

Inside The Rock

Ark Angel Station Newsletter

Vol III - Edition 2 - Feb 2013

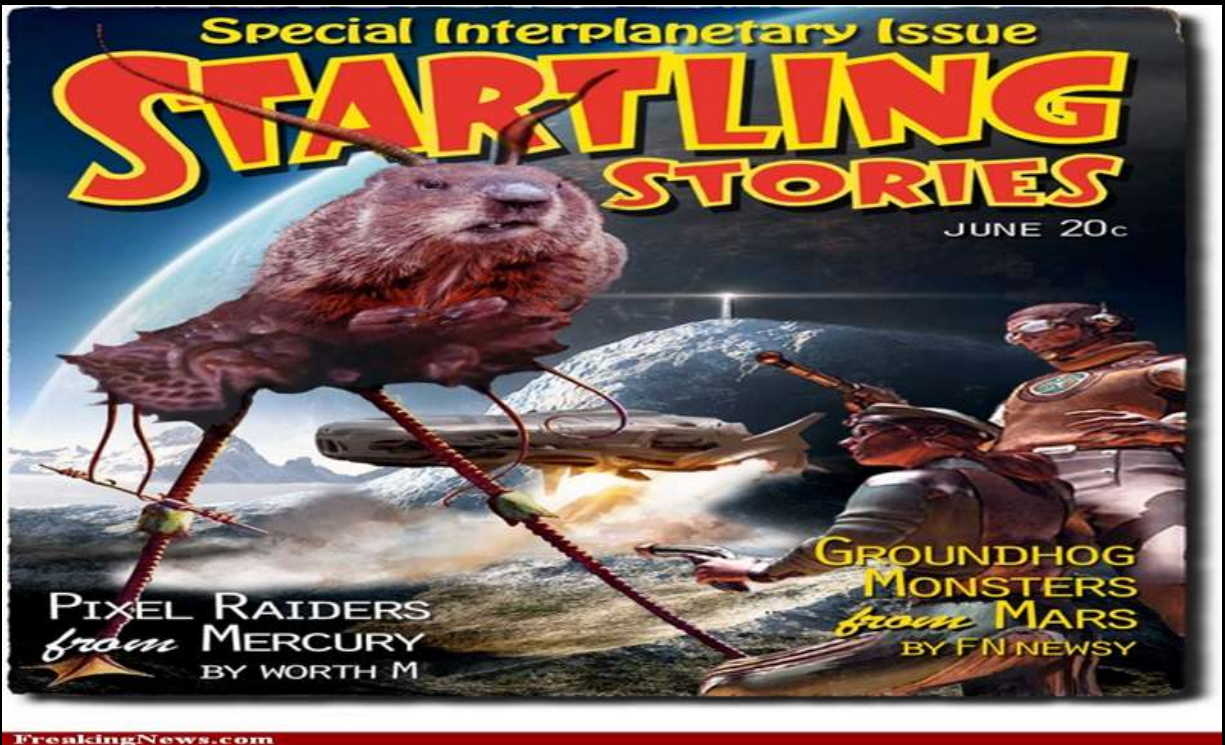


What is your Favorite Star Trek ship?

Happy Ground Hog Day Ark Angel!

Great American Pie Month

<http://www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/february.htm>



Inside this edition:

- CO's Ramblings
- From the Com Station
- Ops Corner
- Cadet Services Report
- Q Conundrum
- Favorite Trek Ships
- Ark Angel Station's Schedule of Events

From the CO's Desk,

Hello my most awesome crew! Just wanted to drop a note to say hello, and to usher in our new Communications Officer Mike Brown, everyone give him a round of applause, -you hear them applauding don't you mike (hehe)? Also I wanted to remind everyone of our calendar of events, my operations officer is maintaining that for us to know what's coming in the future so we can plan ahead so everyone should be looking at it (<http://arkangelstation.com/Bridge/StationCalendar>).

Also I wanted to remind that the Cadet Services officer has a calendar and we try to stay merged so the ships calendar reflects all the activities our Cadet Corp is involved in and planning as well, so you definitely need to keep checking it. We will have a summary of coming events at the end of this newsletter each month as well for quick reference, but it's subject to change in some cases so make sure and check the online version to verify and get more info about the events.

