

# Inside The Rock

Ark Angel Station Newsletter

Vol. II - Edition 3 - March 2012



**What do I like about STARFLEET?**

**Keep reading to see what folks have to say on the subject!**

**View the Pre-Summit News.**

**Check out the events for the next few months.**

**All of this and more inside this edition!**

## **From the CO's Desk,**

This month we are discussing a theme that we don't quantify very often, "*What do you like about STARFLEET?*"

I like STARFLEET for several reasons, all of which are selfish...

I am CO of a chapter, this affords me the opportunity to try and nurture my crew into a lean mean motivated machine. So far I have been unsuccessful in this quest over all, though I do enjoy the challenge. That said; I'm not going to give up on trying to

get all my crew more involved in station activities, community support projects, and in general just having a good time with each other.

I get to go to events like Summit, and International Conference. At these events I have the chance to meet folks from all over the world, with all sorts of careers and stories about what they are doing in Fleet and their lives.

I gain the camaraderie of fellow 'Fleeters' and do some partying, panels, and

general mayhem that normally ensues at the events.

I have all the discounts on travel, hotels, printing etc. that come with my membership. This can add up quickly if printing gaming manuals or newsletters etc.

I get the Communique from fleet something I look forward to arriving in my mailbox. In it I get to see more of what everyone in fleet has done and is planning to do.

I am part of an organization that isn't afraid to roll its sleeves up and get to work trying to help charities local and worldwide. This is one of the factors that make me proud to be part of Fleet, and proud to associate with my fellow fleet members. We help. We work to be part of the solution. Not just another group of folks under a common banner, but a group of folks that wants to make things better, to live up to the Roddenberry picture of the universe if you will...

But most of all I get to hang with friends, meet new folks, and enjoy the social network that revolves around being a member of one of the finest fan organizations that I know.

That's it for now,

CAPT Lloyd Bates  
CO Ark Angel Station  
SFR-308

This month I will be going to the Joint R2/R3 summit in Hammond LA. I am looking forward to seeing all my friends from other R3 summits, and meeting new Fleet members from Region 2. I would love to see you all there though I know that in these austere times that is not going to happen. It's my hope that at least some of the crew can make it, time will tell. I'll be sure to gather all the "intel" I can to pass along to all the crew when I return.



*An excerpt from the SFI-I list, (reprinted with permission)*

## **My Fellow Fleeters,**

Members have asked all week what their \$15.00 goes to. Why does it have to be about money? Here is my take.

I am part of a few organizations that charge dues; my biggest one is the Rotary. Now, I am not going to mention how much the dues are for me, but most Rotary clubs charge anywhere from \$70 to \$500 a year. The Rotary is a social network of great people doing great things for their community. To be a rotary member has a lot of perks as far as jobs and business contacts. If you research the organization you will see that their views and goals are similar to ours.

STARFLEET to me is similar in many ways. Here is the social networking that has benefited me. I will call these members by their first letter in there Last name, but you know who you are as you read this. Member L works for a book company in CA, I contacted him one day and he got with his people and now I get a box of books every six months from his company to donate or keep for my class rooms at the Primary School in which I work. The last box I received went to our JAG organization, which helps children learn to read. Member B and H ran for an office, and I helped them with their campaign, which gave the courage to become a campaign director for the sheriff and next year I am working for a District Prosecuting Attorney as his campaign director. I have made a lot of convention contacts, being able to use SFI and a backing in name only. I have helped with over 10 conventions and event in the last few years. Will all this experience and networking I have had and revived, I interviewed for Orientation Coordinator for a college. All the things I described plus some other one I will not bore you with has given me the experience to do this job with confidence.

I have made a TON of new friends with STARFLEET, and use it as a reason to travel the country without my voice of reason (wife) asking why, I just say SFI. What do you get for your 15.00? A HUGE social network of friends and family!

(These are my thoughts and views of what SFI means to me. In no way is my point of view intended to make any member mad or feel less important. My positions as the Fleet or Region 12 recruiting director or list moderator have no bearing on my statement.

Chris Tolbert  
SFI Recruiting Officer  
USS Aux Arc  
Region 12

## XO's Mutterings

What I like about Starfleet.

Starfleet provides a great environment for not only Trek fans but for general Sci-fi fans too. The organization has fantastic programs that help kids by teaching reading and critical learning skills. These skills carry over to school and to every aspect of life. Once they try to get into college the Starfleet scholarship might not pay for everything involving college but trust me every two bits help. Starfleet also keeps the

spark alive in terms of Star Trek. For many kids Star Trek is a movie you can watch on Netflix. There is no Trek television series in production which for a handful of us is surreal to see a show we love hardly getting any from Hollywood, movies aside. Starfleet strives to keep those ideals alive not only in the courses that are available to take. We as a ship keep those ideals alive by simply existing but we can do better!

CW2 Matt Hill  
Executive Officer

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## Operational Thoughts

What do I like about STARFLEET? For me, that's huge question! Maybe it should be what I don't like, because that list would be shorter.

I like STARFLEET because of its ideals. You know, the IDIC--Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations. There are many types of members in STARFLEET even if not infinite. And there are also equally infinite opinions from those members. Getting to know many of the members from around the world and seeing what their view is on things is one of the things I love about this organization. Persons in another country have completely different ideas than we Americans do. I find that fascinating. And, I find it equally fascinating when talking to someone in another state.

