



Deep Space Nine's first season DVDs ready for February release

The wait is almost over!

Ever since the announcement that *Star Trek: The Next Generation* was going to be released on DVD by season, fans of *Deep Space Nine* have hoped and waited for that show to begin release in the same format.

It is only a little more than a month, on Tuesday, February 25, before *DS9's* first season will appear at

stores across the country. Each season will list for \$129.99.

Besides having six DVDs with all of that season's episodes, those buying the package will also have:

Featurettes: *Deep Space Nine: A Bold New Beginning* (includes interviews, behind-the-scenes footage from filming of the pilot, the space station model, and other visual effects); *Crew Dossier: Kira Nerys* (interviews with Nana Visitor, Ira Steven Behr and others); Michael Westmore's *Aliens: Season One* (an in-depth look at the aliens, including Bajorans, Cardassians, and Ferengi); *Secrets of Quark's Bar* (Penny Juday reveals the secrets behind the props); *Deep Space Nine Sketchbook* (illustrator Rick Sternbach reveals how the space station developed); *Alien Artifacts: Season One* (propmaster Joe Longo explains

the props); *Section 31 Hidden Files*; and the original *Deep Space Nine* preview.

▲ UPN Entertainment President Dawn Ostroff said recently that *Enterprise* will return for a third season.

"*Enterprise*, as far as we know, will be back," Ostroff told reporters at the Television Critics Association press tour, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*.

The executive's comment came despite acknowledgement from the network that *Enterprise's* sophomore slump has contributed to its ratings troubles this season. "People are looking for UPN to have a hit or two," said CBS President and UPN overseer Leslie Moonves. "It's no secret that, from a ratings point-of-view, UPN is down year-to-year."

While the NX-01 looks certain to return for further adventures next season, *Buffy*, *The Vampire Slayer's* days could be numbered. "I wouldn't bet that it comes back, but it's possible," Moonves said.

Buffy jumped ship from the WB in April, 2001, when UPN offered to pay a license fee of \$2.3 million per episode. But the genre series has also taken a ratings hit this season, which means the network won't be outlaying more cash. "We won't pay more than we're paying now. That I won't do." ■

Is this a birthday present, or what? The first season of *Deep Space Nine* comes out on DVD on February 25.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Art Credits	3
Captain's Log	2
Club Members	
Insert front	
Coming Events	6
Directions to Meeting	
Insert front	
Holodictation	6
Meeting Minutes	
Insert back	
Phasers on Fun	6
Rantings	5
Reflections	4
Science Trek	3

Kick off 2003 with the next meeting on January 25!

The next meeting of the U.S.S. Chesapeake will be held on Saturday, January 25, at the Potomac, Maryland, home of Chief Operations Officer Ann Harding.

We'll gather around 6 p.m., then head to a local mall food court for dinner. We'll return to Ann's home by 8 p.m.

During the club meeting, we'll discuss upcoming conventions (including the Far-

point con in February next month, Galaxy Con and Shore Leave), find out what fellow club members are up to and get the latest on *Star Trek* news, as well as an update on other areas of science fiction.

Do you need directions to this month's meeting? Then please be sure to check out the insert that is included with this month's newsletter. ■

CAPTAIN'S LOG: Another classic *Trek*

What goes into making a classic TV show? Is it fresh, clever writing? Interesting, memorable characters? Thoughtful, professional actors? A dedicated, flexible crew working behind the scenes? Taking my cue from our chief science officer, the answer to all these questions is "Yes!"

But what happens when, for one reason or another, that series is no longer being produced? Does it stand the test of time; is it still interesting to watch years later? Does it inspire creativity in its fans? Does it have an impact that spreads from those who watched it every week to others in society?

As you've probably guessed by now, the answer to these questions is also "Yes!"

The first time I considered this subject was more than 25 years ago. At the time, I'd recently become a fan of a TV program that resonated with me in ways no other show had, and I dared use the word "classic" to describe that series to myself and others.

Yep, I'm talking about the original *Star Trek*. Some folks have wondered why I prefer to say "Classic *Trek*" instead of "The Original Series." Wonder no more. I always go with the first phrase because it conveys the praise I feel the first *Trek* deserves, since it's a "classic" in every sense of the word. The second description makes the series sound like just another television show, though I suppose using the word "original" elevates it over some of its lesser spinoffs.

(Besides, as a long-time user of America Online, the abbreviation TOS usually makes me think of violations of AOL's Terms of Service, an unhappy concept at best.)

