



# *Ten Forward*

**The Theta Fleet Newsletter**

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## The Theta Fleet Newsletter

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### A FLEET INTERWOVEN WITH INTEGRITY

Established in 2009, Theta Fleet prides itself in its "Mayberry" like community warmly welcoming writers new and old. The Fleet's rules are in place for cooperation and are reasonable. The Fleet places emphasis on good story telling and community. In Theta Fleet, we believe in you.

### 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.

### You can now follow us on Twitter!

*We promise not to cause an early morning cold war with any fleets at 3am!*



2018 Simming Prize Laureate



## From the Office of Admiral Kathryn Burke

### Crazy Train #23

Will is the TFCO of Task Force 23 and is the youngest member of the admiralty. However, he has plenty of experience. He's been part of numerous fleets and helped found both Epsilon Force and Pegasus Fleet. He currently sims in half a dozen fleets and his favorite position to play is Chief Engineer. For this reason, he helps with Theta Fleet Engineering as well as act as TFCO.

In real life, he went to school to be a teacher and worked in a day care for several years. Now he works as a train conductor, where he can play with big trains. (He's been building his own miniature railway for years and one day hopes to volunteer in a local railway museum.)

He loves anime and manga and is always eager to converse about his favorites. He makes his own anime avatars for his ships and recently crated Star Trek Anime Avatars. Want an anime avatar for your starship? Just ask.

Will is also an avid gamer. He and his friends have created several worlds in Minecraft. He also plays STO, World of Warships, and other games where he can build trains and ships. He can frequently be found in his free time blowing things up. (Either on a sim or in a video game.)

He wants to visit Japan, but there's no guarantee he'd leave again if he did. Have a question? He occasionally hangs out on Discord between train stations. I can get you write-ups on two sims in a couple of hours.

### From the Office of Recruitment & Community Engagement

- Take leap forward into the late 2750s with the Discord based sim the [USS Hermes](#)
- The Cardassians need your help as they rebuild, protect them today by joining the [USS Saratoga](#)
- Howling at the stars, the [USS Wolff](#) is waiting for fellow lunatics to for Helm and Engineering!
- Looking for a sim with a long history? Check out the [USS Pandora](#) with its loyal crew.



**Task Force Treasures**  
**Highlighted Sims of the Month**

**Task Force 23**

Starbase Typhon was the first new sim to join the USS Endeavor and the USS Orion (now the Calypso) in December 2009 to form Theta Fleet.

It has been tasked with the mission of providing security on the outer edge of the Typhon Expanse. The station has several systems to patrol. Tiberius has ten planets, including a desert planet (home to a branch of Starfleet Intelligence), an ice planet, and two colonies that keep the crew busy. It also protects the Athena Shipyards, where the fleet is working on new ship designs, and is home to the admiralty of Theta Fleet.

Captain Landon Mabrade is the seventh to command the starbase since its inception. Each has brought a different twist to the sim, and each had added elements to the sim that give it variety and flavor.

In the current mission, ships in the area keep getting attacked by pirates. The only thing they have in common is the starbase. The crew of Typhon has to find out who is behind these raids and protect the merchant ships. The tasked becomes more complicated when the pirates seem to know where the Federation will be patrolling and how to avoid capture.

**STARBASE TYPHON**



## Area 51

Set directly in the aftermath of the Dominion War, the USS Saratoga is one of Theta Fleet's newest gems offering a great opportunity to write in an era of classic Trek with the backdrop of historical importance. The significance of the Dominion War cannot be overstated. The war was felt across three quadrants and had a huge impact on the Federation's relationships with the Klingons, Romulans, and Cardassians; however, even smaller worlds suffered substantial economic and cultural losses as a result of the galactic conflict.

The USS Saratoga is a Defiant class starship, a class of Federation starship that was constructed for combat. It may be a tough little ship, but with the Dominion War behind them, these little starships are beginning to take on additional support duties and assuming the mantle they were initially designated for: tactical escorts.

Aboard the USS Saratoga, the crew will take part in laying the ground work towards the reconstruction of Cardassia, the restoration of the Cardassian spirits, and the preservation of a wealthy Cardassian culture. The Saratoga will conduct border patrol missions, and additionally be used reconnaissance and escort missions while the Federation continues to provide humanitarian aid along the Cardassian frontier.

Not everyone, however, wants to see Cardassia built in the eyes of the Federation nor its historically peaceful artisan society resurrected from wartime ashes. A prideful radicalized terrorist group known as The Children of Cardassia are hellbent on reclaiming Cardassia at this crucial time and sculpting it back up to its militant ways.

**USS SARATOGA**



## SOUTHERN CHESS PIE



Check. Make your move now to the kitchen to have some delicious Southern Chess Pie!

