



Lotus Fleet Newsletter

The Official Publication of the Lotus

Issue 1

May 2013



“Let us boldly go toward that horizon... and beyond... as we were meant to.”

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We're Baaacck....Lotus Fleet Newsletter Returns to Publication!

By Rear Admiral Jureth

Command Division XO

Welcome, friends, welcome to the first edition of the newest incarnation of the Official Publication of Lotus Fleet. I am Rear Admiral Jureth, the Command Division Executive Officer and defacto managing editor of Lotus Fleet Newsletter. Over the last couple of years Lotus Fleet has undergone a fair amount of change from the closing of our old website and retirement of founding Fleet Admiral Nova and his XO Admiral Athos, to riding out a year on the Enjin guild hosting site, and finally the launch of our brand new website toward the end of last year. One of the things that was always been on the table for discussion throughout all of that change was the relaunch of the Fleet's newsletter. As a former editor, I really believed it was important that we return to publication as soon as we could to keep our Fleetmates up on what was happening with the fleet, and to hopefully help bring new members into our ranks.

Well, no better time than the present I say, and so here we are with issue number one. We have worked hard to bring you what we hope will be a publication that Lotus Fleet can be proud of and one we hope will be around for a long time to come. So, without further adieu here is your newsletter Lotus Fleet, enjoy!

Lotus Fleet Officer Spotlight: Acting Fleet Admiral Kheren

Recently, our Acting Fleet Admiral Kheren was good enough to give LFN a few minutes of his time so that the members could get to know their leadership better. Admiral Kheren has been with Lotus Fleet nearly four years, and is involved in the Fleet not only as its XO, but is heavily active in Star Trek Online, and with our role playing department as Captain Kheren of the fleet flagship *U.S.S. Horizon*.

LFN: Thank you Admiral for sitting down with us, let's start with the basics: Where are you from?

Adm. Kheren: Andoria, Great Wash Temple... Oh sorry; Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada, a 200,000 souls town right between Montreal and Quebec city on the northern shore of the Saint-Laurent River.

LFN: And what is your position with Lotus Fleet?

Adm. Kheren: Fleet Executive Officer(As of publication Kheren is also the acting Fleet Admiral)

LFN: When did you join Lotus Fleet?

Adm. Kheren: May 2009...wow nearly four years ago! Not bad for a loner gamer.

LFN: Lotus Fleet has often been described as more than just a gaming fleet, what does that mean to you?

Adm. Kheren: That means that it explains why I am even here... and still here and for some time to come. It's a community of fantastic people I'm glad and proud to know and share common interests and fun with.



LFN: What is your passion in life or your biggest aspiration?

Adm. Kheren: I have several; ST of course, but also martial arts, role-play, teaching, sci-fi, fantasy, superheroes, movies, reading... My biggest aspiration nowadays is to become a professional writer. I just finished my first novel and currently revising it before proposing it to an editor. Wish me luck!

LFN: What is your biggest peeve?

Adm. Kheren: What Trek has come down to.. But on a more general stand; Like Roddenberry, I have a very, very hard time with religious thinking and people having only that kind of arbitrary argument to offer.

LFN: What would you say is the highlight in your life to this point?

Adm. Kheren: Being eligible this year to the title of master in Taekwondo (being practicing for nearly 40 years now)

LFN: What is one thing nobody in the Fleet knows about you?

Adm. Kheren: I suffered a cardio-vascular deficiency in 2010 (not a heart attack per se but close)

LFN: Could you describe yourself in 5 words?

Adm. Kheren: Faithful, rational, open, honest, good-natured

LFN: Do you have a personal motto?

Adm. Kheren: Be serious... but never take yourself too seriously

LFN: Switching gears now, tell us about your love of Star Trek, let's start with what your favorite series is.

Adm. Kheren: TNG even if I was raised on TOS though my favorite captain is Jonathan Archer.

LFN: How about your favorite Trek movie?

Adm. Kheren: The Search for Spock; the epic saga about the true meaning of friendship and responsibility

LFN: You mentioned your favorite captain is Jonathan Archer, why him?

