



THE GRYPHON'S BEAK

The Official Second Fleet Newsletter

Vol 1 Number 1



Flag Sends

Welcome to this first issue of The Gryphon's Beak!

This beautiful newsletter was created and produced by Commodore Sir Geoffrey Strayer, Gryphon Fleet's new Deputy Commanding Officer, and just one example of the skills and assets that he is bringing to fleet operations. I am grateful to Commodore Strayer for making it a reality. If you have not already done so, please take a look at the Gryphon Fleet website that he also created.

As always seems to be the case with club newsletters, content from a wide range of contributors will really make this particular gryphon fly! To that end, I encourage news of happenings from chapters throughout the fleet. You don't need to be a chapter leader to contribute; if you have an idea for some content that would be of interest to your fellow club members, send it to CDRE Strayer.

We don't really have missiles and grasers. We don't really have spaceships. Since our hardware is imaginary, our fleet is made of PEOPLE. But not in the same way that Soylent Green is. It is YOU, the membership, that makes Gryphon Fleet mighty! I am fortunate to command TRMN's largest fleet, and I thank you all for being a part of it!



THE TRADITION LIVES!
WESTMARCH

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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!

Everything works - new members, new billets, new activities, whatever you and your ship have happening!

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

Comings & Goings

Comings:

Welcome to our newest echelon, DesRon 265 - The Silver Cepheids! This Destroyer Division is composed of north-central MN ships HMS Merlin, HMS Javelin, HMS Peregrine, and HMS Lodestone. The Squadron is led by Captain, s.g. Danielle Erikson. They have been doing a ton of cool stuff up there, and growing their crews and the Fleet nicely. Of special interest are the 'Welcome Aboard' posts with their new members. This is a great way to immediately put faces to names, and get a visual of our new members. Well done, and keep up the good work!

...

HMS Demon welcomes her new command staff, CPO Rick Waterson as Bosun, and Captain, j.g. Justin Dupras as CO. CPO Waterson is a recent recruit, who has been hard at work with BuTrain on the Moodle Exam Project. With that getting well along, he agreed to step up to the command deck as the new Bosun. Rick has a lot of great ideas, and between those, and his close connections to the convention scene in Chicago, will be shaking it up in the Demon's area. Captain Dupras has been a member of 2 Fleet for many years, most of those as CO of HMS Kodiak Max in the UP. When work took him to NW Indiana, he found himself as the COLAC for HMS Demon, and for the fleet. HMS Demon's captain's chair has developed a tradition of catapulting it's occupant on to bigger and better things - the first CO is now CO, TF22, the second CO is now DCO, 2 Fleet, and her third CO just took the chair. Captain Dupras has a lot of ideas on how to energize the Demon, and between him and Bosun Waterman, Chicago may not know what hit it!

...

Task Group 21.1 welcomes the official assignment of HMS Hellhound to their Group.

...

On behalf of everyone in 2nd Fleet, the Flag offers congratulations to SMCPPO Bill Lochen on his appointment as acting Senior Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

...

Welcome (and congratulations on the promotion!) to Commodore Geoff Strayer as Deputy Commanding Officer, Gryphon Fleet. Geoff was most recently CO of HMS Demon and Task Group 22.1, and while he will miss those postings, is looking forward to the next adventure as DCO.

...

Welcome (and congratulations on the promotion!) to the new CO of Task Group 22.1, Captain, s.g. Jackie Snedden! Jackie is also CO of HMS Ajax, and keeping busy getting Michigan up and running smoothly.

...

Welcome our new Astro-Control Service Liaison, Commander Christina Swanson, XO HMS Gryphon!

...

Goings:

Fleet HQ extends thanks to the following members stepping down from official positions:

CPO Christopher Picchi

DCO's Note

I want to take this chance to thank everyone for being welcoming and encouraging as I move into some really big shoes. This kind of welcome, and support, is just proof that Gryphon Fleet is indeed Second to None, and a Fleet we can all be proud of, and proud to be part of.

I have come into this role as a lot of things are happening across our organization, and I want to take a moment to talk about that. When I joined, BuComm was in the midst of... call it the Great DeLatinizing. And there was a lot of wailing about the loss of Latin mottos for our ships. Some of that was due to the work put into these mottos, some due to the 'cool' factor, and some because of the fact that it was changing. Since then, I have seen bouts of internet fury over, in no specific order, kilts, uniforms, kilts again, civilians, SFC, back to kilts, uniforms again, which groups are being formed, testing, promotion points, and most recently cheating.

And we weathered them all, and none of them took down the organization.

That gives me some perspective - we are stronger than our knee-jerk reactions, and we are going to be exactly as ok as we want to be. And, with all that is going on (literally in my first week I had a CO up and resign without any warning, SMCPON resign, and the news of the cheating thing's specifics all hit), we may see the ravens gathering.

