



StarLight

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S.S. BRIGHTSTAR

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ISSUE TEN



Happy Fourth of July
Issue



From the First Officer

Hey, welcome back to yet another edition of the StarLight newsletter. The official newsletter of the U.S.S. Brightstar. And home for all the nutjobs that want themselves to be heard. And trust me when I tell you, some of those nutjobs, you definitely do not want to talk too nor hear from. I am your host, the hostess with the mostess, the First Officer.

As I am putting together this newsletter, it is going on towards the end of the month of May (knowing this will not come out until July). Memorial Day weekend, a Sunday in fact. The day that is usually known as race day. The day that the Indianapolis 500 is held.

Well as many of you already know that will not be the case this year. The powers that be, have decided to (due to the covid-19 virus) postpone the race until August 23. For me, this is weird. Weird because none of the activities associated with the race will take place on this day. Just watching them doing what would have been called the prerace special on t.v. to an empty track and empty stands was very strange even for me. Even the pagoda that stands at the start/finish line was empty. Not a soul could be seen moving on any of the levels. The entire track, with the exception of the workmen in the background, was completely empty. Of course, the host and the two drivers present who were there for the show were practicing social distancing.

And once again, I won't be able to tell you what will be coming in this installment of the StarLight. But I can give you a couple of idea's that I am working on and most likely they will make this edition. One will be about Batman and his Batmobile having problems along a local highway. The other will be about the new 'Space X' rocket launch. And what makes this launch special, is this time they will be launching with Humans heading towards the International Space Station. It is set to take off from Cape Canaveral for the first time in over a decade. I can tell you with certainty, this issue will have the next chapter of Brightstar's 'Moving On' saga. Also, something else, beginning this issue we will be using a

smaller type font. It's something we are trying out to help send the newsletter thru email easier. And we are also hoping this process will make the file smaller as well. I know for some (like me), this will make it a little harder to read but this could not be helped, because of the stated reasons. We are sorry for having to do this. Also, as of the printing of this newsletter, it is unclear whether or not InConJuction will take place over the fourth of July weekend. But I suspect it will not. Well, at least I am hoping that it will. We got to have something to write about.

I hope you enjoy your Memorial Day festivities and your Fourth of July festivities as well.

Well it's time to put this puppy to bed.

See you all next issue

The First Officer

P.S. Just before this newsletter went to print, I found out due to the concerns with covid-19, that this year InConJuction has been postpone until next year. July 2,3,4, 2021. Sorry about that folks. I, too was looking forward to InConJuction as well.

Astronauts Launch from Florida, For the First time in Ten years

Cape Canaveral, Florida

For the first time since Atlantis closed out the space shuttle program in 2011, American astronauts will launch from the Kennedy Space Center. Astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken will be launched aboard the SpaceX's Dragon crew capsule which will sit atop a SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. The launch is set for Wednesday afternoon with the destination set for the International Space Station. Here is another first, this will be the first time since the Apollo-Soyuz mission in 1975, that astronauts will launch aboard an American-made capsule. And not to out do the others, this will be the first launch by a private/corporation. Of course this undertaking will be overseen by NASA.

Even though SpaceX's Dragon capsule may look similar to the old Apollo spacecraft, that is where all the similarities ends. Similar, but totally different. The Dragon crew capsule did away with all the switches and knobs. They have been replaced with touchscreens. And the clean lines and minimalist interior, makes the space shuttles seem like a model-t car of the 1920s. The Falcon rocket will take off from the pad that launched the Apollo-Soyuz and the space shuttle missions.

The reason for the change, in the past NASA's astronauts (in the spirit of cooperation) would take off from facilities in the former Soviet Union (Russia). And even though the Russian Soyuz capsules is still in use, even after fifty plus years, the Soyuz has seen better days. And compared to the Dragon capsule, the Soyuz looks dated. "We want it to not only be as safe and reliable as you'd expect from the most advanced spacecraft in the world, ... we also want it to look amazing and look beautiful," said Benji Reed, a SpaceX mission director. Boeing, NASA's other commercial carrier also agreed on the capsule design as well.

Sierra Nevada Corp, an earlier competitor proposed a small space plane for the astronauts. But the space plane did not make the final cut. Starting next year however, NASA will be making regular supply runs to the ISS with the help of Sierra Nevada Corp space plane. "There was no need for another flying machine like the shuttle, which was built to haul hefty satellites and space station parts," said retired NASA manager Steve Payne. He goes on and states, "What we're trying to do now is just taxi service up and down, and you don't need the huge semi anymore. You can use a sedan."

