

The Official Second Fleet Newsletter



Flag Sends

Dear friends in mighty Gryphon Fleet, as we look back on 2018 and forward to the new year, I wish to thank all of you who have made The Royal Manticoran Navy successful in this seven state region. My job is to serve you, the membership, in making your club experience as good as possible. Therefore, I appreciate those who have stepped up in 2018 to serve on the fleet staff to contribute so much to this mission.

CDRE Geoffrey Strayer took over as our fleet's Deputy Commanding Officer this year, and he has been an outstanding addition to our operations. You would not be reading this right now without Geoff, because he does the entire newsletter.

SCPO Kevin Walsh took on oversight of our marksmanship program and is so good at it that other fleets are looking to him as an example. LCDR David Oliver Kling took over the Intelligence Officer position and tracks our charity activity as well as administering the challenge program.

Our former Intel Officer, CAPTSG Jackie Snedden, now commands Task Group 22.1 and they have great activity and inter-chapter operations happening there! Also, CDRE Ann Erikson recently took on command of Task Force 21. Ann also directs the Office of

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Do you want to have your ship or your ship's activities featured in the next newsletter? Just send a writeup of what's happening or the word you need to get out, and we'll get that added into the next edition!

Let's get those stories in, and make this the must-read newsletter for everything Gryphon Fleet!

Vol 2 Number 1

DCO's Note

Intercessor's List

I recently had a chance to chat with the leadership of another local fan group, and it managed to confirm something I had been thinking might be an overlooked aspect of organized fandom in general.

The least satisfied groups are the most inward looking.

Let's unpack that some. In hearing from others, and observing for myself who is and is not happy with their fandom (and this is not 2nd Fleet or even TRMN specific), from the person to the group to the organization, I have seen that the happiest, most fulfilled people and groups are the ones that are focused outside themselves.

Groups that do things with (or for) others from conventions to movie nights to just being out there with other people - seem to me to be the most happy or satisfied. Groups who only do things with others of the group have the least satisfaction.

Why is that? Is there something inherent in the idea of participatory fandom that seeks or demands getting outside of yourself? I think there is. There is something in the psyche of those who like a thing enough to join a group dedicated to that thing that demands you share it. We might joke about the evangelical Star Trek or Star Wars fans, or those folk trying to live a lifestyle from a novel, but that is what we have too. Just, perhaps, at a different level.

We want to share, and when you want to share one thing, it is easy to want to share other things too - and that requires you get outside your own circles and into public spaces.

So, if you want to know how to energize your group, or yourself, find something that gets you out into the world, and be part of that - even if it's just seeing movies together in TRMN gear...getting that external activity might be what is needed to regain the joy. If you'd like to add to the List, please go to <u>https://gryphonfleet.org/intercessors-list-</u><u>submission/</u>. It's as anonymous as you want it to be, and it will be shared in the next newsletter.

Two of our fleet's skippers are fighting cancer right now:

- CAPTJG Kevin Johnson, HMS Sabrepike
- LCDR Sean O'Leary, HMS Gawain

From HMS Demon: A friend whose father is on chemo for a third, separate, cancer.



Charity Tracking

Remember to send in any charity giving or activity - through TRMN or not - to our Charity Tracking Officer, Lieutenant Commander David Oliver Kling (intel@2ndfleet.trmn.org).

We are wanting to get a good picture of how we, as a group, are involved in charity work. This is compiled and sent upwards.

It isn't just money - we want to know if you volunteer your time too! Let us know, and we can even promote your charity here, helping get the word out to a wider audience!

Comings & Goings

Comings:

Welcome to the new (first?) Lead Editor for the Bureau of Planning, Commander Drew Drew Drentlaw, GCE, MC, DSO, GS, QBM, CBM.

Commander Drentlaw has served in many capacities during his career including Executive Officer for HMS Merlin, HMS Athena and HMS Invincible as well as Second Space Lord. His experience both in RMN and in real life make him the ideal candidate for this position and we look forward to working with him.

