

# COMSTAR

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

NOVEMBER, 2010

## REFLECTIONS: Two Hundred and Counting

“As a card carrying Star Trek fanatic (notice I said fanatic NOT fan).”

causing major salivation with anticipation! THIS issue holds my 200<sup>th</sup> article of “Reflections”!

The first sentence from my first article of “Reflections”

----- Lorenzo

Cue the music, let the pigeons loose and release the hounds!

(Crickets chirping)

We interrupt your regularly scheduled column to bring you breaking news! Ladies, Gentlemen and others! Boys and Girls of all ages! My fellow Americans, honored guest, old friends, his holiness the Pope and David. This issue of the ComStar, the one you’re holding in your hot little hands (Actually, these days MY hot little hands are the only hands that hold the ComStar. Everyone else stares at a screen!), the issue that is



I can’t even count to 200, much less type it.

As we move closer to the club’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Jeez, has it been THAT long?), I not only find it hard to fathom that I’ve written THAT many articles, but I find it inconceivable that I’ve actually had THAT much to say. My first article for  
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## Between a Rock and a Harding Place

The next monthly meeting of the U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek and Science Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, November 20, at the abode of Chief of Operations Ann Harding in Potomac, Maryland.

We’ll start the stuffing our faces about 5:00 p.m., then talk with our mouths full about 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. For directions to this month’s meeting, get the latest insert. Blah, Blah, Blah. ■

# CAPTAIN'S LOG: *Star Trek: Specter*

One of the best things about *Star Trek* is that it can be used to address issues by placing current situations in alien or futuristic contexts. That's especially true with the "Specter" fan film, which includes the joys and sorrows of friendship, as well as the inherent dangers of time travel.

It's worth noting that all the voices in this two-hour fan film are provided by Brandon M. Bridges, Sr., who plans to re-record the soundtrack with several voice actors in many of the roles he originally played. With that in mind, I've included the names of those who are set to re-record the final voices of characters throughout the movie-length project.

The story gets underway with a space chase as the Galaxy Class *U.S.S. Daystrom* pursues a runabout upgraded to repel phaser fire.

The pilot of the shuttle contacts the *Daystrom* and says he's Doctor Braiyon Elias Garr (portrayed by Bridges, who also helped write and directed "Specter"), a leading Federation scientist who warns that any further pursuit would have deadly consequences for the ship and its crew.

Commander Gaius Samuel Reyf (Dennis Gard Robb), the starship's science officer, is stunned to see his long-time friend trying to elude capture after

stealing Starfleet secrets.

Just then, the runabout veers through the Utopia Planitia shipyards and then into an asteroid field in attempts to outmaneuver the much-larger *Daystrom*. Instead, the crew can only watch helplessly as the craft crashes into a large asteroid and explodes.

Five years later, the incident has faded into memory, but one night, Doctor Edward Chellik (Bridges), chief administrator of the Mellis II Deep Space Research Station, is in his office when the station's lights suddenly go dark.

Chellik hears the sound of footsteps outside. The doors to his office slide open, and from the shadows, it appears to be Garr himself. At first, Chellik doubts it's really him, but the doctor steps close to his desk and slaps him in the face. Suddenly fearing for his life, Chellik stands frozen in terror as Garr informs him that he needs to "borrow a few things."

Meanwhile, the *U.S.S. F. Scott Fitzgerald* arrives at Deep Space Nine for some much-needed shore

leave. Reyf is the captain of the new starship, which resembles the upgraded *Enterprise D* in the *Next Generation* episode, "All Good Things..."



If that's Harry Potter in the middle, all I gotta say is, wow what happened to Ron and Hermione? Oh wait, that's Captain Gaius Samuel Reyf, Doctor Braiyon Elias Garr and Kristie from *Star Trek: Specter*.

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Check out our club website: [www.usschesapeake.org](http://www.usschesapeake.org)

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# SCIENCE *TREK*: Cloaking Transporter Device?

“Plastics”

Mr. McGuire, *The Graduate*

“Metamaterials”

Me, *Real Life*

What, pray tell, are metamaterials, you ask. For the present, they are simply mathematical models of materials that could theoretically interact with and manipulate electromagnetic energies on a near-atomic level. Previous studies of metamaterials has yielded the conceptual ability to warp light around them—referred to in the Theory of Pop Culture References (TPCR) as “Harry Potter’s invisibility cloak.”

