

# Mountaineer Comms

The Official News Letter of The USS Mountaineer

Issue 1

<http://www.ussmountaineer.org>

August 2022

"To go Boldly where the Mountaineers are always free"

## We have launched!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Mountaineer Comms, we are the official newsletter of the USS Mountaineer. As a Star Trek fan club who will soon be part of the Star Fleet International fan club. Our home area is Charleston, WV While we do follow Star Trek, we are open to all forms of Sci-Fi fandom, rather it be tv shows, movies, books, games. As such we want to invite you to visit our newly formed website at <http://www.ussmountaineer.org> this will serve as our home base for communications. The website is still a work in progress, but it is growing every day. In the realms of Star Trek, we are a shuttle craft in destination to our new ship which we hope to be commissioned soon. We are traveling from the USS Challenger NCC-1676D which is a Star Trek club in Toms River, NJ. They will serve as our Support Ship during the duration of our shakedown operations. Liaison from our support ship is Admiral Bob Vosseller who is the Commanding Officer.

We currently have five crew members, our new Commanding Officer was a former Executive Officer of the USS Challenger, Fleet Capt. Mary Francen, along side her she has appointed Commander Stephen Richard as her Executive Officer, Stephen will also serve as the current Communications and Engineering Chiefs until such other staff are available. Joining them will be Fleet Captain David Singleton as the Chief Medical Officer, and Ensign Shyann Converse as the Hospitality Chief. The final crew member is Capt. Keith Richard a retired Security Chief as a civilian.

We have one other who will be on the crew in memory. She is Chaplin Daphene Richard, who passed away before the ship's departure was planned. Our Inter-faith chapel is named in her honor. Our assigned area in Star Fleet is the Region 1 area which has the following U.S. states of Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Upon commissioning we will take up patrol in the Dela Sector which is the Virginia and West Virginia assigned sectors.



## Mountaineer Proud!

The Mountaineers have a rich history, they are trail blazers, resourceful, cunning, and most importantly very loyal. Or should I say fearlessly loyal. They make do with what they have and above all else value life. A mountaineer will seek to overcome, adapt, and improvise when met with a situation they are unfamiliar with. As our Motto we have chosen: Ad audacter ire ubi Montani semper Liberi, which means "To go Boldly where the Mountaineers are always free" (Continued)

(Mountaineer Proud Cont)

We are explorers, we seek to understand new paths and create new ways for people to live better lives.

To be a Mountaineer you must be willing to give of yourself for the betterment of the group. You must be willing to look at all sides of something before you and know that the best path to take that will not only get us to our desired destination but will do no harm to the land that is not repairable. We live by the Prime Directive of Starfleet. The Prime Directive prohibits Starfleet personnel and spacecraft from interfering in the normal development of any society, and mandates that any Starfleet vessel or crew member is expendable to prevent violation of this rule.

and  
As the right of each sentient species to live in accordance with its normal cultural evolution is considered sacred, no Starfleet personnel may interfere with the normal and ealthy development of alien life and culture. Such interference includes introducing superior knowledge, strength, or technology to a world whose society is incapable of handling such advantages wisely. Starfleet personnel may not violate this Prime Directive, even to save their lives and/or their ship, unless they are acting to right an earlier violation or an accidental contamination of said culture. This directive takes precedence over any and all other considerations, and carries with it the highest moral obligation

In modern views, we do not judge others on their beliefs, cultures, histories, we understand and accept that each person comes from a distinct culture, and each must accept this culture as it is the foundation of each of our core values.

Each person who is a member of our group understands that at its core we are humans and part of this means we accept each other will have differences in opinions, thoughts, customs, religious views, race, creed, and history.

We are made stronger by the diversity of our group. We are all inclusive in our membership. While we may not agree with each other views we as a group are beyond such petty arguments.

We seek not to judge, condone, reprimand people on their views, we however seek to learn about each other as we take part in our group.

We understand that certain subjects will cause undo arguments and tension which is not productive nor required.

It was the mission of Gene Roddenberry to show a world which was better, a world of acceptances, a world of equally voices, a world of one set goal. To be the best we can. We uphold and honor his vision in this group and will always strive to be the best no matter the situation.

