



StarLight



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE USS BRIGHTSTAR NCC 1880

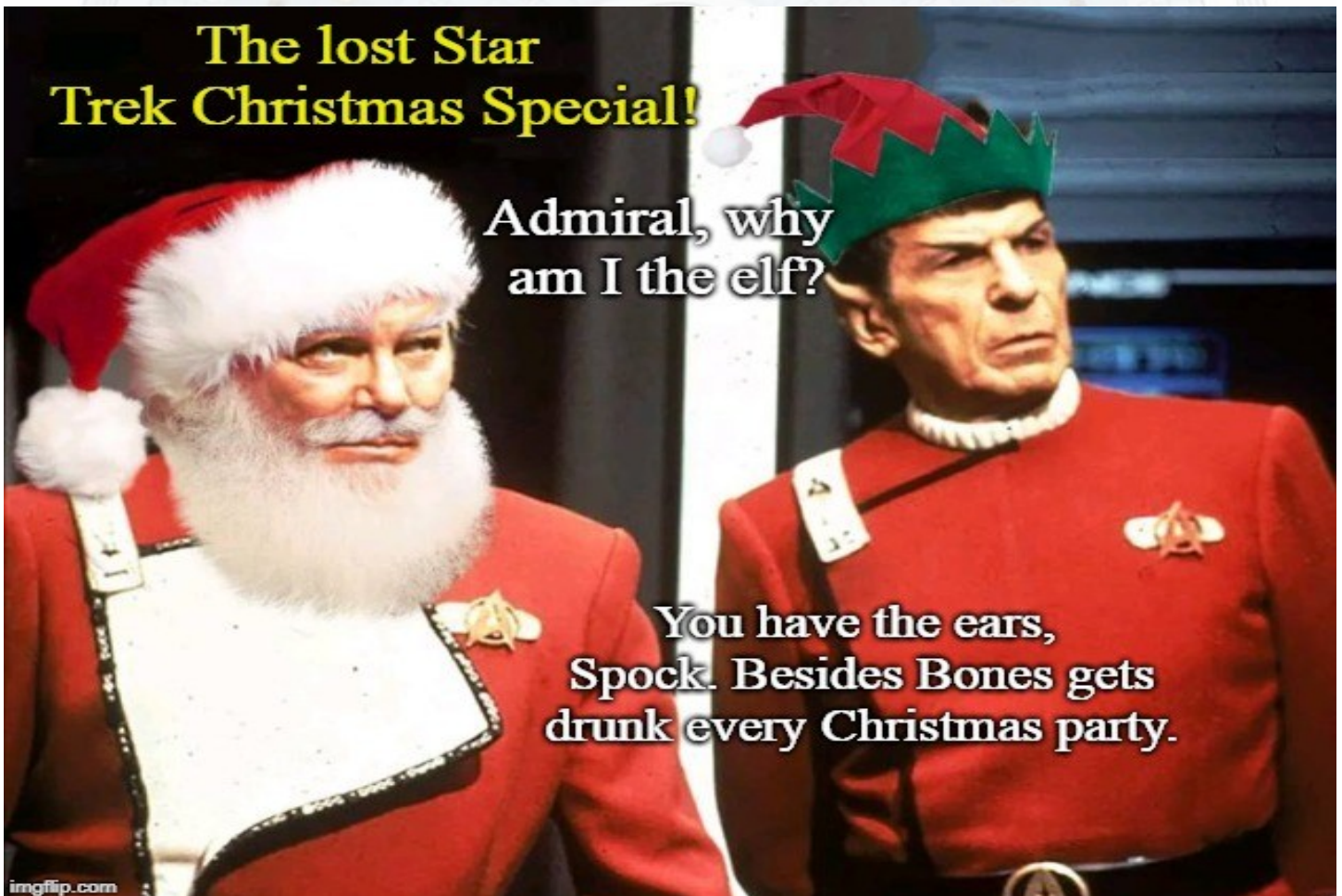
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ISSUE TWO



**Admiral Kirk...umm I mean Santa Clause,
I've been a very, very, good boy this year
So, what I want for Christmas this year is...**



From The First Officer

Well, here we are once again. Yes, that's right folks it's that time of year, it's what I like to call the silly season.

It is the time of year where everyone (including yours truly) can act as silly or a complete butt head as they want and get away with it. That's without someone calling the guys with the white lab coats and the butterfly nets.

The silly season as I just called it begins on October 31, and doesn't end until January 1st or the 2nd, depending on how much you embarrassed yourself at the New Years Eve party. But that is neither here nor there.

Before I go any further I must apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. How is it late when it is the beginning of the month? Well, this particular newsletter was supposed to be for the month of November not December. What participated this you ask? (Oh, come on. Go ahead ask, you're going to anyway. You may well get it out of your system anyway.) It seems that I somehow twisted my knee or pulled some muscle in that area of my right leg. And if said or thought ouch, thank you. But here is the kicker, I didn't know I did this until one morning when I was getting up, my right foot slipped off my bed and hit the floor. Normally, for anyone else this is not a big deal. That's if the floor is not cold when you wake up. But in my case, I said some few choice words that I don't dare repeat here.

Needless to say, I had a interesting time getting dress. Not only that, I had interesting time getting up and down the stairs (the only way I could make that work is I had go up and down the stairs sideways). Granted, the pain wasn't that bad to warrant me going to the hospital, but it was bad enough to be a distraction. I ended up having stay in bed with my leg stretched out for about a week and a half. That was the only way I find any relief from the pain, that and taking aspirins like, they were candy. By the time I was able to get back up move around and not sound like Fred Flintstone having a really bad day, it was very, very, very, close to Thanksgiving. And guess who had to cook the Thanksgiving day dinner? Well, enough of that dribble, hmmm, let's move on.

Just before I put pen to paper as it were, to write this article for the newsletter, I received word that the Brightstar as a whole had won a total of four awards at this year Starfleet Command annual fleeting held during Starbase Indy held over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. The awards we received are as follows: Retention Award, Newsletter of the Year 3rd place,

Website of the Year 3rd place, and last but not least Small Ship of the Year 1st place. Captain Henderson wanted to be there to receive these awards in person but could not due to the weather. As for the First Officer (Me), was for transportation reasons (and the weather, right now looking out my window, I'm looking a total so far for this season, 11 inches of snow on the ground). Once I found out much snow (four letter dirty word) we were in for, well you can guess the rest.

In this issue of the StarLight, have are usual affair of articles plus two Christmas story's that I'm hoping you'll enjoy. Well, that it for this time around.

Time to put this puppy to bed.

The First Officer



Bible Quotes

Thanksgiving

Leviticus 7:12, 13

12 If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried. 13 Besides the cakes, he shall offer for his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings.

Leviticus 7:15

15 And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day that it is offered; he shall not leave any of it until the morning.

Psalms 26:7

7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wonderous works.

Psalms 50:14

14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

Psalms 69:30

30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Psalms 95:2

2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

Psalms 100:4

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Psalm 107:22

22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

Psalm 116:17

17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

Psalm 147:7

7 Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God:

Jonah 2:9

9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

2 Corinthians 4:15

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through un thanksgiving to God.

Philippians 4:6

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Colossians 4:2

2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

1 Timothy 4:4

4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

Revelation 7:12

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.



Twass the Night Before

Twass the night before Christmas
He lived all alone
In a one-bedroom house made of
Plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney
With presents to give
And to see just who
In this home did live.

I looked all about
A strange sight I did see
No tinsel, no presents
Not even a tree.

No stocking by the mantle
Just boots filled with sand
On the wall hung pictures
Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges
Awards of all kinds
A sober thought
Came through my mind.

For this house was different
It was dark and dreary
I found the home of a soldier
Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping
Silent. Alone
Curled up on the floor
In this one-bedroom home.

The face so gentle
The room in such disorder
Not how I pictured
A United States Soldier.

Was this the hero
Of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho
The Floor for a bed.

I realized the families
That I saw this night
Owed their lives to these soldiers
Who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world
The children would play
And grownups would celebrate
A bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom
Each month of the year
Because of the soldiers
Like the one lying here.

The very thought
Brought a tear to my eye
I dropped to my knees
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened
And I heard a rough voice
"Santa don't cry
This life is my choice.

I fight for freedom
I don't ask for more
My life is my God
My country, My Corps."

The soldier rolled over
And drifted to sleep
I couldn't control it
I continued to weep.

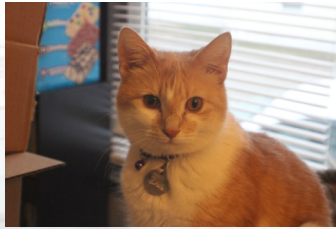
I kept watch for hours
So silent and still
And we both shivered
From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
On that cold, dark, night
This guardian of honor
So willing to fight.

Then the Soldier rolled over
With a voice soft and pure
Whispered, "Carry on Santa,
It's Christmas day, all is secure."

One look at my watch
And I knew he was right
"Merry Christmas my friend.
And to all a good night."

