

### Table of Contents

- About Theta Fleet
- Community Engagement
- Updates & News
- Fleet Command Office
- Task Force Treasures
- ► The Galley
- ► The Ready Room



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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.

Wehter you are just starting out and completely new to simming, or wether you have decades of experience, our doors are open to *everyone*. The foundation in which the fleet was built upon remainds 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

Theta Fleet would like to congratulate all sims that were named as finalists in the 2021 Tournament of Sims: War Games. Winners were announced by <u>Ongoing Worlds</u> on May 10<sup>th</sup> of this year. With winners receiving recognition as outstanding, excellent, and great sims in their respected worlds of Star Trek, Star Wars, Firefly and more!

It is a spectacular honor to be named among the finalist, and we are delighted to see diverse reputation amongst the finalist with independently operating sims, and sims from several fleets. Congratulations to them all including our own: USS Wolff, Relay Station Bellwether, and USS Standing Bear. The <u>USS Wolff</u> is indeed an outstanding sim and is currently recruiting.

" Every ship in the fleet depends on officers like us to keep them running. The bridge crew is maybe the ones you hear about but, trust me, the real action begins on the lower decks.". – Brad Boimler from "wej Duj"



SciWorld 2022 is coming Saturday, June 11 on Discord!

Join today and get ready for a day of presentations and discussions on simming/roleplaying and get to know other writers/gamers in the broader simming community.

Have a presentation in mind? SciWorld organizers still have some spots available for presentations on playing characters, running a game, or anything that has to do with cooperate storytelling! If you would like to present, you may contact Kathryn Burke (**NinjaDuck#8880**) on Discord.

## Updates & News

• Theta Fleet would like to continue to add content beneficial to writers and players in months to come. The content we would really like to feature and store on the Theta Fleet forums would pertain to the different departments and positions on a starship, starbase, or space station. We are seeking 'how to' guides and articles that could help other writers understand the basics and some of the finesse that is needed for writing a convincing character holding certain positions such as Chief Medical Officer, Ship's Counsellor, or even Transporter Chief. Please feel free to submit your articles for review to Theta Fleet's <u>Director of Information Management</u>.

## Fleet Command Office

### **Community Statement by Admiral Kathryn Burke**

Now that the world is slowly coming out of the pandemic, we've been making some changes to the fleet. One of those changes is to put sims on hiatus if the CO needs to temporarily step away due to illness, work, or family. This is temporary and must have the approval of the crew.

If the XO is able to step up and take temporary command, that is preferable, but it is not always practical.

And, since we don't want potential players to apply for these sims, we now have a list of sims that are not assigned to any task force or task group. Ideally, hiatus will last for less than six months, but we will determine this on a case-by-case basis. It is dependent on the CO/GM keeping fleet staff advised.

We will close a sim if the CO/GM disappears, or we see them posting or advertising elsewhere. The intention is to give the command team and crew a chance to deal with life and then regroup. We're all here because we love to write. We don't want to put undue pressure on a CO who is already dealing with health, occupation, or family issues.

At the same time, we also have a list of pending sims. Those are sims that are setting up but aren't yet ready to open. This is to let potential players know what's coming up.

We hope this will be a positive change and will with transparency. It will also, we hope, keep potential players from getting frustrated because the sims they want to join aren't responding.

There will likely be more changes as the year progresses. 2022 is a good year to spruce things up. Suggestions are always welcome!

## Task Force Treasures



The USS Hecate NCC-1963 is an Excelsior-refit vessel named after the Near-Eastern goddess, Hecate.

Laid down when the original Excelsior proved successful in her trials (transwarp drive excepted), the USS Hecate was commissioned in 2295 and was completed at the San Francisco Yards. Following her shakedown trials, the vessel was transferred to Earth Spacedock ready for her first crew to take their places.

Her five-year mission is to chart the Beta Quadrant beyond the Klingon and Romulan Empires. With the Khitomer Accords signed and established, Starfleet and the Federation Council believe that it is high time to begin further deep-space exploration now diplomatic relations between the three powers have been relatively stabilised.

# Valhalla Fleet Yards

The year is 2399 in the Kriss Alternate Universe. With hostilities beginning to resurface along the Federation and Cardassian Borders, the Federation has tasked Vice Admiral Domingo Martinez with ensuring the peace, and addressing any concerns the New Maquis, Cardassian Detapa Coucil and the True Way Alliance may have.

