

# Frontera Times

The official newsletter of

## Starbase 24

DOCKING PORT 9<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>



November 2018

Issue 16



## Frontera Times

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## Cover Photo courtesy of ADAM YOUNG

*"I have to shout out about this good gentleman, Mark Harrison. He was a true star. When Dumbledave suggested I 'pie' someone, I knew I couldn't do it. We discussed it and agreed that I was shout "Run!", chase said person around the room for a bit and let them get away. I did not expect Mark to get down on one knee and basically say, "Give it to me!" Mark is a real gentleman and such a great sport. He took one for the team and with such gentlemanly grace. Thank you and well done, Mark."*

CAPT Anni Potts


## Frontera Times: Issue Dates & Submission Guidelines

The FRONTERA TIMES is released quarterly with submission deadlines as below. Submissions can be made anytime to [webmaster@starbase24.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@starbase24.co.uk).

Submissions can be whole articles (long and short), pictures, jokes—almost anything. Text can be supplied in almost any format that can be copied and pasted, and photos should be sent as JPGs by eMail as this gives a higher quality image that can be enhanced if needs be. Please, no ZIP files and please not by a Facebook Messenger (as reformatting those are a nightmare!). Works should be original or, where the work is not original, the source quoted so that the appropriate credit can be given.

Please remember that the Editor only edits the magazine so unless you make submissions, the **FRONTERA TIMES** will be very small indeed. All submissions are welcome, but the Editor reserves the right to edit, postpone or not to publish a particular item. Many thanks.



	Issue Date	Deadline for Submissions
 SPRING	February	28th January
SUMMER	May	28th April
AUTUMN	August	27th July
WINTER	November	27th October





# GREETINGS FROM THE ADMIRALS' OFFICE

*FADM James Mackenzie and ADM Kehlan*

The 12th Banquet is over but even now, the Command Team cannot sit back. Now is the time for us to reflect upon the highs and the lows of the event, the things that went and the things that went wrong.

The Banquet is a small event—an event to meet up with the Star Trek family we don't get to see very often; an event that brings us together in friendship. It is not as polished as many events but there are some very good reasons for that.

My team are all volunteers and they all work extremely hard to make the Banquet a success for everyone and to raise funds for Macmillan and the small animal charities we support. We are all ordinary people. We all have ordinary lives and we are all doing this in our spare time. Despite this or maybe because of it, we pulled together a weekend of fun and games and with just under eighty attendees and raised £2,222.

In particular, this year our junior officers stepped up to the mark at the Banquet and took control of the opening speeches. They had just five minutes notice but did it, speaking from the heart about what cancer meant to them. They worked hard over the two days helping to set up, selling raffle tickets and being a part of the event. We hear so many complaints about the youth of today and maybe those complaints are founded, but our young people did their best and I could not be more proud of them.

I remember looking around the room and seeing people laughing and enjoying themselves in a safe, friendly place. People with mental health problems, with disabilities, straight, gay, trans, black, white, whatever ... all being kind to each other, and I am proud of all of you for being part of it and making it happen.

But our work doesn't end there. Over the year, there is so much else going on. For example, a few weeks ago, one of our team, despite her disabilities, ran a half marathon for charity. It took her over three hours ... yes Sarah-Mac, I am talking about you! But she did it and we are so proud of her achievement.

We are also thankful to those members with artistic talent who have produced artwork for us, others who have taken part in computer game marathons for charity, those who have donated items for our raffles and

auctions ... or have sponsored us ... or turned up to wave a good luck sign for the people slogging round the race course. We have stood together in solidarity. We have laughed together and cried together.

This weekend a group of us headed down to Newbury to take part in the Inflatable 5km Zombie Survival Run. It's pretty much what it says on the tin—a 5km run/walk/crawl/whatever ... with big inflatable obstacles and with several infected zones filled with zombies. We raised around £500 for Macmillan. We had fun and did something good at the same time. And that's what it's all about.

Thank you.



*Live Long and  
Prosper*

**Fleet Admiral James Mackenzie  
and Admiral Kehlan  
COMMANDING OFFICERS, STARBASE 24**





## SB24 12th Banquet 2018





# THE SHIPYARDS

*Kevin Goldsmith*



Having successfully completed his mission helping SB24 raise over £2,000 at the 12th Banquet, Klingon Captain K`Vaar returned to his ship. He then made a subspace call to artist and model builder Kevin Goldsmith, to inform him of a display at the event of some of his models.

A somewhat pleasantly surprised Kevin issued this statement:

"I began model making in the early '70s helping my Dad make an Airfix Saturn-5 rocket that he had got for me for Christmas, (obviously via Santa!). Throughout the '70s I continued with Airfix kits, it was the box art more than anything else.

Some of you may remember those James May documentaries about toys of the '60s and '70s. I can relate to these, though add to these, pipe cleaners (possibly via *Blue Peter*), because if something was not available in kit form, I would render it in pipe cleaners.

