



# Mississippi Current



December 2014



## Captain's Log

Cpt. Rose Ciccarone

I hope you all had an enjoyable Holiday season and had time to do the things you deem important. As well as sharing time with family and friends the Mighty M. crew spent a few hours together and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was a bit of respite from all the hustle and bustle that comes with the holidays.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take a minute to thank each and every member of the crew for the time and the effort you've put into the club this year. (and years past) Your efforts are what make the ship fly! You all deserve a pat on the back for another year well done!

Now let's get ready to do it again!!

The next meeting will be Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. We'll be at the EASTERN AVE. Branch Library, 6000 Eastern Ave. Davenport.

This meeting is important to all members as we will discuss all plans for the upcoming year.



## Words of Wisdom

It is necessary to have purpose.

-Alice #1



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### The XO Files

Cmdr. Ed Ciccarone:

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Please join me in welcoming Lieutenant Jg. Joyce Stanfield to the U.S.S. Mighty Mississippi. She has been a member of Starfleet Command for quite some time, serving as an Operations officer on Starbase 04. Because there are no ships in her local geographic area, she has transferred to the U.S.S. Mighty Mississippi as a “long distance” member. I am confident she will continue to execute her duties with honor. Joyce will surely be an asset to the Mighty M., and we are delighted that she has chosen to serve with us. Welcome aboard, Joyce!



Speaking of new members, it is my pleasure to announce that the U.S.S. Mighty Mississippi has received the 3<sup>rd</sup> place award for unit recruitment in 2014. This award is for recruiting new members to Starfleet Command. Congratulations, Mighty M!!



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## CommCenter

### Introductions

Lt.Jg Joyce Stanfield



### **Greetings Starfleet Command,**

I'm now happily assigned to the USS Mighty Mississippi, Capt. Rose Ciccarone, commanding.

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1947, I have lived in Kansas City, Missouri, Gary, Indiana, Muskegon County Michigan, and am now a part time resident of Manhattan's Upper West Side while maintaining a permanent residence in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

My undergraduate degree is from Lincoln University (Missouri). I hold a Master's Degree from Michigan State University with additional study at Indiana State and the University of Michigan. I ended my 41- year teaching career in 2009 having taught Math, Science, and Social Studies in Missouri, Indiana, Michigan, and Arkansas, mostly at the intermediate and middle school levels.

I have a daughter and son-in-law (who spoil me terribly) and two grandsons. Max is six and Zach is four. Wonderful and a workout!

My love affair with all things Trek began in 1966 when I was a college sophomore. The dream of attending a Star Trek convention wasn't realized until June of 2013. It came as a gift from my kids. I joined SFCQ1 the following month. It has been and continues to be a fantastic journey.

Most important in my life is first of all my family. The KAIROS prison ministry, Fitness, MSU football, The Humane Society, the Arts, and all things Trek round out my interests.

When asked what I plan to do in retirement my response is: play with my grandbabies, take care of my Shiba, Athena, play the penny slots, and go to my Star Trek conventions.

Lt. Jg. Joyce Stanfield



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## RecDec

### Starbase Indy 2014

Lt. Jg. Joyce Stanfield

Fortieth Anniversary for SFCQ1, and a First for me!

Starbase Indy was the first fan-run convention I've ever attended. It was as well planned, as organized and as interesting as those put on by professional organizations. The difference for me was that it was not just family friendly, it was family oriented. Additionally, it included fans of several science fiction movies/series; a good eclectic mix. The activities covered an array of topics. Everything from a workshop for Newbies (welcoming to folks like me) to an animal rescue venue (also dear to my heart) was available.

There was a Con Suite offered by Starbase Indy and a 3-Day Room hosted by SFCQ1. Added to that hospitality, a clean, affordable hotel with amenities, food and beverages in the organizations' two rooms and one has a convention experience on a budget.

Celebrity guests offered the usual photo ops and autographs but in keeping with the warm feeling tone unique to Starbase Indy, sat and shared a meal with fans that wanted to participate in that activity. In that same spirit one of the guests came on stage and performed at karaoke.

Highlights for me were participating in my Captain's vows renewal (thank you Rose and Ed), and the holodeck dance featuring Five Year Mission; and dinner out with a local Klingon group, followed by a visit to Barfleet's party.

My treasured keepsakes are my photo I had taken with the Admiralty Board (how cool is that?) and my bridesmaid bouquet. Also, the memory of the camaraderie experienced with my Starfleet family that I met face to face (instead of Facebook) for the first time.





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## New Technologies

Submitted by Ed Ciccarone

### Gecko-inspired adhesive enables people to scale buildings

By Walter Bonner

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FoxNews.com



Stanford graduate student Elliot Hawkes demonstrates a new hand-sized gecko-inspired adhesive device that allows a human to climb a glass wall like a gecko. (Elliot Hawkes, Biomimetics and Dexterous Manipulation Lab Center for Design Research, Stanford University)

Researchers at Stanford have invented a gecko-inspired climbing system that may enable the average Joe to scale walls like Spider-Man. The device, developed by engineer Mark Cutkosky and his team, consists of two hand-sized sticky-pads and foot platforms that are attached by cables. Researcher Elliot Hawkes demonstrated the device's effectiveness by climbing a vertical glass wall. The team's findings were published Nov. 19 in the Journal of the Royal Society Interface.

"It's kind of a magical feeling, because it feels like somehow you've hooked onto glass," Hawkes, a graduate student in mechanical engineering, told FoxNews.com. "That's not really possible, so it feels really crazy."

