

COMSTAR

Publication of the *U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek* and Science-Fiction Club

JULY, 2010

Shore Leave in Pictures



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A Boring Chesapeake Meeting? Jul-ly!

The next monthly meeting of the *U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek* and Science Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, July 24, at the Hard Times Café in College Park, Maryland.

We'll eat together about 5:00 p.m. Our club meeting will start no later than 7:00 p.m.

During this month's meeting, we'll talk about what fellow club members have been up to and catch up on the latest sci-fi television shows and feature films. We'll also discuss the upcoming Shore Leave convention.

For directions to this month's meeting, get the latest insert. ■

Volume 19, Issue 7

CAPTAIN'S LOG: 'A Voice for the Voiceless'

Most fan projects are the result of "labors of love" from dozens of volunteers, but with the arrival of enhanced computer technology and lots of effort, a *Star Trek* production can be completed by just one fan.

That's the case with the first tale of the *Star Trek: The Machinima Series*, entitled "A Voice for the Voiceless," in which Patrick Phillips of Pensacola, Florida, who not only wrote and directed the adventure using avatars from the *Star Trek Online* Website, he also did all the voices in the episode (yes, even Uhura).

The story begins when the *U.S.S. Enterprise* arrives at Canist Oma, where Captain James Kirk and his crew are sent to take part in trade negotiations with the people on that dilithium-rich world.

The ship is welcomed by Chancellor Antus, who congratulates the *Enterprise* for being the first vessel to respond to the invitation. Kirk responds: "First?" A system-wide sensor sweep reveals that a Klingon Battle Cruiser has also arrived.

Kirk leaves Chief Engineer Montgomery Scott in charge and calls for First Officer Spock, Doctor McCoy and Lieutenant Pavel Chekov to go down to the surface with him. "Advise them this is going to be a long day," he says as he prepares to leave the bridge.

When the landing party materializes inside a dilithium mine, Kirk notes that Oma security must be very cautious if visitors arrive in a cold dark mine with no one to greet them.

"But someone *has* met you," Antus says before apologizing for the precautionary rendezvous site. He offers to lead

the party to the council chambers.

Along the way, Antus notes that the trade talks are so important that Queen Sali will oversee the discussions, leading Spock to state that the queen is known to have telepathic abilities.

As the group enters a dilithium refining facility, the captain states that Bones will follow him to the meeting, while Spock and Chekov remain to inspect the processing plant.

Before entering the city, Kirk calls up to Scotty to check if he's keeping an eye on the Klingon vessel. "Aye, and compared to the *Enterprise*, she's one ugly bird," the chief engineer says.

At that point, Scotty asks where he and Sulu" left off." The helmsman responds that they were going to go to Red Alert. "Aye, and

arm the phasers. When I give you the order, I want you to blow that stinking miserable piece of Klingon junk into smithereens.

"Ready," Scott states. "Aim," he continues. But after a moment of silence, the chief engineer "changes his mind again" in an obvious training exercise. "No, the Klingons will have to live a little while longer," Scotty says.

Speaking of the Klingons, a party led by Captain K'Pfol transports into the other side of the city, where they are met by Tesan Metak, the planet's administrator of agriculture. He tells the Klingons that the entrance there is being guarded by "Voice of the Voiceless" terrorists so Metak and his men will have to go around them and enter through a differ-



Okay, the actors are animated, but is the acting robotic?

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Check out our club website: www.usschesapeake.org

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the entire club.

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SCIENCE *TREK*: Monkey Soldiers

I'm sorry I can't provide a reference, but let's say it was *National Geographic*. Not the article on animals and the concept of fun, thought once to be the province and in a way a defining element of that supposedly higher species, Homo Sapiens. No, I'm talking about the article about tactics.

A half dozen chimpanzees, having spotted a group of monkeys gets in position. Two chimps head down range, two take the flanks, and two charge at the monkeys, driving them down an arboreal corridor defined by the flanking chimps. Into the arms and jaws of the waiting pair of chimps. We know chimps and apes use tools, but tactics?

Which brings us to this month's column, monkeys at war. Not with each other, but used as foot (hand?) soldiers by the Taliban. Well, that is if you can believe the Chinese press.

If you can believe (and you know you want to), the Taliban are using time honored techniques such as bananas to reward monkeys when they successfully fire guns and mortars.

Monkeys are far from the first animals trained for war. For centuries, humans have ridden horses into combat. The medieval knight's war horse was not just a beast of burden, though. War horses often played a role in a battle using their hooves and mass to attack the knight's enemies.

Elephants, too, have a long history as combatants. Most famously used by Hannibal in his wars against Rome in the 3rd century BCE, they were also employed in India and Mesopotamia. Then there's the Oliphants, but I suppose not everyone accepts Tolkien as historical.

In the 20th century, the United States navy began experimenting with trained dolphins to find and identify mines as well as provide defense against enemy divers. In fact, in 2003 the U.S. actually

used dolphins to aid in mine clearing activities in the Persian (er, Arabian) Gulf following the invasion of Iraq.

