

ECAB Report August 2008

Office of the Commander STARFLEET

As is the case with everyone's life, things on a business or personal nature can take place from time to time that must take priority. This is after-all a volunteer organization. We ask for the AB's patience for this report. If you have a specific question please feel free to contact the department directly.

Office of the Vice- Commander STARFLEET

Membership Services

June report for Member Services;

In June we processed 50 total tickets;

98% are closed

2% remain open

Category Report;

28% Renewal/Join

24% Database

20% CompOps

10% Operations

8% Academy

4% Misc

2% CQ

2% Membership Processing

2% Suggestion

Turnaround Report;

6% <24hrs

6% 24hrs

6% 48hrs

6% 72hrs

12% 96hrs

4% 120hrs

58% <120hrs

2% Open

Issues this month;

AOL Users

Database Emails

SFI Site Logins

Suggestions posted on the Helpdesk

I don't think it's fair to the chapters, or members, to expect us to produce recruiting information for STARFLEET as well as for our chapters. To that end, I've got a few suggestions for HQ-level recruiting:

1. Develop a packet of materials that chapters or regional recruiting officers can order from STARFLEET that includes professionally printed flyers. We're an international business. It's time to stop looking like we're run out of someone's basement. Printing shops work on a bulk-scale pricing, so the more we buy, the cheaper they are.

2. Regarding recruiting tables... folks don't tend to keep flyers. They'll keep useful things, like bookmarks, pens, and magnets. Having pens with the sfi.org logo on a recruiting table will keep our brand with a prospective member longer... after all, who throws out a pen before they use it? Magnets are useful, too, and there's other merchandise that could be explored.

The key, though, is setting aside money in the budget to pay for marketing expenses. We have to spend money to get members, and I'm tired of paying out of pocket for that. If that means dues have to start increasing, then do it. If everyone shares the cost of marketing, then no one's getting favorable treatment, and no one has to spend additional out-of-pocket cost for such materials.

Plus, standardized materials coming from HQ will have a consistent look and consistent branding, which helps prospective members remember who we are.

July report for Member Services;

Member Services Helpdesk received a total of 49 tickets, 7 of which are still open. (The missing 8 tickets for those doing the math are SPAM.)

Join/Renewal	16
Membership Processing	7
Operations	5
Database Access	5
Computer Operations	3
Misc	2
Academy	1
Suggestions	1
Complaints	1

The Join/Renewal tickets mostly dealt with trying to find the link to Join/Renewal page. Tickets concerning MP dealt with a lack of patience and not understanding that joining or renewal is not instant. The operations ticket dealt with name changes and chapter transfers. The 5 Database Access were password issues. CompOps tickets dealt with being locked out of the members' only side of the SFI site. The Misc tickets were related

to two errors, one with rank, one with an award. Listed below are the Suggestion and the Complaint that was received through the HelpDesk.

The Complaint posted to the Helpdesk

Not much of an overhaul if you ask me

I had an email a while ago saying that there was going to be an overhaul of the sfi site, which I see there was, but I have yet to see any changes made to the region/chapter finder for the region which I belong, despite me saying that the list is way out of date.

There are four groups (Chapters) listed for Region 20, three of the sites linked too no longer work, those groups disbanded ages ago, and even the link that does work, links to a chapter that no longer exists...

It doesn't make me want to renew my membership later this year when the person who is listed as being the Regional Coordinator for region 20 isn't even a member of a trek group any more and doesn't really care much about SFI any As the Saratoga no longer exists.

Is anything going to be done about this? And is there any way of finding out who IS still a true member of SF and resides in the United Kingdom, apart from myself and my fiancé?

Surely we can't be the only two?

PS yes I know at least three of the chapters in region 20 don't exist any more (that you have listed in your chapter/region finder) as I have spoken to people (members) face to face and they have confirmed this. Plus one of the former members of one of those three chapters told me the other chapter/group folded ages ago...

The Suggestion posted to the Helpdesk

Membership costs for other countries.

I just found you site and believe it to be one of the best I have ever found about star trek. I was looking through your chapter to find one near me, here in Mexico, which I see there is none for.