This is dedicated to those who are
serving overseas and cannot be home
with their loved ones this holiday season.
From the staff of the StarLight and the
Crew of USS BRIGHTSTAR
We Say Thank You
Come home, come home safe and
Sound.



Hobb's Recipe Center

Well, here we are.
Hobbs and his predecessors
have used all the recipe that we had in our proces-
sions. So, we had to go out to find some more recipes.

Starting with this issue, Hobbs will be serving up
some new recipes from both Star Trek, and Star Wars
universes.

KLINGON GAGH

INGREDIENTS

4 oz Baby Eels (Angulas)
Juice of ½ lemon
One or two fresh chili peppers, thinly sliced
One garlic clove, minced
1 tablespoon olive oil
¼ teaspoon sea salt
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

- ONE: Cut the chili pepper in half.
- TWO: Remove the seeds and membranes.
Slice them thinly.
- THREE: Peel the garlic and thinly slice or mince.
- FOUR: Heat olive oil in a pan. Toss in the garlic,
chilies, and baby eels.
- FIVE: Suate over medium heat for 2 – 4 minutes,
stirring occasionally. Add lemon juice and
more olive oil if desired.

Serve with Grapok sauce.

KLINGON GRAPOK SAUCE

INGREDIENTS

1/3 cup soy sauce
1 tablespoon brown sugar
2 tablespoons chili paste
1 teaspoon sesame oil
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 tablespoon finely chopped garlic
2 tablespoons chopped green onion

2 teaspoons finely chopped ginger
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
2 tablespoons fish sauce
1 tablespoon hoisin sauce
1 teaspoon cornstarch
1 tablespoon rice vinegar

INSTRUCTIONS

ONE: Sauté the garlic, green onion, and ginger in the vegetable oil just until their oils are released.

TWO: Whisk the cornstarch into the soy sauce in a small bowl, then add to the pan and cook until the sauce begins to thicken and turn transparent (just a few seconds).

THREE: Remove from heat then add all the other ingredients.

Grapok sauce was often served with gagh and racht, and sometimes with Bregit lung.

EARTH BANANA PANCAKES

INGREDIENTS

Pancakes:

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 cups flour
2 tablespoons baking powder
½ tsp salt
2 eggs
2 tablespoons sugar
2 cups buttermilk or whole milk
2 tablespoons melted unsalted butter

Caramel Sauce:

2 tablespoons unsalted butter
¼ cup brown sugar
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 tablespoons maple syrup
¼ cup rum
¼ cup half and half
2 bananas sliced
¼ cup chopped pecans or walnuts
whipped cream (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

Make the pancakes:

ONE: Heat a large skillet on medium high heat and coat with the vegetable oil.

TWO: In a medium bowl, sift the flour, baking powder and salt together. Baking powder and salt together.

THREE: In another bowl, whisk together the eggs, sugar, and buttermilk until fully combined.

FOUR: Whisk the dry and wet ingredients together until completely incorporated. Don't overbeat.

FIVE: Pour ½ cup of the into the heated skillet and fry for 2-3 minutes or until you see bubbles in the center, Flip and fry another 1-2 minutes.

Make the caramel sauce:

ONE: Melt the butter in a medium skillet over medium heat. Add the brown sugar and maple syrup. Cook for 4-5 minutes or until it begins to bubble. Once you see bubbles you'll need to work quickly.

TWO: Stir the sauce then reduce the to low and add the rum.

THREE: Ignite the rum flambe.

FOUR: Add the cinnamon, the half and half, then the bananas. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes, turning once. Add the pecans or walnuts.

Serve over the pancakes topped with whipped cream if desired.

ACAMARIAN PARTHAS A LA YUTA

INGREDIENTS

1 ½ pounds fresh kohlrabi (German-cabbage turnip) bulbs, ends trimmed, thick green skin sliced off, then diced.

(Save the Kohlrabi greens)

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 teaspoon minced garlic

½ teaspoon sea salt

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Toss the diced kohlrabi bulbs with olive oil, garlic and salt in a bowl. Spread the kohlrabi evenly on a baking sheet and roast for 30-35 minutes, turning once or twice.

Roughly chop the kohlrabi greens, sauté them in 1 table spoon of olive oil, dash of salt and pepper, for just a minute or two. Let cool. Then add them to

¼ cup crumbled feta cheese
1 small clove garlic, minced
¼ teaspoon sea salt
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon sherry vinegar
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
Dash Freshly ground pepper

ONE: Place greens and feta in a large bowl. Whisk garlic, salt, olive oil, sherry vinegar and Dijon in a small bowl. Pour dressing over greens, season with pepper and toss to combine.

TWO: To serve, plate the roasted kohlrabi bulbs first. Top in the center with the salad of kohlrabi greens. Make a ring of sliced in half cherry or Roma tomatoes around the crown of kohlrabi greens, and Voila, there you have Parthas a la Yuta.

Moon Gets Sucker Punched

As the Taurid meteor shower reached its peak (this happen around November 5th) two events took place on the Moon's surface that caught everyone by surprise. These two events were witness and recorded by a Japanese astronomer Daichi Fujii. What he witness, only few astronomers are lucky enough to be able to see it first-hand.

What he saw and recorded was not one, but two meteor strikes on the Moon. Daichi Fujii is an astronomer and the curator of the Hiratsuka City Museum in Japan. Dr. Fujii said the when the meteors struck the Moon, "there were visible flashes, which could be seen from Earth. However, the flashes only lasted for a split second. He shared the videos and the images from his cameras he had aimed at the dark side of the Moon, on his personal X account (formerly known as Twitter).

The first collision he observed occurred at 8:30 p.m. Japan standard time (JST), at 6:30 p.m. EST or 11:30 GMT on October 30, 2025. The second collision occurred at 8:19 p.m. (JST), or 6:49 a.m. (EST), or 11:49 GMT on November 1, 2025.

Dr. Fujii calculations show the October 30th meteor impacted just east of the Gassendi Crater. This meteor was most likely part of the Taurid meteor shower. It struck the Moon at a velocity of 27 km/s or 60,000 mph, at an angle of 35 degrees. The mass of the rock was 0.4 pounds or 0.2 kilograms. The meteor itself created a crater 10 feet wide (3 meters). The flash of the impact lasted only 0.1 seconds.

"The pixels were saturated, so it's possible the flash was even brighter than recorded data suggests," Fujii told Space.com.

The second strike on November 1st occurred west of the Oceanus Procellarum. This location is one of the Moon's largest lunar maria.

Even though there is no confirmation on whether or not these space rocks were just sporadic meteors, Dr. Fujii said the timing aligns with the shower's period of increased activity. These observations are the latest in a series of Dr. Fujii's observations. Just about everyone in the astronomy community considers him one of the leading recorders of such events.

"I started observing lunar impact flashes around 2011 and have been continuously observing since 2020." Fujii said. "With my 20cm telescope I typically detect about one impact flash every few dozen hours of observation. Because the thin crescent Moon is visible only briefly and often low in the sky where thin clouds are common, I can only observe a few dozen flashes per year."

So far, he has documented a total of 60 flashes per year.

Earth with its thick atmosphere, meteors like the two that collided with the Moon, tends to burn up and not reach the ground. But when it comes to the Moon with no atmosphere, there is nothing there to slow them down or stop the rock from impacting the Moon surface. Meteors that do collide with the Moon can reach speeds of 45,000 to 660,00 mph (20 to 22 km/s). Meteors that do impacted with the Moon can release a powerful burst of light and heat. These kinds of impact can and do create craters that are tens of feet across, even from meteoroids. A meteoroids just weighing 11 pounds (5 kilograms) in mass, can gouge out a crater more than 30 feet (9 meters) wide and eject over 75 metric tons of lunar soil and rock.

End of Report

Laugh About It

Sign Of The Times

Sign #1

You haven't really live until you've had to push a car with a dead battery, Jump in, throw it in 1st gear, and pop the clutch like a pro.

Old-school struggles, unforgettable memories.

Sign #2

Its candy corn season. For all U crayon eating Psychopaths.

Sign #3

Failure to be at the bus stop at the scheduled time will result in missing the BUS!!

Sign #4

DO NOT EAT MY LUNCH.
I HAVE 7 SHRIMP AND
4,377 RICE.

CONFUSED?

I become confused when I hear the word 'SERVICE' used with these agencies.

Internal Revenue 'SERVICE'

US Postal 'SERVICE'

Cable TV 'SERVICE'

Civil 'SERVICE'

Federal, State, City, and public 'SERVICE'

This is NOT what I thought 'SERVICE' meant.

But today, I overheard two farmers talking, and one of them said he had bought a bull to

'SERVICE' his cows.

BAM!!! It all came into focus.

Now I understand what all those agencies are doing to us.

And now, your are as enlightened as I am.

Bicycle I Go To Onto Home Fall

I went to the liquor store Friday afternoon on my bicycle, bought a bottle of Scotch and put it in the bicycle basket.

As I was about to leave, I thought to myself that if I fell off the bicycle, the bottle would break. So, I drank all the Scotch before I cycled home.

It turned out to be very good decision, because I fell off my bicycle seven times on the way home.

