



THE COMMLINK

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Communication's Report by Bill Williams



Hailing Frequencies Open
Mission Report by Lieutenant JG Bill Williams, Chief of Communications

I've written and rewritten and re-written this column over and over, and I still cannot find adequate words to say what's on my heart.

I just find myself thinking about Walter.

Twenty years ago I had the pleasure of meeting Walter Koenig at a science fiction convention in Jackson. He was very insightful and funny, very knowledgeable about all things STAR TREK and beyond. He shared with me first-hand about the inspiration for his character of Pavel Chekov (the Monkees, not the "Russians first" story that Gene Roddenberry would always talk about), as well as his turn as "Captain" Chekov in STAR TREK V, and we laughed about how funny it would be in STAR TREK VI if someone said "Captain to the bridge," and all seven of the original cast showed up at the same time. And only a few days before I happened to watch his NEW VOYAGES episode "To Serve All My Days" in which he seemed to bring a sense of closure to his character that the series and later films never provided.

IN THIS ISSUE

- P1. Communications Report By Bill Williams
- P3. Captain's Log By Lucy Ferron
- P6. Promotions
- P6. Science Report By Scott Crawford
- P12. Medical Report By Janet Bullock
- P15. 2010 Haise Meeting Schedule
- P15. Haise Birthday List



Those were the days when I found myself returning to school to get my master's degree in English education, when TNG was finally hitting its stride and reaching a successful pinnacle moment, when things were more innocent and fun back then on the path to becoming. Happier times indeed.

All of that has changed now. These days I find myself thinking about and relating to Walter and his wife Judy in a completely different way: as a parent.

Valentine's Day is supposed to be a happy occasion, when thoughts turn to love, romance, and anniversaries. For the Koenig's, it turned into the beginning of their worst nightmare possible, when their 41-year-old son Andrew disappeared in Vancouver, British Columbia after missing a flight. Their last contact with their son had been a phone conversation five days before. At about the same time of Andrew's disappearance, the Koenig's received from their son a letter (possibly a text message, as some reports have mentioned) written in a very despondent tone, saying he was leaving everything behind.

For many of us we first heard of Andrew Koenig from his role of Boner in the TV sitcom "Growing Pains" in the 1980's and 90's. He followed in his famous father's footsteps by pursuing an acting career, appearing in many different series, among them an episode of "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" in that series' early run. And before the late Heath Ledger's multi-award winning performance in "The Dark Knight", Andrew made a memorable turn as the Joker in the short online film "Batman: Dead End". In addition, Andrew had carved out a career for himself not only in acting but also in photography, editing, film and TV writing, directing, and producing.

In recent months he had been battling depression, a demon in and of itself, giving away or selling many of his personal possessions before his disappearance. To this day the causes of depression are unknown yet myriad - fear of failure, of not living up to one's fullest potential, of disappointment, of buried anger, the list goes on and on - and we wonder what could have happened to Andrew to drive him to that point. In a recent interview Walter mentioned that Andrew had been off his antidepressants for at least a year. Medicines may treat the symptoms for a while, but dealing with the root takes much longer, if not a lifetime.

Then came the tragic news of the discovery of Andrew's body two weeks after his disappearance. He had given himself in to the demons that plagued his mind and soul, tortured him, and said, "Your career will never move forward. You'll never get out of your father's shadow. Your life has no meaning." In TV interviews on television Walter and Judy looked so old and tired. With every passing day they seemed to age another year. And those are just the visible signs we saw of worry, of fear, of heartache, of the not knowing setting in. And all Walter and Judy wanted, all their daughter Danielle and her family wanted, was for their son and brother to be found, somehow alive and safe. What they got was a closure that would never come.

Missing persons reports always seem to fascinate and intrigue people ever since Amelia Earhart went missing in the 1930's. Not so much now. We live in violent times, where drug dealers and sexual predators lurk the streets, and the rash numbers of missing and murdered children and teenagers seem to grow every day. Adam Walsh, Natalee Holloway, Polly Klass, Caylee Anthony, the list goes on and on, and the stories get more and more horrifying with every instance. Every once in a while we get a miracle, such as the safe and joyous returns of Elizabeth Smart and Jaycee Dugard. We rejoice with the families in their reunions, and we share in their closure when we see justice carried out to those lowlifes who wrought these nightmares. When these miracles occur, we hope for those who are still out there, saying silent prayers for their safe return or at least for closure for their families



who have been needlessly put through hell for no reason.