*Star Wars* and subsequent films and TV shows got me into sci-fi and I have been hooked since. I had notions at one time of a Super 8 film, but this came to nothing, but this was the start of my scratch building.

I have since branched out into costume and prop making, as well as the odd commission.

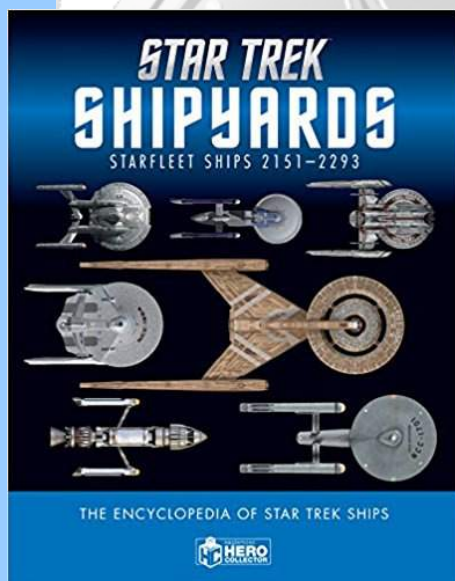
## What model am I most proud of?

It has to be my lit rotating Tardis that I made for one of our auctions. Sarah April Pattern bought it for her son James who had Muscular Dystrophy, (and who sadly died earlier this year). I am told that he loved it.

From the *Space:1999* pilot episode, *Breakaway*, the Spacedock model, as close to the size of the original filming version as I can get.

## BOOK REVIEW: STAR TREK SHIPYARDS: STARFLEET SHIPS 2151-2293

*CAPT John Hardy*



Good book for any one who does not have the Eagle Moss Ship Collection. However, if you do have it, be aware that it contains the same details as in the magazine. Otherwise, it's excellent value for money.





# MY FIRST BANQUET

*Ambassador Amanda Phillips*



Well, I went to my first **STARBASE 24 BANQUET** over the weekend and had an amazing time with some amazing people, and made some new friends.

Also this was my first time wearing a uniform so I was really nervous but once I was with other people, I was fine. Thank you to everyone who made me feel really welcome!

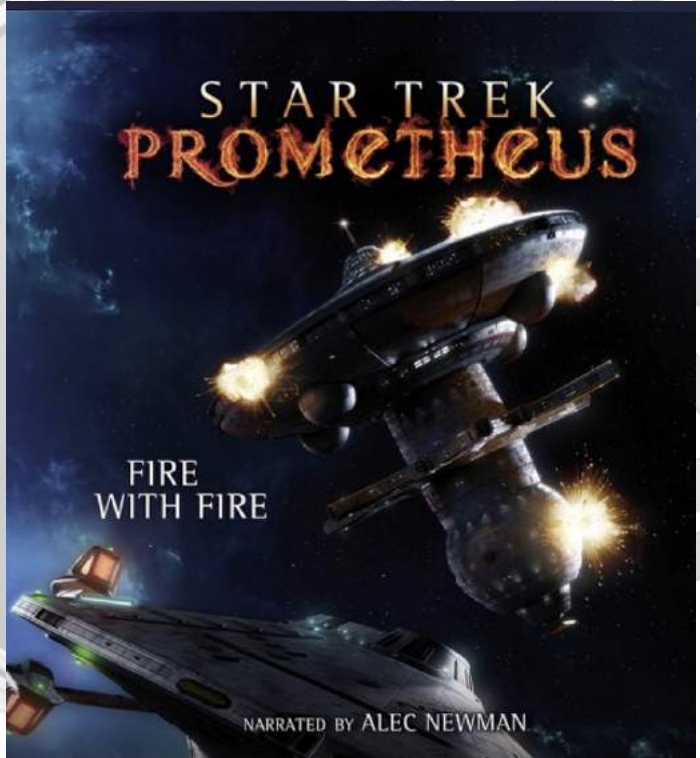


# STAR TREK FINALLY GETS A 'BIG FINISH'

*RADM Daniel Adams*

## Star Trek: Prometheus: Fire with Fire

"Big Finish" is a name that is more associated with Doctor Who than it is Star Trek. The production company, which has been running since 1996 originally started off by adapting "The New Adventures" series into audio dramas (the books themselves had featured Doctor Who). In 1999 the company got the rights to Doctor Who, bringing Peter Davison,



Colin Baker and Sylvester McCoy to new adventures. Since then, Paul McGann, Tom Baker, David Tennant and even John Hurt have reprised the role of the Doctor. The range's producer, Nicholas Briggs plays the voice of the Daleks (and other creatures) in the returned TV series.

As well as spinning off into other aspects of Dr Who and its wider universe (yes, its brought back *Torchwood*!) the company has moved into tons of other franchises, including *The Avengers* (Steed and Peel, not Ironman and Hulk)

*Blake's 7*, *The Prisoner*, *Stargate SG1*, *Captain Scarlet* and much more.

