

Inside The Rock

Ark Angel Station Newsletter

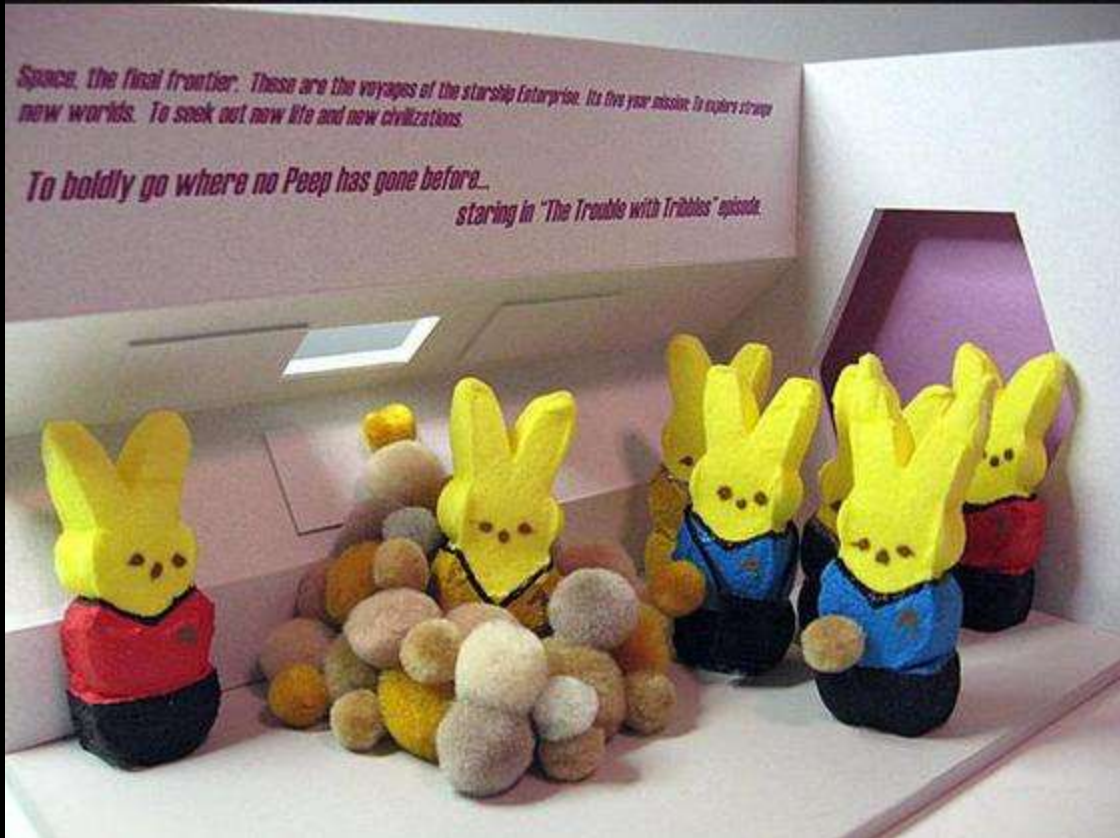
Vol IV - Edition VI - Jun 2014



Happy Father's Day Ark Angel!

National Candy Month

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



Inside this edition:

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From the Comm Station,

Greetings and Salutations,

Theme for next month's newsletter is "Your favorite ?"

Any ideas for a newsletter theme email your Com officer.

A great time was had by all at the Region III summit this month. We raised \$664 in an Auction and \$216 in Tribble donations for the Houston Area Parkinson Society charity. Ark Angel received Region 3 Chapter of the year 2nd year in a row as well as our CO received Flag officer of the year. I received silver pillar award

Your Com officer had fun at Govt. expense. I'm looking forward to going to two Detroit Tigers baseball games this month in Houston. Go Tigers.

Check out the holiday site for all your favorite unknown holidays (link on title page).

Communication Officer Ark Angel Station,

LTJG Mike Brown

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Science Corner,

Space-X Leads the Way to the Future

Elon Musk has been busy for the last few years getting his Space-X company off the ground. Trained as an engineer but also a savvy and very successful entrepreneur (ever hear of PayPal or Tesla Motors?), Mr. Musk decided to start his own spaceship company in order to bring down the cost of space launches and bring us closer to the other planets in our solar system and maybe someday the stars.

