time of the theatrical films being made in the 1980s? I think this last notion would have appealed to Roddenberry and Paramount, as that meant saving money on the TV series (by reusing sets, costumes, equipment

from the theatrical films). And if this Captain Sulu version to the show was close to the theatrical films, would that mean the TV series would be more adventurous than the drama filled Next Generation show we do know?

I guess the answer to that is to be found in the Trek novels that have featured the Captain Sulu stories over the years. I have to admit that I haven't read much of those novels. Didn't one of them feature his daughter? Can anyone add to this information?

And ... next issue will feature our first ever Swimsuit Edition. See more of you in June...



Photo taken (stolen really) from leiasmetalbikini.com - Star Wars Celebration IV 2007