



# Crockett's Spirit

*Impavidus Scribere Veritas — The Brave Write the Truth*



Volume 1, Issue 12

Merry Christmas, ESB!

December 2013

## News of the Season

by Col Drego Tensa

Once again, in just a few days, jolly old Saint Nick is going to travel throughout the world from rooftop to rooftop, through chimneys and keyhole on his centuries old mission to deliver toys to all the children of Earth. If you think about it, that would have to be neigh unto impossible! Santa's reindeer would have to fly at incredible speeds and Santa himself would have to defy basic physiology and the laws of physics in order to lay out a number of toys and gifts, eat a cookie and drink a cup of hot chocolate at each and every house on Earth. But *he does!*

Agent Ebenezer Scrinch of Section 31, believing that the suspect Claus might be an intergalactic alien spy or saboteur, took it upon himself to investigate the jolly, rotund, red suited fellow. Scrinch inserted a number of elf-sized agents into Santa's secret North Pole enclave. He discovered, much to his chagrin, that Saint Nick is *not* a spy. *Good old Santa and his reindeer are shape shifting android changelings!*

## Did You Know?

by LtCol Shayle Carter

Hey welcome back to another did you know moment. Ah, you thought I forgot all about you didn't you. Nope, not in the slightest! Well my friends this week's lesson is going to be about the holidays! That's right, what better time than now to spread some good old fashion holiday cheer. We're in that time of the season to be celebrating after all.

With holiday come's many things. Presents, snow, Christmas trees, hot chocolate, cookies, warm toasty fire places, presents...oh yeah, I already mentioned that one, heh. Anyway, there just are a lot of wonderful things that come with the winter season. Yet there is one that probably isn't thought about much: ornaments.

Well I am sure you think about them, but do you ever think about the first star trek one that was ever released by Hallmark! Probably not...so here is the tid bit of something to learn even if your minds get fuzzy from food stuffing and too much eggnog. The first star trek ornament to ever be released had been one of the USS Enterprises, which was the original series edition.

It was released in 1991 with high anticipation from star trek fans all over. Today that ornament is over 20 years old! Which means it's a sought after collector's item now. However back then this little puppy was the first ornament made by Hallmark to warm the hearts of many since the first release of star trek in the late 60's. Thank you Hallmark for bringing Star Trek into the homes of many during the holidays!



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# Fiction

## The Alfor Encounter - 3

by Col Two Wolves

Shara was led through a series of busy corridors. The walls, ceiling and floor consisted of a opaque white substance which was obviously ice. Shara was both amazed and fascinated. It was one of the largest ice structures she'd ever encountered in her career. She was also keenly aware that she lacked a tricorder to take readings.

"At an opportune time I will request writing implements in order to take notes." she thought as she walked.

At predetermined intervals glow globes were situated in notches to give light. All around her the inhabitants were busily going about their daily routines along with their cats.

"We are Alforians and our cats are called Alforian Track Cats. They pull our sleds, help with hunting, track down prey or the lost, protect children, the elderly and the sick..." Qwan started. Shara instantly thought of Terran Eskimos and their symbiotic relationship with their Huskies. "And they are intelligent and telepathic," Shara completed.

"Agreed. They also use echo location to find their way. That was the chirping noise you may have heard," Qwan replied as they turned the corner. "'Tis a valuable skill to have when one lives on a world covered with snow and ice. At times one's eyes cannot be trusted," Qwan finished. Shara agreed. She'd read stories of explorers who'd perished due to being lost in white out conditions. Their remains had not been found until the Spring thaw.

Shara's keen sense of smell alerted her before they arrived at their destination. The antiseptic odor was the same universally so this area was undoubtedly an infirmary. They entered and Qwan introduced Shara to Healer Mizz, an older Alforian woman who practiced traditional medicine.

"Come. I will take you to them." she said as she led the way. They entered a dormitory like room and Shara stopped short. Her entire bridge crew plus the doctor were present. Doctor Antonio Gomez was on the bridge at the time because he was bored, and had what he thought was a secret crush on his Commander.