As someone who has been aware of Big Finish since before I became embroiled in Doctor Who Fandom, I found myself constantly hoping that one day *Star Trek* would get the Big Finish treatment. It has come close. David Warner aka St. John Talbert/Chancellor Gorkon/Gul Madred has played a "What if" Doctor for the range. Chase Masterson, best known as Leeta, plays a bounty hunter named Vienna opposite Sylvester McCoy. The character has even received her own spin off series.

Despite these links (and others I might be overlooking) the idea of Big Finish producing *Star Trek* adventures for the crew, and even bringing some *Trek* Alumni to the microphone was what I really wanted. Imagine stories set during the series runs, or even new adventures bringing different characters together. Titan? Section 31 Files? Temporal Investigations? Freed from the constraints of a visual effects budget, the sky could truly be the limit. However, it was a dream.

Until now.

While having a casual browse through the Big Finish website for the first time in a while, I was thrilled to discover that they had released "Star Trek: Prometheus" on audio. I promptly downloaded episode 1 and gave it a listen.

Written by Bernd Perplies and Christian Humberg *Star Trek: Prometheus* is a German language *Star Trek* novel series, originally released to tie in with the 50th anniversary. The series was translated into English in 2017, and was released by Big Finish starting with the first two parts in July and part three due for December.

Book 1, *Fire with Fire*, opens up with an ill fated away mission in Captain Kirk's era. The novel then picks up in the main timeframe, the post Nemesis era.

After a series of terrorist attacks that harm both the Federation and the Klingon empire, Starfleet dispatches the USS Prometheus (the ultra-powerful ship seen in the episode *Message in a Bottle*) to the Lembatta Cluster, where an extremist faction of the isolationistic Renoa have been implicated. Adams and his crew must also contend with the IKS Bortas who, despite being allies during this mission turn out to be belligerent even by Klingon standards.

I won't go into too much detail, but there are a few familiar characters in the novel, and even their descendants. However, these are mostly in supporting roles. Most of the crew are entirely new characters.

I think this is the first audiobook I have listened to that isn't abridged or



written for the medium. As such, it weighs in at a hefty 11 hours or 1 full GB of data. As it isn't available in CD form, you need to make sure that the device you're going to listen to has enough space. If you're listening on an Apple or Android form, I heartily recommend the Big Finish app. Once you buy the download from the website, you can just sign into the app and download at your leisure. Plus if you have ever bought anything direct from Big Finish since February 2008 that is available for download (almost the entire range, save for some which are no longer available, alas, like *Stargate*), you can download on the app (or indeed via your online account) as well.

While the story has some nice nods to *Star Trek's* past, it is determined to tell its own story. Much like *Star Trek* did fifty years ago, the series takes an issue facing our society today—namely the issues of extremism, terrorism and our own reaction to this and explores them through the science fiction filter. While sometimes this is quite “on the nose” for today's audience, it nevertheless provides some interesting food for thought.

There are some great sequences that feel cinematic in their pacing, particularly in the final chapters of the book. As we have mostly new characters, we get some nice portraits of whom they are and why we should care. In the audio book, the narrator Alec Newman (who appeared in *Enterprise* does a good job of giving all of the characters a fantastic voice I am eager to see where the story goes next.

That being said, I think the book might be a trifle long. This is a celebration of *Trek*, but even the Prologue gets its own little prologue. I think if a few scenes had been cut here or there, the pacing might be a bit better. Also, while I am a fan of Newman's reading of the novel, he does struggle with the pronunciation of a couple of long established names from the show *Tal Shire* for example.

However, these complaints are minor. This is a great audio book that has some great sequences and is clearly a love letter to “*Star Trek*” in all of its forms.

Now, despite the success of *Discovery* and the return of *Picard*, I am still hoping that we'll get to hear full cast *Star Trek* audio plays from Big Finish someday.



# MEMORIES OF SPACE FLIGHT

*CRM Tim Lockley, Space Station Centaur*

The first real space launch I saw broadcast was STS-1, the first flight of the shuttle Columbia. Although born in the Apollo era and alive for the 14, 15, 16 & 17 landings, and ASTP I was too young to be aware of them, and the first time I became aware of real (as opposed to fictional) space flight was a story of hardware coming down, not going up! In 1979 the news was full



The launch of STS-1

of scare-stories about the impending fiery re-entry of Skylab—right down to the entrepreneurs selling hard-hats on street corners!

Skylab was the Centaur's distant ancestor, being the USA's first and the world's second (successful\*) orbital space station. It went up empty in May 1973, the last flight of the Saturn V moon rocket, trading range for capacity to take a much heavier load a shorter distance. The launch was a dramatic near-failure, with the premature separation of the bullet shaped hollow aerodynamic shell causing important components to be ripped off by atmospheric forces on the way up, notably one of the two solar panel "wings" and a micrometeoroid shell, which also served to reflect sunlight away and keep the onboard temperature under control. The wreckage also tied up the other wing, leaving the station critically short of power with only the four smaller panels on the solar telescope available.

