

LOTUS STARBASE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LOTUS FLEET

ISSUE 3, NOVEMBER 2013

*"We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."*



LOTUS FLEET:: AN AUTHENTICALLY DEDICATED STAR TREK COMMUNITY

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From Academia, Rear Admiral Brigham!

1. *Where are you from?*

Torrington, Connecticut USA

2. *What is your position in the Fleet?*

Commanding Officer Lotus Fleet Academy

3. *When did you join Lotus Fleet?*

18-MAY-2010

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

It's a community of fellow Star Trek enthusiasts most of whom I can let my inner geek come out around.

5. *What is your favorite Star Trek series?*

TNG

6. *What is your favorite Star Trek movie?*

ST VI The Undiscovered Country

7. *Who is favorite Star Trek captain and why?*

Benjamin Sisko. He has a very complicated.

8. *What is your favorite Star Trek ship:*

"All Good Things" Galaxy class dreadnaught.

9. *Other than a captain do you have another favorite Star Trek character?*

Elim Garak

10. *What is your favorite Star Trek uniform?*

TNG First Contact late season DS9

11. *What keeps you interested in Star Trek despite the lack of a current episodic series?*

I own all the series on DVD I rewatch them with the wife to keep the memories alive.

12. *Is there a character or actor you wish had never appeared in Star Trek?*

No.

13. *What are your thoughts on J.J. Abrams Star Trek movies?*

Jar-Jar Abrams maksa bad star trek movies noa okie dei?



14. Is there someone else you'd like to see direct a Star Trek film?

Christopher Nolan.

15. How do you think we can best apply Gene Roddenberry's vision today?

I'm not the philosophical type.

16. Are you active in Star Trek Online?

Not as active as I wish I could be.

17. What is your impression of the game today vice when it launched?

Much has improved, a much higher quality than when it first was released there is so much to do in game now that if you are bored from it you wither have no life and have done everything or you lack imagination to try all it has to offer.

18. Do you believe Cryptic stays mostly true to Star Trek's vision?

Yes.

19. What is your passion in life or your biggest aspiration?

To many things I enjoy in life.

20. What is your biggest peeve?

Filling out forms.....

21. What would you say is the highlight in your life to this point?

This requires too much thought, again so many things to consider.

22. What is one thing nobody in the Fleet knows about you?

If I tell you then everyone would know.

23. Could you describe yourself in 5 words?

No.

24. Do you have a personal motto?

Hahaha God no.

25. What advice would you give new members?

Enjoy the Academy, Enjoy RP, Contribute to the fleet. Remember we are a community.



26. *How would you define leadership?*

Having the respect of those who would follow you.

24. *Are there any other thoughts or information that you'd like to add?*

No.



Perceptions & Corrections

Let's try something new this month. How does your perception of a person compare to real life? First up, is my boss, Admiral Jeff T!

He is the Commanding Officer of Command (smirks) Division of Lotus Fleet, THE only Fleet you have to join if you are a Star Trek junkie, like we all are.

Mmmm...let me see... Oh! You have to keep in mind I've never seen him and only interacted with him on the Fleet and on Fleet business. I don't know him personally at all. It's my conviction that you can totally assess a person behind the business on how he conducts himself in his work environment. Yes, being a Fleet Officer is a full-time job, even if it doesn't pay in money, but boy! The benefits are awesome!

This is my perception of him:

Admiral Jeff T... Six and a half foot of muscle. Olive toned skin, brown eyes, spiky black hair which he have trouble with making it stay just so. Logical. Precise. Perfectionist. Duty comes before anything else. The ultimate Vulcan.

Well, maybe in Role Play or in STO, but in the Fleet, not so much. Yes, he still is logical and precise and strives for perfection, but he is not over six feet and most certainly not musclebound. I picture him as just topping six feet, wiry, with curly black hair, brown eyes. Hates to shave. Loves his family above all else. He will always try to help, even unasked. Not aggressive but loves a good discussion, just don't push him too far. He can be explosive. He prefers a good movie above reading, playing with his son (more kids?) rather than jogging or going to the gym. He thinks nothing of cooking or cleaning to help out his wife or helping his kids with their homework. Steadfast, spiritual rather than religious, doesn't do anything by halves. If he gives his friendship, you will be friends for life.