"Fortunately for Doctor Gomez, his silly predilection saved his life," Shara thought, as she noted that his left arm was wrapped and in an old fashioned sling. Ensign Tobin was laid up with a broken leg which was immobilized in a plaster cast. Ensign Drummond had multiple bruises and a slight case of frostbite. She had forgotten to don her gloves but now her hands were slowly recovering. Lieutenant Jamison had struck her head on the communications console and had been discovered unconscious. She was awake and alert but

nursing a nova sized headache.

"This means I've lost Lt. Harrion, Ensign Tuttle and the entire five member Vulcan science team," Shara thought. Condolences were rough but Vulcan condolences were an absolute bear.

"Ma'am. Its good to see you," Dr. Gomez said. A purely selfish statement on his part, but Shara knew how to defuse that.

"It is good to see all of you," Shara replied. As one, they all stood and did something unprecedented. They gave her a group hug.

Five minutes later... "Ma'am, where do we go from here," Dr. Gomez asked as they all settled back onto beds and chairs.

"First we mourn our dead. Then we take advantage of our gracious host's hospitality. From what I am told it is the beginning of the snow season. With the entire planet storm locked, it may be up to six months before the Great Thaw starts. Only then can we consider our rescue," Shara replied.

One by one the survivors looked at each other and nodded in silent agreement. Healer Mixx saw to it that they all were issued proper clothing. With Ensign Tobin hobbling on crutches, Qwan and his three sons escorted the group down to the burial cairn. It was markedly colder in this location because it was closest to the elements.

The simple coffins were opened for the Commander and Doctor to identify the bodies. Both nodded solemnly and stepped back so the rest of the crew could see if they desired. Once done, the coffins were resealed. The group stood silently as the wind howled outside the icy walls.

Qwan handed Shara a small leather book. "I thought you might wish to read words over them." Shara nodded her thanks, opened the book to the marked place, and began to read.

"To everything there is a season..."

## A Nugget

by Col Logan Kale

Did you know that in the TOS Episode "Assignment: Earth" that NASA shot all their footage using the anamorphic format, hence all the rocket launch stock footage in this episode is cropped from the 2.35:1 aspect ratio to television's conventional 1.33:1 which was The rocket stock footage in this episode is actually of three Saturn Vs: footage of the rocket on the ground is a combination of the SA-500F Test Vehicle (the only Saturn V to feature "USA" markings on the third stage) and Apollo 6 (the only Saturn V launched with a white service module). Footage of the rocket launching is of Apollo 4. Also that Stock footage of the Enterprise orbiting Earth (without clouds) is reused from the Episode "Miri" as well as the scene which is a closeup of Montgomery Scott behind the transporter station is recycled from the Episode "The Enemy Within".

Source: [Memory-Alpha](#)

# Encore Fiction

## All I Want for Christmas...

by Col Kira Marys

This story takes place aboard the USS Enterprise NCC-1701-E circa 2376, after "Insurrection," before "Nemesis."

"Captain, vessels are approaching fast!" "Who's are they, Number One?" "Can't tell! They're jamming sensors! Looks like three though, Captain. They're powering up weapons! Captain! They're already on top of us!" "On screen!"

The bell chimes within the captain's ready room. "Computer freeze audio archive," grumbles Picard. Silence fills the room. The high-pitched voices of the commanding officers formerly assigned to the USS Farragut echo inside his mind. Jean-Luc leans back in his chair and exhales deeply. "Come!"

The door to his office opens to Commander Deanna Troi. Picard forces a smile. "You don't have to pretend with me Captain," advises the half-Human, half-Betazoid in a warm, straightforward tone.

Jean-Luc reflexively lowers his defenses. "Right you are Commander. What can I do for you?"

"Is something troubling you Captain?"

"I was just reviewing the Battle of Ajilon Prime for the Federation Council's hearing next month."

Deanna looks into the man's eyes and deliberately pauses before pressing onward: "I feel it's more than that Sir."

