



## SFC SB 03 Connection

**Starbase 03** covers the states of: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming and to the north, all of Canada.

**Starbase 03 Connection is dedicated to and written by the ships/chapters and its members in this region. Any SFC member in the region can submit an article for publication.**

**Captains**, you are encouraged to use the *Ship Logs* section to showcase your chapter. Tell everyone about your chapter's promotions, events you attended or just what you've been up to for the last month as a group. The articles do not have to be any particular length and how much detail you give is entirely up to you. Add a picture or two if you'd like.

**Members**, you are encouraged to send in articles or art work for the *Shore-Leave* section. These articles can be about anything you wish and the length of each article is entirely up to you. Give as much or as little detail as you wish. You're welcome to send a picture or two if you'd like.

Submissions (or questions) should be sent to:

[SB03Shoreleave@gmail.com](mailto:SB03Shoreleave@gmail.com)

Articles/submissions are **due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month**. Articles should be sent in the form of a WORD DOCUMENT, but we can also work with an email.

The month runs from the 20<sup>th</sup> of the previous month to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the present month.) The newsletter is published in the last week of each month, in an effort to keep the information new.

**In this issue you will find:**

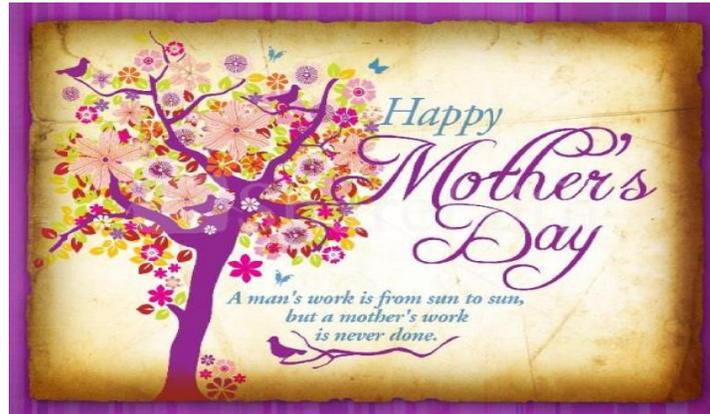
**Editorial Comments**

**Ship Logs**

**Shore Leave**

**Fiction and the Interactive Quadrant.**

## [Editorial Comments](#)



**We'd like to take a moment to wish all mother's in the Region a Happy Mother's Day.**

Steve Nibbelink (USS Lindbergh) is also the owner of Alien Graphics and has a great offer for anyone in need of a new ship/chapter banner. You can get more details on face book at:

<https://www.facebook.com/aliengraphics?fref=ts>

Or go to his website:

<http://aliengraphicsnow.com/>

**[Creation Con, Chicago.](#)** (May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Starfleet Command will have a table set-up in the Dealers room, so if you are attending stop in and say hello to whoever is manning the table at that time.

If you do not already have your ticket, you will want to visit the site before going to Chicago. Most Admission passes are sold out.

**TrekToy.com** has a few more days left in its Autism Fundraiser. If you haven't checked it out, there is still time, but it is running out.

<http://www.trektoy.com/autism2013/>



## Ship Logs

**USS Clan Cian**

**Edwin J. Carroll**

**Modesto CA.**

Dia dhuit,

My name is LTJG Edwin Joseph Carroll II I am the commanding officer of the runabout USS Clan Cian NCC-1965 out of Modesto, California. Here is what the ship is all about. We will be going to the different highlander games in California to spread good will and cheer of the Starfleet Command club . Here is what Clan Cian is all about. Clan Cian was also known as the Cianachta, the Race of Cian, who was the youngest son, of Olioll Ollum King of Munster, and Grandson, of King Eoghan Mor, the 1st (known as) Mogh Nuadath of Leith Mogha (Mogha's Half) of southern Ireland of the Milesian race of Heber, who contested for supremacy of all Ireland in the second century of the Christian Era. The Cianachta were led well over 1500 years by a recognized King, Prince, High Chief, or Ruling Lord chosen from members of the O'Carroll-Carroll and rival Houses of the noble Septs of Éile. In the fifth century the Cianacht Chief, Éile Righ Derg (Eile, the Red King) ruled the territory that came to be known as Éile O'Carroll, to distinguish the area from other O'Carroll kingdoms and lands. The Kingdom of Éile (Ely) was located anciently in Ormond in the Counties Tipperary, Waterford and extending into Offaly, Leix, and Kilkenny.