The Preacher And The Cowboy

A preacher was seated next to a cowboy on a flight to Texas. After the plane took off, the cowboy asked for a whiskey and soda, which was brought and placed before him.

The flight attendant then asked the preacher if he would like a similar drink.

Appalled, the preacher replied, "I'd rather be tied up and taken advantage of by women of ill repute, than let liquor touch my lips."

The cowboy then handed his drink back to the attendant and said, "Me too, I didn't know we had that choice."

Matilda And History

Matilda mother received the following email from her school.

"Matilda has had a good day today. Was really passionate in history class.

When asked by her mother what she did to earn such praise from her history teacher, Matilda said, "Yeah so he told us all about the Roman army then he told us to write a diary entry like we were a Roman soldier. Then he asked me why I wasn't writing anything. So, I said, "You literally just told us that women couldn't join the Roman army – I'm a girl, I can't be a Roman soldier' so I didn't

have to write ANYTHING!”
Yeah, passionate.

FEMALE COMEBACKS

Man: Haven't I seen you someplace before?
Woman: Yes, that's why I don't go there anymore.
Man: Is this seat empty?
Woman: Yes, and this one will be if you sit down.
Man: Your place or mine?
Woman: Both. You go to yours, and I'll go to mine.
Man: So, what do you do for a living?
Woman: I'm a female impersonator.
Man: Hey baby, what's your sign?
Woman: Do not enter.
Man: How do you like your eggs in the morning?
Woman: Unfertilized.
Man: Your body is like a temple.
Woman: Sorry, there are no services today.
Man: I would go to the end of the world for you.
Woman: But would you stay there?
Man: If I could see you naked, I'd be happy.
Woman: If I saw you naked, I'd probably die laughing.

Horse Racing In Ireland

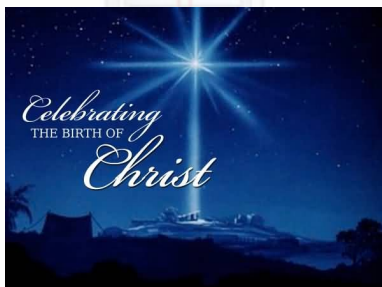
Racehorse doping is not unknown in Ireland. One day, the Clerk of the Course spotted a trainer giving something to a horse just before the start of a race.

He went over and said, "Doping?"
The trainer said, "Indeed not, Sor. 'Tis just lump of sugar. Look, I'll take a bit meself....see?"

The Clerk of the Course said, "sorry, but we have to be careful. As matter of fact, I like a bit of sugar meself."

So, the trainer gave him a piece. When the Clerk of the Course disappeared, the trainer gave his jockey his last-minute instructions.

"Don't forget the drill. Hold him in 'til the last four furlongs. Don't worry if anything passes ye, it'll be me or the Clerk of the Course!"



The Weird, The Strange,

And What The ???

Conspiratorial: Gabrielle Franze had broken up with her boyfriend, an unnamed firefighter living in Volusia County, Fla. Franze was apparently upset that her ex had moved on and had a new girlfriend. "Gabrielle said her mother and aunt, who live out of state, came over to visit," says the resulting report by a Volusia County Sheriff's Office deputy. "During this visit, a plan hatched." After the plan was executed, the boyfriend and his new partner arrived home to find "approximately 75 opened tampons in their yard, which were stained red as if they were possibly used." The couple checked their security cameras and saw a woman in the back of a pickup truck — which resembled one Franze drove — throw the debris into the yard. Another security camera in the neighborhood caught the truck's license plate number, confirming it belonged to Franze. She denied having been to the house, but when shown the security camera images, including her license number, she changed her story and admitted she was there, then threw her mom and aunt under the bus by saying they came up with the idea. Detectives say Franze, who is also a firefighter, was the "primary aggressor"; she was arrested for stalking — and suspended from her job. (RC/WKMG Orlando, WOFL Orlando) ...*So the plan unraveled, and she was left holding the string.*

Know Your Place, Clanker: Thaddeus Claggett wants to prevent property from being treated as a person. "As the computer systems improve in their capacity to act more like humans, we want to be sure we have prohibitions in our law that prohibit those systems from ever being human in their agency," says the Republican state legislator from Licking County, Ohio. He's proposed a bill to ensure that A.I.s can't be corporate officers, landowners, or spouses — even to other A.I.s. A survey of A.I. users showed that 3 percent thought an artificial intelligence was a romantic partner, and 16 percent have entertained the possibility that one was sentient. Claggett acknowledges that A.I. is "better at certain tasks" than a human, but he wants to keep it out of certain roles. Under his proposal, A.I.s would be declared "nonsentient entities." (AC/WCMH Columbus) ...*Even if, someday, they are sentient.*

Newfound Freedom: Banned Books Week looked a little different at the Lihue Public Library this year. The largest library on the island of Kauai, Hawaii — like all libraries in the state — had to follow new guidelines for their displays. “I was flabbergasted,” said Lani Kawahara, Lihue’s librarian. “We’ve done displays like this forever.” Kawahara’s supervisor took down about half of her display, because the Hawaii State Public Library System had rebranded the event “Freedom to Read”, and had banned the use of terms like “banned”, “censorship”, and ... “banned books week”. As a result, the educational materials around the displays were removed, and only the books and the Freedom to Read banner remained. State Librarian Stacey Aldrich said the changes were made so the event can be inclusive of all library patrons. “There are people who misunderstand ‘banned books’ or believe that we are banning books,” she said. Stickers with the American Library Association’s 2025 Banned Books Week theme, “Censorship is so 1984,” were also confiscated. (MS/AP) ...*Bring on the Newspeak.*

Coffee? The Polk County (Fla.) Sheriff’s Office received a call of a man in a public park in Winter Haven who was allegedly fully undressed. By the time deputies arrived, they found he was fully dressed, so the deputy said he would “give him a break” and not arrest him if he left the park. The man left — but then trespassed on other property, so the deputy arrested Walter Frymire, 51, who has 25 prior arrests which have resulted in 5 different prison stints. Arrestees in Polk County receive a quick body scan to ensure they aren’t smuggling anything into the jail. What they saw in Frymire’s was shocking. “We said ‘Dude! What are you doing here?’” recounted Sheriff Grady Judd. “He said, ‘Well, I put that inside my body’.” Judd explained, “That’s right, he put it up the exit ramp. You know what I mean.” And just what did Frymire shove up his rectum? A full-sized thermos. “We had to take him to the hospital,” Judd said. “They had to find a specialist.” (RC/WTVT Tampa) ...*A proctologist with a minor in mechanical engineering.*

Intruder Alert: Henny Rojas was asleep in his family home in Wilton Manors, Fla., when he was awakened around 1:00 a.m. by his nephew screaming that there was a man in the living room. Rojas jumped up and confronted the intruder, who fled after a tussle. Police found a man nearby and were pretty sure they had the right guy. Austin Caresani, 31, told officers that he had been drinking at a club and “was attempting to go to his

friend Paul’s house who resides in the area,” but apparently entered the wrong house. It was also clear that Caresani had been badly beaten: his face was bruised and cut. Rojas explained he is a mixed martial arts fighter, and his training simply kicked in when presented with a threat. Caresani has been charged with home invasion, and is being held on \$20,000 bail. (RC/WTVJ Miami) ...*He’ll also be charged for his emergency room visit.*

Nikolai Ivanovich Rembrandt: Anne Lenders was at the Zeeuws Museum when she noticed a drawing of a dog. It was part of a larger drawing Adriaen van de Venne did in 1619, which appeared in a book. The Zeeuws Museum also had the original drawing on display, borrowed from Amsterdam’s Rijksmuseum, where Lenders is a curator. But what Lenders noticed was the dog’s resemblance to one in a painting in the Rijksmuseum’s collection: “Night Watch” (1642), by Rembrandt van Rijn. So she did a detailed comparison. “The head turns in exact the same angle with the mouth slightly opened,” Lenders said. “Both dogs have long hair and ears that hang vertical.” Rembrandt, Lenders says, copied the dog from van de Venne’s drawing. (AC/AP) ...*“Only be sure to call it, please, research.” — Tom Lehrer.*

Scottish Rock: Ally Crowley-Duncan has been a recognized musician since she won her high-school talent show with a cover of Ozzy Osbourne’s “Crazy Train”. Now 29, Crowley-Duncan is a viral sensation, with her multiple covers of Lynyrd Skynyrd’s “Free Bird” garnering over 100 million online views. “She told me when she was 16 that she was going to make the bagpipes relevant,” her mom, Justine Crowley-Duncan, says. All her performances, from “Crazy Train” to “My Heart Will Go On”, are performed on that instrument. She got her start on the competitive bagpipe circuit, dressing conservatively and playing more traditional, non-rock, music. But during the Covid lockdown she posted a video on TikTok that garnered more than 150,000 views in a day. She still posts videos online, but most of her income now comes from being a top-billed act at music festivals. Not everyone’s a fan. “Bagpipes don’t belong in Metallica,” sniffed one critic on social media, claiming the band’s frontman, James Hetfield, “would not approve.” Metallica responded: “This guy doesn’t speak on our behalf. You’re awesome.” (MS/Wall Street Journal) ...*That’s some amazing grace from the band.*

