



StarLight

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE USS BRIGHTSTAR NCC

1880

'Changing Today For A Brighter Future'

Visit us @ www.ussbrightstarlowerdecks.com

VOLUME FIVE

JANUARY 2024

ISSUE SIX

**I DON'T KNOW WHAT
THE NEW YEAR WILL
BRING, BUT IT HAD
BETTER INCLUDE
COFFEE.**



NEED I SAY MORE!!!



From The First Officer

Welcome to latest and first issue of the new year 2024. It's hard to believe that it's already 2024. I know it goes without saying but it seems like yesterday we were ringing in 2023.

Well it goes to show you or as Einstein put it time is relative. For some, it seems that 2023 literally dragged its feet. And for the rest (including me) it seemed that this year just flew right by and left us standing still.

Well, let us get this year off to a good start, and hope and pray that 2024 will be a better year. Well, that's enough of that dribble, let's move on shall we?

We have the usual stuff and the next installment in the study of the constellation. I must also let you know that no one onboard the Brightstar is celebrating a birthday this month. Oh boy, I think this is the shortest 'From The First Officer' I have ever writing. Oh well, enjoy it while you can.

Well, that's all I have for this month. It's time to put this puppy to bed.

The First Officer.



Bible Quotes

Fresh Start

Genesis 8:11

When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive branch! Then Noah knew

that the water had receded from the earth.

Genesis 26:19

Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discover a well of fresh water there.

Psalms 23:3

He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Psalms 92:14

They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green,

Proverbs 11:25

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

1 Corinthians 16:18

For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.

Philemon 1:7

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Philemon 1:20

I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord: refresh my heart in Christ.

2 Peter 1:13

I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body.

off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi



WENDY GETS PRIVACY BY
CREATING HER OWN BOOK COVERS

©2018 Mark Parisi Dist by Andrews McMeel Synd. 6-12 MarkParisi@aol.com offthemark.com



Looking For Life On All The Wrong

Frequencies

The one question that has plagued mankind for over the last century, "Are we alone in the universe?" And to make matters worse, that question alone is one of the hardest question to answer. And with the possibility of life in an ever expanding universe, looking for said life is akin to looking for a needle in a very large haystack.

S.E.T.I. (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) is dedicated to looking for extraterrestrial intelligence. This is done by searching for unusual signals, known as technosignatures. These technosignatures can prove that life in the universe does exist, and that said life could be at the same level as us, or at a level that is well advanced technologically, of us.

For the last sixty years, researchers and scientists have consistently come up short. Scientists and researchers at Breakthrough Listen have started to search for and listen to those frequencies that have been ignored. In partnership with S.E.T.I., Breakthrough Listen, they are hoping by listening to those ignored frequencies, they might find the answers they are looking for.

A portion of that technology generate signals that are detectable in the radio frequency range, and by focusing on these wavelengths, researchers say that is the best place to start the search for extraterrestrial life. Past searches for technosignatures have been at the radio frequency band of 600 MHz or higher. Totally ignoring the lower frequencies. These lower frequencies are the ones that are used by everyday communication services like air traffic control and marine emergency broadcasting, and radio stations. FM radio stations do use these lower frequencies. The reason why they haven't investigated these frequencies is because the radio telescopes operate at those frequencies. These low frequencies are a challenge at best because they use less energy.

Lofar (Low Frequency Array) is a frequency radio telescope that is most sensitive radio telescope in the world today. It operates between 10 to 250MHz. So far, there are 52 radio telescopes involved. Spread all across Europe. And they are planning to add more of these new radio telescopes to the group. So when these radio telescopes are used in unison, they can reach a high degree of resolution.

Over two summers, N.A.S.A. researchers and scientists have surveyed several planets that had been discovered by using N.A.S.A.'s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite. They used two of the fifty-two radio telescopes, and those two radio telescopes that were used, one in Birr, Ireland and the other in Onsala, Sweden. The researchers use the two telescopes to listen to the forty-four planets that are orbiting other stars. They scanned those planets at the frequency range of 110 to 190MHz.

It doesn't seem like much, but with a large amount of targets using the low frequencies observations, has a major advantage over usage of high frequencies. With the usage of high frequencies, the area of the sky being scanned is very limited.

While usage of the low frequencies allows the radio telescope to search a larger area of the sky.

With the help of Lofar they will be able to scan 5.27 degrees of the sky with each of the 52 radio telescopes. This will amount to 36,000 targets for each telescope or a total of 1,600,000 targets as a whole. But there is a downside to this method. Those same technosignatures that they are searching and observing, are the same ones that are present here on Earth. This will present a challenge to the scientists and researchers.

With all the collected data that radio telescopes would provide the researchers from using the low frequencies, they would have to sift through thousands of technosignatures to pull out the ones that come from terrestrial sources. Again, this will of course, complicate the search.

To get around this problem, to get around the "frequency interference", they came up with what they are calling "coincidence rejection" method. This method takes into account for radio emissions that surround each of the telescopes. In other words, if someone were to make a phone call in Ireland near one of the radio telescopes that same call would not show up in the data at a radio telescope in Sweden. And the same would apply if someone were to make a phone call in Sweden. This is because the two telescopes will not be pointing at each other, but at an exoplanet candidate.

With the "coincidence rejection" method in place, these frequency interferences are taken into account at each of the radio telescopes sites. This way, they can determine whether or not that a technosignature is coming from a terrestrial origin or from an extraterrestrial origin. By using this method they can whittle down the thousands of candidate signals down to zero. In this case, it doesn't mean they didn't find intelligent life, it just means the search for life in the cosmos is just getting started. And with the likely event that there are more Earth-like planets yet to be discovered and if the "coincidence rejection" method does work, then using this method will be key in discovery of extraterrestrial life in the future.