After reading more about your organization and deciding to become a member I realized why there is no members for region 18... You are charging \$20 dollars for membership, which might not be a lot of money for you, but here it is a lot... Just so you can take it into consideration, people in Mexico, which is not as bad off as the countries below us, make an average of \$1,450 pesos a month, which divided by the current exchange rate of 10.50 pesos per dollar you would be talking about \$138 dollars a month, so \$20 dollars is a hefty sum for us (about five days pay).

I would very much like to be a member and help start out region 18, but due to what me

and several of my friends deem to be an excessive membership fee for us that do not make money in dollars, we can not afford it.

Hopefully, you will take this message into consideration and realize that several thousand people in third world countries cannot afford this type of cost. Maybe you can figure out a way of lowering your costs for these countries, by not sending printed promotional material, or something of the sort. Maybe even just create a one-time fee for these people (including me). An other option would be to allow us to pay in contributions to your efforts (site, design, programming, graphics, etc...).

Well I think you get the point and I hope you can see the benefits of allowing more people to join, even if there is not the same profit margin for your organization.

Fleet Resource Center

Date Report Submitted: August 5th, 2008
Reporting Cycle: July 08

FRC Department Director Name: BDR. Jeff Schnoor
Mailing Address: 115 Jennings Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78225
E-Mail Address: issthunderwolfco@live.com

DIVISIONAL STAFF Directors:

STARFLEET Ambassador Corps: Commodore Janice Graham
Title: Director
Mailing Address: 10 Shenango Blvd. Farrell, PA 16121-1736
Email Address: fuzzyelf10@yahoo.com
Division Website: Does Not have one this period
Staff: 5

STARFLEET Counselor Corps: Lt. Commander Isa Gunther
Title: Coordinator
Mailing Address: 4629 North High St. Columbus, OH 43214
Email Address: prodigaltrekker@gmail.com
Division Website: Does not have one this period
Staff: 0

STARFLEET Chaplain Corps: MGEN Dennis Rayburn
Title: Director of Chaplains
Mailing Address: 670 Yates Drive, Radcliff, KY 40160
Email Address: stonecoldq@teslastation.org
Division Website: <http://frc.sfi.org/chapcorps/>
Staff: 1

STARFLEET Alternate Universe: BGN Byron Flynt

Title: Director
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 21, Justin Texas 76247
Email Address: bgf63@yahoo.com
Division Website: Under development
Staff: 0

STARFLEET Special Operations: Col. Jack Kern
Title: Director SFSO
Mailing Address: Unknown will have next Reporting Period
Email Address: kern.pj@gmail.com
Division Website: <http://www.sfi-sfso.org/>
Staff: 7

STARFLEET Science Corps: RADM. Richard Heim
Title: Director
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2072 Asheville, NC 28802
Email Address: AlaricRH@sprynet.com
Division Website: <http://alaricrh.home.sprynet.com/science/starfleet-sciences.html>
Staff: 0

STARFLEET Crafting and Costuming Corps: Captain Karen Terpette
Title: Director
Mailing Address: 2762 Yarnall Road, Halethorpe, MD 21227
Email Address: terpette@comcast.net
Division Website: Website under construction
Staff: 2

STARFLEET "Echoes from Space" Troupe: Vacant
STARFLEET Movie & Video production Guild: Vacant
STARFLEET Medical Corps: Vacant
STARFLEET Engineering Corps: Vacant
STARFLEET Military and Veterans Corps: Vacant

Summary of Services Provided by Each Department

Alternate Universe:

What the Alternate Universe program proposes to do is to combine all facets of our fandom into one cohesive unit to create an entire universe in which we can have as our playground. By assisting ships and members of the various groups to gain ideas and assistance in having their universe into a Alternate Universe one.

Ambassadors Corps:

STARFLEET Ambassador Corp mission is to make contact with other organizations to see if there is something that can mutually gain from collaboration with one another. It is

our hope that such joint activities, friendships will develop, fun will be had and the resulting growth will be good for all concerned.