Houston, We Have a Problem: A woman in Hokkaido, Japan, realized too late that she had been conned in a romance scheme. The man contacted her on social media, and convinced the 80-year-old, who lives alone, that he loved her. But after a few months of stringing her along, he told her he had a problem he needed her help with. She sent him 1 million yen (US\$6,700) after he told her he was an astronaut, in space, and desperately needed to buy oxygen. (RC/Sky) ...*And once she figured it out, all the air was let out of their relationship.*

Wu-Tang Clan: Two 17-year-old Chinese teenagers, identified only by their surnames, Wu and Tang, were eating at a Haidilao chain restaurant in Shanghai. What happened was discovered because Wu posted the footage on social media — where the pair were seen climbing onto the table and peeing into the hotpot. The video went viral and public outrage followed. Haidilao apologized, saying they have replaced all the tableware at the location, and completely sanitized the restaurant. They also refunded the meals served that night, and added 10 times that amount in compensation, to all of the 4,109 customers who ate there during the time the incident took place. Then the restaurant went after Wu and Tang, seeking over 23 million yuan (US\$3 million) in damages. A judge ruled in favor of Haidilao, but awarded only 2.2 million yuan (US\$308,000). “This must be the most expensive pee in history,” a social media commenter said. (MS/South China Morning Post) ...*They thought they'd be legends — go viral, get hot! / Instead they'll be known as o-bliv-i-ots.*

It's History: Three millennia ago, Pharaoh Amenemope had a gold bracelet with a bead of lapis lazuli. Much more recently, the Egyptian Museum in Cairo was preparing it and other items for a trip to Italy to be exhibited. Officials say the bracelet went somewhere else: to a silver dealer who had an acquaintance who worked at the museum as a restoration specialist. (The accused specialist, who is said to have confessed, is among four people who have been arrested.) From the silver dealer, the bracelet went to one gold workshop, and then another. The last worker to buy it spent about \$4,000 on it, then melted it to reuse the gold. Egypt's Tourism and Antiquities Ministry released security video of the bracelet being weighed before money changed hands. (AC/AP) ...*It was heavier than a feather — and so are the hearts of those responsible.*

Attentive: Joan Dimopoulos was taking a break from a busy day at work to get a little lunch when she realized her chicken sandwich was stuck in her throat; she couldn't breathe. The good thing was, she was at the

cafeteria at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., and there was an emergency room doctor present. The problem was, Dimopoulos was that doctor, and she was in significant distress. “Everybody else was just looking at her,” said an Angel — Keztly Angel, a cafeteria cashier, who immediately ran to help the doctor with a Heimlich Maneuver, which she learned in high school health class. “There were a lot of people around, but she's the one who jumped up and helped me right away,” Dr. Dimopoulos said at an event later to honor Angel. “You never know when you can help somebody,” Angel said. (RC/WBBM Chicago) ...*Every day. Some just look harder than others.*

No Hurry: A janitor at a middle and high school in the Guro District of Seoul, South Korea, looked inside a sack at the school's recycling station. Inside: two old-looking hand grenades, as well as other military paraphernalia from the 1950s. He reported his find to the school's administration office — but no one notified the police, and the bag sat there for a month. During that time, someone stuck the bag in a broken rice cooker, and a security guard wondered if the cooker might be serviceable, looked inside, found the grenades, and notified the police. The school was evacuated. “Staff assumed they were teaching equipment or replicas,” a school spokesman said, “so they did not take immediate action” when they were first found. The military bomb squad said the grenades are real, and are “conducting further analysis to determine whether the grenades still pose a risk of detonation.” (RC/Korea Times) ...*That's easy enough: pull the pins and wait a few seconds.*



The Study Of Constellations

Draco Constellation – The Dragon

Pronunciation: DRAY – ko
Abbreviations: Dra
Genitive: Draconis
Right Ascension: 17 hours
Declination: 65 degrees
Area In Square Degrees: 1083
Crosses Meridian: 9 p.m. July 20
Visible Between Latitudes: +90 degrees North
-15 degrees South
Quadrant: North Quadrant Three (NQ3)

General Information

Draco in the Latin tongue means 'The Dragon.' First catalogued by the 2nd century B.C. astronomer Ptolemy. Draco constellation is a circumpolar constellation. This means that the constellation itself never set below the northern horizon.

It is the eighth largest constellation in the night sky. The constellation represents Ladon the dragon. Is the guardian of the Hesperides's gardens in the Greek mythology.

Neighboring constellations are Boötes, Camelopardalis, Cepheus, Cygnus, Hercules, Lyra, . Ursa Major, and Ursa Minor. The three-letter abbreviation 'Dra' was adopted by the international Astronomical Union (IAU) in 1922. Draco constellation belong to the Ursa Major family of constellations that includes the constellation , Coma Berenices, Boötes, Camelopardalis, Canes Venatici, Corona Borealis, Leo Minor, Lynx, and Ursa Major.

Draco has nine stars with known planets. The brightest star in the constellation is Eltanin, Gamma Draconis. There is one known meteor shower associated with the constellation, the Draconids.

Myth Of Draco

When it comes to the myth of the Draco constellation (and like so many Greek mythos) there is least 5 different version of this particular myth.

Version#1

According to the book authored by Errol Jud Codner, this version of the Draco – The Dragon, is the least likely of the bunch. The dragon fought the god Minerva during the wars between giants and the gods. Minerva defeated Draco by throwing his twisted body into the

the heavens before he had the chance to unwind his body.

Version #2

There is at least two other versions of this same myth for a total of three. In this version Draco represents the dragon who by the goddess Hera (she is the wife to the Greek god Zeus) decree, Draco was to guard the golden apple tree in the garden of Hesperides. Hera received the apple tree as a wedding present when she married Zeus. The garden itself is located on Mount Atlas. Hera then tasked Atlas's daughters the Hesperides to guard the garden itself.

Version #2a

In this version the dragon has a hundred eyes and heads. And is the product of an liaison between the monsters Typhon and Echidna. Echidna is a half woman and half serpent.

Version #2b

The dragon is an offspring of Ceto and Phorcys. Both are sea deities. There is no mentioning of how many heads or the eyes the dragon had.

Version #3

This version of the myth is also part of another myth. The myth of Heracles and the twelve labours. As this myth goes Heracles was assigned (one version says this was the eleventh task while another version says it was the twelfth) the task of stealing the golden apples from the golden apple tree. This task was made more difficult because Heracles did not know where the golden apple tree was located.

Some say the Heracles found out where the golden tree with the golden apples were on Mount Atlas in Africa. And Atlas was the only one who where was located. Atlas was one the Titans who went to war against the Greek gods. When Titans lost the war, Atlas was imprisoned on Mount Atlas and was condemned to bear the weight of the heavens (this included the Earth as well) on his shoulders.

Heracles went to Mount Atlas to talk to, if not enlist the aid of Atlas himself. Heracles knew that the Hesperus were the daughters of Atlas. And since their father was Atlas, Heracles thought Atlas might know where the golden tree was, and thus might be able to retrieve some of the golden apples.

Atlas listen to Heracles' plan on how to retrieve the golden apples. After listening to his plan, Atlas pointed out that were a couple of problems' with Heracles' plan. First of which is the dragon guarding the golden tree.

To solve this problem, Heracles throws his spear into the garden of Hesperides "killing the hundred headed beast." The second problem, Atlas could not just drop his burden of the "weight of the heavens" to retrieve the apples. To solve this problem, Heracles took Atlas's burden onto his own shoulders. Thus, allowing Atlas to locate the golden tree and steal the apples. Atlas returned with the golden apples, gave them to Heracles, and then took back onto his own shoulders "the weight of the heavens" For the dragon's faithful service, Hera placed his image in the heavens as a reward.

Version #4

In this, the most commonly accepted version on how Draco's arrival in the heavens, Draco was killed by Cadmus. Cadmus is the brother of Europa. Europa was carried off to Crete by the Greek god Zeus.

Cadmus was then ordered by their father to search the world over for his sister. And not to return without her. Zeus hid Europa so well, that Cadmus failed in his assigned task. Fearing for his life, Cadmus avoided returning home. Instead, he made a pilgrimage to Apollo's oracle to ask "what he should do, what land he should dwell in."

Cadmus following Apollo's advice found a suitable site for his new home/city. He then sent out his attendants to find fresh water for themselves and tribute to Zeus. They found a cave with several springs contain within. As they were retrieving the water, they were all, to the last man, killed by Draco the dragon. When they did not return as planned, Cadmus went looking for his attendants. He found the cave, went inside and found the springs. As he was retrieving the water from the springs, Cadmus also found the monster/dragon. Cadmus killed the dragon with his spear.

On the orders of the goddess Minerva, Cadmus buried the dragon's teeth in the ground. From those teeth sprung warriors. They would battle each other until there were only five left. Those five warriors and Cadmus were the first citizens of the city of Thebes.