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Welcome to the new (first?) Assistant Historian for the Bureau of Planning, Deputy Director Of Operations Wayne Bruns, GCE, MC, CR, CGL, SC, OG, GS, QBM, CBM.

Deputy Director Bruns has served the organization in many capacities during his tenure and we are thankful that he will be joining the BuPlan staff to assist in the collection and publication of TRMN history.

Welcome to the new SIA Naval Technical Specialties College Master At Arms Instructor, Senior Chief Petty Officer Cory Snedden of HMS Ajax.

Goings:

Fleet dims lights in memory of the sudden passing of Spacer 2nd Class Noah Johnson, HMS Javelin, whose life was tragically cut short in an accident at age 19. We pass our condolences to his family, and mourn with them.

Upcoming Events

ConFusion Detroit. MI January 17-20, 2019 Winter War Champaign, IL January 25-27, 2019 LodgeCon February 10-11, 2019 Peotone, IL CapriCon February 14-17, 2019

Wheeling, IL

Great Lakes Comic Convention Warren, MI February 22-23, 2019

Have your ship, echelon, or fleet upcoming events promoted here!

We just need the event name and date sent to dco@ gryphonfleet. org! We want to promote you!

Posters like this are available (TF-levels are pre-approved!),

as are Gryphon & Planet posters, and more! Send over a request and email, and your posters will be emailed (or cloud-drive links will be) straight away!

Next month we will have the list of all (at time of publication) Fleet events - these will be great chances to meet other members, and earn some ribbons, so stay tuned!





Marksmanship Update TF21 Yeoman Opening

By order of CO 2nd Fleet, the following marksmanship awards are issued effective 10 December, 2018:

FLECHETTE GUN MARKSMAN CERTIFICATE Mr Justin ENGELKING, HMS Valkyrie

GRENADE LAUNCHER MARKSMAN CERTFICATE Ms Sarah SWAFFORD, HMS Invincible

RIFLE MARKSMAN CERTIFICATE ENS Patrick ANDERSON, HMS Invincible S3C David BERLIEN, HMS Valkyrie

TRIBARREL MARKSMAN AWARD CERTIFICATE Mr Justin ENGELKING, HMS Valkyrie

The Tradition Lives! WESTMARCH

For CO 2nd Fleet:

KEVIN WALSH, NS Senior Chief Petty Officer, RMN 2nd Fleet Range Officer

Flag Sends, cont.

Retention at the Bureau of Personnel, and we are lucky to have her expertise in our fleet.

Finally, and most importantly, thanks to all of you at the chapter level, ships' command triads and crew members. Without your engagement in fellowship and club activity, there would be no TRMN. I look forward to further club growth, fun, and comradeship in 2019!



THE TRADITION LIVES! WESTMARCH

Task Force 21 of Second Fleet is in the search for a Yeoman for their staff. This position is suited for E-4 or higher. However, real life experience in related fields will be taken into consideration for candidates that fulfill all the other job requirements and bring additional skills to the job if they are not yet at E4. Responsibilities of this role will include, but are not limited to: organization and maintenance of records, proofreading dispatches before public release, and ensuring a uniform understanding of information within the office, and may include any additional office duties assigned by the COS or the Communications Officer.

The candidate must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a member in good standing in TRMN in any branch of service within Second Fleet.

2. Have completed the exams appropriate to

E-4 or your current rank (Staff or Line Track).

3. Be in compliance with the "Two Hat Rule" (AO 1602-02).

4. Commit to hold the position for a minimum of 6 months.

5. Have completed the appropriate Yeoman courses for their rank.

6. A functional knowledge and ability to use the Google cloud documents suite, including Drive, Docs, Sheets.

7. Skilled with the proper usage of the written English language

The following criteria are not compulsory, but will be viewed as highly favorable to a candidate:

1. Bilingual a plus

2. A working knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite (specifically Word and Excel), as well as Apple's Pages and Numbers will be considered an asset.