Even Batman Needs A Little Help Now And Then

Miami County, Indiana

Far from the bright lights of Gotham City, somewhere in the middle of Miami county, Indiana on a lonely section of U.S. 31, proved beyond any doubt to an Indiana State Trooper that even Batman needs a little help now and then.

While on routine patrol, Indiana state trooper Sgt. Tony Slocum was treated to a sight that he never could or would have imagined. Sgt. Slocum came across Batman's Batmobile on the side



of the road with a flat tire. With Robin nowhere in sight, the state trooper decided to help Batman change that tire. Within a few minutes and two pictures later, the tire was changed, Batman thanked the State Trooper and went on his way.

Sgt. Slocum tweeted his boss Sgt. Rick Brown at the Indiana State Police post in Peru, Indiana about the encounter with Batman. He even provided pictures to Sgt. Brown of the Batmobile on the side of the road with said flat tire. All this occurred on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

It was unclear to either state troopers at the time whether or not Batman was after another super villain or on his way to a bar-b-que.



The Strange, The Weird and What the @\$%&

Who or What is doing the Stimulating?

The Washington Examiner reported on April 21 that some people appear to be spending their coronavirus stimulus checks on another kind of stimulation. The adult live model site Cams.com says it has seen a surge in traffic. "Since April 13, we've seen a 22% uptick in traffic to our livestreaming site, and tips to our models have increased by 40%," said Gunner Taylor, director of strategic development for FriendFinder Networks, of which Cams.com is a part. Traffic from Washington state is up 204%, and it is up 83% in Illinois, but it is down in Washington D.C. by 29%.

He Just wanted a Hot pocket

A California man was arrested for breaking into the local bank. The police were at the bank within minutes of receiving the call of a break-in. The police waited for over an hour for the

intruder to exit the bank. When the intruder did leave the bank, he was immediately arrested and handcuffed. By this time, reporters had begun to show up on the scene. As the intruder was being placed into a police cruiser, he was asked why he broke into the bank. The response that the reporter got was that he, "wanted to use the bank's microwave for a Hot Pocket." "I wanted a Hot Pocket." The reporter asked the intruder, "did you enjoy your Hot Pocket?" The intruder's response was, "Hell yeah, @#&\$ yeah I enjoy my Hot Pocket. Yes, I enjoyed my Hot Pocket." It's unknown whether or not he will face any charges. But, if I were a betting man, I would say damn straight he will be facing some serious charges.

This Man Would Sell Is Mother If He Could

Brain Wood, owner of All-American Gator Products in Dania Beach, Florida, is taking face masks to a whole new level by fashioning coverings made with the skin of a Burmese python. "Some people want to make a fashion statement even during this pandemic, so I want to give them options," Wood told the Miami Herald on April 19. The snakeskin itself doesn't offer any added protection, but the masks would allow for a filter or lining to be inserted and removed. Wood hopes to add alligator and crocodile skin masks to his offerings, although alligator, "the diamond of leathers," would be more expensive. Wood said he will be buying animals from local hunters to meet the demand.

Life Imitating Art Imitating Life

University of Arizona wildlife biology professor Michael Bogan caught Saturday morning cartoons as they came to life in a video he recorded of a coyote chasing a roadrunner May 9 in downtown Tucson. Bogan could be heard on his recording saying, "There is literally a coyote chasing a roadrunner. I can't believe it. That is a straight-up cartoon." The reenactment of the classic setup between Wile E. Coyote and the Roadrunner caught Bogan's attention near the Santa Cruz River, Fox News reported. And, as life often imitates art, the real roadrunner escaped unharmed from the wily coyote.

Intro to Darkness

It is strange that I am sitting here writing this at this particular moment in time. What with the coronavirus and just recently George Floyd dying in police custody in Minneapolis and the protest and riots that followed in just about every city in United States (including Indianapolis). What I mean by strange is, a certain someone who will remain nameless, wanted to watch the movie "Justice League" 2017. Everyone agreed ok, go ahead, you can watch it. As I watched it, I admit I got in the movie. A little bit. But it was the ending that got me the most. The part where Lois Lane was doing her monolog. It dawned on me that she was not just talking about the superhero (Batman, Wonder Woman, The Flash, Aquaman, Cyborg, and Superman) but she was also talking about the Doctors and Nurses and the first responders, who at this very moment are putting their very own lives on the line. They do this day after day and don't ask for anything in return. And as I watched the movie I couldn't help and think how appropriate that was at this particular moment in time. And I couldn't help thinking how this should go into the next newsletter. I hope it brings some joy and a whole lot of hope and enriches all your lives in some way. This is dedicated to all those nurse and Doctors in the hospitals and the long-term care facilities. And also, to all the first responders who put their lives on the line. I gave it the title 'Darkness'.

