



James Doohan as Scotty from *Classic Trek*.

Trek fans invited to remember Jimmy Doohan before launch

Wende C. Doohan, the widow of James Doohan, has extended a special invitation to *Star Trek* fans to attend the public memorial for her husband in New Mexico on Friday, April 27, and the launch of a portion of his cremated remains into space on Saturday, April 28.

“It would be great to see all of Jimmy’s fans out at the memorial and launch,” Ms. Doohan said. “Jimmy would be very pleased for his fans to be around him at his send-off.”

Celestis Memorial Spaceflights, a subsidiary of Space Services Inc. (SSI), is requesting that fans RSVP online by Saturday, April 21, to aid them in planning. Celestis is working with the state of New Mexico to arrange public viewing areas for the launch at Spaceport America, so the better idea they have on the numbers to anticipate, the better prepared they’ll be to accommodate visitors. Plus, the museum where the memorial will take place also needs to know what kind of crowd to anticipate.

To submit your RSVP, please visit SpaceServicesInc.com.

Reservations will still be taken after the 21st for the Friday memorial, but not the launch viewing. Regardless, Celestis strongly requests you still RSVP by then.

The itinerary for the Legacy Flight week-

end is posted at MemorialSpaceflights.com.

On Friday afternoon, April 27, the public memorial for Doohan, Cooper, Lucas and all other Legacy Flight participants will begin at 3:30 p.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo (about 70 miles northeast of Las Cruces). Wende Doohan will be present at that memorial, along with other special guests to be announced later. Afterwards at 5:00, a private reception will be held for family members and loved ones of the flight participants.

Saturday morning, the launch window begins at 8:30 a.m. There is a six-hour window on Saturday during which the launch can occur at any time. If conditions are favorable, the launch should take place in the morning. However, delays may occur at any point prior to liftoff for any number of reasons. Sunday, April 29, has been deemed the “Launch Scrub Day,” which means that, if for any reason the Legacy Flight does not occur on Saturday, the next attempt will be made on Sunday.

The launch, visually speaking, is expected to be nothing like a Space Shuttle or Saturn V launch at NASA. The company reminds everyone that this is a small rocket, and it was designed to take its payload into a sub-orbital trajectory and then parachute back to the ground. ■

It’s time for the April club meeting in Rockville!

The next meeting of the *U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek* and Science-Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, April 21, at First Officer Abby Lindstrom’s home in Rockville, Maryland.

We’ll gather at 5:00 p.m. for our dinner, followed by our club meeting, which will begin no later than 7:00 p.m. We’ll talk about upcoming science-fiction conventions, find

out what fellow club members are up to and hear the latest news about *Star Trek* and other sci-fi television shows and movies.

Do you need to get directions in order for you to make it to the April meeting? Then be sure that you download this month’s insert, which you can now find in our online Yahoo! Group. ■

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CAPTAIN'S LOG: Quatloos for Khan

It's official. The people who make *Star Trek* want ALL my money!

Some of you are probably wondering: *What brought you to that conclusion?* Of course, others are thinking: *What took you so long?*

Since I'm not in a cynical mood, let me answer the first question.

Even though 2006 was *Trek's* 40th anniversary, I survived the year with my quatloos mostly intact. The DVD collection of the *Trek* animated series wasn't hideously expensive, and the comics celebration was a black-and-white manga special that cost about \$10.

The biggest expense was traveling to the Creation convention in Las Vegas last summer, but that was definitely worth the trip!

Just a few years ago, this wouldn't have been the case. With not one but two *Trek* series on television, another movie in the works, Playmates cranking out wave after wave of action figures and *Trek* comics being printed by the barrel, staying afloat financially was much more difficult.

But if last year was easy, 2007 looked to be a snap.

Sure, *TNG* is marking its 20th anniversary, but I'm not the world's biggest *Next Gen* fan, so I anticipated picking up a few leftover Classic *Trek* figures here and there and casually coasting through the year.

I hadn't counted on one fact: *Trek* has lasted so long that just about any year is the anniversary of *something*.

