

LOTUS STARBASE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LOTUS FLEET

ISSUE 4, DECEMBER 2013

"Work for a cause, not for applause. Live your life to express, not to impress, don't strive to make your presence noticed, just make your absence felt."



LOTUS FLEET:: AN AUTHENTICALLY DEDICATED STAR TREK COMMUNITY

STATE OF THE FLEET ADDRESS 2013

From the office of the Fleet Admiral

Greetings Fleetmates,

As 2013 is coming to a close, and along with it my privileged half-term as commanding officer of this great community, it is time to take a moment to reflect upon where we came from, where we are and where we are going.

January 2008 saw the birth of Lotus Fleet, brought to life by a handful of Star Trek fans sharing their hope about the first upcoming Star Trek MMO. Modeling itself on Gene Roddenberry's United Federation of Planets and it's Starfleet in particular, this community was not by far the first nor the last to do so; but it was certainly one of the very best from the start as it came up with a detailed code of conduct on par with the famous Starfleet General Orders, an Academy that still has no equal in terms of quality, effectiveness, richness and plain fun to go through, a chain of command that was much more than just pixel pips and pretty titles, a role-playing setting that quickly went beyond the simplistic war stories found everywhere else and a fleet structure that was ready for anything the highly expected game would possibly offer.

In it's first year, Lotus Fleet quickly attracted the best and brightest; mature fans who could play as well as work together even when personalities and ideas would inevitably clash at times. Mutual respect, a sense of duty and responsibility and a desire to openly share the fun and give to others what one expected to get, these were the core values that bonded our members when, as the initial MMO project crashed and burned as the original developer, Perpetual, folded. But just like Spock, hope returned when Cryptic Studios took on the torch and promised a game within the next two years.

And thus, 2009 saw the fleet grow in numbers and in quality on all fronts. Task Force teams trained for PvP through the bridge Commander game; a diplomatic corps was created and established relationships with other Star Trek communities and burgeoning fleets for the upcoming MMO; a banking structure was created to manage all possible assets and resources for the fleet and individual members; the Academy worked as much as a recruitment tool as a promotional asset as it opened its doors to the entire Star Trek community beyond it's own members; role-play became as well structured and developed as the actual fleet itself, a rich imaginary world within our elaborated virtual world. On the eve of the launch of Star Trek Online, this community became so well known and respected that, when a huge, most infamous grieving group from EVE Online planned to invade and overtake STO, it planned (and failed, yes, thanks to our solid structure, member dedication and diplomatic corps) to start by stealing the name and presence of the two fleets it declared as the most prominent; on the Klingon front, The Sword of Kahless. On the Federation side: Lotus Fleet.

Indeed, as our slogan then stated, they did notice the Lotus.



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In February 2010, the game came out... as a huge disappointment. Unpolished graphics full of non-trek visuals (remember the candelabra ESD?), unfinished game mechanics (Remember the Astrometrics Sector Space?), narrow, simplistic, repetitive gameplay (go in, kill ships, get reward), too-fast and easy leveling (From cadet to Rear Admiral in days!), awkward, limited and forced grouping processes (sorry can't join your fleet because random guy was automatically included and team is full), half-done Klingon faction limited to PvP (No Klingon Academy; get a Klingon... at Fed level 21!), a clunky economy with a flurry of unrelated currencies, no diplomatic play at all (everyone on one side is in a non-aggression pact and in a state of war with the other side) not even in the stories... After the first (free) month, STO went from a million subs to merely a hundred thousands. Like the Abrams movie, it certainly gained new enthusiasts.... but the long time fans who were awaiting for so long for a real Star Trek universe to come back to, it felt like a huge let-down.

Yet, Lotus Fleet endured. Although it started out as a gaming guild aimed solely at STO, the fleet was already something way beyond that; it was a community of Star Trek fans. Many were on board and not even playing or interested in playing the game; some came for the RP; some loved to work in building this community for the sheer sense of accomplishment it provided; others simply enjoyed the good company of other Star fans, gaming fans, RP fans or whatever made them appreciate one another's thoughts and feelings through chats and PMs and posts. In short, Lotus Fleet had become much more than a mere gaming guild bound to one MMO; it had become a community, a group of shared views of universal tolerance, brotherhood, curiosity and plain fun beyond gaming, beyond RP, beyond the pixels and the textos.

As it had hoped, Lotus Fleet had instilled the dream of it's founders in more than a few; to be a Star-fleet officer of the 21st century.

And so, Lotus Fleet already well-established as a thriving community still followed STO's own progress from half-done space-shooting game with a Trek skin to it's current excellence all through 2011. The Academy expanded with a Command School and planned it's Advanced School for graduated members; RP inaugurated it's first Fleet Action and started a second one through wide-ranged planning and crossed-over stories with no less than five ships of creative players; gaming in STO got enliven with graduating ceremonies, fleet events and contests; fleet gaming went beyond Star Trek and dwelled in other games, from MMOs and shared movie nights to trivia and forum play; a newsletter was created and perfected to inform and entertain our members; and through it all, dedicated members assumed jobs and positions to continue building and managing what had become a gathering of friends from far and wide across the globe, from America to Japan, From Bosnia to Canada, from England to deployed soldiers in Afghanistan.

And so, a new Fleet Admiral was elected through a perfected Code of Conduct; the chain of command was readjusted and kept alive after the inevitable round of retirements coming with any major change; an option to enlarge the Fleet to other themes beyond Star Trek was attempted; a temporary home was found to allow those diehard members to rebuilt a RP site, revive the Academy and prepare a more permanent new home for Lotus Fleet. In this chaotic year, creative energies and boundless optimism not only made Lotus Fleet endure, but showed that what had been built since the modest, early beginnings of 2008 had been something as true and solid, destined for greatness as the United Federation of Planets Captain Jonathan Archer and the crew of the first Enterprise had helped come about.

