CenterSeat Comments – Looking Forward to Future Events This Year

By RADM Mike Stein

Hi everyone, I hope everyone is staying warm and comfy. All the snow we’ve been having (I know I’ve had enough already) has led me to thinking about future events that are now in the works in which we can all participate (without all the snow).

The first event coming up soon is Farpoint 21 at the Crown Plaza Baltimore North in Timonium, MD, February 14th – 16th (farpointcon.com). I haven’t gone in the past since you never know how the weather is going to turn out. The last thing I would want to do is drive in a snow storm or in bad weather for four hours or more. I’m sure this con is going to be a lot of fun but there are a lot of other cons coming up this year to which I want to go.

Once all the snow has melted and the weather has changed in April, you’ll know it’s time for Creation’s STAR TREK Con at the Crown Plaza in Cherry Hill, NJ, April 25th – 27th (creationent.com/cal/st_philly.html). I’ve been to the last two of these events and have had a great time there. The guest list for this includes: Terry Ferrell, Kate Mulgrew, James Darren, Nichelle Nichols, Robert Beltran and many others. I hope to get a photo op this time with Terry Farrell and James Darren and have them sign the photos as well. Like I said there will be many other guests there, so please see if you can put this con on your schedule, you won’t regret it.

The next event coming up is a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City (www.metmuseum.org). Danny is taking the lead on this one and we’re looking at an early June date on a weekend to go there. We haven’t been to NYC as a group since last year when we visited the Hayden Planetarium at the Museum of Natural History. So keep note of this as one of our future events, I’m sure we’ll have a lot to see there and do. Also, on June 14th is the NY Comic Fest in Westchester County Center (www.nycomicfest.com); and going on at the same time as this is the Eternal Con at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, NY, June 14th – 15th (www.eternalcon.com). Another con in June is Wizard World Comic Con in Philadelphia, PA, June 19th – 22nd (www.wizardworld.com/home-pa.html). I believe Danny and Alycia may be going to this one and if you do please take photos for our newsletter. Also, either in June or July we’ll be having our pre-Shore Leave BBQ at a place TBD.

To submit articles, pictures, etc. please send to ImpulseReadings@gmail.com and put Impulse Readings in the subject.

For pictures please include a text file with information about the photo and the photographer’s name.

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This August has two great events coming up. Shore Leave 36 (shore-leave.com) and the STARFLEET’s International Conference at the Clock Tower Resort & Convention Center in Rockford, IL August 8th – 10th (ic2014.com). One thing that makes this IC interesting is that there is an indoor water park in the hotel. If anyone knows of any other hotels that have one of those please tell me now. Just about everyone has been to Shore Leave and knows what to expect. Still, that’s a great event you don’t want to miss. Of course I expect we’ll be having our annual ship picnic at Lake Parsippany Park in August as well.

Coming in October is our Region 7 Conference in Binghamton, NY. More details about this will follow, but what’s interesting about this is that our baby ship the USS SERLING is hosting this event for the region. For those that aren’t aware we had a paint ball event with Shatner near Binghamton, NY a number of years ago and there also was a STAR TREK Con going on at the same time and naturally Bill was there too.

I’m sure there will be other events and cons going on besides the ones I’ve briefly mentioned. So think about the future months ahead and what’s planned and that will hopefully brighten your day. 🎄

**December Meetup – ’Twas The Week Before Christmas Eve And Star Trek Fans Meet**

By CMDR Maria Fricke

For this pre Christmas meetup on Tuesday, December 17th seven people congregated at the Versailles Diner. As in past years the diner was nicely decorated for the holidays. We had a first timer in attendance, Jan, and he hopes to come back in the future.

We spoke a bit about the television series STARGATE SG-1 and STARGATE: ATLANTIS. David Hewlett who played the character of McKay was a recurring character in the former and a co-star in the latter. His real sister, Kate Hewlett played McKay’s sister in a few episodes of STARGATE: ATLANTIS. Both actors attended Shore Leave a few years ago.

Next we discussed the Superman and Batman comic books. Some wondered how close Metropolis and Gotham are. David put forward that he always felt that Metropolis was New York City, while Gotham was Newark, NJ. Since in the WORLD’S FINEST comic book series (a long standing Superman/Batman team-up comic), they were shown to be very close, in fact there is a bridge between them. Yet they obviously are different cities with different police commissioners and mayors. New York City is more bright and optimistic like Metropolis while Newark is grim and gritty like Gotham.