CO Ark Angel Station,

FCAPT Lloyd Bates

[Ark Angel Web](#)

From the Com Station,

Greetings and Salutations, as promised this newsletter contains the first installment of the Q Conundrum (check it out). Theme for next month's newsletter will be what is your favorite nonhuman species (sentient, sapient or not) and why.

I would also like to mention that the Texas Lottery is launching a new Star Trek scratch-off ticket in March. This is important because they are sponsoring an event in Dallas to try to break the Guinness Book of World Records for "the most people in Star Trek costumes at one event." William Shatner will be there to scratch off the first ticket but at this time not to sign autographs. Prizes can be won, check out Texas Lottery Facebook page and these links. [Star Trek Lottery Event](#) , [Texas-Lottery-Wants-to-Set-Start-Trek-Costume-Record](#)

Communication Officer Ark Angel Station,

LTJG Mike Brown

commo@arkangelstation.com

Operational Thoughts,

New Ops Web Portal:

Just because I asked, our CO Lloyd Bates has made me a little play area on the station. It's actually a WordPress site separate from the main webpage. I'll have a list of events there and may have other things pop up from time to time that are operational in nature.

<http://ops.arkangelstation.com/>

Job Listing

Anyone want to replace me on the station? Due to me being so busy all the time with my other posts around the Fleet, I just don't have enough time in the day to devote to the Ark Angel. I love her, but I need to step down. Just give me a "Hey" at a meeting and we'll chat about what the job entails how much time it takes, etc.

Invitation to Debate: Star Trek versus Star Wars on Live TV.

The Ark Angel Station was invited to be the Star Trek half of a live debate scheduled for Saturday, February 23 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We need 4 to 6 volunteers. You must have and wear a uniform or alien garb, if not in Starfleet, and be in character, like you were pulled right out of your universe or planet. They may also have phone lines open to determine the winner from the "studio audience." Sound like fun? Email Reed if you want to participate.

Tired of Facebook?

If you aren't, some of us are. I know I've been doing Facebook since early 2009. I cannot even fathom that it has been that long. Don't worry, I'm not giving it up, but just need a long break from it, maybe? When you spend hours on it and don't get other things done or you miss out on your real life, then that's not a good thing. I definitely check and read email most weekdays, so that really is the best way to get a hold of me. (Weekends are optional.)

Register for STARFLEET's International Conference 2013

The website for the event is a bit more fleshed out, and you now have the opportunity to pre-order IC 2013 Challenge Coins for only \$10. The Conference will be in Dallas, Texas, at the MCM Elegante Hotel off of Northwest Highway and I-35. You might know the hotel as the 2007 Region 3 Summit Hotel, but it has changed owners a couple times since then. There will be a Marine Mess served buffet style Friday night with all the usual pomp and circumstance and all are invited, not just the Marines. Saturday night is a formal Admiral's Banquet, plated dinner with meal selection, followed by charity auction, dance with a DJ and laser light show. There will be a cadet track brought to us by our own Kris Murphy. More details can be found on the website at: www.ic2013.com.

Chief of Operations Ark Angel Station,

Commodore Reed Bates

ops@arkangelstation.com

Cadet Services Report,

February Events

2/16/2013 AACC Meeting/Wallace and Gromit in the Curse of the
Were-Rabbit (2005)

March Events

3/16/2013 AACC Meeting/Away Mission-
Austin Children's Museum

April Events

4/20/2013 AACC Meeting/Underdog

Q Conundrum

Oh, what are you gonna do?



PLUNGE me to death?

RULES:

- 1) This is a fun trivia game on all things Star Trek so have fun or Worf will have a talk with you.
- 2) Use of the internet, printed material, or any references to find the answer is not allowed! In other words either you know it or you don't **No cheating**. We're on the Honor System.
- 3) One point for each question answered correctly.
- 4) One point deducted for each question answered incorrectly.
- 5) No points lost or gained for unanswered questions.
- 6) One point awarded each month for an article turned in on that month's newsletter theme.
- 7) Ten to twenty questions each month for twelve months.
- 8) Judge's decisions are final (Com officer is the judge)!
- 9) Send your answers to Com Officer. commo@arkangelstation.com
- 10) Open to all Ark Angel Station Crew and Staff.
- 11) Prize is bragging rights for the next year.
- 12) Failure to follow these rules will result in Assimilation.

