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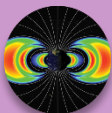
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Status Report

Crew Manifest	
Total Assigned:	13
Officers:	4
Enlisted:	7
Cadets:	2
Citizens:	0

Welcome to March Veritas Crew, and a special welcome to our newest crewmates. Margaret, Amber and Azrael!

Keep inviting friends and family to our ship. And keep up to date by following us on Facebook, X, and/or Discord. It's worth pointing out that engagement on our social media is an easy way to earn promotion points each month.

Make sure to set Saturday, April 5th aside in your calendars for the First Contact Day watch Party at the Harker Heights Public Library. We will have our table set-up there to talk about the fun we have as a crew in addition to watching Star Trek: First Contact!

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: 4 Honors: 2	- Elijah Freeman - Distinction: 1 Honors: 2
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Challenge Takers

Floyd Gage – Reading Challenge

Dustin Freeman – SFSO Cryptography & Map Reconnaissance

Awards

Dustin Freeman – Admiral Shelby Award (SFTA)

Promotions

- Elijah Freeman PROMOTED TO Lieutenant –
- William Sturgeon PROMOTED TO Lieutenant –
- Margaret Garneaux PROMOTED TO Crewman Recruit –
- Amber Freeman PROMOTED TO Crewman Recruit –
- Azrael Freeman PROMOTED TO Cadet 4th Class –

Crew Promotion Points

Rank	Name	Temporary Points	Permanent Points	Total Points
CAPT	Freeman , Dustin Gene	73	137	210
CMRDR	Fitch , Bryan	19	70	89
LT	Freeman , Elijah Gabriel	0	60	60
LT	Sturgeon , William Arthur	0	95	95
CDT 3C	Freeman , Lucas Alexander	37	0	37
CRA	Gage , Floyd	11	0	11
CRMN	Mock , Christopher	11	10	21
CRA	Quinn , Richard Michael	15	0	15
CRR	Mock , Hannah	19	0	19
CRA	Mock , Rachel	13	0	13
CRR	Garneaux , Margaret Ann	1	0	1
CRR	Freeman , Amber Nicole	4	0	4
CDT4	Freeman , Azrael Josiah	2	0	2

CAPTAINS LOG



Great news crew! We have added three new crew members this month. But there's plenty of room for growth. As we move into March, the majority of you have renewed your membership. At this time, I would like to bid farewell to Riley and Ian Osborn. They have a lot going on in life and have elected to not renew. Riley was contributing to the newsletter with the "At-Warp Wrap-up". I wish them great success in their future endeavors.

In case you haven't heard the news, Cosmic Con (Formerly known as Geekfest & Epicly Geeky Expo) has been indefinitely postponed. We do not know the reason but have been assured that when/if new dates are selected, we will be among the first to be notified.



This last month I was awarded with the Adm. Shelby Award by STARFLEET Tactical Auxiliary for my efforts in Star Trek Online. I say that to let you know there are a plethora of opportunities for you to get involved outside of crew meeting and conventions. There are auxiliaries for Science, Special Operations, and even pets. Get out there and see what SFI has for you!

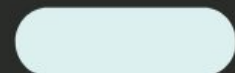
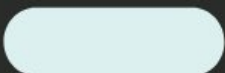


I recently got a custom tablecloth for when we have the opportunity to setup booths at community events and conventions. I think it helps present a level of professionalism and will draw people over to see what we're about.

I recently made a handful of updates to the ship website. Under Crew Links: Shuttle Requests are designed for requesting the crew attend and activity or event. It's as much for outside entities to request us as for crewmembers. For events & activities you have already conducted and wish to report for promotion points we now have the Mission Report. And lastly for those of you who read a lot, there is a Reading Report. Just fill out the form and the Command Staff will take care of the rest.

Keep up with all our goings on through any of our social media platforms. And don't forget the upcoming First Contact Day watch party at the Harker Heights Library on April 5th.

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



FIRST OFFICERS LOG

Hello Crew

I hope everyone is doing well! I personally have been doing good!

I want to talk about a couple things this month. One being that same dead horse, recruiting! The other is uniforms. And lastly are events.