Jean-Luc holds her gaze for a brief moment then swivels toward the window. He rises and walks over to the viewport, folding his arms across his chest, lost in contemplation. "You see these stars Counselor Troi?" he finally asks, gesturing with his hand. "They remind me of snowflakes." Another silence ensues in the course of which Deanna, feeling empathy for the captain, holds back. "It's winter now in La Barre, France. I recall our family reunions with Robert, Marie and..." His voice trails off. His grief betrays him.

"And your nephew René," finishes Deanna.

Picard nods, eyes closed, recalling that it was René who called him "nephew" as a pleasantry between the two of them. "He wanted to become an explorer. Now he would have been of age."

Picard heads for the sofa. "Have a seat Counselor," he offers. Sitting next to her, Jean-Luc bends forward, resting his elbows on his knees. "When I was trapped in the Nexus a few years back, I had this most lucid dream. We were celebrating Christmas." Picard glances at counselor Troi.

"I've heard about this religious celebration," remarks Deanna.

Jean-Luc continues: "My family held on to that tradition throughout the ages: the lights, the pine tree, the gifts but most of all, the happiness. So in that dream, I was with my beautiful wife and children, rejoicing around the Christmas tree. A large table had been dressed. René was there with us... Nothing felt more important than this. It didn't feel like a dream really. It felt real. As real as you and I talking together at this very moment." Jean-Luc falls silent once more.

"And now that we get closer to that holiday..." ventures Deanna in the hope that Jean-Luc will finish the sentence with: "I'd be grateful to have someone in my life, a family of my own". It doesn't quite come out this way though.

"I'll manage," declares Picard, getting to his feet. "Thank you Counselor. Was there anything I could do for you?"

"Yes Captain," she replies while standing. "Live out your dreams, it's never too late. Will and I are living proof of that. I wanted you to be the first one to know... We're engaged!"

\*\*\*

Some five weeks later, a Starfleet shuttle lands on the Ba'ku homeworld. Picard strolls down the landing platform in civilian clothing, a traveling bag tossed over his shoulder.

"Welcome back to our world," greets Anij with a shy, genuine smile.

"It feels good to be back," acknowledges Picard.

"I'm glad that, since your last visit, it didn't take me another 300 years to see a bald man."

"Any bald man?" inquires Picard, making the woman's cheeks turn red. "Anij, would you happen to know what an offlander can do around here with 318 days of shore leave?"

"Why don't I show you?" replies Anij, graciously holding out her hand.

"I wouldn't want it any other way," confirms Picard, gently squeezing her hand in his.

"Happy holiday Jean-Luc!"





# Brain Benders

## ACROSS

1. TV monitor?
4. \*Love interest of 1D, with 9D
8. Get-out-of-jail money
12. \_\_\_ gin fizz
13. Breezed through
14. Killer whales
16. Extol
17. Burglar
18. Crack
19. Colorado resort
21. Losing proposition?
23. Catch a glimpse of
24. Not just "a"
25. Give off, as light
27. Biddy
29. Pi times the radius squared, for a circle
30. Beer holder
31. Affairs
34. \*See 1D
37. \*"\_\_\_ the Merciless"
38. "Is that \_\_\_?"
39. Ace
40. Coal carrier
41. Mozart's "Madamina," e.g.
42. Feminine side
43. \*Princess \_\_\_: daughter of 37A
45. \*See 71A
47. Affirmative action
48. "\_\_\_ alive!"
49. Chap
50. Sports \_\_\_
51. Bang-up
52. Australian runner
55. \_\_\_ Bowl
58. Solid
60. Sots
62. Loan sharking
64. Gift on "The Bachelor"
66. "Green Gables" girl
67. Contradict
68. "Follow me!"
69. Root beer vessels
70. Litter member
71. \*Rocket scientist who took 1D and 4A to 53D, with 45A
72. High school class, for short
28. \_\_\_ roll
29. Wood-shaping tool
30. Tease
31. Dismal
32. Assortment
33. Croat, e.g.
34. Saint Richard \_\_\_: Welsh martyr
35. Its quarter says "Birthplace of Aviation Pioneers"
36. Peel
37. Bygone bird
40. "48 \_\_\_": 1982 film
41. "A jealous mistress": Emerson
43. Balloon filler
44. Its motto is "Industry"
45. Buddhist discipline
46. Again
49. "The \_\_\_": film starring Rodney Dangerfield
50. \*Prince \_\_\_ of Arboria
51. Bouquet
52. Boredom
53. \*Planet ruled by 37A
54. A Swiss army knife has lots of them
55. Airline's home base
56. \_\_\_-friendly
57. Corker
59. Bow
61. Poetic foot
63. "Are we there \_\_\_?"
65. "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.