And thus we came to the present year. This third Fleet Admiral was elected mid-year to take over from his predecessor to assume the duties he could not fulfill anymore; we all have a real life beyond Lotus Fleet, and this is something that was from the start and still is today at the core of Lotus Fleet's enduring success:

the respect of each and every individual, real persons freely wanting to be part of this community on par with the respect of every member towards that community itself.

This core respect indubitably goes even more toward those who devote time, energy and talent to make this community what it is and what it can be tomorrow, those that we call our fleet officers. In 2013, this Fleet Admiral was blessed with a crew of exceptional officers, old hands and newcomers that are the true hearts of Lotus Fleet. This year alone, they built and managed an excellent website with a lively forum and chat; they revived, managed and further developed our extraordinary Academy; they remade the RP department into a fully autonomous, multifunctional tool for our imaginary play, including two brand new, unique starships; they efficiently took over our presence in STO with assets management and game events to enrich the gameplay beyond the game itself; all in all, they actively worked practically every day to ensure that everyone else had fun and could share our love of all things Trek.

And so, to the past officers on who's shoulders we stand, I say thank you. We could not have done it without you.

To those who serve currently as officers of the fleet and on who's shoulders we lean on, all of you assuming duties that make those imaginary ranks more than just pixel pips, I say, thank you. We could not do it without you.

To those future officers, those who will take on the torch to pursue what has been done and what is done to new and better horizons, I say thank you. We will not be able to do it without you.

2014 is already showing on our sensors. What is to come? A spectacular, enticing welcome page is being worked on for the website; a new election for the command positions of the fleet is scheduled as per our renewed code of Conduct; lots of fleet positions await to be filled as a lot of work is still on our plate to make this community thrive; an Advanced School is being prepared at the Academy and professors are wanted; the completion of our assets in STO is on the horizon and with it, more shared adventures in-game, with our Klingon House of Lotus in need of warriors and a Romulan side yet to be looked at; a new ship awaits a third crew of PCs and the seeds for a third fleet action are already being planted in RP. And who can tell what more lies in wait for us beyond the next star to the right?

As I come to the end of my present term as the one privileged to act as the commanding officer of Lotus Fleet, I do say that I had the easiest job of them all; just listen to the creative proposals of others and nod to approve and salute their hard work.

Thus I leave you with my best wishes for the Holiday season, hope to see you all again next year... and with that image of the card dealer in a poker game between crewmembers and the words of Captain Jean-Luc Picard: "Five cards, nothing wild... and the sky is the limit. "

Regards,

Fleet Admiral Kheren

Commanding Officer

Lotus Fleet



Interview with Admiral Ethos...uhmmm Athos! Look it up, it's a good description of Adm Athos

1. Where are you from?

Northern Indiana

2. What is your position in the Fleet?

My current role is the Commanding Officer of Operations Division

3. When did you join Lotus Fleet?

I am an original founding member of the Fleet, so 1 January 2008

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

It means that people do not understand the true nature of Lotus Fleet. The Fleet was launched in January 2008; STO was not launched until 10 February 2010. For over two years, we were a very successful Fleet without STO. If a person has not noticed, we talk about everything Star Trek. That being said, our most active areas are gaming and RP. These are common interests that most members have. Lotus Fleet was launched with the future plan to be a Fleet in STO.

5. What is your favorite Star Trek series?

Star Trek: The Next Generation

6. What is your favorite Star Trek movie?

Star Trek First Contact

7. Who is favorite Star Trek captain and why?

Captain Jean-Luc Picard embodies the principles of a leader. Captain Picard has a strong moral fiber and will work for the greater good. There have been books written on leadership as portrayed by Captain Picard. Sir Patrick and the writers did a wonderful job creating this character!

8. What is your favorite Star Trek ship:

Galaxy Class – it may not be the newest class of ship, but there is something majestic about the design

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

I would have to say Jadzia Dax.

10. What is your favorite Star Trek uniform?

The Star Trek First Contact/late-season DS9 uniform (black, gray shoulders, department color under shirt).

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

The overall dream of Star Trek is still very relevant to today. A hope that humanity will grow out of its petty bickering; put an end to poverty and hunger. Many of the social issues that episodes addressed are still relevant to today as well.

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

Louise Fletcher (as Kai Winn Adami)



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

It's the Star Wars version of Star Trek. It's flashy and fun, but I do not think it is holding true to the core of what Star Trek is. Where's the exploration or the peaceful relations with other species? These things do not make the most exciting movie, but are part of what the Federation is. I am grateful for the attention that all of Star Trek is getting because of these new films.

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

Since the next Star Trek film is being directed by someone other than JJ Abrams, this is rather a moot point.

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

Work for the betterment of society, not the greed of your own pocket.

16. Are you active in Star Trek Online?

Yes

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

I was lucky enough to be invited to play the Friends & Family Closed Beta of the game, so it is safe to say that I've seen it from the beginning, even prior to launch. I would say that the game has grown in leaps and bounds in a positive way. It was rather basic when it officially launched which is to be expected, but Cryptic has done a wonderful job in refining the game. The introduction of duty officers and the various Fleet Holdings are very good. They keep people working towards new goals.

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

Well, again, exploration and diplomacy would not make a good game in and of itself. Exploration of the unknown would require someone writing that unknown and there would have to be an almost endless amount of unknown because of the sheer number of people. So, as best as can be done, yes, I think Cryptic is doing a good job.