Other animals at war include: dogs (literally "let slip the dogs of war"), pigs (deployed in antiquity to disrupt the elephants), pigeons (Cher Ami the carrier pigeon was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French in World War I heroism in combat), cows (biological warfare, don't ask), bats (not for radar, think kamikaze), and camels (and not just for bearing water).

Perhaps lost in the discussion is the ethics of using animals as soldiers or proxies for humans in war. Which also ties back to a fascinating panel I was able to participate in at Shore Leave on Sentience in *Star Trek*.

Looking to the future, I submit that Federation and Starfleet ethics prevent the use of shall we say otherly sentient life forms as soldiers (I see you snickering back there, Section 31. I know all about your bunny program.) Other cultures, perhaps, may look to employ animals and other salient life forms in their war plans.

Web Notes:

http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,2004390_2004395_2004483,00.html

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1998285,00.html>



Everybody run, the monkey's got a gun (personally, those teeth scare me more)

ART CREDITS:

Ann White	1
universeguide.com	4,6
Shore-leave.com	Insert - front
Time.com	3
Wayne Hall	2,5
Wordpress.com	Insert - back

Second Officer Phil Margolies

REFLECTIONS: Its Hour Come Round at Last

Thus ends one of the intriguing and original science-fiction dramas to grace the empty hollowed hall that we call television. In premise; how like an epic. In casting; how like pageantry. In story; how like genius.

They had me at the end of the premiere episode, at the first moment we saw Mr. Tyr Anasazi out of Victoria by Barbarossa and he uttered the words, "Leave him to me." Apparently they had the rest of the country, too, Andromeda finished the year as the number one syndicated original hour on television. It was also saddled with the title of the number one ACTION hour on television, which at the time I thought was pushing it, but in careful study, I found out it was correct. Andromeda's numbers were bigger than ANY action/adventure show on syndication OR network. That, in and of itself, was amazing.

It made stars out of Keith Hamilton Cobb, Lisa Ryder, Gordon Michael Woolvett and Lexa Doig. Brent Stait was all covered in hair, you never knew what he really looked like so that might have hindered his stardom. Laura Bertram, on the other hand, was cute, smart and very engaging. I never understood how stardom evaded her.

I must warn you. This episode was a bit hard to take. Sure, I've seen end-of-season cliff-hangers that left you breathless with anticipation and in a continuous pant all summer long, but I had never seen a season-ending episode that left you horrified, mortified and willing to abandon all hope of everything working out okay. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Andromeda's first-season cliffhanger, one of the greatest cliffhangers I've ever seen.

"...Its Hour Come Round at Last" – Robert Hewitt Wolfe

When Harper accidentally overrides Andromeda's personality with an older program, she believes the crew are in-

truders, attempts to kill them and proceeds on a classified mission which killed her original crew.

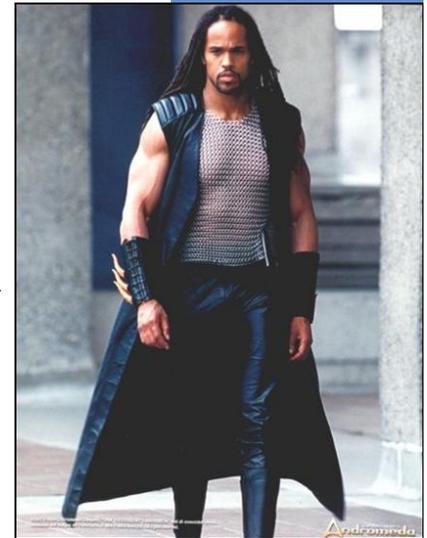
Mere words cannot describe how incredible this episode was. It opens with Dylan and Beka celebrating Dylan's acquisition of the sixth world to sign on to his new Commonwealth. Harper is helping Rommie purge her systems, and he comes across an old program from a classified mission Andromeda was sent on years ago.

Once activated, the ship's A.I. believes it's still on the mission and declares everyone on board intruders. Andromeda tries to isolate everyone and vent the ship's atmosphere, killing all of the intruders. Andromeda captures Trance and forces her to pilot the ship in slipstream.

Without knowledge of Trance's lousy record in slipstream piloting, Andromeda sets off to complete the classified mission, not remembering that the mission failed miserably the first time. Dylan, Beka and Tyr manage to escape being locked in their quarters, Dylan and Beka make their way to the bridge, while Tyr tries to find Harper so he can fix the ship.

The eventual slipstream jumping puts the Andromeda smack dab in Magog space. Harper manages to hack into her systems. He shuts off the internal defense devices and discovers that in the original mission, Andromeda failed and its entire crew were eaten by the Magog. Just at that moment, Magog attack ships start penetrating Andromeda's hull, depositing hundreds of Magog.

The Magog attack in numbers. The crew fights as hard as they can, but there are too many of them. Meanwhile, Trance is forced to make one more jump,



Mr. Tyr Anasazi out of Victoria by Barbarossa

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CAPTAIN'S LOG: 'A Voice for the Voiceless' [continued]

ent entrance.