I also love the fact that if I travel to some locale, I can pick up the phone or email a list and say, "Hey, I'm coming to town, want to have lunch?" or "Where's a good place to...?" My husband and I seem to have an open invitation to stay in Iceland and drink lots, and pick up beautiful women. I still want to go even though I don't particularly want to pick up women. (The joke is that because of my name, this person thought I was a man. Then Facebook happened, and that seemed to change things. LOL)

I've even witnessed some selfless behavior from members, as many love to help out others. After a Region One Summit in 2010, there was a huge storm that was flooding many areas. Many of the members were trying to make it home, but were re-



routed, so many stayed at the hotel and just monitored the news. However, some who were braver than others and their homes were in the opposite direction where the storms had not hit yet. One group traveling had a tire blow out. They put out a call for help. Another group was nearby, but not going that way, but they went to the rescue of the other group even though it was out of their way. They helped them change the tire and get back on the road so all could get to their destination before the storm blew by their home.

I love attending our Summits and International Conferences (“IC”), too. They are not conventions in the same sense of the word, even if sometimes a special guest attends. They are a members meeting or a member’s conference, to be more precise. There are ceremonies and other pomp and circumstance, sort of like if we were in

STARFLEET from the show. Many show up in their uniforms or other “costumes,” alien or federation, many of which are made by them. I have attended some with some great panels on many aspects, including some on how to get the most out of STARFLEET to some fun topics such as how to make molds of anything and recreate them. But, the most fun of any Summit or IC is seeing your friends from around the world that you may only see every year or 5 years, and of course, making new ones.

I also love the concept of having a chapter where you can have meetings, movie nights, camping trips, play geeky games, and do geeky things with people whom you might not meet otherwise. STARFLEET brings people of many walks of life together under one banner.

FCAPT Reed Bates  
Operations Officer

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## Cadet Services Report

### STARFLEET is for Families

I've been a big fan of Star Trek my entire life. Lt. Uhura was my hero, and as a kid I wanted to be the first person to translate alien languages. STARFLEET is a natural extension of my love of Star Trek, and I have enjoyed being part of such a diverse group. I'm a single mom with two great kids at home, and one would think that my time would be too consumed with work and children to participate in

STARFLEET activities. NOT TRUE! What I love most about being in STARFLEET is that it's a great activity for the whole family.

When I joined STARFLEET, it was because I was all about Star Trek. Granted, my two kids (Claire, 10, and Aiden, 6) liked it, but they weren't nuts about it like I am. I gave them the option of joining or not, their choice. I showed them what I was working on in STARFLEET Academy (I'm working towards a doctorate in alien studies) and they weren't very interested.

Claire saw the exams on Doctor Who and went nuts. She is a huge Doctor Who fan, and looked forward to watching each episode and answering questions on them. She also became interested in how STARFLEET works, and earned Star Awards in both Cadet Officer's Training and the Cadet College of Law. She takes a lot of pride in being in STARFLEET and loves to brag to her friends about how well she does.

Aiden didn't see anything that interested him in the cadet courses, so we emailed the head of the cadet programs. Aiden became active in beta testing new exams for younger cadets. Now there are more cadet courses based on kids' movies that are in a format that are easy for 5-7 year olds to understand and complete without getting frustrated. He also found something that didn't make him frustrated-Federation Studies. The courses designed for cadets his age include labeling starship blueprints, and he's found them both interesting and fun. He's gotten 100% on all those exams he's taken so far, and it's

LTJG Deanna Bressie  
Cadet Services Officer



helped raise his self-confidence both at home and in school.

But we don't just enjoy STARFLEET Academy as a family. We attend chapter meetings and activities together, and we recently resurrected our chapter's cadet corps. Together, we are introducing STARFLEET to all of the kids' friends and their families and putting together activities for other kids and their families to participate in. So as much as I enjoy STARFLEET, what I like most about it is that it's something I can enjoy with my kids, and something we are all proud to be a part of.



# Ark Angel Station's Schedule of Events

The Schedule is always a changing...but here's a glimpse into the future:

- March 16-18, 2012– Joint Region 2 & Region 3 Summit, Hammond, Louisiana. For details on how to reserve a room, visit the website. There is also a Region 3 Event on the Facebook page. <http://region3.org/summit/>
- March 17, 2012-- Cadet Corps Math Party noon-5pm
  - For those that will not be in summit go and Support your Cadets!
- April 21, 2012-- Crew Camping Trip, Location [Colorado Bend State Park](#)
  - For more info check: your crew emails, the [Calendar Event](#), the [Facebook event](#), or, contact [co @ arkangelstation.com](mailto:co@arkangelstation.com).
- May 6, 2012-- Proposed Crew Meeting – Sunday, Noon till ??
- May 26<sup>th</sup> Cadet Corps Trip to [Inner Space Caverns](#)
  - Let's see how many of us crew we can pile into those caves shall we?
- August 3-5, 2012– Starfleet's International Conference, near Memphis, TN. [www.ic2012.com](http://www.ic2012.com) for details
- August 17-18 2012– [GeekFest](#), Location [Mayborn Planetarium & Space Theater](#) on the campus of Central Texas College in Killeen.
- August 1-4, 2013 – Starfleet's International Conference, Dallas, Texas, brought to you by Region 3. **Members of the Ark Angel Station are on the committee to help with game room, website, planning, and other items.** Go to [www.ic2013.com](http://www.ic2013.com) for details.

Hope to see you all at one of these events!