I mentioned that China’s first ever rover, Yutu (translation: Jade Rabbit), just soft landed on the Moon on Saturday, December 14th. The last soft landing on the Moon was back in 1976. China is now the third country in the world to successfully land a spacecraft on the Moon after the United States and the then Soviet Union.
We then discussed the STAR TREK THE ANIMATED SERIES, aka TAS. The holodeck first appeared in this series. David mentioned a story Nichelle Nichols related about the episode The Lorelei Signal. She explained that for the animated series the actor receives the script and a recorder; so wherever they are the actor will read their lines and record them. In this particular episode all the male characters are under the influence of an alien signal and no longer can mentally focus on their duties. So the women have to crew the Enterprise. Nichelle was recording her lines, she reached a certain line where she speaks to Scotty and doesn't quite give it the correct reading as she says: “I am TAKING COMMAND OF THE SHIP!!!!!!”. This was the first time she was in charge; even Ensign Chekov had a turn at command before Lieutenant Uhura!

The next thing that we discussed was the different fan made STAR TREK films/episodes. I mentioned STAR TREK NEW VOYAGES which continued with the last two years of the five year mission. Currently, it has transitioned into STAR TREK PHASE II, which was the name of the proposed new TV series before Paramount decided to make STAR TREK: THE MOTION PICTURE. David mentioned a for-profit Finnish feature-length production that he viewed (with subtitles) at Shore Leave a few years ago, STAR WRECK: IN THE PIRKINNING. Since it is parody they don't have to worry about copyright infringement and can make money. It is definitely for mature audiences.

We finished the evening with talking a bit about SF and Fantasy TV series that are now on broadcast television stations. David and I watch ALMOST HUMAN (co-starring Karl Urban), MARVEL’S AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D., ARROW and ONCE UPON A TIME. Some others that seem to be doing well are SLEEPY HOLLOW and THE TOMORROW PEOPLE.

The next meetup is on Tuesday, January 28th at the Versailles Diner. 🍽️

**SecondSeat Ravings – Time And (Christmas) Tide Wait For No Man Or The Doctor**

By CAPT David Fricke

The 2013 DOCTOR WHO Christmas episode, The Time of the Doctor marks the swan song of Matt Smith as the Eleventh Doctor. The episode did not disappoint. It opens with a narration about an ordinary planet that one day sends out a signal to all of time and space. None can translate the signal but it inspires fear in every being that hears it. The planet is quickly surrounded by spaceships from a myriad of species. We get to see the Eleventh Doctor interact with old favorites such as the Daleks, Sontarans and Cybermen; including one Cyberman made out of wood (does this make him a Wood Tinsman?). Prior to the episode the Doctor acquired a new “partial” companion, the head of a Cyberman (no organics, just circuitry) whom he calls Handles. We also have an amusing interlude with the Doctor pretending to be Clara’s boyfriend at Christmas dinner with her parents and grandmother. I guess in Britain a lot of eccentricities can be covered if you say you are Swedish. We also finally get to see the Papal Mainframe, the giant church/spaceship/headquarters of the Church Militant, and its leader the Mother Superious; who turns out to be an old girlfriend of the Doctor. The origin of the Silence is explained. They are a group who split from the Church Militant and are led by Madame Kovarian who went back in time to kill the Doctor. The Doctor defends a town called Christmas from the Daleks for several hundred years. He appears significantly but realistically aged. After Clara takes another time jump in the TARDIS the Doctor is now much older (kudos to the DOCTOR WHO makeup staff, Matt Smith’s old age makeup looks extremely realistic). The Doctor explains to Clara that he is on the verge of dying of old age. Clara responds that he will just regenerate. He replies that counting the War Doctor and the time the Tenth Doctor regenerated keeping the same appearance, he is now the 13th and final incarnation of the Doctor. However as he is dying the Time Lords reach through a crack in the universe and give the Doctor more regenerations. As he regenerates he uses the energy to destroy the Daleks. During the regeneration process he bounces back to his youthful appearance and then transforms into the Twelfth Doctor played by Peter Capaldi, who asks Clara, “Do you know how to fly this thing?”. 🍽️