

STARFLEET, SOL SECTOR SUN

<http://solsector.org>

January 2019 - Supplemental

A publication of Starfleet, Sol Sector Command, an Independent Star Trek Fan Club

Getting to Know: The Engineering “Trifecta”

CDRE Feldman, Director of Communications

It has already been announced that there have been some changes to the Engineering department but who are the men who will fill the engineering void? It is my pleasure to introduce you to:

Rear Admiral Mike Richardson (MR), Commodore Donald Hayunga (DH) and Commodore Jeremy Taylor (JT).

All three officers took time recently to answer a few questions and shed some light on who they are.

I began by asking: **What do you see for Engineering in 2019?**

MR: *Oh, Leah finally telling Geordi what a creepy stalker he was. HAHA*

Actually, I am working on a reporting structure for Engineering so each chapter's Chief Engineer can share info and ideas up through the chain of command.

DH: *I would like to work with their others to create a generalized engineering manual. Contained within the manual, would be aspects of Starship engineering throughout Starfleet's history. With the end goal of perhaps, educating our membership in how Star Trek engineering principles work. The manual should contain explanations on most, if not all, the main technologies seen and used in the many episodes produced. If possible, time permitting, create Sol Sector Academy courses that could be based on the aforementioned manual. The Engineering Department and its management should be the go-to place for Engineering/Technology questions/problems.*

JT: *The Sol Sector Engineering Division has been a place to engage the more tech savvy Star Trek fan whose interests lie in Engineering. I know that RADM Calhoun and CDRE Hayunga have plans to change and grow things from their perspective, but I see an opportunity for those fans who want to contribute to the success of Sol Sector to do so by becoming part of the Office of Technology. My team will work together to brainstorm ideas for consideration by the Command Council, and work with other departments to create new systems and services that engage and serve the membership. It would be my goal to position Starfleet, Sol Sector Command to become the premier Star Trek fan club that people turn to share their love of Trek.*

We did get some push-back when we started asking chapters to file monthly status reports. What I want everyone to understand is that the MSR is your soap box to tell the Sol Sector community that you are with us, and what is great about your chapter and the things you are doing with your members and in your community. Sol Sector will use that information to shine a spotlight on the great things that our chapters are doing. If even one member joins your ship because they found it in the fleet database, or sees something they think is a great idea and tries it out on their own ship, the MSR reporting requirement was justified. We don't want everyone bogged down by unnecessary bureaucracy, but we do want Sol Sector to fulfill its mission, grow and prosper.

What brought you to where you are in Sol Sector, tell our readers a little something about you and your background?

MR: *Well to start with I have been a Trek fan since I was very young watching reruns of TOS in the 70s. Then the fan side of me saw more when I was able to watch the first episode of TNG the night it aired in 1987. Through the ups and downs of Trek I have remained a fan.*

About 3 years ago, I started making inspired prop replicas from Star Trek. The first one I did was a 1:1 Kirk TOS Captain's chair with working lights, switches, sounds etc. It was then that I started doing research into local clubs in my city and I was introduced to a local SFI chapter. I met some great people there but somehow the club seemed lacking. During this time I met our (now) Fleet Admiral Kilbey. He told me about S3C and asked if I would be interested in joining up. I formed a small chapter out of friends in the prop world. The chapter—USS Regula-NCC 6089 (6089 was Roddenberry's LAPD badge number). Admiral Kilbey

made me aware that there was no FCPT for the 4th Fleet where I am (Indiana). I was promoted to Fleet Captain and begun contacting people and trying to promote S3C.

(Editor's note: RADM Richardson served as Commodore of Zone 1 and is now a RADM and Director of Engineering. He is also passionate about NASA, frequently posting about NASA history and believes "NASA is a direct forefather of what would become Starfleet if we ever get there.")