S.E.T.I. is also interested in other ways of searching the low frequency for technosignatures. One such way is called Nenufar (New Extension Nanay Upgrading LoFar). This method is used to carry out searches at the frequency range of 30 to 85MHz. Using this method in conjunction with LoFar will hopefully increase the observations by a factor of ten in the coming year. The data collected will also help in investigating pulsars, fast radio bursts, radio exoplanets and more.

And this is only the beginning of search for extraterrestrial life in the cosmos.

End of report.

Source material from Space.com

Laugh About It

In The Words Of A Child

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: He is 6 years.

Teacher: What? How is this possible

Kid: He became father only when I was born.

(Logic!! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)

Laugh Your Way To Glory

A young man asked an old rich man how he made his money.

The old guy fingered his wool vest and said,

"Well, son, it was 1932. The depth of the Great Depression. I was down to my last nickel. I invested that nickel in an apple. I spent the entire day polishing the apple and at the end of the day, I sold the apple for ten cents. The next morning, I invested those ten cents in two apples. I spent the entire day polishing them and sold them at 5:00 pm for 20 cents. I continued this system for a month, by the end of which I'd accumulated a fortune of \$1.37. "And that's how you built an empire?" the boy asked. "Heavens, no!" the man replied. "Then my wife's father died and left us two million dollars."

Subject: Fwd: Department of Water Resources

A Department of Water Resources representative stops at a Texas ranch and talks with an old rancher. He tells the rancher, need to inspect your ranch for your water allocation.

The old rancher says, "Okay, but don't go in that field over there." The Water representative says, "Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me. See this card? This card means I am allowed to go WHEREVER I WISH on any agricultural land. No questions asked or answered.

Have I made myself clear? Do you understand?"

The old rancher nods politely and goes about his chores. Later, the old rancher hears loud scream and spies the Water

Rep running for his life and terrified. So the old rancher immediately throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs, **YOUR CARD! SHOW HIM YOUR CARD!**"

Everything I Wanted

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and I don't have acne.

Life is great. I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds.

People get out of the way much faster now. Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers.

Now they drink like their fathers. I didn't make it to gym today.

That makes five years in a row. I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the "Jim" this morning.

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

When I was a child I thought "nap time" was a punishment. Now it feels like a small vacation. The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't have to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have grey hair, I have "wisdom highlights!" I'm just very wise. If god wanted me touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees. Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet. Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway. Of course, I talk to myself, Sometimes I need expert advice. At my age "Getting Lucky" means walking into room and remembering what I came in there for. I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names.

Now, I'm wondering, did I send this to you, or did you send it to me?

Remembering Christmas Past

Do you remember going with your dad to pick out that "Right Tree", you know what I mean. That one that was just right.

Those were the fun times. Supposedly if you put sugar in the water, the tree would last longer. Dad would get that tree a couple weeks before Christmas, but then it would go into the garage till that day. Dad always picked short needle pine.

Funny how this time of year, brings out the goodness of those memories. Do you remember back then? Those simpler times back then. Christmas music sure helps doesn't it? How did you celebrate back then? I mostly remember those days. Ahhh, yes those memories.

Turn Into A Fish

All throughout dinner my wife's best friend's four year old daughter, stared at me as I sat down opposite her. The girl was hardly eating her food since she was staring at me most of the time. I checked my shirt to see if there were any spots, felt my face for any food morsel stuck, and patted my hair in place but nothings stopped her from staring at me! Finally, I asked her, "Why are you staring at me?! The others too at the table noticed her staring and remained silent waiting to hear her response. The little girl finally said, "I am waiting to see how you drink like a fish!"

Go To Store To Find a Husband

So, a woman goes to the husband store to find a husband. On the first floor the sign on the door reads: Floor 1 – These Men Have Jobs. She is intrigued, but continues to the second floor, where the sign reads: Floor 2 – These Men Have Jobs And Love Children. "That's nice, she thinks, But I want more. So she continues upwards. The third floor sign reads: Floor 3 – These men have jobs, love children and are extremely good looking. "Wow." She thinks, but feels compelled to keep going. She goes to the fourth floor and the sign reads: Floor 4 – These men have jobs, love children, and are drop-dead good looking and also help with

housework. Oh, mercy me!" she exclaims, "I can hardly stand it!" Still, she carry's on and goes to the fifth floor.

The sign reads: Floor 5 – These men have jobs, love children, are drop-dead gorgeous, help with housework, and have a strong romantic streak. She is so tempted to stay, but she carry's on and goes to the sixth floor, where the sign reads: Floor 6 – You are visitor 31,456,012 to this floor.

There are no men on this floor. This floor exists solely as proof that women are impossible to please. Thank you for shopping at the husband store. Please Note: To avoid gender bias charges. The store's owner opened a Wives store just across the street with the same rules. The first floor has wives that love sex. The second floor has wives that love sex, have money and like beer. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth floors have never been visited. Thank you for visiting the wife store. Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year.

Another Dumb Blonde Joke #4

A blonde driving a car became lost in a snowstorm. She didn't panic however, because she remembered what her dad had once told her, "If you ever get stuck in a snowstorm, just wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it"

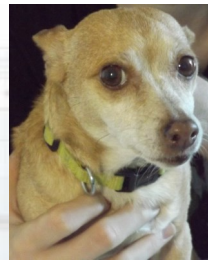
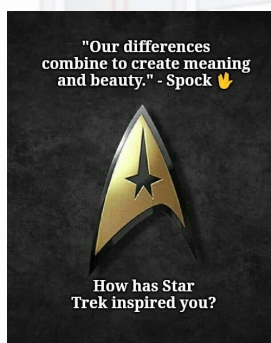
Sure enough, pretty soon a snow plow came by, and she started to follow it. She follow the plow for about forty-five minutes. Finally the driver of the truck got out and asked her what she was doing. And she explained that her dad had told her if she ever got stuck in a snow storm, to follow a plow.

