



*Ten Forward*

The Theta Fleet Newsletter

## Table of Contents

- ▶ Cover
- ▶ About Theta Fleet
- ▶ Community Engagement
- ▶ Updates & News
- ▶ Fleet Command Office
- ▶ Task Force Treasures
- ▶ The Galley



January 2022, Issue #12

*Established in 2009, Theta Fleet prides itself in its “Mayberry” like community and continues to be a beacon of hope for Commanding Officers and writers in search of greener pastures, an alternative to high-pressure and polarizing fleet atmospheres.*

*2018 Simming Prize Laureate*



# About Us - More Than Words

Theta Fleet has long history of fostering a simming community that serves as refuge for those looking for something different – a place that cares about who *you* are, not what rank you hold or how many posts you can produce in a month. It will always be quality over quantity in Theta Fleet.

Whether you are just starting out and completely new to simming, or whether you have decades of experience, our doors are open to *everyone*. The foundation in which the fleet was built upon remains the same – people above politics. This is *your* fleet, and Admiralty just keeps the lights on.

This fleet was created to be different than the fleets of its time, and even more than a decade later, it still is. We are a community where strangers become neighbors, neighbors become friends, and friends become the family you find along the way. We aren't perfect, but we hope to be a beacon of hope for those looking for a safe and creative place to call home.

## **What We Do?**

We collect things...things to make us go. This is somewhat true, but really what we do is provide a home for wonderfully creative writers within the broader simming community.

## **Why Do We Do It?**

Theta Fleet stands as "The Other Sim Choice," and is an alternative to the high-octane politics of other fleets. We offer shelter from the storm and you and welcome to stay indefinitely.

## **Won't You Be My Neighbor?**

We are the "Mayberry" of the simming community which means you can always knock on a neighbor's door for help or to burrow some sugar.

## **Services Offered?**

Theta Fleet offers hosting services to all sims in the fleet completely free of charge. Alternatively, Split-World Alliance provides their hosting and additional support services to any sim regardless of fleet affiliation or independence. There is also Anime Trek Avatars at your service.

*"At the end of the day, Trek is about the family you find along the way!" - LeVar Burton*

# Community Engagement

This January marked the second annual Babel Conference, a simming conference held for one day each year where writers from the greater simming community converge to engage with one another and attend pannels discussing a variety of topics. These pannel presentations are given in a mixed format of text and voice at the preference of the pannelist.

Several members of Theta Fleet presented at Babel Conference this year, joining pannelist and attendees from a plethora of fleets. The goal of Babel Conference is to promote simming as a community, dropping fleet affiliations at the door, and learning from one another as we share and discuss our own experiences.

Whether you are interested in learning how to write a character the opposite sex as you (the writer) are or a character of a different sexual orientation, and do it justice without turning into a caraciture or relying heavily on stereotypes, Babel Conference may be the perfect place for you. This year's conference was a phennominal mixture of presentations that ranged from the technical to the finer details of characterizations. Babel Conference will return in 2023 with even more amazing presentors and shared knowledge. Keep your eyes out come autumn as the next Babel Conference begins to be planned.

If you missed out on attending the 2021 or 2022 Babel Conference, don't fret. We kindly work on assembling transcripts and copies of the presentations to archive and help with accessibility. Just check out [transcripts](#) from past conferences.

*" Your will to survive, your love of life, your passion to know ... Everything that is truest and best in all species of beings has been revealed to you. Those are the qualities that make a civilization worthy to survive". - Lai the Vian from "The Empath"*

# Updates & News

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Fleet – Theta Fleet joins the simming community to respectfully announce the unfortunate closure of 22<sup>nd</sup> Fleet which was launched a few years ago by Greenfelt who had previously been in a leadership capacity with Bravo Fleet. This fleet was created to provide a creative and supportive community, and it offered sims of various eras and genres a home. Sadly, January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2022 (fitting) was the announced date that the fleet would be ending. All of its sims have since gone on to find success as independent sims, seek harbor with another fleet, or make the difficult decision to cease operations. We wish all game managers and writers that were part of 22<sup>nd</sup> Fleet our well wishes on their continued adventures.
- New Arrivals – Theta Fleet has welcomed several sims since December and well into January, offering a variety of options for writers to check out and explore. The USS Myogi was a transfer from another fleet and been brewing some creative posts with its unique aesthetic. Starbase 400 and the USS New Hampshire-A have joined Theta Fleet after the closing of 22<sup>nd</sup> Fleet. Meanwhile, the USS Artemis has had an active first month. Likewise, the USS Azrael, USS Conteram, USS Cavalier, and USS New Delhi are all recently opened and looking for crew.
- Khitomer Conference – If you enjoy Babel Conference, you may want to mark your calendars for another annual simming conference; Khitomer Conference will be held on the weekend of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. [Check out the conference](#) or sign up to present as there are still vacancies for presentations.
- Awards Season – Attention simming community, award season is in the air. OnGoing Worlds is currently seeking [nominations for The Squiddies](#), and [The Simming Prize](#) is also [looking for nominations](#) as well.

