

August 8, 2017



Ex Astra - Lite

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Ex Astra Reborn! — by Klaw

Welcome back to TLO's second issue of the new newsletter! A lot of big improvements have been made since the last issue. The biggest one being that I did not dash this one off in a week like last time.

I have reached out to the community, and the community has responded. This issue is full of their responses, and is a nice collaboration from members throughout the community. Issue 2 has also been organized in Microsoft Publisher, instead of Google Docs—granting me a wider range of options in terms of beautification. On top of everything else, our distribution network has also changed, allowing this more pleasant looking newsletter to be viewed as it was always intended.

My hope is that this newsletter continues down the path of growth that this issue is exhibiting, and that it can shine for what it is: a labor of love for all involved, representing the best of the community we have built here at The Last Outpost.



TLO At a Glance — by Klaw

The last month has been a bit of a rocky one, but with a fair amount of progress towards bettering the community at large. After a series of valid complaints last month pertaining to a decline in activity, TLO leadership has started to step up, and are spearheading two new expansion opportunities. The hope is, by modernizing our supported games, we can drum up activity and make our presence known to the global gaming community.

Progress has been made to design a non-trek gaming division and place Space Engineers and Minecraft under that flag. Radioactiviti is running unopposed to head up this new division and interest has already sparked for the executive officer position; though that election has not gone live yet.

Additionally, a new RPG-X XO has been elected, and nominations are currently live for the office of the President.

There is a lot of shifting at the moment, and that can be unnerving; but considering the nature of the reasons for these shifts, TLO's future appears to be bright. So be sure to check out the [Non-trek and Presidential Q&A's](#) on the forums; and don't forget to vote in the upcoming elections. Your voice matters.

The State of Gaming - by Klaw

Last month, TLO exploded with activity and anticipation as the community began to communicate ideas for expansion into other games. Interest mounted for Space Engineers and Minecraft (The original java version, over the Windows 10 edition),

Callum603, TLO's technical head, took it upon himself to establish a Minecraft server, which has been a huge success.

Space Engineers required some additional costs and a bit of deliberation from the cabinet as a result; however, A server has been setup, and is now live!

These expansion opportunities likely won't stop here, as calls for console gaming support, and classic Trek gaming have also seemed to resonate with members. I would say, the best way to move forward on these fronts would be for members to organize games on their own. Please see the [gaming lounge](#) on the forums for a quick and easy way to organize your efforts, and ensure that all of TLO can see it, and get involved if they wish.

Now, let's not forget about these two:

STAR TREK — ONLINE —

STO in TLO has been fairly quiet of late, but it appears that activity throughout the community at large is sparking some activity within our fleet.

LeVar Burton is returning to Star Trek Online as [Captain Geordi LaForge](#); this news alone should warrant another look.

It appears that an organized "[marks run](#)" is currently being pushed for as a regular weekend event for the fleet.

Additionally, some information has been slipped to the public that the STO division is working on organizing a new RP series, some of you may remember [Discovery](#). Whatever they have cooking, I'm sure it will be tremendous.

I may or may not have even been asked to collaborate as a writer for the series, though I won't confirm or deny anything, I will say that I know more than I can say. So trust me when I say, STO is looking to make a comeback, in a big way.

STAR TREK RPG-X

UBERGAMES



The world of RPG-X has been a fairly eventful one:

In the last month, we have added two new serial roleplays, [New Ground](#), which is a joint effort with our friends at Earth's Elite, and [Trouble in Paradise](#). This brings our total to four active serials, joining [Full Circle](#) and [Daedalus](#).

Mid-week roleplaying has been fairly steady, and will likely remain so.

Additionally, I have been elected as RPG-X XO. If you'd like some idea of what may be coming around the next corner with this change, please see my [Q&A topic](#) on the forums.