In the shadows, two organizations hope to take advantage of the chaos, and make their presence felt. The Shadow Council and the Drax Empire strive for power and a foot holding along Federation borders. Will the Federation go to war with either power, or accept them along the border? Meanwhile the Cardassians continue to rebuild, and the Romulans continue to push any hidden agenda they may have.

War is knocking at Valhalla Fleet Yards front door, and they need every able body to help maintain the peace.

## The **Galley**



#### Featured beverage: Bolian Tonic Water

About: Mentioned in an episode of Star Trek Deep Space Nine, Admiral Leyton offered the fizzy beverage to Captain Sisko. It was later served at Quark's. This recipe offers two versions, one for offduty (alcohol included) and one for on-duty (virgin).

Recipe provided by Raymond Dale (StarDuster)

### **Beverage Ingredients**

- 1.5 oz gin (or <u>Seedlip Grove 42</u> non-alcoholic spirits)
- 1 oz Blue Curaçao liqueur (or Blue Curaçao Monin syrup)
- 1 tbsp simple syrup (recipe here)
- 1.5 tbsp lemon juice (about 3/4 lemon)
- 2 oz tonic or seltzer water (personal recommendation Polar's blueberry lemonade seltzer)
- 1 small orange (for the peel)
- 1 egg white (Egg whites create a creamier texture and thick layer of foam on top of your drink)

### Garnish

• Use the peel of an orange (or a lemon) to garnish your beverage.

<u>Here's a bartending tutorial for several</u> <u>different peel garnishes: swaths, twists,</u> <u>spirals, and more.</u>

### **Preparation & Instructions**

1. Fill a tall glass with ice and chill in the fridge.

2. Add everything but the tonic or seltzer water into a cocktail shaker. Feel free to add some orange zest or a small squeeze of its juice if desired.

3. If making it extra fizzy and froathy, dry shake without ice for 30 seconds to emulsify the egg whites, then add ice and shake for another 15-20 to chill. If not looking for additional fizz, simply shake with ice until chilled.

4. Remove the ice from the chilled glass, then strain the liquids through a fine mesh strainer into the glass.

- 5. Top with tonic water off with additional tonic or seltzer (if desired).
- 6. Garnish and enjoy!



scene from Star Trek: Lower Decks "Temporal Edict"

## The Lounge

Featured Article: Don't Sleep on the Orville



"The history of moral progress can be measured by the expansion of fundamental rights to those who have been denied them." – Haveena, The Orville "The Sanctuary"

It is easy to write off a show created by Seth MacFarlane as being too campy and comedic to accomplish anything seriously or provide the same level of philosophical engagement and intellectual enrichment as *Star Trek*, and many have definitely passed on giving his science fiction television show *The Orville* a shot, but I would highly encourage those who haven't tried it, to approach it with and open mind and see it you come out with a better appreciation for it.

Going into its third (potentially final) season, The Orville has more to offer than slapstick or 'low brow' comedy which it unfortunately had a prejudice aura about it prior to the first season airing. Though season one of the shows has more 'fraternity boy' type of humour, it mellows out and takes on more of a serious note by its second season. This is not to say that the early episodes of the series are without intellect or substance. It may have been finding its legs in season one, but there are some truly standout episodes that give it a good homage to *Star Trek*.

The characters quickly become established, and episodes truly develop them along the way, some of them becoming quite enjoyable and endearing for an audience. Notable actors from *Star Trek* and other science fiction television shows make appearances throughout the show's run, and personally, Penny Johnson Jerald (Kasidy Yates from *Deep Space Nine*) does an exceptional job with her portrayal of the Orville's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Claire Finn.

Even when the show takes on serious topics or provides gripping social commentary, it always manages to slide in some witty humour. The show is one that deserves more than a one or two episode viewing, finding its footing by the end of the first season, and really picking up stride during its second. Some of the humour of the show definitely comes in a similar vein as *Galaxy Quest*, but it doesn't shy away from being a legitimate presence as a science fiction television series. I believe that fans of *Star Trek: Lower Decks* would appreciate the series and what it manages to accomplish.