Imagine my surprise when I checked the upcoming product list at my local comics specialty shop and discovered a series of figures coming out this summer to mark the 25th anniversary of my favorite *Trek* film, *The Wrath of Khan*.

During the past few years, Art Asylum—the current producer of *Trek* toys—came to an agreement with Diamond (the 800-pound gorilla of comics distributors) so they could sell figures, ships and props through that company and still stay afloat even though most toy stores don't sell their products.

As a result, Diamond is carrying a trio of figures from *Wrath*: Admiral James T. Kirk, Khan Noonien Singh and Captain Clark Terrell of the ill-fated *Reliant*. And just to make it interesting, they're even producing a special

"battle damaged" Kirk, one with a blood spurt on his jacket.

For those who aren't aware—all two of you—my favorite *Trek* uniforms are the ones the crew wore from the second through the sixth movies.

I know some think they make the crew look like hotel bellhops, but I have always thought the jackets gave them the swashbuckling look of pirates. I've bought every figure featuring those outfits.

So I went ahead and placed my order for each of those figures through the comics shop, including a "refit" *Enterprise* from the movie, and went about my life as usual.

Then I found out that a run of "exclusive" figures will be available at the San Diego Comic-Con, which will be held two weeks after Shore Leave.

If you purchase the Scotty, Sulu, Chekov and McCoy figures in the movie uniforms, you will get a bonus "battle damaged" Khan with the facial injuries he suffered near the end of the film.

Fortunately, they've had "exclusives" like this at that convention previously, and they regularly turn up in the preview catalogue a few months later, so I should be able to get them without heading for the Left Coast.

Whew!

I did notice with interest that one of the characters not included in those action figure sets is Spock, who was essentially killed during that movie.

Yeah, I expect he will turn up sooner or later! Maybe he will be part of a "Scientist Set" along with Carol and David Marcus (I can only hope).

Of course, if they really wanted to empty my wallet, they'd have come out with an "away team" trio featuring Doctor McCoy, Lieutenant Saavik and Admiral Kirk (with his jacket collar turned up just because it looks cool).

But none of that is what convinced me the *Trek* folks wanted ALL my quatloos!

Not only are they putting out set after set of figures based on my favorite movie, they're also producing a set featuring Kirk, Spock and McCoy from the famous battle sequence in my favorite Classic *Trek* episode, "Amok Time."

Yep, they want it ALL!

(And they're likely to get it, too.) ■

Captain Randy Hall



It just "figures" that Khan would eventually invade *Trek's* celebrations!

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Check out our club website: www.usschesapeake.org

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SCIENCE TREK: What happened to Kirk's color communicator?

It's an iconic moment repeated in countless original *Trek* episodes: Captain Kirk flips open his communicator, turns the dial and speaks those memorable words "Beam me up, Scotty."* It was like carrying a wireless miniature telephone with you all the time.

I set aside a comic strip a few months ago (*Mother Goose and Grimm* from December 4, 2006, to be exact). Kirk and Spock walk amidst a gaggle of regular folk, all yakking on their cell phones. Kirk's got his communicator up to his ear as Spock stares at a kid seeming, well, annoyed. Kirk asks: "Spock, why doesn't our Starfleet communicator come with a color camera, video and MP3 player?"

First, let's look at the features of the communicator: wireless communication with spacecraft (near instantaneous, too!), planetary location determination, explosive feedback loops and emergency broadcasts.

What about today's cellular telephones? With satellite support, or rather through boosted signals relayed to a satellite, they probably could contact orbiting spacecraft via the Global Positioning System (GPS), annoying feedback (my co-worker and I pulled them apart before the explosion), and some may have silent emergency broadcasts. Kirk noted the extras today's phones have that his communicator did not.

So, perhaps it's not that today's cell phones are more capable than tomorrow's communicators; it's just that they're capable of different things. That got me thinking (which explains the headaches). What other *Star Trek* predictions have been realized, at least in part, still two centuries before *Trek* takes place?

- **Spock's data disks** -- about the size of an old 3.5 inch floppy disk—today's thumb drives hold several gigabytes of data.

