



BISMARCK'S REMARKS

November 2008



EnterTrainment Junction

From the Guest Editor

Hello everyone!

I hope everyone enjoyed the last newsletter. Did you recognize where the Lyrics came from? In case you didn't figure it out or it didn't sound familiar, it was from the theme of "Gilligan's Island". Due to lack of articles and pictures, this is going to be a shorter newsletter than the last.

Thank you,
Jennifer Fish
Chief of Communications



Bismarck Remarks is published monthly. Submissions and comments should be sent to the following address:

USS Bismarck
PO Box 2060
Middletown OH 45042

Or emailed to newsletter@ussbismarck.org



From the Captain:

With the 2008 RenFair season over, it's time to relax and party! We have so many fun things scheduled between now and the end of the year. There is an Away Team Mission to EnterTrainment Junction on 11/15, a Family Fun Day with board games and card games on 11/22 before the General Meeting, an Away Team Mission to Vulkan's Starbase Indy 11/28-11/30, and our Holiday Party on 12/13. What a good way to end 2008! I hope to bring a few Fleet awards back from Vulkan and present those to you at the Holiday Party.

At November's meeting we will accept nominations for Commanding Officer. Elections will be held at the January General Meeting. (Please note: it was moved and seconded that we move the January General Meeting to either 1/17 or 1/31. A final vote was tabled to the November General Meeting so people had a chance to look at their calendars. No absentee ballots will be accepted for the elections for Captain.) Information on the candidates and their visions for the next two years will be presented to the crew prior to elections.

We did discuss RenFair 2009 at the October General Meeting. See the article for more details.

Don't forget to get your *Bismarck-E* jackets, long-sleeved shirts, rank pips, and/or ID badges before traveling to Vulkan. See our Quartermaster, Rick Pinsky, for prices.

Annual renewals are coming up soon. Please give your renewal money to Kevin Johnson or mail a check to the PO Box (PO Box 2060, Middletown, Ohio, 45044) by January 1st. Renewals must be received by January 31st or you will no longer be in good standing. Almost everyone who worked RF08 earned enough BisBucks to pay their annual dues (local and Fleet). See the Captain or Ops if you need to know how much you owe.

Please welcome our newest member! Cadet Monica Blecher of Middletown is joining our Communications department. While new to SFC, Monica has worked with other Star Trek-based groups in the area.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable Thanksgiving and safe travels to wherever you may be traveling in November.

Serving you,
Fleet Captain Kevin Johnson

EnterTrainment Junction

A large Away Team (seen on the front cover) saw one of the world's largest train displays (25,000 square feet) at EnTrainment Junction, located in West Chester, Ohio. (I-75 Tylersville Exit). This renovated warehouse contains towering mountains, detailed cities, and trains, trains, trains! There are over 90 large, G-style trains running everywhere.

The serpentine path through the exhibit takes you from the beginning of the railroads (1800s) to the early 1900s to modern times. An overlook helps you see the various eras and details you couldn't see from ground level. If you don't take time to admire the scenery, the buildings, and the details around the tracks, you're missing half of the excitement. There's a civil war battle near the beginning of the exhibit, a bear fishing in the water, and even "Judy and Dave's Ice Cream Shop" at a model park halfway through the exhibit.

The back walls of Entrainment Junction are lined with railroad trivia. Learn what the three numbers of engine (such as 4-6-0) mean (leading wheels, main wheels, trailing wheels). Learn hobo code. Three diagonal lines, for example, meant "not a safe place." You could also learn and practice modern and old style signals for "go, slow, stop, and whistle" through a computer game.

If all of that doesn't keep the youngest visitors busy, there is a large kids area. It contains an indoor climbing area (similar to the one seen at Rolandia's Magic Castle in Kettering), a mini climbing wall, three train tables to play with, TVs showing *Thomas and Friends*, and even a small train to ride. If you can get your young ones out of that play area, good luck getting them out of the gift shop where a large variety of wooden Thomas sets are available. EnTrainment also sells generic (and compatible) wooden track pieces by the piece. Need an extra male-male piece to complete that ultimate track design? Buy just what you need for about a buck a piece. If you're looking for gift ideas for young train lovers, you'll be glad to know that EnterTrainment's prices typically beat Toys R Us.

We all spent hours at Entrainment Junction. You can buy a variety tickets including a 4-day pack (does not have to be consecutive days) and full season pass from the box office. Plus there also additional seasonal exhibits that you can see for an additional cost. We hope you can join us next time!

*They're two they're four they're six they're eight
Shunting trucks and hauling freight
Red and green and brown and blue
They're the really useful crew*

*All with different roles to play
Round Tidmouth Sheds or far away
Down the hills and round the bends
Thomas and his friends*

NMRA-Model Train Show



Dennis & His Lego Trains!



Scott Fish helping out!



Downtown Legoville

The Future of RenFair

It may seem a bit early to start talking about RenFair 2009, but we did it anyway. It allowed us to talk about what worked, what didn't, and how the Masons will be involved next year. Many crew members are getting burned out or cannot commit the same time requirements. After civil and thoughtful discussion on a new course of action proposed by Lisa, the crew approved RenFair 2009 with some significant changes.

We will offer the Dayton Masons autonomous control on the Sundays, Student Days, and Labor Day with no *Bismarck* overhead costs. The Masons would be responsible for their own costumes and food. We would keep Saturdays. Even by just working Saturdays we could still earn a reasonable income. We would encourage 10 workers each Saturday so everyone can have good breaks. We would also be including a food wench working upstairs in that number.

This would decrease the amount of food and supplies we would need to buy each year. The total amount of BisBuck rewards would also be reduced (as there are fewer hours to work). Per the crew's request, "double point days" will be discontinued. There is the possibility of giving RF front gate passes to workers who earn a certain number of hours. The exact details of RF09 rewards will be determined in 2009.

Again the Top Five *Bismarck* workers for 2008 are as follows:

Rick	164 hrs
Jen	120 hrs
Dennis	96 hrs
Robert	75 hrs
Chewy	74 hrs



November 2008

11 th	Veterans' Day
15 th	Away Team Mission to EnterTrainMent Junction West Chester, Ohio (Exit 22 on I-75) Meet at Middletown Meijer at 10 AM
22 nd	Family Fun Day 12 PM, Bethlehem Lutheran Church Bring your own favorite games and snacks 7PM, General Meeting Command has refreshments
27 th	Thanksgiving
27 th	Suzanne Barr's Birthday
28 th	Rebecca Johnson's Birthday
30 th	Isabella Crespo's Birthday
28 th – 30 th	FreeCon Starbase Indy (FreeCon has taken the place of Vulkon) Marriott East, Indianapolis (SFC Annual Meeting at 12 Noon on Saturday) www.starbaseindy.com

December 2008

8 th	Nancy Graf's Birthday
13 th	Annual Holiday Party 7 PM at Eric's Clubhouse (behind Fairfield Commons Mall) Please sign up to bring a dish POCs are Eric Dearth, Rick Pinsky, and Anthony Day
21 st	Hanukkah starts at sundown
21 st	Winter Solstice
21 st	Emily Sylvester's Birthday
25 th	Christmas Day

There is no General Meeting in December.