Version #5

This version of the myth is based in Roman mythology. In this myth Draco is one of the titans who went to war against the Olympian gods for ten years. Draco met his end at the hands of the goddess Minerva. She would throw him into the sky, where he froze around the North Pole.

Stars of the Draco Constellation

Eltanin – (Gamma Draconis) – “The Great Serpent”

Eltanin is an orange giant star. It is 154 light years from Earth with a visual magnitude of 2.23. The star is a K5 III star. Eltanin is 471 times more luminous than our own Sun. The name 'Eltanin or Eltamin' comes from the Arabic 'At-Tinnin' which means 'the great serpent' The star is one of the brightest in the Draco constellation. In Great Britain's city of London, the star is also known as the zenith star. This is because Eltanin lies close to the zenith point which lies directly above the city.

The star is easy to find. Eltanin lies north-northwest of the star Vega, which is the brightest star in the Lyra constellation. In about 1.5 million years, the Eltanin star will pass within 28 light years of Earth, and will be one of the brightest stars in the night sky. Almost as bright as Sirius is today.

Athebyne or Aldibain – (Eta Draconis) ‘Two Wolves’

Eta Draconis is the second brightest star in the Draco constellation. The star is 92 light-years from Earth. It has a visual magnitude of 2.73. Athebyne is a yellow-white giant star. Because of its size, the star and its visual magnitude puts it in the spectral class type G8 III. Astronomers estimate it to be around 550 million years old. Athebyne is 60 times more luminous than our own star.

Rastaban – (Beta Draconis) ‘Head of the Serpent’

Beta Draconis is the third brightest star in the Draco constellation. It lies some 380 light years from Earth and has a visual magnitude of 2.79. Beta Draconis is a binary star system. Beta Draconis A is 40 times larger than our own star and 950 times more luminous than our own Sun. It is also a yellow giant. Astronomers estimate that Beta Draconis A is at least 67 million years old. Beta Draconis B is a dwarf companion star. Rastaban comes from the Arabic ra's ath-thulban which means 'the head of the serpent.'

Aldhibah – (Zeta Draconis) ‘The Hyenas’

Aldhibah is the fifth brightest star in the Draco constellation. Its spectral type is B6 III. It lies at a distance of 330 light years from Earth. The visual magnitude of the star is 3.17.

The star's name in Arabic means 'the hyenas. It is also called Nodus 3 and is also called The Knot

Zeta Draconis is 2.5 times larger than our own Sun and is 148 times more luminous than our own star.

Ed Asich – (Iota Draconis) ‘Hyena’

Ed Asich is spectral type K2 III class star. It is 101 light years distance from Earth. Its visual magnitude is 3.29. In 2002, an exoplanet was discovered in orbit about a star. It is the first known giant star to have a planet.

Iota Draconis is slightly larger than our Sun but is 12 times the solar radius. It is also 55 times more luminous. It is also believed to have debris disk that surrounds the star.

Batentaban – (Chi Draconis) ‘Belly of the Serpent’

Batentaban Borealis is another binary star system in the Draco constellation. Chi Draconis A is a yellow-white class F7 V star with a visual magnitude of 3.68 almost twice luminosity of our own star. Chi Draconis B is an orange star with a visual magnitude of 5.67. The system itself (combine) has 3.57 visual magnitude. Both stars orbit each other in 280 days. The system is 26.3 light-years from Earth.

Thuban – (Alpha Draconis) ‘The Snake’

Thuban has a visual magnitude of 3.64. The star lies 303 light years from Earth. For over 2,149 years, from 3942 to 1793 BC was the North Pole star. Thuban is 250 times more luminous than the Sun. The star name comes from the Arabic thu’ban which means ‘the snake’

Grumium – (Xi Draconis) ‘The Jaw’

Grumium is an orange giant star, class K2 III. The star is 112.5 light-years from Earth and has a visual magnitude of 3.75.

Shaowei – (Kappa Draconis)

Kappa Draconis is a blue giant is a B2 III spectral class. The star has a visual magnitude of 3.82. Shaowei is 490 light years from Earth. It is five times more massive than our own Sun. And is 1400 times more luminous. Astronomers believe the star is entering its red giant stage of its life cycle. From 1793 to 1000 B.C. the star was considerably closer to the North Star but wasn’t considered a pole star. This was because Kochab (Beta Ursae Minoris) was significantly brighter.

Tyl – (Epsilon Draconis)

The yellow giant star that is Tyl falls into the spectral type G8 III. Epsilon Draconis lies some 148 light-years from Earth. The star has a visual magnitude of 3.99. It’s considered to be fairly young G class star.

It is estimated to be at least 500 million years old. Tyl is 60 times more luminous than our Sun.

Gianfar/Giausar – (Lambda Draconis) ‘Dragon’

There is not much information on Gianfar other than Lambda Draconis is a M0 class star. It lies 334 light-years away and has an apparent visual magnitude of 4.1.

Theta Draconis

This star is yellow-white star, spectral type F9 V. Theta Draconis is 68.6 light-years from Earth. Visual magnitude is 4.12.

Batentaban Australis – (Phi Draconis)

Batentaban Australis has a stellar classification A0sp. It is 300 light-years from Earth. Phi Draconis is a multi-star system. The star system has an estimated visual magnitude of 4.20. It is unfortunate that the system cannot be seen in latitudes south of the Tropic of Capricorn.

Phi Draconis B and C are hydrogen fusing dwarfs. They complete an orbit around each other every 307.8 years. Phi Draconis A is an unresolvable binary star.

Dziban/Dsiban – (Psi Draconis) (31 Draconis) ‘The Two Jackals’

Dziban is a triple star system. The system is 75 light-years from Earth. With a combined visual magnitude of 4.58. In 2015 Psi Draconis B was discovered in its orbit an exoplanet of unknown size and make-up.

Alsafi – (Sigma Draconis) ‘Cooking Tripods’

Alsafi is a white dwarf star that is 18.77 light-years from Earth. It has a visual magnitude of 4.68. The star is smaller and less massive than our Sun. Alsafi is 43% less luminous than our Sun. In 2007 an exoplanet the size of Jupiter was discovered to be in orbit or in the vicinity of the star.

Upsilon Draconis

Upsilon Draconis system is a binary star. It has visual magnitude of 4.83. And is located 340 light-years from Earth. Upsilon Draconis A is a K-type star with a stellar classification of K0 III. Astronomers suspect Upsilon Draconis A to be a barium star.

Astronomers also say this may explain its companion star Upsilon Draconis B, which is a white dwarf star. The system itself is estimated to be at least 1.37 billion years old.

Kuma – (Nu Draconis) ‘As Last’

Astronomers say that Kuma is a binary star system. Both stars are white A type stars. Nu Draconis A is a

hydrogen fusing dwarf. Its companion Nu Draconis B is also dwarf star. This white dwarf is dimmer and has a lower mass than its companion. Nu Draconis B orbits Nu Draconis A every 38.6 days. The system has a combine visual magnitude of 4.23. The system is 98.7 light-years from Earth. The name Kuma comes from an obscure origin at best. However, one source postulates it means 'at last.' Kuma can be seen with the help of a binoculars or with a telescope.

Alraakis – (Mu Draconis) 'The Dancer'

Alraakis system is known to be a double star system. The two stars are a F7 V class stars with a combine visual magnitude of 4.92. And is 85 light-years from Earth. The stars are now known as Arrakis. Everyone might recognize the name from the Frank Herbert's 'Dune' books series. Alraakis comes from the Arabic word al-Raqis, which means 'the dancer.'

Omicron Draconis

The giant Omicron Draconis star belongs to the spectral class K2 III. It has a visual magnitude of 4.62, and is 322.93 light-years from Earth. The star is 269 times brighter than the Sun and has 30 times the radius. Omicron Draconis is also note for being the North Star for the planet Mercury.

26 Draconis

26 Draconis is a trinary star system. The system contains a spectroscopic double star. These two stars have a orbital period of 76 years. The third star is a red dwarf (not the t.v. BBC television show). The system itself is 47 light-years from Earth with a combine visual magnitude of 9.97.

BY Draconis

BY Draconis is another trinary star system. BY Draconis A and B are main sequence star. They have orbital period of 5.98 days. The star is separated by 260 AU's. BY Draconis C is a red dwarf star. Astronomers suspect that there may be a fourth star, but this has not been visually confirmed yet. The system has a combine visual magnitude of 3.38 and is at best guess 53.8 light years from Earth.

Struve 2398 – HD 173739/HD 173740 (Gliese)

This system is a binary star system. Both stars are red dwarfs. They orbit each other every 295 years. The average distance between the two stars is about 56 astronomical units. Both stars are a known source of X-rays.

Struve 2398 is 11.52 light-years from Earth with a combine visual magnitude of 9.32.

