



Regulator Charge!

Defending the Final Frontier



NCC-2009

volume 12 Issue 11

Crew Meetings & Activities 2015

2015

Dec 19 Movie premiere Star Wars with SciFi Factory
(see Communications below)

Invade CottonPatch Café at 2:00 after the movie

2016

Jan 16 regular meeting Christmas Party & Gift Exhcnage

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.)

From the Ready Room

Another month gone by and another month I have missed my crew. First and foremost I want to thank Tank for filling in for me. Hopefully with the New Year I will find out more about being able to change my schedule so I can have the weekends free to join you all.

Congratulations to all of you who got promotions at The Klingon Dinner Thing. They were all well deserved. Once again I am sorry I was unable to award them in person.

While I will be unable to attend the Screening of Star Wars and the meeting in December I hope to be at the Holiday Party at Shady Oaks in January. I may be a little worse for wear but I really miss being at the meetings and events.

We have a new member! Rob Dittich has joined our ship. StarFleet seems to be having an issue processing his membership but we will get that straightened out. Welcome Aboard Rob!

Not much else to report but know I am working at being more available.

Live Long and Prosper!

Captain Michael Cross

XO

If you missed the Klingon Dinner Thing (November's meeting), we missed you.

The crew discussed our plans for December and January. On Stardate 11512.19 (Sat. 19 Dec 2015 old style) most of us will be going to the Sci-Fi Factory's private showing of Star Wars: The Force Awakens (Episode VII) in Lake Worth at 1100hrs, and we will have a brief meeting at the nearby Cotton Patch, [3940 NW Loop 820, Fort Worth, TX 76135](#) at 1400hrs (2 pm).

The January meeting, on 11601.16 1500 hrs at Shady Oaks BBQ, will also be our ship's Holiday Party. We will have a Ferengi Gift Exchange (or a "white elephant").

The crew also agreed that we should hold our next Klingon Dinner Thing in April or May, when we hold our normal Spring awards/promotions meeting.

It may be located at Ascension & St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Highway 380, on the west side of Bridgeport. Meanwhile, our Fall awards/promotions meeting will coincide with Mirror Month, in October. (This is subject to the Captain's veto).

Speaking about awards and promotions...

Awards:

Doo-dad awards:

Zoo Trip: Tank, Tracy, Melissa, Perry, Roon

Grapevine Vintage Railroad: Tank, Tracy, Perry, Roon

Alliance Air Show: Tank, Tracy, Melissa, Perry

Game Day (Jun): Tank, Tracy, Melissa, Perry

Private Showing, Avengers, Age of Ultron: Perry, Melissa, Liz, Alan, Michelle, Tank, Tracy

Game Day (May): Tank, Tracy, Perry

Marine Participation (SFMC Reading Challenge): Tank, Tracy, Karen, Liz, Alan, Michelle

SFSO Grade 1: Liz Goulet

SFMC Challenge Coins in recognition of the Legion of Honor: OIC (Tank), DOIC (Tracy), SGM (Alan)

Currently Unnamed Smarty-Pants Award: Tank Clark

Order of the Cylindrical Storage Vessel of Simians: Melissa Brulotte, Tank Clark, Alan Goulet

Member of the Year: Tank Clark

Promotions:

Melissa Brulotte to Petty Officer Third (PO3)
Perry Brulotte to Lieutenant Commander (LCDR)
Karen Chaffin to Chief Petty Officer (CPO)
Scott Cornatzer to Commander (CDR)
Michelle Goulet to Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO)
Roon Marchant to Lieutenant Colonel (LTC)
Sean Washburn to Lieutenant Commander (LCDR)
Glen Wilkerson to Chief Warrant Officer Third (CWO3)

We still have an open Department Head (DH) position. SCPO Michelle Goulet stepped down as Ship's Services DH in May. The duty of this department is to promote and coordinate social activities. As the Ship's Articles state, "This includes the Christmas Party, picnics, and birthday celebrations." Let me or the Captain know if you're interested in taking on this role.

Check out the Helm report.
Fleet Capt Tank Clark, SFMD
First Officer, *USS Regulator*, NCC-2009

Communications

Those who have purchased tickets to the "Star Wars" new movie to be shown at the Texas Movie Bistro, 3880 Boat Club Rd., Ft. Worth at 11:00. The movie will be over about 1:16. We will be invading the Cotton Patch near by at about 2:00 after the movie. This will be our December meeting.

Liz Goulet, R.Admiral
Communications Officer, *USS Regulator*, NCC 2009

MEDICAL ALERT!! MEDICAL ALERT:

Work is interfering with all my fun. See you at the movie.

