



# TRINITY RIVER EXPRESS

September/October 2003  
Volume 1, Issue 2

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

## Region Three to Host Starfleet's 2005 International Conference

Starfleet, the international *Star Trek* fan club, has accepted Region Three's bid to host the 2005 Starfleet International Conference. The winning bid was announced August 1<sup>st</sup> at the 2003 IC in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Pat Spillers, Region Three's Chief of Operations, led the bid process and will head the conference committee. There is a lot of work to be done over the next two years as we prepare to host the world at "Fiesta Trek" in San Antonio. There will also be plenty of volunteer opportunities for all members during the July 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, conference. Region Three will announce more details over the coming months. For now, we congratulate Pat and her team on a hard-won victory.



## Q-Tips

by FCPT Elizabeth Weber, Executive Officer

Our history lesson for this issue deals with cooperation amongst the crew. Many years ago, when I was a member of the Gagarin, I volunteered to help a group from a different ship put together a float for a Fourth of July parade.

We gathered at a member's home to design the float, a creation I thought at the time was a bit too ambitious—the bridge from the Enterprise, with all the back panels, chairs, and front control panels. Another member wanted to do something simple, a quilt-like blanket showing the first lunar landing, along with large paper strips showing all the Apollo Patches. I helped this member with the quilt and paper strips. Drawing and painting the patches was great fun for me and helped further my artistic training.

When it came down to the wire, the set was only partly built, and the quilt was completed along with the large paper strips. What was completed was thrown together, and put on the back of a trailer, and thus it was a float. Not exactly what everyone envisioned, but it was pulled off by the fact there were stage sets borrowed from another ship that were incorporated into the float.

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## Away Mission Reports

### Trek: That Starts With 'T' and That Rhymes With 'P' and That Stands For Pool (and Darts)

On Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, Region Three held its fifth annual pool and darts tournament at Killeen/Heights Moose Lodge #2179 in Harker Heights, Texas. The eight sectors of the region faced off in challenging darts contests like cricket and 801 plus standard pool games of 8-ball and 9-ball. Shuttle CO Robyn Winans filled out a team for Sector Five and help propel them to victory in the darts tournament. Communications Officer Ed Dravecky nursed an injured heel but took a few photos to share the fun with those who could not attend.

The third Saturday of every month is steak night at the Moose lodge and the members once again generously let us participate. A big, juicy steak with salad, corn, and a baked potato were enjoyed by most in attendance. The whole meal was a thrifty \$8. We look forward to our next visit next year and we hope to see you there as well.

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## Plotting the Right Course

by ENS Linda Patton, Navigator

My name is Linda Patton and I am the Navigator for the Shuttle Trinity River. As navigator, I have several different responsibilities.

In addition to the obvious, which is keeping everything on track and headed in the right direction per orders from my CO, I also keep the crew advised of where the next meeting is to be held and how to get there. That can be a lot harder than it sounds, considering the crew live all over the metroplex, and may be more familiar with some parts than others.

We have crew from Garland, North Dallas, Mesquite, Allen, and Plano, to name a few. Throw in the fact that most of the main roads to anywhere are either old winding cattle trails (Belt Line, Preston, and Northwest Highway are a few examples) or under construction (Central Expressway and I-635/LBJ being the outstanding candidates here) and you can see that plotting a smooth course to a meeting or event can be tricky.

One of the things you will see in this column will be where we meet, when we meet, and how to get there. Another one is special event planning (i.e. *parties!*) as this crew loves to have fun. I also have the privilege in being part of the volunteer committee in organizing events for our chosen charity, the North Texas Food Bank. This seemed like the most logical choice since, as I said before, Trinity River crew members are from all over the metroplex, so we can help in our own communities and still be part of the greater whole. Isn't that also part of being a member of Starfleet? So, if you'd like to join us at a future meeting or event, please let me or one of our other members know, and I will be sure you get clear, accurate and (hopefully) construction-free directions. Until next time, smooth sailing!

## OPS Report

by COL Erik Cowand, Chief of Operations

Well, hello, fellow crew members! We last left when I was telling about how to keep your points current. Today, I am going to be talking about a couple of subjects near and dear to my heart: Starfleet Academy and the Starfleet Marine Corps Academy. Being under doctor's orders to be putting around the house, I have had some time to take quite a few courses at the Starfleet Marine Corps Academy. It keeps my brain going, and I learn something new in the process.

Why is Erik talking about this in the Operation report, you ask? Well, may I point it out that an individual gets *points* from taking academy courses! Some of the courses are fun, too. You have the Cooking School, the School of Unusual Knowledge, and many others. To find descriptions of these courses, go to the STARFLEET website at <http://www.sfi.org/>.

While I am a little green under the gills, I am comforted by the fact that Shuttle Trinity River is the best shuttle there is! 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.

## Rat Tales

by COL Erik Cowand, DOIC, 325<sup>th</sup> MSG

Welcome to the Marine article. HOOOAH! The Shuttle's marine contingent finally has a name, and it is the River Rats, also known as the 325th MSG.

We take quite a bit of pride in our name, and, if you have seen the great drawings by Greg Lane and Liz Weber, you'd understand! That is our goal; to get a logo for the 325th MSG, and to actively recruit members when and where we can! We are also recruiting STARFLEET Special Operations personnel as well.

Get in touch with me if you are interested. We are also trying to get in touch with Toys For Tots so we can get involved with the Dallas area Marines so we can collect toys for needy children. Keep looking for further updates.

Well, that's about all for now, so God bless y'all, and take care!

## Security Officer's Report

by 2LT Robert Fritz, Security Officer

Hi, my name is Robert and I am your officer in charge of security on the Shuttle Trinity River. I also serve as the OIC of the 325<sup>th</sup> Marine Strike Group, the River Rats.