As parents Walter and Judy can now relate. As a parent myself I can now relate to them as parents. I have two beautiful daughters, thirteen and five. Every time I'm with them, I want to tell them that I love them, and April and I want to keep them safe. Because that's all that matters. It's a parent's job. It doesn't matter if they're five or thirteen or forty-one, they're all someone's child. Yes, the day comes when we must give them their wings to find their path in life. We cry because they're no longer the little baby we once held in our arms, and we long for that just one more time, yet we're excited to see them begin their journey into life's discoveries and purposes. And when tragedies happen, all we want to do is hold them close to us once more and tell them that we love them.

Walter deserved that chance to find Andrew, hold him in his arms, and tell him that he loved him. The cost didn't matter; he would have gone to the ends of the earth, even to Heaven and Hell and back again, to find him. He and Judy deserved that same miracle. Because every life has meaning and purpose. And all we can do is offer up our thoughts and prayers to Walter and Judy that they get that chance to experience a healing in their brokenness.

Nothing else matters.

The Captain's Log

By Lucy Ferron



Captain's Log for March/April 2010

Six hundred and eighty five miles roundtrip to Columbus, GA, and it was well worth the trip! I bring greetings back from Summit 2010 for the Haise crew from Region Coordinator Jack Eaton and Commander of Starfleet Sal Lizard. Both spoke fondly of the Summit 2009 held in Jackson. The Haise was represented by Mark Nichols, Janet Bullock, Jennifer McFarland, and me.

Also attending from Mississippi (Zone 4) were Jim Brunton (the new Zone Coordinator), Larry and Mary Morris, Glen Goldman, Barbara Nichelson and her mother Barbara, and Sandy Arrington. The last count I heard on attendance was a total of 65.

Summit 2010 started off with the Fleet Admiral's dinner Friday night at the Golden Corral. Because of flight delays, the Fleet Admiral, Sal Lizard, didn't make it in time for the dinner actually. Registration finally opened after the



dinner, we got to visit with some old and new friends, and I attended the Staff Meeting. We have two vacancies on the Staff to fill after Summit – Chief of Communications and Chief of Awards. After many years of outstanding service managing the Awards program, Barbara Paul decided to step down after Summit and turn the reins over to “new blood.”



The Saturday schedule included the Opening Ceremony, Commanding Officers meeting, Marine Muster, fun panels, and a well-attended panel on the future of Summit locations/arrangements and the possible joint R2 and R3 Summit in 2012.

About 20 people attended a special afternoon “virtual” Mission to Mars at the local science center, including Mark, Janet and Jennifer. They said it was great fun and they will say more about that in their own reports.



A pie throwing auction to raise funds for the charity was really funny with Jack, Sal, Freddy, and DJ Allen (R2 Treasurer) taking the hits for the worthy cause. While the others were at the science center, I attended two excellent panels on recruiting and science fiction fan films.





The banquet Saturday went really well. The USS DaVinci crew decorated the tables as a tribute to the “red shirt” crewmen who didn’t make it back from away missions. Each table had photographs identifying the “late” red shirted crewmen. The pasta supper was excellent and it was topped off with a big chocolate birthday cake for Sal. Awards were presented (listed elsewhere in the newsletter) and I was surprised to receive the Commanding Officer of the Year Award! I very much appreciate John and the crew nominating me for this honor again. It’s a privilege to work with such a great crew.

Jennifer received her Bronze Boothby Award for passing 50 courses from Starfleet Academy.



After the banquet, everyone changed from uniforms to casual to “hang out” and visit, play cards, and really just share time together. Sal regaled a group of us with terrific stories from his years as Santa and an actor. He also shared some amazingly touching pictures with children. We could have stayed up all night listening to him. Jennifer did really well playing poker though this year there was no “tournament” due to Georgia regulations. Rich Trulson of the USS Wernher von Braun shared some



information with us on a special Star Wars exhibit coming to the Huntsville Space and Rocket Center this summer.

Sunday morning we rested up and took our time getting ready, packing, and eating breakfast before going to the Closing Ceremony. More certificates of appreciation were handed out along with the crowning of the new Great Dalmuti (highest scoring) and the Royal Peon (lowest). The fundraising efforts throughout the weekend netted a donation of \$650.00 that was presented to a representative from Claws and Paws, a no-kill shelter in Columbus. Everything ended happily with a big group picture and many fond farewells before we hit the road home. We had a good time and I've more to share later.