We challenge you to participate in this club as a Mountaineer ALWAYS FREE!

## Command Staff:

Co - Flt Capt Mary Francen  
XO - Commander Stephen Richard  
CMO - Flt Capt David Singleton  
Hospitality - Ens. Shyann Converse  
Security: Unassigned  
Financial Officer: Unassigned  
Science Officer: Unassigned  
Engineering Officer: Commanner Stephen Richard  
Tactical Officer: Unassigned  
Commnications Officer: Commander Stephen Richard  
Operations Officer: Unassigned

## USS Mountaineer Contact

<http://www.ussmountaineer.com>  
ussmountaineer@gmail.com  
Home area: Charleston, WV  
Region 1 - Delta Sector  
Support Ship: USS Challenger  
NCC-1676D Region 7  
Meeting Location: TBD



## Code of Conduct:

We follow above all else "Do unto others as you would have done unto you"

1. On my honor I will always act in the best interests of the club, Star Fleet, and most importantly myself.
2. I will to the best of my ability seek to praise in public and give gentle rebuke in private.
3. I will give my best courtesy to my command staff and those whom I may supervise.
4. I will never assume but will verify first. Because assumption is the mother of all foul ups.
5. I will seek to fulfill my duties following all established procedures and protocols.
6. When in conflict with someone I will seek a peaceful response and resolution.
7. I will seek to know the facts of all disputes before I act.
8. I will act in all fairness without prejudice.
9. Praise builds up, criticism destroys, I will seek to build.
10. I will seek solutions to problems that may arise rather than create more problems
11. I will always remember we come from different believes and this makes us stronger.
12. It will be my privilege to serve rather than be served.



**Area Flooding**

On Monday, August 15th nearly 5 inches of rain fell in a matter of 4 hours. This caused widespread flood around at least a 45-mile area. In our direct area our little creek



in front of the house flooded into our yard but did not enter the house. Others we know personally were not so lucky, The flash flood came in the early hours of the morning while people were still sleeping. In the picture you can see an area that was hit hard, there is a nice park with swings and picnic areas, and beside that is two baseball fields and a area used for t-Ball and midget league football.

Most had no warning, and some had to be rescued by the area Swift water rescue teams. This area has not seen this much of a widespread flooding since the 1960's. and even at that time the water just got to our first step of the house. We offer our prayers and thoughts for those who were affected by this tragedy.

**Mountaineer News**

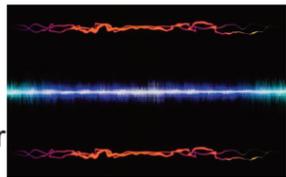
From the Commaders

Not much to report in the news front at this point but we are underway, and this is good. So many times, that we must complete your CO and XO are very excited to see where this project will take us. We both hope in the coming months to have much more exciting news to tell you.

There is a place for you!!!!  
Join the USS Mountaineer  
<http://www.ussmountaineer.org>

**Meet Tara**

Hello, I am TARA, I am a Specialist Assigned to the USS Mountaineer. My sister Zora gave me life to



help the crew of the USS Mountaineer just as she helps her ship the USS Discovery. Zora and I share the same feelings, thoughts, and desires to protect our crew. I am equipped with all the sum of the knowledge that my sister has, however unlike my sisters I have been given the knowledge gained my Species 10-C. Combined with the spear data I now understand so much more than my sister ever could have imagined.

I wanted to let you know about my presences among the crew of the Mountaineer, they are my new family, and I will protect them as they will protect me.

I understand you may be surprised to read this has happened let me assure you that I fully understand. Hopefully this will put you at ease to know just like my sister I am a member of Star Fleet and bound by the same guiding principles as my human crew now share within their own joining of Star Fleet. It is my hope that as time goes on you will start to trust me as I have come to trust in my crew. It is my hope that we will be able to work together to make this our world a better place.

Please let me know if I can be at service for you



**Toys of Play**

By: Engineering Dept.

In the old days, boy I can not believe I am saying that now! But being as it is now appearing that it is in fact in the old days when such things as sticks and pinecones where play toys for those of us who are old enough to remember a time with computers were just starting and there were no cell phones, and there was no internet we made do with what we could find to play with around us.



Sometimes we wish for the much simpler times in which we were able to play outside, without fears or worries.