Counselors Corps:

This is what the STARFLEET Counselors Corp is designed to provide. Though not created to mediate conflict, the counselors Corp is there to listen to how the membership feels about the performance and value of STARFLEET programs and is given the opportunity to express how they think things can be improved. STARFLEET belongs to its members and by utilizing the Counselors Corp members can now have a direct influence on the direction of their organization.

Chaplains Corps:

Faith is an important foundation in many people's lives and for many of our own membership. A long-standing program in STARFLEET, the Chaplain's Corp will continue to provide the membership with an avenue to express their own individual spirituality and provide a forum in which to express their faith to their "higher power".

Crafting and Costuming Corps:

The STARFLEET Crafting and Costuming Corps is the Resource department for these areas and for Fleet members to get information and assistance in costuming and creating crafts at all different levels.

Special Operations:

The STARFLEET Special Operations unit is a small group of dedicated and highly trained individuals committed to the defense of the Federation by use of covert and quiet counter measures with the goal of maintaining the peace and sovereignty of the principles we hold dear.

Sciences Corps:

The STARFLEET Science Corps serve as an informational and communications resource for the Science Regional Division Chiefs, Regional Coordinators, and ship Chief Science Officers throughout STARFLEET. Its mission is to enhance interest in science within STARFLEET's membership and to promote science education wherever possible. They accomplish these services via the internet (Starfleet Sciences web site, Science-Lab list server), articles in STARFLEET publications, and presentations at STARFLEET meetings.

Summary of Activities this Reporting Period

Alternate Universe:

Working to create necessary information to create Website and to assist Fleet members with writing or creating an Alternate Universe scripts and to be distributed soon. Also working to help create a new program in the FRC, or under our department for veteran's recognition. I have been helping Veterans of the WW2 destroyer USS Richard P. Leary (DD-664) by making a web page. To help keep their history alive.

Still working on the STARFLEET Military and Veteran Corps. Up and running also, running.

Ambassadors Corps:

I attended the IC in Ithaca, NY. Marlene Miller was there, and one other Ambassador Corps staff member attended; Helen Pawlowski, who was awarded the Lifetime Membership Award! Congratulations to her!

Counselors Corps:

Various contacts made and arrangements for listservs to be set-up. The goal for the Counselor's Corps is to revitalize and redefine the role of the ship's counselor by increasing the knowledge base and expanding the "job description" of the ship's counselor. This will not be a simple or a quickly accomplished task, but I have full confidence in the counselor of this Fleet. He is currently working to get his website up.

That being said, I would like to get to know where the counselors are and what ships still need counselors. I am asking that all ship's counselors send me an e-mail with your name, region, and ship name. And I am preparing to submit an article for Fleet Channels. Also working on creating a program for those that are licensed counselors to help fleet members in times of emergency.

Chaplains Corps:

We are almost ready to announce the reopening of the Chaplains Corps. The only holdup is that the SFI-L list is down. We are in a holding pattern, waiting on that as we were told it would be back up very soon.

I am starting to sketch out ideas for the webpage. Going to be discussing it in detail with my Vice Chief's. Along with Gerry Perkey, I've asked Russell Ruhland, to resume his post as a Vice Chief also. His main job at this time is overseeing the Listservs operated by this resource, which he has been doing since he first took that job a few years ago. He served as acting head of Chaplains during the last two years as well. We have begun a roll call of persons subscribed to the current Chaplains/Counselors Department list, seeking to get names and positions in order to make splitting the list into two separate ones easier. Chaplains have begun to check it so we are starting to rise from what some thought was the dead.

Crafting and Costuming Corps:

To get website up and going to provide crafting and costuming ideas to fleet members. Blog is helping.

Special Operations:

This Director is currently on leave do to a death in the family will return by next reporting period. He is currently restoring four of the last officers of command before the SFSO shut down and are working from scratch to get them up and operating again.

Current units in Regions: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,10,12,13,14,15,17

Command staff is in place

Sciences Corps:

1. Posted Starfleet Sciences news updates to Starfleet general list, Science-Lab list, and several regional lists.
2. Posted general science news items, web reports to Science-Lab list.
3. Attached is an excel spreadsheet summarizing the growth in the number of hits on the Starfleet Sciences web site pages.