### Southern Chess Pie

From Lori's Recipes

Chess Pie is an old-fashioned classic Southern pie that stands the test of time. And with good reason. Chess Pie is a sweet custard pie with just a bit of cornmeal added. This pie lends itself well to variations, but this version is simple with a hint of nutmeg. It really needs no other adornment or extra toppings. It's good just as it is.

#### SERVINGS

They who get to the pie first determines this. Clearly.

#### INGREDIENTS

- 3 egg yolks
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons cornmeal
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 (9 inch) pie shell, unbaked



## LORI'S RECIPES

Commanding the USS Hawkeye, a unique sim to Theta Fleet as the Hawkeye is entirely Discord based. The Hawkeye is part of Theta Fleet's Area 51 and is one of the sims assigned to Task Group 51-A.

## DIRECTIONS:

### STEP 1

Preheat oven to 325-degrees F.

### STEP 2

In a large bowl whisk together all ingredients until smooth. Pour into unbaked pie shell and bake at 325-degrees F for 50 minutes.

### STEP 3

Let cool on wire rack, if you can wait that long.

## ABOUT THE SHIP

The USS Ontario is an Ambassador class starship set in the 2390s and this old ship is ready for some new adventures!

**Site:** [USS Ontario](#)



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## Return to Command

An Exclusive Interview with the CO of the Ontario, hopefully optimistic the second time around.

*"That's one reason why I ran away. They're lost, defeated. I will never be.!" – Ensign Ro Laren*

**Reporter:** You were with Theta Fleet last year as the CO of the USS Chester, an Ambassador class starship which was a little short lived. This time you have returned and opened the USS Ontario. What sparked your interest in giving Theta Fleet another shot as a CO?

**Josh:** I've been a roleplayer for a long time and I've written in a lot of places over the years. But what made me start fresh with Theta was the chance to tell people my ideas and hear the support from others. The command team here are good they are quick to help to any issues and questions, but they also actively encourage you at the same time. Not many places do that these days.

**Reporter:** You sort crept your way back into the fleet in late December of 2020 but hit the ground running. Last month (January) the USS Ontario made its presence known by earning silver for Unit of Distinction in Area 51, and for your Task Group, you earned the TGCO award of merit. What has made the Ontario a success?

**Josh:** Honestly? It's got to be the crew we have. Some of them I've written with before and others I've known but not had the opportunity to work with until now. We work on a discussion basis, so we go over plots and themes but then the crew has free reign to write whatever they choose in the realms of the storyline.

**Reporter:** Sounds like you a good machine going, a very crew powered sim. In your years of hopping into the Captain's chair as CO of different sims in different fleets, what is something that you've learned over the years that has been beneficial to you as a CO?

**Josh:** Don't be afraid to hear ideas, because at the end of it all we are all writers here. So many times, you see Simms that are not open to hearing the crew, I don't like that. So many great stories come from the people around you. I've learnt to embrace that creativity.



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**Reporter:** What's one change or addition to the USS Ontario that has you hopeful or optimistic for the future?

**Josh:** I think the best change we've gone for is choosing an area of space in story that's never been explored. It allows us to create our own stories and races.

**Reporter:** Your CO character Elijah Michaels. You had used him for your previous Theta Fleet command (Chester) and have opted to use him for the Ontario (albeit with adjustments). What made you decide to use him for the CO of Ontario?

**Josh:** He's one of the very first characters I created when I started getting into Star Trek Roleplaying. He's come a long way since his days as a Security Officer and his backstory adds another dimension to the character.

**Reporter:** This month was Valentine's Day, a holiday that couples typically celebrate together with sweets and treats. Star Trek has had its fair share of couples over the years. Do you have a favorite Star Trek couple? Who and why?

**Josh:** Worf and Jadzia were my favourite because of the chemistry between the two of them. Both were interesting on their own but when they were combined you had the perfect blend of humour, seriousness and action. Plus "You are Cordially invited" is one of the best episodes of DS9 and showcases the love and compassion of the two.

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## A Warrior's Heart & Empath's Soul: The Hated Romance



"I didn't like the fact that [Worf] totally became un-Klingon-like when he was with Troi...[It was] detrimental to his character." – **Marina Sirtis**, from an unknown interview.

Tale as old as time. True as it can be, barley even friends and then somebody bends UNEXPECTEDLY! We all know the song whether we like it or not. The emphasis in this case is *unexpectedly* which was exactly how many feel about a certain taboo topic: Lieutenant Worf and Lieutenant Commander (Counselor) Deanna Troi. In the seventh and final season of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* a decision was made to explore this peculiar coupling. Where was the build up? A lot of fans do not care about this relationship nor give it any thought other than being strongly against it. In the episode "Parallels" (Season 7 Episode 11) Worf finds himself shifting through different quantum realities. In at least one of these Worf and Troi were married and had children together. When all is said and done and Worf is 'returned' to his own reality the lingering experience propels him to pursue Troi (with Riker's permission).