The driver nodded and said, "Well, I'm done with the Wal-Mart parking lot, Do you want to follow me over to Best Buy now?"

Be Careful What You Drink

There I was sitting at the bar staring at my drink when a large, trouble-making biker steps up next to me, grabs my drink and gulps it down in one swig. "Well, whatcha' gonna do about it?", he says menacingly, as I burst into tears.

"This is the worst day of my life," I say. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any Insurance. I left my wallet In the cab I took home. I found my wife with another man and then my dog bit me So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all. I buy a drink, I drop a capsule in and sit here watching the poison dissolve; then you show up and drink the whole thing! But enough about me, how your day doing?"



Pin-Pin's Recipe Corner

Cardassian Deviled Regova Eggs

INGREDIENTS

12 large eggs
Green and yellow food coloring
3 tablespoons yogurt
½ cup roasted red peppers
1 clove garlic, minced
1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Optional topping: microgreens, red pepper flakes.

Fill a large bowl with ice and water and set near the stove. Select a pot large enough to fit all the eggs, and fill it halfway with water, then bring to a boil. Gently lower the eggs into the pot and cover. Cook for 14 minutes, then transfer the eggs to the ice bath to cool for 15 minutes.

Once cool, gently crack each egg on a hard surface several time, leaving a series of spiderweb cracks all over the shells. Place the cracked eggs in a large bowl, cover with water, and add food coloring until the water is dark. Let the eggs sit in the food coloring bath for at least 4 to 6 hours.

Carefully peel the shells from the eggs to reveal a colorful pattern on the whites. Trim off the top quarter of the eggs and scoop out the yolks. If necessary, trim a little white from the bottoms so the eggs will stand upright. Return the egg whites to the food coloring bath for another hour or so while the filling is made.

In a food processor, combine the yolks, yogurt, roasted peppers, garlic, lemon juice, and salt and pepper to taste and blend until smooth. Transfer the mixture to a piping bag fitted with a large decorative tip and pipe the filling back into the egg whites. If desired, garnish with greens and sprinkle with pepper flakes to finish.

Earth Pizza with Bunnicorn Sausage

INGREDIENTS

DOUGH

1 cup warm water
1 tablespoon sugar
2 teaspoons instant (fast acting) yeast
3 tablespoons olive oil, plus more for the bowl
1 ½ teaspoons salt
3 cups all-purpose flour
¼ cup cornmeal, for the pan

TOPPINGS

8 ounces store-bought pizza sauce of choice
2 medium tomatoes, thinly sliced
2 (8-ounce) balls fresh mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced
¼ cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
Handful of fresh basil leaves
Bunnicorn Sausage Patties (recipe follows; see Note), torn into small pieces
Olive oil, for brushing
Salt and red pepper flakes

Make the dough; In a medium bowl, combine the water, sugar, yeast, oil, and salt. Gradually add the flour until the dough is not too sticky but still pretty firm. Turn the dough out onto a lightly flour surface and knead for several minutes until it's pliable and bounces back when poked. Transfer the dough to a lightly oiled bowl, cover, and place in a warm spot to rise until doubled in size, about 1 hour. Divide the dough into two equal pieces, then let rise again for another 20 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 450F. Set out a large baking sheet.

Take one of the dough pieces and pinch it into a flat disc. Then lay it down on lightly floured surface and continue to press and flatten as much as you can into a round shape, about 1/8 of an inch, leaving a little extra thickness on the edges for the crust. Sprinkle half the cornmeal on the baking sheet to keep the dough from sticking, then move the dough to the sheet.

Top the pizza; Spread a thin layer of sauce over the dough, then dot with the fresh tomatoes, mozzarella, parmesan, basil, and bunnicorn sausage pieces. Repeat with the second piece of dough and toppings.

Bake both until their crusts are brown and the cheese fully melted, about 12 minutes. Remove from the oven and place on a rack.

Brush the crusts with olive oil and sprinkle a little salt and pepper flakes over the top. Cut and serve while still hot.

Note: The sausage is best prepared ahead of time so the meat has time to develop flavor from the spices. In a pinch, you can start it before making the dough and let it sit while the dough rises.

Bunnicorn Sausage Patties

1 pound ground rabbit or turkey meat
1 ½ teaspoon fennel seed

1 teaspoon dried sage
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
Pinch of ground ginger
Pinch of garlic powder
Pinch of red pepper flakes
1 teaspoon olive oil

In a large bowl, combine the ground meat and seasonings and mix everything until completely and evenly blended. Cover the bowl and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or overnight to allow the flavors to blend and deepen.

Heat a nonstick skillet over medium heat and add the olive oil. Tear off a small piece of the meat, no more than ¼ cup a time, and flatten between your hands. Lay the patty in the pan and cook for several minutes on each side, until browned and cooked through. Repeat with the remaining meat, tearing each cooked patty into smaller bite-sized pieces, then set aside until ready to use.

This recipe makes enough topping for four pizzas, so any leftovers can be frozen for 2 to 3 months.

Talaxian Kalavian Biscuits

INGREDIENTS

1 ¼ cups almond flour
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup granulated sugar
1 tablespoon matcha powder
Pinch of salt
2 egg whites
¼ teaspoon fresh lemon juice
½ teaspoon almond extract
¼ cup powdered sugar, or as needed

Preheat the oven to 300F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl, combine with a mixer the almond flour, all-purpose flour, granulated sugar, matcha powder, and salt, whisking together until evenly mixed.