For a long time, I believed that no other show would ever come close to earning the affection I feel for the adventures of Captain Kirk and the crew of the *U.S.S. Enterprise*.

Of course, that was before January, 1993.

I'd watched *Next Gen* mostly out of loyalty to Gene Roddenberry and his most famous creation, but I never felt it approached the greatness of Classic *Trek*. Then came the announcement of a new series, one that was going to be set on a station rather than a starship. This concept intrigued me, since it was boldly going where no *Trek* had gone before.

"Emissary" was incredible, and the episodes that came after continued to be excellent. It wasn't long before Kira emerged as my favorite character. Not only was she the first really "strong" female in *Trek*, but every crew needs someone to kick butt and let the Prophets sort 'em out later, so to speak. Sisko has always been a very close second favorite, though.

I guess it will always be extremely difficult for me to make a list of my top 10 or 20 episodes. How can I possibly say that "Necessary Evil" is better than or not as good as "Hard Time" or "Badda-bing, Badda-bang?" Each of these is wonderful in its own way, so let's just say that I have my top 150 episodes and leave it at that.

An early sentimental favorite was "Crossover," in which Kira and Bashir wound up in the Mirror Universe version of the station. I was amazed that the show dared brandish the "K" word (Kirk), and I was entertained that Kira had no clue who that was. Still, I was impressed that *DS9* had bravely ventured into Classic *Trek* territory, something *TNG* seemed determined to avoid at all costs.

I felt the same way when Kor, Koloth and Kang visited *DS9* during "Blood Oath," and I was blown away by the show's 30th anniversary tribute to my beloved Classic *Trek*, "Trials and Tribble-ations."

Not only did that episode do something magical by actually placing *DS9* characters in "The Trouble with Tribbles," but it matched the tone of the earlier show and even added some clever tidbits to *Trek* continuity along the way. This program deserved an Emmy, period!

At the end of "Trials," with Quark surrounded by tribbles as the bartender at Space Station K-7 had been in "Trouble," I couldn't help but think that *DS9* had proven itself to be the true heir to the spirit of Classic *Trek*.

I wasn't looking forward to the conclusion of *DS9*, but the end still came, and I miss having Sisko and his crew visit my living room every week.

However, like its spiritual predecessor, the show has sparked some wonderful creativity in the *DS9* Relaunch, and I still heartily recommend that series of novels to all. And with the program now coming out on DVD, we can again enjoy all six seasons of another classic *Star Trek*. ■

Captain Randy Hall

STAR TREK
DEEP SPACE NINE



Randy's favorite captains meet during "Trials and Tribble-ations."

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SCIENCE *TREK*: Through the looking glass

You don't quite imagine a gang of humans, Bajorans and Trills sitting around a revolving space station, waiting for the wormhole to disgorge this week's threat to the Bajoran body politic as the heir to *Star Trek*. And thankfully, that's not what we got when *Deep Space Nine*, the third of *Star Trek*'s now five-series family, premiered on January 3, 1993. In trying to figure out what this article should be on, I've decided to look at one science/technology-related moment and episodes from each season. *DS9* effectively melded science (in the *Star Trek* tradition) and fiction (not always with a happy ending).

The first image that secured my viewership of the show came in "Emissary, Part I." Here's the situation: Your ship's been battered by the Borg (led by Starfleet's finest captain), your wife's been killed, then an unnamed nobody ensign drags you out of what would have been your grave. As the escape pod launches, you stare back as your ship explodes into stardust, taking your wife with it. One thing I love about *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* is it was the first time I got a sense that the *Enterprise* was real. It was the same thing with this scene—not just the character and Avery Brooks' acting, but the shuddering of the pod, the receding *Saratoga* and the silent explosion.

"Melora" is both an often-forgotten episode and a character who was originally considered for a regular part. What gains her mention is the premise of the episode: Her species evolved on a world whose gravity is lower than most worlds (and on *DS9*). One wonders about other worlds with "non-standard" conditions. (I'm reminded for better or worse of the original *Babylon 5* movie.) However, Melora as a "gobs of putty on the head" alien begs the question of what a being from a low-gravity world would really look like.

I'm curious—*Star Trek* surgeons wear these head-to-toe red suits but leave their mouths and noses uncovered. So in the 24th century, they've invented antiseptic breath mints? The third season presents us with "Life Support" in which Doctor Bashir declares a patient dead only to revive him with 24th-century medical miracles. Bashir's suggestion to place Bareil in stasis originated in *Trek* lore in a Vulcan murder mystery novel, but it is a concept given little play on the middle three series. Another interesting piece from this

episode is the genetically engineered doctor deciding against attempting to save Bareil's life in the end using artificial organs.

