



THE COMMLINK

Newsletter of the USS Haise, Region 2 Starfleet Jan.-Mar. 2011

Region 2 Summit 2011 – Tampa, Florida



The USS Haise was recognized with the 2010 Newsletter of the Year Award on March 12, 2011. Pictured from left are Admiral Dave Blaser, Commander STARFLEET, Commodore Lucy Ferron, CO of the USS Haise, and Rear Admiral Jack Eaton, Region 2 Coordinator. The USS Haise also received a certificate for Perfect Reporting for 2010.



Captain's Log

By Commodore Lucy Ferron, CO



If you remember the television comedy, “Cheers,” you’ll recall the line from their theme song that goes “You want to go where everybody knows your name.” That’s what it feels like for me to attend Region 2 Summit each year. I got to see a lot of familiar faces and meet some ones too. Pictured at left are two people that I had talked to by phone many times but had not seen face to face before. James Reed is the CO of the USS Judah, one of the host chapters of the Summit, and his mom, Roz Reed, is the chapter XO.

Zone 4 was well represented (considering the distance) by three members of the USS Haise and 3 members of the USS Okatoma. I’ll let reports from Janet Bullock and Mark Nichols cover a lot of the details on Summit. I will add that many people told me how much they appreciated the Mississippi folks making the trek to Tampa. In years past some of them have made the long trip to Gulfport and Jackson and other parts of the Region that were just as distant to them as Tampa was for us. So you could say this trip was “pay back” in a way.

The Awards presentation Saturday night went well, this being my first one as Chief of Awards. I am proud that we received the certificates that we did. We’ve received more in the past but we can’t win it all every year ☺

It seems now that the Haise and its members are “the ones to beat,” and that’s ok. We’re proud that our achievements have led to others stepping up their game because we set the bar higher. The Haise will continue to excel for the sake of our members and community, regardless of whether it wins awards or not. I know your hearts are always in the right place! Live long and prosper to the USS Haise!

Chief Medical Officer Report

By Lt. JG Janet Bullock



Your CMO has been very busy for the first part of 2011. It has been a “fun” busy, though. As most of you know, I attended WizardCon in New Orleans this past January, and had a Blast! I met SO many of my celebrity heroes, including Walter Koenig (who we all know and love!), the original Batman and Robin (Adam West and Burt Ward), and some of the Star Wars guys, too. How can you turn down seeing Darth Maul, Boba Fett, and Lando Calrissian? I was able to meet up with Barbara and Glenn Allen while there, and a few of the crew from the USS Corsair. Star Trek was well represented! What great fun.

To say I had a “falling down good time” at our recent R2 Summit meeting in Tampa would not be too much exaggeration!! It was great catching up with old friends, and getting to meet our new

Above: Lucy and Janet with Reed Bates, R3 RC

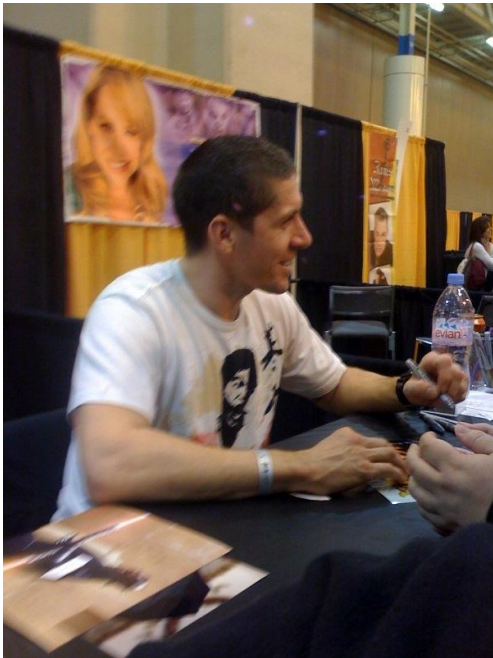


Commander Starfleet, Dave Blaser, was a thrill. Totally nice guy, and genuinely interested in seeing our fan organization grow and get on with Trek Fun!!

The Museum of Science and Industry proved to be a fabulous venue. Super great rooms and great fun to look around in and enjoy. I SO wish we had something this great here.

The Commodore and I had a great time exploring a Renaissance Fair that was going on just down the street from MOSI before we headed home Sunday. I thought of Bethany and Evan the whole time, and wished they could have seen it!!

I am SO looking forward to our joint Region 2 and Region 3 meeting down in Hammond, La next year. Already have my savings envelopes made out for it AND the IC conference in Memphis next year!! We may never have the opportunity to have BOTH meetings so close to home in the same year again, so I encourage EVERYONE to start saving up those pennies now!!