- **Shuttlecraft** -- today's space shuttle has a look reminiscent of the original *Trek*'s shuttles, but can it go from orbit to the surface and back again on its own?

- **Hyposprays and remote diagnostic devices** -- we have injection devices today similar to McCoy's hyposprays, and we're developing the precursors of the "old country doctor's" diagnostic salt shakers.

- **Speech recognition** -- Microsoft's products and my cell phone, at least, are not as advanced as the *Enterprise's* computer, but give

speech recognition a few more years.

According to the *Trek* Wiki, the inventor of the cell phone took his inspiration from Kirk's communicator. So, maybe *Star Trek*, like other science fiction, did not predict every feature of future technology, but it did serve to inspire it. (Isn't that a Bluetooth receiver Lieutenant Uhura wears in her ear?)

There's something "forest and trees"-ish about science fiction and future predictions. I read once (I can't recall the source) that most science-fiction stories predicting the moon landing got much of the technical detail correct, but there was one glaring piece missing: that the landings would be witnessed by hundreds of millions of people around the world via television.

Let me end with someone else's words ([Drakkenfyre](#), posting on Tuesday, August 1, 2006, at 3:24 p.m., on science-fiction writer Robin Sawyer's blog—see the last Web Note below for the link): "So the point of this discussion isn't about whether a few out of hundreds of models of cell phones flip open; rather, it's a discussion of science fiction's importance to society and whether it is a predictive medium by design, not by chance." ■

Web Notes:

- <http://startrekspac.blogspot.com/2007/02/star-trek-tos-original-series.html> (Let's hear it for the blog);
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communicator_%28Star_Trek%29 (The required Wiki);
- <http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20060924-7816.html> (The future, as seen in SF movies);
- <http://www.watleyreview.com/2004/010604-3.html> (O K);
- <http://scifi.about.com/library/weekly/aa050997.htm> (Well, it's about...);
- http://www.jrmooneyham.com/future_history_timeline.html (A history of the future);
- <http://www.jobsite.co.uk/career/advice/fiction.html> (Tomorrow lied to us?);
- <http://home.tiac.net/~cri/2001/sfdeath.html> (What do you call it, genre-cide?); and
- <http://sfwriter.com/2006/08/science-fiction-and-prediction.html> (Real science-fiction commentary from a real science-fiction writer)



Captain Kirk talks to his ship via his communicator.

ART CREDITS:

[startrek.com](#) 1, 2, 3
[images.google.com](#) 4
[alexross.com](#) 5, 6
[sheldoncomics.com](#) 6
[scifi.com](#) Insert front
W&R Graphics
Insert back

REFLECTIONS: “Hobbes, Bobby Hobbes”

In the beginning, as a rule, science fiction was long considered the domain of two groups of people in normal society.

The first was children, as demonstrated by such shows as *Captain Video* (yes, this was originally a TV show, not an insult: 1949 to 1955, invented technobabble). Then there was *Tom Corbett, Space Cadet* (1950 to 1952, the phrase “cool your jets” was invented there) and *Lost in Space*.

If you’ve never heard of the first two, I can explain them later. If you’ve never heard of *Lost in Space*, shame on you.

The other residents of the science-fiction field were the intellegentsia. There was a time when, if you were an adult who liked science fiction, you were considered high-brow, which usually meant you wore your hair long (men), listened to classical music (“long-haired stuff”) and were just plain weird.

Thanks to a little show in the ’60s which shall remain nameless, these attitudes would change. You were still considered weird, but now, there were a lot more of you, and with the discovery of more of that ilk, the adult SF fan did not feel like an outcast anymore.

The word “geek” was invented (an offshoot of “nerd”) to describe you, and what started as an insult has risen to become a status symbol. John and Jane “next door” were now watching SF as it eased its way into mainstream society. In college dorms in the ’60s, that little show would cause the intellegentsia and the hippie to co-exist for an hour and dialogue long after that. It was good.

Ah, but with the good inevitably comes the bad. Whereas the little show from the ’60s that shall remain nameless appealed to the thinking crowd or showed the non-thinking that it was okay to regard and question what you watch, the earlier generation just absorbed.