With a little added control, these non-existent materials could control the light so that it passes more quickly through some parts than others. A real world effect of this highly theoretical material would be that a person could move from point A to point B seemingly instantaneously — you know, like what happens when you stand on the glowing pad and you twinkle out in a shower of glitter (that’s the 25 cent way of saying transporter technology).

Let’s try that again in TPCRml (John, explain that to Lorenzo): It’s like a swimmer diving into the water and swimming a lap, then hopping out on the far side of the pool. The metamaterials could slow down the disturbance of the water ahead of them and speed it up settling of the water behind them. A distant observer would only see a swimmer dive in and suddenly emerge at the end of the pool without disturbing the water at all. Something like that.

It’s all decades off, of course. There’s a lifetime of work to do in bringing this mathematical concept to fruition as a cloak or a cloaking device. In the mean time, we’ve just got the ideas. Lots of ideas.

Metamaterials are not just for cloaks and pseudo-transporters. It’s more like “Real materials have property A and B, but not C. What if a material had property C and B? How would that interact with the real world?”



Science is moving us toward these new materials and technologies at an even quickening pace. Someday it will catch up with a certain Montgomery Scott who introduced “transparent aluminum” in 1986. ■

Web Notes:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/TECH/innovation/11/16/space.time.cloak/index.html>

<http://www.solcomhouse.com/sciencestartrek.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metamaterial>

<http://lifeboat.com/ex/10.futuristic.materials>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transparent\\_aluminium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transparent_aluminium)

*Second Officer Phil Margolies*

## ART CREDITS:

*matthewedgar.net*

Insert - front

*musicforgifts.com*

1

*Randy Hall*

2,5

*Phil Margolies*

Insert - back

*solcomhouse.com*

3

## REFLECTIONS: Two Hundred and Counting *[Continued]*

the club was supposed to be a one-shot thing back in the January 1993 issue of the ComStar. Ah, 1993.....Phil was still in college, David was still crazy, the men in the club was still being beaten and controlled by the women in the club. The good old days!

The premiere of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* was a couple of days away. Our club was heavy into volunteering for the *Star Trek* exhibit at the Air and Space Museum, I remember crazed exhibit attendee after crazed exhibit attendee trying to stump me with *Star Trek* trivia.

And one by one they all left dejected and totally demoralized as I proved to be superior to them and their trivia (I had one kid in tears! I loved it!). Club members Bill and Laura Shirley had just given birth to a baby boy (Laura gave birth, Bill just kind of stood around and watched.), and John Staton, the designer of the three named *Chesapeake* Starship, was committed, uh.....attended his first meeting.

My first article was a three-part story probing the "Evolution of Spock". Now, far be it from me to blow my own horn (That's extremely painful), but for my first piece, it was insightful, stimulating and provocative. If it wasn't for our then Captain Sue Torbik's constant, confounded, eternal nagging it may not have come to pass. I can't take nagging. I'll confess to a crime I didn't commit if nagged long enough! She bugged and bugged me *ad nauseum* to contribute something to the club newsletter. When I

asked her what would I write about, she looked at me with this expression of complete and utter shock and said, "*Star Trek*."

My reaction was, "Everyone writes about *Star Trek*! What could I possibly add that no one had discussed before? This led to several beer-soaked nights of drunken pondering, then it hit me. No one had ever discussed the changes in the character of Spock. This surprised me. I noticed a distinct change through the run of the films, yet no one else (except David

Gerrold, I found out) seemed to notice or care. So I wrote about it. Once finished, turned in and printed, I waited for guidance, adoration, argument or criticism.

(Crickets)

The only thing then newsletter Editor Randy Hall said to me was "So what's next?" That was it. No "It was great!" or "It sucked! (Which was what I was expecting), just "What's next?" I was dejected, especially because I didn't know what was next. I had a hard enough time putting THOSE thoughts together. Then I thought, "Hey, if you write about Spock, you'd have to complete the 'Hat Trick'. So my next article was on James T. Kirk, I knew Shatner had in his contract with Paramount that whatever Nimoy gets, HE gets and vice versa. I didn't want to be sued by Shatner, so I submitted a

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Two bars of gold-pressed latinum to the first person who can correctly guess why this image was used for Lorenzo's column.

## CAPTAIN'S LOG: *Star Trek: Specter* [continued]

While relaxing, Reyf receives an urgent subspace message from Chellik, who tells the captain about a yearlong string of mysterious break-ins in 14 supposedly secure facilities, all burglarized with no trace of the culprit.

Then Chellik shows Reyf the visual log of Garr's "visit," and Reyf is shocked to learn that the man he thought was dead for five years is alive.

