



# TRINITY RIVER EXPRESS

July/August 2003  
Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter for the Shuttle Trinity River, NCC-74663/04 • Proud member of Region Three, Starfleet International

## A message to the members of Region Three:

Effective SD 10306.12 [12 June 2003], it is my pleasure to announce the launching of the Shuttle Trinity River, NCC-74663/04, under the command of CO FCPT Robyn A. Winans and XO FCPT Elizabeth Weber off of the USS Bethel, NCC-74663, under the command of COMM Joy Flynt.

Please join me in welcoming the officers and crew of the Shuttle Trinity River to the Third Fleet.

(signed)  
**Admiral Brad Pense**  
Commander, Third Fleet

## Robyn's Ramblings

by FCPT Robyn A. Winans, Commanding Officer

Welcome to the first edition of the *Trinity River Express*, our new shuttle's newsletter. The shuttle Trinity River was commissioned on June 12, 2003, and formally recognized at the Region 3 Summit.

Chapters in Starfleet start as shuttles and work their way through the program to become commissioned starships. The process normally takes nine months to a year but some shuttles make it in six months. This is our goal.

We have a great start and a great crew. In addition to myself, Executive Officer Elizabeth Weber, Chief of Operations Erik Cowand, Navigator Linda Patton, and Chief Medical Officer Jan Agee have all been members of other chapters or starships in Starfleet.

We are old hands at working together and playing together. Science Officer Debbie Winters has spent a year with us on the USS Bethel. Regional Vessel Adjutant Ed Dravecky has been involved with other science fiction clubs and activities for many years. In fact, Ed has been given an away mission to the World Science Fiction Convention in Toronto this Labor Day weekend. He'll report back on the state of SF around the globe and let us know about all the fun we missed.

We'll be doing a lot of great things in the next six to nine months as we work to become a commissioned starship. Jump on in to the Trinity River and join us as we play together and help our local communities.



## Shuttle Welcomes Jennifer Lien Volunteers help out, recruit at Sci-Fi Expo

On July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, the crew of the Shuttle Trinity River volunteered to help run the Sci-Fi Expo at the Richardson Civic Center in Richardson, Texas. Special guests of the Expo included *Star Trek Voyager's* Jennifer Lien, Adrian & Neil Rayment (*The Matrix* Twins), Kenny Baker, Daniel Logan, Jeremy Bulloch, Bonnie Piesse (all from various *Star Wars* episodes), and other genre actors and comic book artists.

continued, see AWAY MISSION REPORTS on Page 4

### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

<b>Ops Report by Erik Cowand</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Hop Aboard the Express</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Q-Tips by XO Elizabeth Weber</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Away Mission Reports</b>	<b>4</b>

## OPS Report

by COL Erik Cowand, Chief of Operations

Hello, and welcome to the Operations Department of the Shuttle Trinity River! Let me introduce myself. My name is Erik Cowand and I am the chief of operations.

What I do is to maintain the database for the chapter, keep track of the points for promotion, and essentially keep all information filed for future use. I am also the Deputy Officer in Charge (or DOIC) of the new Marine Strike Group for the chapter. I hold the rank of Colonel (just promoted at Summit!) and also have a lot of information regarding the Marines.

Back to Operations: Next, what I also do is to make sure everybody gets the points they deserve from the activities they participate in. What I need to make sure that you get the points you deserve is documentation. If you passed a class at the Academy, make a copy and give it to me at the meetings or scan it in as a JPG file and e-mail it to me at ops@usstrinityriver.org. If you attend a convention, make a copy of the ticket and give it to me or submit it via e-mail. It's as easy as that! To get credit for attending a chapter meeting, be sure to sign the list I pass around for attendance records.

So, if you have any questions, please e-mail or call me. I will make sure that I can either answer the question or point you to someone who can.



## Happy Birthday, Elizabeth!

Shuttle Trinity River members gathered on July 12<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the birthday of executive officer Elizabeth Weber. The crew was joined by members of her former ship (and our parent vessel) the USS Bethel as well as friends from several other chapters.