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

Family

20. What is your biggest peeve?

Lack of attention to details/lack of complete information

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

Commissioning into the military

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

I was the first, and only 1 of 2 people (thus far), to be promoted up to the rank of Vice Admiral. Many people have assumed the rank when they took on a Division CO position (back when we had the minimum rank of Division COs as Vice Admiral), but only myself and former Fleet Admiral Jamie were ever promoted to vice admiral.

23. Could you describe yourself in 5 words?

Leader, Caring, Christian, Disciplined, Loyal



24. Do you have a personal motto?

Let it be

25. What advice would you give new members?

Lotus Fleet is what you make of it. If you do not get involved, then you likely will not get anything out of your experience. If Lotus Fleet is not as good as you think it could be, get involved! Take on a position and do your best to improve it.

26. How would you define leadership?

"Leadership is a process used by an individual to influence group members toward the achievement of group goals in which the group members view the influence as legitimate." Note that this comes straight out of Leadership 501 which I wrote for our Command School.

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

Lotus Fleet has changed quite a bit from the original Fleet. Along with that is a large changeover in membership, so I would imagine that many new members have no idea of the impact our current leadership or what they did to build the Fleet.

As mentioned earlier, I am a founding member of Lotus Fleet. In fact, I am the last remaining active member of the original founding group of members. I was recruited to essentially build Lotus Fleet Academy, and that is precisely what I did. After hearing the original idea, I took that idea and expanded it way beyond what was originally envisioned.

In short, I created our Lotus Fleet Academy. While I wrote many courses myself, most of the work was done as a team by fellow Lotus Fleet members. However, I had to review the content of every course, load it, and write the test questions. The Academy's policies had to be created, the program plans for each area of study, etc. etc. It was a great deal of work but quite rewarding. And then there was the great crash of 2009 where I basically had to reload the entire Academy from scratch. That was not fun.

After that came Command School. I only wrote a handful of courses for this school, but again, had to review all content, write the questions, and load everything onto the system.

After about 3 years as the Academy Commanding Officer, I finally accepted the offer to be Fleet Executive Officer and assume the rank of Admiral. I did that job for over a year and finally had to retire when I was deployed.

I am enjoying the opportunity to serve the Fleet again as the Operations CO. My hope is that we will again build our membership base and people choose to get involved. The members are what makes or breaks Lotus Fleet.





*Again with the Klingons!
Mr. Scott, give me full power.*



*It's no good, Captain.
I cannot reach the control panel.*





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.



Mmmm...nothing on the probes. Do you think they are keeping their findings secret, Captain?

There are nothing because there are nothing to find.

QUIET! I am thinking here!



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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



THESE ARE THE VOYAGES OF THE STARSHIP HORIZON

Season 5 Episode 1: The Forgotten

(Maiden voyage of Lotus Fleet's flagship)

MAIN CHARACTERS:

Kheren as Captain Kheren, Ship Commander

Redding as Commander Neil S. Redding, Ship XO

Jureth as Commander Oseno Jureth, Strategic Ops Officer

Evshell as Lieutenant Commander Joey D. Sisko, Chief Engineer

Evshell as Doctors 110 and 011, Chief Medical Officers

Snowfire as Lieutenant Commander Snowfire K'Leysha, Chief Science Officer

Jeff T as Lieutenant Junior Grade Elisha Leône, Chief of Ops

Corcoran as Lieutenant Junior Grade Sarah Corcoran, Chief of Security & Tactical

THE STORY SO FAR...

It is the aftermath of the Azimuth Horizon averted catastrophe. After a lavish ceremony to christen the brand new flagship of Lotus Fleet, veteran Andorian Captain Kheren is given command of the USS Horizon, first Lotus class galactic explorer, the USS Horizon, the largest, most advanced and ambitious starship ever built by the Federation. Nothing short of a miniature mobile Starbase, including her own integrated escort starship, the USS Polaris, the Horizon is launched as the bold, shiny symbol of renewed hope for the future of the Federation and the return of it's exploration and colonisation policy after so



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many decades of war and strife.

Equipped with the first true autonomous, and working, transwarp drive, the Horizon flies out to test this old dream of galactic-ranged space travel following a carefully planned circuit within peaceful sectors of Federation space. On board with the Captain is Commander Neil S. Redding, formerly Admiral Redding, a man caught in a strange destiny of timeshifting that left him bereft of his memories but still an experienced and able, rejuvenated officer to second the captain in running this immense vessel; Bajoran Commander Oseno Jureth, famous hero of the Azimuth Horizon Operation, serves as the strategic ops officer and commander of the escort starship, the Polaris, with even a squad of Starfleet Marines at his command; Half-Bajoran Lieutenant Commander Joey Daystrom Sisko, grandson of the legendary Emissary of the Prophets and hero of the Last Borg War, is tasked as the chief engineer of this prodigious vessel; Doctors 011 and 110, the only such pair of Bynars serving in Starfleet, are chief medical officers; Snowfire Ke'leysha, another living legend of the Azimuth Horizon Operation and one of the rare Illithyrii part of the officer exchange program between the Federation and her elusive, distant and mysterious people, act as chief of science; Lieutenant JG Elisha Leône, the only Orion woman to ever serve in Starfleet, earned the chief of operations position; and top-of-her-class Lieutenant JG Sarah Corcoran boldly assume security and tactical duties for more than two thousand lives serving on board.