Star Wars' Darth Maul (aka Ray Park)



Jack Eaton gets "pied" at Summit to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House.



Warp Specialist Report

By Captain Mark Nichols

Greetings fellow crewmates of the USS HAISE. I just want to say a few words about the 2011 Region 2 Summit.

First, if you ever go to Tampa, fly if you can. If you can't fly, do like Lucy and Janet and stop about halfway the first day, and finish the trip on day two. Don't drive straight through in one day. I won't say how I know about this, but it will wear you out.

OK! With due respect for all the effort the host chapters put into the Summit, I was a bit disappointed this year. For one, attendance was down compared to the last couple of years. I know that the economy, among other things, has a lot of folks in dire straits right now. But, frankly, I get the feeling that some of the no shows didn't like the fact that the Florida chapters were able to make the summit happen.

Another item I've been hearing about is folks don't want to be stuck at a hotel the whole weekend. Well, if there were more things to do related to SciFi in general and STAR TREK in particular, I wouldn't mind being at the hotel all weekend. I had hoped to meet other folks who were interested in engineering like me. Didn't happen. Most folks scattered to the winds around MOSI (Museum of Science and Industry). Don't get me wrong, I liked MOSI, but I don't think it really helped the summit much. Panel rooms and other functions were spread too far apart to keep things focused, I think.



Over the last two weeks, I have been thinking of things that I can do to help with the next summit. I've even entertained the thought of working up a panel that MIGHT catch someone's interest. I'm sure those that know me are raising their eyebrows about that last line, but I feel the only way the summits will get better is if folks like me, and everyone else, take it upon themselves to make them better. SO, I plan to at least try. That is all I can promise.

I've been keeping tabs on a lot of the hubbub concerning the 2012 Joint Summit set tentatively for Hammond, Louisiana. I personally do not have a problem with the Joint Summit. I have ties to Region 3, so hopefully, it will allow me to see some old friends from way back. It's also a hell of a lot closer for us here in Zone 4. I don't

know all the ins and outs of what is going on behind the scenes, but it seems to me that the folks that didn't make it to Summit this year are the ones that have a problem with the Joint Summit next year. I may be way off the mark, and if I am, I apologize here and now.

On the bright side, I DID get to see some old friends and I made a few new ones. I enjoyed Lucy's Publicity panel and actually thought about starting my own chapter here in the Delta Quadrant one day. "One day" being the operative phrase here. I can hear the eyebrows going up again. Settle down, I'll be OK.

Chief of Operations Report

By Lt. JG Clay Bartunek

One of our first gatherings to start off the year was our trek to Memphis to see Mad Science Star Trek Live February 15th. I really didn't know what to expect from this live interactive show for all ages, but I wouldn't have guessed what we saw. It was interesting and got the younger audience members involved...all in all,



worth the trip. I'm just glad to see there's an interest still today in Star Trek among certain members of our society.

Concerning doing some Community Service, Janet reported to me that Gateway Rescue Mission on S. Gallatin near Terry Rd. is serving 3 meals a day, 7 days a week. We thought we might try to serve a meal on a Sunday for lunch in May as it is wide open for them. We would need about 7 people to participate. We can select a day at our next meeting in April.

Another Community Service Project literally showed up at my front door at work last week. She was a lost elderly Basset Hound. I phoned nearby businesses to inquire who she might belong to. One told me she called everywhere: vets, police, sheriff, rescue league, etc. but no one could help her. I told her I would take care of the lost canine. I brought her into my office & phoned Madison Ark, a no-kill shelter who said they would be glad to take her in. If it hadn't been for this all volunteer organization, I don't know what I would've done. On their counter was flyer of needs they have so that they can continue to operate. I thought maybe we could help them by donating some of their request:

- Pedigree dry dog food
- Purina One dry cat and kitten food
- Clay cat litter (any brand)
- IAMS canned kitten food
- Pedigree canned puppy food
- Kitchen size trash bags