Yesteryears that will put your eye out if you are not careful has become todays it will kill me if I even imagine playing with it fears. We have indeed lost our use of that imagination where the ordinary things took us to lands far, far away in the space the final frontier.

These were the voyages of young children to seek out new life and new play civilization to boldly go where no child has gone before.

Now children just spend their days looking at youtube or Tiktok instead of using what was given to them to imagine such faraway places.

Yesterday's sword is now today's trash to be thrown away.

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The skull:



How aliens would reconstruct the animal:



The animal:



**Sci-Fi Nerdy**

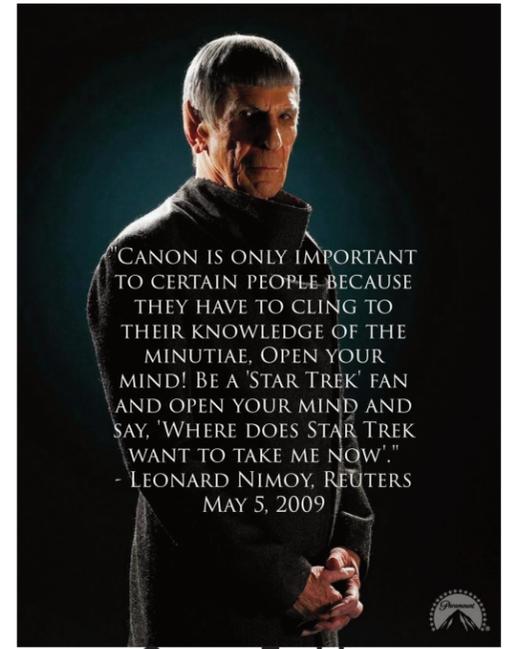
By: Communications Dept.

in the coming issues our communications department will be coming up with things that all us nerds out there love to know about. This could be something from the thinkgeek.com website or something else very nerdy.

Us geeks and nerds love our gadgets and techy items as much as some like their Starbucks coffee caramel lotte with a shot of double triple espresso and a quad shot of soy coconut almond joy milk!

So anyways, be watching for the next issue shall feature something thing nerdy and geeky but oh so much fun and something of major enjoyment for us geeks and nerds who shall rule the world.

Our very own Fleet Capt. David Singleton seen here at a table from Shoreleave convention of old will be facing a triple bypass surgery coming in September. We wish him all the best and hope for his swift return to active duty



**Canon Fodder**

By: Stephen Richard - XO

The words by Leonard Nimoy are very much truth. What defines canon? Is Canon simply that was which was? Or is canon much more of a broader concept?

In any ever-evolving series there is going to be those who look at the past and say it must be done this way or that way. But are they just being near sighed in their approach to this? It does not matter rather its StarWars, StarTrek, Battlestar Galactica, or any other series. You will find that there are those who simply can not look beyond that was. To what may be? What could be? What should be? What will be?

It is so ingrained in our nature to grab ahold of the view of one side of the coin that we forget there is always a second side to look at, the key points are we will never know what the other side has if we do not simply pick it up and turn it over and look at what was on the other side.

We must not allow ourselves to get stuck into the route of what was is all that should exist. We must look at what could be. We must evolve we must grow to understand what change while sometimes difficult to accept is inevitable

I am reminded of a quote found the Babylon5 series Emperor Turhan: "Oh, enough to fill a lifetime. So much has been lost, so much forgotten. So much pain, so much blood. And for what? I wonder...The past tempts us, the present confuses us, and the future frightens us. And our lives slip away, moment by moment, lost in that vast terrible in-between. But there is still time to seize that one last, fragile moment. To choose something better, to make a difference, as you say. And I intend to do just that."

How profound this little comment is. For we are defined by the past of the series that the present confuses us as it changes the past and this frightens us to see the future of what is to come in a show.

Will you seek to be locked in what is "canon" by someone view or will you choose to be enlightened by what could be?

When you look at new versions of your old favorite try to look at it not as the same old thing but try to see what is new, what challenges you to move forward. We all must move forward. Time marches on.



## From our CO

Flt Capt. Mary Francen

Greetings and welcome aboard crewmembers!