# Fleet Command Office

Note: while monthly reports are voluntary, only sims that file a report are eligible for the fleet awards for that month (with the exception of the TGCO Award of Merit).

## Unit of Distinction Awards

The Unit of Distinction Awards are based on the Post Per Player Average as indicated by Nova. If a sim does not use Nova, then this has to be calculated manually.

Each post has a post count that is determined by the number of users (not characters) in each post. (As long as the post meets fleet posting requirements.) For example, if there are three users in a post, the post count for that post is three.

At the beginning of the next month, the post count for each post the previous month is added up and that is the total number of posts for the month. Divide that number by the total number of users on the sim and that is your post per player average.

Players on LOA/ELOA or those removed during the month count towards the PPPA. If the CO feels there should be an exception for a player on ELOA, he or she must email the CTF by the end of the month and explain why an exemption is requested. It will be up to the CTF to decide whether or not the exemption is granted.

Players who leave or are removed from the sim BEFORE the fourth of the month and did not tag, were not in a JP, or did not post in that timeframe, may not count towards the month's PPPA. Likewise, players who join a sim in the last four days of the month and do not post or tag in a post in that time may not count. But for them to be excluded, the CO must inform the CTF before the 3rd (third) of the following month by email or DM her on Discord.

The CTF is not responsible for checking each sim for exemptions. Therefore, in general, the Nova stats stand as the sim stats for the month. As stats can be as close as one post, or one player in a JP, ties may be given if the sims are as close as 0.6 PPPA. If a sim has too many posts that are very short, their PPPA may be altered by the Command Staff and so they may not get the same award they may otherwise have received.

Nova generally goes by GMT, not local time. (Some webmasters have altered this, but as a general rule, the month ends at midnight, GMT). If your time zone is different, any JPs posted after midnight GMT will count towards the next month. Please do not manually add them to your monthly report. Nova will record them as being posted on the next month and they will count towards the next month's stats.

Note: Nova will calculate for players that were removed during the month after the end of the month. For this reason, we ask that stats are taken when the new month rolls over on your sim.

### Writer, Player, and Post of the Month Awards

The Writer of the Month, Player of the Month, and Post of the Month Awards are selected from the Monthly Reports filed each month. The Command Staff reviews the nominations and selects the winner or winners (if they think there should be a tie) for each month. They try not to give the same player the same award multiple times, and will often try to give the writer, player, and post for each month to different sims.

These awards are subjective as they are based on the reasons (for Writer and Player--knowledge of the player may also be considered) and for the posts themselves. The Command Staff all have an equal say in the awards to ensure impartiality. For this reason, it is not unusual to see ties.

Occasionally, the CTF, DCTF, and TFCOs will look at the player's activity for the month to help determine writer and player awards.

### TGCO Award of Merit

The TGCO Award of Merit is given each month by the TGCOs. It is awarded to the sim he or she thinks is most deserving in a given month for that Task Group. This award is not based on monthly reports. If the TGCO does not give a recipient for the award, the Command Staff will pick the sim they feel is most deserving.

### Quarterly Fleet Awards

Each quarter, awards are given for the Sim, CO, XO, Writer, and Player of the Quarter. The Writer and Player of the Quarter Awards are generally based on the monthly award winners. (Or nominees, if some players are nominated multiple times).

The Sim, CO, and XO can be based on the monthly winners, or they can be based on performance during the quarter. It is possible for these awards to be given to a CO, XO, or Sim that did not win an award during the quarter for going above and beyond.

### Sim, CO, XO, Writer, and Player of the Year

The annual awards are generally based on the quarterly awards. They are given to those the Command Staff feels are most deserving for that year.

The Sim of the Quarter and Sim of the Year are awards for the crew as a whole.

# Task Force Treasures

## USS BRUNEL

The USS Brunel is a 100-year-old Excelsior-class starship refit as an experimental Corps of Engineers vessel. The Brunel can be dispatched anywhere in the Federation where its special skills are needed. They can do everything from assistance and emergency repairs of broken-down ships, to helping Federation colonies with their engineering troubles. "If there's trouble, you call B-runel."

While the ship is by no means a front-line vessel and will mainly be focused on engineering and behind-the-scenes repairs, it has other departments for auxiliary support and repairs. Every now and then, there may also be a spatial anomaly or a hostile encounter because space, even for engineers, can be dangerous.

If you like dealing with the grittier (and grimier) side of Star Trek, enjoy technobabble and crawling through Jefferies' tubes, or just like engineering, check out the Brunel. Most positions are still open, and the CO knows a great deal about engineering, so you'll never lack for work...or fun.

