

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Regulators Charge!

Defending the Final Frontier

Volume 12 Issue 12

Crew Meetings & Activities 2016

Jan 16 Mtg and Christmas Party and Gift Exchange
At Shady Oaks

Feb 20 regular meeting

Mar 19 regular meeting

Apr 16 regular meeting

May 21 regular meeting

Jun 18 regular meeting

Jun Summit

Jul 16 regular meeting

Aug 20 regular meeting

Sept 17 regular meeting

Oct 15 regular meeting

Nov 19 regular meeting

Dec 17?

All above meeting are subject to change. Normally we meet at Shady Oaks BBQ at 3:00 p.m. on the dates above (unless otherwise mentioned.)

Cadet Counselor

Birthdays for the month of January are: Alan Goulet on Jan 30.

T'was a Trek Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas on the Enterprise-D,
On a routine short hop to Starbase 3,

With Data on duty in the command chair,
At Warp 6, the Enterprise soon would be there.

Just for something to do, while the other crew slept;

He scanned where historical records were kept –
And with a blink of his eye and a cock of his head,
"Intriguing! Tomorrow is Christmas!" he said.

But no one was stirring, and he sought to find out why,
And so he buzzed Geordi, who awoke with a sigh:
"Christmas? It's only an old holiday –
Now just let me get back to sleep, okay?"

"But is to wish Merry Christmas not human to do?"
And so Data wished it – to the whole ship and crew.

One Riot One Regulator December 2015

Everyone on the Enterprise awoke from sleep.
Picard rushed to the bridge to see what was the matter.

"What is the meaning of this noise, Mister Data?"
"Sir, is it not Christmas-?" "We'll discuss it much later!"

Just then Worf said, "Captain – a Klingon Prey Bird!
It's hull has been damaged – it's uncloaking, sir."

"On screen," said Picard, as the Klingon ship hailed:

"Federation vessel, our Life Support systems have failed!"

A strange ship attacked us, inflicting the worst,
(though naturally, of course, we'd fired on it first)."

The Klingons beamed over, and the senior staff met,
To try and determine the source of the threat.
Said Picard, "Mister Data, an assignment for you:
Give all of these Klingons something to do!
They think it's the Romulans we should look for,
Get them all off the bridge, before there's a war!"

So Data departed, while the rest of the crew
Wondered: Romulans? Ferengi? If not them, then who?

Said Worf, "Sir – disturbance on Holodeck Three!"
The entire bridge crew ran down there to see.
Roared Picard, "Mister Data, what the devil is this!?"
"Sir, I have taught the Klingon how to celebrate Christmas."

And so there they were – on holodecks 3, 4, and 5
With synthohol, singing and Rokeg Blood Pie!
Soon the Big E was rocking with holiday cheer
Friend, foe, and family came from both far and near.

The Romulans showed up with some Romulan Ale,
The Ferengi brought goodies for free – not for sale!
But a strange ship was coming, the captain was told,
With one crew member only, and a huge cargo hold.

Said the Klingons, "It's the strange ship that fought us – attack!"
Said Picard, "On Christmas? – Mister Worf, just hold back."
And then as the ship came into view,
Onscreen came its captain – none other than Q!

He wore a white beard and a suit of deep red ...
"Joyeux Noel, mon captain," was what Santa Q said.

"Tell those Klingons next time to not go so berserk.
You need good defense systems in this line of work.
Now if you'll excuse me, I'll be warping away...
Did you think anyone else could do this joy in one day?"

"I'm sensing emotion," said Counselor Trio,
"Peace in the galaxy, Good Will and Joy."
And they stood on the bridge and wated Q take flight, shouting,
"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!"

The Night before Christmas in Texas

'Twas the night before Christmas in Texas, you, bet,
But no one'd seen Santa; he hadn't come yet.
The chaps were all hung up, the boots neatly shined,
While out on the plains a right tough windstorm whined.
And Santa was in it, with reindeer and sleigh.
He'd blown in from Brownsville, down Mexico way.
He was squinting from dust and his beard had turned brown.
The reindeer were squealing; the sleigh sinking down,
Till it lurched to a stop near the hills at Big Bend.
Santa said, "Here we'll wait for this dust storm to end. The sleigh's
overloaded with great Texas toys. It's too hard to steer in the
dust and the noise!"

Now the problem was time; he had Texas to cross and the night
passing fast. Should he get him a hoss? But no horse was nearby;
only longhorns around.

"I don't trust 'em," says Rudolph, a pawin' the ground.

So they huddled to ponder just what could be done
To deliver those toys for the kids' Christmas fun.
Things were downright disgusting, when suddenly came a small
Texas voice calling Santa by name...
"Howdy Santa! Ah'll help! Ah know just where tuh go,

The way tuh the great Texas Rangers ah'll show. They kin do it, ah
know," chirped the odd little fellow.