AAAND...I stand corrected!

Rather close in many areas Storm... I'll just add a little bit of clarification and details... that hopefully won't be too boring or come off as arrogant or worse.

My hair is actually medium to light brown. My eyes are blue. I do currently sport a trimmed beard... which has come and gone over the years. I actually love to read... when I have something worthwhile... and if not, I re-read books that I like multiple times. I also love a good movie... the choice totally depends on my mood at the time. I don't watch "regular" TV anymore, but will occasionally stream movies, shows, concerts, etc... through Netflix or occasionally HBO... after my responsibilities are done for the day. Other than Star Trek, the Big Bang Theory is the show that I most enjoy... although there are certainly others that I appreciate for different reasons and on different levels.



I do indeed enjoy a good discussion and real friends often do become life-long friends. Perfectionist... to a somewhat large degree I suppose, but not to an obsessive and compulsive level... well... at least not too much. I think of it as working toward excellence rather than perfection. Explosive only when dealing with overtly rude, selfish, narrow-minded, prejudice types that think they know everything, but in reality, are mostly ignorant and/or delusional and/or ill-informed. I prefer interacting with people who exemplify the qualities that "real" Star Trek conveyed: A true sense of duty, honor, respect, tolerance, appreciation, intelligence, playfulness, creativity, curiosity, teamwork/ collaboration, compassion, empathy, etc...

My main passion though is music. Although not classically trained, I have played guitar and bass on and off since I was around 11 years old. I have been in countless bands since I was in 8th grade and have at times played professionally.

I have recently made this a major focus in my life and it has taken me two years to eventually assemble a new band. We are in the process of recording the first of three upcoming CDs while simultaneously preparing to go out and play live again in area venues. I have written all of the music, lyrics, and arrangements, both instrumentally and vocally, that we are doing. It is a very challenging process because many of the songs are progressive and rather intricate and we are doing this in a home studio at a slower rate than I would prefer... but real life and circumstances have a way of impeding our progress... and it is also challenging to maximize the potential of this music without all of the tools and resources available within a major recording studio. So we're doing what we can with what we have available... just as we all do in other aspects of our lives.

We are also planning to focus on filming upcoming performances in HD and multi-track sound at some point next year... whenever and where ever this occurs. This then leads to all of the business aspects of this endeavor which I abhor, yet must contend with to move forward.