Cearbhaill (Carroll) Son, of Aodh, and Chief of the Cianachta was King of Éile at the turn of the first millenium. This Cearbhaill, the King of Éile, led the Elyans at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 with the High King of Ireland, Brian Boru. F.J. "Eile" O'Carroll, the late O'Carroll of Éile O'Carroll created Clan Cian through the Charter of Re-Formation in 1982-1983 as his personal clan for all Cianachta, whose families originally lived within the regions ruled by The O'Carroll of Éile O'Carroll in Ireland as well as to all people who wish to honor their background and the ideals that Clan Cian promotes - Irish culture in all its manifestations and the exploration of expatriate Irish's roots back to Ireland. If you want to know more about us contact me and I help the best I can.

Slan,

## **USS Lobo**

**Liz Robinson**

**Moline, IL.**

I was thinking about the Toys for Tots program and potential chapter involvement, there was a Tree for Toys at Toys for Tots tree but I saw no books. Many of us grew up in the Dark Ages when a computer was a humungous machine that did not have the power of my 8 bit Atari. There was no such animal as a PC, Kindle, Nook, Apple, iPad etc. So we used an old fashioned device called a Book. It was easy to use, allowing us to mark our place, open wherever we left off, stored pictures and graphs and it has room to write notes on the side. Even today many children who are in the income levels where they are eligible for Toys for Tots, the family does not own one of the above devices. So after meeting with our ship, Project Lobo, I visited the Marine Corps Reserve Center across the street from my office and suggested that we collect books for the children. They agreed it was an excellent idea which I also shared with Mighty Mississippi. The books can be introductory science, like the ones Isaac Asimov used to write for kids, or it could be classic children's literature, science fiction. For the littlest, they might enjoy Dora the Explorer or babies love cloth animal picture books too. The reserve center does not have room to store them so I will deliver the collected books after Thanksgiving. They asked that we give new or gently used books with no political or religious bent to them.

## **USS Mighty Mississippi**

**Rose Compton**

**Davenport, IA.**

The Mighty M. has some busy month's coming up and has been busy preparing for the upcoming May premiere of "Star Trek: Into Darkness." We'll be at the new Muscatine Fridley Palms Theater, for the Dolby XL ATMOS 3-D Experience on May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM recruiting for our ship/chapter. A short meeting will be held at 2:00, in the theaters Party room, where positions and details will be covered. Until then, all of our time goes into preparations. We have a new banner on order, from Alien Graphics. (Steve Nibbelink's company.), and are setting up final details. If any of the Eastern Iowa or Western Illinois chapters wish to join in, you are more than welcome. RSVP to Cmdr. Rose Compton @ [USS.MightyMississippi@gmail.com](mailto:USS.MightyMississippi@gmail.com). We are still working out the final details and will email, interested individuals as the details become available.

## **USS Charles Lindbergh**

**Steve Nibbelink**

**Fair Grove MO.**

Steve Nibbelink CO USS Charles Lindbergh has been working on reigniting his business, Alien Graphics.

Chris Nibbelink, has been running track for his Jr. High and regularly finishing in the top three in the 200, 400, and 200 hurdles. Normally he finishes first; he's missed medaling in the 400 once.

Wes Ashe has been building skateboards and Janae Nibbelink has had a change of duty station and is serving the last 2 years of her hitch in Germany.



## **SB 03 Shore-Leave**

**Alive and Kicking**

**Sharon Boren**

**USS Iowa**

The month of April has been a busy one for me. I'm writing this from the hotel in Lincoln, NE as I'm getting ready to enjoy ConStellation 4. My college classes are in the process of wrapping up for the year with graduation slated for next month. As luck would have it, Western Iowa Tech Community College has set graduation for May 17-- premiere night for Star Trek Into Darkness! I will be getting fitted for my cap and gown on May 1.

In two weeks, I'll be on my way to DemiCon in Des Moines for the first time. I tried to attend DemiCon a couple of years ago, but financial difficulties popped up and I had to cancel at the last minute. I will also be attending ConQuest in Kansas City for the first time over Memorial Day weekend.

Besides preparations for graduation and area conventions, I'm also working on transferring to a four-year college to continue my quest for a Bachelor's degree in Business.

Before I sign off, I thought a little explanation might be in order. In the last two newsletters, I mentioned my Klingon ship the IKV Raptor's Heart. I am a member of two Star Trek fan clubs--Starfleet Command and the Klingon Assault Group (KAG). I joined SFC in 1986 and KAG in 1997 when I was awaiting word on my request to form the USS Iowa (then NCC-567). Several weeks had gone by without a word from then Fleet Admiral Paul Sundstrom. Assuming that my request was either lost or would be denied, I ran into a gentleman who had a Klingon ship in the Omaha area. As Omaha wasn't too far away from home, my mother and I joined KAG.