I want to thank everyone for being concerned about me when I was in the hospital. I look forward to many years of service with the club.

## Doctor's Notes

by CMDR Jan Agee, Chief Medical Officer

As I was setting up my tailor shop on the ship, I was also reminded that this article was due. My name is Jan Agee. I am CMO (Chief Medical Officer) of the Shuttle Trinity River. I am also the ship's tailor. I have found that both positions can be quite challenging and very fulfilling.

Most of y'all know of my husband, Allen, and my daughter, Heather. My daughter attends nursing school at Biola in La Mirada, CA. (I am very proud of her)

We have two cats, Kuni and Cookie who also live with us. In my other life, my hobbies are sewing, reading, quilting, and work. Work helps pay for the other hobbies.

Well, so long. It's back to work on the tailor shop.

## Science Officer's Report

by LTJG Debbie Winters, Science Officer

One of my passions is archaeology, especially Egyptian Archaeology and recently I was privileged to attend the Kimbell Art Museum's exhibit from the Cairo Museum titled, "The Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt."

This exhibit has the largest selection of Antiquities ever loaned by Egypt for exhibition in North America. Over 100 pieces illustrate the afterlife journey and burial practices of its people. The exhibit has some spectacular pieces and some unusual ones too like a reclining Osiris lying on her bell. (I never saw one of those before!)

You will be greeted at the beginning of the exhibit with a replica of a boat. You will also see many

examples of "colossus" statuary, jewelry, false door, furniture, canopic jars and bronzes.

Don't be disappointed there are no mummies. There is a mummy board and a sarcophagus ornately painted. And, at the end, is a replica of a tomb illustrating the Egyptian journey to the afterlife. Don't miss the baboon!

The exhibit will be on display until September 14<sup>th</sup> so get on over to Ft. Worth and spend the afternoon with Pharaohs. Call metro 817-654-1034 or visit their website at <http://www.kimbellart.org/> for more information on the exhibit.

## Upcoming Events

for September and October 2003

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

**Sunday, September 21st:** Our monthly meeting starts at 1:00pm. The meeting will be held at a location yet to be determined.

**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. After the NASA tour, dinner and social activities in the local area will follow.

**Sunday, October 19th:** Our monthly meeting starts at 1:00pm. The meeting will be held at a location yet to be determined.

**Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26th:** Dallas Comic Con at the Plano Centre in Plano, Texas. Guests include Anthony Daniels, Sala Baker, David Hedison, Warwick Davis, several other *Star Wars* actors, and many top comic book artists. There will be volunteer participation by the crew of the Shuttle Trinity River to help this event run more smoothly. Also, we will be collecting new toys for Toys For Tots at our recruiting table.

**Friday, October 31st:** Halloween. Put on a costume and go trick or treating!

**Sunday, November 16th:** Our monthly meeting starts at 1:00pm. The meeting will be held at a location yet to be determined.

## Away Mission Reports, continued

### *Extraordinary Sector One Movie Outing* Sunday, July 20th:

Robyn and Ed wrapped up their Fort Worth weekend that started with Quark's Casino (see the guest column at right) with the Sector One movie outing to see *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* at the United Artists Fossil Creek Stadium 11 in Fort Worth, Texas. COMM Joy Flynt, our sector leader, was also joined by USS Bethel XO Byron Flynt, Starfleet Marines Deputy Commandant BDR Aaron Murphy and his wife Kris, plus Region Three Chief of Operations VADM Pat Spillers.

Reviews for the film ranged from "excellent" to "worth the matinee" but all agreed that more Sector One movie outings should be planned.



### **Robyn and Pat's Big Adventure**

**Friday, August 1st through Sunday, August 3rd:**

Shuttle Trinity River CO Robyn Winans and Region Three Chief of Operations journeyed to STARFLEET's 2003 International Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the Holiday Inn-Airport in Greensboro. Their entire two-week adventure is detailed on the "Robyn and Pat's Big Adventure" page on our website.

## Guest Away Mission Report

by Alan Goulet, USS Comanche

The Quark's Casino and Auction on July 19th, 2003, was a great event. I would like to thank all those who came out to support the Big Cats in Boyd Texas. A special thanks to the Trinity River, Klingons, and members of the Comanche who showed up. The event raised a total of \$400.00 which was match by myself, for a final amount of \$800.00. The money raise was delivered to the Big Cats on July 26.

To give you an idea what the money can do here are some examples: it can feed a tiger for 8 months or a cougar for almost 11 months. The money will do good work toward caring for the cats.

We have a total of 68 exotic cats on the property. To get there you take I-35 north to Hwy 287 and get off at Hwy 114. Turn left at the stop sign and go about 6 miles to the Sanctuary (on your right). We have tours on Saturdays and Sundays at about 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. The tours last about 2 1/2 hours and you are told the story behind how each cat came to the sanctuary. You will need to have a good pair of walking shoes for taking the tour. You will also be asked for a donation before you take the tour (if you are so inclined).

Come out for a visit and see what your money is being used for at the sanctuary. You can also see some of the cats if you go to the website: <http://www.bigcat.org/>

## Q-Tips, continued

The lesson is don't take a project on that is too large or that everybody can't contribute to. Also, make sure the project is centrally located, where everybody can easily help. Lastly, help other ships if you have the time or resources, they in return may help you or your ship with a project.

*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 is a lot of work to write all of this stuff ourselves. This newsletter features news of upcoming events, away mission reports, columns by department heads, and lots of other stuff of interest to our members. Special thanks to Pat Spillers for her invaluable assistance in the creation of this issue.