P.S. Everybody thought I was weird to stop the movie every so often to write down the closed caption of what Lois was saying. Oh, and yes We did have the closed caption on.

Darkness

"Darkness, the truest darkness, is not the absence of light.

It is the conviction that the light will never return.

But the light always returns to show us things familiar.

Home, family, and things entirely new, or long overlooked.

It shows us new possibilities and challenges us to pursue them.

This time, the light shone on the heroes coming

out of the shadows to tell us we won't be alone again.

Our darkness was deep and seemed to swallow all hope.

But these heroes were here the whole time to remind us that hope is real, that you can see it.

All you have to do....is....look,...."

"Lois Lane

Justice League

2017"

Star Trek: Brightstar

"Moving On"

10

"Before I continue, I must say this again. Be on your guard. Take all precautions in this matter. What the Vulcan Extremists would want or planning, I do not know. I and others in the security field believed that the Extremists had finally fell out of favor with the population of Vulcan and faded from existence. Why they waited all this time to resurface, goes against all reason and logic. But this is taking us away from the what and the why you are here.

You will find your next clue on a planet where the gangsters of this old city had little to no fear of the security forces that tried its best to protect its citizens, then again the ones that did nothing were either paid to look the other way or were in fear for their lives. That's the clue you need for this next phase of this race. I know everybody there are all wondering or for that matter, asking yourselves the same questions, what is going on? What have I gotten you into, when or where does this all end? I would like to answer all of those questions that everyone has. Especially those that are probably coming from Captain Deora and/or Captain T'sikes. But I cannot. Not at this stage of the game, as it were.

I would like to say or tell you more than what I already have. But I will say this again, be on your

guard and be aware of your surroundings. The Vulcan Extremists will do everything and anything to retrieve my Katra. For what reasons, again, I do not know. If I were a Human, I would take a guess, but I am a Vulcan. And Vulcans do not make guesses. Live long and prosper."

With that the image of Captain S'tol began to fade from view. But before the image faded completely, Captain S'tol's image came back into full focus. It turns out he had more to say.

"One more item that I need to point out. You have but four solar days to solve and travel to where you need to be." Captain S'tol finally faded from view.

"Why only four solar days?" Captain Deora asked out loud more to herself than to anybody else.

"I'm not sure Captain, but knowing my cousin, I am sure he does have a very logical reason. What it is, is beyond me at the moment." Belek stated.

"Well let's look at the clues he left us." Kathy commented.

"S'tol said we would find our next clue, "On a planet where the gangsters of this old city that had little or no fear of the security forces that tried their best to protect its citizens.'" Chief Engineer Kenny said.

"He also said we had "but four solar days to solve and travel to where we needed to be.'" T'sikes said.

"I must be the dumbest captain in the fleet, because these clues just flew over my head." Captain Deora stated with guilt.

"Well then Captain, that would make me the dumbest Vulcan, so you are not alone. I mean, even I, can't make heads or tails of these clues myself." Belek stated.

"If that is the case then, let's look at the second clue." Chief Operations officer Tess suggested.

"Yes, what planet is four days distance from

Vulcan, that had gangsters in its past?" Someone asked.

"The only planet that I can think of is Earth." Kathy answered.

"Well if it is Earth then what city? What I do know about Earth's history, just about all of its major cities had or were controlled by gangs at some point in their history." Belek noted.

"I think I can help you out there Belek," Commander T'sikes started out.

"Just before S'tol left the Brightstar, he became quite fascinated with Old Earth city of Chicago. During the probation and the great depression era. Say the 1920's to the early to mid-1930's Old Earth calendar." T'sikes said.

"Ok, so we need to go to Chicago on Earth, but where in Chicago do we need to go and who do we need to see?" Tess asked.

But before anyone could give any type of answer, they all heard a strange noise from the door that they had just used to enter the conference room. Captain Deora also notice something else was wrong as well.

"Where are J'dar and Saffet?" Captain Deora asked.