Chellik warns Reyf that with the equipment Garr has stolen, the scientist could wreak havoc on the space-time continuum. Also, despite his personal feelings regarding the mission, Reyf must find him and stop him, no matter the cost. The captain agrees, and the *Fitzgerald* begins the hunt.

While en route to the Beta Reticuli system, Reyf tells his senior staff that the only clue they have regarding Garr's activities during the past year is that when he downloaded information from Starfleet Intelligence, he left behind odd tetryon readings coming from a distant and deserted system.

After arriving at the source of the readings, Reyf orders that the world below be scanned for the energy signature provided by Chellik. It takes only a few moments to locate the source: a mysterious underground structure.

Reyf, Chief Engineer Merv Ronston (Thomas Wright) and Security Chief Kendra Erickson (Elaine M. Korff) beam down to the surface and find a metal doorway that opens into a hidden facility. Their search of the lab turns up a curious discovery: a female android with one arm that lacks any artificial skin but a face that looks familiar to the captain.

Back in standard orbit, the *Fitzgerald's* tactical sensors pick up something behind one of the planet's nearby moons. Instead of taking the ship to investigate and lose the transporter lock on the away team, First Officer Bradley Prentice (Michael Liebmann) and Chief of Operations Maxwell Garrett (Christopher Stadther) take a shuttle to investigate.

When the vessel reaches the site of the readings, Prentice and Garrett discover a duplicate of the *U.S.S. Voyager*. Sensor scans show that the ship has some strange modifications, ranging from a vastly upgraded weapons array to exotic-looking hull armor and an incredibly powerful warp drive.

In the lab, the away team sees a man



The *U.S.S. F. Scott Fitzgerald* got some of its design from the upgraded *Enterprise D* in "All Good Things..."

in the shadows beam out of the structure, and the group takes the android back to the *Fitzgerald* with them. As the ship approaches the hidden vessel, its transponder emanates an unusual reading: *I.S.S. Voyager*, and Reyf realizes the ship was built from the plans the scientist stole five years ago.

Suddenly, the starship receives coordinates from Garr pointing to where Prentice and Garrett are. Lieutenant Commander Merv Ronston (Thomas

Wright) scans the location, and he discovers that the shuttlecraft is damaged and adrift, powerless and leaking air, atmosphere barely maintained by emergency force fields.

Garr then gives Reyf a choice: pursue the *I.S.S. Voyager* or rescue his officers....

And now for the three worst words in the English language: "To Be Continued"

Over the years, I've tried my best to keep my columns self-contained. How-

*Continued on page 6*

# COMING EVENTS

November 20..... Time for our next monthly meeting! We'll be at the Hardings Bed & Breakfast in Potomac, Maryland. We'll start eating at 5:00 a.m., then our club meeting a little later.

## REFLECTIONS: Two Hundred and Counting *[Concluded]*

three part story on Kirk. I had nothing for McCoy. Not a thing, but fortunately, Phil had a take on Bones that I had never envisioned and, in retrospect, was right on target!

One night I curiously found myself at the Addison Rd. Metro station, located on the Blue line. My actual stop was two stops earlier.....(I drank a LOT of beer back in those days) and as I stood outside the station, I saw a sign that hung outside of the hair salon.

The salon was called "Reflections" and I remember thinking, "What the heck does reflections have to do with hair?!"

I never found the answer to that

question, then I had an epiphany! "The higher, the fewer!"

When I awoke the next morning, leaning on the front door of my apartment (I don't remember how I got there), I realize that "The higher, the fewer" was dumb. Then I said to myself, "You know, 'Reflections' would be a great title for a monthly column. A look, an observation, a peruse or a contemplation. I suddenly thought of Q who said, "Hear this, Picard and reflect." Then I knew I had something. My next task was to figure out how I got home.

In closing, I'd like to thank Sue Torbik, her nagging actually led to something good (or bad), I'd like to thank the Editors for all of these years of putting up with my take on humanity. And I'd like to thank any and every one who actually reads my words. I know you're out there, I can hear you breathing. ■

*Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard*

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## CAPTAIN'S LOG: *Star Trek: Specter [concluded]*

ever, after looking over "Specter," which is more than two hours long, I just don't see how I can do the fan film justice in one entry. So next month, we'll conclude the review of this *Star Trek* independent production.

If you'd like to watch "Specter" on your computer, just point your Web browser to the project's official Website

at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZ11J84bO\\_Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZ11J84bO_Q) and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOeUSodOZ1o> ■

*Captain Randy Hall*