The first manned mission was then postponed and re-planned from orbital science to repair and rescue. The crew (pilot, Joe Kerwin and scientist, Joe

Kerwin under the command of moonwalker, Pete Conrad) had to perform unplanned and risky spacewalks, cutting away the debris to allow the remaining solar panel to deploy, and rigging a "parasol" sunshade to do the job of the missing shield and bring the temperature down to habitable levels. Finally, the crew were able to board the station and spend the rest of their 28 day visit performing orbital science.

Two further missions followed, extending the human orbit duration record first to 56 days and finally 84. A further visit (and a second station) were sacrificed to release now-limited resources for the in-development space shuttle. This was predicted to fly before the end of the 70s, and Skylab's orbit was predicted to decay until re-entry in 1983. A further seven "man months" of consumable supplies remained aboard even without re-supply so at least



Skylab as photographed by its departing final crew.

one more visit could have been made, squeezing more valuable scientific research out of this expensive asset.

A plan was hatched to extend the vehicle's life until the shuttle was fully operational. While no docking collar was fitted or planned in the early days, even without going aboard something could be done. A remote

controlled package was developed which would be carried up in the shuttle's cargo bay, flown over and docked to the station using RCS thrusters, then fire its engine to boost it into a higher orbit (or if necessary burn retrograde for a safe controlled re-entry somewhere devoid of population).

Skylab Boost would have been a hell of a mission, and two experts were picked to fly it: Fred Haise, of Apollo 13 fame and who had also commanded the first shuttle Enterprise during atmospheric flight testing, and Skylab veteran





The shiny cylinder behind the V1, with the queue of people on the steel bridge to go in, is a second identical Skylab module- flight worthy but never flown and now on display in the Smithsonian in Washington DC.

Jack Lousma (of the second crew). Training and development went hard and fast, as higher-than-expected levels of sunspot activity in the late 70s warmed the Earth's atmosphere causing it to expand, and increase the rate of orbital decay the station experienced.

As the predicted re-entry date was revised repeatedly earlier and earlier, the predicted first flight of the shuttle grew later and later. The boost mission was pushed up the schedule from fifth to second in the flight roster...but it was not enough. When it became clear that the shuttle would not be ready in time, the mission was cancelled and nature allowed to take its course.

The link is to a flickr album full of fascinating images of Skylab.

*\* The Soviet Union put Salyut 1 in orbit in 1971. It was only visited once, by the three crew of Soyuz 11. The visit was partially successful but reduced to 23 days due to equipment failures. On Soyuz 11's re-entry a pressure relief valve failed, releasing the onboard air into space. The crew of Georgy Dobrovolsky, Viktor Patsayev, and Vladislav Volkov were found dead in their seats, the second (and so far last) Russian crew to be lost on a space mission. Another Soyuz rendezvoused with the station but was unable to dock. Between then and Skylab a further three Salyuts were launched, but none of these remained in orbit long enough to receive a crewed visit.*

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nasa2explore/sets/72157634791373199>

Photographs: Wikipedia

# THE 13TH BANQUET

*Rita Skeeter*

Obviously, it is far too early to release any details about the 13th Banquet, however my sources tell me that the themes are likely to be based around Horror on the Friday night—it being *Friday the 13th Banquet* and Doctor Who on Saturday. More details will follow as soon as they become available.



## INTRODUCING SB24 EVENTS

It is with great excitement and hope for the future that we present to you, our new logo and name: SB24 Events. While Starbase 24 will continue as a fan group, our annual banquet and other fundraising events will be run by SB24 Events. We remain fan run and completely non profit making, with all the money we raise being donated to the charities we support.



# NEELIX'S KITCHEN

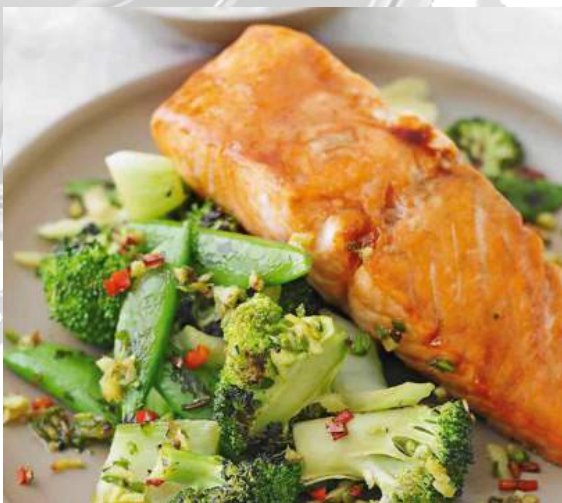
## Sticky Salmon with Chinese Vegetables