As the Horizon went smoothly through the first three stages of her historical transwarp flight, she then gets caught on the next stage in an uncharted and suddenly forming subspace eddy that propels her out of control almost to infinite speed. Security chief Corcoran is badly hurt during the nerve-wracking incident. Only the courageous work of the Horizon crew, helped by the daring first sortie of the Polaris, brings her to a safe halt before going beyond the Great Galactic Barrier.

As ship and crew recover, stranded within the edge of a Mutara class nebula, the disabled USS Polaris and her stunned crew are themselves found and captured by a group of Jem'Hadars in an old bugship and brought captives to an asteroid base hidden within the nebula. Old and few, these former genetically-engineered super soldiers of the Gamma Quadrant seem to be the former victims of a similar cosmic hazard; the surviving remnants of another lost expedition dating back to the Dominion War; and with them, several prisoners of that long ago war between the Alpha and Beta Quadrant civilisations and the Founders.

While the captain and the chief engineer work to revive the Horizon, an away team including officers Leône, K'Leysa and both Bynar doctors is sent aboard a pair of Delta Flyers under the command of First officer Redding to find the missing Polaris and her unexpected abductors.

And as they discover the hidden prison camp, they, at the same time as Commander Jureth from his captivity, also find that those Jem'Hadars, abandoned long ago by their self-appointed gods, now serve a new master; from the bridge of a forgotten, powerful warship, a terrible, revived being from long ago that had been forcibly exiled to the very edge of the galaxy, not so long ago. A being History tried to forget, sent out here and forgotten by the rest of the universe.

But not for long.

Read it all... and what will happen next on our RP website!




We live in an age disturbed, confused, bewildered, afraid of its own forces, in search not merely of its road but even of its direction. There are many voices of counsel, but few voices of vision; there is much excitement and feverish activity, but little concert of thoughtful purpose. We are distressed by our own ungoverned, undirected energies and do many things, but nothing long. It is our duty to find ourselves.

Woodrow Wilson (1856 - 1924)

Baccalaureate address, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, June 9, 1907

The Way of the Warrior



I see through different eyes.
I see a bigger picture when others see grey skies.
Though many can't conceive it,
I stand...facing the wind.
My bravery not from fighting,
but from my strength within,
I am a Warrior.
I will walk the extra mile,
Not because I have to,
But because it's worth my while.
I know that I am different,
When I am standing on a crowded street.
I know fullness of winning;
I've tasted the cup of defeat.
I am a Warrior.
They say I walk with ease.
Though trained for bodily harm,
My intentions are for peace.
The world may come and go,
But a different path I'll choose.
A path I will not stray from,
No matter... win or lose.