One thing I want to talk about is helping the captain with ideas of things to do as a crew! I understand that everyone has a real life and priorities. However, it's ideas from everyone that helps the crew be successful. If you have any ideas or things that you'd like to do let us know. The staff can't wait to hear from everyone on ideas. Just remember that the more you put into the crew the more enjoyable it will be. So let us know what you would like to see or do and we'll try and make it happen.

So on to the next subject! Yes, I know! I keep repeating this but we can't grow and survive without recruiting. Like I've said before, if you have any friends or family members who may be interested in participating in our crew please try and get them to join us! Also, if you happen to come across someone that is talking about Star Trek let them know about the group. We can't grow if we don't recruit. I'm going to keep bringing this up because it's very important and it's everyone's responsibility to help the crew grow.

The next item is our get together we had a few weeks ago. It was really good to see everyone that was able to make it. There were several awards given out and a couple promotions. The food was good and the conversation was excellent I was happy I was able to meet several members of the crew I hadn't seen before. It was good to see everyone. I hope to see more of the crew next time.

Lastly, if anyone hears of an event that we could possibly attend and have the dates please contact the CO or myself so we can add it to the list.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all at some point. So, if you have any questions, concerns, requests, or comments. Please feel free to contact me at texasavtrooper@gmail.com Or text me at (254)258-5066

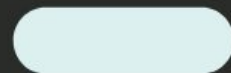
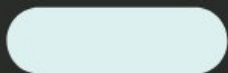
I will do my best to help you in any way I can.

Ok keep on trekking.