Time has always been a haphazard subject in *Star Trek*. I'm not sure if we can fully understand the science behind "The Visitor" without advanced study in subspace temporal physics, but we don't have to understand the mechanics of the science as long as it is reasonable. Jake, though, seems to have learned enough to know how to "save" his father. An extraordinary episode, certainly, but I wonder: What if Jake was wrong? What if Sisko wasn't sent back to the moment of the accident? What if he remained in the future present with his elderly son dead before him?

Time is also a factor in season five's "Children of Time," which presents the crew of the *Defiant* with a conundrum: crash on the planet, found a colony and begat numerous generations or escape with their lives and doom their "descendants" to non-existence. Oh yes, and if they crash, Kira dies. Just another day-to-day decision for a Starfleet captain! And in the end, love saves the day—at least for Sisko, Kira and crew. (Damn it, Spock, emotions are what make us human!)

In days of yore, the exceptions in science fiction proved the rule: It was a world written by young white men. Sure, there were a few women and blacks, but not many. (Can you name one black, male science-fiction writer other than Lorenzo, Benny Russell and Samuel Delany?) "Far Beyond the Stars" shows us this world in black and white. Yet, in the end, this all-too-conceivable reality brings Sisko hope. What a curious world we live in!

My guess is that the holographic soldiers the Dominion uses in "The Siege of AR-558" are the Vorta's idea—certainly not the Jem' Hadar's! What struck me most about this episode is the loss of Nog's leg. Obviously, this causes him (and Quark) pain and grief, but it seemed to play more to a human audience. I've always thought it would have had more of an impact on Nog had he lost an ear, the equivalent to a human male losing a certain body part down yonder. Given how important ears are in their society, what future would there be for a one-eared Ferengi?

To Ira Steven Behr and the other parents of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*—thank you! ■
Second Officer Phil Margolies

STAR TREK
DEEP SPACE NINE



It's a good thing that Doctor Bashir doesn't need a good fashion sense to save Bareil in "Life Support."

ART CREDITS:

amazon.com 1
startrek.net 2, 3, 5
startrekart 4

Presentation Task
Force insert front
Dynamic Graphics
insert back

REFLECTIONS: At a loss for words

“It waits ... at the edge of the final frontier. It waits ... for an untested crew to begin an unprecedented journey. But most of all ... it waits for you. *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*—in January, the wait will be over.”—DS9 promo (Doing my best Winston Churchill imitation) “January 4, 1993 ... a day that will live in infamy.”

Boy, am I in trouble! I am supposed to write something profound, something insightful to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the debut of *Deep Space Nine*. I’m supposed to render an informative, heart-tugging transcription of one of the best-written, best-conceived and best-realized dramas in television history. I’m screwed royally because I HAVE NOTHING TO WRITE ABOUT!

I am sitting at my favorite bar, a place I go where everybody knows my name, and they’re always glad I came. I come here to be inspired. This is usually a hotbed of inspiration for me, but tonight, it’s only perspiration that I’m finding. I’m wearing my favorite jacket (my DS9 jacket, of course), and it’s soliciting many comments, such as “Great show!” or “I loved that show!” and the ever-popular “That was the best *Trek* ever!” Sensing a glimmer of hope, I ask for elaboration. Unfortunately, all I get are shrugged shoulders and blank stares with an accompanying look that says, “Let me get away from the drunk, crazy guy!”

I go to a book reading featuring novelist Richard Price of *Clockers* and *Sea of Love* fame. I’m there because I was asked to attend. Usually, I’m asked to attend so I can introduce the author, but this time I wasn’t. Also in attendance is novelist George Pelecanos of *King Suckerman* and *Down by the River* fame. I discover HE is to introduce Mister Price. MY job is to introduce HIM, which all sounds pretty dumb to me, but I do as I’m told. The whole time I’m thinking, “What am I going to write about?”

We wait in the back room of the bookstore, talking amongst ourselves. (Well, THEY were talking, I was going through a mild panic attack.) In walks David Simon of *Homicide*, *The Corner* and *The Wire* fame. I vaguely overhear him say something to Pelecanos about the second season of *The Wire* and I think for a minute about how I was promised a script to write for the first season of that show, but the thought is quickly gone. I’m still at odds about what to write for my

column. I am, quite frankly, at a loss for words.