Adm. Kheren: He embodies the boldness of Kirk without the brashness, the wisdom of Picard without the rulebook, the courage of Janeway without the selfishness and the dedication of Sisko without the callousness.

LFN: Ships have long been the center pieces of Star Trek, which is your favorite?

Adm. Kheren: The Ambassador Class

LFN: Other than the captains, do you have other favorite Star Trek characters?

Adm. Kheren: TOS: Spock TNG: Data VOY: Chekotay DS9: Odo ENT: Shran

LFN: How about some Trek fashion, do you have a favorite uniform?

Adm. Kheren: None really. TOS' has the color symbolism right but looks like cheap high school gear. The movie uniforms are either awful pajamas or Nazi-like uniforms. TNG & VOY looks better but colors are now meaningless. DS9's looks too bland, dull and impractical. ENT's are just bland NASA outfits. So I would say: VOY uniforms with TOS colors on DS9 style!



LFN: *Enterprise* ended in 2005, what keeps you interested in Star Trek despite the lack of a current episodic series?

Adm. Kheren: Quality never goes stale. It is an uplifting show with admirable characters involved in exciting adventures aimed at telling something significant. In this day an age of gritty and dirty stories with ruthless antiheroes involved in simplistic events aiming only at exploiting stereotypes, returning to Trek (REAL Trek) is like returning to your shower after a lousy day of dirty work.

LFN: Is there a character or an actor you wish had never appeared in Star Trek?

Adm. Kheren: I have nothing against actors. They all do a great job. As for characters:

TOS: Janice Lester; anachronistic, absurd and uninteresting

TNG: Luwaxana Troi; Star Trek never needed a ridiculous monkey to be funny (although she redeems herself later on DS9).

VOY: Kes: useless character they didn't even know what to do with.

DS9: Benjamin Sisko: the most despicable commanding officer since Captain Stacy of the Exeter (TOS Omega Glory)

ENT: The Xindi: all-made-up history sending 40 years of canon down the drain.

LFN: What are your thoughts on the J.J. Abrams Star Trek movies?

Adm. Kheren: Did he make ST movies? The first one I saw was a Star Wars-Star Trek rip-off; the next one is looking to be a Dark Night Rises rip-off... down to the poster! What he makes is pure exploitation insulting the intelligence of the audience like even old cheap kung fu movies didn't go as far down. What he makes is a STINO (Star Trek In Name Only). Thank god he's going over to Star Wars next... leave Star Trek to a real fan now, please.

LFN: Following up on that J.J. Abrams is said to be directing one of the new Star Wars movies announced by Disney. With him moving on is there any one you'd like to see direct a Star Trek film?

Adm. Kheren: Seth McFarlane. He's accomplished and a true fan; was even friend with Roddenberry and seemingly do love and understand what Trek is all about. But Gene's vision is so anti-Hollywood, I'm not sure anyone can have that vision he had and the guts to fight the system to bring it back. But we can hope...

LFN: How do you think we can best apply Gene Roddenberry's vision today?

Adm. Kheren: Through tolerance, rationality and sense of wonder and optimism in working towards a better self and a better future.

LFN: Moving to Star Trek Online, are you an active STO player?

Adm. Kheren: Daily



LFN: What is your impression of the game today vice when it launched?

Adm. Kheren: its light years beyond the crude space combat game with a Trek skin that it was then. In fact, it's the only game I still come back daily to play and the first one I think of when I have free time to do so.

LFN: Do you believe Cryptic stays mostly true to Star Trek's vision?

Adm. Kheren: It's trying to. But the overall original war theme of the game makes it difficult because implementing peaceful options to a given situation is not generalized yet and not that easy to do and make challenging, exciting and fun. But look at the daily mission: Free the Deferi Captives. This is what a Star Trek game should be. So they might get there at one point.

LFN: What advice would you give to new members of Lotus Fleet?

Adm. Kheren: The more you share, the more you get.

LFN: Are there any other thoughts you'd like to add?

Adm. Kheren: This fleet is yours; make the most of it.

Thank you again for your time Admiral and for sharing a little bit about you with the rest of the fleet. Look for more officer spotlight interviews in upcoming issues of Lotus Fleet Newsletter!