Everybody instinctively looked around the room, but the two Vulcan caretakers were nowhere in sight. as everyone was looking around the room, Chief Engineer Kenny had his head cocked at an odd angle and asked everyone a question.

"Does anyone else hear that thumping sound or is it just me."

With everyone standing still and not making any sound, they too heard a faint but audible thumping sound. As they listen, trying to figure out where the thumping was coming from, Belek located the source of the sound. He began to walk towards Chief Kenny.

"Chief Engineer Kenny if you will assist me please, I believe there is a closet or an anteroom just behind where you are standing.

And there should be some type of door mechanism nearby that should allow it to open."

The Chief Engineering officer walked towards the wall indicated by Belek. Just as he was approaching that same wall, Ensign Kenny located the door mechanism. As soon as the door opened, two bodies fell out. Both of them Vulcans. One of them began to moan.

"Doctor D'lan check them out will you. Josh, check out that door. I want to know what that sound was, what caused it and if we can still get out." The Captain ordered. Both answered with, "Aye sir."

"Within minutes, the doctor was the first one to report back to Captain Deora.

"Captain, I have to get both of these gentlemen to a hospital as soon as possible." D'lan stated.

"Are they that bad D'lan?" Deora asked.

"Yes, sir they are. Captain, if we don't get both of them to hospital, or some other kind of medical facility, and soon, I could lose both of them." D'lan said.

"Understood, do the best you can doctor for the moment. Right now, we have to get out this room first. Is either one of them able to be brought around to talk?" Deora asked.

D'lan consulted her medical tri-corder.

"The older one whom I'm guessing is the real J'dar, I don't dare try to bring around. The other one, Saffet, he's not as bad. I could maybe bring him around for about five or ten minutes at best. But no more than that." She finished.

"Standby D'lan with a shot for Saffet. I need to talk to Josh first and...." The captain was interrupted with someone yelling out Josh's name, followed by a body sliding across the conference table, and a loud crashing sound at the end of it. Both the commanding officer and the ships doctor were pushing and shoving chairs out of their way just to get to the security chief.

By the time they reached the security chief, he was sitting up and shaking his head from side to side, trying to clear his head, saying more to himself than to anyone else there, "Note to self, let's not do that again." The ship's doctor was already kneeling down with her tri-corder open and scanning the young ensign.

"Well doctor, how is he?" Captain asked with concern in her voice.

"I'm fine Captain. Just my pride got hurt that's all." Josh answered.

"D'lan?" she asked.

"I wouldn't have put it so colloquially as that, but he is right, nothing is broken or damaged. Ensign I would suggest that whatever you were doing, not to do it again, understand?"

"Understood doctor. But I will say this." Josh started out.

"And what's that Josh?" The doctor asked.

"I'm definitely going to feel this in the morning."

The doctor was going to say something, but shook her head realizing that he was making a joke. She only said, "If you do, just stop by my office and let me know." The doctor said as she turned the tables on the security chief. Both Captain Deora and Ensign Josh were caught off guard with her comment. D'lan stood up. With the help from the doctor and the captain, Josh managed to stand up as well.

"By the way Ensign, what was you doing that caused all this ruckus?" Captain Deora asked Josh.

"I was doing what you ordered me to do. Whoever those two were, there good sir, They managed to jam the only door out of here." Josh answered.

As Josh was explaining what happened, both began to walk to the other end of the room where the only door out was located.

"I had just managed to get the panel off to see what they did to jam the door when my right hand

touched the door itself, and, well, you saw what my impression of Superman looked like." Josh finished with a chuckle.

Josh pulled out his tri-corder and began to scan the door.

"Yup. Just as I thought. Some kind of forcefield. And according to these readings, it's just like the ones we use in the brig aboard the Brightstar." The security chief stated.

"So, they want to hold us here or delay us at best. Not kill us. So, Ensign do you think you can disarm this boobytrap?" Deora asked.

"I don't know sir. It depends if there is another forcefield on the other side of this door. And it also depends on whether or not they left any other surprises behind."

"Understood Ensign. Do the best you can." Captain said.

"Aye sir, you know I always do sir." He answered as he knelt down to take another look.

As Captain Deora was talking to Josh, Ensign Tess walked up to the captain and waited for her to finish.

"Yes Tess, what is it?"

"Sir, the doctor needs to talk to you. She says we may have another problem on our hands." She reported.

"What kind of problem did she say it was?" Deora asked.

"She did not say. Also, Belek is waiting with her as well." Tess finished.