About three weeks later, FADM Sundstrom finally got back to me on my request to form a ship. That answer was: permission granted! So, I became a member of two Star Trek fan clubs which happen to be on the opposite sides of the coin. On January 9, 2011, I became captain of the newly formed IKV Raptor's Heart. Shortly thereafter, Tom Webster contacted me to see if the USS Iowa was still active. Having folded the ship back in 2005, I informed Tom that the Iowa was inactive, but if he wanted to resurrect her he could.

The irony of the situation is that I'm now Senior Operations Officer on my old ship. Not that I mind. At least I have a unit to belong to (albeit from afar) and I'm having fun reconnecting with old friends and making new ones as a part of the Starbase 03 family.

## Oz: The Great and Powerful

James Olson

Starbase 03

### OZ: THE GREAT AND POWERFUL

STARRING JAMES FRANCO, MILA KUNIS, MICHELLE WILLIAMS AND RACHEL WEISZ

THE DELAYED REPSONSE TO THIS FILM, by Spider-man Maven Sam Raimi (also aka Mr. Hercules and Xena), is "Two, two, TWO movies in one!" The first movie, a very shallow and bad one, centers around Oscar Diggs aka, Oz. A large two-by-four by the name of James Franco, awaking from his apparent coma from no-hosting the Oscars (hah) in 2010, make this Oscar just as wooden and boring. Many movie-goers at the screening I attended (a full house two weeks after the premiere) saw the Franco (non)performance, were stating loudly, "WTF?"...Then something happened. After the at-first interesting black and white start to the film, Oz the Magician in 1910s Kansas gets blown in a circus hot-air balloon into a twister--and poof--there is a new movie...

From the fearsome onslaught of the tornado itself in black and white, the movie suddenly goes "zero gravity," literally floating the magic hat off Oz's head...then the 3D color happens...in 2D, almost as good. The lush fantasy landscapes are stark, blindingly colorful, and seeing Oz get nipped by piranha wannabe fairies was just right to get Franco to wake up into being a character. And the lady he meets? Mila Kunis (Ted, Family Guy) as Theodora, a Southern Belle-looking, devastatingly beautiful (if naive) damsel good witch in distress. She immediately believes Oz, because of his coincidental nickname matching with her homeland, drafts her love-at-first-sight as THE SAVIOR...only he doesn't want the job.

The rest of the film eventually breaks that two by four, Oz (or more accurately Franco acting like someone acting like Oz), still smirking his jerky way across the screen...But slowly but surely, Oz turns into that Savior...Along the way he picks up a flying monkey, Finley (apparently the only good one in the film--and NO, he didn't fly out of Oz's backside). The intrepid group trying to kill The Wicked Witch (apparently too, the only one in this movie)...he also picks up an amazing little character, which on Youtube, is revealed to be a marionette, but here over-animated, into the equal of Gollum, and who makes this movie: China Girl.

She appears briefly in the black and white intro to the movie...and the little girl, played by Joey King, IS China Girl (and again NO it's not the David Bowie one). This expressive if fragile little girl melts your heart--and FINALLY gives Oz personality and the reason to be the Hero.

And then he meets Glenda...But I won't spoil that part--you do need to see the film.

Lush, great visuals, decent acting in China Girl, the tragedy of Theodora (and Who the HECK is Evanora in Oz's backstory?), and the last half of the film is classic Hollywood filming, in the early 21st Century.

COMMODORE'S RATING: 4/5 PIPS.

## A Busy Month

Liz Robinson

USS Lobo

Brad Smith is building a device for the National Speleological Society Convention the first week in August. We are on the convention committee, responsible for the hot tub and sauna system. He has had a new stove built for the hot tub constructed of a 55 gallon drum with a small, 35 gallon drum inside to function as a water-jacket stove. Heated water will be pumped through the filtration system into the tub to be heated in the stove and back out to the stove. As we are not getting any younger, we have decided that trying to deal with a 4 foot in diameter pool wall which weighs a lot has potential for a heart attack. We are having some galvanized steel panels with strategically placed holes around the edges cut for us. Thus we will screw each panel together either as a 4 or 5 foot deep tub. We will line it with thick plastic sheeting and set it up at the convention. We have done this many times for caver gatherings but we decided that we need a more efficient and effective stove and I have decided that handling one panel at a time is safer and less clumsy as well. Brad may be temporarily immortal but I am not.