## USS ARTEMIS

Following the events on Utopia Planitia, the colonies on Mars were incinerated, the planet burns brightly ablaze, inhospitable to all known humanoid life. The Federation's most significant fleet yards were destroyed. Production of Federation starships have significantly decreased as the production load has been forced to shift to smaller facilities spread across the galaxy.

Six months after the war on Mars, every mission-ready ship and crew were called into service. Museum ships were brought back into service, recently retired personnel reactivated, and those in the reserves have been called into action. Older starships underwent an immediate refit and relaunched. The USS Artemis was re-supplied and upgraded to be mission ready. Her former Captain was called back to the centre seat while a new crew assembled and made final preparations for re-launch.

Now, ready for their first mission, the starship Artemis is taking on additional crew to head out into the now hostile frontier. If you like the Picard era, join the Artemis on its new adventures as part of Theta Fleet's Area 51. The galactic landscape has changed, and darker days are on the horizon. Peace is a fragile priority, but conflict is an inevitable beast that needs to be hunted.

# The Galley



**Featured dish:** Picante de Pollo (Spiced Chicken)

**Food for Thought Factoid:** Picante de pollo is one of the many creole recipes, originated from western Bolivia and is characterized by its aroma and spicy flavour. Bolivians are known to make this spicy dish on August 6th, Bolivia's Independence Day and for many special occasions.

(<https://www.196flavors.com>)

**Recipe provided** by Charlene Harmon

## Ingredients

- 1 pollo mediano (one medium chicken)
- 8 papas blancas enteras (8 whole white potatoes)
- 2 tazas de arroz (2 cups rice)
- 1 1/2 cebollas grandes (1 ½ large onions)
- 1 zanahoria (one carrot)
- 1 nabo (one turnip)
- 4 cucharillas de perejil finamente picado (4 tsp parsley, finely chopped)
- 1 cuchara de pan molido (1 tbsp bread crumbs)
- 1 cucharilla de palillo o azafrán (one tsp of saffron threads)
- 1 pizca de ají no moto (½ tsp msg or bouillon)
- sal al gusto (salt to taste)
- 3 cucharas de aceite (three tbsp oil)

## Seasoning Mixture

- 6 vainas de ají colorado despepitado (6 dried (seeds removed) red chili peppers) or paprika
- 2 cucharillas de comino molido (2 tsp ground caraway)
- 2 cucharillas de pimienta molida (2 tsp ground pepper)
- 3 dientes de ajo (2 cloves garlic)



## Preparation & Cooking Instructions

1. En un batán o licuadora con poca agua moler los condimentos, hasta que tenga una consistencia de puré. Reservar. (In a blender mix the condiments with a little water until pureed. Set aside.)
2. Despresar y lavar bien el pollo, eliminando sus vísceras. (Cut up the chicken, wash it and remove the skin and entrails.)
3. En una olla colocar el pollo y vertir agua hirviendo que cubra la carne; añadir la zanahoria, el nabo enteros y sazonar con sal. Dejar cocer a fuego fuerte, hasta que el pollo se encuentre medio cocido. (Put the chicken in a pot and cover it with boiling water. Add the carrots and turnip and season with salt. Boil until the chicken is half cooked.)
4. Mientras tanto, en otra olla con aceite sazonar los condimentos molidos, añadir el ají no moto, vertir dos o tres tazas del caldo del pollo y dejar cocer durante 10 minutos a fuego lento. (While the chicken is cooking, in a pot heat some oil, and add the seasoning mixture, the msg (bouillon), and two or three cups of the chicken broth and let cook ten minutes over a medium heat.)
5. Las presas de pollo incorporar a la preparación anterior y terminar su cocimiento. Espesar con el pan molido. Retirar una vez el pollo este cocido. (Add the chicken to the mixture and continue cooking. Mix in the bread crumbs. Turn the chicken until it is cooked.)
6. Lavar el arroz, luego en sartén caliente sin aceite retostarlo, removiendo constantemente, una vez que este casi dorado, añadir el palillo o azafrán, remover por unos minutos más y una vez dorado, en una olla colocar el arroz graneado, vertir cuatro tazas de agua caliente, la mitad de la cebolla entera, sal al gusto, y a medida que vaya cociendo, aumentar agua fría, hasta que el arroz reviente y se encuentre cocido. (Wash the rice and cook in a skillet without oil, stirring constantly. When it's almost cooked, add the safflower, cook until brown. Add 4 cups hot water, half an onion, salt to taste, and once it's cooking, add cold water as needed until the rice is cooked.)
7. Aparte, hacer cocer las papas en agua caliente con sal al gusto. (Separately, cook the potatoes in boiling water with salt to taste.)
8. En cada plato servir dos papas, una porción de arroz, la presa de pollo, encima su jugo espeso y adornar con una cucharilla de perejil. (On each plate, put two potatoes, a portion of rice, a piece of chicken, and cover with the sauce. Adorn with parsley if desired.)