In a small bowl, beat the egg whites and the lemon juice for a few minutes until they form soft peaks. Stir the beaten egg whites, along with the almond extract, into the flour mixture. Start off mixing with a spoon, but it's fine to switch to bare hands if needed.

Place the powdered sugar in a small bowl. Scoop up about a tablespoon of the dough and roll it into a ball. Then roll the balls in the powdered sugar and place on the baking sheet, leaving about 1 inch between the balls.

Bake until the biscuits are set and the bottoms are lightly browned, 25 to 30 minutes. Allow to cool for about 10 minutes before serving.

Note: For a more unique version, stuff the dough balls with a few chocolate chips-white, milk, or semisweet chocolate are all great options-before rolling in the powdered sugar. This will give the biscuits a small gooey center once baked.

Earth Classic Tomato Soup

INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
1 medium yellow onion, medium dice
Kosher salt
2 medium garlic cloves, minced
Pinch of red pepper flakes (optional)
1 (28-ounce) can whole peeled tomatoes in their juices, preferably San Marzanos
1 ½ cups low-sodium chicken broth or water
1/3 cup heavy cream
Freshly ground black pepper; to taste
Optional garnishes (alone or in combination):
Extra-virgin olive oil
4 fresh basil leaves, julienned
Freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Place a medium saucepan over medium-low heat and add the oil and butter. When the butter melts, add the onion and a big pinch of salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion is completely soft, about 15 minutes. (If at any point the onion looks like it's beginning to brown, reduce the heat.) Add the garlic and optional red peppers flakes and cook for 5 minutes more, stirring occasionally.

Increase the heat to medium and add the tomatoes and their juices to the pan. Roughly crush the tomatoes with the back of a wooden spoon and cook until they're hot and beginning to soften, about 10 minutes. Add the broth or water and bring to a simmer until the tomatoes begin to fall apart, about 15 minutes.

Remove the soup from the heat and cool slightly about 10 minutes. Puree the soup directly in the saucepan using an immersion blender; or use a countertop blender; carefully pureeing the soup in a couple of batches until smooth. Return the soup to the burner over low heat and stir in the cream. Add black pepper; then taste and adjust the seasoning with additional salt and pepper as needed. Serve in warmed bowls, as is or topped with the garnishes of your choice.

Risan Mai-tai

INGREDIENTS

Thin slices of kiwifruit, plus
1 slice for garnish
Crushed ice
3 ounces mango juice
1 ounce spiced rum
½ ounce triple sec
½ ounce cinnamon whiskey
A few drops of Angostura bitters
Splash of grenadine

Layer the kiwifruit slices along the bottom of a large glass with a deep bowl and fill two-thirds full with crushed ice. In a cocktail shaker, combine the mango juice, rum, triple sec, cinnamon whiskey, and bitters. Shake just enough to mix thoroughly, then pour into the glass. Drizzle a little grenadine on top, allowing it to sink to the bottom of the glass for color, then garnish with a slice of kiwi and serve.

Romulan Ace

INGREDIENTS

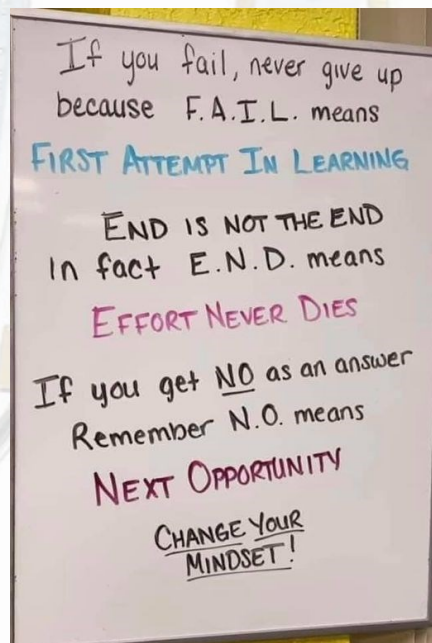
3 oz blue curacao, chilled
1 ½ oz Blue Moon, chilled
(or Shock Top Belgian White)

Pour your blue curacao into a tall glass.

Add your Blue Moon, stirring gently to make sure they fully combine.

Yep, that's it!

Serve to your Romulan neighbors to inspire friendship!



The Study Of The Constellations #3

Welcome to another installment of 'The Study Of The Constellations'. As you can see we have finally come up with a title for this column. It may have taken three issues, but nonetheless we finally have one. Last issue we featured the constellation Antlia. Well, what we didn't realize until we got well into the research of Antlia constellation, was that, this constellation is from the southern hemisphere. What we were planning was to feature one constellation from the northern hemisphere first then move on to the southern hemisphere. Considering those are the only ones we can see at night. So, beginning in this installment we will feature only those constellations that can be seen in the night sky of the northern hemisphere. So, without further delay, let us begin with the...

Aquila Constellation

Some facts about Aquila

Aquila the Eagle or Eagle

Abbreviation: Aql

Right ascension 20 hours Declination 5 degrees

Area: (square degrees) 652.473

Visible between latitude 90degrees North -75degrees South
NQ4 (North Quadrant 4)

No Messier Objects

Pronunciation: uh-KWIL-uh

Aquila is Latin for the Eagle

First cataloged by the Greek astronomer Ptolemy in the 2nd century A.D.

Crosses the meridian on August 30 at 9p.m.

Aquila is one of 15 equatorial constellations

Some of the neighboring constellations: Aquarius, Capricornus, Delphinus, Hercules, Ophiuchus, Sagitta, Sagittarius, Scutum, and Serpens Cauda.

The Eagle constellation is easy to spot. It is opposite of the celestial Swan (Cygnus). The stars Altair, Deneb and Lyra form a prominent asterism called Summer Triangle.