Summary of Future Plans and Goals for Department

Alternate Universe:

Hoping to establish and assist those interested in applying a alternate universe to there STARFLEET Experience and give alternative information n other programs.

Ambassadors Corps:

We plan to contact COs next and do the same, let them know so they can pass it on to their crews that we do know they are there, they do matter, and they are appreciated. I'm also planning to put something in the next CQ for unassigned members who would like to hear from us once in a while but I will NOT contact them; if they wish to, they can contact one of us so we aren't invading their space. But we want them to know they are appreciated, too.

Counselors Corps:

Submitting a CQ article to find out where the ship counselors are and to establish a communication and resources information for them. Regional directors for the SCs, preferably those with real-life counseling/social work/liaisoning/networking experience

Chaplains Corps:

Plans for the next few weeks include continued work on the website, getting the department list up and running, and starting to get feedback from the chaplains of STARFLEET on what they need and want from this resource. So, as you can see, this department is starting to stir from its slumber. I am awaiting your response on who is my counterpart on the Counselors side so that they and I can coordinate the final division of the old Chaplains/Counselors department.

Crafting and Costuming Corps:

Have put a Blog up on Yahoo for costuming and crafting ideas for uniforms and other resources to assist fleet members.

Special Operations:

Get the web site up and running. With this we'll be able to attract some of the folks who are still out there who aren't sure if we're back.

Sciences Corps:

Continue to post interesting and informative news items to Science-Lab list; ongoing. Prepare a science article for the next issue of the Starfleet Communiqué (this one may be about something I learned at the American Geophysical Union international conference in Acapulco, or it could be a combined article discussing science activities of Starfleet Sciences, Region One Sciences, and the USS Alaric). Decide on content of Starfleet Sciences Handbook. Add history of science web articles to web site. Continue to add web links and content to web page, post science items to Science-Lab list, and submit articles to Starfleet Communiqué.

Summary of Problems/Issues/ Concerns of Department

Alternate Universe:

None this period beginning assignment

Ambassadors Corps:

Having problems with getting RC to respond to my requests and to post to the Regional Lists. I had Real-life interference. With the loss of my father, I have to find somewhere to move to and am packing things for that so things are getting moved around and now I can't find some info for this report (soon as I run across the Vessel Registry, I'll send the contact info for Sherry and Danni).

Counselors Corps:

Desiring to help rebuild the Counselors in the various regions need to be able to post to the various regions Lists. Working to separate and get the old information from Dennis who was over the program before.

Chaplains Corps:

None this period a waiting to get Webpage together and getting information together. And restoring hope in a program people thought was dead.

Crafting and Costuming Corps:

Currently working on Blog list with information and waiting for website

Special Operations:

On going project

Sciences Corps:

Other than having so much to do and so little time to do it, both in my 'Fleet life and in my "real" life, there were no difficulties encountered this month. After years of fine-

tuning, this department is humming quite well. Have no suggestions on how to improve Sciences and the STARFLEET Science Corps as a whole, at this time.

FRC Directors Report Summary: The FRC Department is slowly getting on track. We have been able to get several web pages up and are currently getting the proper information up on them. I am working with every group and offering assistance and finding out what their needs are in order to perform their duties. I will help to assist these groups in establishing communications with the various regions and through out fleet.

I have requested that the Departments prepare a CQ article to be submitted in the upcoming Fleet Newspaper. I have received one form the Chaplains Department, Counselors Department, and I will be submitting one myself and also asking for applicants for the open position.

I have tried to contact the Fleet Personnel office to post for the open positions and have not hearted back from him. I will continue to try to fill every open position available in the department. I began the FRC Military and Veterans Program and moved Byron over from Alternate Universe Department over to that Department as Acting Director. He is running a similar program in Region 3 and is having a great success other regions are asking him for advice on beginning a similar program. He is my ship XO and has been working in the Alternate Universe department. You should read some of his stuff he created for ship history.