Questions:

- 1) What was the name of the prototype starship that was taken over by the Romulans that the Holographic Doctor had to save?
 - a) Dauntless
 - b) Exeter
 - c) Valiant
 - d) Prometheus

- 2) What was the name of the Galaxy Class Starship that was destroyed in the Gamma Quadrant as a result of a "kamikaze" attack by a Jem'Hadar Attack Ship?
 - a) Challenger
 - b) Venture
 - c) Discovery
 - d) Odyssey

- 3) What was the name of the Defiant Class starship manned by cadets and operating independent of Starfleet Command?
 - a) Valiant
 - b) Reliant
 - c) Avenger
 - d) Courageous

- 4) What is the name of the starship that Data takes command of in Capt. Picard's blockade of the Neutral Zone?
 - a) Sutherland
 - b) Cumberland
 - c) Horatio
 - d) Repulse

- 5) Another Federation Starship was trapped in the Delta quadrant besides the USS Voyager. What was the name of the ship?
 - a) Nova
 - b) Equinox
 - c) Dauntless
 - d) Bellerephon

- 6) What is the name of the Ship that was commanded by Geordi LaForge's mother?
 - a) Achilles
 - b) Agamemnon
 - c) Hera
 - d) Demeter

- 7) What was the name of the starship that William Riker was once assigned to that had a mutiny on board?
 - a) Pegasus
 - b) Intrepid
 - c) Hood
 - d) Adelphi

- 8) What is the name of the "fake" Federation Starship that was sent into the Delta Quadrant to rescue the crew of the Voyager?
 - a) Fearless
 - b) Courageous
 - c) Dauntless
 - d) Allegiance

- 9) What was the name of the Federation Starship that unknowingly attacked the DS9 crew while they were covertly using a Jem'Hadar vessel on a secret mission?
 - a) Centaur
 - b) Saratoga
 - c) Defiant
 - d) Majestic

- 10) What was the name of the starship that Riker and LaForge used in the war games exercise against the Enterprise-D?
 - a) Stargazer
 - b) Phoenix
 - c) Excalibur
 - d) Hathaway

And the Favorites are:

Lloyd Bates,

This month's article theme is what's your favorite ship and why, so here goes with one of my favorites (I always have more than one favorite when it comes to Star Trek)

I have always like the Excelsior, it was a massive ship commanded by Several commanding officers thru her career, most notably Captain Sulu in Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country where one of my favorite lines in the movie is delivered by Capt Sulu, Captain Hikaru Sulu: "In range?" Helmsman Lojur: "Not yet sir." Captain Hikaru Sulu: "Come on, come on." Helmsman Lojur: "She'll fly apart!" Captain Hikaru Sulu: *Fly her apart then!* ... Really great exposure of Sulu's hidden aggressive side. Even though it was considered a failure for its Transwarp Drive experiment, and with Scotty calling it a "bucket of bolts" I still think it was a great ship and deserves a place amongst the top ships in the Fleet.



Matthew Hill,

My favorite Ship has to be the Defiant. Nothing takes a beating like that little guy. I know Worf would be upset with me by saying little. Honestly without this ship DS9 would have been dull. Nothing aside from the Borg could put a dint into the hull. I would love to be commander of such a fine vessel.



Mike Brown,

My favorite ship from the Trek Universe is the Romulan D'deridex (Warbird) class Battleship/Battlecruiser. This has to be the most visually intimidating ship design ever in Star Trek and one mean and powerful ship. Later versions are so powerful that Starfleet did not pass it until the Sovereign class Battleship/Heavy Cruiser (2nd Favorite ship and the class USS Enterprise-E belongs too).