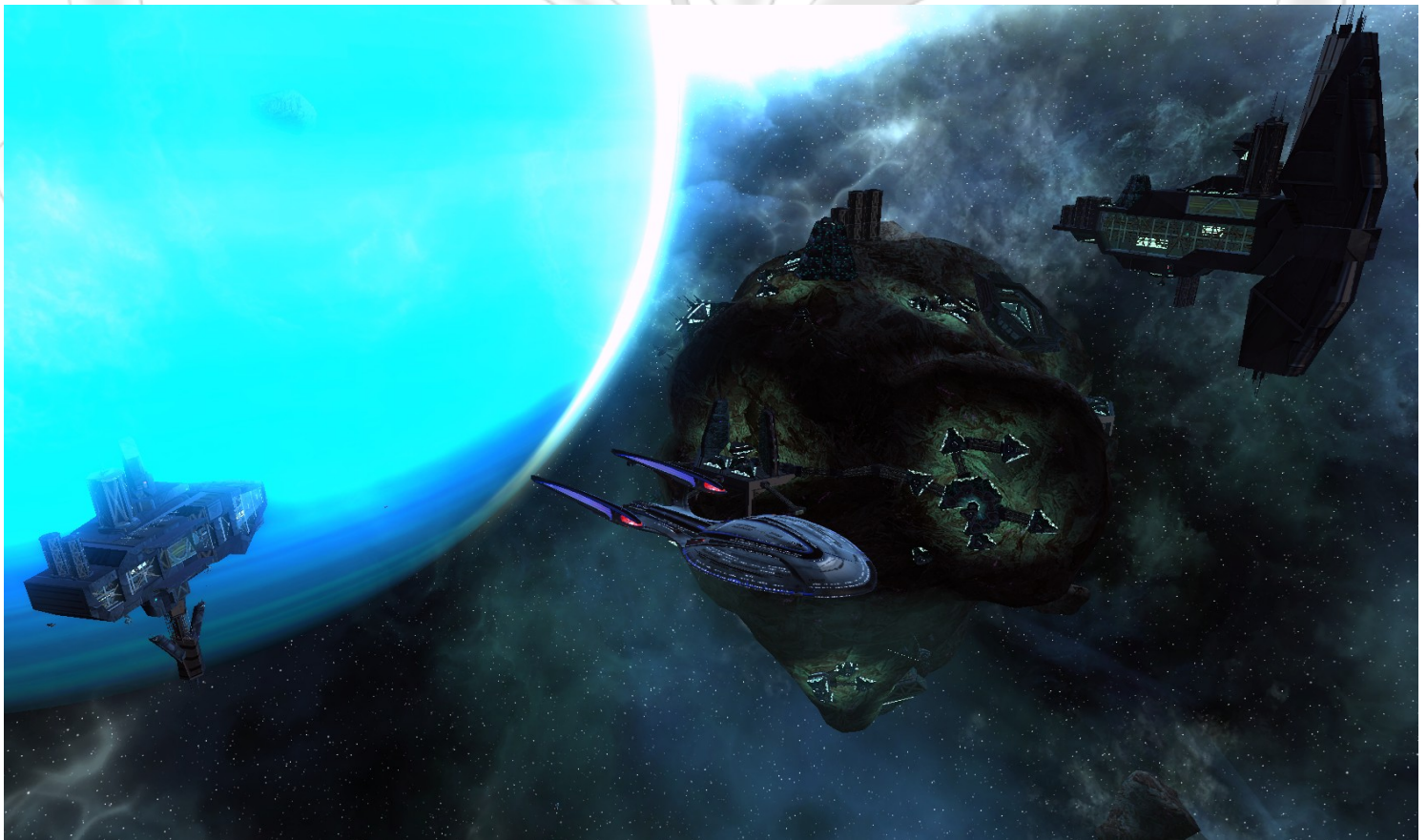
STO UPDATE BY ADMIRAL ATHOS

This past month has been very productive for Lotus Fleet in STO. We are ever so close to reaching tier 3 status for the Development track of the Dilithium Fleet Holding. In fact, by the time this is published, we may be working on the upgrade to tier 3. Members have also been working on the Trade track which has made some progress. In order to upgrade the Dilithium Mine itself to tier 3, both Trade and Development must be upgraded first to Tier 3.

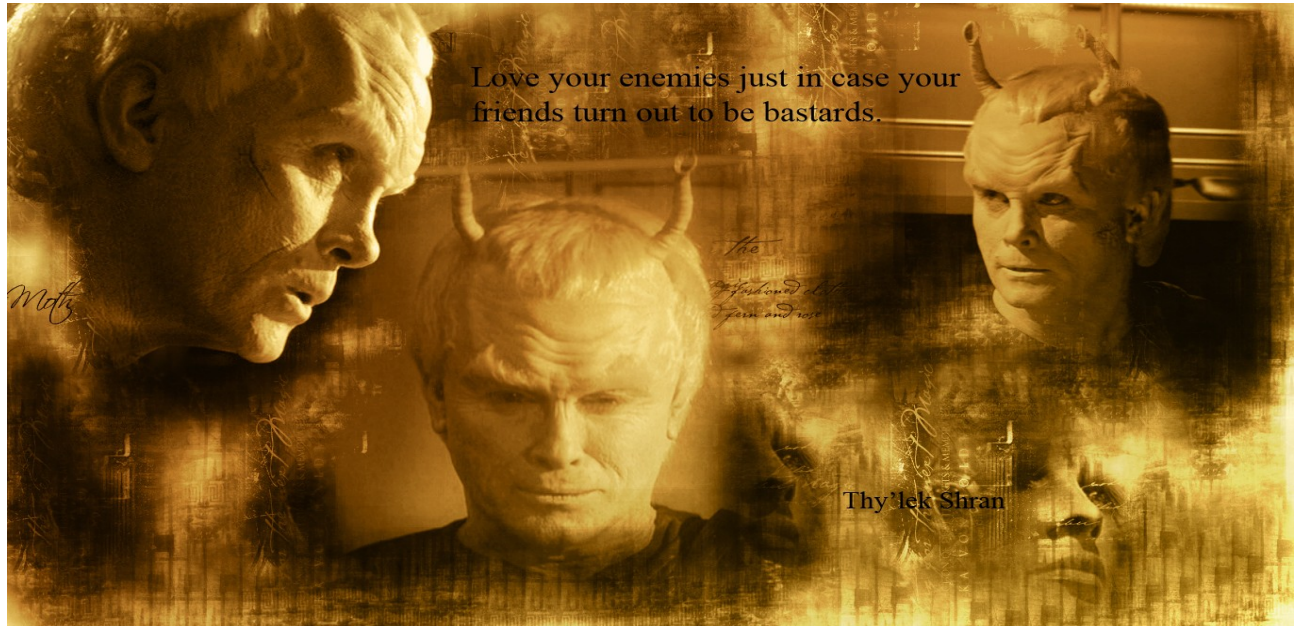
As a reminder, our overall STO Strategy can be viewed (and it is updated when necessary) on our Forums under Games>Star Trek Online>STO Fleet Holdings Current Strategy. In short, our Fleet's main focus is on our Dilithium mine. Once upgraded to Tier 3 and the construction projects are completed, we will have a 15% discount on the requirements for all other Fleet Holdings. Additionally, we will have a Rich Dilithium Mining Daily Project. The current daily mining project yields a maximum of 1,000 dilithium. I'm hoping that the rich dilithium mining version of that will be similar to the VIP mining tickets and yield 5,000 dilithium. Even if it does not, this is an easy source of Dilithium for all members.

Our next focus will be finishing the tier 2 upgrade for the Embassy (just needs Fleet Marks & Dilithium) and then upgrading our Starbase to Tier 4. At some point that is strategically beneficial, we will begin work on The Spire. At this point, no one should be donating towards the Spire.

Keep up the great work Lotus Fleet; we are almost to a Tier 3 Dilithium Mine; a huge accomplishment!



Star Trek characters: Commander Shran By VA Jeff T



Although I confess that **Star Trek Enterprise** is not my favorite of the Star Trek series franchise, I am grateful for some of the contributions that the series made; among those the introduction to the Andorian Commander Shran; portrayed impressively by Jeffrey Combs. As of 2013, due to its status as a prequel series, Enterprise is in fact the **only** Star Trek production whose continuity was not affected by the events of the 2009 and 2013 Abram's-credited films reintroducing the crew of James T. Kirk version of the ship with the same namesake.