3. Attention to detail is a definite plus!

To apply please send an e-mail to zkrick.trmn@ gmail.com with your basic information and qualifications. This posting will be open to applications until 15 January, 2019.

Gryphon Fleet Newsletter

KAG & HMS Demon Toys For Tots AAR

The Klingon Assault Group hold its 8th Annual Toy Drive at a local Walgreens collecting toys and batteries for Toys for Tots. This is a part of a larger Toys for Tots drive that encompasses DuPage County. Our drive location collected \$864.90 in toys and \$422.52 in batteries. The drive as a whole raised \$1200.00 in toys and over \$500.00 in batteries making our location the powerhouse of the charity event. The event was attended by members of KAG, tRMN, Unity Station, Klingon Armada International, as well as the USMC.

The event consisted mostly of mingling and interacting with customers as well as a performance by the Klingon Pop Artist, translating popular music to Klingon. It was also a fantastic event for two of our newest members S3C Tiffany Kamersal and LCPL Martin Tizura, as this was their first non-convention ship meeting for the Demon they have attended.

The event was excellent for inter-organizational relations, meeting several members of KAG and creating a rapport with them and signed on a new crew member as well! Speaking with them we hope to have future inter-organizational events and gatherings in the future to continue the alliance between our two Empires.



FADM Roberts Final Message as First Space Lord

For my final message as the First Space Lord, I wanted to take a few moments and talk about what I have learned during my time in Admiralty House and how each of you can help make this organization even better.

Being in command can be tough. You're always seen as the bad guy no matter what you do. We strive to create a positive environment and experience for EVERYONE. Sometimes, that means making people mad at us, putting strain on our friendships, and adding the stress of guilt (from making a difficult decision) to our personal lives. It probably hurts us to upset/disappoint you more than you all can imagine.

I have served in a senior leadership (Fleet CO, Third Space Lord, and First Space Lord) role as well as serving as a Chapter CO in this organization for all 8+ years of my membership; in that service, at EVERY level I have seen a small minority of people who seem to actively work to make the already difficult task of leadership even harder. They feel as though they are owed something just for being a member and, when they don't get it, they scream and rant and make up stories to make themselves look better and more deserving. Fortunately, they are a small minority and mostly known to leadership; the VAST majority of members in this organization genuinely want to help and want to have fun in the organization to the greatest extent they are able.

On the other side of the coin, I have seen countless members step up to help one another in times of hardship and actively work their collective butts off to help an innumerable number of charities around the world. As a leader, this is the type of behavior I have loved seeing and have enjoyed recognizing these outstanding members for their hard work. The membership of this organization truly does care about their fellow humans and other creatures on the planet and works hard to help them where and when they are able to do so. I would like to encourage those of you who seek to help others and have the time to devote to it, to step and assist TRMN in some way. The organization is good, you can help make it even better and greater.

Overall, TRMN is a very welcoming and friendly organization. This organization is built on mutual respect and its leadership all desire to do the best they can to make this a welcoming and friendly place for ALL fans of the Honorverse. For the most part they have succeeded; why not do YOUR best to help make the organization better?

In my time at Admiralty House, I have helped build the initial and basic procedures we use as an organization, others have come along behind me and made them better. To me, that is what will continue making this (and any other organization) great. You have an idea, you help get it implemented, and then work with others to give them the ability to make it even better as time goes on and the organization grows and changes. The improvements can be increases in efficiency, increases in effectiveness and/or reach, or it can be as simple as realizing that it needs a complete overhaul. These changes and tweaks to your original idea do not mean the idea was bad or should not have been implemented, it just means that your initial idea gave the impetus to someone else, with a different skill set, the ability to make it even better. Our job as leaders should be to encourage this behavior and actively work with every member to use their unique skills in any way possible to make the organization better for EVERYONE. I hope I have been able to accomplish that during my time in Admiralty House.

