

Inside The Rock

Ark Angel Station Newsletter

Vol VI - Edition IV - Apr 2016



**Happy National Beer and No Housework Day
Ark Angel Station!**

National Humor Month

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



Inside this edition:

- CO's Ramblings
- From the Comm Station
- Q Conundrum
- Science Corner
- Game Center
- Ark Angel Station's Schedule of Events

From the CO's Desk,

Long time no hear from me! I apologize for my long hiatus from writing to you folks, no one with the chatter...

I have been busy trying to sort out my career as of late and so don't have a lot of pertinent SFI info to manage, although; I do have some chapter stuff I would like to go over with you in this issue.

First is a better description of what I am looking form in the Web site visual refit contest. I want to make sure everyone has the same picture of what I'm looking for in this contest (submissions due by June 2016). I'm looking for the visual skinning of the website, what would the background of the pages look like, the header and footer imagery entail, if there's a side bar, (twitter feed, Facebook feed etc.) what kind of style does the surround consist of and its internal background, if there are any callout boxes (News flash, CO's Blog things like that) what do they look like? Should be have a specifications of the station page? Should there be a comments section, or Crew only section of pages? Think of these things when figuring out how you want the site to look, what should the menu look like? The winning entry will get most if not all these things included in Its submission.

If you want to create an image of the main page and how it should look, or include standalone images of each part with written description of how it all goes together either will be acceptable. But don't wait till the last minute to work thru it and get those submissions in, I want to start refitting the site soon after the winning entry is decided?

Your CO has already represented the Chapter at Retreat in Odessa last January, a few things like the new awards system was decided upon amongst all the CO's. The FLEET First initiative is still in shakedown with different ideas still being muddled over for tryout. So all in all the Region's business is still moving along.

Now to some business, we spoke at our last meeting about fundraising, and while we had a couple of ideas floated we really didn't make much headway. I really want you crew to put your minds into this we need another polarizing event like Game day was to help fill the ship's coffers. We're bone dry now.

As I said last time; the challenge, how can we build an event that garners some income for us while giving value to the community that is participating? These are questions that we have to start to work on. We had game day but the region has usurped our success, so we don't have that any longer. We need a new revenue stream and we need it pretty soon, do we start crew dues again? As CO, I would prefer not to have crew dues if we can find any other way; but, this is also on the table for discussion. I want to hear from everyone about this, what ideas do you have? No idea is too small, or too silly to consider. So bring them out in the open for everyone to think about. Who knows, your silly idea may spark a genius idea to spin out from it! SO get those ideas posted to the crew email list!

Well, that's it for now.

Commanding Officer Ark Angel Station,

FCAPT Lloyd Bates



From the Comm Station,

Greetings and Salutations,

Theme for next month's newsletter is "Your favorite Star Trek experience that you have had or would like to have?"

We had a great time playing games at the CO's House last month. Celena and I look forward to the Away mission to Sherwood Forest. We hope to see y'all in Sherwood.

Yes the Make up your own Holiday is a real Holiday.

Any ideas for a newsletter theme email your Com officer.

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

Communication Officer Ark Angel Station,

LCDR Mike Brown

commo@arkangelstation.com



RICK MARIN 12

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:

- 1) What happened to the EMH Doctor in the 'Voyager' episode 'Future's End II'?
 - a) He was tortured
 - b) He became Human
 - c) He was projected into space
 - d) He was decompiled
- 2) What is Beverly Crusher's maiden name?
 - a) Howard
 - b) Jackson
 - c) Jones
 - d) Harvard
- 3) Which 'Voyager' episode brings Neelix face-to-face with the 'destroyer' of his world?
 - a) Jetrel
 - b) Gravity
 - c) The Thaw
 - d) Rise
- 4) What is Seven of Nine's parents' space craft?
 - a) The Raven
 - b) The Falcon
 - c) The Eagle
 - d) The Bluejay
- 5) What does the 'T' stand for in James T Kirk?
- 6) Which 'Voyager' crew member was pregnant during 'The Killing Game'?
 - a) Seven
 - b) Kes
 - c) Janeway
 - d) B'Elanna
- 7) Which crew member asked Geordi to be his best man?
 - a) Worf
 - b) Data
 - c) Picard
 - d) O'Brien

- 8) Is Captain Picard's favorite hot beverage earl grey tea?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 9) What does Neelix sing to Tuvok to cheer him up in the episode 'Tuvix'?
 - a) An Ocampa lullabye
 - b) A Klingon drinking song
 - c) A Talaxian marriage song
 - d) A Vulcan funeral dirge
- 10) Which actor played the young Picard in the episode 'Tapestry'?
 - a) Marcus Nash
 - b) John Simm
 - c) John Nash
 - d) Jack Hunter





Science Corner,

An Explosion of Progress in 2015/2016

(This article will serve mainly as an update to previous articles that focus on the rapid progress we are making in the area of reusability and a return to having the ability to send astronauts into low earth orbit and beyond.)

I have spoken to you about the efforts of companies like SpaceX, Orbital Sciences and Blue Origin as well as the legacy companies - Lockheed and Boeing (United Launch Alliance). Here is what has happened recently and here is what is in their near future.

ULA has completed some recent tests for their new space capsule, the Crew Space Transportation System (CST-100) Starliner - being developed to ferry up to 5 astronauts to the International Space Station. Earlier this month there was a water landing test where a mock-up of the craft was dropped into a body of water to see how it would behave during a landing at sea. This is one of several preliminary tests that must be performed before the capsule can be certified to take astronauts into space. In February 2017 there will be a pad abort test, where the capsule will simulate an aborted flight, taking the test craft 'out of harms way' and landing in the nearby ocean - just like SpaceX did last year with its own capsule, the Dragon 2.