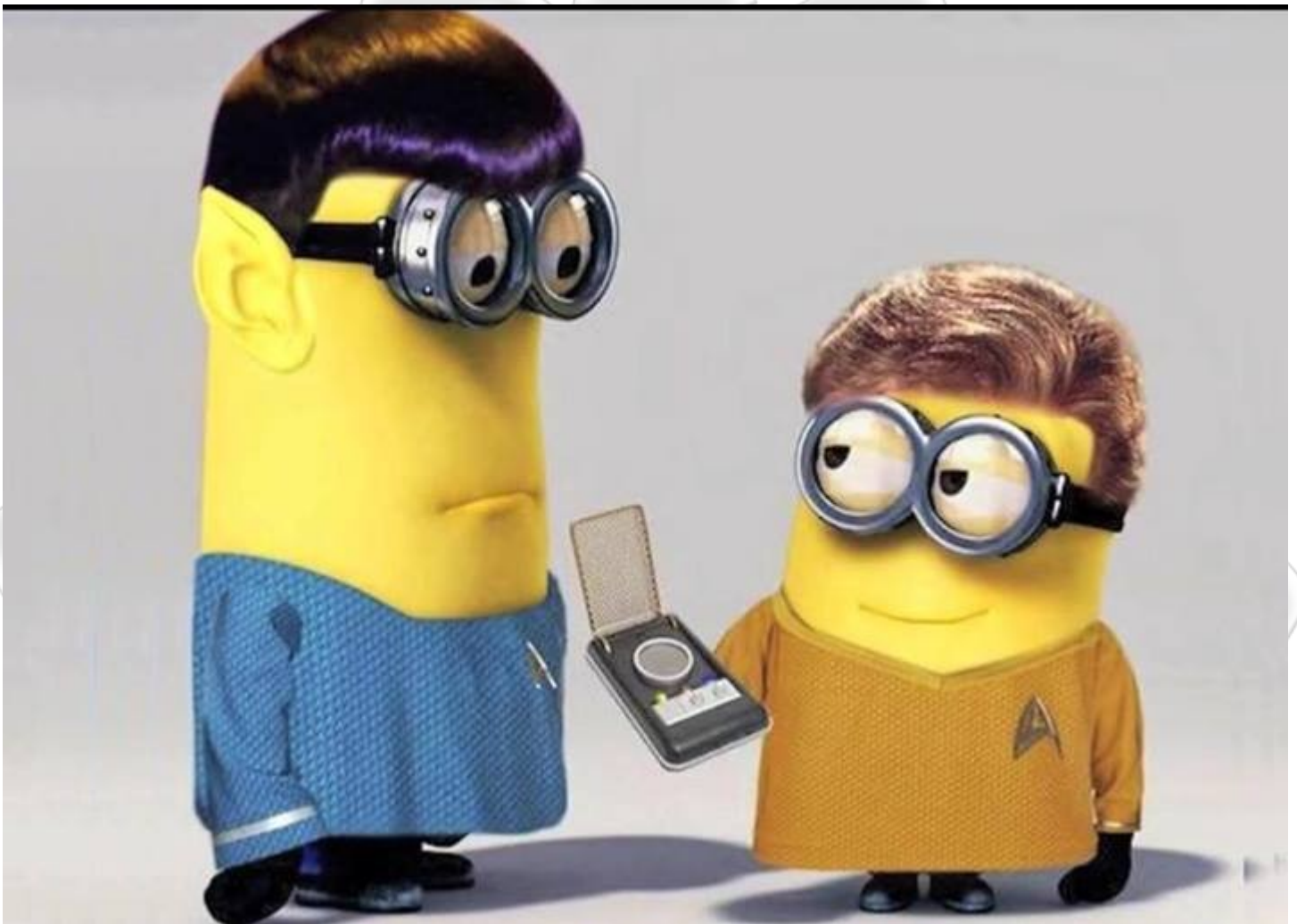
Where this all will lead to I have no idea... but it has been something that has been haunting me for way too long to continue to ignore. It's among the most challenging yet fulfilling processes that I've strived for... and I just hope that I don't encounter too many more obstacles before completing these aspects of this series of goals.

In terms of immediate family... I have a wife, a 14 year old son, 4 remaining siblings... one of my sisters died April 2012, and my very active mother who will turn 86 next month. My father passed away in July of 2008. We are all close, but like most families, are able to drive each other crazy in a variety of ways... especially if we spend too much time crammed together... which doesn't happen very often because we are spread out literally from the east coast of the US to the west coast and parts in-between.



I do also like to write... novel types of stories and lyrics as well. This is why I enjoy participating in RP; even though I wish the activity occurring there was more frequent and in-depth. We have some really talented writers in the fleet and it makes this process that much more enjoyable; especially when we get on a roll with a given event or scene.

(Thank you Admiral! Now we know you a little better.)



"It's for you. From Admiral Jeff T. He says your audition for lead singer failed. You make Achy Breaky Heart sound like a Klingon funeral dirge."



LOTUS FLEET





Follow the adventures of both the USS Horizon and the USS Phoenix as they are currently in the midst of their maiden voyages. Things are not going easy for either crew... How will this turn out? Follow these exciting stories thread-by-thread here:

<http://www.lotusfleet.org/rp/>

Sneak preview: the crew of the Horizon has been divided far off toward the literal edge of the galaxy.

Meanwhile, the Phoenix has just narrowly escaped the clutches of a treacherous nebula and are en route to an area to begin remotely scanning a wide area with a series of specialized probes.