In the real world my favorite type of warship is the Aircraft Carrier, second would be Battleships. Alas the Star Trek Universe is built around a surface ship type fleet with Battleships and Cruisers as the capital ships. That is how it is, but fighters were seen in DS9 and ST:Voyager , and still no Carrier type ships mentioned let alone shown. I'm glad Star Trek fans made some Heavy Battleship/Fleet Carriers the Invincible class is awesome. It appears that Gene Roddenberry was a Battleship Admiral at heart or the budget monster killed the carrier. http://memory-gamma.wikia.com/wiki/Invincible_class



Jeffrey Webb,

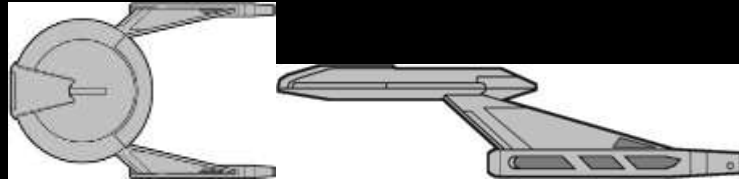
The premier of Star Trek: The Next Generation opened a floodgate for Trek fandom of starship aesthetics that has yet to close. Many vessels of the Federation now introduced are quite different from the classic saucer-nacelle(s)-etc. designs of my childhood. When I was growing up, there were two distinct looks for Federations vessels – the TOS look patterned on the original Constitution-class USS Enterprise (no bloody A, B, C or D) and the “Movie Look” based on what we called the Enterprise-class at the time, thanks to the FASA Star Trek roleplaying books and the look of the redesigned Enterprise from Star Trek: The Motion Picture and the USS Reliant from Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan. In these halcyon days of my Trek fandom and roleplaying experiences, I fell in love with the “Movie Look” and still consider what we now call the Constitution-Refit as the single most beautiful rendition of the USS Enterprise to date. I noted that the redesign for the 2009 Star Trek film took more than a few cues from the 1979 Enterprise, meshing them with the look from the 1965/66 Enterprise (there were differences) to create something new.

While FASA’s design team did what many other fans and publishers did – that is, mix and match nacelles and saucers to create a fleet of vessels that had a unified look – the scale of those components was sometimes wildly wrong. In the case of engine nacelles, this was easily dismissed as jet engines of different sizes often look very similar – why not warp engines? In the case of saucers and hulls the size of the windows, bridge module, and the thickness of the saucer compared to its diameter were often quite strange. At the time none of us really noticed, as we were having entirely too much fun PLAYING these ships as part of the Star Trek game. I still have my dog-eared copy of FASA’s Federation Ship Recognition Manual, as well as the Klingon and Romulan counterparts. I also have very, very nice condition backup copies that seldom leave the bookshelf, and PDFs of all three manuals. Looking at them takes me back to those days, before TNG, before DS9, before... well... everything that isn’t TOS or TOS movies. I think the movie era was fascinating, and could host much more media than has been produced for it. I was among those Star Trek fans who were very disappointed when rumors of an Excelsior television series starring Captain Sulu turned out to be just rumors.

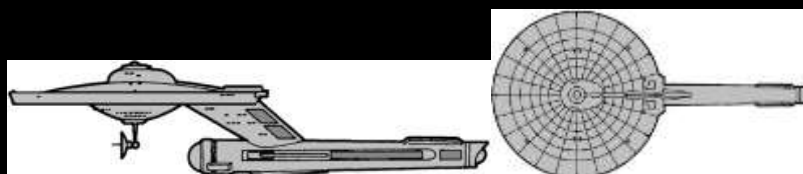
Since the theme of this issue is favorite vessel, I thought I’d highlight some of the ships in the old FASA manual that captured my imagination when I was just getting deep into fandom and gaming. The descriptions of these ships and their design goals, capabilities and histories spurred my imagination to warp speed.