### Ingredients

- 2 skinless salmon fillets
- 20ml oyster sauce
- 15ml teriyaki sauce
- 2 tsp honey
- 1 tbsp oil (preferably a mix of sesame and vegetable)
- 2 tsp finely grated ginger
- ½ tsp crushed/minced garlic
- Sugar snap peas
- Baby corn cobs (cut in half lengthways)
- Broccoli, cut into small florets

### Method

1. Heat the oven to 200°C.
2. Mix together the oyster sauce, teriyaki and honey in a small bowl.
3. Brush a little over the salmon (reserving the rest) and cook in the oven for 8-10 minutes.
4. Heat the oil in a wok.
5. Fry the ginger and garlic for 1 minute.
6. Add the broccoli florets and baby corn and cook for 2 minutes.
7. Add the sugar snap peas and cook for a further 2-3 minutes.
8. Stir in the rest of the sticky sauce and cook for another minute.





# THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW ...

CRMN Nick Manchester



I was privileged to meet Gates McFadden this past July, and she's wonderful. *The Otherworld Theater*, which is a science-fiction company, had a film juggernaut—*The Juggernaut Film Festival*, and I went along with Julia Hosack, meeting her for the first time in Chicago. (We had a lot of fun.)

I knew I'd get to meet Gates at the photo shoot as I'd paid to have a photo professionally taken with her, but I was hoping that I'd get to chat with her for a moment, if for no other reason than to explain what Dr. Crusher meant to me as a teen and to thank her for playing that role.

Growing up abused and mistreated by the medical community, Dr. Crusher became the



hope that one day, not all doctors would mistreat people like me simply for being born differently. She always had respect for patients, no matter their race or their gender. While the show “The Outcast” was so dysphoric I nearly walked away from Star Trek entirely because of it, Dr. Crusher was the one who had no problem with Soren or the J’naii.

I really wanted to tell all of this to Gates, and explain to her how her portrayal of Dr. Crusher was a bright spot that helped on some really bad days. No, I still haven’t done that. Perhaps one day I’ll work up the nerve and write it all out and mail it to her. But I digress.

Sitting at the Juggernaut was beginning to be a problem, so I’d gone off on an errand for Julia. When I returned, she and two others we’d met there were talking with someone, and like the goof that I am, I just went up and inserted myself into the conversation and after several moments of listening had the realization that “holy crap, it’s Gates McFadden! I’m standing next to Gates McFadden!”

I handed the purchase off to Julia, who gave me a big hug and called me a lifesaver, and the conversation continued. They began discussing hair, and I made a joke about how my hair was long when I was a little girl, but now that I’m a grown man, I keep it short. Gates turned and looked at me a little confused (which is understandable), and so I, in all of my brilliance, fly through a panic of what to say.

“Oh, um, I’m an intersex and transgender chimera,” and I almost immediately face-palm it, because that is NOT what I



wanted to say right off the bat.

"Ok, explain this to me."

I give a very quick explanation of intersex (she already knows transgender) and then, to my undying embarrassment, I can see she's still a wee bit confused when I'm trying to explain being my own twin, so I hold up my mismatched hands. I point out the longer ring finger on my left hand (xy typical) and then held up my right hand which has a shorter ring finger and longer index finger (xx typical).

"This hand belongs to one twin, and this hand belongs to the other," I explain.

At this point, her eyes widen and she whips around to Julia in surprise and says, "Oh, my god."

Julia, doing her best to not laugh as she can't believe, any more than I can that I just did that, is covering her mouth and says through her laughter, "I know!"



I'm so glad we got to speak to one another for short blurbs at other times, and my picture with her is hanging on my wall. I'd taken nice clothes for the photo as being a rather financially unstable intersex activist, this was my one chance to have a photo with her. When I was called and went in for my picture, she grinned and said, "You got all dressed up!" I blushed and said that yes, I had. I told her it was probably my one chance to see her, and she said, "I hope not!"

You know, I hope it's not the last time I get to meet her, too.



# MY EXPERIENCES AT THE 2018 STARBASE 24 KLINGON BANQUET (AND ASSORTED MUSINGS)

*CMDR Ian Moore*

The main thing I get out of the Starbase 24 Banquet is meeting up with old friends—and this one was no exception. In fact, I even met a few new ones and strengthened my existing friendships.

## What artwork has this Klingon been up to?

As Halloween is almost upon us, the time of year when we give thanks to Kahless for providing us with ghosts, goblins and various other bugaboos and revenants to fight in glorious battle, I have decided to start work on my Sith mask once more, now that I have a dedicated space for artwork. I am also thinking of making a new dagger as it has been far too long.