They all seem to notice my jacket, which is hanging beside me. Right away, Simon and Pelecanos KNOW whose jacket it is, and I hear comments such as “Great show!” “I love that show!” and “It’s the only *Star Trek* I watched!” Again, I ask for illumination, but again I get feint smiles and deafening silence. These so-called literary people are no help at all. Mister Simon mutters something about me and *The Wire*, but I cannot be concerned about that now. I have a column to write and I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I’M GOING TO WRITE ABOUT!

It is time to introduce the guest. As I walk out to the area where the audience is seated, I am experiencing a bit of fear-induced nausea ... not because of the introductions—I’ve already made up my mind to use this time to insult and embarrass Mister Pelecanos. (He made me a character in one of his books and then gave him a horrible and gruesome death. He must pay for that.) I began to search my mind for something, anything that could help me. I could recall the airing of the pilot, “The Emissary,” talk about my friend Mary begging me to come to her place and fix her stereo. But I wrote about that back in March of 1998.

I could both mourn and praise the show’s incredible characters and characterization, maybe discuss that equally incredible finale, but I did that back in May and June of 1999. Maybe I can do a top 10 list. Rate the top 10 DS9 episodes of all time. That would be a great ... wait a minute! I did that already—I did a top 20 list back in September of 2001. Damn!

I proceed to disembowel Mister Pelecanos’ character and manage to get in a few shots about Mister Price, too. Even though I don’t know him, I don’t care. I have no column, and somebody has to pay! I neglect to include Mister Simon, an oversight on my part, but it’s just as well. I still want to write a *Wire* script this year. As I look into myself, I’m forced to ask: Has it REALLY been 10 years? It seems like yesterday. Did you know that the sci-fi show *Space Rangers* debuted the same week on CBS? It doesn’t matter because I DON’T HAVE A COLUMN THIS MONTH! I have all this reference material, all these memories, and I still do not have anything to write about! Or do I ... ? ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



RANTINGS: Ten years of *DS9* and counting

Now that the last strains of *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas* dedicated to Senator Lott have faded from our collective short-term memory, it is time to honor the 10th anniversary of the premier of *Deep Space Nine*. Don't we all wish it were the 10th year of production? Unfortunately, those two idiots Berman and Braga and the cheeseheads who run Paramount did not and do not recognize what they had in *Deep Space Nine*, so we probably will never see any more of this crew. Of course, the way *Nemesis* has so totally tanked, we probably will not see any more of ANYTHING called *Star Trek*. But, anyway . . .

One night in January 1993, I tuned in to *Deep Space Nine*. It happened to be the premiere episode, "Emissary." I had seen *Spencer: For Hire*. I knew who Avery Brooks was, that he was good as the ultimate "Mack Daddy" Hawk, but I wasn't so sure he could lead a crew on a space station. I had seen Rene Auberjonois in movies and TV—most notably as Father Mulcahy in the movie *M*A*S*H* and as Harris, from the Post in "Where the Buffalo Roam." I knew he was a good character actor. I remember being afraid that this was going to be a rehash of *TNG* again. So it was with some trepidation

that I tuned in. Well, if *Deep Space Nine* taught the *Trek* community anything, it was that just when you thought you had it figured out, you really did not have a clue what was going on. (Rather like dealing with women, but for VASTLY different reasons.)

The teaser takes place at Wolf 359—The *U.S.S. Saratoga* has just been blasted to rubble by the Borg. Benjamin Sisko finds out that his wife did not survive. The crew abandons ship, then flash ahead three years. Sisko and his son, Jake, leave a ship to take over a space station. Okay, so on paper it doesn't sound so special, but with a actor with the range and chops of Avery Brooks, he made the role of Sisko one of the main reasons to tune in week after week for the next seven years, just to see what he was going to do.

I was going to list my five favorite episodes of *Deep Space Nine*, but the problem was the series was so well written and well done that picking out five favorites was an impossible task. Besides, Lorenzo does a

much better job of episode criticism than I ever could. However, the episodes that stand out to me are as follows in absolutely no particular order:

▲ "The Visitor"—There are no words to describe this episode. Superlatives are inadequate. If you haven't seen this one, borrow a tape and watch it. It is THAT good.

▲ "Far Beyond the Stars"—A fascinating examination of reality. Is *Deep Space Nine* real, or is it the creation of black 1950s science-fiction writer Benny Russell?

▲ "Trials and Tribble-ations"—The crew revisits "The Trouble with Tribbles," literally.

▲ "Little Green Men"—Odo and the Ferengi at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. Need I say more?