Known for their sticky feet, geckos are able to scale walls and ceilings using setae, which are microscopic bristles that generate an electronic force between a surface and the lizard's toes. This lets a gecko to stick and unstick its feet as it shifts its weight on a surface. Scientists have been



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working with gecko-based adhesives for over a decade, but it wasn't until now that they have been able to develop the synthetic material needed to support a human's weight.

Cutkosky and his team solved this problem by first creating thousands of microscopic wedges made of silicone. These wedges, which act as synthetic setae, are then placed onto panels roughly the size of postage stamps that are then positioned on hand-sized plates and connected to springs, ensuring even weight distribution. Finally, the hand plates are attached by cables to platforms for a person's feet, which in turn shift most of the weight to the legs.

Having the legs do the heavy lifting was the team's aim for the device, though it didn't start out that way.

"Our initial design was based upon how the gecko climbs, [which is] with its upper body, mostly. It pulls itself up a wall with its front legs, which are kind of like our arms," Hawkes said. "I know one rock climber that can do that- climb up a wall without [using] his legs, but it's not very easy."

The system was designed with this difficulty in mind.

"I didn't want something that could only be used by a professional rock climber," he added. "We designed it so that you could use your legs to do the climbing."

The hand-pads themselves aren't sticky to the touch and, unlike suction cups, require minimal muscle power to use.

"That's the cool thing about this adhesive," Hawkes said. "It works how the gecko's [feet] work- it can basically turn on and off. When I put my weight on the adhesive, it turns on, and when I take the weight off, it turns off. It makes it really nice to climb with it - there's no struggling to get it off the wall or anything."

The researchers also believe the new "controllable adhesive" may serve another purpose ridding the galaxy of space-junk. Right now, there is a multitude of "dead" satellites that have been shut down orbiting the earth, taking up space where new satellites could go. These satellites are difficult to grab - they're mostly comprised of non-magnetic material and so far glue and other materials haven't been able to do the trick. However, this may change with the new kid in town.

"This gecko adhesive actually works in a space environment," Hawkes asserted. "NASA's tested it at their facility in Pasadena. It works in all of those conditions, [such as in] a vacuum and cold temperature. We've tested it in radiation... Hopefully a few years out it could actually happen."

The Stanford team hopes that the adhesive can be used to latch onto dead satellites before flinging them into a higher "graveyard" orbit, or towards Earth where they'll burn up in the atmosphere.

Still, when will the everyman be able to climb walls with some cool gecko gloves like the ones used by Tom Cruise in Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol? According to Hawkes, it may be soon.

"We've been contacted by a rock climbing entrepreneur who wants to build climbing gloves with the technology," Hawkes said. "It wouldn't be so much for climbing up a sheer face, but [for] climbing up something you could almost climb as a rock climber, but can't quite do it. Then you get these gloves with the extra adhesion, and now you can climb things you've never climbed before. That would definitely be available to the public."



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## Trekiverse



Pictured shared By Gary Barclay

### \*A Star Trek Christmas

(Author Unknown)

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the ship,  
Not a circuit was buzzing, not one microchip;  
The phasers were hung in the armory securely,  
In hope that no aliens would get up that early.

The crewmen were nestled all snug in their bunks  
(Except for the few who were partying drunks);  
And Picard in his nightshirt and Bev in her place,  
Had just settled down from the day's rat race.

When out in the halls there arose such a racket,  
That we leapt from our beds, pulling on pants and jacket.  
Away to the lifts we all shot like a gun,  
Leapt into the cars and yelled loudly, "Deck One!".



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The bridge Red-Alert lights, which flashed through the din,  
Gave a luster of Hades to objects within.  
When, what, on the viewscreen, should our eyes behold,  
But a weird kind of sleigh, and some geek who looked old.  
But the glint in his eyes was so strange and askew,  
That we knew in a moment it had to be Q.

His sleigh grew much larger as closer he came.  
Then he zapped on the bridge and addressed us by name;  
"It's Riker! It's Data! It's Worf and Jean-Luc!  
It's Geordi! And Wesley, the genetic fluke!  
To the top of the bridge, to the top of the hall!  
Now float away, float away, float away all!

As leaves in autumn are whisked off the street,  
So the floor of the bridge came away from our feet,  
And up to the ceiling our bodies they flew,  
As the captain called out, "What the hell is this Q?!".  
The prankster just laughed and expanded his grin,  
And, snapping his fingers, he vanished again.

As we took in our plight and were looking around,  
The spell was removed, and we crashed to the ground.  
Then Q, dressed in fur from his head to his toe,  
Appeared once again to continue the show.

"That's enough!" cried the captain, "You'll stop this at once!",  
And Riker said, "Worf! Take your aim at this dunce!"  
"I'm deeply offended, Jean-Luc," replied Q.  
"I just wanted to spend Christmas with you."

As we scoffed at his words, he produced a large sack.  
He dumped out the contents, and took a step back.  
"I've brought gifts," he said, "just to show I'm sincere.  
There's something delightful for everyone here."  
He sat on the floor and dug into the pile,  
And handed out gifts with his most charming smile.



## *Mississippi Current*



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"For Counselor Troi, there's no need to explain,  
Here's Tylenol-Beta for all of your pain.  
For Worf I've got mints as his breath's not too great,  
And for Geordi LaForge, an inflatable date.

For Data, a joke book; for Riker, a truss.  
For Wesley, some hormones, and Clearasil-Plus;  
For Beverly Crusher, a promotion and fur,  
And for Jean-Luc, the thrill of serving with her."

Then he sprang to his feet with that grin on his face,  
And, clapping his hands, disappeared into space.  
But we heard him exclaim as he dwindled from sight,  
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good flight!!"