

Inside The Rock

Ark Angel Station Newsletter

Vol. II - Edition 5 - May 2012



What is your Favorite Trek episode and why?

We will be exploring this topic inside;
Come and take a look!

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From the CO's Desk,

When I started thinking about this article I had a really hard time pinning down an episode to discuss as I have several that I like and couldn't really negotiate having one alone as a favorite. So I decided to talk about some of my favorites instead.

So Then I had to decide how to talk about them, and I decided to do this in a chronological order by Stardates. This means -- Enterprise, TOS, TNG, DS9 and then Voyager. So let's get to it shall we?

Some of my favorite episodes are the ones that involved "Trip". And the one I remember most is him getting pregnant.

The hilarity and the absurdity of "Unexpected" made it almost believable (if you have a healthy suspension of disbelief such as I do.) That country boy's look when he was told by Phloxx that he was expecting



was priceless. The comedic exploration of the Trip character was IMHO very well done and created openings for other plot hooks to surround him during the latter parts of the series.

The episode of TOS that I most have enjoyed over the years would have to be *"City on the edge of Forever"* this brings the Duo of Kirk and Spock chasing McCoy thru



The Guardian of Forever back in time to fix the change in the timeline. In this episode I found some of what I considered to be Shatner's most

convincing roles as Kirk, Playing an equally compelling role as Edith Keeler was Joan Collins a fine actress who at times was underrated, I think, in her skills.

Now we come to TNG where I have many episodes of which I enjoyed greatly, but I would have to say one of my favorites is *"The Offspring"* this is in season 3 and was a



great morality play on the rights of an individual as well as character development for Data, the scene at the end where Admiral Haftell

speaks about Data's efforts to save Lal, to me was a very moving performance.

So in DS9 one of the best most likely for me would have to be either *"Children of Time"* or *"Our Man Bashir"*.

In *"Children of Time"* the defiant crew land to find they are among their own

descendants, having been thrown back in time when trying to leave. It's another morality play about consequences of your actions. I think it demonstrates nice writing surrounding the Sisko character and the decision he will have to make vs. the decision he could make.

"Our Man Bashir" is a one of the few holodeck "mis"-adventure episodes in DS9 where Bashir has been playing a spy with a new holosuite program he acquired, and while he's in the program, Garak breaks in and talks his way into becoming a sidekick -- of sorts. The mis part of the adventure comes to play



when the other main cast members have a transporter malfunction and end up getting written into the holosuites memory buffers overwriting the slots of the other "npc" characters of the holoprogram. I especially liked Kira's Soviet fem fatale and O'Brians evil eyepatched bad guy in this holoromp.

Finally we come to Voyager, which episode do I think was my favorite? Well I had to think about this because I haven't watched the voyager series as much as I watched the others... In the end I (and thru a little research) I decided on *"Tinker Tenor Doctor Spy"* as the one I most enjoyed. The pips appearing on the color of the "Emergency Command Hologram" are priceless as the Dr. runs his



daydreaming program, and the way he plays the reluctant ECH when it is ordered by Janeway to bluff the Hierarchy ships is very well done. This episode had some

great humor, and the cast showed they enjoyed doing it in the performance.

So there you have it, my present favorites, subject to change at any time. lol...

CAPT Lloyd Bates
CO Ark Angel Station
SFR-308

XO's Report

In case you haven't heard or nor seen him, the ship does have an Executive Officer.

My apologies I've been shrouded by the massive pile of textbooks and papers at Texas State. But in case the crew hasn't yet met our new members of the this year Jason Carter, Jesse Carter and JR Leslie please do so in lawful manner, the Ensigns in the Security department are still scrubbing the holodeck from the last incident.

You know who you are. Since then we have no new additional crew members to "welcome." This means that if you aren't recruiting you should be! We want Lloyd's house so full that we need to have a valet to park the cars in the street. Tell your neighbor! Tell your friends tell your doctor's neighbors former roommate's sisters cousin! I think you get the idea.

CWO2 Matt Hill
Executive Officer

My Favorite Star Trek Episode?

The decision to pick a single episode as my favorite is too hard to do. So I'll break up the topic into each series. TOS & Enterprise— Umm I need to watch them to pick one. Yes I know I need to watch them but time is the problem!