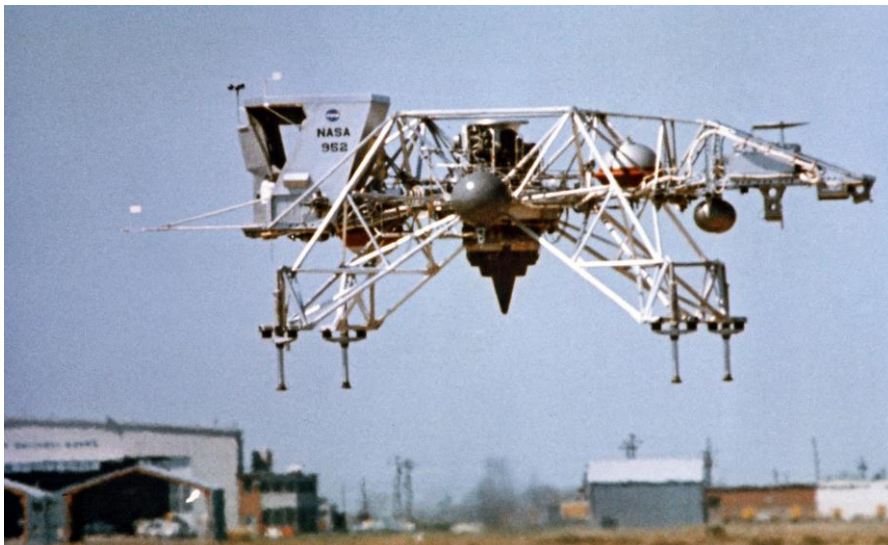
It would be great if we could start gathering some of these items at our next few meetings and then present them to this needy shelter. By the way, the Basset Hound was reunited with her owner the next day!

I'm looking forward to our First Contact celebration at the Allen's on April 16th. This movie also happens to be the one, when released, is when I first met the USS Haise crew back in 1996. Hope to see you all there!

NASA and Apollo Program History

By Fred Haise

Some past history provided from our training during the Apollo Program. The photo below is of one of our primary trainers for landing on the moon the LLTV or Lunar Landing Training Vehicle. There was a LLRV or Lunar Landing Research Vehicle, flown initially by Joe Walker my boss at NASA Flight Research Center. Joe held the altitude record in the X-15 Rocket Plane.



The LLRF was retrofitted to an LLTV that provided 4 of these vehicles for training. Only Commanders of Missions flew these because of the limited number available and hazards associated with them. Three were lost in accidents with ejections by Joe Algranti, Flight Ops chief pilot, Neil Armstrong, and Stu Present, a NASA pilot. I flew this vehicle 22 times and it was always a thrill getting it on the ground. One was also running short of hydrogen peroxide for the lift rockets, so there was pressure to land before having to go out of the “sim mode” and revert to the jet engine. This realism provided was why all those who landed on the moon overrode NASA Managements continual push to cancel this part of training because of the risk.

Sciences Report

by **Commander Scott M. Crawford**



Trip to STAR TREK LIVE in Memphis: An elite away team shuttled to 21st century Memphis to attend the Terran custom of watching educational dramatic performances. This one was a remarkably realistic prediction of Starfleet Academy, as it will exist in San Francisco in the future. The Romulans have come back to interfere with the first astronaut to land on Mars.

While human instructor, and another a Vulcan, work to Romulans, they teach about various space travel, such as solar radiation, etc. One highlight of the show was when school age boy to demonstrate the strength sheet. The Vulcan instructed him to hit it expecting him to merely dent the metal, encouraging him to hit it harder and eventually punched his fist right through quipped in a particularly polite but “Let us all show appreciation for this very



the presenters, one a Starfleet Academy thwart the dangers involved in meteoroid impacts, they asked a young of an aluminum repeatedly, but after harder, he the plate! She unemotional way, **strong** young man.”





Above is the set for “Starfleet Academy” and below, Commodore Ferron and crew pause for a picture inside the Orpheum Theater. Pictured in the lobby are (front) CSO Scott Crawford, (second row) Jennifer McFarland, Lucy Ferron, Clay Bartunek, Janet Bullock, and Allyn Hackman, (third row) Melanie Ferron Simmonds, Tim Stubbs, Zach Hall, and Ken Hackman. Behind the camera here was Mark Simmonds, Lucy’s brother-in-law.





Mars Science Laboratory:

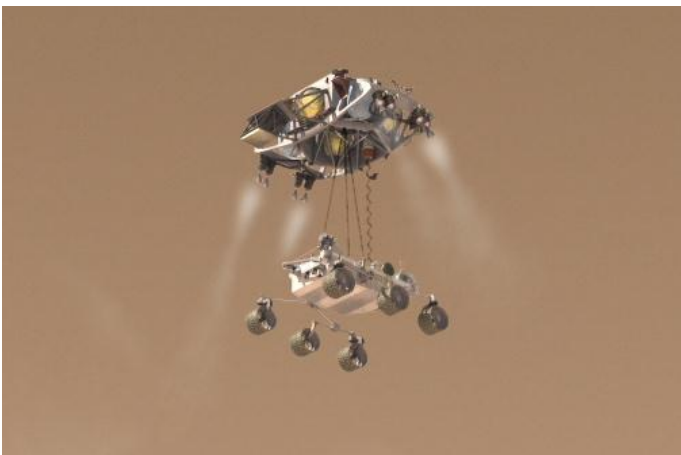
NASA engineers at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California are readying its newest rover for an upcoming mission to search for the conditions that may support past/present life on Mars. The new rover, dubbed “Curiosity”, will launch this November or December. As we all know, landing on Mars pushes the limits of our technology and not all attempts are successful. However, engineers at JPL and NASA are building upon recent experience in hopes of avoiding pitfalls encountered before. For instance, Curiosity will be better at avoiding getting stuck in soft sand, which effectively ended Mars Rover Spirit’s mission.