The Myths of the Aquila Constellation

With the Aquila constellation there are several myths,

Version One: Hebe, the daughter of Zeus, was the goddess of youth, she would appear at ceremonies as the official cup bearer. Hebe was also responsible for pouring of the wine. She gave up her position to marry Heracles. There are some who say that she was actually sacked (fire) for indelicately exposing herself at an ceremony. Which made the position of official cup bearer open. Zeus would find a replacement in a Trojan prince, Ganymede. They say Zeus, either disguised himself as an eagle or sent his royal eagle (who carries Zeus's thunderbolts) to pluck him from his native land and then had him brought to Mount Olympus where he would become the new cup bearer and pourer of the wine for the gods. Constellation Aquila represents the eagle who

carried the youth Ganymede. The constellation Aquarius represents Ganymede.

Version two: Aquila represents Aphrodite disguised as an eagle, pretending to pursue Zeus in the form of a swan, so that Zeus' love interest, the goddess Nemesis, would give him shelter. Zeus would commemorate the event by placing the images of the eagle and the swan among the stars.

Version three: The eagle is found guarding the arrows of Eros (represented by constellation Sagitta), which struck Zeus and made him love-struck.

The Stars That Make Up The Constellation Aquila

There are some 10 stars that make up the constellation Aquila. The first on the list is...

Altair or The Flying Eagle...is a blue subdwarf star with a magnitude of .77. It is the 12th brightest star in the night sky. It is 16.8 light-years from Earth. It is the closest star that can be seen by the naked eye. It is one of the corner star in the Summer Triangle. The best time to see Altair is between the month of July to November. It is a A-type star hydrogen fusing dwarf. The star itself is 1.8 times the mass of our own star. It will shift its position by one degree in about five thousand years.

Tarazed or Gamma Aquila... Beam of the scale. The star is an orange giant star with magnitude of 2.72. It is the second brightest star in the constellation. It is located 461 light-years from Earth. It is a known source of X-rays. And it is at least 100 million years old and in burning helium into carbon in its core. The star is considered to the tail feather of the eagle.

Deneb el Okab Australis or Epsilon Aquila... "South Tail of the Eagle" It is a trinary star system with a magnitude of 4.02. The third brightest star in the constellation. Located 154 light-years from Earth. Its main star is an orange k-type star. It is a known barium star one that contain a lot of barium. The other two stars are suspected optical binaries.

Tseen Foo or Theta Aquila... "Heavenly Rafter" Is a binary star system magnitude 3.26. The system main star is a blue-white b-type giant. The system is 287 light-years from Earth. The name also means "drumstick" in mandarin.

Delta Aquila – A binary star system both stars produce a magnitude 3.37. It is equatorial constellation. The star system lies 50 light-years from Earth.

Al Thalimain or Lambda Aquila... Is a blue-white b-type dwarf star with a magnitude of 3.43, and is 125 light-year from Earth. In 1973, N.A.S.A. launched the probe Pioneer 11 it should reach that star system in about four million years (if all goes well). The probe left our solar system in 1990. It has stop transmitting data in 1995. It's due to (they think) Pioneer's power being too weak to send anything.

Alshain or Beta Aquila... "The Falcon" A yellow-white sub-giant. It has a magnitude of 3.71. The star system is 45 light-years from Earth. It is seventh brightest star in the constellation. It was designated Beta Aquila by Johann Bayer.

Bezek or Eta Aquila “Lightning”... A yellow-white supergiant with a magnitude of 3.87. The star is 1,200 light-years from Earth.

Deneb el Okab or Epsilon Aquila... It is a trinary star system with a combine magnitude of 4.02. The system is 156.6 light-years from Earth.

Al Thalimain or Iota Aquila... “Two Ostriches” Is a blue-white giant star with a magnitude of 4.36. The system is 307 light-years from,

Deep Sky Objects

This constellation has several deep sky objects here is a list of those objects.

NGC 6709, 6738, 6741 (Phantom Streak Nebula), 6749, 6751, 6755, 6760, 6772, 6775, 6778, 6781, 6790, 6803, 6803, 6804, and B143-4 (Dark Nebula).

Aquila is a part of the Hercules Family of constellation. The other constellations included are Ara, Centaurus, Corona Australis, Corvus, Crater, Crux, Cygnus, Hercules, Hydra, Lupus, Lyra, Ophiuchus, Sagitta, Scutum, Serpens, Sextans, Triangulum Australe, and Vulpecula.

Aquila has neighboring constellation. And those are, Aquarius, Capricornus, Delphinus, Hercules, Ophiuchus, Sagitta, Sagittarius, Scutum, and Serpens Cauda.

End of report.

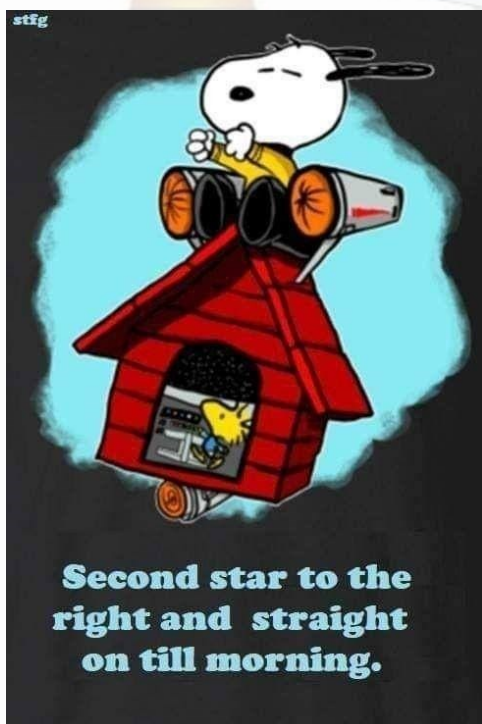
Source material from...