K'Pfol responds angrily that Klingons “do not go around,” and the landing party quickly outguns the terrorists. The captain tells his men to stay behind and keep the area secure. The Klingon captain is welcomed by Chancellor Antus, who also escorts him into the royal hall.

Queen Sali greets both delegations but states she is leaving the negotiations to Antus. After she leaves, the chancellor explains that an outbreak of zorka fever has plagued their sector.

The only cure for the disease, he continues, is an inoculation of radenol, which can only be found in adolescent creatures called cothlemons, which look like huge jellyfish.

Removing the substance from the

creatures—which would grow into beings the size of a small city if allowed to reach maturity—kills them instantly, the chancellor says.

Metak then tells the group about animal rights activists who call themselves the “VOV.” They claim that the creatures are

sentient beings and should not be killed, even if that means a greater number of people will die from the fever without rade-



Digitalized Spock, McCoy, and Kirk

nol.

McCoy says that the Federation eradicated zorka fever in the Alpha Quadrant more than 20 years earlier by developing a synthetic version of radenol, which means the aliens could eliminate the disease without harming “even one giant jellyfish,” Bones adds.

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BOOK REVIEW: *Seven Deadly Sins*, 'The Unhappy Ones'

This story confused me at the very beginning as there was no “glossary”, so to speak, to explain the Klingon terms that I encountered on the first two pages: *HemQuch* and *QuchHa'*. It took several more pages before the concept(s) became clearer to me. The *HemQuch* are the Klingons with deeply-ridged heads like Worf, son of Mogh. The *QuchHa'* are the Klingons like the ones we first met on the Original Series of *Star Trek*, (e.g. “Friday’s Child”). I found it interesting that this story alluded to these physical differences as a result of an “Earther” disease that caused physical crests to collapse into round heads.

From the outset of this story, it appears that there are racial tensions between the two groups and these tensions continue to

escalate after the deaths of two *QuchHa'* at the hands of the *HemQuch*. The situation gets so bad that outside reinforcements are called in from the Klingon homeworld of Qo’noS. These reinforcements are headed by three captains with whom we are familiar: Kang, (*TOS*, “Day of the Dove”), Kor, (*TOS*, “Errand of Mercy”), and Koth, (*TOS*, “The Troubles with Tribbles”). (We later met them again on the *Deep Space Nine* episode, “Blood Oath”). Interestingly enough,



Let's see...the Romulan's obvious, but which sin is the Pakled?

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COMING EVENTS

July 24..... Time for our next monthly meeting! We'll be at the Hard Times Café in College Park, Maryland. We'll start the noshing at 5:00, then our monthly club about 7:00 p.m.!

REFLECTIONS: Its Hour Come Round at Last [concluded]



Andromeda aka Rommie

and it takes them to the Magog home world, where Magog number in the trillions. The Magog launch singularity missiles, badly damaging Andromeda. Harper and Tyr are overwhelmed and taken to the Magog home world, they appear to be dead. Dylan, Trance

and Beka are injured from the Magog weapon, they also appear to be dead. And Rev Bem heads to the Magog home world to rescue Harper and Ty

Abandon hope, all ye who watch this episode. Classic. ▲▲▲▲▲ ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo "Not" Heard

CAPTAIN'S LOG: 'A Voice for the Voiceless' [continued]

While the doctor leaves to get a sample of the drug from the *Enterprise*, Metak whispers to K'Pfol that using the synthetic drug could wipe out the planet's farming industry and leave him bankrupt, and the Klingon responds that the development could mean that the empire will be locked out of the negotiations.

While Metak and K'Pfol leave the chamber, Kirk gets a report from Spock that the dilithium produced there meets

Starfleet standards.

Back in the refinery, Chekov hears someone moving just before the lights go out, both visually and physically, for the Russian officer. Minutes later, the queen is found dead, with the Russian officer unconscious on the floor nearby. ■

To be continued...

Captain Randy Hall

BOOK REVIEW: *Seven Deadly Sins*, 'The Unhappy Ones' [concluded]

this story takes place BEFORE the events of "Day of the Dove" but AFTER the events of "The Trouble with Tribbles". (There is still deep resentment on the part of one character, Korax, against Chief Engineer Montgomery Scott for infesting HIS engine room with all those Tribbles!) During this particular tale, Kang, Kor, and Koloth are still physically *QuchHa'* even though we later see them as physically *HemQuch* on *Deep Space Nine*. However, this story does not explain how they became physically changed by the

time they began their hunt of "The Albino" with Jadzia Dax.

The main thesis, it appears, is that the Klingons laboring on this mining asteroid have all forgotten the teachings of the Great Kahless and have forgotten their honor as Klingons while focusing on the sin of Wrath. It takes Kor, who later became Da'Harr Master, to remind them all what it REALLY means to BE Klingons. ■

Pat McCoy, Xenobiologist and Xenopsychologist