I reposted open positions to the unofficial list today and to all Region List I could. I also contacted the Communiqué and asked again to be sure they will publish. I also took care of a deal between Gerry P. And Dennis R. there was a lack of communications and it was resolved as I contacted both parties and discovered they had lost contact information and other information they had exchanged at the inception. Issue resolved. Region 13 was the only region that denied me to post to list. I don't wish to step out of place.

Office of the Chief of Operations, STARFLEET

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Office of the Chief of Communications, STARFLEET

Commodore Jon Lane, reporting for duty! I'm trying to hit the ground running and getting some things done in this here Communications Department. Among the first things I'll be doing is trying to get Pete Christian to mail the archived CQ's to Bran Stimpson so that the Help Desk can send out missing CQs to members directly, without having the extra degree of separation of Bran having to relay the request to the Comm Chief who then mails out the missing CQs.

Next up will be getting some bids from other printers, including the folks in New Hampshire that Sal deals with. Our current printers in Oklahoma are charging approximately \$900 per issue of CQ (assuming it's not a half-sized issue like #144). They are charging an additional \$300+ for mailing. In talking to nearly a dozen printers over the last two days, I've discovered two things:

1) We ain't gonna find a \$900 bid anywhere in this country...not even if we keep using newsprint and black and white for all but the cover and center spread. Some printers wouldn't even bid on our project because they couldn't come down under \$5,000! (Believe it or not, the most expensive printer was called "Printing for Less" in Montana, and they were over \$9,000!) The printers who didn't run screaming are going to try to come as close to our current price as they can, and most will have their bids to me before the end of the week. Since I'll be in Vegas this weekend, I won't have the bid info to you guys till next week. Then the fun REALLY starts...'cause I doubt we'll get any bids that aren't at least \$500-\$700 over what we're paying now per issue. But we'll see; my fingers and toes are crossed.

2) The Trotters' relatives in Oklahoma are actually quoting us a pretty standard rate for mailing. All of the printers I spoke with either offer mailing services themselves or else have a nearby service they use. Everyone quoted a minimum (which we would be with 2,000 pieces) of between \$300 and \$350.

Next item!

For the RCs, I'd like to make a special request of all you wonderful people. I would like each Region to assign me a Regional Relay Officer. This will be my go-to guy or gal for disseminating important e-mails to the regional lists (mostly 'cause I don't want to have to subscribe to two dozen or more lists if I can help it--I'm an awfully slow reader). The RRO's can be the RC, the VRC, or just a regional busy-body who's always posting to that region's list. I'd actually prefer the RRO not be the RC (you guys are so busy anyway), as I'd like the RRO's to be assigned as part of the Communications department. The RRO's will get e-mails from the Comm Chief directly, and I'll request that each one inform me when the e-mail has been forwarded to their Regional list. They will serve until they aren't doing their job reliably, in which case I'll ask the RC for a replacement. That's another reason for the RRO to not be the RC.

All this is to try to put the "Communications" back into, well, "Communications." It ain't just the CQ. That's only once every 60 days (gods, I hope!). "Communications" also includes important messages from Sal, updates on the goings on "behind the curtain" of the ECAB. No, we don't have to share the confidential stuff, just the occasional "Hi, how are ya, here's what the EC has been focusing on this past week/month/whatever." A little updating can go a long way.

Office of the Commandant STARFLEET Academy

We have 9-closed college, 8 on a temporary basis, either because they are revamping or are on a leave of absence. A couple has just emailed us letting us know that they will resume in a couple of weeks. All is running smoothly.

Office of the Chief of Shakedown Operations, STARFLEET

Starfleet Shakedown Operations Command Update –June/July 2008

We had 16 out of 17 Chapters in Training report for the month of June.

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The following are chapters that have launched in June:

R1: USS tang

R15: USS Elizabeth R.