The location for Summit 2011 is not determined yet. Bidding has been reopened until April 15. I know some of the Florida chapters are still hoping to find something affordable so we'll see what comes up. I know I'm still trying to catch up on rest and recover from this trip before as VRC I have to start working with Jack and the other staff members on plans for 2011 and beyond.

Spring is finally arriving with blooming plants, shrubs, flowers, and my allergy! I'll be really glad for warmer weather to get here as I'm tired of being cold! I look forward to seeing you all at the March and April meetings. Till then....Live long and prosper!

The U.S.S. Haise celebrates the following promotions earned thus far in 2010 (in order of rank):

Lucy Ferron to Commodore
John Yelverton to Captain
Bethany Theilman to Vice Admiral
Jennifer McFarland to Lt. Commander
Bill Williams to Lieutenant (j. g.)

Congratulations to one and all!

Science Report

Lt. Com. Scott M. Crawford



Science Report

Lt. Commander Scott M. Crawford

Away Mission (Washington, D.C.): Stardate 1003.01, Lt. Commander Crawford left for a dangerous diplomatic mission to the Capitol of the Earth Nation: United States of America. Accompanied by Andi Agnew of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Crawford engaged Mississippi Congressmen and Senators in an effort to find a cure for this dreaded disease and help families over-burdened with care-giving responsibilities (Respite Care Act). Eighty percent of all care-giving is done by family members, but the USA spends only a couple million a year on helping those caregivers get assistance when



their own health and emotional status needs attention. We also supported a Congressionally Directed research program into why Multiple Sclerosis is afflicting twice as many Gulf War veterans (Operation Desert Storm) as the general population. Toxic exposure is suspected as the culprit but research needs to be done to nail down exactly what these servicemen and women were exposed to.

Early 21st century discrimination against people with disabilities was evident during the trip, as Agnew and Crawford were unable to get transportation from Reagan National Airport . Apparently, their taxis no longer serve people in wheelchairs. Crawford suggested that Agnew load their provisions into a conventional taxi and take them to the hotel, while he navigated the Metro rail system on his own. It was a close call, as his wheelchair batteries (and his own internal batteries) were on emergency reserve by the time he got to the hotel.

On the flight home, there were more incidents. Just before boarding the plane, Crawford explained to the ground crew chief how to load the chair into the hold. After arriving in Houston for the midpoint of his return flight, he was told that the crew had “forgotten” (exact quote) to load the chair. When it finally arrived in Jackson, the chair’s electrical connectors were broken. Continental promised to fix the chair as soon as possible...it may take a week.

The highlight of the many speakers was the address by Kareem Dale, Special Advisor to the President on Disability Affairs.



Congressman Gregg Harper and staff member Adam Buckalew meet with Jan Bell, Director of the Mississippi/Alabama Chapter of the NMSS, Dr. Emily Riser, Neurologist, and Dr. Scott Crawford, volunteer. They met with Senators Cochran and Wickers staff, as well as most of Mississippi’s Congressional Representatives.

Exploring the Monuments and Smithsonian: By Thursday, the delegates had left and my aunts from Massachusetts arrived for the “fun” part of the trip: going to the monuments and museums. We spent Thursday through Saturday in the Museum of Natural History, Air-Space Museum, and the American History Museum. We also saw the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and World War II Memorial.





T-REX!!!



The Natural History Museum had a real-time plot of recent earthquake activity around the globe. Note the MASSIVE concentric rings in Chile' resulting from the recent earthquake.







THE U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

Gift of Paramount Pictures

THE FACTUAL ENTERPRISE

This model of the starship *Enterprise* was used in the filming of the *Star Trek* TV show, which ran from 1966 to 1969. It is mostly made of poplar wood and vacu-formed plastic. Sheet metal tubes were used for the two engine housings or nacelles.

The *Enterprise* was based on the ideas of *Star Trek* producer Gene Roddenberry and made from a design by Walter M. Jeffries. A tiny balsa and card-

board version was built first. Then Richard C. Datin Jr. built a 1-meter (3-foot) wooden model, which was scaled up to create the final version.

Paramount Pictures donated the *Enterprise* model to the Smithsonian in 1974.

MODEL SPECIFICATIONS

Length, overall	3.3 m (11 ft)
Diameter, saucer	152 cm (60 in)
Length, engine pods	185 cm (72.25 in)
Length, secondary hull	135 cm (53.5 in)
Height	80 cm (32 in)
Weight	90 kg (200 lb)



THE "ROLL-OUT" OF THE ENTERPRISE: The Enterprise model is taken up for air in December 1964, along with the men at the Paramount Pictures Stage in Burbank, California, who built it (left to right) Jeffries, Datin, and Roddenberry, and Vernon Soren (not pictured). Volmer (present) is the "transporter" who carried the model, worth about \$600 worth of materials. Datin's original model was made of balsa wood and cardstock, and subsequent alterations.