Constellation-guide.com

Seasky.org

Earthsky.org

Book: The Constellation: Myths of the stars, Why and how they came to be. Errol Jud Coder Author.



The Weird, The Strange, And What The ?

Proud: Investigators from the Pinellas County (Fla.) Sheriff's Office working a burglary case were given a tip, and detained a man, but the man refused to cooperate with deputies in any way, including providing his identity. “He was told he would be charged with obstruction and he continued to refuse, stating, ‘call my lawyer’,” the arresting officer reported. Once fingerprinted, he was identified as Michael Gordon, 46, of Clearwater, and booked into jail on the promised charge. Deputies noted he was wearing a T-shirt that read, “I Just Got out of Prison.” Close enough: a cross-check found he was released in March. (RC/WFLA Tampa) ... *Give him a break: that was his only accomplishment this year.*

Putting the “Fun” in “No Fun”: Canadians know Ottawa as two things: the nation's capital, and “the city that fun forgot.” The Ottawa city council is trying to change the latter through its Ottawa Nightlife Economy Action Plan. That includes a \$160,000 (US\$118,000) budget for its new “Nightlife Commissioner Office” — complete with a “night mayor” who will work with officials, regulators, businesses, and the public to deliver a new plan. First is to promote participation in the “nightlife economy” by locals. Next year, Phase 2 will establish a Nightlife Ambassador Council — and develop a Nightlife Safety and Security Plan. (MS/CTV, Wall Street Journal) ... *With that, they're “the city that plans to have fun.”*

The Power of the Ballot Box: Voters in the Central Bucks, Pa., School District booted a majority of the school board, which had made it easier for anyone — not just parents — to request a book ban at schools. At its first meeting after new members were seated, its newly elected President, Karen Smith, took her oath of office not on a Bible, but on a stack of a half-dozen frequently banned books, with *Night* by Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winning author Elie Wiesel on top. A high school principal had ordered the librarian to remove a poster with a quote from the book as it supposedly violated the previous Board's “neutrality” policy: “I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. — Elie Wiesel.” The action resulted in a “flood” of bad publicity for the district; the principal's decision was rescinded the next day. (RC/Bucks County Courier Times) ... *“If you ask me what I want to achieve, it's to create an awareness, which is already the beginning of teaching.” — Wiesel.*

Too Bad: Susan Hodgson did not ask for the house where she and her late husband had shared good times to be torn down. And she owned it. Nevertheless, she went to the house and discovered it had been torn down — by mistake, the business that did it told her. Now she's made another discovery: a stop work order demanding that she clean things up and take care of the permitting. “The structure on the property was demolished without a permit,” the Atlanta Department of City Planning explained in a statement. “The property owner is responsible for their property and for any violations that occur pertaining to that property.” The statement continues: “The demolition of the property without the owner's consent or knowledge is not a matter for the City of

Atlanta.” (AC/WAGA Atlanta) ...*It's not our problem that you were victimized. But it is your problem that you didn't get a permit first.*

He's Worth Five Bucks Now: Mary Farquharson, 64, known to her son's friends as “Momma Jane”, has been a fan of rapper 50 Cent for years, and she finally got to see him at a concert in Birmingham, England. After the concert she went home and went to bed. She woke up the next morning to give her dog eyedrops, and noticed her phone was buzzing when she went back to bed. “I didn't take any notice of it,” Farquharson said. “I thought, ‘I will deal with that later’.” When she checked later, she said, “All my friends and neighbours were sending me messages. I thought, ‘This is a wind up’.” A member of the production crew at the concert had captured her on video enjoying the show — and 50 Cent himself had shared the clip on social media, calling her “by far” the coolest person at the show. “She was rocking with me,” the rapper said. Farquharson thanked all the people who left “nice comments” on her viral video, but she had a correction to those describing her as an old lady. “If you meet me, I'm not,” she said. “I can hold my own with anybody, young or old.” (MS/BBC) ... *Try to keep up.*

I'm Not as Think as You Drunk I Am: Employees at a convenience store in Tulsa, Okla., flagged down police to report a man smashed two doors on a beer cooler with a pipe, ran out carrying stolen beer, and escaped in a silver Land Rover. Hours later, police got a small lead in the case: a 24-hour grocery store about 5 miles away called 911 to report that a silver Land Rover had smashed into their front doors, and was half-way inside. Officers arrived to find the driver chatting with store employees — as he drank a beer. The officers were able to connect the two cases, with something other than the obvious similarity in vehicle descriptions, and arrested Jose Silverio on preliminary charges of felony vandalism and petit larceny, noting a DUI charge may be forthcoming depending on the results of blood testing. (RC/KTUL Tulsa) ... *Yeah, we're all holding our breaths on those results.*

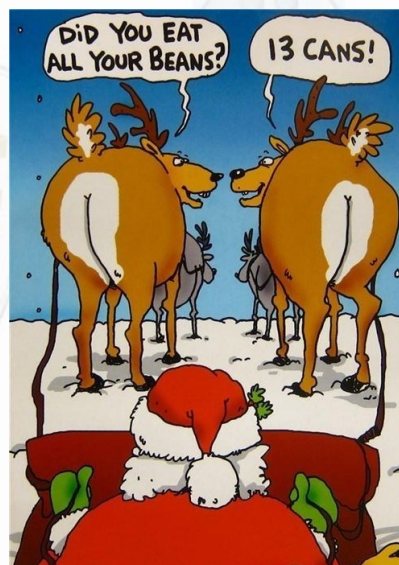
She's a Fireball: Florence Hackman of Deerfield Township, Ohio, enjoyed announcing what she was going to do on Saturday: watch TV coverage of her favorite football team, the Cincinnati Bengals, playing the Minnesota Vikings, while she sits with about 50 people, including local firefighters, and drinking Fireball Cinnamon Whisky. What's the big deal? It was Flo's (as she likes to be called) 105th birthday. The Vikings dominated during the first three quarters, but the Bengals made a big comeback in the 4th and won in overtime, 27–24. (RC/Cincinnati Enquirer) ... *Which gives Flo a strong will to live at least through the playoffs.*