Here is some facts about nebulae:

A **nebula** (from Latin: "cloud"; pl. *nebulae* or *nebulæ*, with ligature, or *nebulas*) is an interstellar cloud of dust, hydrogen, helium and other ionized gases. Originally, *nebula* was a name for any diffuse astronomical object, including galaxies beyond the Milky Way. The Andromeda Galaxy, for instance, was referred to as the *Andromeda Nebula* (and spiral galaxies in general as "spiral nebulae") before the true nature of galaxies was confirmed in the early 20th century by Vesto Slipher, Edwin Hubble, et al. Nebulae are often star-forming regions, such as in the Eagle Nebula. This nebula is depicted in one of NASA's most famous images, the "Pillars of Creation". In these regions the formations of gas, dust, and other materials "clump" together to form larger masses, which attract further matter, and eventually will become massive enough to form stars. The remaining materials are then believed to form planets, and other planetary system objects. (Wikipedia)



USS PHOENIX



Crew

Captain Syntron, portrayed by Jeff T

Executive Officer, Commander Joshua Riker portrayed by Sorripto

Chief Engineer, Commander David Rogers portrayed by BLZBUB

Chief Medical Officer Lieutenant Commander Elliago Nasaro-Myth portrayed by Kheren

Chief Science Officer, Lieutenant Junior Grade Stephanie Decatur portrayed by Decatur

Operations Officer Lieutenant Junior Grade B'Zinga Decatur portrayed by Veela



USS HORIZON



Crew

Captain Kheren

First Officer: Commander Neil Redding

Ops Officer: Commander Oseno Jureth

Science Chief: Lieutenant Commander Snowfire K'Leysa

Chief Engineer: Lieutenant Commander Joey Day Sisko

Chief Medical Officer: the Bynar pair 110 and 011

Ops Chief: Lieutenant Elisha Leone



LOTUS FLEET

STO UPDATE BY ADMIRAL ATHOS

Greetings Fleet mates! If you play STO at all, I'm certain that you have noticed the progress we have been making on building the Dilithium Mine to Tier 3. I am very pleased with the progress which has very much been a team effort. It seems more and more are playing and contributing. Our Starbase is at Tier 3, but is not stagnant. Several science projects have been completed and so we are building towards a Tier 4 comm array which will allow a Tier 4 Starbase upgrade. Our Embassy is at tier 1, though is almost upgraded to Tier 2. Finally, we have a full Tier 2 Dilithium Mine. The Fleet is driving hard to get our Development Facility upgraded to tier 3. Unlike previous upgrades, we will need to upgrade both facilities before we can upgrade the Di Mine itself to tier 3 which I think this Fleet can do by 1 January 2014. A full Tier 3 Dilithium Mine would be a wonderful gift for Lotus Fleet's 6th birthday.

On Thursday, 31 October, the next Special Featured Episode, entitled "Sphere of Influence", will launch. This episode will advance the STO storyline. It is not known if this can be played as a group, but Events will hold a Fleet Event to play this together on Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

Finally, the biggest news lately is with regards to Season 8. I'm personally looking forward to the launch of Season 8. I think adding the Dyson Sphere along with the mighty Voth will add a new and interesting dynamic to gameplay. Along with this new environment will be a new Fleet Holding, the Spire Outpost. Cryptic describes it as similar in structure to the Embassy and Dilithium Mine (3 levels of upgrade; 3 tracks - main and 2 sub-tracks). As I'm running point on coordinating our Fleet's efforts in-game, especially when it comes to building up our Fleet Holdings, this adds a new element to consider.

The first thing to consider is what are the benefits to the Fleet that this new holding offers if/when we build it up? To me, the benefits are mostly "nice-to-haves" but not earth-shattering. The following is the long-term strategy for Lotus Fleet, given this new Holding.

1. Get the Dilithium Mine to Tier 3 - by fully upgrading the Di Mine, we will get the maximum (15%) discount on building all future holdings. Additionally, at Tier 3, all Fleet Members will have the option of a daily Rich Dilithium Mining mission which might be worth 5K Di/day. That would go a long way towards helping to build our future holdings.
2. Finish upgrading the Embassy to tier 2. That project is almost complete and might be finished before we finish with the Di Mine.



3. Get our Starbase to Tier 4. At Tier 4 we will have more powerful Fleet weapons that we can procure, new Fleet starships will be available, etc. etc.

4. Focus on building The Spire holding with a secondary goal of working towards a tier 5 Starbase.

So there you have it Lotus Fleet. Everyone is doing a fantastic job helping to build the Fleet. If you think that you've earned a Fleet Builder award, you can nominate for it and if that doesn't work, send a PM to Admiral Athos or Rear Admiral Joester and we'll verify and award it. Note that the House of Lotus Fleet Builder awards are available for anyone who has earned them.

Game on!

~Admiral Athos

NEWSFLASH!