During my time in Admiralty House I have made mistakes, I am only human, we all make them. I

FADM Roberts Final Message as First Space Lord

have also made members angry at me for doing things that had to be done, regardless of how distasteful they were to complete. I did the tasks I was assigned to the best of my ability and I hope the organization is better for them. I would hope that I have learned from my mistakes and will be working very hard, as I have been for a while now, to not repeat them and become a better person. Don't be afraid to fail, if you are, you will never try. If you never try, you can't grow as a person and the organization can't grow and become even better over time.

While I will no longer be working in Admiralty House, I plan to continue helping my local chapter, Eighth Fleet, any other Fleet, Chapter, office or group who wants me to try and help them flourish in the organization. I will continue doing my best for the organization and its members, because I believe in this organization and the vast majority of its members. If you want me to try and help you in some way, please reach out and contact me, let's see how I can work to help you make the organization even better than it is now.

I want to leave you with this: Try to remember why we all joined this organization in the first place. TRMN brings us together due to a shared love of David Weber's Honorverse novels and stories. We should be working together to build each other and this organization up in a positive manner and trying to help one another to the best of our ability.

Find the good in the organization, there is a LOT of it, and a LOT of good people. When you see something that doesn't seem right, please, go through the proper channels to work on getting it fixed. The leadership at all levels want you to have fun; the odds are, you are not the only person to have noticed something, but you may be the first to say something so it can be changed to make it better.

It is my hope that this message helps to convince people to step up and help the organization at all levels by working to improve things...get active, run for Parliament, make your voice heard in a positive and encouraging manner, there are MANY ways you can help.

Step up, help the new First Space Lord, Laura Lochen, and the Royal Council to make this a better organization for all of us. Please remember, no one gets paid for doing this stuff, we do it because we want to help others have fun and enjoy seeing people being happy.

Resolve to do better, resolve to BE better. I look forward to seeing you all around at various conventions and working with you to make the organization a better place for everyone.

I hope you all have a very happy and prosperous New Year!

In Honour of the Queen!

John Roberts, KSK, GCE, SC, OR, CGM, CBM Fleet Admiral of the Red, RMN First Space Lord (retired) Earl, New Mecklenburg Make Yourself Heard! (Confessions of a Lurker #2)

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful." -Malala Yousafzai

TRMN is a huge organization. By last count, it consists of somewhere around 6000 members on six continents. It would not be surprising to learn we are on all seven; I suspect that the Honorverse would be a good read and of interest to the types that get stationed in Antarctica.

Finding a voice in such a large and established organization can be daunting. There are established members who are vocal, and regulations that have been refined and written in stone over years. For less vocal members, old or new, it can be a challenge to speak up for fear of upsetting the status quo. I, for one, would like to encourage anyone with ideas to speak up and make themselves heard.

My earnest suggestion is that you do this through appropriate channels. Use your chain of command. Talk with your Bosun, Executive Officer, or Commander. There is no such thing as a "bad" question or idea. There are three common possibilities in response.

Worst:

"It's just the way things are done, don't rock the boat."

This is not a response we would hope to receive from our command teams. Keep in mind that they also have real life events to deal with and might not have had time for a fully qualified response. Perhaps rephrasing your question or suggestion to prompt one of the following responses would help.

Better:

"We do it this way because of the following experiences..."

Don't take this as meaning you should shut up and step in line. This is a fair response explaining why things are done the way they are. Your input has been heard and reasoned. By all means, do not take this a rejection: your input is valued. Perhaps you could take this as a starting point in a conversation. If this failed in the past for reason X, suggest a solution to deal with that issue. One of our First Sergeants back in my Army days loved to say, "Don't bring me a problem unless you have a solution in mind". We're not quite that strict in TRMN, but as some recent events have revealed, the nature of our organization requires us to do some things in very specific ways. There are also certain things that we are simply not allowed to do.