But so long as we have people who want this to succeed, we will succeed. And, at least here in Gryphon Fleet, we have those people. I see that in the new DesDiv, in the effort being put in to keep chapters going when it would be easier to drop them, in the energy being shown by the members who are working to build their chapters, spin off new chapters, and be not only a positive force in the Fleet, but in the real world.

I'll have more on this later, but a Destroyer in

central Illinois is all in on finding a way to make their home library's campaign to replace the roof a success. This is a huge undertaking, and while there is a realistic level of expectation, they are not daunted by the size of the task.

So, while there may be challenges, and there may be difficulties, we have seen that before. And we come out the other side intact, and in many cases better off. There is a lot of greatness in this Fleet, and my challenge to you is to find that - in yourself, in your leaders, and in your senior leaders. Hold the leadership - from a division in your chapter, to your Triad, echelon, and Fleet - to that greatness. I believe that we become the people we, and others, see ourselves as.

See greatness, be greatness.

So, one other, unrelated bit, then I'm done. I tend to explain the structure of tRMN like a retail chain hierarchy. The chapter is the local store - above that is the district (echelons), region (Task Forces), and then the area (fleet). I think this can help people understand who we are if they are not familiar with our structure. If that seems useful, please feel free to use as your own!

Positions Open

The following openings are available in with Gryphon Fleet HQ

- Chief of Staff
- Communications Officer
- Electronic Warfare Officer
- & More!

Reply to dco@gryphonfleet.org with your statement of interest! Don't see your passion here? Let us know, and we will work to find an official role for you!

Assistance Needed

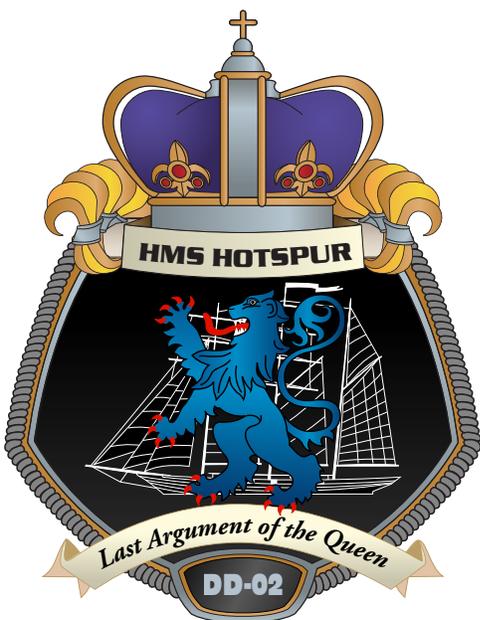
HMS Hotspur in central Illinois meets every month for two sessions of Artemis at the Rantoul, IL public library. In recent years, the library has developed a real need to have the roof replaced. Turns out books and water are not the friends we thought! In all seriousness, there is a section of the building that is no longer usable due to the leaks.

The going estimate is \$20,000 for an engineering study on exactly how much is needed, which will also determine the cost. Because I have worked places that needed roofs, and heard discussions on the projected costs of those buildings, the roof is likely to run a few hundred thousand dollars.

HMS Hotspur, and the Rantoul Public Library, need all the help they can get. To that end, HMS Demon will be placing donation jars in their party rooms at WindyCon in November and CapriCon in February, and will be helping get the word out to other local fan groups.

If you can help, please email co@hmshotspur.trmn.org. They are holding a pair of events - a euchre tournament and silent auction.

A copy of the flyer can be found on the next page for your use or distribution.



Intercessor's List

I want to give this a shot and see what happens. I have this idea that most all of us are open to receiving positive wishes (hopes, prayers, energy, etc.), regardless of our chosen belief systems or lack thereof.

To that end, I'd like to start this, the Intercessors List, as a way to share any issues, celebrations or concerns that might benefit from some positive energy. It isn't exactly a prayer list, but if that's someone you're familiar with, it's pretty close.

If you'd like to add to the List, please go to <https://gryphonfleet.org/intercessors-list-submission/>. 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

The image shows a screenshot of a web form on the Gryphon Fleet website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'HOME', 'TASK FORCE 21', 'TASK FORCE 22', 'CHAPTER FINDER', 'ORDERS', and 'CONTACT US'. The Gryphon Fleet logo is also present. Below the navigation bar is a large black banner with the text 'INTERCESSOR'S LIST' in red. Underneath the banner is a form with the following fields: 'Request Type' (a dropdown menu), 'Name (optional)' (a text input field), 'Email Address (optional)' (a text input field), and 'Message' (a large text area). At the bottom right of the form is a 'Submit' button. There is also a small '3/5' indicator next to the submit button.