Commander Thy'lek Shran is a member of the Andorian species who was introduced to us through this short-lived series which ran for 4 seasons: from 2001 to 2005. Shran reached the highest level of the Andorian Imperial Guard and was perceived to have a hair-trigger temper and be attracted to danger like a moth to a flame; except that he is Andorian and therefore would actually prefer a colder simile. He frequently calls humans "pink-skins" and was rather suspicious of their connection to Vulcans; that is until his involvement with Captain Jonathan Archer and the crew of the Enterprise-NX began to reshape his perspective after multiple encounters.

I found this character to be quite intriguing as the series progressed and looked forward to episodes that had this wily Andorian involved in some capacity. His intensity could also be countered with humor sometimes mixed in a bit of shrewdness and insight.

Episode - Proving Ground

- Commander Shran: *Captain Archer. Look at the trouble you've gotten your pink skin into this time.*
- Commander Shran: *Your world is in jeopardy, and where are your friends - the Vulcans? Where is their mighty fleet? They couldn't even spare one officer.*
- Commander Shran: *[referring to T'Pol] She was forced to abandon her career to remain on your ship. A remarkably selfless act - for a Vulcan. But we've come to your aid. We've come into the Expanse when they refused. We're here to help you. If you don't want our assistance, then we'll leave you to deal with the Xindi on your own. Just like the Vulcans have done.*



(a bit of optimism?)

Commander Shran: *The last time we met, you helped my people avert a war. I don't like unpaid debts.*

Captain Jonathan Archer: *We keep doing each other favors.*

Commander Shran: *Isn't that how alliances are born?*

(a bit more humor and perhaps a touch of humility)

Episode - Cease Fire

Capt. Jonathan Archer: *I believe someone once defined a compromise as... a solution that neither side is happy with.*

Commander Shran: *In that case, these talks have been extremely successful.*

Commander Shran: *Join me - in a drink to celebrate our mutual dissatisfaction.*

Episode - Babel One

[Shran tells Archer about his relationship with Talas]

Commander Shran: *Andorian women are far more aggressive than Earth females. She made a... an overture. I had a choice - charge her with assaulting a superior or... mate with her.*

Captain Jonathan Archer: *Hope you made the right decision.*

In November of 2154, the Kumari was destroyed by a Romulan ship posing as a Tellarite vessel. Shran made it to an escape pod. Shran, Talas, and eighteen other crew members were rescued by Enterprise. Determined to make Gral, the Tellarite ambassador, confess to the attack, Shran and Talas later burst into Gral's quarters and held him at gunpoint. Archer eventually cooled down the dispute, but Gral's aide Naarg wounded Talas with a phase pistol.

In the continuation within the next episode "**United**":

Captain Jonathan Archer: *I have a proposal.*

Commander Shran: *If it involves killing Tellarites, I'm all for it.*

The wound which appeared rather superficial proved mortal, and as she lay dying, Talas asked Shran to avenge her. After her unexpected death, Shran explained to the Tellarites who Talas was and where she came from before he challenged Naarg to the Ushaan, a traditional Andorian duel, but Archer, fearing the collapse of the fragile Andorian-Tellarite-Vulcan alliance, invoked the right to substitute for the Tellarite. During the duel, Shran wounded Archer and urged him to give up, while the captain retorted that he "was merely making Shran look good in front of his soldiers."

The duel ended when Archer lopped off Shran's left antenna, rendering him defenseless. He was expected to compensate for the loss of the antenna in a few days and re-grow it in nine months, or half that time with therapy.

This aspect of the story was quite intense and perhaps among the most insightful into Shran and his evolving relationship with Archer and the humans, along with the touching scenes with Talas in sickbay.

Along with Ambassador Soval, Daniels and Porthos, Shran is one of only four characters, outside of the ensemble cast, to appear in all four seasons of Star Trek: Enterprise.



Manny Coto has stated that, had the series been given a fifth season, Shran may have joined the crew of Enterprise, as an "auxiliary or an advisor."

Jeffrey Combs himself was unaware of this idea until after the series ended. He commented, "I deeply appreciate it. At the same time it sort of hurts. 'Ah, man, the one that got away! Dang it! *Coulda, shoulda, woulda.*' But I take it as the huge compliment that it is. I was quite involved in that fourth season and so it sounds like it would have been a natural progression, and it would have been a cool one, to have a new alien on the bridge adding another dynamic. That would have been really, really interesting."

Ultimately, Jeff Combs felt that, of all the characters he had played on Star Trek, Shran was the one he'd most like to play again. "I like his attitude and his complexity. And there was still some stuff to explore about him. I think I'd like that."

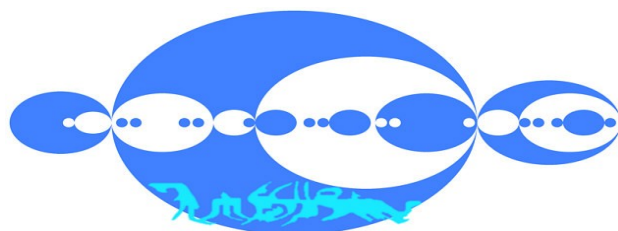
An unfortunate turn of events actually dismantled plans that could have continued to be developed for Shran after the series ended in to what would have been a trilogy of stories; since Shran was also a character planed to be included in the aborted (11th) film: **Star Trek: The Beginning**.

Developed by Paramount Pictures, under then President Donald DeLine, the film was associated with veteran Trek producer Rick Berman and producers Kerry McCluggage and Jordan Kerner and written by Band of Brothers writer Erik Jendresen. Jendresen had completed a first draft of a script, titled **Star Trek: The Beginning**, but unfortunately, the project was scrapped following the entrance of new studio President Gail Berman, in favor of **Star Trek**, which was directed by J.J. Abrams. (Ugg... and we know the results of this decision.)