We really did not get much on screen for a relationship in the final season. There were scenes here and there, and in "All Good Things" we get a glimpse of a future where Governor Worf and Admiral Riker do not speak to one another because of Deanna's death which is alluded to. Worf obviously went on to be a main character on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and would be conveniently written into the four films centered around the crew of the *Enterprise-D* and *Enterprise-E*, but the relationship was over by then and aside from an awkward hostile look by Troi to Worf, it is an unspoken matter.

This relationship was poorly executed, but I feel like they were going with the Beauty and Beast trope (Troi as the intelligent, attractive, and emotional beauty to Worf's brutish beast who feels abandoned by society and has a chip on his shoulders). Rick Berman hated this pairing. Michael Dorn was not fond of it, and Marina Sirtis thought it was ridiculous and hurt Worf's characterization, but was there potential?

First, I'll preface that Jadzia Dax was perfect for Worf and I love that relationship, but I did not necessarily hate Worf and Troi. What I hated was it felt randomly thrown together, was never actively addressed, and was ultimately abandoned. In the end it sort of feels like the short-lived tale of two friends who got into too much blood wine one night and things happened. They tried to make it more than it was, and it fizzled out quickly.

It is clear that Worf respected Troi well before the relationship. When his son Alexander came aboard, he often sought Troi's advice on how to raise him. Yes, because she was the Ship's Counselor, but clearly also because she was a friend. Worf also asked her to be Alexander's 'soh-chim' (equivalent to God mother) in one of the aforementioned realities. In Season 6's "A Fistful of Datas" (Season 6 Episode 8) Troi tags along on Worf and Alexander's cowboy western holodeck father-son adventure.

Arguably, the two did have some chemistry together. It just may have been more platonic than romantic. They even make an incredibly effective investigative team together as shown in "Eye of the Beholder" (Season 7 Episode 18). I highly recommend the *Star Trek* novel *Nightshade* by Laurrell K. Hamilton (Yes *THAT* Laurrell K. Hamilton) as an all-around good novel, but great for Worf and Troi.

Marina Sirtis believes that this failed relationship was doomed from the start because of what it did to Worf's character. It is her belief that every time they pushed her character with Dorn's Worf, that Worf was emasculated in some way, that Troi took away what made Worf Klingon. In a way she is spot on. It did to an extent. Though I would argue it only toned it down, harnessed it in, and reigned it back to a point that it made Worf a better officer in Starfleet. In *Star Trek Deep Space Nine's* "Change of Heart" (Season 6 Episode 16) when on an important mission with his wife, Jadzia Dax, he makes a very non-Klingon decision to abandon the mission and return to an injured Dax. This was not the *correct* decision by an officer nor was it what his Klingon nature would have overrode him and compelled him to do when he was aboard the *Enterprise-D* only several years ago. He demonstrated humanity, humility, and empathy. He loved his wife more than the uniform.

I won't be so emboldened to say his brief relationship with Troi had any bearing on that decision, but one can assess that people help sculpt us and who we become along the way. She may have had at least some small part in Worf's growth to formulate a relationship with Dax. We canonically do not know much about what happened between Worf and Troi; however, if you are a fan of reading the novels, then you are likely well aware. I would recommend reading *Triangle: Imzadi II* by Peter David for a take on what happened (*Imzadi I* covers the Troi and Riker relationship nicely).

In retrospect what I am saying is the relationship never had a chance. They had spent several seasons shoving Riker and Troi as the 'otp' for the series, and nobody was committed enough to actually construct a Worf and Troi relationship. Ultimately, we will unlikely feel right about Worf being with anyone other than Jadzia Dax. However, I would say that we shouldn't outright dismiss Troi and Worf and forget about it. We should not mentally 'retcon' it altogether. There was potential. Troi could have mellowed Worf out to being an exceptional officer and likewise Worf could have strengthened Troi's lack of confidence that she was still working to overcome which she finally does in "Thine Own Self" (Season 7 Episode 16).

### How did people feel about the relationship?



"It was an odd, out of the blue thing. It just didn't make sense." – Ezra, Game Manger – USS Albright

"Umm lame. We all knew her (Troi) and Riker were mean to be together." – Nicole G, writer of the Chief Medical Officer - USS Standing Bear

"Wasn't a fan... It made little sense to me since they had been working hard on building Riker and Troi for seasons before and to just let it go for a brief moment made no sense." – Joshua, Commanding Officer – USS Ontario

"They were grasping at straws to make people like both characters...so they pushed two negatives together to make a positive, and it sucked. Let's face it Worf was bland." – Scarlet, writer of the Chief of Intelligence – USS Standing Bear