They never considered, and this attitude was indeed fading away until George Lucas and his movies told America, “Hey, don’t think about it! Just enjoy the pretty pictures! It’s good!” thus creating a problem that persists today.

Science fiction’s biggest problem, besides unoriginal stories, is its lack of original characters and the audience’s willingness to accept this. Ninety percent of today’s science-fiction shows have the same cliched characters that

have been recycled over and over since the ’70s.

Somewhere along the line, genre fans not only got used to cliched characters and stories, they also started to demand to see them! Familiarity is not creativity—it’s laziness, and genre fans, who in the ’60s rebelled against having their intelligence insulted, have now given way to the lazy fan who thinks the warm feeling he gets from a new character means it’s a good character and does not consider that the warm feeling he has is familiarity because he or she has seen this crap before!!!!

This is why (Yeah, I know it took me a long time to get to it! I was having a Peter Chewning moment.) I hold *The Invisible Man* in such high esteem.

When it arrived, it was such a breath of fresh air (actually,

so was *LEXX*, but *IM* was not as difficult to understand). Not only were the characters original, they were FUNNY! The humor came from the characters themselves and not some silly screwball situation that wouldn’t even get noticed by a third-rate sitcom!

To make matters worse, television critics LOVED these shows! They could understand silliness even if they cannot understand hard science. The farther away from science fiction the show strayed, the more the critics liked it. I understand this. Since nobody likes what he or she doesn’t understand, you gravitate to what’s familiar. That’s human nature.

I don’t want to get too harsh on the television critics since they do like *Galactica*—the new show, NOT the original—but *Galactica* is pure drama and very little science fiction. This is not a criticism since *Star Trek* was more drama than science fiction, but again, this is something they can understand.

Well, judging by the ol’ clock on the wall, my time is up. Tune in again next month where I PROMISE I will talk about Bobby Hobbes, the most original character on television in the last 20 years. What started as a mild set-up erupted into a full-out rant!

I would like to say that it will never happen again. I would like to, but I can’t. ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



The cast of Sci Fi Channel’s show, *The Invisible Man*.

WAYNE'S WORLDS: Images of Batman — 2

Last month, I began to explain just how much of an influence Batman has had on my life. When I ran out of space, Frank Miller's *The Dark Knight Returns* was about to be published.

Now, I had given up comics prior to this event, as I pointed out last time. But Batman's sidekick, Robin, had been instrumental in me getting back into buying them again.

The *New Teen Titans* comics, with Robin as the team leader, was a hot item for DC Comics. My brother Randy never stopped collecting comics even though I had. So, when he had trouble getting *New Teen Titans* #1, I was recruited to go to a local comics specialty shop to buy one.

That was a significant change for comics fans. Having a store dedicated to comics meant not having to rifle through drug store shelves. It also meant being able to get nearly all the comics you wanted without missing issues, which often plagued and discouraged fans.

So I went to a local store and asked for *New Teen Titans* #1. The store owner handed me a copy of the comic already inserted into mylar protection with a backing board. I knew Randy would like that. The bad news was what he was selling was cover priced for fifty cents, and he wanted \$2.50 for it! Now, my brother was ready for this and had told me to buy it regardless of how much it cost. Grumbling all the way, I paid five times cover price for the comic. Little did I know that it wouldn't be the last time I would do that.

I wanted to see what all the fuss was about, so I carefully opened the comic and read it. It was actually pretty good—no Spider-mobile or Superman sand duplicates! It had great art (George Perez remains my favorite artist to this day), interesting stories and intriguing characters. So I started to buy that comic on a regular basis.

Soon I began picking up other comics as well again. But I recoiled at what my favorite hero was going through in those days.

Among other things, Batman was lip-locking a slinky creature of the night called Nocturna and fighting nutty villains like the Calendar Man. Since it was all silly stuff to me, I couldn't bring myself to see my hero wallowing in the mud like that.

One week, the guy who owned the store

I bought my comics in told me I just needed to add two more comics to my list and I'd get a higher discount. I looked at the Batman books, swallowed hard and added them to my monthly order.