A Pow Wow with Dendo Hellen, STO's XO – by Klaw

Last month, I sat down with Scott Archer, the CO of our RPG-X Division, and we discussed the division and its future. This month, I sat down with STO's XO, Dendo Hellen to talk about STO.

To start us off, I asked Dendo how he would describe the state of the division; "Despite the usual low activity in the fleet we're still breathing and cooking up ideas and events to bring members back to STO." I then went on to press him on his meaning of "cooking up ideas" and he was fairly tight lipped, though today I suspect the recently dropped information about an STO RP series could be what he was talking about. He also went on to mention that "SFC has been looking into getting STO's Community Manager "Ambassador Kael" to join one of the Reddit fleet's events."

Now, it's not much of a secret that I don't play STO much, so for others out there who may be in a similar situation, wondering who "Ambassador Kael" is: "Ambassador Kael is responsible for all official Star Trek Online blogs, social media and Twitch streams. In overall he's the public face of STO. We joined the Reddit Armada so that we get some bonuses for the fleet like extra dilithium and EXP, they are also able to contribute to our own fleet holdings. Reddit hosts their own events and as we are in their Armada, we can join them."

Dendo's final remarks were as follows: "I do want to state that our fleet is heavily an alt character fleet, that is one of the reasons why activity is low. But now that TLO is changing significantly, perhaps we can reevaluate this decision."

I want to thank Dendo Hellen and SFC3 for their continued service in STO. With the recent shakeups within the community, it appears that STO is coming back to life and that options for expansion within this game are beginning to present themselves.

For a transcript of my talk with Dendo, please check it out [here](#).

STAR TREK FULL CIRCLE

Character Spotlight: Robin Tolendo (Played by Andzzy)

Name: Tolendo, Robin

Date of Birth: July 17, 2365

Age (by 2410): 45

Birthplace: Mak'ala, Capital City - Trill

Race: Human

Rank: Captain

History:

Robin Tolendo was born to a human couple in the Capital City of the Trill home world, making his background one of the strangest Starfleet has ever encountered. His parents moved from world to world as exobiologists studying evolutionary markers and environmental impacts. They settled on Trill after Robin was born, not wanting to expose him to any of the hostile environments their work might take them to. By permission of the Trill government, Robin was allowed to be raised with the same rights and privileges as a native Trill. Robin fit in well with the local Trill children, and after finishing school, ended up in a position at the Symbiosis Commission. The work that he did there is still unknown to Starfleet. It is also unknown whether Robin is a candidate for joining or not.

When his term was up at the Symbiosis Commission, Robin left Trill in order to join Starfleet. His departure was met with disappointment from the Symbiosis Commission, who lodged a formal request to Starfleet to deny Robin entry into the Academy. The petition was denied with none of the expected backlash. Robin graduated from the Academy with honours in Strategy and Tactics. Seeing a bright command path for him, Starfleet Command decided to grant him the rank of Lieutenant Commander and sent him aboard the U.S.S. Thatcher, an Akira-class starship monitoring the borders of Federation space. Lieutenant Commander Tolendo was involved in several skirmishes during the Klingon-Federation war, and was promoted to Captain to honour his many battles but more importantly his dedication to peaceful resolution despite the deterioration of the Alpha and Beta Quadrant political situations.

The unwavering dedication to the principles upon which the Federation was founded left Captain Tolendo as Starfleet's number one choice to lead the U.S.S. Amarante into the Delta Quadrant and act as representation of the Alliance to any races that may have been disturbed by the U.S.S. Equinox. Captain Tolendo is currently serving on that assignment.