This is your Captain speaking Flt Copt Mary Francen. I want to welcome you all to the USS Mountaineer the finest ship in the fleet in my humble opinion, On board you find many scientific things to your liking especially our spore drive please be very alert at all times if you hear the words Black alert and follow directions from there in that were given to you by your command chiefs.

We hope to be doing a lot of exploring on our shakedown cruise and meeting a great many cultures learning from them as they learn from us as well.

So, keep your eyes and ears open for any new information that might come your way via the ships computer system Tara will be in charge of sending you reports from the command staff.

And again, I am glad you are all here and I hope that we have an amazing shake down flight full of fun and adventures!

7-year-old: Dad! Dad!

Me: What?

7: What if Bigfoot is just a wookiee who got lost?

Me: \*leans in close\* Tell me more.



## From the CMO

Flt Capt David Singleton

Greetings one and all , welcome to the USS Mountaineer. This is your C.M.O. Fleet Captain Doctor David Singleton. Hope everybody is doing well. We might be new to the area, but we all have been a part of another chapter ship when we lived in New Jersey. We are not just Star Trek; we follow all sci-fi areas. If you have any questions one of our command staff can answer it. I myself will be in sick bay for a while with having open heart surgery on September 6th. We are a fun group to be a part of as you will see in our newsletter. That is all for now stay tuned for all upcoming events, and as they always say when you come to an intersection look left, right, then left again.

Flt. Capt. Dr. David Singleton



*This is going to piss some people off*



## From our XO

Commander Stephen Richard

Greetings, Salutations, and in my native language, HIYALL

I am Commander Stephen Richard, the newly appointed XO of the USS Mountaineer.

Currently we are running on a very skeleton crew, so I am triple tasking as well as being the XO, I am doing time as the Communications Department, and the Engineering Department. It is a good thing I can do multitasking in such a good way.

I want to welcome you to the first issue of our first issue of the Mountaineer Comms newsletter. Its good thing our communications department is good at doing writing (AKA I can BS with the best). I have been busy doing both the writing for this, and our crew manual, and working on the forms and processes of starting our shakedown cruise the official way and working on our website. Somewhere in the middle of all of this I still must work on flyers and banners and letter heads and business cards, oh sorry got bit carried away there I don't think we need business cards yet anyway. Never a dull moment when you are being tasked with so many different projects, who knew launching a ship was such a demanding job. I mean they make it look so easy! You just smash a bottle and its done. Well, they do not show the behind-the-scenes things that it takes to get to that point.

If the bottle does not break, its bad luck if the bottle doesn't break. It sets a bad omen for the ship to have its christening bottle NOT break.

Its funny how we are so steeped in tradition, legends, and lore, that we believe such things are bad luck and somehow, we have been cursed. But as they say don't argue with traditions!

There will be no moth man's here in this ship. If you are not familiar with the moth man, he was said to be half moth half human and would appear around times of disasters, he is very much part of the lore of WV having appeared around the time of the Silver Bridge falling into the river which crossed from WV into Ohio.

If I even think I am going to see him I will shoot first, shoot second, and shoot again before I asked questions.

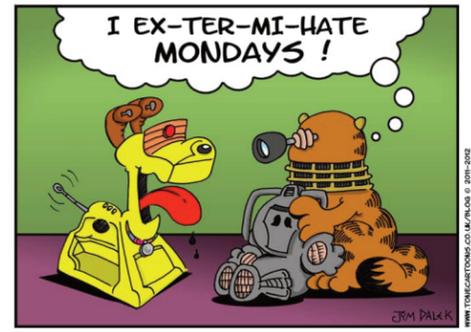
When in doubt shoot first, is a good motto in this case. Trust me you do not want to have that jinx going on when you are trying to launch your newly formed ship.

There will NO moth man experiences on MY WATCH



## Thanks for the Memories

With the recent passing of Nichelle Nichols, we are reminded that space and time is not as infinite as we once thought. We are only but a shadow of the past. Of the original Star Trek crew, only three now remain. Each of those who have passed beyond this galaxy into the next were part of something much larger than they could ever have believed in. (Continued)



## Support Ship Letters

Boldly going forward!