Rolling the bandages,
CDR Tracy "Gleek" Clark, STARFLEET
Chief Medical Officer, *USS Regulator*, NCC-2009

HELM



"Mr. Sulu, you may... indulge yourself."

I am still looking for a Helm Department Assistant DH. We are a busy, busy ship, and it would be good to have someone help me in planning and research.

After Action Reports:

On November 7, the Science Department took a trip to the Fort Worth Zoo. The Helm Department fully endorses any activity planned and executed by the Science Department... if you can, you should join these landing parties, too.

Upcoming:

In December, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens (Episode VII)* comes out. Sci-Fi Factory will have a private showing; tickets are sold out, but I hope you have purchased one, and will join us.

As agreed at the KDT, the Holiday Party will be held in conjunction with our January meeting. Regular time, regular place; bring an inexpensive wrapped gift for the "Ferengi Gift Exchange".

In 2016, the Rangers will be hosting a few more Game Days (again!), the Marines may be hosting a bar crawl, a Marine Mess, or something. Other things people have requested we send a Landing Party to:

- Either the Boyd Big Cat rescue facility, or the CARE animal-rescue facility in Bridgeport
- the Cavanaugh Flight Museum
- the Wax Museum in Grand Prairie
- Rabbit Hole brewery in Justin
- Winery tours, in Grapevine
- Lazertag

Again, stay tuned, but if you have suggestions, feel free to fire 'em at me!

Releasing the parking brake,
Brigadier Tank Clark, SFMC
Helmsman, *USS Regulator*, NCC-2009

Navigation Department

"Second star to the right, and straight on 'till morning..."
Sean Washburn, LTC
Navigation, *USS Regulator*, NCC 2009

BOSUN (Chief in Charge)

Book Report
Dick Van Dyke
This was about a comedian and actor that was very funny. His first acting job only lasted five years due to Carl Rier. He decided to only do shows or movies that his kids could watch. One of the first movies that he did was "Mary Poppins". Dick stayed busy with what he enjoyed to do the most – working on Broadway. Dick was asked several times to do ChiChiBangBang and he turned the role down. He finally accepted the role after they offered him 6 figures salary. It was a very enjoyable book.

Special Note: Please put your name and what group you want your flip tops to be counted for on your bag with the tops. If you **do not** put your name on it, you won't get credit- I will.

BONUS: For those who recruit somebody whether you are an individual or family, they may assist you this year only in the flip top contest. This is to encourage you to get somebody to join the ship.

Alan Goulet, MCPO

From the Flight Deck: OIC, VMA-333 "Phoenix Squadron" Take a knee, Marines.



Last month, I discussed an idea for a Phoenix Squadron sponsored Bar Crawl. I have not been able to do the reconnaissance that I need to do for this project. (Look at last month's *Regulator Charge!* for my action plan.)

An alternate event was suggested at the October meeting: a Marine Mess, but not necessarily a Dress Mess. With a Dress Mess, we're talking Class A's in a nice place; otherwise, the Mess would be in Class C uniforms (BDUs, Flight Suits, or Vehicle Crew Garments), preferably outdoors (in a park, under a pavilion or tent). Oddly enough, this is more complicated than the Bar Crawl, as some of the steps – especially for an outdoor "Field Mess" – are more difficult to lock down.

This mission would require:

- A location, which would have
 - a large enough pavilion & tables for everyone, or space for a large enough pavilion type tent.
 - Restroom facilities
 - the location would have to be accessible for everyone
- Food. Either cooked on site or catered.
- Because of the food issue, we'd have to pre-register attendees, and they would have to pre-pay.

- Most “Field Messes” (meaning a mess or meal held in Class C’s and outdoors) have some sort of activity before/after the meal. Paintball, water balloon fights, orienteering, PT (ugh), or even just basic drill (for most people, this means learning the basics – Attention, Parade Rest, how to form up into a formation, facing maneuvers, flanking maneuvers, column maneuvers).
- This would have to be held starting in mid morning (0930 or so), with the mess as a lunch around noon or so.
- Weather considerations make this difficult.
 - Too hot, nobody wants to do it.
 - Too cold, same thing
 - Precipitation is a serious issue – few people will do anything outside in the rain, and if the form of precipitation is snow, ice, sleet, etc, just forget about it. Unfortunately, we STARFLEET Marines are too comfortable.

Your thoughts and suggestions are eagerly desired.

Thank you all, and Carry on!

Never Give Up, Never Surrender!