In the scout class territory I had a soft spot for the Ranger-class scout, sometimes referred to in the source material as a “battle scout.” I don’t really see where the “battle” part comes in unless they’re being quite optimistic due to the single fore and aft light torpedo tubes on this ship. I liked the Ranger because it was heavily detailed in an adventure module called “The Strider Incident” during which the captain of a group of these scouts orders her vessels across the Klingon border and nearly starts a war. The module included deck plans for the vessel, and it became the first Federation ship after the

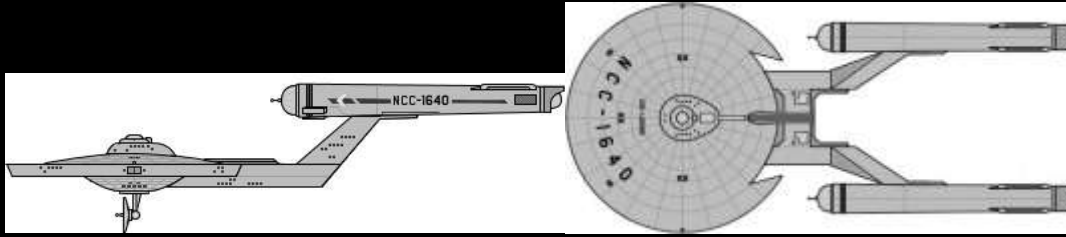
Enterprise herself that I could have a full map of for gaming purposes. You'll note this vessel does not use the standard saucer section – a good choice as it would appear far too thin on the side views for the actual size of the ship. The Ranger is otherwise a moderately effective entry to the game in the scout classification, but hey... I liked it.



In the destroyer category, I've got to go with my TOS roots and put in a good word for the Saladin. Now, the Saladin wasn't originally in the old FASA manuals – no, this design is from the Franz Josef Star Fleet Technical Manual, a book every true Trek fan should have at least one copy of. This was the first look many Trek fans in the 70s and 80s got of any ship that wasn't Constitution-class. We got a destroyer, a tug, a scout and a dreadnought from this book all of which would be used in Starfleet Battles by Task Force Games. The Saladin is a pretty simple concept, use a very similar saucer to a Constitution and mate it with a single warp engine in place of the secondary hull to give you a less costly, less crew-intensive ship. I have a very special place in my heart for destroyers; I suppose my spacefaring soul is a tin can sailor. The Saladin is the first, and to me iconic example of a DD-class vessel in the Starfleet inventory.

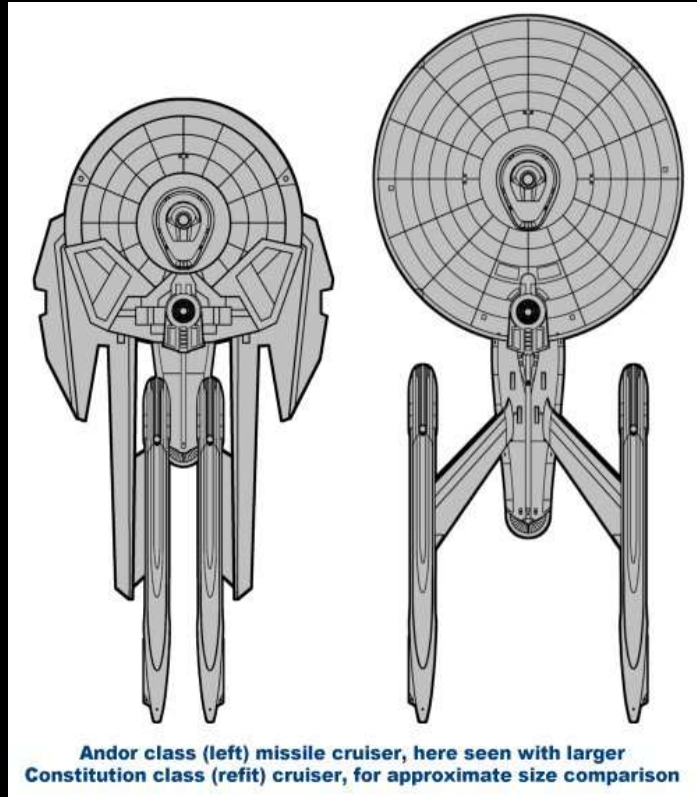


Now we get to frigates, and I've got to give props to FASA's Loknar-class Frigate for beating everyone to the NX-01 configuration. Fans all over the internet raised complaints that NX-01 was nothing more than an Akira-redesign. Well, folks, the Loknar predate the Akira by over a decade. Feast your eyes.