Euchre Night

2018 Fundraiser

Silent Auction



Hosted By: HMS Hotspur (DD-02), a local chapter of
THE ROYAL MANTICORAN NAVY
The Official Honor Harrington Fan Association.

Fundraising for **The Rantoul Public Library**
Specific Need: New Roof and Water Damage Repair
Goal: \$20,000 + Cost of New Roof (TBD)

Euchre Night

Date: **August 10th**

Time: 6 to 9 pm (5:45 pm registration, 6:15 pm rules, 6:30 play)

Location: Rantoul Public Library (106 W Flessner Ave. Rantoul, IL)

Cost: \$5 minimum donation

There will be refreshments, prizes, baskets for raffle, 50/50 raffle

Silent Auction

Date: **August 3rd to 10th** during business hours

Location: Rantoul Public Library (106 W Flessner Ave. Rantoul, IL)

Ends: August 10th at 7pm, Cime to the Library between 6-7 pm to put
in your final bids

Join The Parliament!

Consider serving TRMN as a Member of Parliament. Watch for announcements of the next elections. There are approximately 15 seats available for Gryphon Fleet members.

Eligibility requirements to serve as a Member of Parliament - you must not be serving in a "Hatted" role within the organization as well as the following

- Been a member for at least one year
- Completed, at least, your first exam through BuTrain
- Have attended at least one event. An event defined as a Chapter Meeting, Convention, Chapter or Fleet Event (movie night, charity drive). The event can be virtual.
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have not had any warning or censure in the previous 12 months



In addition, if you are a Peer, a Chapter Commander or member of the Command Triad, a Fleet/Station Commander, a Space Lord, or a member of the Royal Council you are prohibited from serving in the House of Commons. Additionally, if you serve on the staffs of one of these positions, you are prohibited from serving in the House of Commons.

Marksmanship Update

Range Officer's Report

PISTOL SHARPSHOOTER AWARD

Capt[JG] Timothy Bailey (HMS Musashi)
SSGT Metgyre Senzig (HMS Musashi)
LT[SG] Jesse Aerlyn-Crook (HMLAC Sgian Dubh)
S3C Dan Jackson (HMS Tornado)
S2C Nathan Marzolf (HMS Tornado)
LT[JG] Richard Davenport (HMS Sabrepike)

RIFLE EXPERT AWARD

Capt[JG] Timothy Bailey (HMS Musashi)
Bosun David Westover (HMS Tornado)

PISTOL MARKSMAN CERTIFICATE

S3C Rebecca Stoner (HMS Tornado)

RIFLE MARKSMAN CERTIFICATE

S2C Nathan Marzolf (HMS Tornado)

RIFLE SHARPSHOOTER AWARD

S3C Rebecca Stoner (HMS Tornado)
S3C Kevin Stoner (HMS Tornado)
Captain[JG] Charles Shananaquet (HMS Tornado)

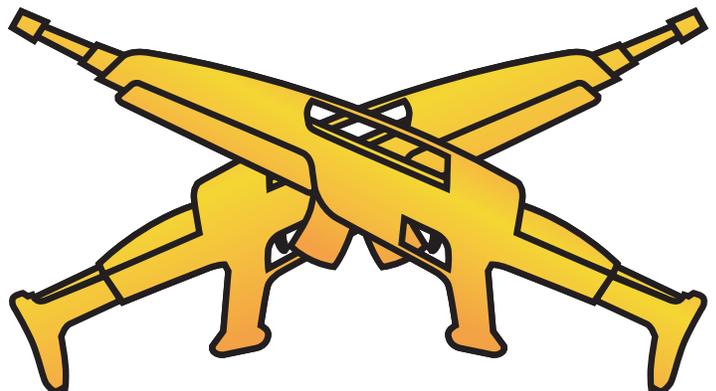
PISTOL EXPERT AWARD

Bosun David Westover (HMS Tornado)
Captain[JG] Charles Shananaquet (HMS Tornado)

Second Fleet Range Officer

Senior Chief Intelligence Mate Kevin Walsh, NS
HMS Hotspur, reporting

*report contains the data from 2/5, 3/5, and 4/5 reports



Fleet Challenge

The 2nd Black Sphinx Cup Challenge for 2nd Fleet is the Reconnaissance Challenge- searching for hidden finds or placing finds following the guidelines of www.geocaching.com. This challenge runs from May 30, 2018 to August 30, 2018. At the end of the challenge the chapter's challenge liaison will have a week to put together their ship's results and send them to the Challenge Director which is the Fleet Intelligence Officer who will then announce the winner and pass the results along to the 1st Space Lord's Intelligence Officer.

The Reconnaissance Challenge involves creating an account at www.geocaching.com and keeping a log of their finds or if they hid a find. Each crew member gets a point for either a find or a hide.

Commander Christina Swanson of HMS Gryphon has been active with searching for finds and will probably be the one the other ships will have to beat.