I continue to work with the World Affairs Council Board. Our February program featured a student from Brazil and a student from Turkmenistan talking about their respective countries and how they came to the Quad Cities and Black Hawk Community College. Our March program featured a refugee from Darfur who brought the public up to date on what is going on there since the press seems to have lost interest. The dictator, as supported by other dictators from around the world, is being protected from being turned in to the International Court of Justice for trial for war crimes and he is continuing his ethnic cleansing program just as he was when Darfur was front page news. One of the reasons why dictators stick together, especially in Africa, is that there are so many of them and they fear that if anyone of them fall or are held accountable for their actions, it will be a domino effect such as it was with the Arab Spring. The April 23 program will be a post mortem on the Arab Spring by representatives of many of those nations. Our year end program is food samples, displays, music and dance from around the world and will be on 21 May. All programs are free and are held 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Bettendorf, IA public Library.

We have our monthly caving meetings at Trowbridge Hall on the University of Iowa Campus normally on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 to 8:30 or 9:00 p.m. Normally we start out with a slide show. Recently our Grotto (chapter) chairman has been doing a lot of project caving for a number of Caribbean islands and he often has a slide show showing the caves, the above ground scenery as well as the historical and archeological stuff. This past meeting in March, Brad had a slide show from the International Congress of Speleology which we attended in Texas about 5 years ago.

Gerry Pearson, Brad, and I attended jazz concert at The Mill in Iowa City by the Miguel Zenon quartet. It is a nice intimate setting with tables around the stage. What we all agreed was that we all enjoyed the music, not the least because even though we were very close to the stage our ears were not blasted out by excess electronic amplification so we could actually listen to the music with no pain. Zenon is considered a very innovative saxophonist and all the musicians in the quartet were excellent.

As some of you may know we lost our truck to the Derecho storm that originated in Davenport, Iowa and ended up in Washington, DC on 29 June when a tree branch fell on it. As we had a number of expenses in August when we replaced the truck so we did not order a cap for it immediately, but used the ill-fitting cap from our 1994 truck. Last month, we had a new cap put in which we like very much because it has side doors as well as a back door. Now we are going to decorate it. In addition to cave bumper stickers I also ordered some funny physics stickers which will be coming soon.

Our astronomical society has also been active. We are open to any guest at our meetings which take place at the John Deere Planetarium on the Augustana College campus on the second Monday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30. March meeting was on "How Big is the Universe?" and our April meeting was on binocular observing conducted by the man in charge of the Boy Scout camp observatory. Next month's program will be on "Dark Star Revisited" which is about the theory of the Sun's theorized twin. The Club also dedicated a plaque to one of our founders from the 1930's who was a professor of physics and mathematics at Augustana who was largely responsible for working with an executive from Deere and Company who was an avid amateur astronomer to obtain the Planetarium building so the program could be established. We will observe National Astronomy Day on April 20 from 2-5 pm at the Moline Public Library with solar observing, a lecture and fun things for kids to do. That night we will have our free public observing session at the Niabi Zoo parking lot from dusk to midnight. Public observing sessions are held the same time and place on the third Saturday of each month.

There is a new Dr. Who club, Brilliant Companions sponsored by the Moline Public Library and meets 6:30-7:30 the first Monday of each month. We attended the first two meetings and there was an excellent response with a good mixture of people of different age and ethnic backgrounds. The leader from the library posts the episodes that will be discussed that night and posits questions designed to elicit discussion. The discussion has been very lively with almost everyone participating actively. Snacks are provided and I also brought my British tea box shaped like a British phone booth with teabags in it. She also has books and magazines on display.

This winter I received an email that my very dear old friend, Jan Howard Finder (he spelled it lowercase) better known as the Wombat had finally lost his 8 year battle with prostate cancer less than a week before his 74th birthday. Wombat was born and raised in Chicago but was internationally known in science fiction circles. He organized cons in the Albany, NY area (LASTCon--Latham Albany Schenectady and Troy) conferences on Middle Earth as well as being the fan Guest of Honor at World Science Fiction Conventions. I met him many long years ago when I was a member of MNSTFF in the 70's through another member. When I worked at Fort Drum in the 80's he also worked there as an education counselor for the military. We both left--I came here and he back to Albany where he owned a condo. I received the notice from Lin, his partner of some years when she took him to the hospital with liver and kidney failure the night before he died and she was with him when he died. Lin especially asked Bra and me to attend the memorial convention they will have for him on June 1. <http://wombatcon.lindaniel.com/> I was not budgeting for an expensive trip East but fortunately I had sufficient AMTRAK points so that we were able to get the round trip

with a sleeper each way for free (without using up all of my points), so the only cost will be my cash on hand for tips, and meals when we are not on the trip and 2 nights in the Con hotel. Cheaper than driving or going coach, let alone paying for a full cost sleeper (cheaper ones are already sold out) by myself. I will have a report when I get back for the June Shore Leave.

