

# THE CHALLENGER

Official Newsletter of the USS Ronald E. McNair NCC-61809

February 2007

## *It's Official STAR TREK XI Coming Christmas 2008*

After all the rumors swirling for the past year Paramount has made an official announcement regarding the next Star Trek movie, which will be directed by J.J. Abrams. From TrekToday.com:

"Paramount Pictures today officially announced the return of Star Trek on Christmas Day 2008.

"If there's something I'm dying to see, it's the brilliance and optimism of Roddenberry's world brought back to the big screen," J.J. Abrams was quoted in a Paramount press release, which in its title again confirmed Abrams will be directing the new Trek film. Abrams continued: "[Alex Kurtzman] and [Roberto Orci] wrote an amazing script that embraces and respects Trek canon, but charts its own course. Our goal is to make a picture for everyone – life-long fans and the uninitiated. Needless to say, I am honored and excited to be part of this next chapter of Star Trek."

Kurtzman and Orci, who previously worked on Abrams' Mission: Impossible III, were the only writers mentioned in the press release. They will also serve as executive producers along with Bryan Burk, while Abrams and Lost co-creator Damon Lindelof will produce the film. Shooting is currently scheduled to begin in the Fall. "We could not be more thrilled to be back in business with J.J. Abrams," Paramount CEO and Chairman Brad Grey said. "The revival of the Star Trek franchise is an important part of Paramount's turnaround."

Paramount's press release contained no information on the film's cast." Now that's official expect more announcements regarding the script and casting in the coming weeks.



### **Ever meet an astronaut that walked on the Moon?**

How about one that walked in space, a Russian Cosmonaut, or a civilian that's been to the Space Station? Like to see a Russian Vostok capsule that flew in space 18 days before Yuri Gagarin's historic first manned spaceflight? How about the new Crew Exploration Vehicle that will replace the space shuttle and take us back to the moon, then to Mars and beyond? This is just the start of what you'll see at World Space Expo! World Space Expo will showcase the past, present and future of space exploration on a global scale. Space agencies, major aerospace contractors, and private sector companies from around the world will converge on the Kennedy Space Center for three days this November to bring together the largest display of space artifacts, hardware and personalities ever assembled in one location. The stories and experiences shared by the Astronauts of the past and present will inspire you. The interactive exhibits and programs that you can participate in will entertain you. The artifacts and hardware that will be on display will educate you on the amazing achievements of the space program. Did you know that 2005 saw some of the most significant accomplishments in the history of space exploration?

If you are reading this you already know it's time to put the World Space Expo on your calendar. Plan to bring the family to Kennedy Space Center, November 3-11, 2007 for an "out of this world" experience you'll not soon forget!

Check back here at [www.kennedyspacecenter.com](http://www.kennedyspacecenter.com) often for updates on the Astronauts and other space personalities that will be appearing as well as the exhibits, artifacts, and hardware the will be on display

For more information regarding the World Space Expo, please visit [www.WorldSpaceExpo.com](http://www.WorldSpaceExpo.com).

## Put Your Ads Where Space Begins

By Bill Christensen

[Technovelgy.com](http://Technovelgy.com)

Ad placement is very important. Advertisers pay more for their ads to be shown "above the fold" - that is, on the top half of a newspaper, or in the immediately-viewed part of a web page. How much would you pay for your ad to be shown "above the atmosphere" - at the edge of space? It turns out that there is a company that can do just that. JP Aerospace is currently lining up customers for their next flight in April. Your advertisement will be carried aloft to 100,000 feet - and photographed against the boundary between the Earth and outer space. JP Aerospace has the technology; they flew a series of "PongSat" missions that provided an opportunity for thousands of students to create tiny [ping-pong ball-sized experiments](#). To date, more than 1800 PongSats have flown to the edge of space. The USAF has also worked with them to explore the idea of [near-space maneuvering vehicles](#). You might be disappointed, however, to learn that your "space billboard" is only the size of a business card. Photographed properly, it still looks like space tourists might see it on the way up. Science fiction writers have worked with the idea of advertisements carried aloft, or projected on to clouds, so they could be seen by millions. Jules Verne wrote about [atmospheric advertising](#), ads reflected from the clouds, in 1889. On a lighter note, science fiction writer Alan Nelson wrote about the perils of having full-size advertisements that could actually be flown high, and still be seen from Earth. In his 1953 short story *Soap Opera*, he created the idea of a kind of permanent sky-writing. Unfortunately, the letters didn't stay up as long as you

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might hope: Automatically Spurgle gazed up too. The letters, still firm, still strong and perfectly formed, seemed to be settling earthward, undisturbed by the brisk breeze that scudded across the field...

Silently the three walked over to the slogan. Spurgle kicked at the letter G... It was a monstrous white thing, ten feet thick, half a city block long, composed of a flexible elastic substance that resembled something between jello and foam rubber...

(Read more about [permanent skywriting](#))

Maybe it's better that JP Aeronautics not clutter up the sky with enormous ads. Business card-sized will be just fine, thank you.

Article taken from [space.com](http://space.com)

## *Stampede*

Hi Y'all!

The McNair is now participating in the SFI Stampede. I'm the POC for this and I'd like to see all of us participate. Save your stamps and get them to me at a meeting or send them to me at 3027 Prentice Ave., Columbia, SC 29205.

This is from the website:

Stamps can be traded for cash to go in support of The Ronald McDonald House Charities.

We hope that once we get this program going we can offer certificates or other awards.

We accept all kinds of stamps on paper, especially foreign ones from correspondence, including entire post cards and corners from stamped envelopes, emphasizing that they must all be intact with no holes or tears. Submissions should be bundled up in counted bundles, preferably envelopes.

Our buyer is Mystic Stamp Company in New York, and they will pay the following rates for stamps:

Definitives: \$ 3.50 per pound soaked off paper

Commemoratives: \$5.00 per pound on paper

\$18.00 per pound soaked off paper

Foreign stamps: \$ 1.00 per pound small sized stamps on paper

\$ 2.00 per pound mixed large and small stamps on paper

\$ 3.00 per pound small stamps soaked off paper

\$ 4.00 per pound mixed large and small stamps soaked off paper

\$10.00 per pound large stamps soaked off paper

If you have any questions, let me know!

Jan [jmsscad@yahoo.com](mailto:jmsscad@yahoo.com)

## New Additions to Starfleet Academy

I would like to take this time to bring to your attention some new additions at the Academy: Carol Thompson has brought us a new Cardassian Orientation College and a new Romulan Orientation College, as well as their Cadet counterparts. Ros Haywood created a College of Genealogy that is becoming a success. Jan Sleigh has changed the College of Trade and Commerce into the College of Economics, and has redesigned the entire College. These are just a small example of all of the hard work our Directors are doing to make the member's Academy experience worthwhile. Come check us out online at <http://academy.sfi.org>.

In Service, Wayne

Rear Admiral Wayne Lee Killough, Jr.

Commandant, STARFLEET Academy

## ***FYI***

McNair March Meeting will be held at the Captain's home March 24, 2007 at 12 noon. We can sit by the pool if the weather cooperates.

Roundcon April 13-14, 2007 Clarion Townhouse Hotel Columbia, SC Pre[registration ends March 31, 2007

[www.roundcon.com](http://www.roundcon.com)

2007 Region One Summit April 20-22, 2007 Richmond, Va <http://r1summit007.teamcmx23.org/>

STARFLEET International Conference August 10-12,2007 Denver, Colorado [www.ic2007.org](http://www.ic2007.org)

**off the mark** by Mark Parisi



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