The following is an excerpt from the mission’s fact sheet:

Mission Overview:

Plans for the Mars Science Laboratory call for launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, between Nov. 25 and Dec.18, 2011, and arrival at Mars in August 2012.

The spacecraft has been designed to steer itself during descent through Mars’ atmosphere with a series of S-curve maneuvers similar to those used by astronauts piloting NASA space shuttles. During the three minutes before touchdown, the spacecraft slows its descent with a parachute, then uses retro rockets mounted around the rim of an upper stage. In the final seconds, the upper stage acts as a sky crane, lowering the upright rover on a tether to the surface.



Curiosity is about twice as long (about 3 meters or 10 feet) and five times as heavy as NASA’s twin Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, launched in 2003. It inherited many design elements from them, including six-wheel drive, a rocker-bogie suspension system and cameras mounted on a mast to help the mission’s team on Earth select exploration targets and driving routes. Unlike earlier rovers, Curiosity carries equipment to gather samples of rocks and soil, process them and distribute them to onboard test chambers inside analytical instruments.



NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., builder of the Mars Science Laboratory, has engineered Curiosity to roll over obstacles up to 65 centimeters (25 inches) high and to travel up to about 200 meters (660 feet) per day on Martian terrain.

The rover's electrical power will be supplied by a U.S. Department of Energy radioisotope power generator. The multi-mission radioisotope thermoelectric generator produces electricity from the heat of plutonium-238's radioactive decay. This long-lived power supply gives the mission an operating lifespan on Mars' surface of a full Mars year (687 Earth days) or more. At launch, the generator will provide about 110 watts of electrical power to operate the rover's instruments, robotic arm, wheels, computers and radio. Warm fluids heated by the generator's excess heat are plumbed throughout the rover to keep electronics and other systems at acceptable operating temperatures.

The mission has been designed to use radio relays via Mars orbiters as the principal means of communication between Curiosity and the Deep Space Network of antennas on Earth.

The overarching science goal of the mission is to assess whether the landing area has ever had or still has environmental conditions favorable to microbial life, both its habitability and its preservation.

More than 100 scientists participating in a series of open work-shops since 2006 have compared merits of more than 30 Martian locations as potential landing sites for the rover. Evaluations of scientific appeal and safety factors led NASA to select four finalist candidate sites in 2008, with the final selection to be made in 2011. All four have exposures of minerals formed under wet conditions.

Selection of a landing site of prime scientific interest has benefited from examining candidate sites with NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter since 2006, from earlier orbiters' observations, and from a capability of landing within a target area only about 20 kilometers (12 miles) long. That precision, about a five-fold improvement on earlier Mars landings, makes feasible sites that would otherwise be excluded for encompassing nearby unsuitable terrain. For example, the mission could go to the floor of a crater whose steep walls would make a less precise landing too risky.

Advancing the technologies for precision landing of a heavy payload will yield research benefits beyond the returns from Mars Science Laboratory itself. Those same capabilities would be important for later missions both to pick up rocks on Mars and bring them back to Earth, and conduct extensive surface exploration for Martian life.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology Pasadena, California
www.nasa.gov

Calendar of Events

April 16, Saturday – First Contact Day Celebration, 6:30 pm, home of Barbara and Glenn Allen in Brandon

May 13, Friday – Sci Fi night at the MS Braves baseball game, Trustmark Park in Pearl, set up time TBA

May 28, Saturday – 6:30 pm, Chapter meeting, Corner Bakery, Lakeland Dr.

June 18, Saturday – 6:30 pm, Chapter meeting and celebration of the upcoming nuptials of Clarence Winter and Phyllis Puckett, home of Rene' and Rod Berry



Celebrating the upcoming arrival of Cadet Clark Yelverton! Mom-to-be Mariana Yelverton looks delighted with some of the presents received.



Congratulations to Clarence Winter and fiancée Phyllis Puckett on their engagement! The wedding is set for July 16 at the Florence Assembly of God. Live long and prosper!