I wish I could say they were enjoyable. They weren't. The best part was getting to watch Nocturna in a hot air balloon float off into a red sky never to be seen again (at least, not yet).

In 1986, my brother and I had the opportunity to go with the guy who owned the store to a local meeting of comics distributors. Among the displays intended to intrigue the owners of comic-book stores was a xeroxed copy of pages from something called *The Dark Knight Returns*, and it featured a much older Bruce Wayne who had retired from crime fighting. I was impressed by what I saw of Frank Miller's plot and art, so I told the store owner to be sure to order five copies for me.

Instead, he placed the order for the usual monthly number of Batman comics he ordered, a whopping three.

Luckily, my brother and I had started buying comics at more than one store, and we had gotten to be regular customers with another owner. This guy, unlike the first one, actually read the comics he sold, so he ordered plenty of *The Dark Knight Returns*. I told him I wanted five copies just to cover my bases.

The day the book came out, my brother reached the second store before me, and he held up the unique cover that featured Batman's silhouette against a blue background and white lightning bolt. I called out from across the room, "Give me *ten!*"

When I returned to the first comics store, the owner was on the phone with his local distributor. He was yelling, "I NEED MORE OF THIS COMIC OR MY STORE WILL GO UNDER!" They managed to get him a few more copies, of which I got one. Whoopee.

That began my search across the state looking for more copies of *The Dark Knight Returns*. I went to every Waldenbooks I could find, buying any first printings I saw. Still, when I found second or third printings, I still bought them ... just to be sure.

And the books were hot. My brother and I checked around, and first printings of the first issue sold for three times the cover price.

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Alex Ross paints
Batman and Robin.

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

April 21 Time for the April club meeting! We'll get together at First Officer Abby Lindstrom's home in Rockville, Maryland. We'll meet at 5 p.m. for dinner, then the meeting will begin no later than 7 p.m. For directions, check out the insert in our Yahoo! group!

WAYNE'S WORLDS: Images of Batman — 2 ... continued

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Eventually, the owner of the second store found out how much *The Dark Knight Returns* was selling for, and he approached my brother about buying back some of the copies of *Dark Knight* we had acquired from him. "I just feel badly for taking advantage of you both and selling you so many copies," he said.

My brother replied, "Well, we'd do that, but then we'd feel badly for taking advantage of YOU by making you have to buy back what you have already sold us." The store owner was crestfallen.

Then I said, "Besides, you'd just sell them for three times cover." He actually smiled.

He looked at us differently after that. Yes, we DID know what we were talking about, at least when it came to comics.

The only comics-related statue I bought for years was the one released in conjunction with *Dark Knight*. It cost \$195, which was astronomical for me. But it was Batman, and I had to have it. I made payments for weeks to get it. When I took it home, it took me weeks to open it up and actually look at it.

I still have that statue, by the way.

And Batman had returned to the front burner of my consciousness.

It wasn't long after when word came that the first *Batman* film since Adam West ran holding a bomb was in the works.

I was terrified. I had heard rumors of Bill

Murray playing the Dark Knight and Eddie Murphy portraying Robin. I had reason to be concerned.

Then, the actor who played the title role in *Mr. Mom* was chosen for the title role in *Batman*. I was absolutely horrified.

Finally, in 1989, just before release of the film, the novelization came out. I bought it and read the first few chapters. When I reached the line when Batman told a criminal he was holding over the side of a tall building, "I AM THE NIGHT," I was relieved.

A local comics store had arranged for a group of fans to get a special preview of the film on Thursday night late. I was lucky enough to be among them.

I was transfixed. It had action, thrills, great characters and even some comedy for comics geeks. Wow. A Batman fan's dream come true.

I saw that movie in the theater 10 times, a personal record. I bought T-shirts, toys and action figures related to the film. I bought every comics version of the film they made. I was home again.

And the comics had improved as well. I was actually glad to be buying and reading them again. Batman was kicking butt and taking names. I was loving life.

Little did I know that it was about to get even better.

Next month: Batman hits animation. ■

Chief of Security Wayne Hall



Another Batman illustration by Alex Ross.

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