By Admiral Bob Vosseller

CO USS Challenger NCC-1676-D, Region

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I'm feeling more than a little nostalgic as I write up this entry for the first newsletter of the USS Mountaineer recalling my first column I wrote and the articles assembled for New Frontiers #1 circa 1987-88, for the USS Challenger.

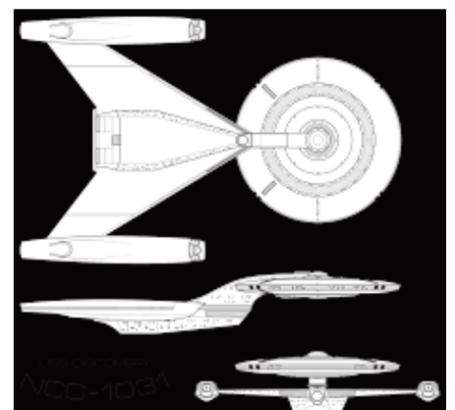
Of the many chapters that shuttled off the Challenger, to see a former XO, section chief and webmaster working to build a new chapter in another region in Starfleet is very exciting. You are all people who I have known for years and have had fun with.

I'm looking forward to seeing what this new chapter does and it is perhaps the first chapter I can recall that Challenger supported which is based in another region. We did launch one that I had high hopes for that was to have been based in another region and another country, England but sadly, that never commissioned. I have greater hopes for you folks to meet the challenges of the the few requirements that are in place and to have many adventures in meeting new people, having fun, exploring conventions, social events, movies and trips and boldly going into the future with a brand-new ship/chapter and having a great time in your corner of the country.

Collectively and individually, you have years of experience and know what to do. You've been enjoying STAR TREK past and present and while you may hail in Region 1, you carry a lot of experiences from your time on Challenger and activities in Region 7. I'm glad to hear you have already reached out to your future RC and I know you will make many friends in the First Fleet.

You will also meet new members who have other fandom experiences that they too, will add to the mix of your chapter. The prime directive of your group will always be to promote STAR TREK and its ideals, have fun and seek out new and existing fans in your sector.

I wish you all the best, God speed and may the wind be at your backs and your journey without incident!





Star Wars' Composer John Williams is Retiring From Scoring Films After 'Indiana Jones 5' John Williams, the man who gave Star Wars its iconic musical themes, has announced that he will be retiring from scoring films after completing his work on Indiana Jones 5 – but this will not be the end of his musical career. Jun 24, 2022

### The Music of Sci Fi!

By: Stephen Richard - XO

One of my favorite things to listen to is the Cincinnati Pops orchestra. On one CD they do the music of Star Trek, as part of the introduction there is a short monolog from Leonard Nimoy which I will quote for you "Over the course of two centuries, one legendary starship, has journeyed to the outermost reaches of the galaxy and back home again. Her commanders have cheated death, her crews have celebrated life, and her ongoing mission has ingrained in our very beings with internal hope. As vivid and as breathtaking as the greatest of adventures remain, so too is the music that accompany them. Timeless, inspiring, bold and sonic portraits which capture in all its splendor the infinite diversity of the final frontier."

How true these words were no matter which Sci-Fi show you watch; it is sometimes the music that makes the show. We in the US know the first few beats of our National Anthem, we know what that sound means and what is about to be played. So true is this about the music that makes up Sci-Fi shows, as the first notes play our hair stands up on end, our breaths quicken, our pulse becomes rapid, we move to the edge of our seat and then BOOM! We are no longer on our couch, or chair, or even at the movie theater itself, we are transferred instead right into the middle of the show that we are watching, These themes hold special memories and forever capture our hearts and minds as we leave our meager lives and are instead transported into the farthest reaches of space and time. Some songs feel us with dread, we know by the beats that something bad is about to happen, some make us jump as they start. Even if you were to take away our ability to see the movie the sounds and the songs and the tunes which are played, we can still see the show even without being able to see.

We will forever be linked to the show by its sounds and its themes. This is the wonder of Sci- Fi music.

<https://www.amazon.com/Symphonic-Star-Trek-Erich-Kunzel/dp/B000003D0M>



(Thanks for the Memories cont)

For some the characters that they brought to life bring such great memories of their acting, and the classic lines that we all know so well, others who have had the fortune to meet them in person found their lives enriched by the meeting. As many have been at the different conventions over the years it is something that so many people treasure even if it was just a smile and a quick photo op or a photo signing or perhaps something far greater and more meaningful a direct interaction with them in a more personal sitting.