Way back in 2002, Space-X was founded. One of the reasons for this was the pending end of the US Space Shuttle program and the lack of private competition in the market. Even today there are only a limited number of private companies that are actively building and launching rockets to orbit (Space Launch and Orbital Sciences) and only one company has a capsule that is designed to return to Earth in one piece, bringing with it experiments and equipment that needs to be examined or repaired - Space-X and its' Dragon capsule.

The most exciting thing about Space-X isn't just the fact that this is a private company. It's not even that they overcame three unsuccessful launches prior to their first successful launch to orbit of a dragon capsule in 2009. The most amazing and (for us) significant development that Space-X engineers and workers are doing is to build re-usable craft that are capable of quick turnaround times. The upside of this is that, if all their plans are successful, this will bring down the cost of space launches to orbit to about 1/10th of what they are today. Eventually, that could be cut down to 1/100th. In a nutshell - you and I could someday realize our dreams of visiting space.

The first reusable piece of equipment to be designed and flown (or at some point re-flown) is the Dragon capsule which sits atop the Falcon rocket. The capsule is currently being used to re-supply the International Space Station (which I like to call by its' original name, 'Space Station Freedom'). So far it has made three successful flights to the station and has 9 more to go.

Last month, on their third launch to the station, Space-X experimented with a new technology that was designed to make it possible to return the Falcon 9 (called '9' because it actually has 9 separate engines) first stage (it's a 3-stage rocket) safely to the earth so that it may be reused. This Falcon 9 was the first rocket to ever be flown with the intent of bringing it back safely to the Earth. It had landing legs attached! The result was mostly successful. The main rocket engine was re-ignited after it had delivered its' cargo to orbit, orienting it for descent through the Earths' atmosphere. The craft came down successfully and entered the Atlantic ocean in what is called a 'soft landing'. This means that it was slowed by its' engines enough so that when it entered the water, it stayed in one piece. Unfortunately the high seas then destroyed the rocket and it was lost. This result was actually quite in line with what was hoped - the test proved that a controlled landing was possible. The next phase of this recovery technology is intended to return a Falcon 9 by landing the stage on land. The current testbed for this concept, called the Grasshopper, has made a number of high altitude flights/landings. This enhanced technology should allow for a return of a flight hardware version of the Falcon 9 1st stage to be fully recovered - if all goes as planned - sometime later this year.

It is planned to eventually recover all three stages of the Falcon rocket as well as the Dragon capsule.

The news this month came out on May 29th - the revealing of the new Dragon 2 capsule - a human rated craft that will carry up to 7 passengers and will land on the ground instead of spashing down in the ocean. It is expected to have its' first actual non-manned flight late next year. If successfully, it will go into operation sometime in late 2016 or 2017 and will restore America's ability to send astronauts to the International Space Station.

Ultimately, Mr. Musk wants to send rockets and people to Mars where he would like to begin a new colony of humans. While this seemed very unlikely a few years ago, the results of the Dragon and Falcon craft have eliminated most of such doubt. Who knows, you may be one of the first new colonists on another world. It could actually happen. It **will** happen. Stay tuned.

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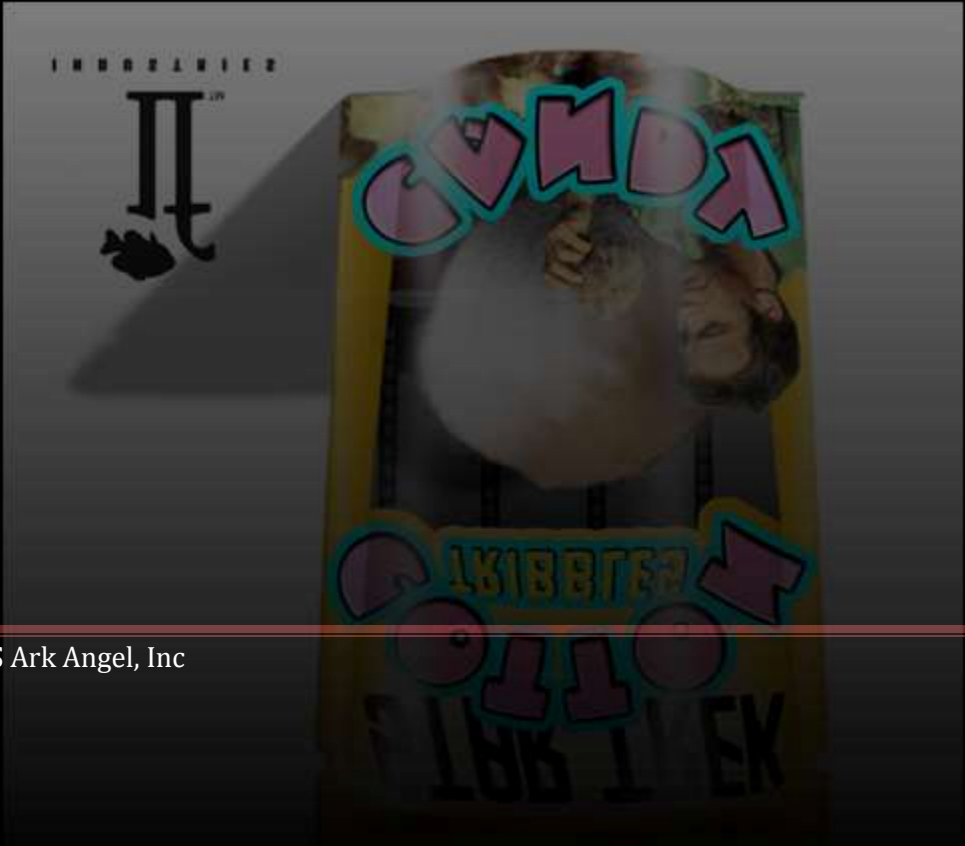
Science Officer Ark Angel Station,