## What is the Klingon up to in his garden?

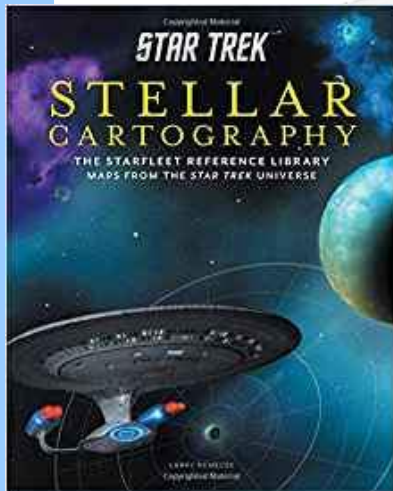


My willow bonsai attempt has been a failure. I now have an evergreen bonsai growing in my studio. I believe it might be some kind of pine or fir. And I have acquired a lawnmower for ten of your Earth pounds—truly Kahless has smiled on me this day. Elsewhere in the garden I have finally tackled the overgrown rose bushes,

which had become more like rose trees—very thick woody stems. Whilst attractive this was not good for the plant and now I have cut them right back, almost to the roots. They will grow back next year healthier and easier to manage.

# REVIEW OF *STELLAR CARTOGRAPHY* BY LARRY NEMECEK

*RADM Dan Adams*



Since my earliest days in Star Trek fandom, I have been a big fan of “immersing myself” in the world. I remember with the VHS tapes I was able to send off for Star Trek stationery which included a Quark’s bar gold card. “A Klingon Challenge” was another way to immerse myself in the world.

The biggest way I actually found however, was the written world. Franz Joseph’s *Starfleet Technical Manual*, and the many editions and incarnations of the Okudas’ *Star Trek Encyclopaedia*.

*Stellar Cartography* is a fantastic volume which harkens back to these tomes. It contains several maps from the history of the Federation housed in a trifold box. Also in there is a small book that discusses each of the maps. The prose is written by Star Trek expert “Doctor Trek”, Larry Nemecek, and again is written completely in universe.

The maps are very expansive. This is actually an updated edition featuring worlds from TOS and TAS that were missed from past editions of the tome, as well as every planet from Discovery. Maps include Federation galactic maps, historical maps concerning the Romulan and Dominion wars, Klingon maps (written entirely in Klingon) and even ancient Vulcan maps of the solar system.

The sign of a good fictional universe is that its enthusiasts can spend hours pouring over its details – language, technology, culture, and *Stellar Cartography* provides ample opportunity to do this. I highly recommend this book, it is an excellent piece.

If you want to know more about the author, Larry Nemecek hosts a regular Facebook live session on Trekland Facebook page, 1pm every Tuesday: <https://www.facebook.com/LarrysTrekland/>

# I MAY NOT HAVE MUCH TIME ...

*CAPT Stefan Blakemore*

Personal Log, Stardate 2018.10.27

Today I took part in the **5K INFLATABLE ZOMBIE** run, raising money for Macmillan Cancer Care, along with Sue 'Rainbowraptor' Griffiths, Adam Young and Kehlan, with Admiral Mackenzie taking photos and offering encouragement.

It was very similar to the previous 5K Inflatable run attended by Kehlan,



Sarah Mac and myself a few months before. Run, jog (or walk) along the course and navigate over or through several inflated obstacles. The difference with this run was there were nine 'infected' zones containing groups of

zombies. The way the Zombies worked was everyone was given a velcro belt and three flags, and the zombies had to try and grab the tags off of the runners' belts.

The run (although you were allowed to walk if needed) was very good, but I think I overexerted myself at the first batch of infected. Trying to get into the



spirit of things, I started waving my hands, calling out, "Hey over here! Fresh meat!" but while running past a trio of zombies, I ended up going too fast and landed rather hard on my knee and arm.

That isn't the problem.

I continued along, Adam continued on ahead to scout the route and, under orders from the Admiralty, did whatever it took to survive the run. I made sure to keep pace with Kehlan and Sue who were both not terribly well. The course itself took us about an hour and a half to complete and at the end the four of us were utterly exhausted. Kehlan and I held on to our flags for a good while, but occasionally one of the zombies got too close and we both lost our last flags in the final Infected Zone.

The rules of the run state that if we loose our flags then we get a Medal that says 'Infected' instead of 'Survivor', however surprisingly Adam and Sue finished with tags left and were both survivors!

At the time of this log, the team had collectively raised a total of £481.06 for Macmillan Cancer Care with a couple of payments still to come in, but this is a huge total that the team should be really proud of reaching!

I haven't heard anything from Kehlan for a while but I'm not too bothered right now, I'm just feeling rather hungry. And maybe a little warm ...

Computer ... give me some ... b-b-brainsssss ...