Awards, Promotions and Announcements

Fleet Longevity Awards:

3 months: Lt.(jg) Hera

27 months: R. Adm. Jeff T; Capt. Josh Vincent; Lt. Cmd. MichaelJ Tritter

33 months: R. Adm. Jureth; Lt. Snowfire

39 months: Prov. Off. mindblade; R. Adm. Evshell; Flt. Cpt. Vladan; Lt.(jg) Vimes

42 months: Lt. Cmd. Arma; Ens. Jerik

45 months: Prov. Flt. Off. Battle Lion; Ens. Anders

48 months: Adm. Kheren; Flt. Cpt. Teancum

51 months: Prov. Flt. Off. Bin Hawkins; Prov. Flt. Off. Crist; Prov. Flt. Off. Joester

63 months: Prov. Flt. Off. Athos



Moving Up: Recent Promotions

Evshell to Rear Admiral

Jeff T. To Rear Admiral

Decatur to Lt.(j.g)

These are the Voyages: Lotus Fleet RP Update

The Lotus Fleet RP department, lead by Rear Admiral Evshell has been hard at work for the last several months on wrapping up the Azimuth Horizon fleet action, and the relaunch of Lotus Fleet. With most of its ships heavily damaged or destroyed during Operation Horizon Lotus Fleet has been granted two brand new ships to modernize and bolster her ranks.

The first is the prototype of the Lotus Class starship, the USS Horizon. A massive exploration platform the Horizon is the largest starship ever constructed by the Federation. She combines elements of some of Starfleet's best designs and is capable of extended operations away from her home starbase. At her helm is Captain Kheren, the heroic Andorian former captain of the the lost USS Artemis. With him stands a fearless crew including Commander Neil Redding, his XO, Security Chief Lt. Sarah Corcoran and Commander Oseno Jureth his second officer and commander of the Horizon's integrated escort vessel the USS Polaris.

The second of Lotus Fleet's new additions is the Avenger Class USS Phoenix. The Phoenix is a scientific exploration vessel capable of mapping the far reaches of uncharted space, conducting diplomatic missions, or defending those who cannot defend themselves. The command of this magnificent vessel goes to newly minted Captain Syntron, another hero of the Starship Artemis who takes will take his first command into the unknown. By his side he will have his dedicated crew including XO Commander Joshua Riker, Chief Engineer Commander David Rogers, and Chief of Security Commander Josh Vincent.

Both the Horizon and the Phoenix will be venturing out from Starbase Lotus soon to "boldly go where no one has gone before" so be sure to tune to our role playing section on the Fleet website and stay tuned!

Captain Syntron: Commanding Potential

By Ashlyn Scott,

Civilian Correspondents Office aboard Lotus Starbase

Commanding the USS Phoenix we find a man who has dedicated his life to the pursuit of discovery; a man who takes his dedication to Starfleet seriously. At first glance, the quiet Vulcan appears to be nothing more than a reserved scientist. Having spent some time aboard the Phoenix reveals so much more about his character.

The first thing I learned about Mr. Syntron is that he runs a tight ship. I spent some time in my childhood aboard starships my mother was stationed on, and can't remember a more secure environment than the *Phoenix*. I was greeted by not one, but two security escorts. The 'red-shirts' went over my transporter scan to ensure my clearance to be aboard. The feeling aboard this ship, which was still in dry-dock at the time, is one of heightened alert and procedural awareness.



After my escorts led me to the ready room on deck one the captain greeted me and my first interview began. The main traits this reporter discovered in the newest captain in the Fleet is reservation, humbleness, brilliance, and a calm exterior even under pressure. Syntron is a man that believes in the value of real-world experience over tutelage for command. When asked about he being forced to take over the USS Artemis as first officer he responded in a way I hadn't expected ***"It is these types of training experiences that no course in the academy or simulation can come close to presenting to an officer. Often, as in these cases for me, the situations were dire and the decisions had to be swift and correct; otherwise the ship and crew could be placed in inescapable jeopardy"***