Catch Captain Tolendo, and many other exciting characters when [Full Circle returns in September](#)



Full Circle returns on Sunday, September 24th, 2017 @ 3:00 PM EST / 8:00 PM GMT



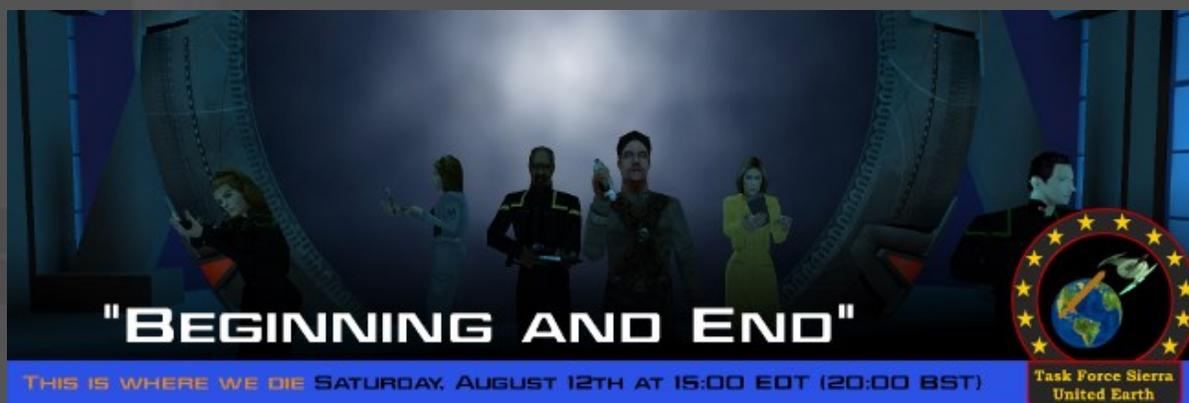
Daedalus is in the midst of some exciting tales. So far this season, We've lost the USS Daedalus, destroyed a colony of thousands of humans, and their descendants, regrouped a band of displaced wanderers who were lost behind the line after the Battle of Andoria, and turned this group into an elite fighting unit bent on making the war hard for the Romulans, however they can. The last few weeks have compounded issues for the heroes, as The war is beginning to turn around for the Coalition, but it comes with a cost.

Task Force Sierra is looking toward their endgame. But there are still plenty of enemies to bring down first. The Director of the Tal'Shiar a human named Khan Noonien Singh (Yes—I know, more on him... eventually), The Orion Syndicate, Section 31, The Klingons, and let's not forget Dr. Syllis all pose a threat outside of the Earth-Romulan war.

With a great deal of excitement around the corner, and a fair amount of classic Star Trek story telling coming with it just after the mid-season finale, you would be crazy to miss out on this serial that explores the birth of the Federation, the conflict that dawned that age of peace, and the subtle links to civilizations long dead that are still making a play in the universe.

If you're worried about coming into the series too late, don't be! The [Daedalus SRP Information](#) thread on the forums contains a very rough write up of an overview to the series so far. And beyond that, a loveable Klingon is around and enjoys talking about Daedalus more than he does cake. There are plenty of opportunities for you to jump right in, you need only [take the first step](#).

[Next Episode](#) (At the time of publication)





One of TLO's newest serials is a joint venture with our friends over Earth's Elite; Star Trek New Ground.

New Ground follows the adventures of the USS Enterprise, NCC-1701-F. The Enterprise's maiden voyage, with this new crew, was to test drive an experimental engine that would essentially make warp drive obsolete. Unfortunately, Project SABER was a partial failure, and the Enterprise is now stranded months away from friendly space.

So far, We have gotten used to our new environment, planned and tested the new engine, left a "stranded" civilization out in the cold, and enjoyed some nice holodeck time.

As this serial is still very new, it's prime pickings for anyone to step into and checkout. So don't hesitate! [Take a look today!](#)



Star Trek: Discovery

- by Chris Wilkinson

"Space, the final frontier"; Those are words which resonate with every Trek fan, and words we heard at the start of every episode of The Original Series to the final monologue of Star Trek Enterprise in 2005. It's been 12 years since we've had a Star Trek series on our screens and it's good to see this comeback.

Discovery, as it's been described to us, is set 10 years prior to the Original Series in the Prime Universe which means, while the intrepid crew of the USS Discovery are off doing their thing, the Enterprise is elsewhere under the command of Captain Pike. While it would be good to have them cross paths, it is doubtful that it'll happen.