Did you miss Star Trek Online Season 8 Preview by CaptainSmirk that occurred on November 1, 2013 at 5:00pm?

Missed Community Manager Brandon "BranFlakes" Felczer's Season 8 livestream?

Check out the recorded version of the preview here:

http://www.twitch.tv/perfectworld_community/b/475601587

Launching on November 12th!



LOTUS FLEET

Fleetwide Meetings:

(check the site Calendar for your local time)

Occurs every: 1st and 3rd Sunday of month - every month UTC - 5 hours [DST]

This is our Fleet meeting to discuss Lotus Fleet business, events, and other important information.

The meeting will commence at 5 PM EST and be recorded.

Afterward, the meeting goes "unofficial" and unrecorded into a round table, where anyone may have a chance to speak; i.e. ask questions, present ideas, etc... This is the social aspect of our meeting and provides an opportunity to get to know everyone involved in the Fleet even better.

Think of it as our Fleet's Ten Forward

Each meeting will be held on TeamSpeak 3. Please download and install TS3 following this guide:

<http://www.lotusfleet.org/viewtopic.php?f=34&t=55>

Also, please RSVP so that we know who is planning to attend, and indicate if you will be bringing a guest.

Invited: Everyone



Awards, Promotions and Organ Donations

Longevity awards:

- Lieutenant(j.g.) Jaye Aeotiv: 39 months (3 years, 3 months)
- Rear Admiral Jureth: 39 months (4 years, 3 months)
- Commander Sorripto: 45 months (3 years, 9 months)
- Captain Arma: 48 months (4 years)
- Provisional Rear Admiral RossEllis1907: 48 months (4 years)
- Provisional Fleet Admiral Jamie: 57 months (4 years, 9 months)
- Provisional Vice Admiral Niomo ****reimbursed**** with their 60 months (5 years)

Promotions:

None

Role-Play Awards & Recognition:

None



LOTUS FLEET

RAISING THE

UNITED FEDERATION OF PLANETS

Editor's Corner by Captain Storm Windfall

And another Newsletter done! A little late, but whatever.

So, I've been thinking (a dangerous pastime for me according to some...) in this electronic age, with information on our fingertips, how do techno junkies and, of course, Treknophobes, meet likeminded people? At conventions? Fansites?

Maybe...

But if you think about it, people who visit conventions and join fansites usually live miles apart. Even if you click at one of those places, it's hard to maintain a long distance relationship. The best you will end up is another friend. That is if you decided that it's too much trouble and takes too much time to cultivate a deeper relationship.

Don't you just love searching for answers to questions you don't have? Me too! I did a search and came up with this: <http://www.dateatrekkie.com/> :D Seems like someone had the problem getting to know people who love Star Trek and decided to do something about it!

Yeah, that's right! A dating site for Trekkies! Who's gonna have the guts to join up there? More people than we would think. How nice would it be to cuddle up to someone watching old episodes of Star Trek and grumble about the movies (with the new reboot movies, suddenly the old movies look that much better!) And if you can find someone totally compatible in other areas as well (beer & BBQ) then....isn't that a match made in space?

In this modern age people are so centered on looks and money, that they forgot that true beauty is found beneath several layers of broken trust, broken promises, a broken soul and degeneration. With technology eating up most of our time, we have this nebulous picture of what and who we like, we never take the time to peel back the layers on others to find the true beauty of trust, commitment, love and empathy. We don't spend enough time working on the same things in ourselves, perceiving it as a weakness.

Have you ever bought two mugs of coffee and hotdogs, plonked yourself down beside a beggar and asked him/her what's their story?

Try it! I dare ya!

You may just be surprised...

Till next time, Live Long and Prosper!



Important Links

[Lotus Fleet Official Site](#)

[Lotus Fleet Academy](#)

[Star Trek Online Official Site](#)

LFN Staff

Command Division XO/Editor: Radm. Jureth

Newsletter Editor: Cpt. Storm Windfall

Staff Writer: Lt (j.g) Decatur

Lotus Fleet Staff

Lotus Fleet Commanding Officer: Admiral Kheren

Lotus Fleet XO: Admiral Evshell

Command Division CO: Radm. Jeff T

Operations Division CO: Admiral Athos

Academy Division CO: Radm. Brigham



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