Brad and I attended a talk on a legal humanitarian trip to Cuba at the Bettendorf Public Library. It was very interesting. The group was Jewish community service personnel but the donated materials were not just for Jews. They brought a large amount of basic supplies for distribution to the people. It included a slide show of things they saw (lots of 50's cars) the city, churches and synagogues and interesting people as well as the Hemingway sites. After the program was over we went to another room in the Bettendorf Public Library where there was a talk on edible wild plants being given by someone from the Wapsi River center. It included pictures of the plants and how they can be prepared and eaten. One item was violets that can be made into jelly, but, he added they do not have much flavor. I suggested that if you add lots of violets to get more flavor you can have ultra-violet jelly.

## **'Oblivion' Review**

**Katie Haugen**

**USS Mighty Mississippi**

"Oblivion" is an original story brought to you by the director of Tron: Legacy, Joseph Kosinski. The movie stars Tom Cruise (Mission Impossible, Jack Reacher) as Jack Harper, Morgan Freeman (Olympus Has Fallen, The Dark Knight Rises) and Olga Kurylenko (Seven Psychopaths, James Bond: Quantum of Solace).

The storyline follows Jack Harper in a great cinematic experience of a future Earth in year 2077. Jack Harper serves as a security repairman stationed on the evacuated Earth after a decade's long war against alien threats that forced the surviving population to end up moving to Titan, the largest of Saturn's moons. Harper continues to repair drones monitoring the Earth surface and fighting off scavengers that haven't left the Earth's surface. Harper continues to fight with memories that he doesn't know when they are from. He continues to find areas that seem familiar to him, though he doesn't know how they are familiar.

The story is well written and continues to keep you guessing at what is happening. The ending is definitely a surprise and makes the whole movie worth-while. I would say the first 30-45 minutes were the slowest part, but by the middle part of the movie that story really has picked up and keeps you on the edge of your seat. Right when you think you have the movie figured out, something else surprises you and keeps you wondering where it's going. The cinematography is amazing in this movie. The sights of the future Earth are breath-taking and really immerse you into the set.

"Oblivion" is rated PG-13 and has a run length of 2 hours and 5 minutes.

**Ted Nugent, REO Speedwagon, and Styx**

On April 20, 2013, I had the pleasure of attending the Ted Nugent, REO Speedwagon, and Styx concert at the I Wireless Center in Moline, Illinois. I was accompanied by CO of the USS Mighty Mississippi, Rose Compton, and we had a great time! As I had expected, this concert was attended mostly by what most people would call "the older crowd." At one point during the show, Styx's Tommy Shaw thanked us all for coming and said he was so glad to be seeing so many of us again. He added "I was a little worried about some of you, back in the 70's." He's not the only one who was worried about me in the 70's (and 80's), but I do appreciate his concern.

Ted Nugent opened the show and he played for about forty five minutes. "Uncle" Ted played a montage of his classics including Cat Scratch Fever, Just What the Doctor Ordered, Turn it Up, and Stranglehold. As always Ted played LOUD. The music was played well, and his vocals still good, but I think his sound equipment could have used some help. I can't say for sure, but I think he was using Kraco and Sparkomatic speakers.

REO Speedwagon had second billing and they played next. They played just as loudly as Ted, but they sounded a whole lot better. It may have been the equipment, the performers, or both, but REO was head and shoulders above Ted Nugent. It had been a while since I've seen REO, and I'd forgotten just how professional they were, how much I liked them, and how good they were live. They played for about an hour and fifteen minutes, and every song they sang was one of their hits. Their performance last night was fantastic, and I'll definitely go see them again anytime they are in the area. And, I'll never get tired of hearing Riding the Storm Out live.

Lastly, Styx took the stage, and as they blew everyone else out of the water. Touring with Styx was their original bassist, Chuck Panozzo. Although Ricky Phillips has been their full-time bassist since 2003, Chuck has been touring with them as well. With Tommy Shaw, James "JY" Young, Todd Sucherman, Lawrence Gowan, Ricky Phillips, and Chuck Panozzo all on stage at one time, there was no shortage of talent. Though it hardly seemed possible Styx sounded even better than REO. Their performance was energetic, flawless, and inspiring. I've seen them quite a few times over the years, and I think they've gotten better every time. I guess practice really does make perfect.



**Ted Nugent**

**REO Speedwagon**



**Styx**



## Connection's Fiction and Interactive Quadrant

### The New Adventure (part 3) James Chen USS Celestria

"As this day of the completion of the new star base near the border of the Delta and Alpha Quadrants, the Federation can finally show the rest of the galaxy that, even the devastating Dominion War cannot stop Starfleet from continuing our mission of space exploration." As Adm. Kathryn Janeway continued her speech, which is broadcast on the bridge of her old command and chosen flag ship, the USS Voyager throughout all the Federation channels. Captain Christopher Chinn, of USS Celestria, stands with the rest of his bridge crew listening to the admiral's speech, he waits for the order to launch to the new destination. He remembers his conversation with the admiral along with Tuvoc and Herry Kim when they visited him on the Utopia Planitia Fleet Yard.