TNG – *Time's Arrow* (Season 5) I love the costuming and the character depth.

DS9 – *Civil Defense* (Season 3) & *Sacrifice of Angels* (Season 6)

A dead tie between these two. *Civil Defense* is a great episode which shows you just how cunning the Cardassians can be. *Sacrifice of Angels* simply because they take back the station and showing the greatest starship battle in the entire series!

Voyager – *Message in a Bottle* (Season 4) Hilarious antics by the doctor and Andy Dick playing the upgraded version of the EMH. A must watch!

Operational Thoughts

That's a tough question for a Star Trek fan, isn't it? I LOVE Star Trek of all flavors, so for me to choose just one that it my ultimate favorite, that isn't possible.

But, I will try to mention a couple episodes that pop out in my mind. These are from Voyager.

The young romantic girl in me loves *Resolutions* Stardate: 49690.1 (ST:VOY Season 2, Esp. 25, Air date: May 13, 1996). This is the one where Chakotay and Janeway have contracted a deadly virus for which there is no cure, so they are stranded on a planet by the Voyager crew to live out the rest of their lives while Voyager continues traveling back to home. They are left on the planet because they will not kill them—leave the planet and they die. Chakotay and Janeway make a home, and Janeway continues to research the virus for a cure, making friends with the local wildlife. Then after storm destroys her research equipment, Chakotay suggests they give up and just enjoy the rest of their days. Meanwhile on Voyager, there are tensions among the crew, too. Many feel bad about leaving the two on the planet and suggest contacting the Vidiians, who are enemies that just want body parts to keep themselves going. It's a trap, but the doctor has a friend in Dr. Denara Pel (played by Susan Diol, who has been in many television shows, including NextGen). Dr. Pel had already discovered a cure, so she secretly transmits the cure to the Doctor aboard Voyager, and away they go to rescue their Captain and First Officer. Janeway and Chakotay pick up where they left off on Voyager as two professional officers.



The Starfleet Marine in me loves the *Year of Hell* (ST:VOY Season 4, Esp. 8 & 9 (2 Parts), Air dates: November 5, 1997 and November 12, 1997). For the crew of Voyager, it was a year of hell. The ship ran into a race called the Krenim who were able to make temporal shifts in time to change past events in order to strengthen the Krenim Imperium. Voyager was an unknown entity to the Imperium. When they first met, the Krenim were in the middle of erasing an entire race called the Zahl from existence. In the blink of an eye, the Zahl were no more, that area of space was controlled by many Krenim warships, the Krenim ships were much larger than before, and Voyager was damaged. The Krenim were going to board Voyager, so Janeway fought back and escaped, but only for a time—a year. From IMDB: "Krenim scientist Annorax had built incursions" to be used to erase and strengthen the Krenim Imperium. However, the resulting changes also caused a plague which killed millions of Krenim, including his wife, and Annorax has been seeking a full restoration of his



species for the past 200 years. Annorax decides to destroy Voyager due to the temporal distortions caused by its shields." Annorax was played by Kurtwood Smith (you know him from *That '70s Show* as "Red" Forman).

The crew of Voyager fights many battles and end up hiding in a nebula, from IMDB: "Captain Janeway makes an alliance with two species known as the Nihydron and the Mawasi to attack the Krenim timeship. The remaining crew members move to the allied ships while Janeway remains behind alone on Voyager to pilot the heavily damaged ship herself. With the help of a dissatisfied crew member Chakotay and Paris take the time ship's temporal core offline, rendering it vulnerable to attack, and beam to the nearest allied ship. Unfortunately, even vulnerable and without temporal weaponry, the time ship is too powerful and the allied ships are disabled. Voyager itself is badly damaged when one of the ships crashes over the saucer section of Voyager. Theorizing that the true timeline will be restored if the Krenim ship is destroyed, Janeway orders the fleet to drop their temporal shields and rams Voyager into the time-ship while it is powering up for another temporal incursion, destroying Voyager and causing the time ship's temporal core to destabilize, which erases the ship from history in a massive temporal incursion, the day Voyager first temporal waves." This last rams the ship into the Janeway the Bad-ass any more shit from the goes all out to try to destroy stop changing time and existence.