Kepler 10

The Kepler star is much like our own Sun. It is 564 light-years from Earth. With visual magnitude of 10.96. Which means the star cannot be seen without the aid of either binoculars or a telescope. The Kepler system is known to have at least two exoplanets, Kepler 10B and Kepler 10C. Kepler 10B was first discovered in January 2011. It was the first exoplanet to be discovered that had a rocky surface. 10B also has a very short orbital period, it orbits the Kepler star every 0.8 days. Kepler 10C was discovered in May 2011. Kepler 10C make-up is still in question. But its orbital period is every 42.3 days. Astronomers estimate the star is at least 11.9 billion years old. Making the star 2.6 times older than our Sun.

GD 356

GD 356 is a white dwarf, and it falls in the spectral type category DC 7. It lies some 65 light-years from Earth and has a visual magnitude of 15.06. The white dwarf cannot be seen without the aid of a binoculars or a telescope. GD 356 is also known as a high field magnetic white dwarf (HFMWD).

Deep Sky Objects of the Draco Constellation

Car's Eye Nebula – NGC 6543 (Caldwell 6)

The nebula known as the Car's Eye Nebula, it is known planetary nebula. The nebula is 3,300 light-years from Earth. The nebula has a visual magnitude of 9.8. And is one of the most complex nebulae ever to be discovered.

The nebula was formed about a thousand years ago, when a bright hot star lost its outer envelope toward the end of its red giant phase. The central star has a stellar classification O7, which means this star is about 10,000 times more luminous than our own Sun. The red giant phase of a star occurs towards the end of a star's life cycle. The material that is coming from the Car's Eye's nebula, is moving away from the star at an estimated 4 million miles an hour. When a red giant throws of its outer envelop, the only thing that remains of the star is its hot core. The hot core will eventually collapse even further into what will then be called a white dwarf star. Surrounding the white dwarf, is a multi-million-degree gas.

Because the nebula is so complex, the astronomers believe that the central star may actually be a binary star instead. Also as a results of a strong stellar winds, they believe that the star is losing about 20 trillion tons of mass per second. The nebula was first discovered by William Herschel in February 1786. It is also the first nebula to be observed with a spectroscope by William Huggins in August 1864.

Spindle Galaxy – Messier 102 – NGC 5866

The Spindle Galaxy was first discovered by either Pierre Mechain or Charles Messier. No one knows for sure who discovered it first. But was independently discovered by William Herschel in 1788. This galaxy is a spiral or lenticular galaxy, and is 50 million light-years from Earth with a visual magnitude of 10.7.

Draco Dwarf Galaxy

This galaxy is a spheroidal galaxy that lies with the borders of the Draco constellation. The Draco Dwarf galaxy is 260,000 light years from Earth. It has a visual magnitude of 10.9 it is a satellite galaxy, and one of the faintest of the Milky Way galaxy. This dwarf galaxy was first discovered by the American astronomer George Wilson in 1954. In the last 70 years it was discovered that this galaxy contains five carbon stars, four suspected asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars, number of red giant branch (RGB) stars, and more than 260 variables. Astronomers believe that this galaxy may contain large amounts of dark matter.

Abell 2218

This galaxy cluster lies within the borders of the Draco constellation and is approximately 2,345 million light-years from Earth. Abell 2218 is estimated to be 13 billion years old. If you were to look at this galaxy now from Earth, you would see it as it was 750 million years ago, just after the big bang.

Tadpole Galaxy – Arp 188

This galaxy is a disrupted (meaning it survive a collision with another galaxy) barred spiral galaxy that lies within the borders of the Draco constellation. The visual magnitude is 14.4, and is 400 million light-years from Earth . It has an enormous trail of stars. The length of this trail of stars is about 280 thousand light-years long. This galaxy contains a massive amount of bright blue stars. Astronomers believe the disruption was caused by a gravitational interaction or collision with a smaller, more compact galaxy, which the astronomers say may have drawn out some of the stars, the dust, and gasses out of the main body of Arp 188. The smaller galaxy or the remnants of that galaxy, trails behind the Tadpole galaxy by about 300 thousand light years.

Q1634+706

Q1634+706 is a quasar located within the borders of the Draco constellation. It's one of the few distant objects in the night sky that can be seen by either a binocular or a telescope. Its visual magnitude is 14.4, and is 12.9 billion light-years from our solar system.

NGC 6340

NGC 6340 is a spiral galaxy that lies within the borders of the Draco constellation. Its visual magnitude is 11.9 and lies 52 million light-years from Earth.

NGC 5879

NGC 5879 is yet another spiral galaxy that lies with the borders of the Draco constellation, and is also part of the NGC 5866 group. It was first discovered by William Herschel in 1788. The galaxy is approximately 39 to 55 million light-years from our solar system. It has a visual magnitude of 12.4. This NGC object can only be seen in the northern hemisphere.

NGC 4319 and Markarian 205

NGC 4319 is a spiral galaxy located with the boundary's of the Draco constellation. It has a visual magnitude of 12.8 and is 92 million light-years from Earth. Markarian 205 is 1.2 billion light-years from Earth.

NGC 4236

NGC 4236 is the third spiral galaxy that resides within the borders of the Draco constellation. The galaxy has a visual magnitude of 10.5 and is 11.7 million light-years from Earth. NGC 4235 is part of the M81 group, which also includes Bode's galaxy (Messier 81), the Cigar Galaxy (Messier 82), both of these galaxies are local within the Ursa Major constellation. This galaxy has a low surface brightness. Which makes the galaxy rather difficult to observe and take images. Especially without the aid of either binoculars or a small telescope.

NGC 6503

NGC 6503 resides within the borders of the Draco constellation. This galaxy is a dwarf spiral galaxy. It is located 17 million light-years from our solar system. It has a visual magnitude of 10.2. NGC 6503 was first discovered by the German astronomer Arther Auwers in July 1854.

The galaxy's structure is similar to that of our own Milky Way; but it is only about a third of the size of own galaxy. NGC 6503 lies in the region of space known as the Local Group of galaxy. This void is between 30 to 150 million light-years in diameter. It was discovered by astronomers Brent Tully and Rick Fisher in 1987.

NGC 594

NGC 5949 is another dwarf galaxy that is located within the borders of the Draco constellation. It lies some 44 million light-years from Earth. It has a visual magnitude of 12.70. The galaxy was discovered by William Herschel on November 28, 1801.

The mass of NGC 5949 is a hundredth the size of our Milky Way, and only contains a very small number of stars. This galaxy was classified as a dwarf galaxy. Because of its loosely bound spiral arms, this also puts this galaxy in the category of a barred spiral galaxy.

PGC 39058

This is the third or fourth dwarf galaxy located within the Draco constellation. It is 14 million light-years from Earth. When the astronomer try to determined its visual magnitude, they ran into some bad luck. That bad luck was a star. This star lies between Earth and PGC 39058. Normally this would not be problem, but in this case the astronomers tried every trick in their arsenal to get around the problem, but they could not. Because, for the simple fact that this star is bright enough to make any observations of PCG 39058 difficult at best on any given occasion.

End of report

Source material: space.com; nasa.gov; www.seasky.org; The Constellation: Myths of the Stars, Why and How They Came To Be, Errol Jud Coder author; Stargazing For Dummies, Steve Owens author; en.wikipedia.org; www.constellation-guide.com

The Game Is Afoot

A white dwarf star has been caught in the act of doing something very, very, very, nasty and very wrong. Scientist and astronomers want to why.

Our story begins three billion years ago, when this star (which was not unlike our own Sun) had reached the end of its own life cycle. This phase of a star's life is called the red giant phase. In this phase the red giant having almost used up its fuel supply (lack of a better term) throughs off its outer layers. Which once this is done, leaves behind its inert core, a white dwarf. In this case a white dwarf we call LSPM J0207+3331. The white dwarf is 145 light years away. The one question that both scientist and astronomers want the answer to is, what happened to its planets?

Scientist and astronomers have done several observations of the white dwarf system using the Magellan Baade 6.5-meter telescope in Chile and the 10-meter Keck I telescope on Hawaii's Mauna Kea. What they observed is that the planetary fragment of LSPM J0207+3331 still remain even after three billion years.

However, for one fragment the end has come. The observation that were done have shown that the gravitational tidal forces of the white dwarf have torn the

the fragment apart and scatter the debris onto the surface of LSPM J0207+3331. Several measurements were made, and after some time, 13 elements were identified. Among some of the elements that scientist identified were Aluminum, Carbon, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Iron, Magnesium, Nickel, Silicon, Sodium, Strontium, and Titanium, in an almost Earth-like abundance.

Usually, elements such as these would have sunk into and disappear into the hydrogen rich envelope that surrounds the white dwarf. For so many elements to still be present, both the astronomers and the scientist believe that the break-up of the planetary fragment accrued relatively recent, say within the past 35,000 years.

They say this could still be an ongoing process. LSPM J0207+3331 and could still be in the process of dismantling this fragment. They estimated the fragment to be at least 120 miles (193 kilometers) across, and the white dwarf is taking it apart one piece at a time.

Other heavy elements have also been detected on the surface of the white dwarf, but may have come from other destroyed planets and/or asteroids. But after three billion years this process of debris falling onto the white dwarf should have ended.

"The amount of rocky material is unusually high for a white dwarf of this age," said Dufour of the Trottier Institute for Research on Exoplanets at the Universite de Montreal in a statement.