"We plan to go back to the Delta Quadrant, and this time, we'll be ready." Adm. Janeway started. "Our mission is to contact Species 8472 and species of the region to establish diplomatic relations with them if possible"

"If not, assess their threats to the Federation." Tuvoc added.

"Threat? What kind of threat?" Commander Chinn asked.

"There are many hostile species in the Delta Quadrant, commander. Sometimes we get attacked by a new species every other day when we were trying to get home." Herry Kim said.

"And sometimes we wouldn't see anyone for months" Janeway added.

"That's fine, but I still don't understand why you're talking to me about it." Chinn asked.

"I want to return to the Delta Quadrant, but this time I want to be ready." Janeway said.

"Admiral?" Chinn asked.

"The Pulsar ships, we need them." Kim said with a grin.

"This time we won't be just taking Voyager any more. I'm taking a whole fleet." Janeway answered.

"And this time we want to take ships that have a little more teeth." Kim said.

"In case we need them. And we will need them, commander, I promise you." Tuvoc added.

"The Pulsar ships are battleships sounds like you're planning an invasion, admiral." Chinn said.

"Not an invasion, commander. And you are right. We can't use the Pulsar ships as they are. That's why we need to make changes internally." Janeway explained.

"I saw the specs. The Pulsars are built to do battle, but they can be converted to have science labs, social areas, families" Tuvoc explained.

"Families." Chinn asked in surprise.

"Yes commander. This mission will take some time to complete, with the distance to the new star base on the border, its take months even with our new Trans-warp engines." Kim said.

"New Trans-warp engines, why not use the same way Voyager did when you made it home." Chinn asked.

"We used a Borg Trans-warp Hub. I don't think the Borg will let us use them again." Janeway said. "You were here when those ships were designed and built. You served in one and you chose to stay and try to remodel them so they will have a use other than war in the fleet."

Chinn was a little surprised that the admiral knows the main reason he stayed with the Pulsar ships.

"We pulled your file, commander." Tuvoc said.

"After the war you had to see a counselor, because you felt you changed, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Survivor's Guilt." Janeway said. Chinn looked at her surprised.

"We got your psychological profile." Kim Explained.

"You volunteered to help the veterans for a few years. Then you found out what the Pulsars were just abandoned and you volunteer to be assigned here trying to redesign the ship so they can still be of use to the fleet." Tuvoc said.

"Now here is your chance, commander. We can help you to redesign the Pulsars so they can be of use again." Kim said.

Then Adm. Janeway bought out a padd and handed it to Cmdr. Chinn. "What's this" he asked.

"Requisition Request to change the ship name from Silver Spark to Celestria." Janeway answered. "The ship is yours, if you want her"

"A new beginning, Captain." Tuvoc said.

"I'll join you in you on one condition." Chinn said.

"Go on" the admiral said.

"I want my old crew back and I get to pick the rest of the crew." Chinn said.

"Agreed, Captain," Janeway extended her hand to Capt. Chinn.

"As the first two groups of ships from the Deltan Expedition had arrived at Starbase 550, the last group of ships, led by Voyager, will be on our way there. All ships and all Captains of Group 3 Delta Fleet. Launch." Admiral Janeway ordered. Janeway's image disappeared from the main view screen and replaced by stars.

"All stations report." Capt. Chinn ordered his bridge crew.

"Engines?" Cmdr. Sandra Knight asked the Celestria's Bajoran Chief Engineer.

"Impulse Drive online. Warp engines online. Trans-warp drives are go on command." Lt. Sarish Bek reported.

"Confirmed. All Drive systems online and waiting for command, Captain." Lt. Asha Rekelen, the Ship's Cardassian conn Officer reported.

"All systems are up and ready to go, captain" Lt.Cmdr. Seto Jaxa, the Bajoran Second and Operations Officer reported.

"Then, by all means, set course for the Delta quadrant, Warp 4." Capt. Chinn ordered his Conn.

"Aye, Aye, sir. Setting course. 258 mark 227, warp." Lt. Rekelen responded.

"Mr. Rekelen." The captain said with a small smile.

"Sir." the conn officer responded.

"Go For It."

The USS Celestria's warp nacelles light up and pulled the ship, her crew along with the rest of the Deltan Fleet to their new destination.