While the editorial policy of the *Express* is to never ask a woman's age for any reason, Elizabeth was sporting a button that read "40 and Over the Hill." Commanding officer Robyn Winans strongly denied that her executive officer was over the hill.

The staff at Carrabba's Italian Grill in Plano, Texas, was very friendly and remarkably efficient, even in the face of this rowdy bunch. Alisa, our waitress, earns

extra-high marks for surprising Elizabeth with a birthday dessert and a rousing version of what we believe was "Happy Birthday" in Italian. (Our universal translator had fallen in the marinara sauce so we can't be sure.)

In the picture above, from left to right, are shuttle crew members Jan Agee, Greg Lane, and Elizabeth Weber, plus Alisa our tireless waitress, that yummy birthday dessert, and USS Bethel executive officer Byron Flynt.

## Hop Aboard the Express

by Ed Dravecky, Editor and Communications Officer

Welcome to the official newsletter of the newest member of Region Three, the Shuttle Trinity River. The shuttle takes its name from the sprawling waterway that unites the Dallas area in the same way we hope to unite fans across the area. The newsletter's name reflects this goal as well as a desire to keep you informed in a fast and efficient manner while still having fun.

Submissions to the *Express* should be made via e-mail at our shuttle address, express@usstrinityriver.org, or in person to the editor at shuttle events. The deadline for submission for the next issue is printed at the bottom of all even page numbers. For the September/October issue this will be August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Issues will be distributed six times per year at monthly chapter meetings. A small fee may apply if you would prefer to receive your newsletter by mail. Contact the *Express* at the above e-mail address for more subscription information. Address corrections should be made to ops@usstrinityriver.org so that Erik may update your records in the shuttle database.

## Q-Tips

by FCPT Elizabeth Weber, Executive Officer

Did you know there was a previous Dallas-based *Star Trek* club? It was called the USS Gagarin, an Oberth-class science survey ship.

The club started out with just six members and the CO at her launch was very hard to contact. This is the first lesson to be learned: Always keep open strong lines of communication. This CO was always so late in turning in the shuttle's VRR that this task fell to the XO. This is the second lesson: Always have a backup person for paperwork should real life get in your way.

When the time had come for the shuttle to be commissioned as a starship, the CO had vanished. The XO became CO *bona facto* and went on to build the Gagarin up to 25 members. When most of these crew members showed up at the Regional Olympics, people were shocked because they thought that the XO was the only active member because so few other members attended events. This is the third lesson: Coordinate your schedules so members can attend regional events.

The crew of the Gagarin went on to help with regional away missions to children's hospitals, build floats for parades and march alongside, and even helped with the video room at Tex-Trek. They did trash pickups, built models and entered model contests. And now they are no more.

These are the things I want the crew of the Shuttle Trinity River to take note of. Don't be wallflowers! Get out and be part of the group, work with your CO and XO and department head, and be part of any Away Mission or regional event you can.

Elsewhere on this page, you will find a number of fun events in which you can participate and participation will keep this club strong. It can even help you advance in rank—but you will have to wait for Erik's column in the next issue to learn more about that. Be sure to visit the Shuttle Trinity River website frequently as this newsletter is only published six times a year and we want this to be a 365/24/7 kind of club.

-a note from your Editor

## Upcoming Events

for August and September 2003

**Thursday, July 31st through Sunday, August 3rd:** STARFLEET's 2003 International Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. CO Robyn Winans will be in attendance. She has promised to bring back photos and stories for those of us not making the trip.

**Friday, August 1st through Sunday, August 3rd:** Crescent City Con at the Best Western Landmark Hotel in Metairie, Louisiana. This New Orleans-area convention features Larry Niven, Robert Asprin, and Larry Elmore as guests. For more information call 504-488-0489, e-mail [ccno@aol.com](mailto:ccno@aol.com), or visit their website at <http://crescentcitycon.com/cc/>

**Saturday, August 16th:** Region Three's 5th Annual Pool and Darts Tournament will again be held at the Killeen/Heights Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #2179. As always, the Region will coordinate with the Lodge so we can enjoy their wonderful steak dinner night. The Lodge is located at 125 W. Veterans Memorial Blvd in Harker Heights. For info about this event, e-mail FCPT Stephanie IZARD ([vops@region3.com](mailto:vops@region3.com)) or FCPT Richard Getz ([texas@region3.com](mailto:texas@region3.com)).