Blue Origins' New Shepard (named after the Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard) two stage spacecraft was recently launched twice (one last December and again in January). Each time the 6 story high craft ascended to a height of just over 63 miles (straight up) and then came straight down and landed safely. The fact that the same craft was used to reach space (which is internationally defined as 62.13 miles or 100 km) not just once but twice with the same spacecraft is a first! This bodes very well for the private space industry.

Most of these companies are focused on making their craft reusable, which will reduce the cost of access to space to a mere fraction of what it is today - making space travel far more accessible to the

average company or individual and ushering in a new space age. The one drawback of the New Shepard craft is that it is not designed to achieve orbit. The good thing is, it was never intended to do that. The business model for this craft is to provide passengers a quick ride into space so they can have a blast and get their astronaut wings!

Orbital ATK (sort of) returned to flight with their ISS resupply mission on December 6, when they launched their Cygnus module aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Previously they had used their own Antares rocket to launch to the space station but the last one they sent up exploded very shortly after takeoff aboard a flight in 2014. They are currently still working on an engine replacement that will eventually be used to re-launch their own booster line.

SpaceX is the biggest recent winner. On December 21 they launched a Falcon 9 (Full Thrust) booster and payload from Cape Canaveral Florida, delivering 13 separate satellites into low earth orbit. While launching satellites is nothing new, there were some rather incredible features of this launch that have made history:

1. By super cooling the liquid oxygen and Kerosene fuels, the SpaceX engineers were able to increase the maximum amount of thrust by 30%. When you cool the fuel, it decreases the amount of space it takes up and that means more fuel for the flight. This is the first time this has ever been done this way and ushers in a significant improvement in the efficiency of rocketry.
2. The second stage delivered 11 Orbcomm satellites to orbit.
3. After having launched and traveled 126 miles up and about 50 miles east, the first stage of the Falcon 9 rocket executed a burn-back maneuver and returned to the launch point, landing just 6 miles from the launch pad at the newly completed Landing Area 1 at Cape Canaveral AFB. This is the first time a booster has ever been recovered on land (the Space Shuttle used reusable boosters which landed at sea but required extensive refurbishment before they could be used again). Several more recoveries of this first stage are expected in 2016.

Virgin Galactic, just last week, unveiled their newly completed Space Ship 2 craft, name Unity. This will replace the first Space Ship 2 which broke up due to pilot error early last year, killing one of the two pilots aboard. Though the systems are completed and have been tested separately, integration and flight testing has yet to be completed. That should start over the next few months.

Upcoming events you'll want to look out for include:

- Launch of the SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket - a heavy lifting rocket (nearly 58 tons) which will use 27 engines to lift large payloads into high (including 22,000 mile geosynchronous) orbits. This is expected around the September 2016 time frame.
- In flight abort of a SpaceX Dragon 2 capsule. This is the last flight test of the new 7-passenger Dragon 2 space capsule prior to sending astronauts to the space station next year. This is scheduled for some time later this year (maybe July/August).

Exciting stuff going on this year - stay tuned!

Science Officer Ark Angel Station,

CDRE Sorak (aka John Halliday)

Board Games that you should give a try!

Kingsburg

In Kingsburg, players are Lords sent from the King to administer frontier territories. The game takes place over five years, a total of 20 turns. In every year, there are 3 production seasons for collecting resources, building structures, and training troops. Every fourth turn is the winter, in which all the players must fight an invading army. Each player must face the invaders, so this is not a cooperative game.

The resources to build structures and train troops are collected by influencing the advisers in the King's Council. Players place their influence dice on members of the Council. The player with the lowest influence dice sum will be the first one to choose where to spend his/her influence; this acts as a way of balancing poor dice rolling. Even with a very unlucky roll, a clever player can still come out from the Council with a good number of resources and/or soldiers.

Each adviser on the King's Council will award different resources or allocate soldiers, victory points, and other advantages to the player who was able to influence him/her for the current turn.

At the end of five years, the player who best developed his assigned territory and most pleased the King through the Council is the winner.

As we just recently played a dice game at the meeting, I feel dice games should come in 2 ways. One is quick and push your luck kind of game yahtzee is a example. The other is a little longer and more detailed but should give you some meaningful choices. This is that type of game. You have a lot of thinking and decisions to make, do you go for the easy play and use all your dice or do you try to out think your opponents and get the best score. I will try to remember to bring this game to the next meeting.

Kathy

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:

- May 21, 2016 @ Noon to whenever – **Ark Angel Station Day**: We will continue to role-play our characters or other gaming.
- June 18, 2016 @ Noon to whenever – **Ark Angel Station Day**: We will prepare for R3 Summit, finish making uniforms and other items, and possibly gaming. It could be all day.
- June 24-26, 2016 **AWAY MISSION – Region 3 Summit** in Odessa, Texas, at the MCM Elegante Hotel & FUNdome 6201 West Highway 80 East, Odessa, TX, 79762 Call (432) 362-2311 and mention STARFLEET Region Three to reserve your room. Rooms are \$99.99/night and a couple suites are \$129.99/night. Call to make your hotel reservations. Also register with the Region at: <http://region3.org/> and see what activities they will be offering.
- July 16, 2016 @ Noon to whenever – **Ark Angel Station Day**: We will continue to role-play our characters or other gaming.

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 Tuesday after the Monthly meeting 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.