In the end, this was all he could predict with his device that Janeway would end up going all out and he hoped he would get his wife back. The final scene says it all. I won't spoil it for you, but it's worth watching the two-part episode.

I do have other "favorites" in all of the series, but for some reason Voyager popped up first when deciding what to write. I hope you too can appreciate these episodes and find your own "favorites" to tell us about.

LTJG Reed Bates
Operations Officer

Crew Submissions

Balance of Terror – Captain Kirk versus the U-Boat
- Jeffrey A. Webb, MGN SFMC (Ret.)

To those who know me, it is no surprise that my favorite episodes of Star Trek tend to be the ones with the martial overtones. Beyond martial, many episodes of the original Star Trek covered topics that would be familiar to the television audience at the time – namely the Vietnam war, racism, and in this case World War II. No, we're not going to talk about *Patterns of Force* and the Space Nazis from Ekos, we're talking about the classic episode *Balance of Terror*.



This episode introduced the Romulans as opponents to CAPT Kirk and crew – who were not yet distinctly called “The Federation.” It also gave us our first Star Trek episode with Mark Lenard, who would later go on to play Sarek of Vulcan for almost three decades.

What's this episode about? Captain Kirk and company receive distress calls from the “Earth Outposts” along the Romulan Neutral Zone. Investigating, they find that a number of the outposts have been destroyed by some unseen force, with a weapon that can render the hardest metal brittle and delicate. Lieutenant Styles, the navigator, immediately assumes it's the long-unseen Romulans, with whom no contact has been made for over a century when the Romulan War occurred. The Enterprise crew witnesses the next attack,

seeing the enemy ship use a massive plasma weapon of a type they have never seen, and then fade from view. The episode becomes a very close approximation of the classic WWII film “The Enemy Below” as the Enterprise hunts the Romulan ship in the same way the surface vessel hunts the U-Boat. Many of the tropes of the submarine film genre appear here, firing phasers as if they are depth charges, the cloaked vessel disposing of debris to make it look as if they have been destroyed, even the sentiments of the commanders are very similar to those we see in “The Enemy Below” and other sub films.

I will not spoil the ending, or the surprise revelation about the Romulans that most of you probably already know – you'll just have to watch the episode. It's currently available on Netflix streaming for those of you with access to that service. Suffice to say, this is my favorite TOS episode due to the drama, the tension, and the wonderful back-and-forth between CAPT Kirk and the Romulan Commander-



who only share one scene speaking to one another but who seem to be trying to

read each other's minds throughout the chase. It's a great hour of Star Trek, and begins not only Star Trek's association with

future-Sarek, but the involvement of those “other” antagonists, the Romulans.

TRIVIA – The original Romulan Bird of Prey model was stolen after this episode was made, so when the Romulans returned in “The Enterprise Incident” they had Klingon D-7s painted with the Romulan markings, establishing a Klingon/Romulan technology exchange. The Bird of Prey was, at this point, meant to be exclusively a Romulan cultural tag for their vessels. In *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*, the original script had



Kruger stealing the Bird of Prey from the Romulans in order to get his hands on a cloaking device so he could pull off his plot concerning Genesis. This scene was dropped, and the dialogue changed to indicate that this Bird of Prey was a Klingon vessel. From this point on, both the Klingons and the Romulans had Bird of Prey vessels in their inventory – a move that I have always found lazy, as it dilutes the cultural distinctions of both enemy races.

Kathy Hench

My favorite star trek episode next gen is *Attached*.



Ever since episode one of Next Gen there was a personal connection between Picard and Crusher. The way the captain let

Westley do things other kids could not. It was all because he liked Crusher. So from the very beginning I wanted to see them get together as a couple. And they never really did...but this is the episode where they are the closest to being together. I know in the last episode it was an alternate future where they were married and divorced. But, I didn't think that seemed like a good ending so I discount that ending. Because my favorite character was Beverly I hated Pulaski who replaced her for season 2.

I just finished re-watching the episode, and the end kills me. It is just wrong when she says, "...maybe we should be afraid..." and she leaves. I scream at the TV-- "NO! Stay!" --but it always ends the same.

Ark Angel Station's Schedule of Events

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

- June 2nd – 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 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 <http://www.ic2013.com> for details.

Hope to see you all at one of these events!