The captain's Starfleet record speaks for itself; he has proven capable time and again in dangerous and unstable situations. Everyone that this journalist has spoken to agrees that his command decisions are indeed 'swift and correct.' I feel that I owe the captain a bit of an apology however, based on the poor choice of words used in one of my questions, I had asked him how his past experience as XO would help him 'play' his new role to which he kindly corrected me: ***"...being a Starfleet Captain is not "playing" a role as you stated. It is accepting the responsibilities regarding the welfare of an entire crew and a fleet starship while upholding all Federation rules and regulation before, during and after any given mission."***

To quell the rumors I'd like to confirm that the renaming of the USS Challenger to USS Phoenix was Mr. Syntron's idea. It would appear that, for a Vulcan, Captain Syntron seems to have a bit of an ironic sense of nostalgia and symbolism, as present in the renaming of the Avenger-class ship:

"The USS Phoenix ... was renamed by my request ... [damaged parts from the Artemis were] recycled through a molecular remodulation process ... the molecules and atoms of the remaining Artemis ... [are] now newly replicated into the components in [the Phoenix], I recommended that we rename this ship the USS Phoenix as a tribute to these materials rising from the ashes and into its next reincarnation as significant components on this ship."

In the view of this reporter, Captain Syntron was a fine choice for command of the fleet's newest and most advanced ship. A scientist at heart and leader by nature, the *Phoenix* and her crew are in good hands.



STAR TREK ONLINE

Get Ready to Choose Your Legacy as STO Launches its First Expansion!

By RADM. Jurath and Lt. Decatur
Managing Editor and Staff Writer

Since its launch Star Trek Online has gone through many major updates from Season 1 to the most recent Season 7. Each update has evolved the game more and more progressing it toward what we are currently playing. On March 21st after a mysterious countdown Cryptic Studios and Perfect World Entertainment announced Star Trek Online's first ever expansion Legacy of Romulus which will go live on the day the issue of LFN goes to press! If you've been reading Cryptic's developer blogs this information will not come new to you, but if you haven't don't worry because LFN has it all right here!

The Legacy of Romulus expansion will be the largest overall to date of the Star Trek Online experience. For starters it will add another playable faction, The Romulan Republic. After the destruction of Romulus and Remus, Romulan survivors have done what they had to do to survive. Now led by D'Tan they are fighting to establish a new Romulan home world free from the oppression of Empress Sela and the Tal Shiar. You can join their fight for a free Romulan Republic by creating your own male or female Romulan character and siding with either the Federation or the Klingon Empire to gain the assistance to help push back those that would return the Romulan Star Empire and all of the treachery and deception that went with it to prominence. The staff of LFN spent some time in the open beta of the new expansion on the tribble test server, and can tell you that the initial introduction to the Romulan faction is well done, and fun to play, but we won't spoil the details for you by going over the entire thing in detail though!

Not interested in being a Romulan? Prefer wonton raiding and destruction or perhaps you're a long time disgruntled fan of the Klingon Empire? Fear not! Legacy of Romulus has something for you as well! The Klingon Empire faction is finally getting a long awaited polishing with the addition of a full-fledged tutorial and complete level 1-50 exclusive content. We at LFN played the Klingon tutorial as well and it was a nice story driven introduction to the faction taking you from a mere second officer aboard a Klingon Bird of Prey to your ascent to captain and slightly beyond while introducing you to space combat, ground combat, and all of the other workings of playing STO. Klingon players should be excited about what's coming their way! Qapla!

The next major content being implemented with Legacy of Romulus is a complete overhaul of the STO trait system and character creator. Since its inception the character creator for Star Trek Online has been solely text based and has lacked a certain flow to the character creation process. With the launch of Legacy of Romulus the character creator becomes a much more visual tool with visual menus, and the ability to flow smoothly from race, class to appearance and character background. The advanced options that veteran players have used will still be there, but they will not be at the forefront of character creation instead being present as visual tabs in the creation process.