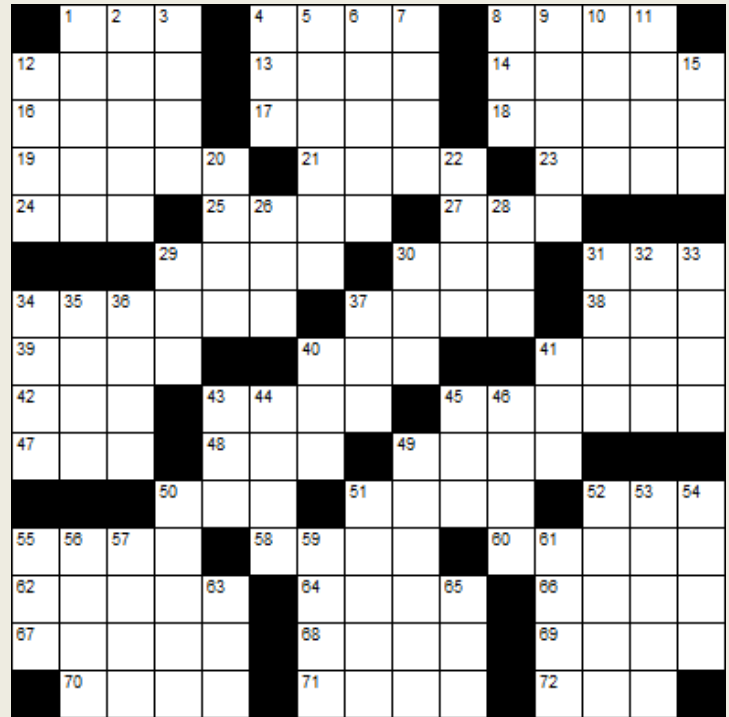


## DOWN

1. \*First serialized movie sci-fi hero, with 34A
2. Two-door
3. Formally surrender
4. Actress Doris
5. Spiritual apathy
6. On the up and up
7. Halftime lead, e.g.
8. \_\_\_ constrictor
9. \*See 4A
10. Frosts, as a cake
11. Arctic native
12. Bed board
15. Pork place
20. "I, Claudius" role
22. In that case
26. Chess pieces

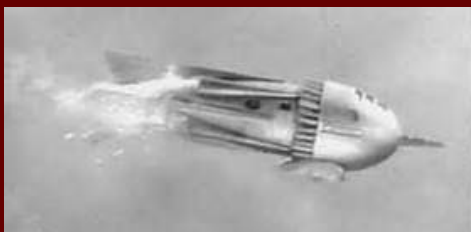
## ESB Crockett's Spirited Crossword Puzzle

\*Early Space Epic - by Col Tensa - December 2013



## Answers to Previous Puzzle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | I | J | O | U | T | E | B | R | O | S | A |   |   |
| A | L | E | R | T | O | R | E | S | A | L | T | S |   |
| L | I | E | G | E | E | E | L | U | N | L | I | T |   |
| L | A | Z | A | R | U | S | L | A | L | I | A | R | I |
|   |   |   | N | U | N | B | E | L | T |   |   |   |   |
| F | A | A | S | T | A | R | L | A | R | E | D | O |   |
| L | O | N | E | I | R | A | N | N | O | V | E | L |   |
| O | R | G | Y | L | I | N | E | D | V | E | N | D |   |
| S | T | E | E | D | A | D | A | R | E | R | S | E |   |
| S | A | R | R | I | S | O | R | A | L | Y | E | N |   |
|   |   |   | S | I | A | N | M | A | G |   |   |   |   |
| T | A | G | G | A | R | T | M | A | D | I | S | O | N |
| A | R | M | O | R | T | A | I | I | M | A | G | E |   |
| R | E | A | L | M | A | D | S | E | M | I | L | E |   |
| S | A | N | D | R | O | C | S | E | D | E | R |   |   |