Colonel Tank “Bazinga” Clark, SFMC OIC, VMFA-333 “Phoenix Squadron”, 3BDE S-1 Personnel & Administration

From the Deck 15 Horde: Known as the Klingon Krew

The Klingon Dinner Thing was a glorious success. The food was good, the drinks were good, and the company was wonderful. Check out the Ship’s Blog at <http://ussregulator.weebly.com/captains-blog> for more details, and a few pictures. I passed out many awards and quite a few promotions.

At the October meeting, I mentioned how this is most likely the last KDT at this location, as I have changed churches. My new church, Ascension & St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, is a bit farther out from the Metroplex – about 10-15 minutes away from the First United Methodist Church of Decatur. I can reserve the Fellowship Hall at A & St. M, easily. Perhaps, whilst we change venues, we might also change the time of year as well. Let’s think about moving the KDT to April, and use it for our Spring awards/promotions event (instead of the Fall awards/promotion event, which would be held in conjunction with Mirror Month.)

On Sunday 29 Nov, the Lone Star Warriors Association hosted a “Good Day to Dine.” I received this message from Captain Salek, the Communications Officer of the *IKV Melota*:

The KAG Ship, IKV Melota and others landed on the Plano Bone Daddy’s for this month’s Good Day to Dine.

Glen described the chicken fried steak as “the closest to his idea of a perfect chicken fried steak”. The chips and cheese dip were very different from any other place and we really enjoyed them.

The next Good Day to Dine is Superbowl Sunday.

The uniformed members present voted to go to A Taste of Europe, located on the west side of Arlington on 303. Superbowl Sunday, January 31st. This time earlier than usual at 1400.

I loved *A Taste of Europe* when Kalamity and I went there on the last GdTD that was held there; the food is wonderful. I don’t think we’ll have to worry about the local football team being in the Super Bowl this season...

For the Empire!

Kai the Klingon Krew! Qapla’!

Have Phaser, Will Travel!



Congratulations to Rear Admiral Liz Goulet, on her successful completion of Grade 1 (“Basic Training”)! This is an awesome segue into repeating myself regarding the SFSO and the STARFLEET Academy.

Go to <https://sfisfo.wordpress.com/>, and click on the Publications link. On the right side of the page, you will see a list of all the individual grades within the SFSO. Start with Grade 1, “Basic Training”. Download this page, print it out, and use it as your checklist for Grade 1. When you complete a course on this, fill in the box for “Date Completed.” When you have completed ALL of the courses for Grade 1, bring it to me at the next meeting, and I’ll get you submitted for certification. Tracy’s finished four courses of her Grade 1, and has two more waiting for her to work on.

When you finish Grade 1, start working on Grade 2. Follow the same procedures. When you’ve finished Grade 2, I also get to request the Major Hayes (Ranger) ribbon for you. Groovy, eh?

I’m happy to help in any way I can for you to take these courses. My goal is to have at least half of the Ranger unit certified as at least Grade 2.

Now, on with the game stuff...

This month, we played yet another game I’d never played before but had sitting on my Games shelves, the *Lord of the Rings Roleplaying Game* by Decipher, Inc. Decipher released the game in 2002. This is the third role playing game (RPG) licensed for the setting, the two former games being *Middle Earth Role Playing (MERP)* and its simplified little brother, the *Lord of the Rings Adventure Game*, (LOR) both from Iron Crown Enterprises (ICE). There’s a new Middle-Earth RPG called “*The One Ring*”, published by Cubicle 7, but I have not yet encountered that one.

It should go without saying that these RPGs are all set in the world of J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Silmarillion*. Decipher’s version uses the “CODA” system rules – the same basic rules they used for their Star Trek Role Playing Game. Only six-sided dice (d6) are required to play, and actions are resolved by rolling 2d6 and adding modifiers.

The core rule book is beautiful. I bought it (used, from Half-Price Books) simply to look at the pictures, most of which came straight from the Peter Jackson movies. The text is sometimes not the easiest to read – it is printed over pictures quite often, and the font keeps changing colors to compensate. The layout of the book is poor. One comment I saw on the Internet (it’s a tube filled with cats) said that when the page layout people handed the book over to the printers, the printers said, “Hey, it’s gorgeous, but where are the rules?” In a panic, three monkeys wrote the rules on the back of used napkins from Subway, and handed them in. The rules aren’t that bad... they’re just not organized well.

Character creation is fairly easy, but not straightforward at all. The book never lists the steps in character creation, like most modern RPGs do. Fortunately, I was able to find a few things about the game on the Internet, including blank character sheets and a character creation checklist. One starts by rolling stats, using 2d6. One rolls nine sets of numbers, keeps six, and assigns them as desired. One then chooses a race (Elves, Hobbits, Dwarves, and Men, most of which have some sub-races.) If you want the most advantageous character, there is no reason to play anything other than an Elf of the Noldor sub-race. The races are not in any way balanced between each other, except that Elves cannot be Barbarians and Hobbits shouldn’t be Magicians.