Since we had the movies by JJ Abrams, there has been talk of a new series happening some time and while it was always suggested that it'd be at the conclusion of the 3 movie deal for the alternate universe movies, I personally never thought it'd happen.

From the information, we've been given by the producers so far, it seems one of the more controversial aspects are the Klingons; (calm down Klaw, I can already tell you'll be seething). This is because they've been drastically changed. Now how this will tie in to the Klingon augment virus which we saw during the fourth season of Enterprise I don't know but it could be an interesting episode.

Next, we look at the ship itself which looks unusual compared to the ships we've seen in the past. However, this design is reminiscent of the ship that was designed as a concept for Star Trek Phase II back in the 1970's so perhaps the new design team have taken inspiration for the cancelled continuation of yore. For the Interior, I've only seen what I presume to be the bridge of the USS Shenzou (Another ship to be in the series) and it seems to be very like ships such as the USS Franklin and Enterprise from the alternate universe with the updated displays and general location of the consoles. Whether they've reused the set from Star Trek Beyond is anybody's guess.

The uniforms they're using are radically different from the ones we're used to seeing for this era (Think about the Cage in TOS) as they've gone for a blue colour with piping around the shoulders. The rank is denoted within the Starfleet Delta on the chest along with department in the colouring. The uniform once again seems like the ones we saw on Star Trek Beyond which were being used with the Kelvin survival uniforms which were darker. Whether the producers will explain why the different uniform is being used, compared to the TOS era uniforms is unknown but if they do, I'm sure it will be pretty quickly.

They're using a pretty high-profile cast for this show, with actors such as Jason Isaacs (Harry Potter, Black Hawk Down, The West Wing), Michelle Yeoh (Tomorrow Never Dies, Memoirs of a Geisha) and Kenneth Mitchell (Jericho, CSI: Cyber and NCIS) amongst others. It does look like the producers are trying to make sure that the show does well especially through picking veteran actors for many of the lead roles. This also works well thanks to the variety of projects all of the actors have worked on. They should be well versed in adapting to a variety of situations and environments which as I'm sure we all know can be a very important skill. There's nothing worse than an actor who clearly has no interest in what they're doing (I'm looking at you Peter Dinklage in Destiny. I saw you in Game of Thrones last night).

Overall for a new Trek series, Discovery certainly has some big boots to fill especially when most series get compared to The Next Generation as Patrick Stewart's leadership of that was fantastic. The writers have certainly got their work cut out for them when it comes to continuity as there's no fan base so loyal as the Star Trek fan base (Well perhaps the Star Wars fan base, but let's not open that kettle of fish and the whole prequel discussion) and they do pick out the details when it comes to it. It's obvious CBS has put a lot of money down on making this work and have tried to avoid the issue with Enterprise by making it mostly online only, that way there won't be problems with timeslots messing with viewing figures and such.

Discovery is looking to be an interesting watch, and it starts on the 24th September on CBS Network with the second episode being available on CBS All Access afterwards. For people like myself, who live outside of the USA (*Shakes fist at the Americans around*) we will have to wait for it to come onto Netflix.

The Orville

 - by Klaw

In 1999, the world of Sci-Fi was forever changed by a Star Trek spoof. Tim Allen, Alan Rickman, and Sigourney Weaver headlined what is, in my opinion, one of the greatest comedy films of all time; *Galaxy Quest*. This film follows a group of actors who were on a Star Trek-esque television show, that was mistaken by aliens for real historical documentation. As a result, these actors were taken into space to resolve a long fought conflict—only to find out how real it all is. The comedy that ensues is hysterical, and the Sci-Fi elements deliver. *Galaxy Quest* is, in a way, a movie about super fans turning their favorite television series into reality. For a long time after the movie came out, talks of a sequel or even a TV series would buzz around the internet on an almost annual basis, but nothing substantial ever came of it.