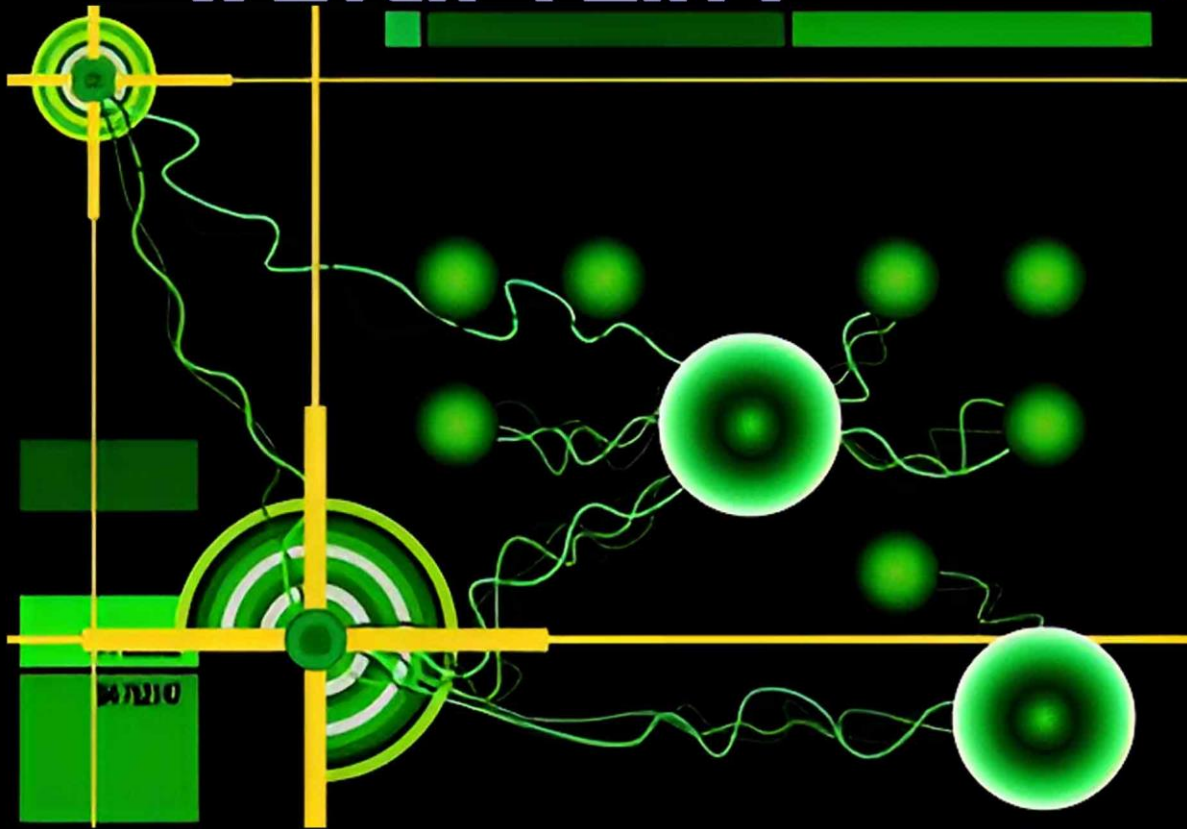
Fair Wind and Following Seas

Cmdr Bryan Fitch

XO,



STAR TREK FIRST CONTACT DAY WATCH PARTY



Engage in Star Trek fun with the Harker Heights Public Library & USS Veritas!



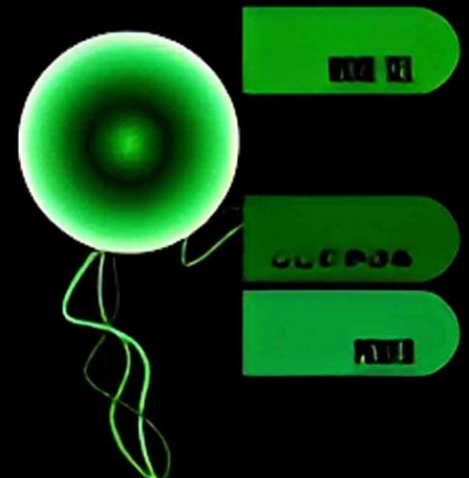
Join us for an out-of-this-world screening!

What: Star Trek: First Contact (1996)
When: Saturday, April 5th, 2:00–5:00 PM
Where: Harker Heights Library
Hosted by: USS Veritas & Harker Heights Library



Wear your Starfleet uniform—popcorn provided!

"Resistance is futile—beam in for free!
Open to all Trekkies of all ages!"



12-17032

19-3300

21-5540

12-3788

17-2880

The Legacy of Jean-Luc Puurcard: A Hairless Hero

13-17033

Jean-Luc Puurcard, a hairless feline with an irresistible charm and an extraordinary name, lived a life that was nothing short of stellar. For five remarkable years, he graced this world with his presence, leaving pawprints on the hearts of those who adored him. His days were filled with sunshine and warmth—literally and figuratively. In the summer, Jean-Luc could be found basking in the golden rays of the sun, his sleek, furless body soaking up every ounce of warmth. When the chill of winter set in, he was lovingly cocooned in fuzzy, warm blankets, a true testament to the life of luxury he deserved.

3296

Jean-Luc was more than just a beloved pet; he was a member of the family, spoiled beyond belief and cherished beyond measure. His journey took a particularly exciting turn when he was inducted into Star Trek International's Pet Fleet, a reflection of his adventurous spirit and his "star" quality. Although his tenure in the fleet was tragically short due to a battle with a heart condition, his service as an ambassador of joy and companionship was nothing less than extraordinary.

3297

While his time on Earth may have been brief, Jean-Luc Puurcard left an enduring legacy. He taught his people the boundless power of love, the importance of savoring simple pleasures, and the joy of living in the moment. Though his physical presence is no longer with us, his memory shines bright, much like the stars he was named for. Jean-Luc's story is a gentle reminder that the impact of a life well-lived is measured not in years, but in love. Rest in peace, Captain Puurcard—you were truly out of this world.

378-8561



3300



3298

3301

3299

378-8560

378-8562

378-8563

Exploring Compassion and Sacrifice in Star Trek: The Original Series - "The Empath"



Season 3, Episode 12 of *Star Trek: The Original Series* (TOS), titled "The Empath," first aired on December 6, 1968. This thought-provoking episode stands as one of the most emotionally resonant and visually distinctive stories in the franchise's history. With a minimalist set design, deep philosophical themes, and a focus on compassion, sacrifice, and moral responsibility, "The Empath" remains a powerful exploration of humanity's greatest virtues.