▲ "Our Man Bashir"—Being a James Bond fan, I rather liked this one.

I also could have included "The Way of the Warrior," the entire Mirror Universe saga, the war with the Dominion, Worf and Dax's wedding, Jadzia's death and countless other stories, but I think the point has been made. This show was THAT good.

The truly good news is that *Deep Space Nine* will be released this year on DVD, in the season-by-season format. I found the schedule on thedigitalbits.com web site, and it is: season one arrives on February 25, with season two on April 1, season three due on June 3, season four on August 5, season five on October 7, season six on December 2 and season seven at the end of December. So, for around \$700 or \$800, you can own the entire series.

The current trend in television, aside from such dreck as *Who Wants a Fear Factor Survivor to Sleep with a Millionaire?* is to remake and revive old shows. WB did it with *Family Affair*. It's nice to know what was once crap is STILL crap. ABC is about to revive *Dragnet*, which will be produced by Dick Wolf and star Ed O'Neil as Sergeant Joe Friday. (This is no joke!)

Gee, wouldn't it be a real nice idea if someone out in the trenches of the half-vast wasteland of television got the idea to revive *Star Trek*? God knows we have been waiting long enough. Of course, with our luck, it would be JMS.

I am not bound to please thee with my answers. ■

Officer Peter Chewning



The Siskos learn a lot about themselves in "The Visitor," one of the most acclaimed episodes of *DS9*.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

January 25 Is it 2003 already? Let's get together for the first club meeting of the brand new year! More information in this month's insert!

FEBRUARY

February 14 -16 Farpoint 2003 at the Hunt Valley Inn in Hunt Valley, Maryland! Guests will include Armin Shimerman (Quark from *DS9*), Eric Pierpont (*Alien Nation*), and Gil Gerard and Erin Gray (*Buck Rogers*). For more information, go to their web site at <http://www.bcpl.net/~wilsonr/>.

February 22 Happy birthday, U.S.S. *Chesapeake*! It's time for our yearly anniversary party as we celebrate another year of fun as fans of *Star Trek* and other science fiction! There will be more news about this event as it becomes available.

MARCH

March 15 Spring is about to be sprung! Don't miss our last meeting of the winter as we get ready for warmer weather again!

HOLODICTATION: A new beginning!

As the new year begins, I am sure that you are like me in that you look back on the previous year and take stock of what you have (or have not) accomplished.

The year 2002, for me, was a milestone. The biggest thing was that I was fortunate enough to be able to marry the love of my life. I also look back and see what I could have done differently.

Whenever I do this, I always think of the *Next Generation* episode, "Tapes-

try." I remember the statement Captain Picard said to Q: "Life is like a tapestry. It is all woven together. If you were to pull a string of it, the whole thing would unravel."

Whenever I think that I should have turned left instead of right, I always think of that and look at what I have and thank God that I am where I am and that I have a wonderful family and wonderful friends.

Happy New Year!

Peace through superior firepower! ■

Weapons Officer Patrick McBee



CLUB BIRTHDAYS:

Chief Science Officer David Brewer on Saturday, January 25, and Xenobiologist Pat McCoy on Tuesday, February 18.

Phasers on FUN!

Identify the episode from the clue provided

Adapted from a trivia chat in the Star Trek Community on America Online

1. "Less talk, more synthohol."
2. "I can't, sir. There is nothing there."
3. "There's nothing like an away mission to remind a person why we're out here."
4. "What do you do with a cortical processing ... uhhhh."
5. "Take whatever you need. My house is your house."
6. "Human, rank of lieutenant. Your blue uniform indicates a specialty in the sciences."
7. "Torture? I do not understand."
8. "I was thrown into the brig by a very unpleasant shapeshifter."
9. "I don't want them here, but I don't have the authority to refuse."
10. "I have him on my screen ... following."

- Answers:
1. *Worf, Next Generation, "Transfigurations"*
 2. *Lieutenant Burke, Next Generation, "Peak Performance"*
 3. *The Doctor, Voyager, "Good Shepherd"*
 4. *Naomi Wildman, Voyager, "The Voyager Conspiracy"*
 5. *Garak, Deep Space Nine, "Empok Nor"*
 6. *Goran Agar, Deep Space Nine, "Hippocratic Oath"*
 7. *Drusilla, Classic Trek, "Bread and Circuses"*
 8. *Tom Paris, Voyager, "Non Sequitor"*
 9. *Lurry, Classic Trek, "The Trouble with Tribbles"*
 10. *Marlena, Classic Trek, "Mirror, Mirror"*