**Monday, September 8th:** 37th anniversary of *Star Trek's* first episode.

**Wednesday, September 10th:** *Enterprise* returns for a third season at 7pm on KTXA (UPN 21) in D/FW.

**Saturday, October 4th:** (tentative) Region Three's 10th Annual Space Center Houston Trip plus the Top Gun tournament and a charity raffle of NASA goodies to aid the region. More details on the website.

### You say it's your birthday? It's their birthday, too!

**July 29th:** Wil Wheaton (Wesley Crusher on *Star Trek: TNG*)

**August 19th:** Jonathan Frakes (William Riker on *Star Trek: TNG*) and Diana Muldaur (Kate Pulaski on *Star Trek: TNG*)

**August 24th:** Jennifer Lien (Kes on *Voyager*)

**August 28th:** Gates McFadden (Beverly Crusher on *Star Trek: TNG*)

**September 11th:** Roxann Dawson (B'Elanna Torres on *Voyager*)

**September 14th:** Walter Koenig (Pavel Chekov on *Star Trek*)

**October 2nd:** Avery Brooks (Benjamin Sisko on *Deep Space Nine*)

## Away Mission Reports

### Shuttle Welcomes Jennifer Lien, continued

Members helped out with guest escorts, registration, security, and the distribution of 'freebies' to the attendees. The Expo provided us with a table for recruiting and we made many new friends over the weekend. We were also generously given the opportunity to pose for a photo with Jennifer Lien. More photos can be seen on the Shuttle website.

### Shuttle Launched at Region Three Summit Friday, June 20th through Sunday, June 22nd:

Shuttle Trinity River was formally launched at the Region 3 Summit in College Station, Texas. Four members made the trip: Robyn Winans, Erik Cowand, Jan Agee, and Ed Dravecky. Several members were promoted, given commendations, and recognized for their hard work and dedication over the past year.



Jan and Lobo are ready for action at Summit 2003 in Bryan, Texas

The region was also introduced to Lobo, the ship's mascot. Lobo was so named for the class of ship being built to be commissioned as the USS Trinity River. Lobo was rescued from captivity at a Dallas Dave and Buster's restaurant after crew members pooled their game tickets during the CO's birthday party to come up with the 1200 required for his release.

### Fun on the Fourth with Food and Friends Friday, July 4th:

Shuttle Trinity River celebrated Independence Day with a cookout hosted by CO Robyn Winans. Hotdogs and hamburgers were accompanied by dishes brought by crew members like homemade coleslaw and fresh-grilled corn. Fun and fellowship were accompanied by some ship's business as this was also the July shuttle meeting. Several promotions of crew members who did not attend Summit were made and Robyn made a presentation of tokens of office to her staff to celebrate the new shuttle.



Debbie gets her lab kit as our science officer

Cadet Crewman Cain D. Winans was in attendance for the first time and was described by his crewmates as "so pretty" and "such a good boy." Cadet Winans had no comment but did appear to enjoy the hotdogs very much. More photos of this and every Shuttle event are available on the Shuttle Trinity River website in the "Away Missions" section.

*Trinity River Express* is the official newsletter for the Shuttle Trinity River, NCC-74663/04, a proud member of Region Three of STARFLEET, the international *Star Trek* fan club. The views in this newsletter represent those of the individual authors and may not represent the views of Shuttle Trinity River or its parent organizations. This newsletter is published six times each year and all content is original but may not be exclusive to this publication. All photos in this publication were taken by Ed Dravecky, your humble editor, or Robyn Winans, CO of the Shuttle, unless otherwise credited. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is always printed at the bottom of every even page. We welcome submissions because it's really really hard to write all of this stuff ourselves. This newsletter features regular columns by department heads, news of upcoming events, away mission reports, and other stuff of interest to members. Special thanks to Elizabeth Weber for her invaluable assistance in the creation of this issue.

• The final submission deadline for the September/October 2003 newsletter is August 14<sup>th</sup>. Don't be late! •