*"That selection does not meet standard nutritional guidelines."*



# BRICKS AND PIECES: THE AFOL THERAPY

*CMDR Chris Bowen*



## Lego Throughout My Life

During my childhood, Lego was a source of great enjoyment for me. I spent many hours imagining, designing and building creations of all shapes and sizes. Fast forward to 2018, I'm 31 years old and my fascination with the famous building system that brought me so much joy as a child has not dwindled; in fact, it's increased. And so has the strain on my bank account, HaHa!



Lego's increasingly sophisticated manufacturing processes mean we have seen more and more detailed models being released, each more beautiful than the last. What has me hooked, line and sinker is the Star Wars collection. A huge fan of the franchise itself, I revel in the opportunity to build the beautiful space craft that are all too familiar to

me, especially the Ultimate Collector Series (UCS).

## AFOL Therapy

Adult Fan of Lego (AFOL) is what I'd be referred to in the Lego community and this is a label I accept graciously.



To me, Lego has become a form of therapy. Building is a time I can truly

escape from the troubles and stresses of everyday life. To know that I can let go and enjoy the majesty of watching as a creation or a set build comes to life

## Custom Imperial Star Destroyer Project

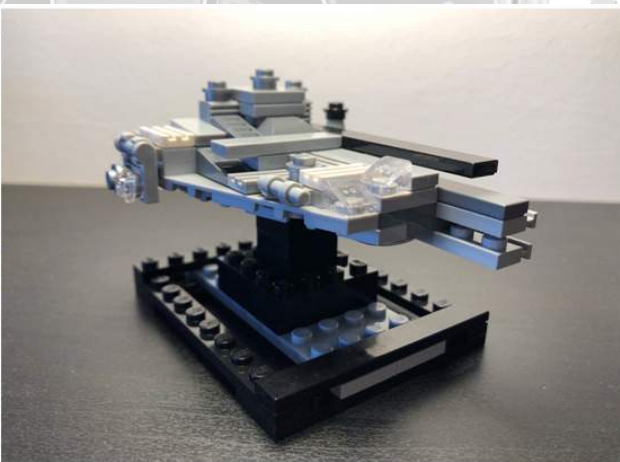
I have recently begun work on a custom Imperial Star Destroyer Project. This is a build I expect to spend many months working on as it is a completely original design.

So far I have created a miniature concept model that will serve as a template that I can begin to follow and build in a much larger version.

I will submit updates on my progress into the Frontera Times so keep your eyes peeled.

Until then ...

*Live Long & Prosper  
May The Force Be With You and  
Don't Stop Building.*



“Lego has become a form of therapy. Building is a time I can truly escape from the troubles and stresses associated with everyday life.

“The merging of logic and creativity is a unique



# AWAY MISSION LOG: PLANET MCM

*PO3 Emma Filtness*

London System, Stardate: 2018.10.28



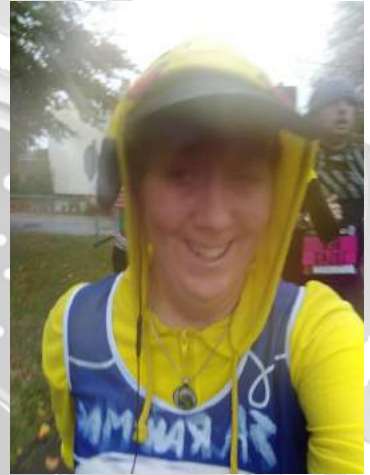
My co-pilots and I arrived safely, though unfortunately there were setbacks and turbulence on the journey. We only had a limited timeframe to discover what the planet had to offer at their namesake biannual festival. The indigenous species were friendly and helpful, seeming to worship multiple deities simultaneously, though I wasn't able to picture them all. We decided to split up the party to cover more ground and each found exciting new information to add to the database. The cuisine, too, was as varied as the life forms, but very tasty. Further data to follow, as I write this my ship is on autopilot back to the Centaur.

*Emma out.*

# SIMPLY HEALTH RUN – SARAHEIGH MACKENZIE RICHARDSON

Our congratulations go to Sarahleigh who took part in the Simplyhealth Great Birmingham Run in October. Despite her health issues, Sarahleigh takes part in quite a few marathons during the year, each time raising funds for one of the many charities she supports. Such spirit and dedication have to be admired.

*Go, girl! Go!*



A promotional poster for the Simplyhealth Great Birmingham Run 2018. The poster features a red background with white and yellow text. At the top left is the Simplyhealth logo. The main text reads "2018" in large white letters, followed by "Sarahleigh Richardson" in white, "3:42:52" in white, and "13.1 MILE" in large white letters. Below this, it says "BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE" and "SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2018". At the bottom left is a signature and the text "BRENNAN FOSTER CHAIRMAN, SIMPLYHEALTH GREAT BIRMINGHAM RUN". On the right side, there is a photograph of Sarahleigh Richardson running, wearing an orange and blue athletic outfit. The text "BE YOUR GREATEST" is written in white above her. The bottom right corner of the poster has the text "MARATHON-PHOTOS.COM".