R4: USS Leonidas

The following are chapters that have launched in July:

None

The following chapters were decommissioned in June and July:

None

I have one chapter that is on Standby:

USS Battleborn

Possible new launches in August could be:

Region 4 – USS R'uustai

Region 5 – USS Aurora

Chapters cleared for Commissioning in June and July were:

R2: USS STARQUEST

R7: USS BLACKHEART

R7: USS HECATE

R17: USS DEVIL'S TOWER

Vice ShOC Jerry Tien reported .

Activities:

1. Provided help to training chapter members on IRC (#starfleet)

Problems:

1. Some chapter info / command change requests from training chapters have been in the queue for a while. CompOps needs to follow up.

Department of Technical Services News:

One new vessel reservations was received, using an established class. Another group is interested in using the name Independence, but is insistent on using a registry already assigned to another hull, which has been causing some friction. Several compromise solutions have already been offered and rejected, and one final idea is being prepared. Work on the DTS subsite is slowly resuming. With his other projects complete, Mike Dugas has been turning his attention to the DTS site, and is working on a draft design. The decommissioning of the following vessels was noted per the report of ADM Urvand, or from other sources, and their names are now listed as on-hold, as per standard protocol, pending any decision to reactivate those vessels:

USS Rutledge NCC-74215 Defiant-Class Escort

Schematic Artist:

ADM Carol Thompson has completed her first project as a schematic artist, the Hermes-class (Pegasus variant) scout. The various sizing issues have been resolved, and the results have been excellent. Meanwhile, this class will be featured in the next Starship Highlights, which will be sent in once the first one gets published!

Office of the Chief of Computer Operations, STARFLEET

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Office of the Chief Financial Officer, STARFLEET

Fiscal Year Approvals -

The Fiscal Year Regular Payments by department as been approved by the EC. These payments were based on the budgeted items that were presented at the IC 2008 in Ithaca, NY.

Federal Form 990 -

The CFO's Office has been busy spending allot of time in getting the data ready for the Fiscal Year 2008 in order to begin work on the annual Federal Form 990 for STARFLEET. However, we are still waiting for responses to several questions from Mark Anbinder for IC 2008 and the Starfleet QM reports for the period ending, June 30, 2008.

Sales Taxes -

We have not been able to file the Quarterly Sales Tax Reports for the period ending, June 30th to the State of AL, Jefferson County, a monthly

report for the City of Vestavia Hills and the NY State Sales Tax Return. The reasons for this are as follows.

The Quartermaster reports have not balanced once to date. Although, we keep redoing the QM reports on a monthly basis, the QM keeps putting the following month's data on the previous months report. In addition, we haven't received copies of shipping receipts and also cash sales are left off the Petty Cash on hand total. Further, we have one receipt with no sales invoice to match it up with since February 2008. We also have eight invoices that we've charged shipping charges to but we don't have the receipts of these shipping costs from February to May 2008.

To date, we've not received a corrected July 2008 report from the QM. The June Report that did not balance had some July financial data on it, plus the cash sales that the QM made put the Petty Cash balance at what we believe should be \$181.95 as of June 30th and \$350.42 as of July 31st. Our original plan was to have \$100 on hand for the QM to cover postage with a maximum amount of \$200. Again, to date we have not received the necessary info from the SFI QM.

Mark Anbinder sent in an IC 2008 report that did not balance with the cash on hand. Mark had sent us two sets of figures for additional sales that do not match and has not responded to several emails with questions that we had about this. In order to complete the NY Sales Tax Return that was due, June 20th, we needed a corrected sale total. To date, this remains an open issue with no response from Mark about this. We're still waiting for a corrected IC 2008 Report as of June 30th, also in order to complete the Federal Form 990 Tax Return.

I'm happy to report that we did receive a complete and balanced report from the IC 2009 Committee for June 30th and July 31. However, we have not received a July report from the IC 2010 Committee as of yet.

As a final note, the CFO's dept. has worked very hard to pay all the back taxes that were due and get STARFLEET out of paying penalties and interest, which in fact we've accomplished 85% of the time. However, if we don't have correct reports when due and our reminders and/or questions go unanswered, we have no choice but to delay payment of sales taxes to the appropriate tax agencies. This creates new penalties and interest for late filings of sales tax payments to those tax agencies.

