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### Status Report

Crew Manifest	
Total Assigned:	12
Officers:	4
Enlisted:	5
Cadets:	1
Citizens:	2

Happy New Years Veritas Crew, and here is to hoping for a great 2025!

This year needs to be all about growth. Let's grow our monthly activities, our mutual love of Star Trek, and with any luck, our crew roster. We are already working with the Harker Heights Library to hopefully host a First Contact Day celebration on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>, and we're wanting to host a table at a few conventions this year.

If you have any family members that have an interest in Star Trek, invite them along to our events. Let's get to work on making the USS Veritas the pride of Region 3.

# ACHIEVEMENTS



## Academic Achievement

This month a single individual completed classes in the academy. When a member of the crew achieves a score of 90 or better (Honors) or a perfect score of 100 (Distinction) in a course, they will be acknowledged here.

- Dustin Freeman - Distinction: 3 Honors: 7	- Elijah Freeman - Honors: 1
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## Challenge Takers

- None -

## Awards

- Richard Quinn -

Special Activities Award - SFSO

- Elijah Freeman -

Special Activities Award - SFSO

- Dustin Freeman -

Special Activities Award - SFSO

## Promotions

None

## Crew Promotion Points

Rank	Name	Temporary Points	Permanent Points	Total Points
CAPT	Freeman , Dustin Gene	46	137	183
CMDR	Fitch , Bryan	8	70	78
LTJG	Freeman , Elijah Gabriel	66	60	126
LTJG	Sturgeon , William Arthur	49	95	144
CDT 3C	Freeman , Lucas Alexander	24	0	24
CRA	Gage , Floyd	15	0	15
CZN	PEAVLER OSBORN , RILEY KAYLA-ANNE CORINNE	16	0	16
CZN	OSBORN , IAN WILLIAM	3	0	3
CRMN	Mock , Christopher	2	10	12
CRA	Mock , Rachel	9	0	9
CRR	McQuitty , Hannah	15	0	15
CRA	Quinn , Richard Michael	15	0	15

# CAPTAINS LOG

Hello crew, and welcome to 2025! This last year has been pretty wild, both personally and as a chapter. We have had a quiet month with the Christmas season keeping everyone busy but there was still plenty of Star Trek stuff going on. Star Trek Online has been going all in on its Winter Wonderland Event while the fleet has been working on its Starbase and Dilithium mine.



The STARFLEET Science auxiliary has launched its new SRT's (Science Research Teams). It works like many other auxiliaries not unlike our ships current SFSO (STARFLEET Special Operations) SOU (Special Operations Unit), where you build a group of members in your ship that has an interest in the department, (Science in this case), and serve as an informational and communications resource for the chapter in all things science. Through this, they seek enhance interest in science within the chapter's membership and promote science education wherever possible. They have also developed Science Specialist Training in Anthropology, Astronomy, Astro & regular Biology, Entomology, and Forensic Science. I strongly encourage you to check it out, over at the Science Auxiliary site <https://sciences.sfi.org/> and if you are interested in starting an SRT on our ship, (or any other auxiliary unit) please just reach out to me and let me know.

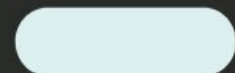
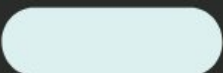


Speaking of Auxiliaries, we have the STARFLEET Special Operations Unit SOU-1791. This auxiliary focuses on survival skills and tactical knowledge. We also occasionally go a firing range together and have a good time practicing our marksmanship. Even if you have no interest in coming to the range with us, you would be shocked at the depth of practical knowledge you develop on how to respond to and survive emergency situations. As I have already stated, just reach out to me and I'll get you started.



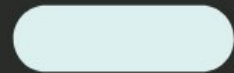
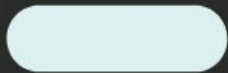
Lastly, we have our awards and promotions ceremony scheduled for Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Uniform is encouraged but not mandatory and we will celebrate with each other over our accomplishments over the last quarter. I will be reminding you over the next month and again next newsletter but make your plans to be there now.

-CAPT Freeman, Dustin  
co.ussveritas@sfi.org  
CO, USS Veritas



# ***FIRST OFFICERS LOG***

No Report for January



# STO Fleet Report

LCARS 2-1025

STARFLEET has an auxiliary dedicated to games called STARFLEET Tactical. This encompasses everything from tabletop to video games. One of the core games I play with the fleet is **Star Trek Online**. The fleet for SFI has been working on our Starbase and recently even upgraded our bar.

112-38920



104-28499



98-39920

Our main focus as a fleet in game right now is upgrading our dilithium mine. Doing so will reduce the dilithium cost on all future fleet projects. If you've never played, you're missing out as it continues the storyline of Star Trek past Star Trek: Nemesis. The storylines are generally well thought out and the cameos of the actors delivering spectacular performances with their voices help the world feel like a proper continuity.

For those that do play, consider joining the SFI fleet and working together in unlocking all the game content.