Of course, nothing beats finding the original model of the USS ENTERPRISE from the Original Series in the Air-Space Museum !!!





Photo recently taken of Fred Haise with Navy SEALs at Stennis Field

Medical Report

By Janet Bullock



Region 2 Summit Report
By Janet Bullock, Chief Medical Officer

Region 2 Summit 2010 was my first opportunity to attend a regional meeting since I joined Starfleet. I was very excited about going, and I was not disappointed! I had a BLAST!

Summit meetings (I learned) are meant as part business and part pleasure. Not necessarily 50/50 either. More like 30% business and 70% fun!! Of course, the best part is getting to put faces to all those names I hear in the Communiqué and at our Chapter meetings. Summit was a chance to make new friends and get better acquainted with old ones!



SO much went on that I would be hard-pressed to choose one favorite activity or event. The Charity Pie Toss was a definite highlight! For reasons I am unclear on, folks seemed really enthusiastic to put a pie in the kisser of Freddy Heller, Jack Eaton, and Sal Lizard!! That one event raised over \$300 for the Humane Society, the designated charity for the weekend. The photos truly do not encompass the whole scope of how funny this event was!!

Another exciting event which Jennifer, Mark, and I were able to participate in was the "Voyage To Mars" held at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center in downtown Columbus. While Lucy held the fort down back at the hotel, we three explorers got to experience what it would most likely feel like to journey to Mars to replace explorers already on the surface.

Our group was divided into two smaller groups; one group already on Mars for two years making preparations to leave for home, and the other group, the replacements preparing for a two year mission on Mars. Jennifer McFarland had a wonderful time as one of the Communications officers; Mark was busy helping build one of the Deep-space probes and readying it for launch, and I helped with life support, making sure all systems were operational to keep us alive for the trip.

It was really a great time and is certainly a wonderful tool for keeping the public interested in space exploration! (Now if we could convince our government about that!)

The Banquet and Awards Ceremony was also tremendous, with great Italian food and wonderful fellowship with fellow Trekkers. The best part of the evening was when our own CO, Lucy, was given the award for "Commander of the Year." It is richly deserved, and a testament to all the hard work she does behind the scenes on our behalf!! We were all very proud of her!

Let us not forget the special recognition that our own Jennifer McFarland received. She won a Bronze Boothby, but also won the Starfleet Academy Achievement Award! She was grinning from ear to ear, and was extremely honored. Of course, it was a great recognition of all her hard work this past year! Congratulations Jenn!

As you can tell, so many things happened this weekend; I can scarce begin to touch the surface. I do know that this will not be the last Summit I will attend, and I encourage all of my fellow chapter members to try to attend in the future. It certainly gives you great insight into how things work in Starfleet and in the region. And it is tremendous FUN, too!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Meeting Schedule of the USS Haise for 2010

3rd Sat., April 17, 6:00 pm – Stubbs' home in Brandon

3rd Thurs., May 20, 6:30 pm – Mediterranean Fish & Grill, Old Canton Rd., Ridgeland

3rd Sat., June 19, 6:30 pm – Backyard picnic at Lucy's home, 631 Choctaw Rd., Jackson

3rd Thurs., July 15, 6:30 pm – Cazadores Mexican Grill, Hwy 51N, Ridgeland

3rd Sat., August 21, 4:00 pm – Pool Party at the McNeill's, Byram (swim 4pm, eat 6pm, meeting 7pm)

3rd Thurs., September 16, 6:30 pm – Corner Bakery, Flowood

4th Sat., October 23, 6:30 pm – Masquerade Party, Broadmeadow UMC, Jackson

3rd Sat., November 20, 6:00 pm – Mugshots, Airport Rd., Flowood (by Parkway Place cinema)

3rd Sat., December 18, 6:00 pm – Christmas Party, Clay & Craig's home, Madison

U.S.S. Haise Birthday List:

April 12 - Amile Wilson

April 13 - Iris Young

April 22 - Michelle Allen

May 21 - Glen Allen

May 22 - Mark Nichols

May 26 - Bethany Theilman

And a belated Happy Birthday to Clay Bartunek, Harold Jackson, Michael Branch and Bill Wilson, who all had birthday in March! ☺



Michael Branch