DH: My name is Donald Hayunga, I am a 54 year old Canadian, born in London, Ontario, Canada. I spent most of my formative years in a small northwestern Ontario town called Dryden. It is my belief, that while there, I was one of the very few diehard Star Trek fans. In high school, that's when I saw the original series for the first time. I found Star Trek to be very engaging. In 1986, I moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, (Canada) and discovered Star Trek fandom. In the beginning, it was nice to be surrounded by people who were like-minded. I soon discovered, however, that the club I belonged to, as well as the local science-fiction convention, were actually filled with people who were more into drama and petty arguing. I decided at that time (early to mid-90's) that I would leave and start something of my own. Recruiting friends and a lady who would become my wife, we created a club called USS Miramar NCC-2010/C Nebula Class starship. After a few years, at the time that Stargate SG-1 was on television, we began a period of transition, where our focus sort of followed what we found popular (e.g. new BSG). Finally in 2008, we once again, focused our attention on Star Trek. We had heard there was a new Star Trek movie coming out and this would be the perfect time to get back on the bandwagon. In 2011, we began discussing the idea of joining Starfleet International. It was also around this time, we mobilized as a club, and began helping out as volunteers at our local comic-con. By mid-2011, the decision had been made, and we joined SFI. We existed as a chapter within SFI doing our best to get the word out, to try and increase membership to Starfleet, without the ability to really ask for or get help from other chapters in Region 13. Geographically, we were about 3 days drive or 2000K away from the closest sister ship in our region, making it nearly impossible to be able to attend any of the events held at a regional level. In 2017, I began pressuring SFI to allow us as a chapter, to leave R13, and join R7 (I think). Elements of R7, namely a chapter in Minneapolis (8 hour drive away), and elements of R7 located in Fargo, ND (4 hour drive) were far easier to reach. About 6 months previous to our leaving SFI in 2017 because of membership processing issues, I had already begun a dialogue with Michael Kilbey. So, our transitioning out of SFI and into the SSSC was very smooth. Having been a part of the SSSC for more than a year, and the opportunity to sit down and get to know Michael and his family face to face, it's my belief, that our chapter has finally found it's true home in Star Trek fandom.

JT: While I never expected to become a fleet level department head when I joined the USS Narragansett, I am pleased that the Command Council saw fit to appoint me as the new Director of Computer and Starship/Station Equipment Technologies (wow, that's a mouthful... let's just shorten it to Director of Technology and get on with the business at hand).

I have been an avid science fiction fan for a long time, my first foray was old editions of Analog Magazine that were stored on a shelf in the room we used for study hall in 7th Grade... ..I have been a fan of Star Trek since my best friend introduced me to TNG while I was in high school (circa 1995). I remember staying up late to watch reruns of TNG and DS9 on the local Fox affiliate on the black and white TV in my room with the volume turned way down so my mom didn't know I was still awake.

Our mutual love of Star Trek was common ground during our long distance courtship, and after we got married in 2015 my wife and I decided to watch every episode of Star Trek from every series, and all the movies. I developed a new appreciation for all of the series, especially the ones I had never seen in their entirety. Say what you will, while TOS, TAS, TNG and Voyager are all excellent TV shows, DS9 and Enterprise are both masterpieces in my opinion.

My wife and I began our Starfleet careers aboard the USS Narragansett in June of 2017. I fully expected to come on board as an Ensign and worked my way up the ranks, but Commodore (then Captain) Knotts saw my potential and placed me in a position to succeed. Within a month of joining I was a freshly minted full Lieutenant and heading up the Narragansett's Engineering Department where I built many systems to serve the needs of the Narragansett, earning a promotion to Lieutenant Commander in the process. In early 2018 I made a lateral move to head up the Operations Department and took over as the ship's second officer. When Commodore Knotts was tapped to become a flag officer I was promoted to Commander and took over as acting XO, and when Rear Admiral Anzaldi was invited to become a member of the Command Council as Fleet Chief of Staff I was promoted to Captain and took over as acting CO of the Narragansett. RADM Anzaldi asked me to help him by becoming part of his staff in the COS Office, and there I developed the solsector.org website and some systems to process applications, MSRs, fleet registries and the like... ..The Narragansett's crew has clearly thrown their weight behind growing Starfleet, Sol Sector Command

because we believe in the vision of the Command Council of a no-drama, no-money, Trek-centric fan club experience.