The idea though, of a super fan bringing their favorite show to life is more or less what's coming to Fox this fall...

From Seth McFarlane (*Family Guy*, *American Dad*, *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*) comes *The Orville*. This series has been described as an episodic sci-fi dramedy, and from the previews I have seen, it looks like it is going to deliver on its promises. Jon Favreau (*Iron Man*, *Iron Man 2*) is slated to direct the Pilot, and a number of Star Trek royalty are also taking part on and off screen.

Penny Johnson Jerald, known to Trek fans as Cassidy Yates, freighter captain and wife of Benjamin Sisko, is serving on the Orville as the chief medical officer. Brannon Braga, formerly a *Voyager* and *Enterprise* showrunner, is serving as executive producer and has already mentioned via twitter that *The Orville* will return to an age of more traditional Star Trek story telling. Some other rumors I've heard place Johnathan Frakes (*William Riker*) and Robert Duncan McNeil (*Tom Paris*) behind the camera as directors for this series.

It should be noted that Seth McFarlane's love of Star Trek is very well documented. He had a recurring cameo role on *Star Trek Enterprise* after meeting Brannon Braga and mentioning his fan boy nature; (why couldn't I have gotten on that ship?!). In any event, I have confidence that this series will definitely lay it's own path, but will certainly take us down some seemingly familiar roads along the way.

From everything I'm seeing, this non-trek show looks more like the Star Trek we all know and love, with a dash of comedy thrown in to add a different angle to it. From the costumes, to the sets; this series looks very much like a homage to the Star Trek of the '90s, and this fan boy is certainly excited to see where it goes. From the first trailer, I have described it like this: "The *Galaxy Quest* show we have always wanted, and the Star Trek series that we deserve".

The Orville kicks off Sunday, September 10th on Fox



With Every Sunset, Comes a Sunrise: A Message from the Editor

- by Klaw

My friends, it is no secret that we have had a rocky couple of months. Throughout this issue, I have done what I can to shield us from the negativity of it all, but if you take a glance on the forums, you will easily find some things that frankly, seem counter productive toward the growth of this community at large.

I am speaking to you now as a founder of this community: do not panic; for every sunset brings a sunrise.

TLO is changing, and honestly, this is the first real bout of change that this community has seen in roughly 3 years. With change, brings concern, doubt, and fear, but it should also bring hope. TLO as a whole is stepping out into a "brave new world", "seeking out new life and new civilizations". Together we are going boldly where we have never gone before.

This change has been driven by you, for you and with you. You suggested games and with that, the Non-Trek division is coming to life to give Space Engineers and Minecraft a new home, but it likely won't stop there. Voices have been heard, and now a new president is about to be elected to help guide us through these rough waters of change, and anchor us on the new shores of games that we want to see come to TLO.

All in all, this is truly an exciting time for this group, but it will not last unless you take part. If you are reading this, and you haven't been on the forums in a while, I'm asking you to take a look around and see what's new. We're still grinding a bit, as our wheels are not completely oiled up, but a lot of new and exciting things have likely come about since the last time you graced our halls.

On a more personal note, I want to call out TLO's most recent president, Serris and commend him for the job he's done to keep TLO afloat for as long as he has. Serris took over the presidency at a time where activity was starting to decline, but was steady. For the last two and a half (ish) years, Serris has managed to, if nothing else, control the descent so it would not become a free fall that would have ended with TLO shutting its doors. Additionally, Serris put in a great amount of effort toward enhancements and future releases of RPG-X Ultimate Edition, fixing bugs along the way and helping new members get settled into this community.