# More Brain Benders

## SUDOKU PUZZLE

December 2013  
Hard, Non-Symmetrical  
by Tensa

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 8 |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 5 | 3 |   |   |   | 1 |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |
|   | 1 |   |   |   | 7 | 3 | 5 |   |
|   |   | 4 |   | 9 |   |   |   |   |
| 8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |
| 6 |   |   |   | 7 | 3 |   |   | 1 |
|   | 5 |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |
|   | 7 |   |   | 6 |   |   | 8 |   |

Solution to November's Sudoku Puzzle  
Hard, Symmetrical

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 1 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 |

## WORD SEARCH

December's Topic: "Christmas"  
Look for 42 Happy Thoughts  
by Tensa

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | P | A | R | T | Y | S | I | N | G | P | Y | P |
| Q | A | O | N | T | U | R | K | E | Y | L | I | T |
| C | M | P | R | G | I | F | T | N | O | O | F | E |
| M | A | B | P | T | E | A | J | H | C | R | I | B |
| G | G | R | S | Y | R | L | O | T | G | D | R | O |
| J | I | A | D | B | W | U | S | O | M | O | T | R |
| B | O | N | E | H | S | S | E | Y | C | A | L | E |
| T | A | L | N | A | A | L | P | S | T | A | R | D |
| C | E | B | L | M | U | E | H | O | L | L | Y | Y |
| C | Z | E | Y | Y | C | D | P | I | N | E | H | W |
| X | O | O | O | F | E | S | T | I | V | A | L | I |
| N | J | F | L | O | C | K | Q | X | M | A | S | V |
| W | I | N | T | E | R | G | C | E | D | A | R | Y |

Solution to November's Word Search:  
"Vulcans"

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | M | I | R | M | E | N | O | S | T | P | A | U |
| P | O | L | A | B | S | O | P | E | K | P | E | R |
| T | L | A | R | K | S | W | T | P | A | R | A | K |
| S | K | F | O | M | A | I | T | P | E | L | N | N |
| S | O | V | O | K | K | T | T | U | V | I | X | S |
| Y | U | R | I | S | K | A | P | A | L | T | S | T |
| T | T | R | A | O | A | V | X | O | K | O | O | K |
| S | O | V | A | L | T | I | S | S | K | R | Z | L |
| V | E | L | I | K | H | N | T | K | O | L | T | A |
| O | O | V | E | A | O | F | E | L | I | L | P | A |
| R | S | L | N | R | K | K | L | S | E | T | O | S |
| I | E | A | T | T | O | L | A | R | I | S | L | K |
| S | K | S | J | T | V | W | X | H | S | K | O | N |

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## From the Ready Room

### Expanding ESB's Horizons

by Col Drego Tensa

Esprit Starbase has been closed to the public all through its first year of existence. This has been our stance as senior staff because we were building this site from the remnants of an earlier site so that we could open without having to wait an interminable amount of time until Major General Tanner could remove all the previous site's graphics and replace them with her own. The idea was to keep unfriendly members of the previous site from sneaking onto ESB as potential trouble makers. Still, one OC Stark sneaked on board and wreaked his own form of havoc causing Major General Tanner and myself to undergo much undue stress. The major general decided at that time to go ahead and convert to the latest version of Proboards which ended the problem. Esprit Starbase is now one-hundred per cent Major General Tanner's and our own.

Backed by the results of two recent polls, our aim today is to open to the public and to allow practically anyone to join ESB. Understandably, many of our current members have real life pursuits that require most of their attention, so they cannot put maximum efforts into their ESB Duties. We need many new members who can join in and share the work load here so that ESB can thrive even more than it does now.

Therefore, as soon as she can, Major General J. Tanner is going to open Esprit Starbase to the public and we are going to begin a marketing campaign to attract new members.



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