**To Be Continued in next Edition .....**

### **The Infinite – Part 3 con't      Sharon Boren      USS Iowa**

Lieutenant Shaelis stood in the ruinous operations center of Outpost Capella IV awaiting transport back to the USS Starplotter. Through the still open communication channel, the commotion on board as the ship came under attack could be clearly heard. With the ship now engaged in combat, her transport would have to wait. All available power was now needed to keep the Klingon Battlecruiser at bay. However, there was one particular detail that struck Shaelis as being out of the ordinary--the speed by which the Starplotter's shields had failed allowing two succeeding torpedoes to breach the ship's hull. According to Shaelis' knowledge, the Starplotter's shields should have been strong enough to defend the ship against several torpedo strikes before failing. The fact that the Klingon vessel's lead torpedo was able to take out the ship's shields in one blow suggested that the explosive charge had either been replaced or enhanced in some way. The most logical substance was anti-matter. Most star traveling vessels carried an emergency reserve. If the Klingon vessel had added a small amount of anti-matter to the lead torpedo's conventional charge, it could have spiked the energy discharge enough to take out an opponent's shields in a single shot. From what Shaelis knew about Klingon mentality, such a practice was considered to be dishonorable behavior. If such behavior was uncharacteristic of Klingon military vessels, that logically lead one to the probability that the Klingon vessel in question was a rogue.

Shaelis scrambled back to the working library computer and reactivated the station. She quickly typed in the standard diagnostic code. If she was to give the Starplotter a helping hand, she needed to know in detail what systems on board the outpost were still working, what needed to be repaired, and what had been totally destroyed. The Starplotter as a scientific survey vessel possessed phaser canons only. The ship lacked the photon torpedoes that the outpost had. If she could get the outpost's shields and weapons back online, she could give the Klingons a surprise they would never forget.

Lieutenant Commander Beth Kelly finally regained her feet. She was still a bit shaken from her first combat experience. Now, she finally understood just how tough this job

was going to be. Granted, the combat simulators during her retraining for starship duty threw everything at her except the "kitchen sink," but in the simulators it was just a game. At least, that's what she had convinced herself, despite the realistic touches programmed into the simulation. At the end of the day, the simulation simply dissolved around her into the grid patterned walls of the holodeck. If she made a mistake, the simulation would also dissolve around her indicating that the simulated ship had been destroyed. The program would reset itself and she would be given another chance to get it right. Reality, on the other hand, was a new territory. There was no second chance. There was no reset button. If she made a mistake and the ship was destroyed, lives would be lost and the ship would be floating in space as jumbled pieces of debris. The game was over, and in its wake, reality was a cruel teacher.

"Enemy vessel has cloaked. Continuing to scan," Ensign James Morrow reported.

He had quickly transferred the sensor readouts to his station while Lieutenant Zheyl continued to render aid to Lieutenant Christine Kennedy. Due to the damage to the ship it was clear that it would take time for the medical team to arrive.

After what seemed like an eternity, the turbolift door hissed opened. Dr. Thomas Gannon and Head Nurse Kitty Grillo stepped out. Kneeling, the doctor ran his scanner across the stricken form, but all he could do was to wave Zheyl off and pronounce the communications chief dead.

The ship's commander hit her own com-badge, angered at the death of one of her crew members. She wanted revenge! The badge chirped as the channel opened.

"Engineering, status report!"

"We've sustained heavy damage, sir!" Ensign Andrew Phibbs responded, "Everything's in shambles down here!"

His voice sounded strange, slightly metallic and a bit muffled. The commander's desire for revenge quickly dissolved into pure survival.

"What's left?" Kelly questioned as she sadly watched the medical team transport Kennedy's body to the ship's morgue.

"Not much, sir!" Came the Engineer's electronically enhanced reply.

Kelly realized that he was talking through a filter mask. Could they be experiencing a coolant leak, or worse? Her mind raced through the possibilities. Vainly hoping there wouldn't be one, Kelly moved to the next item on her assessment of the situation.

"Casualty report."

"Twenty dead, fifteen wounded. I regret to inform you, sir, that the casualty list includes Marty," Andy tried to say it as gently as possible under the circumstances.

"Oh God, no!" Kelly muttered, stunned by the news of her husband's fate. Lieutenant Commander Martin Kelly was the ship's Chief Engineer. With his death, his duties now fell onto the shoulders of Ensign Andrew Phibbs.

**To be continued in next edition. . . . .**

## **Maras Honor (chapter 2) Michael Francis USS Nyota Uhura**

Unable to be completely silent Kirk interjected, "So in order to prevent Kang from having to kill you, and Mr. Chekov, you have to be returned to Mr. Chekov's custody so members of your family can hunt you down and kill you, or so you can escape, or kill Chekov yourself, just so honor is upheld?"