Now, this vessel is a lot of fun to play, and in the fluff from FASA one is even captured by the Klingons and used to raid the Federation. It's also noted that this vessel saw more combat than any other class of ship during the Four Years War, a conflict that appears in the FASA lore to explain the tensions between the Klingons and the Federation during the original series and films.

On to cruisers, and I give you the Andor-class. Note the nacelles placed inboard behind the primary hull. According to FASA, this was a design element favored by the Andorians and prominent in the ships of the Blue Fleet, which were crewed primarily by Andorian crews. The idea was to protect the engines as much as possible while still allowing them to be jettisoned in an emergency. I always loved the Andor-class because it was described as a "missile cruiser" due to its heavy torpedo armament. The Andor had a large array of photon torpedoes, and this made it quite effective for its size.



Now, there are entries for escorts, corvettes, battleships... I encourage you to check them out yourself and see what interesting vessels you might find. What? You don't have these 25-year old books? NOT TO WORRY. Just go to <http://home.comcast.net/~ststcsolda/> for all the neat information you'd ever want about the original FASA Star Trek: Tactical Combat Simulator including enemy vessels, and conversions of ships that didn't exist when the game was in print.

Ark Angel Station's Schedule of Events:

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

- February 23, 2013 @ Noon to whenever – **Ark Angel Station Meeting Day:** In 2013, will try to meet consistently on the 4th Saturday of the month. Sound good to you? If you have suggestions on where to meet and how to have fun before, during, or after the meeting, please email to the Operations Officer Ops@arkangelstation.com.
- February 23, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – **Star Wars vs. Star Trek Debate on Live TV!!!** We have been invited to participate in this event during SXSW by the Diabolical League of Awesome. We met one of these guys at Austin Comic Con, so let's come out in force and show our geek off. More details to follow.
- March 23, 2013 @ Noon to whenever – **Ark Angel Station Meeting Day:** In 2013, will try to meet consistently on the 4th Saturday of the month. Sound good to you? If you have suggestions on where to meet and how to have fun before, during, or after the meeting, please email to the Operations Officer Ops@arkangelstation.com.
- Weekend of April 13-14, 2013 – **SAVE THE DATE--REVISED!!** The members of the Ark Angel Station will travel to Baton Rouge for the **5th Anniversary of the USS Corsair**, our favorite scourge of the Fleet. Those Pirates know how to put on a party.
- April 27, 2013 @ Noon to whenever – **Ark Angel Station Meeting Day:** We may need to move our meeting this month due to the following event.
- April 27, 2013 – **Third Brigade Muster in Austin:** Sleep Inn and Suites at 14004 Owen-Tech Blvd. off I-35 south of Wells Branch Parkway. Check the Brigade List and Facebook Page for more info.
- May 3-5, 2013 – **DwarfCon.** This will be a Cosplay, Anime, and Manga deal at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Austin, Texas. See their website: www.dwarf-con.com for more details. Jeff Webb former Ark Angel member is working this convention.
- May 17, 2013 -- **MOVIE: Star Trek: Into Darkness Premier.** The second of the Reboot movies will premier that evening. We probably will work with the Alamo Draft House or other Theater to work with lines and see the movie as a group like we did in 2009.
- May 24-26, 2013 – **Galacticon III at Comicpalooza 2013.** A convention inside a convention in Houston, Texas. The members of Battlestar Galactica are getting together to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the original show and the 10th Anniversary of the new one. more info: <http://www.galacticon3.com>

- August 1-4, 2013 – Starfleet International's 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 for details. See your CO if you wish to assist with the Game Room, Kathy Hench if you wish to donate or help with the Auction for charity, and Operations Reed Bates for anything else, as she is the Chief of Staff of the IC 2013 Committee.

Hope to see you all at one of these events!

REMINDERS:

Inside the Rock Deadlines: All members of the Ark Angel should and the AA Staff must turn in articles by the 21st each month. There is a suggested topic; however, you don't have to submit it just for that. Send you articles, photos, poems, stories, etc. to commo@arkangelstation.com.