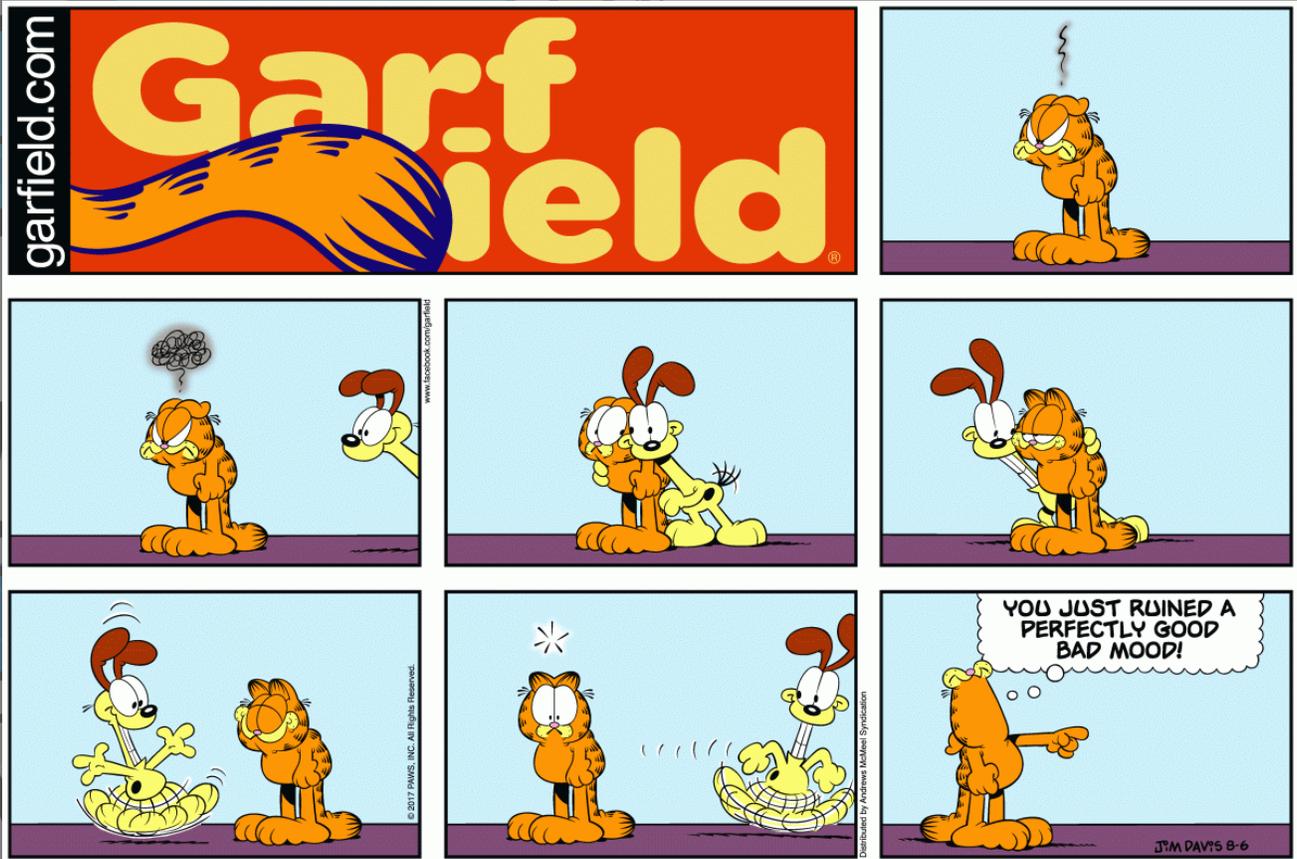
On behalf of TLO, I want to say thank you, Serris for all you have done for this group. I'm sure you're planning on sticking with us for a while yet, and I look forward to seeing the next things that come for you and from you.

One more quick shout out to Callum603 for updating our distribution center to allow PDFs to be posted to the site. Does this not look a million times better than last issue?



- Love Klaw

The Funnies and Some Inspiration



DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



“Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you”, Walt Whitman.

With Love: Klaw, Chris Wilkinson, and the entire team of *Ex Astra - Lite*