Kang exploded and pounded his fist on the table, cracking it loudly, "I told you he would not understand."

The door to the briefing room sprang open and all three security men entered with phasers at the ready. Without turning Kirk spoke softly, "It's all right. Commander Kang was just making a point. Resume your stations."

The ensign in charge asked, "Are you certain?"

Kirk responded with a simple, "Yes." The security detail left the room without argument. More high marks to give when fitness reports came out.

"I apologize for my ignorance. Yours is obviously a complex culture and not easily understood by outsiders. Please go on so that we may find a resolution that does not entail the deaths of either of you, or Mr. Chekov."

Mara looked at Kang and he gave a brief nod then turned his back to her.

"First, Ensign Chekov must acknowledge that he is my captor and that he claims me as his be'may'tev. That will eliminate his, and my, immediate death," Mara stated. "Once he has made that claim, Kang's honor remains temporarily intact and can be fully restored by other means. This will give us time to look at other options."

Seeing the logic of buying time, Kirk went to the comm panel and contacted the bridge to have Chekov sent to the briefing room immediately. He briefly considered having Spock and McCoy join them but figured that Kang was under a lot of stress from this situation and having more people than necessary know about it was not a good idea at the moment.

When Chekov arrived, Kirk briefly explained what Chekov was to do and that he would be told why after it was done.

Chekov looked dubious but did as he was told.

"I, Pavel A. Chekov declare Mara, wife of Kang, to be my be'may'tev," he said, trying not to sound officious.

When he had finished, Mara rose from where she sat, crossed over to where Kirk and Chekov were standing and sat down. Kang glared at all three of them but did not make any attempt to stop her, or do anything that might be considered threatening.

Kirk had Chekov sit down facing Mara, but decided to remain standing as long as Kang did.

Mara began explaining the situation to Chekov that since his intent had not been to simply capture her, that, under Klingon law and tradition, he had laid claim to her. She also explained that he couldn't just return her without insulting Kang.

She went on that if Chekov kept her, then Kang and his entire family would be forced to find and kill her to restore family honor. She also explained that under other circumstances she could restore her honor by escaping or killing him. However, the current situation did not lend itself to that since they had already shown that she was free to leave whenever she wanted. So there was no honor in escaping from a prison with no bars or in killing a jailer who would let her go anyway.

The next option put forth was that Chekov proceed with the attempted rape. Her ability to either successfully defend herself against the attack or be able to show proof that she put up the best fight she could and was still overpowered would allow her to be returned without necessitating Kang seeking vengeance. But he had to really try and force himself on her or honor would not be salvaged.

Chekov responded to that alternative by saying, "My honor does not permit me to force myself on a woman, no matter how beautiful she is or how much I may desire her. As it is, I am thoroughly ashamed of myself even though it was the entity made me act that way. I promise to do whatever it takes to make up for my actions towards you, dear lady."

Obviously touched by this unexpected kindness, Mara said, "You should be careful what you promise Ensign. There are no easy paths to restoring Klingon honor. You may yet have to risk your life."

A bit nervously, but resolutely Chekov replied, "It will be an opportunity to restore my honor too."

Kirk's heart filled with pride at Chekov's statement. The young officer was showing that he knew how to take responsibility for one's actions and be accountable for them no matter what. If for no other reason than that he would make sure that Chekov would not have to pay for that lesson with his life.

Kirk also noticed that even Kang had been impressed by Chekov's resolve. The look of anger over the situation he found himself a party to softened a little and Kirk caught a glimpse of hope that an amicable settlement with honor could be achieved.

"Shall we move on to the next option?" asked Kirk.

The silence that followed that question couldn't have been more ominous than a warp core breach warning.

"There are more options, aren't there?" he queried hopefully.

It was Kang who answered, "Just one. Personal combat."

Before Kirk or Chekov could utter any of the questions forming in their minds, Mara started explaining.

"Since I have not yet been violated, Kang, as my husband and protector, may challenge Ensign Chekov's ...uh ...um ... suitability' to consummate his carnal attack against me."

Kirk and Chekov looked at each other, and had the situation not been so serious would have probably burst out laughing. The fact that Kang would have to question Chekov's manhood, of all things, in order to pick a fight to get his wife back was a bit absurd on the face of it when more obvious reasons for challenge existed. A laugh would have been a good way to relieve the heavy tension that had been building, but there was still the matter of what the rules were for the personal combat. Until those were known, having Chekov try to consummate the rape he started under the entity's control might actually be the lesser of all the evils.

"Is the combat to the death?" Kirk asked.

"Yes," replied Kang.

"Usually," replied Mara at the same time.

**To be continued in next edition. ....**