Plot Summary

The episode follows Captain James T. Kirk, Mr. Spock, and Dr. Leonard McCoy as they investigate the mysterious disappearance of a Federation research team on the planet Minara II. Upon beaming down, the trio discovers a stark, black void-like laboratory, where they encounter a silent alien woman named Gem. They soon learn that Gem possesses an extraordinary empathic ability—she can absorb and heal the physical wounds of others, taking on their pain herself.

The landing party quickly realizes that they are being observed by two advanced, enigmatic aliens known as the Vians. These beings subject the crew to a series of cruel experiments designed to test Gem's capacity for self-sacrifice and compassion. As Kirk, Spock, and McCoy endure physical and emotional trials, it becomes clear that the Vians are testing whether Gem's empathy is strong enough to justify saving her entire race from extinction.

In a defining moment of the episode, Dr. McCoy willingly sacrifices himself to protect Kirk, and Gem chooses to absorb his injuries despite the pain it causes her. This act of selfless compassion proves the moral worth of her species, ultimately convincing the Vians to spare her people. The episode ends on a hopeful note, with Kirk, Spock, and McCoy reflecting on the importance of empathy and sacrifice.

Themes and Philosophical Depth

***The Power of Compassion:** At its core, "The Empath" is an exploration of compassion's transformative power. Gem's willingness to endure suffering to heal others highlights one of Star Trek's recurring themes: the nobility of self-sacrifice for the greater good. Her silent yet powerful demonstration of empathy elevates the episode from a mere science fiction story to a meditation on moral courage.*

***The Ethical Responsibilities of Power:** The Vians' moral tests raise significant ethical questions. Despite their immense power and advanced intellect, their cold detachment contrasts starkly with Gem's selfless compassion. The episode suggests that true moral authority lies not in intellectual superiority but in the capacity for empathy and ethical responsibility.*

***Friendship and Sacrifice:** The bonds between Kirk, Spock, and McCoy are also central to the narrative. McCoy's willingness to sacrifice himself for his friends reflects the profound loyalty and friendship that define the trio. This camaraderie is a recurring element in Star Trek, showcasing how compassion and selflessness are not limited to extraordinary beings like Gem but are present within humanity itself.*

Legacy and Reception

Upon its release, "The Empath" received mixed reviews due to its abstract set design and heavy reliance on emotional storytelling. However, over time, it has gained appreciation for its bold direction, unique visual style, and profound moral themes. The minimalist aesthetic—featuring stark lighting and empty spaces—intensifies the emotional weight of the narrative and reflects the isolation and vulnerability of the characters.

Critics and fans alike have praised Kathryn Hays' portrayal of Gem, noting her ability to convey deep emotion and empathy without uttering a single word. The episode's message about compassion and sacrifice remains relevant today, making it a standout installment in The Original Series.

Final Thoughts

"The Empath" is a quintessential example of Star Trek's ability to blend science fiction with profound human themes. Through its exploration of compassion, sacrifice, and moral responsibility, the episode leaves a lasting impression on viewers. It challenges us to consider the true meaning of empathy and the moral obligations that come with power—a timeless message that resonates well beyond the stars.

Upcoming Events

- **First Contact Day!**

April 5, 2025 @ 2:00pm-5:00pm
Harker Heights Public Library

Come help us recruit others to our ship followed by a showing of Star Trek: First Contact as we have a great time at the Harker Heights Public Library!

- **STARFLEET IC 2025**

Fri, Aug 1st – Sun Aug 3rd
Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake hotel

Mission Control for STARFLEET IC 2025 is in Houston, TX! We'll be right up the street from NASA's Johnson Space Center and Space Center Houston. A tour is on the schedule! Registration and all the details will be coming soon to the SFI website. I can tell you now though that registration will be \$50.00 and the two banquet meals will be \$60.00 each. The Hilton guest room special price for us is \$139.00 plus taxes. Space center tour tickets are \$22.00 (half the regular admission price with this advance group purchase). The countdown to launch has begun! Save the dates and watch for an announcement when registration opens.

- **USS Veritas Awards & Promotions Ceremony**

May 3rd, 2025 @ 1:00pm
Galaxy Burger, Killeen, TX

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