My background is in Technology and Telecommunications, having worked as a Broadcast IT Engineer, Network Engineer, and Systems Administrator in the past. I currently work at Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School district in Rhode Island as their Director of Instructional and Information Technology. I also serve on the board of two nonprofits dedicated to improving the lives and future of students at EWG. I am an avid Amateur Radio Operator (K1JST), I run a radio club for elementary, middle school and high school students (K1EWG), and serve as the District Emergency Coordinator for Kent County in the Rhode Island Amateur Radio Emergency Service (W1RIA) and as Secretary for the New England Spectrum Management Council.

My wife, Commander Dora Taylor, is the Chief Medical Officer aboard the Narragansett where she serves with an odd assortment of interesting NPCs of her own creation, including Nurse Practitioner Tribble and Fluffers, a somewhat dog-like mutant form of intelligent fungus with some impressive healing abilities. We have two Junior Cadets, Oliver is 2 ½ and Alice is almost 5 months old.

What changes are you planning for your department? What will you need to execute those changes?

MR: *I want to share new and exciting technological advances to all and I have plans to prepare engineering coursework to the Academy once it is ready. (Editor's note: As with all of Sol Sector executing these initiatives will require people, so if this is an area of interest for you please reach out to the RADM).*

DH: *It is my intention to make available information with regards to cannon Starships and Starfleet facilities. Next, I will discuss with each Captain the particulars of their starships to identify if they will be considered official or otherwise. It is likely some ships in the SSSC are customized beyond what has been seen in the movies or on TV. They will most likely be considered one-offs/prototypes. After that, I will provide information on known Starfleet facilities, following the same methodology used previously. I feel that we should to some degree, encourage our future membership to utilize what are considered approved vehicle designs instead of designs that do not fall within approved engineering principles. I can say without a doubt that I will need a graphic artist to help establish the look of my department as well as any publications created. I will need time, understanding and at least between 3-5 other people who are familiar with Starship design and engineering (they will help me as guides to make sure that my frame of thinking is correct and I'm not missing anything).*

JT: *I want Sol Sector to have the tools it needs to become the best fan club available to Star Trek fans around the world. I want our members to be the best informed, best engaged, and most excited about new things happening in Star Trek and things related to it. I want everyone who believes in the vision of Gene Roddenberry and the principles of IDIC to have a place they can come and share their love of that vision with other like-minded people. I see it as my department's mission to ensure that we can accomplish these goals through enabling technology. In order for this to come to fruition, we need to support the technology needs of other departments and we need tools to communicate that we exist, engage fans, and draw them in to our (if you'll forgive the phrase) collective. I also want us to be a resource for ships that want to do something cool but don't have all the technical skills to get it off the ground. Things like helping a chapter create a website or advising about the best tools available to do virtual role playing or meetings online. I'm happy to jump in the runabout I commandeered upon my departure from the USS Narragansett (the USS Wickford, in case you are wondering) and take a trip to your ship to help you out.*

My vision far exceeds the abilities of one person in his spare time, so I will be seeking volunteers to staff the halls of the Daystrom Institute Labs at Earth Station Titan. We need people with great ideas to engage the membership (and potential members in the general public). We need people who can help build these systems using open source tools (being a no-money club means we are limited to the generosity of our members to donate what we need, so software that's both free as in speech and free as in beer is definitely a plus). We also need people to support the users of these systems because an organization that handles issues smoothly becomes respected for that. It will be a process, but I know that we have talented members who are willing to pitch in and help where they can. Look for a flurry of postings about available volunteer positions within the Office of Technology in the near future.

As I put together this article I am glad that Engineering is in such capable hands and this trio is the perfect team to lead such an important department as the heart of effective operations of all the ships and starbases is solid engineering. I have no doubt these officers will use their wisdom and skill to achieve the objectives they have set.