# DESTINATION STAR TREK (EUROPE) 2018

*RADM Dan Adams*

2018 was my second Destination Star Trek, but the fourth one overall. The first clashed with that year's SB24 Banquet. The second being held in London put me off quite a bit. The third, held in 2016 to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup>

anniversary, was a more viable prospect. Birmingham is a lot closer to me for a start. The inclusion of Shatner and George Takei also made this event a must for me. After Leonard Nimoy's passing in 2015 I thought that chances to meet these actors, particularly in a venue so close to me, would be fewer and fewer So I took a punt.



As you can see in my log entry, while I achieved my goals for the weekend, there was definite room for improvement

I was of two minds about attending the 2018 event, however, following the announcement of Jason "Lorca" Isaacs' participation, I decided to give it another go, this time, staying over for or a planned 2, and eventually 3 evenings.



My itinerary expanded when I learned that Larry Nemecek was hosting a Landing Party in the Hilton Metropole bar on Thursday night for a Vegas style landing party. In order to be there for the start of the con I may have left my house at 6am or earlier Friday morning. By travelling to this small gathering, I was able to have a more relaxing stay.

Anyhoo, it was a fantastic way to start the weekend. Our team came third at the quiz, but that didn't stop us from having a great time.

Security at the NEC was tight. On Friday I was bag searched about 4 times. A necessary if frustrating state of affairs. Upon my 10am arrival at the NEC, I was issued with my wristband. That left me to have lunch with my friend Amanda, and generally chill until 14:00 when the con started proper. The queues went through really fast I have to say. So, the overall layout of the event had improved significantly. With its use of exhibitors, as well as traders it felt like the event was a proper Star Trek show, as opposed to a signing show that had happened to have paid for a Star Trek Licence. There were two exhibits, a fantastic mirror universe exhibition, featuring props and costumes from the latter half of Discovery's first season, and a props museum. I think a lot of these props may have come from the collection at Blackpool. Nevertheless, it was nice to see them again.

I dashed around the stalls during my first day, securing the bargains I was



worried about selling out. I got my photo with Jason Isaacs, the queue was incredibly quick. Friday night was a busy one in many ways. It was back to the bar for the Portal 47 Live Dive. This was one of the bits of the weekend I was



looking forward to. As a Portal 47 member I get access to one such meeting every year when Larry happens to be attending. Lots of great stories and it was nice to put some names to faces. I hung around the bar both nights, and although I understand the official parties have their own bars, the public bar was still incredibly busy. I don't think its much of an exaggeration to say that I was queuing as long to get a beer as I

was to get my Lorca photo.

Saturday was by far the busiest day. On reflection if I was to just do one day, it would either be Saturday or Sunday. Despite the huge queues the event didn't go all that badly. Thanks to my wristband, I didn't feel like I was queuing much at all to get in. Once inside there were a lot of queues everywhere. I was able to get my copy of Stellar Cartography signed. This is where I came across the worst part of the weekend if I am strictly honest.



As mentioned, I only sorted out one photo op early doors. I'm trying to hold myself to a strict budget, and I could easily spend a few grand (if I had it) meeting so many of the actors that I want to meet. So I didn't make my other

choices until the week before the event, and in one case during.

The photo shoot tickets, sold through event bright, are done in batches of 50. Because I left it so late, I was batch 9 for Kate Mulgrew. Unfortunately, as I would find out so were 199 other people thanks to a computer glitch. This meant I spent about two hours queuing (the first one I gave up since they were still on batch 4 after an hour) again, I can't argue too much here. I'd personally do it so that if you are higher than batch 3 or whatever, you have to go away for ten minutes. While I spent time and money getting the photo done, I feel like I wasted some of it that I could have spent enjoying the event. There needs to be a better way of managing the queues in my view.

Having said that, the other queues were fine on Sunday. I bit the bullet and went for a photo with the lovely Mary Wiseman, AKA Tilly. Although people were already queuing for the next guest with our queue (Nichelle Nichols was ill the previous day) again, it was a swift experience. Same goes for Andrew Robinson my fourth and final photo of the weekend.

If I was to do the weekend again, I think I'll aim to get the "biggest" guests on Friday or Sunday. Things certainly seem more manageable that way

Overall, I would say that there has been definite improvement with DSTE. Thanks to the use of a lot of exhibits, gaming areas and a lot more stalls, I think it felt like a better event But what really pushed it over the edge was the Thursday night party and the events offered by Larry Nemecek, it just gave it more of a con feeling, and most of all seeing friends, weather it was the previous week at the Manchester Starfleet meeting, or people I haven't touched base with in years.

So, is 2019 a lock for me? Sadly not. I am very interested in going, but there are a few factors at play in the "real world" that mean I am hesitant to make the financial commitment so early. Keep watching the skies.



*"That's all Folks!"*

*But don't forget that the next issue will be ONE MONTH EARLY!*