The creation process goes through several steps: skills, edges, and flaws derived from Racial background, Languages & Lore skills derived from the character’s intelligence; skills, edges, and flaws derived from the character’s Order. Orders are like what other RPGs call “classes”: Barbarian, Craftsman, Lore-master; Magician, Mariner, Minstrel, Noble, Rogue, and Warrior. If one desires, one may even start play without first selecting an Order (there’s rules in there for it; it would replicate the way Frodo, Sam, Pippin, and Merry started out from the Shire without any real experience in the world.)

Equipping a character is one of the worst parts of the game. The player is instructed to get together with the gamemaster and decide what weapons, armor, and equipment the character is likely to have. There is no “starting money.” For that matter, money in this system is very weird. 100 copper pennies (cp) equal one silver penny (sp). Four silver pennies equal one Silver Piece (SP), or one gold penny (gp). Four Silver Pieces or four gold pennies

equal one Gold Piece (GP). (So, yes, a Silver Piece equals one gold penny.) Confusing.

It took me about three hours to create the first character, and about an hour each to create the next three. We had a Noldo Elf Magician, a Hobbit Rogue, a Man (well, a woman) Warrior, and a Dwarf Noble (who may, or may not, have been female. You can't really tell, you know.)

I used an adventure from ICE's MERP, and converted it mostly on the fly. (MERP is easy to convert). The party was hired in Lake-town to help find some villagers/farmers who live near Mirkwood who went missing. Our Heroes trailed them through a small bit of Mirkwood, found a Giant Spider nest just off the road, killed the spiders, and rescued the two still-living farmers.

Combat worked okay, but we didn't use some of the options. The CODA system uses "exploding" dice – if you roll a six on a die, you keep the number and roll another d6, repeating if you keep rolling sixes. The result of your die roll, added to the appropriate modifier, is compared to a Target Number (TN) (for combat, the TN is usually the opponent's Defence). Exactly hitting the TN is a "success"; for each 5 above the TN, the degree of success is improved – likewise, rolling two "ones" is a Critical (sometimes Disastrous) Failure. The Hobbit got lucky, and ended up with an amazing result on one attack. Combat lasted four rounds, the first of which was a surprise round (the Spiders are sneaky).

Overall, I'd say the game isn't all that good. I'd give it a 2 out of 5. I certainly would never use this game to introduce someone to RPGs (I think the Ghostbusters RPG would be the best for that!)

Next month, I think we'll pay a visit to 1986's Middle Earth Role Playing Game (MERP).

Fleet Captain Tank Clark, SFSO
Team Leader, 33rd STARFLEET Rangers ("The Paladins")
Have Phaser, Will Travel

Ship's Services

December's birthdays .

Engineering Department

Power supplies have been flexuating lately due to an unexplained drain from the Klingon deck. Haven't discovered the problem yet but am looking into it.

Roone Machart, LTC

Chief of Engineering, *USS Regulator*, NCC 2009

Science Department

Been so busy with away missions haven't had time to do reports, with work on that. See you at the movie.

Melissa Brulotte, PO3

Science, *USS Regulator*, NCC 2009

SECURITY! SECURITY!!

I think some of the Klingons are wanting to have campfires in some of the recreational areas. Something to do with rites of passage for some of the younger members. With have to talk to the Captain to make sure it's ok. As long as they don't disconnect the fire sprinklers, I think it will be alright.

Scott Cornatez, CDR

Security, *USS Regulator*, NCC 2009

Advertisements

It has been suggested that we might help our fellow crew members by posting ads for their personal business. This day and age starting a business isn't easy and they can use all the free help we can give them.



Custom Vinyl Decals, Gifts, Apparel, Editable Printouts, etc.

Go to: www.etsy.com/shop/LauraWashburnDesigns



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 Captain Michael Cross

at
regulator@region3.org
or visit our web site

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

Regulator Charge! Newsletter is a monthly publication produced to inform members of upcoming events with the ship, with the region, and with the fleet. As well as things of interest everyone might like to know about. Information in this publication is obtained through emails and internet sites. The *USS Regulator* is a non-profit organization affiliated with STARFLEET. Although we are Star Trek based, this club does enjoy and encourage anything that is SciFi related such as Battlestar Galatica, Stargate, Star Wars, X-Men, Superman, etc. This is an 'on line' publication for all those who have email. If requested a printed copy can be sent to you at your home address.