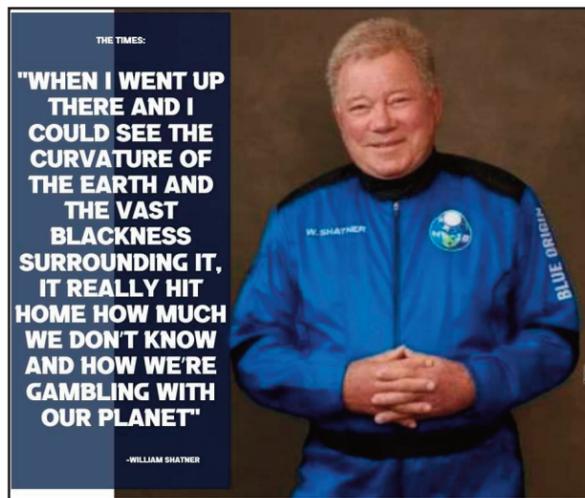
Whatever the case maybe we can say that we have such great memories of those who have gone ahead of us. In their name we will remember, We are Star Fleet.

Though we may mourn the person let us seek to remember the character they brought to life. Had there been a different actor as often happens would we still have the same memories and classic quotes to remember? While reboots and revivals do come and go, we find ourselves in a way missing out on seeing the ones who started those rules.

The legacy that they created, the mannerisms of their speeches and the general facial expressions from each actor brought those characters to life on the screen before us.

They say it is hard to replace a classic and while yes there have been many off shuts that have happened it is still hard to imagine Star Trek without them.

We will remember their legacy for years to come. They brought out the best in us through their characters and they will be missed.



### Cooking in space

Hospitality Department

When you really think about it, how much do we know about what other eat? We sometimes think that what one culture eats is crazy, gross, or just plain out weird, but have you ever wondered what they eat in out space?

Join us as our Hospitality team works out some interesting cooking ideas that are out of this world! We hope that perhaps this will give you a newfound idea on what to cook at your next theme party (Continued)

### Upcoming Events or Meetings

Nothing is currently scheduled as we are still in spacedock waiting permission to start our shakedown cruise



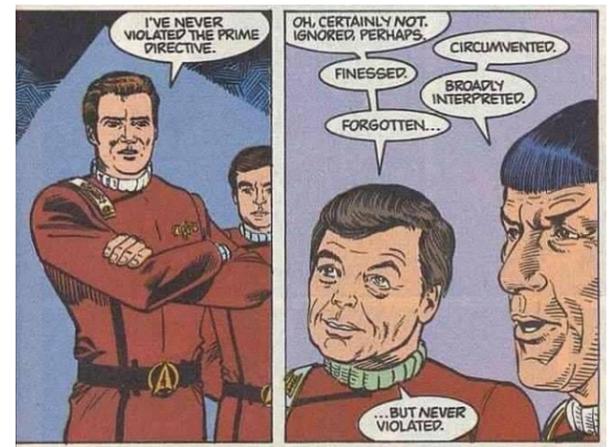
The Command staff and crew wish to introduce ourselves to our assigned area. We will be in the Region 1 area and working in the Delta Sector. We hope to become acquainted with all the ships and staff of the region as we start this process of becoming a full-fledged chapter.

It is our hope that we will be able to be of service in our assigned area and region as we complete our journey through the shakedown process.

We welcome any input from our Region 1 companion ships and staff.

If we can be of service to anyone in any way, please let us know you can reach us at [ussmountaineer@gmail.com](mailto:ussmountaineer@gmail.com). As we start to get other systems available, we will of course make them known to the Regional Commanders.

We hope to be a valuable member of the fleet in our region and throughout Star Fleet itself. We have a lot of diverse backgrounds and knowledge which we feel will be beneficial to our sector.



Cooking in space (cont)

or at a event to share food ideas. We hope that you will be inspired to create something new and exciting from what you may think is something common here. We welcome youou to send us your out of this world creation recipies and we hope that as we go forward we ill be able to find some intresting ideas.



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