According to Jendresen, the film would have bridged the gap between the end of **Star Trek: Enterprise** and the beginning of the original series. It was Jendresen's hope that the story, which depicted the Earth-Romulan War, would be part of a trilogy of films. Jendresen went on to blame a "regime change" at Paramount Studios for the death of the film.

The story, which Jendresen quoted as being "big and epic", would have taken place "a couple of years after the end of the events of Enterprise but well before the original series, and it would look at the inciting incident that started everything". Jendresen also explained that the story would have focused on a small group of people, particularly one character, but it would not have been a traditional Star Trek captain or crew. In addition, it would have featured "a couple of ships, including a principal ship". The central character of the trilogy, stated Jendresen, would have been a progenitor of James T. Kirk named Tiberius Chase.

Alas...This never transpired nor at this point is it likely to ever see the opportunity to be given the *green light* for the big screen. But the premise was certainly intriguing anyway... especially if Thy'lek Shran was somehow going to be involved in this production.





It's illogical that Bones can't find a cure for the Captain's dandruff.



LOTUS FLEET

Editor's Corner By Captain Storm Windfall

Instead of writing down ramblings of a tired mind here this month, I am going to place the responses I received from questions I posed there. The first one, from the Academy by Rear Admiral Brigham isn't a direct response, but I find it very relevant. The Academy is our backbone, after all.

"I am currently working on reorganization of duties and consolidating positions in the professorships. Myself Commodore Vincent, and Captain Arma are currently working on design and implementation of Advance Schools for Tactical/Security, Engineering, and Science. Medical advance school is going to be delayed since the position of Medical professor has not been filled in quite sometime and no one in the Academy has enough specialized knowledge in this field to make a worthy addition to the upcoming advance school."

This is an ideal time for those thinking of applying for a position in the Fleet. If this is not in your line, there are several other positions open in the Fleet. Come on! It's fun!

Here are other responses:

From Rear Admiral Joester:

"Why Lotus Fleet? Why are you all still here? What makes us different from the other Fleets?

Why Lotus Fleet indeed, it is a great question well actually all three are good questions....Why Lotus Fleet, initially because it was the first fleet I came across when I decided to look for a group of people just like me....Trekkies, but also a place to call home for when STO was to come out, at the time there was no set date....5 years ago this February/March.....Why am I still here? Well because of what we have here, a great site with a great group of people with great activities, RP, the Academy (thanks to Admiral Athos) STO events, and a lot to do with the fact that I have a lot of blood sweat and tears invested in this Fleet over the past 5 years. What makes us different is we didn't fizzle out before the launch of STO, we didn't fizzle out at the possibility of collapse, instead we bonded together and made ourselves and the fleet stronger, also because of the Events that we host, the RP dept. and The Academy, these are things that other fleets do not possess and that is what makes us not only different from the rest but one of the best fleets one could join."

"Who are you? Why are you here? What are you doing here? Are you living to your full potential or are you trying to live off the glow of who and what we are?

I am Admiral Joester, my real name is JOE (in case you didn't figure that out already lol) I am here because my parents got bored during a black out one night 28 years ago lol. Seriously though I am here because I love Star Trek. I love this Fleet and the people in it, and there is no other group of people I would rather geek out with than the members of Lotus Fleet. I am trying to live to my full potential, I am currently a Volunteer Firefighter, presently going for my EMT so that I may become a paid firefighter....somewhere, hopefully. I try everyday to do something anything to better myself in some man-



ner, in hopes that it will rub off on others and they will do the same so that one day the things we have seen in Star Trek will one day come true because of the immensely positive outlook the show had on Mankind and our potential to do Amazing things when we come together to not only better ourselves but our race and planet as well."

From Vice Admiral Jeff T:

"I concur with virtually everything Captain Storm Windfall is expounding here.

Hopefully through Storm's article "Perceptions & Corrections" in the most recent issue of the Newsletter (#3) you already were exposed to some insights into my personal information and interests, so I won't rehash through those. Link <http://www.lotusfleet.org/viewtopic.php?f=76&t=474> page 6.

In regards to why I am here with the Lotus fleet, I'll refer to the previous issue <http://www.lotusfleet.org/viewtopic.php?f=76&t=447> (reposted here), in which I divided my response to Storm's inquiry into seven key reasons:

1. Lotus Fleet is first and foremost an authentically dedicated Star Trek community. This is what brought me here in the first place. It has a structure that lends itself to membership that is genuinely without drama or trolls and this all began with the application process itself.

2. Signing/agreeing to the Code of Conduct. It is the fundamental guideline that maps out the expectations, responsibilities, duties, etc...within this community. It is also a "living document" that can be revised when a need arises, as it was a few months back to reflect changes as the fleet matures and re-evaluates the language and content of expectations and phrasing.

3. Our Academy itself in which by design, allows true fans of Star Trek to enjoyably glide through the structure and selection of courses and thus demonstrate their primary tier of commitment, while also serving as a true filter to others that could potentially bring a range of negative aspects into the fleet.

4. Our Chain of Command, which was inspired by the Star Trek Starfleet structure, provides a means of leadership that is earned through demonstration of service rather than capriciously given unjustifiably. Any member is welcome to apply for a position and work their way up through the ranks via dedicated service to the fleet in any capacity in which they are interested. We have our divisions of Command, the Academy, and Operations for members to choose in which division and position they would like to serve the fleet. I, as an example, started as a cadet along with mostly everyone else currently present on the fleet, and worked my way through each of the three divisions and the ranks by this very method. Dedication and commitment are not overlooked here, but are instead acknowledged; at times even with heartfelt Medals and Commendations or other means of appreciation. There is not an assumption present of expecting a reward every time a contribution is made by a member. However, these accolades are available when the work, effort, and commitment by a member truly stand out.