The white dwarf has a debris disk that is high in silicates. This was discovered when NASA used it's Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE). The scientist and astronomers believe that break-up of the fragment had recently taken place and that the culprit is LSPM J0207+3331. They believe that this fragment came from this debris disk of material that some how survive the death of its star. In the future, it is hoped that with the use of the James Webb Space telescope (JWST) and future observations they believe they may be able to determine the mineralogy and constrain and its total mass which will provide further clues as to the nature of the objects that the white dwarf has or will destroy in the future. What has everyone confused is why did the white dwarf destroyed the fragment now instead of in the past three billion years?

"This discovery challenges our understanding of planetary system evolution," added Eric Le Bourdais, also of Montreal and the lead author of the research. "Ongoing accretion at this stage suggest that this white dwarf may also retain planetary remnants still undergoing dynamical changes."

When a star begins to exhaust its fuel, it expands into a red giant. When this happens, the inner planets

Christmas at The Gas Station

are destroyed. Now the asteroids, and the outer planets, comets, and the gas giant planets can survive after fashion. As the gravitational field of the red giant changes, it will shed its mass, but this process can also disrupt the planet's orbit, resulting in collisions between the asteroids, comets and surviving planets and moons over the course of billions of years. This can gride solid bodies down to dust and small chunks. From all that debris that forms the disk that surrounds LSPM J0207+3331, there is substantial of amount of solid bodies left in the debris disk. What they think is this, something must have happened to cause one of those solid bodies to fall towards the white dwarf.

"Something clearly disrupted this system long after the star's death," said John Debes of the Space Telescope Science Institute. "There's still a reservoir of material capable of polluting the white dwarf, even after billions of years."

They still have no idea what cause the debris to fall towards the white dwarf. A surviving gas giant may be the cause. Or maybe with the help from a 'muti-planet' interactions could be possible as well. With a gradually destabilized orbits of the smaller bodies over billions of years.

"This could point to long-term dynamical processes we don't yet fully understand," said Debes.

This, however, is not going to be easy to prove.

Gas giant planets would be too far from the white dwarf and likely too cool to be bright enough to allow any image to be taken. Although with the JWST just might be able to have a go at it. But most likely be the European Space Agency's Gaia astrometric mission that may be able to detect a wobble in the motion of the white dwarf caused by the gravity of a orbiting gas giant planet or planets pulling on it .

The first batch of exoplanet data from Gaia is expected to be released in December 2026. Perhaps then the mystery could be solved.

The findings that was gathered have been published in The Astrophysical Journal October 22nd of this year.

End of report

The old man sat in his gas station on a cold Christmas Eve. He hadn't been anywhere in years since his wife had passed away. It was just another day for him. He didn't hate Christmas; he just couldn't find a reason to celebrate. He was sitting there looking at the snow that had been falling for the last hour and wondering what it was all about when the door opened, and a homeless man stepped through.

Instead of throwing the man out, Old George as he was known by his customers, told the man to come and sit by the heater and warm-up. "Thank you, but I don't mean to intrude," said the stranger. "I see you're busy, I'll just go." "Not without something hot in your belly," George said.

He turned and opened a wide mouth thermos and handed it to the stranger. "It isn't much, but it's hot and tasty, stew, made it myself. When you're done, there's coffee and it's fresh."

Just at that moment, he heard the "ding" of the drive-way bell. "Excuse me, be right back," George said. There in the driveway was a '53 Chevy. Steam was rolling out of the front. The driver was panicked. "Mister can you help me!" said the driver with a deep Spanish accent. "My wife is with child and my car is broken." George opened the hood. I was bad. The block looked cracked from the cold; the car was dead. "You not going anywhere in this thing," George said as he turned away.

"But mister, please help." The door of the office closed behind George as he went inside. He went to the office wall and got the keys to his old truck and went back outside. He walked around the building, opened the garage, started the truck, and drove it around to where the couple was waiting. "Here, take my truck," he said. "She not the best thing you ever looked at, but she runs really good."

George helped put the woman into the truck and watched as it sped off into the night. He turned and walked back inside the office. "Glad I gave'em the truck, their tires were shot too. That ol' truck of mine has brand new, tires." George thought he was talking to the stranger, but the man had gone. The thermos was on the desk, empty, with a used coffee cup beside it. "Well, at least he got something in his belly." uld tinker with it for something to do. Christmas Eve meant no customers. He discovered the engine block hadn't cracked; it was just the bottom hose on the radiator. "Well shoot, I can fix this," he said to himself. So he put a new one on.



"Those tires ain't gonna get 'em through the winter either." He took the snow treads off of his wife's old Lincoln. They were like new and he wasn't going to drive the car anyway.

As he was working, he heard shots being fired. He ran outside and beside a police car an officer lay on the cold ground. Bleeding from the left shoulder, the officer moaned, "Please help me."

George helped the officer inside as he remembered the training he had received in the Army as a medic. He knew the wound needed attention.

"Pressure to stop the bleeding," he thought. The uniform company had been there that morning and had left clean shop towels. He used those and duct tape to bind the wound. "Hey, they say duct tape can fix anything," he said, trying to make the policeman feel at ease.

"Something for the pain." George thought. All he had was the pills he used for his back. "These ought to work," He put some water in a cup and gave the policeman the pills. "You hang in there; I'm going to get you an ambulance"

The phone was dead, "Maybe I can get one of your buddies on that there talk box out in out in your car." He went out only to find that a bullet had gone into the dashboard destroying the two-way radio.

He went back in to find the policeman sitting up. "Thanks," said the officer. "You could have left me there. The guy that shot me is still in the area."

George sat down beside him, "I would never leave an injured man in the Army and I ain't gonna leave you." George pulled back the bandage to check for bleeding. "Looks worse than what it is. Bullet passed right through 'ya. Good thing it missed the important stuff though. I think with time your gonna be right as rain."

George got up and poured a cup of coffee. "How do you take it?" he asked. "None for me," said the officer. "Oh, yer gonna drink this. Best in the city. Too bad I ain't got no donuts." The officer laughed and winced at the same time.

The front door of the office flew open. In burst a young man with a gun. "Give me all your cash! Do it now!" The young man yelled. His hand was shaking, and George could tell that he had never done anything like this before.

"That's the guy that shot me!" exclaimed the officer.

"Son why are you doing this?" asked George. "You need to put the cannon away. Somebody else might get hurt."

The young man was confused, "Shut up old man or I'll shoot you, too. Now give me the cash."

The cop was reaching for his gun.

"Put that thing away," George said to the cop. "We got one too many in here now."

He turned his attention to the young man. "Son, it's Christmas Eve. If you need money, well then, here. It ain't much but it's all I got. Now put that pea shooter away."

George pulled out \$150, out of his pocket and handed it to the young man, while reaching for the barrel of the gun at the same time. The young man released his grip on the gun, fell to his knees and began to cry. "I'm not very good at this, am I? All I wanted was to buy something for my wife and son," he went on, "I've lost my job, my rent is due, my car got repossessed last week."

George handed the gun to the cop. "Son, we all get in a bit of a squeeze now and then. The road gets hard sometimes, but we make it through the best way we can."

He got the young man to his feet and sat him down on a chair across from the cop. "Sometimes we do stupid things." George handed the young man a cup of coffee. "Bein' stupid is one of the things that makes us human. Comin' in here with a gun ain't the answer. Now sit there and get warm and we'll sort this thing out."

The young man had stopped crying. He looked over to the cop, "Sorry I shot you. It just went off. I'm sorry officer." "Shut up and drink your coffee." The cop said. George could hear the sounds of sirens outside. A police car and an ambulance skidded to a halt. Two cops came through the door, with guns drawn. "Chuck! You ok?" One of cops asked the wounded officer.

"Not bad for a guy who took a bullet. How did you find me?"

"GPS locator in the car. Best thing since sliced bread. Who did this?" the other cop asked as he approached the young man.

Chuck answered him, "I don't know. The guy ran off into the dark. Just dropped his gun and ran."

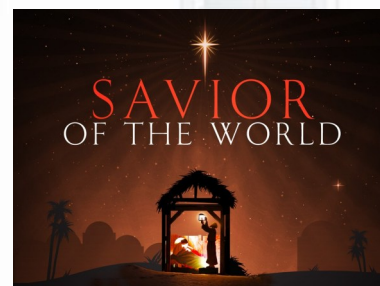
George and the young man both looked puzzled at each other.

"That guy work here?" the wounded officer continued. "Yep," George said, "just hired him this morning. The boy lost his job."

The paramedics came in and found Chuck and loaded him into the stretcher. The young man leaned over the wounded cop and whispered, "Why?"

Chuck just said, "Merry Christmas boy and you too George and thanks for everything."

"Well, it looks like you got one doozy of a break there. That ought to solve some of your problems."



George went into the back room and came out with a box. He pulled out a ring box. "Here you go, something for the little woman. I don't think Martha would mind. She said it would come in handy someday."

The young man looked inside to see the biggest diamond ring he ever saw. "I can't take this," said the young man. "it means something to you."