I've Been Trying to Tell You! Hypochondriacs — people who are certain they have some sort of disease even when doctors can find no evidence of any actual illness — may be on to something, according to a “large” study in Sweden. “We got lucky,” says Dr. David Mataix-Cols of the Karolinska Institute, who led the study. Sweden's classification system for health statistics specifically notes patients with hypochondriasis, which allowed them to track the outcomes of 4,100 patients over 24 years, and sure enough they die about 5 years earlier on average than people with similar demographics without hypochondriasis. Thus, the study concludes, hypochondriacs should be treated — such as with relaxation

therapy or anti-depressants — rather than dismissed with the notion that “it's all in their head.” (RC/AP) ... *Where there's a will, there's a pill.*

Some People Don't Like Surprises: When Brett Gaffney visited his grandma, she gave him an early Christmas gift: a briefcase that she told him not to open until he got home. There was a catch: he was taking it, without knowing what was inside, to the airport to fly home. When TSA agents asked Gaffney about the briefcase he admitted he didn't know what it contained. “So I go through security at the airport and the machine goes off, and it gets flagged as it's going through the conveyor belt. The guy [asks] me what's inside it. And I'm like, ‘Why did she...’” he recalled in the TikTok video he made at the airport, though WJW-TV in Cleveland, Ohio, didn't seem to know which airport, or even in which state. The video, titled “Grandma's trying to get me arrested,” reveals the gift is an “old-timey” typewriter. “Am I going to go to the park and write a whole book with a typewriter?” Gaffney asked. He was allowed through security. His conclusion on the video: “Airport Security said this is the second one they have seen today!” (MS/WJW Cleveland) ... *The first chapter writes itself.*

Geronimo! It was 75 years ago, but the event was so striking in its ... *well...* oddness that it's still legendary today. You know, that time when the Idaho Department of Fish and Game dropped 76 beavers from airplanes using parachutes. It was August, 1948, and the idea was to relocate the critters from Payette Lake to the Chamberlain Basin — what is now called the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. No, really. The plan was to help repopulate beavers, which had been nearly eradicated by fur trappers. Transporting them by car or horseback hadn't been successful, so Idaho F&G warden Elmo Heter came up with the idea of the flat-tailed paratroopers. “Horses and mules become spooky and quarrelsome when loaded with a struggling, odorous pair of live beavers,” Heter said at the time. He tested designs on a single male they named Geronimo (of course!), who Heter claimed enjoyed the test runs. The idea worked: when game wardens went back to the area two weeks later, they said there was already evidence of new dam-building. Are their descendants still there? “There's been a fair number of fires in that area in the last 20 years or so,” said Idaho F&G spokesman Roger Phillips, “but if there are meadows, marshes and meandering streams lined with willows, chances are pretty good there are beavers in there.” (RC/Spokane Spokesman-Review) ... *We'll take that as “We have no idea.”*



Perseverance Sets A New Milestone

The Mars rover Perseverance has achieved a major milestone in her operational career on Mars. Perseverance, which is the size of a small car has passed her 1,000th day on Mars or Sols days (Sols days are slightly longer than Earth days. 24 hours and 37 minutes).

"Sol in, sol out! I completed 1,000 Martian days... And My work is far from done," Perseverance team members wrote on Tuesday (December 12) on the mission's official site on X (formerly known as Twitter). Mission team members continued the celebration into Wednesday (December 13).

Both Perseverance and its robotic partner Ingenuity helicopter landed on Mars on February 18, 2021. Its mission: search the Jezero Crater for signs of ancient Mars life inside the 28-mile-wide (45 Kilometers) crater.

"We picked Jezero Crater as a landing site because orbital imagery showed a delta – clear evidence that a large lake once filled the crater," Perseverance project scientist Ken Farley of California Institute of Technology in Pasadena said in a statement on Tuesday, "A lake is a potentially habitable environment, and delta rocks are a great environment for entombing signs of ancient life as fossils in the geologic records," Farley added. "After thorough exploration, we're piecing together the crater's geologic history, charting its lake and rivers phase from beginning to end."

The story begins four billion years ago, when an asteroid impacted the surface of Mars, leaving behind the crater. Jezero's floor was found to be made of volcanic rock, sandstone, and mudstone atop a basal layer that shows that a river started flowing into Jezero crater leaving sediments behind, a few hundred million years after the crater's formation. The river that flowed into the crater's caused a large lake to form as wide as 22 miles (35 kilometers) and as deep as a 100 feet (30 meters) deep.

The delta of the crater is studded with boulders, which they know came from outside of the Jezero crater. N.A.S.A. believes that the boulders were carried there by the powerful torrents.

"We were able to see a broad outline of those chapters in Jezero's history in orbital images, but it required getting up close with Perseverance to really understand the timeline in detail," team member Libby Ives, a post-doctoral fellow at JPL, said in the statement.

Perseverance is collecting and caching samples. This was announced in a statement and at an American Geophysical Union's fall meeting held in San Francisco. The sample collection also contains bits of the red planet material.