12-1029

18-4690

19-4595

23-2204

2012

1117

2385

1040

2278

3116

1040

100-27789

117-37822

122-37893



956

3788

## Exploring "The Eye of the Beholder": A Star Trek: The Animated Series Classic



*One of the most memorable episodes of Star Trek: The Animated Series (TAS), "The Eye of the Beholder", aired on October 13, 1973. Written by David P. Harmon, this episode delivers a quintessential Star Trek narrative: a first-contact scenario that explores the clash between appearances and reality, as well as the cultural misunderstandings that often arise from limited perspectives. Featuring vivid animation and a creative storyline, "The Eye of the Beholder" remains a highlight of TAS and a valuable addition to the broader Star Trek canon.*

### **Plot Summary**

*The episode begins with the crew of the USS Enterprise investigating the disappearance of the science vessel SS Ariel on the planet Lactra VII. Captain Kirk, Spock, and Dr. McCoy lead a landing party, discovering a planet teeming with intelligent, seemingly advanced life forms. However, the crew soon finds themselves captured by the Lactrans, a species of 20-foot-long slug-like beings with extraordinary telepathic abilities.*

*The Lactrans perceive the Enterprise crew as inferior and akin to "pets," placing them in a zoo-like enclosure alongside other captured beings. The team's efforts to communicate with their captors initially fail, as the Lactrans' intellectual superiority and vastly different worldview render traditional communication methods ineffective.*

*Spock ultimately establishes a telepathic connection with a young Lactran, bridging the gap between the two species. Through this connection, the Lactrans come to understand that the humans are not mere animals but sentient beings with their own unique value. The episode concludes with the Lactrans releasing the Enterprise crew and returning them to their ship, a resolution underscoring the importance of mutual respect and understanding in interspecies encounters.*

## Themes and Messages

"The Eye of the Beholder" deftly explores several recurring Star Trek themes, including:

- **Perspective and Assumptions:** The Lactrans' initial dismissal of the humans as lesser beings mirrors the way humans often underestimate other life forms. This critique encourages viewers to challenge their own assumptions about intelligence and worth.
- **Communication and Understanding:** The episode emphasizes the importance of finding common ground through communication, a hallmark of Star Trek's optimistic vision for the future.
- **The Role of Empathy:** Spock's telepathic link with the young Lactran demonstrates that empathy and effort can overcome even vast cultural and biological differences.

## Reception and Legacy

Upon its release, "The Eye of the Beholder" received praise for its imaginative depiction of alien life and its thought-provoking storyline. The Lactrans, with their unique physiology and telepathic abilities, are often cited as one of the most inventive alien species in TAS. The episode's message of transcending prejudice and fostering understanding remains as relevant today as it was in the 1970s.

Critics have noted that the animated format of TAS allowed for creative freedom that would have been cost-prohibitive in live-action. The lush, exotic landscape of Lactra VII and the intricate design of the Lactrans exemplify how animation expanded the storytelling possibilities of Star Trek. However, some viewers felt the episode's pacing was rushed, a common critique of TAS episodes due to their 22-minute runtime.

## TAS in the Star Trek Universe

While often overshadowed by its live-action counterparts, Star Trek: The Animated Series holds a unique place in the franchise. Episodes like "The Eye of the Beholder" showcase how TAS built upon the original series' legacy, introducing complex ideas and imaginative scenarios that expanded the Star Trek universe. Notably, TAS was recognized as part of official Star Trek canon for many years, and elements from its episodes continue to influence later series and films.

"The Eye of the Beholder" is a quintessential TAS episode that encapsulates the core values of Star Trek: curiosity, empathy, and the pursuit of understanding. Its exploration of perspective and the nature of intelligence challenges viewers to think beyond appearances, making it a timeless story that resonates with Star Trek's enduring mission to boldly go where no one has gone before. For fans of the animated series and the franchise as a whole, this episode remains a shining example of what makes Star Trek so compelling.

# Upcoming Events

- **AggieCon 2025**

February 1-3, 2025

Texas A&M University Memorial Student Center  
College Station, TX

Aggie Con is the longest student-run fan convention in the world! They're back this year with many esteemed guests, a larger dealer's room and artist's alley, TCG and videogame tournaments, a cosplay contest run by Texas A&M's Cosplay Club, panels, performances, and more!

- **PeliCON!**

Fri, Feb 7 2025, 12:00pm - 7:00am

Sat, Feb 8 2025, 9:00am - 11:00pm

Sun, Feb 9 2025, 9:00am - 5:00pm

The PeliCON is a 3-day board gaming event that will take place on Galveston Island! The event is hosted by Galveston Gaming Expo, a board game-focused nonprofit, and features games, events for the whole family, prizes, and game giveaways!

- **USS Veritas Awards & Promotions Ceremony**

February 8, 2025 @ 1pm

Galaxy Burger, Killeen, TX

We will hold our Quarterly Awards and Promotions Ceremony and enjoy some great food and company!