LCDR Sorak (John Halliday)

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if
INDUSTRIES



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) No points lost or gained for incorrectly answered questions.
- 5) Questions for any quiz in the same calendar year as that quiz can be answered until the answers are published in the newsletter but only one answer per person per question.
- 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 Comm 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:

Identify the following as Star Trek or Doctor Who Planet?

- 1) Algol
- 2) Mondas
- 3) Sontar
- 4) Vulcan
- 5) Romulus
- 6) Clom
- 7) Cardassia Prime
- 8) Aldea
- 9) Zeon
- 10) Bajor
- 11) Andoria
- 12) Felspoon
- 13) Qo'noS
- 14) Tamar
- 15) Iota Geminorum IV
- 16) Karn
- 17) Raxacoricofallapatorius
- 18) Skaro
- 19) Gallifrey
- 20) Barcelona

Quiz Leader Board

Kathy Hiten Hench 32

Lloyd 5

JUN Quiz

1. D
2. D
3. A
4. A
5. ARMSTRONG
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. C
10. A

Favorite Non-STAR TREK TV Show

Kathy-

Favorite TV show is Buffy. She was a strong female character. I have always loved the strong female characters. First Wonder Woman, then Bionic Woman, then Xena, and even groups of strong women being Charlie's Angels and the Charmed girls. As women have gained power in society in general so have women in television. Buffy the Vampire slayer was a great show it had many powerful women not just Buffy, there was Willow, Tara, Dawn, Faith, Kendra, Cordelia, Drusilla, Jenny, Amy, Anya and even her mother had her own kind of strength. Sometimes it was very silly and campy but some episodes were great like the one with the gentlemen. Buffy had to deal with problems that every girl deals with popularity, boyfriends, school, getting a job, parents divorce and even her mother's death, and all the time trying to save the town from creatures. If you have never seen this show you should watch it. Season one kind of sucked but the rest is ok.

Board Games that you should give a try by Kathy

Pathfinder Adventure Card Game

When I was in college I was introduced to role playing games. Up till then I just played games like monopoly. In college i played RPG's like D&D and Call of cathulu. As everyone knows Mary runs a RPG after the meeting based on our star fleet station. Pathfinder adventure card game is like a RPG and a card game mixed together. Your character has a deck of cards with weapons, armor, spells, items, and blessings. And you explore like a dungeon crawl a deck of cards that has monsters and treasures to find. You build up your character by getting better skills and better items then you take on tougher monsters. ect. I find it great fun like a role playing game it is not something you play once for a short time it is something you play with a stable group over a long period of time. to find out more about it check it out.

<http://boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/133038/pathfinder-adventure-card-game-rise-of-the-runelord>



Ark Angel Station's Schedule of Events:

Have suggestions for events, let us know. Please email to the Operations Officer Ops@arkangelstation.com for suggestions or information on any Ark Angel event.

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

- July 12, 2014 @ Noon to whenever – Ark Angel Station Day: We will continue to role-play our characters or other gaming.
- August 8-9, 2014 STARFLEET'S International Conference in Rockford, Illinois. Time is Fleeting – celebrating Starfleet's 40th Anniversary. More info: www.ic2014.com.

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.