5. We are survivors! Despite the loss of our original fleet site, we banded together and regrouped on a temporary site while eventually rebuilding a new site from the ground up. It was a team effort and was about 5 months in the making, and is still being modified and improved as the need arises. This process was not an easy one, but it was a testament to the endurance of the fleet and its dedicated membership. We are not a large fleet by any means, but we are a tight-knit and talented group of Star Trek enthusiasts!



6. Roleplay: Our RP department has been among the most rewarding aspect of the fleet for me personally because it has allowed me over the years of not only participating in these Star Trek oriented stories, but more recently, the opportunity to lead stories as well. The teamwork and creativity involved throughout this process is unparalleled in my experience to anywhere else out there attempting to do something similar. In many aspects our stories show a level of Star Trek detail, creativity and sophistication that are lacking even in the majority of published novels. I really believe that given the opportunity as a complete full-time team, we could become the actual writers for a next Star Trek TV series... and we would do an amazing job of it!

7. The camaraderie present in the fleet is unique. There may be times when "real life" work, obligations, relationships, etc... strain the availability of members to be steadily and actively involved in the fleet, but they know that their home here on the Lotus Fleet site will be there when the opportunity is available. Some members have even drifted away and eventually found their way back into the fold. Why? Because of the interactions and camaraderie that exists here. It doesn't matter where in the world you are located, or what your favorite Star Trek series or movies are... through meetings, games like STO, contests and such, we get to know each other and discover that the core values expressed through the best of Star trek serve as a positive binding force keeping this fleet united and continuous.

In regards to her third/forth inquiry, I hope that my involvement within the fleet has amounted to some level of contributions over the years. I've worked for a time in every division in the fleet and purposely strive to be on the site at least once a day; unless prevented by technology or other non-resolvable issues.

I strive to contribute in RP, in the shoutbox, threads, recruitment, meetings, the Newsletter, STO (upcoming once again), ideas to improve the site, etc... In other words, to be actively engaged with the site in some capacity and on some level... which is what Storm was getting at in her comments with volunteering and following through with commitments. It's where I tie-in/connect with the ideals presented in Roddenberry's vision of community interactions among people of all origins... of serving together for the benefit of a greater good; and which was exemplified in the best moments of Star Trek.

But as Storm astutely pointed out... the strength, success, and continuation of our fleet is totally reliant on the involvement/participation/contributions of our fleet members. Members are the links which bind our fleet together. If each member regularly strengthen their link through involvement, our fleet will flourish. If they ignore their part and hope others will continually pick up the slack, they may find one day that there weren't enough links to keep the chain secure and in existence. Members that truly want our fleet to prosper need to step-up and offer their time, talents and services in whatever capacity they are able... and then work to maintain their commitment consistently. "

Thank you all for your responses and please for the next! You all have a wonderful Holiday and remember! Don't drink and drive! Remember all your family, friends and even people you know these festive days. Wish them well because you never can tell what the future holds! Bless you all!





I see dead people



LOTUS FLEET

Fleetwide Meetings: *This month the meeting will be on the 15th of December.*

(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:

- Provisional Rear Admiral Crist: 57 months (4 years, 9 months)
- Rear Admiral Jeff T: 33 months (2 years, 9 months)
- Commodore Josh Vincent: 33 months (2 years, 9 months)
- Lieutenant-Commander Michael J Tritter: 33 months (2 years, 9 months)
- Lieutenant(j.g.) mindblade: 45 months (3 years, 9 months)
- Lieutenant Snowfire: 39 months (3 years, 3 months)
- Fleet Captain Vladan: 45 months (3 years, 9 months)
- Ensign Veela: 6 months
- Rear Admiral Brigham: 42 months
- Fleet Admiral Kheren: 54 months
- Lieutenant(j.g.) Vimes: 45 Months (3 years, 9 months)
- Lieutenant(j.g.) Hera: 9 Months
- Lieutenant Decatur: 6 Months
- Provisional Commodore Battle Lion: 51 Months (4 years, 3months)

Promotions

- **Rear Admiral Jeff T to Vice Admiral**
- AlexSomers to Cadet 4th Class
- Charik Jarok, to Cadet 3rd Class
- Jack, to Cadet 4th class
- johnbeaird67, to Cadet 3rd class

Role-Play Awards & Recognition:

None



Fun Page by Rear Admiral Jureth



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orWf

faorgeL

sCerurh

Kikr

cycoM

Skpco

harUu

tcoySt

nierbO

Jayawne

Ctoyahak

rTroes

aiPrs

rhAecr

rpiTp

Tlop

xPohl

Peik

sarhBi



Important Links

[Lotus Fleet Official Site](#)

[Lotus Fleet Academy](#)

[Star Trek Online Official Site](#)

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LOTUS FLEET

PART OF THE

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LOTUS FLEET

Villains who twirl their moustaches are easy to spot. Those who clothe themselves in good deeds are well camouflaged. But they will always be with us, waiting for the right climate in which to flourish, spreading fear in the name of righteousness.

I DON'T ALWAYS DRINK WITH KLINGONS...

BUT WHEN I DO, I PREFER ROMULAN ALE

To Lotus Fleet. Here is to another good year and years to come.
Nothing can bring a good thing down!



LOTUS FLEET