"And now it means something to you." Replied George. "I got my memories. That's all I need."

George reached into the box again. An airplane, a car, and a truck appeared next. The toys that the oil company had left George to sell. "Here's something for that little man of yours."

The young man began to cry again as he handed back the \$150 that the old man had handed him earlier.

"And what are you supposed to buy Christmas dinner with? You keep that too." George said. "Now git home to your family."

The young man turned with tears streaming down his face. "I'll be here in the morning for work if that job offer is still good."

"Nope. I'm closed Christmas day." George said "See ya the day after."

George turned around to find that the stranger had returned. "Where you come from? I thought you left."

"I have been here. I have always been here," said the stranger. "You say you don't celebrate Christmas. Why?"

"Well, after my wife passed away, I just couldn't see what all the bother was. Puttin' up a tree and all seemed a waste of a good pine tree. Bakin' cookies like I used to with Martha just wasn't the same by myself and besides, I was getting' a little chubby."

The stranger put his hand on George's shoulder. "But you do celebrate the holiday, George. You gave me food and drink and warmed me when I was cold and hungry. The woman with child will bear a son and he will become a great doctor."

"The policeman you helped will go on to save 19 people from being killed by terrorists. The young man who tried to rob you will make you a rich man and not take any for himself. That is the spirit of the season and you keep it as good as any man."

George was taken aback by all this stranger had said. "And how do you know all this?" asked the old man.

"Trust me, George. I have the inside track on this sort of thing. And when your days are done you will be with Martha again."

The stranger moved towards the doors. "If you will excuse me, George, I have to go now."

I have to go home where there is a big celebration planned."

George watched as the old leather jacket and the torn pants that the stranger was wearing turned into a white robe. A golden light began to fill the room.

"You see George, it's my birthday. Merry Christmas George." George fell to his knees and replied, "Happy birthday, Lord Jesus."

"Merry Christmas to us all!!!"

Brightstar Notes

For the Month of November

The Brightstar was not able to attend this year's Starfleet Command's annual Fleet meeting and awards ceremony. But did receive four awards. The Brightstar was awarded the Retention award, Newsletter of the Year 3rd place, Website of the Year 3rd place, and Small Ship of the Year 1st place. The awards are to be sent to the first officer so that he may scan them, so he can put them up on the Brightstar website.

The Brightstar had three meetings this month, 11/3, 11/4, 11/28. A donation of twenty-five (\$25) dollars was made to the Wheeler Mission in Indianapolis. The First Officer represented the Brightstar at the U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS Zoom meeting 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22, and 11/29.

The USS SLIVERWING hosted a Zoom meeting on 11/14, and 11/22, where the Brightstar was represented by the First Officer (Comm. James Webb). The USS BURTON also held Zoom meetings as well, 11/2, 11/9, 11/22, and 11/30. The First Officer is planning to update the Brightstar website and its Facebook page, hopefully before the end of the year.

End of Report.



Star Trek Birthdays

December

Brian Bonsall/Alexander Rozhenko
December 3rd, 1981
Star Trek: The Next Generation

Teri Hatcher/Transporter Chief
December 9th, 1952
Star Trek: The Next Generation

Michael Dorn/Worf/Col. Worf
December 9th, 1952
Star Trek: The Next Generation
Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country
Star Trek: Generation
Star Trek: First Contact
Star Trek: Insurrection
Star Trek: Nemesis

John Colicos/Kor
December 10th, 1928
Star Trek: The Original Series
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

Teri Garr/Roberta Lincoln
December 11th, 1944
Star Trek: The Original Series

Christopher Plummer/General Chang
December 13th, 1927
Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country

Garrett Wang/Harry Kim
December 15th, 1968
Star Trek: Voyager

Melania Smith/Tora Ziyal (III)
December 16th, 1962
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

Ben Cross/Serek
December 16th, 1947
Star Trek (RB)

Nicole de Boer/Lt. Ezri Dax
December 20th, 1970
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

Andy Dick/EMH Mark II (Dr. Bradley)
December 21, 1965
Star Trek: Voyager

Dana Meyer/ CMDR. Donatra
December 22nd, 1968
Star Trek: Nemesis

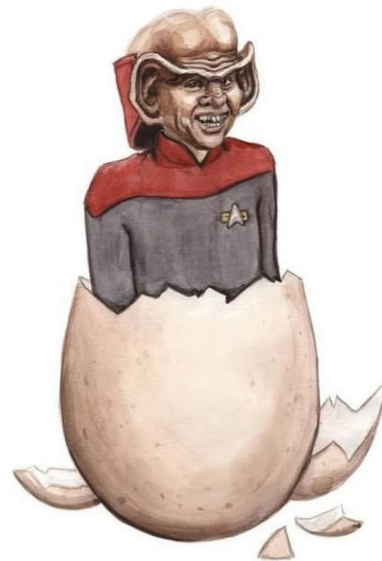
James Gregory/Dr. Tristan Adams
December 23rd, 1911
Star Trek: The Original Series

Charles Maxwell/Virgil Earp
December 28, 1913
Star Trek: The Original Series

Thomas Dekker/Henry Burleigh
December 28th, 1987
Star Trek: Voyager

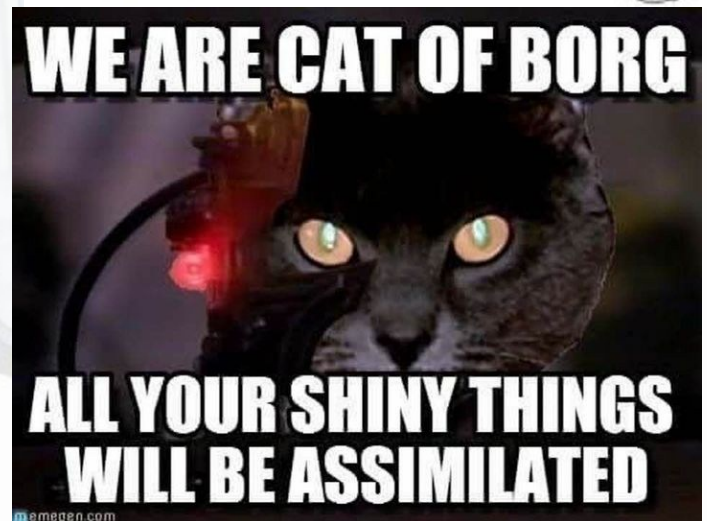
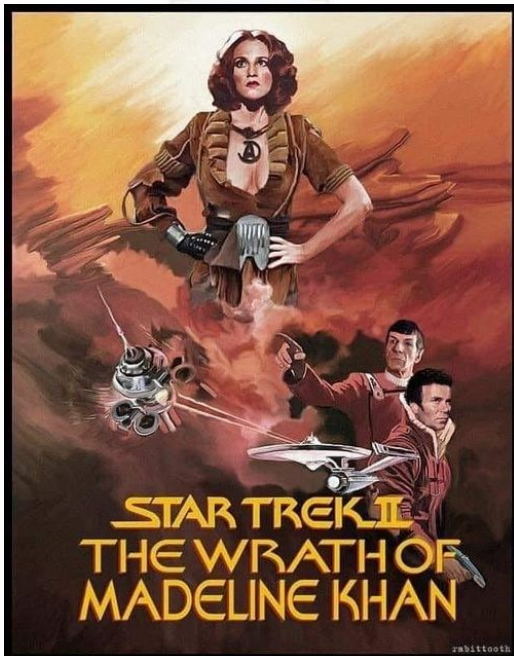
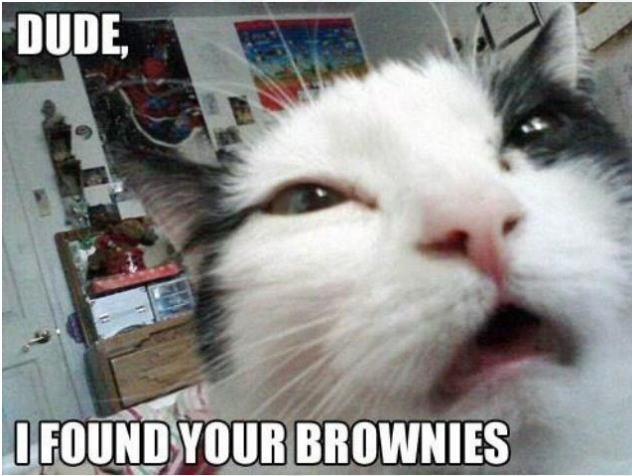
Nichelle Nichols/Uhura
December 28th, 1933
Star Trek: The Original Series
Star Trek: The Motion Picture
Star Trek II: The Wrath of Kahn
Star Trek III: The Search for Spock
Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home
Star Trek V: The Final Frontier
Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country

Sandra Nelson/Tavana/Marayna
December 29, 1964
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine
Star Trek: Voyager



WHO WANTS AN
EGG NOG?!

Funny Page



See Y'all Next Issue
See Y'all Next Year

**When you ask a cardiac nurse to
hang the Christmas garland**



From The Crew Of The USS BRIGHTSTAR
Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
Have A Safe And Happy Holiday Season