Best:

"Well that is a novel idea! Well thought out and it might make things run smoother. If I can't take action on this, I will forward it to the parties who can."

Bravo Zulu! (Well Done!) You have submitted a question or suggestion that could improve our organization in some way. Every change in this ever-changing world has started this way. Some individual, somewhere, had an idea that changed the world around them.

In honor of the Queen,

Stephen Palmer Yeoman Petty Officer 1st Class, RMN Yeoman, BuPers Office of Retention

December Honors

AWARDS



CDR Patrick Hagemeier, RMNHMS MerlinLTJG Ross Prosser, RMNHMS ValkyrieENS Richard Sams, RMNHMS MerlinCDR David Westover, RMNHMS Beowulf

Promotions

Congratulations are extended to the following members on the occasion of their promotions as noted.

HMS Ajax

- Robert Houseman (E-4) to Petty Officer 2nd Class, effective 21 December, 2018
- Rose Callahan (E-3) to Petty Officer 3rd Class, effective 21 December, 2018
- Dana Laikind (E-2) to Lance Corporal, effective 21 December, 2018

HMS Galahad

- Caleb Noah Adair to Spacer 1st Class, effective 19 December, 2018
- John Edward Adkins to Spacer 1st Class, effective 19 December, 2018
- Steven Bobula to Spacer 1st Class, effective 19 December, 2018
- Ed Carson III to Lance Corporal, effective 19 December, 2018
- Joe Clement to Spacer 1st Class, effective 19 December, 2018
- Michael B. Dillon to Spacer 1st Class, effective 19 December, 2018
- Amanda Hoffelt to Spacer 1st Class, effective 19 December, 2018
- Aaron Kevin Meighen to Spacer 1st Class, effective 19 December, 2018
- Rebecca Testerman to Spacer 1st Class, effective 19 December, 2018
- Rey Cordero to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 19 December, 2018
- Frank Gonzalez to Gunner 2nd Class, effective 19 December, 2018
- Linden C Robart to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 19 December, 2018
- Tasia Russell to Civilian Four, effective 19
 December, 2018
- Betty J Osthoff to Ensign, effective 19 December, 2018

HMS Invincible

- Patrick Ardan Giese to Intelligence Mate 2nd Class, effective 11 December, 2018
- Timothy J Stickney to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 11 December, 2018

• Patrick Anderson Lieutenant (JG), effective 12 December, 2018

HMS Javelin

- Robert Dylan Kohl to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 20 December, 2018
- Justin Robert Brown to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 29 December, 2018
- Damian Amberg to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 29 December, 2018
- Jess Haselius to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 29 December, 2018
- Noah Kawika Johnson to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 29 December, 2018
- Tina Rae Sachs to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 29 December, 2018
- Nathan Glen Young to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 29 December, 2018

HMS Merlin

- Matthew Gruel to Lance Corporal, effective 29 December, 2018
- Patrick Mensen to Lance Corporal, effective 29 December, 2018
- Mary Haflund Jensen to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 29 December, 2018
- Samuel J Warner to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 29 December, 2018
- Joseph Clarence Wolf to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 29 December, 2018
- Beth Kiley to Civilian Two, effective 29 December, 2018
- Mandi Moon to Civilian Two, effective 29 December, 2018

HMS Musashi

- Leo Rogers to Petty Officer 3rd Class, effective 2 December, 2018
- James Wendler to Petty Officer 3rd Class, effective 2 December, 2018
- Ben Lackey to Spacer 1st Class, effective 2
 December, 2018