Second Fleet Intelligence Officer
Captain sg Jackie Snedden, GCE, QBM, RM, CBM
HMS Ajax, reporting



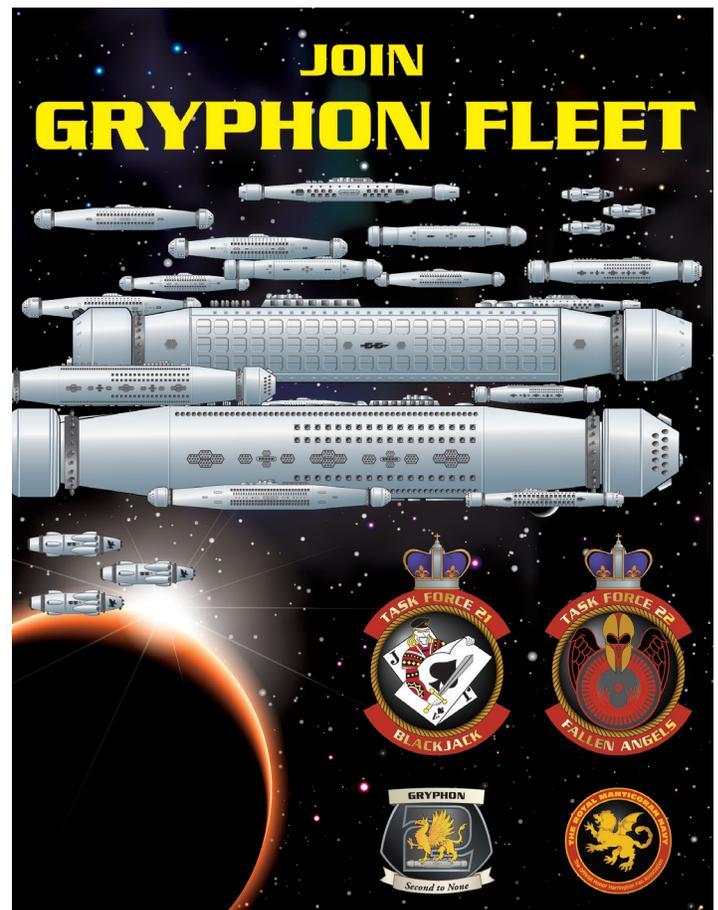
The Geocaching Logo is a registered trademark of Groundspeak, Inc. Used with permission.

Upcoming Events

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

We just need the event name and date - please send any additional information you have about what you will be doing to dco@gryphonfleet.org!

HMS Hotspur Artemis	July 13, 2018
DesRon265 Game Day	July 15, 2018
Euchre Night Fundraiser	August 10, 2018
LionCon	September 22, 2018
Sphinx Con	November 2, 2018
WindyCon	November 9, 2018



We want to promote you! Posters like the one above 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!

Fleet Command & Staff Contacts

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Flag Captain

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Captain Larry French, Jr., RMMC

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RMACS Liaison

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)	Minneapolis, MN
HMS Intrepid (SD-463)	St. Paul, MN
HMS Invincible (SD-455)	Plymouth, MN
HMS Valkyrie (SD-355)	Hastings, MN

Destroyer Squadron 265

HMS Javelin (DD-264)	Big Lake, MN
HMS Lodestone (DD-64)	Elk River, MN
HMS Merlin (CA-270)	St. Cloud, MN
HMS Peregrine (DD-1291)	Winnipeg, MB
HMS Hellhound (DD-446)	St. Paul, MN
HMS Leonidas (BC-584)	Grand Forks, ND
HMS Samurai (CL-356)	Willmar, MN
HMS Unicorn (CLAC-30)	Rochester, MN

Task Group 21.2

HMS Borzoi (DD-438)	River Falls, WI
HMS Gawain (DD-481)	Madison, WI
HMS Musashi (BC-775)	Milwaukee, WI

Task Force 22

LAC Wing 62

GSNLAC Lilla Björn

Marquette, MI

Task Group 22.1

HMS Ajax (BC-545)	Detroit, MI
HMS Apollo (CL-80)	Lafayette, IN
HMS Demon (CLAC-62)	Chicago, IL
HMS Gryphon (SD-153)	Indianapolis, IN
HMS Hotspur (DD-02)	Rantoul, IL
HMS Tornado (DD-488)	Lansing, MI
HMS Wolfhound (DD-437)	Mt. Prospect, IL

Task Group 22.2

Cruiser Division 711

HMS Death Claw (CA-437)	Cincinnati, OH
HMS Hexapuma (CA-412)	Louisville, KY
HMS Sabrepike (CA-417)	Franklin, OH
HMS Galahad (DD-478)	Columbus, OH
HMS Roland (DD-476)	Toledo, OH

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