"Well, by jiminy," says Rudolph, "it's a real armadillo."
With a leader, the team quickly moved north by east, Left the dust
storm in Abilene - what a relief!
All the Rangers were called and they split up that load, and giving a
whoop, all directions they rode!

San Antonio children all sleeping just so,
Heard, "Ya'll have a good one! 'Member the Alamo!"
Now Santa could fly; there was no time to waste.
On toward Dallas and Houston the sleigh sped with haste. Heard
the band still performing at Billy Bob's bar, and dropped ten-gallon
hats and new boots at the door. He swept into Dallas, now feeling
quite jolly,

On Pegasus' neck placed a small wreath of holly.
He rounded Reunion Tower heading toward Irving,
To visit the Cowboys - there's none more deserving!
Dropped a bit load of footballs, bid the skyline goodbye.
"Seasons Greetings," he called, and turned south on the fly.
All the oil towers were lighted; the air seemed alive as he headed
toward Houston on I-45.

At the Astrodome, someone had left him a treat -
Fresh barbecue, chili, and nachos to eat!
"Oh, how I love Texas!" Santa sang with high cheer,
As he passed Neiman Marcus drinking Lone Star "root" beer.
His huge load of toys got dropped off, one by one.
To each sleeping child and his dad and his mum.
The heading to Beaumont, the whole team took flight

"Merry Christmas to Texas! And to all a Goodnight!"

The Twelve Days of Christmas

(taken from an article in the "Lutheran Witness" by Terence Maher)

Contrary to what the contemporary world tells you, Christmas isn't over
on Christmas Day. In fact, it's just getting started! The Twelve Days of
Christmas have a deep and historical meaning to the Church.

Christmas Isn't Just One Day

The Church's celebration on Christmas does not begin with December
and end on Christmas, with New Year's Day tacked on the end. In the
Western Church, it begins on Christmas and continues until Epiphany.
That day - Jan. 6 - is when we celebrate the arrival of the Magi to
worship Jesus. By tradition, these twelve days from Christmas through
Epiphany comprise the Twelve Days of Christmas.

No one knows how this happened. Epiphany is a much older feast than
Christmas but it's largely forgotten by most, lost in the shuffle by many,
and celebrated by a few.

The Original Christmas

By the late fourth century, Epiphany was celebrated on Jan 6. The
earliest known reference dates from 361, and in those days the
references indicate not just the appearance of the kings - *epiphany* is
an English form of a Greek word meaning "appearance" or
"manifestation" - but also the appearance or manifestation, the
epiphany, of God, including His birth.

It's not that there wasn't Christmas. This is Christmas as well as a
celebration of all the other events in the life of the young Jesus up to
and including His Baptism and first public miracle at the wedding in
Cana.

In the Western Church, events began to spin off from Epiphany. By the
sixth century, Dec. 25 had become the celebration of Christ's birth. His
Baptism was celebrated after Epiphany, so Epiphany itself focused on
the arrival of the kings who, not being Jews, give it the significance of
the appearance, or manifestation, of the Messiah to the Gentiles.
Divisions cease. Jesus appeared not only as the Chosen One of Israel
by the Lord of all nations.

The same doesn't hold for the Eastern Church, where the day retained
its original character. Many adopted Dec. 25 as the feast of Christ's
birth but kept the celebration of His Baptism on Epiphany. There's the
added complication that Jan. 6 in the older, Julian calendar (still used
liturgically by the Eastern Church) is the equivalent of Jan. 19 in the
Gregorian calendar used in the West.

In the Eastern Church, the day is more commonly called the
Theophany- the divine appearance or divine manifestation - and is
considered the third most important feast in the church's calendar. So
while there aren't Twelve Days of Christmas for our brethren in the
Eastern Church, Theophany is more in line with the original intent of
what we in the West call Epiphany.

And then came Vatican II

To complicate matters further, after a millennium and a half of usage,
Rome decided at its last council, Vatican II in the early 1960s to make
Epiphany a movable feast. Now it's no longer on Jan. 6 but on the
Sunday after the first Saturday in January. So, if you were to listen to
Rome, there aren't Twelve Days of Christmas in the West now either!

(Of course for some of us - Lutherans - who seek to hold to the
catholic evangelical faith, it is still happily listed as Jan. 6.)

Simply put, the appearance or manifestation of God is just too big to
contain in one day! That's why the Church doesn't. Instead it extends
the celebration of God's coming among us to twelve days, starting at
Christmas. Don't let the world, the mall, or any calendar tell you any
differently!

January 16, 2016 Christmas Gift Exchange and Regular Meeting.

Gift exchange should be limited to \$10-\$15 per gift. We will be having this at our regular place and at our regular time.



Meetings for the *USS Regulator* are held every month
at 1500hrs at Shady Oaks BBQ at Sand Shell &
Hwy 35. Usually on the third Saturday of every month.
For information contact CO Col. Tank Clark
at

regulator@region3.org
or visit our web site

<http://ussregulator.weebly.com/>

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