"One sample called 'Lefroy Bay' contains a large quantity of fine grained silica a material known to preserve ancient fossils on Earth," N.A.S.A. official wrote in Tuesday's statement. "Another, 'Oris Peak' holds a significant amount of phosphate, which is often associated with life as we know it. Both of these samples are also rich in carbonate, which can preserve a record of the environmental conditions from when the rock formed."

The thousand days also proved that Ingenuity a four pound chopper had the endurance and the staying power to its job. Ingenuity was only slated for five flight campaigns. The chopper also proved that an aerial exploration on Mars is possible. Ingenuity aced its task in the spring of 2021. It's mission was extended after that. So far, Ingenuity has racked up an additional 62 flights.

End of report.

Source material from Space.com

Brightstar Notes

The first meeting of the Brightstar for the month of December was held on the 13th at 11p.m. The meeting took place via Messenger. Present at the meeting was Captain Debbie Henderson (commanding officer) and Commander James Webb (first officer/chief science officer).

First item up for discussion, was awards. Captain Henderson reports that she will not be able send the awards that Commander Webb earned at the fleet meeting at Starbase Indy, until after the beginning of the new year. This due to the holidays.

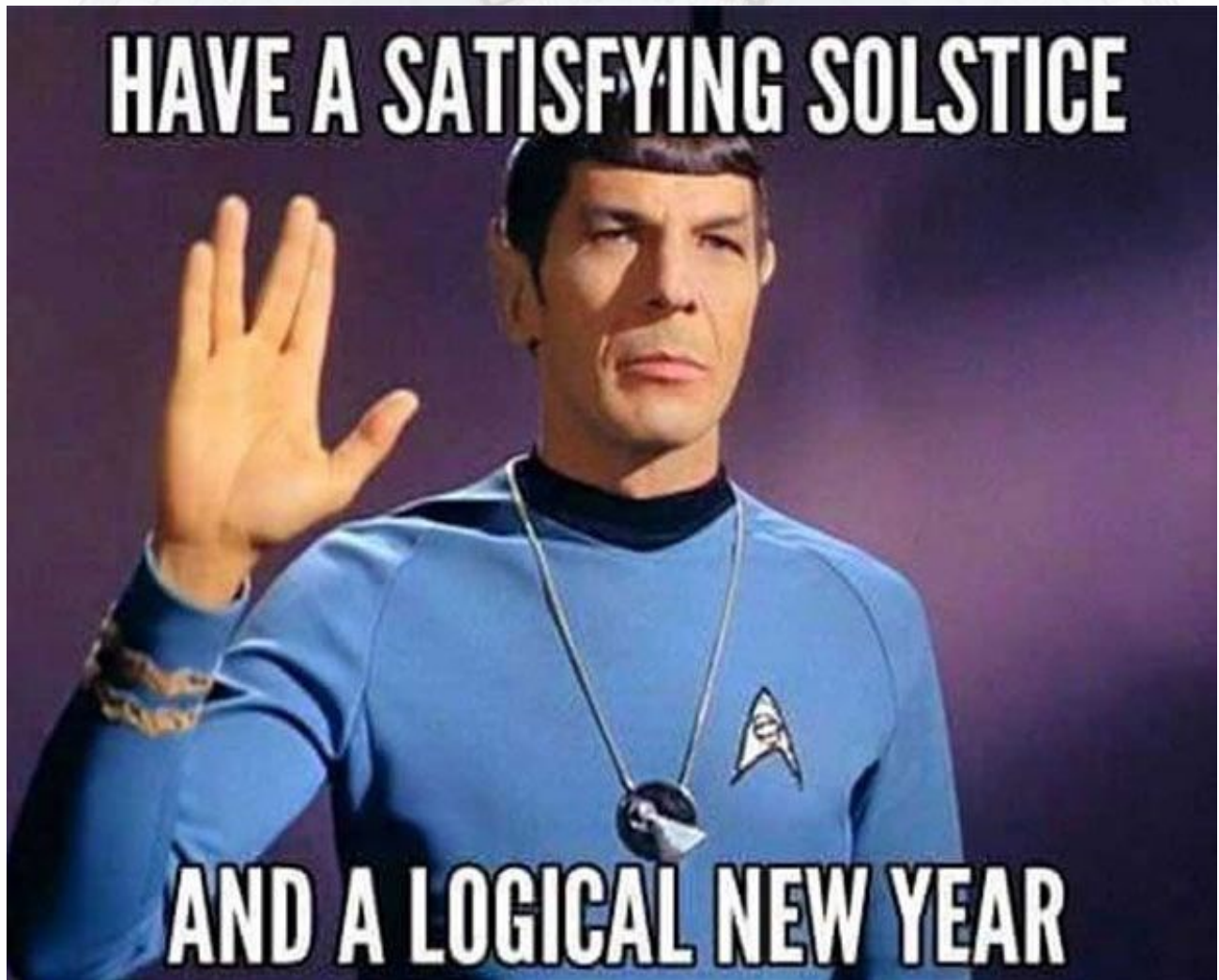
The commanding officer thanked the first officer for the Christmas card she'd received. The first officer relayed that he sent Christmas cards to other Brightstar's crew members. Commander Webb gave a report on the contents of the January's StarLight newsletter. He informed the captain that an article that was started in the Starlight November 2023 issue will be permanent part of the newsletter. At this point, the meeting became a general chit-chat session with the main subject being about Christmas. The meeting was called to a close at 12:36 a.m.

The second meeting of the Brightstar was held via Messenger on December 26, 2023, at 10:20 p.m. First on list of discussions, renewals, and dues. Captain Henderson said at present the ship is on track to have everyone on board the Brightstar renewed by the end of January. Went over contact information and updated that information. The meeting then broke into general chit-chat sessions. The meeting was called to a close at 12:20 a.m.

End of report.



See Everyone Next Issue



*Have A Safe And
Happy 2024*