December Honors

HMS Trebuchet

- Shelbie Taloowa to Petty Officer 2nd Class, effective 8 December, 2018
- Isaac Lindquist to Petty Officer 3rd Class, effective 8 December, 2018
- Mathias Kappes to Spacer 1st Class, effective 8 December, 2018
- Summer Merigold to Spacer 1st Class, effective 8 December, 2018
- Brandon Salinas to Private 1st Class, effective 8 December, 2018
- Peder Erickson to Petty Officer 3rd Class, effective 14 December, 2018
- Joshua Jimenez to Lance Corporal, effective 14 December, 2018

HMS Valkyrie

• Lindsay Roloff to Lieutenant JG, effective 5 December, 2018





To: All TRMN personnel From: Commanding Officer 2nd Fleet. Re: 2018 Gryphon Trophy winner GRYPHON FLEET ORDER 1812-C, 30DEC2018

Now that all three challenges have been completed, I am pleased to announce that, as winner of two out of three challenges this year, our overall 2018 fleet challenge winning chapter is...

HMS BEOWULF BC-739!

The Gryphon Trophy will be presented to HMS Beowulf so that Captain Shananaquet and crew may proudly display it throughout 2019. Additionally, HMS Beowulf is awarded the FLEET EXCELLENCE AWARD and all current members of the ship's company are authorized to wear the Fleet Excellence Award ribbon with gold "E." HMS Beowulf will be considered along with winners from the other fleets for the navy-wide Black Sphinx Cup.

I wish to give honorable mention to HMS Ajax (BC-545) for winning the other one of the three challenges. Ajax was also the previous year's winner, and I believe that Captain Snedden can take some satisfaction in the outstanding work of our Michigan chapters of Task Force 22.1 as she hands over the Gryphon Trophy to Captain Shananaquet.

Congratulations and well done, Beowulf, and thanks to all participants in Gryphon Fleet!

The Tradition Lives!

WESTMARCH



Fleet Command & Staff Contacts

Fleet Command	ler Vice Admiral of the Red John Neitz	secondfleet@trmn.org
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	Commander Christina Swanson	ascl@gryphonfleet.org



2nd Fleet Order of Battle

Task Force 21

LAC Wing 30

HMLAC Superior SMLAC Arminius Duluth, MN Minneapolis, MN

Task Group 21.1

Battle Squadron 1 HMS Imperatrix (SD-457) HMS Invincible (SD-455) HMS Valkyrie (SD-355) Destroyer Squadron 265 HMS Javelin (DD-264) HMS Lodestone (DD-64) HMS Merlin (CA-270) HMS Peregrine (DD-1291) HMS Hellhound (DD-446) HMS Leonidas (BC-584) HMS Trebuchet (CA-582) HMS Unicorn (CLAC-30)

Task Group 21.2

HMS Borzoi (DD-438) HMS Gawain (DD-481) HMS Musashi (BC-775) Minneapolis, MN Plymouth, MN Minneapolis, MN

Big Lake, MN Elk River, MN St. Cloud, MN Winnipeg, MB St. Paul, MN Grand Forks, ND Willmar, MN Rochester, MN

River Falls, WI Madison, WI Milwaukee, WI

Task Force 22

LAC Wing 62 GSNLAC Lilla Biörn

Task Group 22.1

HMS Ajax (BC-545) HMS Apollo (CL-80) HMS Beowulf (BC-739) HMS Demon (CLAC-62) HMS Gryphon (SD-153) HMS Hotspur (DD-02) HMS Wolfhound (DD-437)

Task Group 22.2

Cruiser Division 711 HMS Death Claw (CA-437) HMS Hexapuma (CA-412) HMS Sabrepike (CA-417) HMS Galahad (DD-478) HMS Roland (DD-476) Marquette, MI

Detroit, MI Lafayette, IN Lansing, MI Chicago, IL Indianapolis, IN Rantoul, IL Mt. Prospect, IL

Cincinnati, OH Louisville, KY Franklin, OH Columbus, OH Toledo, OH

Remember - all command triads can be reached by emailing co@, xo@ or bosun@ shipname(with the HMS).trmn.org!