The trait system is something that veteran players have wanted to see changes to almost since Star Trek Online launched and with the new expansion they will receive what they've asked for. Traits in STO give your character certain bonuses in either ground or space situations. Previously players were only given a specific number of trait slots at the beginning of the game and that was it. There was no changing your



traits and there were no additional traits earned throughout the leveling process. The new trait system remedies that immediately. On creation of a new character you will have four trait slots to choose from and will earn more as you level up for a total of nine slots by the time you reach maximum level. Many traits will also now have proc based bonuses instead of flat boosts to a specific skill. This means the traits will give their benefits situationally, and in some cases you may actually have to apply the benefit yourself. Additionally there are twelve new traits joining STO's lineup of original traits and some of the original ones have also received some polish as well. Finally Cryptic has beefed up the racial trait system so that racial traits will only take up one of your nine trait slots, and they've added new class specific traits that will benefit your choice of tactical, science or engineering. With all of those changes coming down the line the team at Cryptic has disclosed that all existing characters will receive a free trait respec on launch!

Finally, our LFN preview of the Legacy of Romulus expansion to STO concludes with an overview of the new leveling/adventure zone that Cryptic has included which takes place on the planet Nimbus III. It seems 140 years ago a colony was begun on Nimbus with citizens of the Federation, Klingon Empire, and Romulan Star Empire. It was supposed to be a venture towards peace in the galaxy, but it turns out it was doomed from the start. Nimbus proved to be a poor choice for a colony, and the people chosen to colonize it were a group of disreputable folks. Fast forward to the present day and the colony on Nimbus no longer has any resemblance to the noble concept it was. It is being run by the Orion Syndicate from a fortified fortress and they are selling components for Thalaron weapons, the weapons so dangerous they were banned in most of the known galaxy. Enter you..Captain.

Nimbus will be featured in a series of episodes designed for characters in the level 21-25 range but the planet will be accessible any time after level 19. The episode series will take you on adventures across the entire planet, and will put you at the forefront of the fight against the Orion Syndicate. After completing the initial episodes on Nimbus there will be daily missions that will open up to you which will award dilithium ore and according to Cryptic one in particular that will increase rewards based on how well you do in the mission. Another fun mission on Nimbus will be the dance contest where you can show the rest of the galaxy your moves!

So, there you have it, our official LFN preview of the Legacy of Romulus expansion for Star Trek Online. Special thanks to Cryptic for posting all of their developer blogs which made much easier to get you all the information! Legacy launches on May 21st, and we don't know about you, but we can't wait to dive right in! See you around the galaxy!



Legacy of Romulus

P R O X D H S O A A V R E J X
L B F V L N P T S R P J J T E
K L N A K O L A M O T M B A D
E V D I R S W F M D A A F P I
U S S A H U A K R E M A N S R
C H V G U B N U W W P A H O E
W I I O M O X D X B H L K B D
Q N M M B H M Q T H H M K R D
R Z O O U C C S C Z N Z J F H
U O W H V R H K R F Q M W G Q
N N M R N O K W A S G I G A X
N G A U Y V C R E R O D L A V
Q Q Y L L C O O R E M U S B U
I Y R U E U P V Z Q S X B R I
K D G G C S S U D M D W L T F

ROMULUS
REMUS
SELA
SHINZON
TOMALOK
DDERIDEX
MOGAI
HOBUS
DONATRA
VALDORE
SPOCK
REMANS



Editor's Corner

So, here we are at the end of the first issue of the new Lotus Fleet Newsletter. As the editor I hope that you enjoyed what we've put together here for this issue. This issue is certainly just the start of bigger things I hope, and we will continue to improve and update the publication as we move forward.

As it is May, we will be going into the start of yet another summer which hopefully will bring some relaxation and fun for everyone. I also hope with Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial start of summer activities here in the United States, approaching that everyone stays healthy and safe as you go about vacations, and barbecues, or whatever else you may do during the upcoming warm months.

As always we here at LFN welcome any questions, comments, and suggestions that any fleet members may have via PM or at fleet meetings, or however you get in touch with us. So, as always, enjoy your gaming, and RP and I will see you in game and around the Fleet.

Important Links

[Lotus Fleet Official Site](#)

[Lotus Fleet Academy](#)

[Star Trek Online Official Site](#)

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