Captain Deora didn't like the sound of that. She thanked the ensign and asked her to help out Josh and Kenny, who had just came over to help the security chief. She nodded her head and went over to where the two were busy at the panel. Deora went to see what the doctor and Belek wanted. Just as she reached the doctor, she watched her pull a shroud over J'dar's body. D'lan closed her medical tri-corder as she stood up.

"What happened doctor?" she asked.

"I don't know. His injuries were more severe than I first thought according to the tri-corders readings. I won't know for sure until I do an autopsy." D'lan reported.

"But that's not why we asked you to come over here." Belek said.

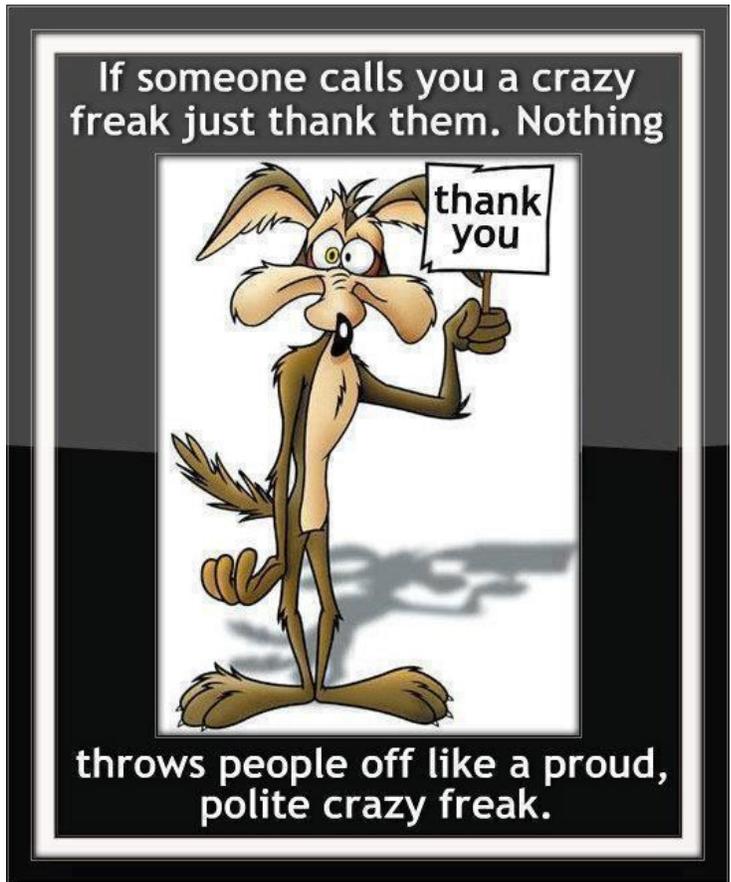
"Ok Belek, why then?" she asked.

"Captain, I located J'dar's emergency communicator. I tried using it to get some help and got nothing. I think there some kind of dampening field in use that blocking communications." Belek stated

"Damn," was all the captain could say.

The Funny Stuff

When you're a bear and your bear wife left you for a bigger and more successful bear



Let's Have A Little Fun

I thought I would bring something back, well I least I liked it. It is called word search puzzle.

The theme for this month is Space Shots. Listed below are names of satellites and rockets sent into space over the years. So, have a little fun. See you next time.

AEROBEE
ALOUETTE
ANIK
APOLLO
ARIEL
ATLAS
DELTA
ECHO
EXPLORER
GEMINI
JUNO
JUPITER
MAGELLAN
MARINER
MERCURY
MONITOR
NAVSTAR
NIMBUS
PIONEER
RANGE
SATURN

SCOUT
SKYLAB
SPUTNIK
SURVEYOR
SYNCOM
TELSTAR
TIROS
TITAN
TRANSIT
VANGUARD
VELA
VENERA
VOSKHOD
VOSTOK

M E B R B T S R P H A I N V T
R V E J L E I R A T L A S I O
E E U B A H U R L N L R S H A
R N E D O H K S O V G N C V R
O E D N J R U I U S A E R I E
L R X R O N E M E R C U R Y N
P A A U A I R A T S V A N K I
X X B T J U P I T E R E I Y R
E M I A L O G V E L A N Y U A
T T E S L E S N R O T I N O M
S U N L M Y D B A U S M R V R
O A O I N M K P P V L B X S O
C S N C P N J S R E E U O I R
G I O S S K X C K O T S O V B
E M M A G E L L A N I K H G R

SIGN OF THE TIMES



See You All

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