

**Congratulations Jeff !
See p.2 for Stop Press**

October 2004
Volume 1, Issue 1

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The Final Frontier is the newsletter of EROP -
The Engineering Research Outpost Project - a
members project of Starfleet International

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LIMO ECHO ONE

By Kirok of L'Stok

From: Lt Kirok of L'Stok - Science Officer, USS Magellan
To: Cpt Davis, Jeffrey A. - Administrator, Engineering Research Outpost Project
Subject: Lima Echo 1 Project, Update

Captain -

1. This is to confirm that the USS Magellan will arrive in orbit above K-427 in system Zayin 6 within three days. As arranged, we will be accompanying asteroid Lima Echo 1, which is being transported under Warp from the Sol system.
2. Upon arrival at K-427 we will place Lima Echo 1 into a stable, high, geostationary orbit above the coordinates of the active geothermal area that you have identified. We have received word from the USS le Corbusier of the Starfleet Corps of Engineers, that construction of the microwave power beam station is about to commence and should be complete within a planetary month.
3. We will then arrange transfer of the combined Tellerite / Andorian Xenarchaeological expedition that is accompanying Lima Echo 1 to the temporary quarters built by the le Corbusier, adjacent to the microwave station.
4. We anticipate that the USS Magellan will have the asteroid in orbit and the ground facilities functioning within two planetary months and will depart Zayin 6 shortly after.
5. Fleet Captain T'Kyle sends her respects and could you please pass on to the EROP Project Directors that if they require the assistance of the Magellan during our stay, we will make every effort to comply.
6. As Science Officer, I am looking forward to exchanging visits with as many of the projects as possible during our short stay.
7. Detailed telemetry accompanies this transmission. If you require any more information, do not hesitate to contact my department or myself. I will be getting in touch personally to confirm this shortly.

Regards

Lt. Kirok of L'Stok, Science Officer, USS Magellan

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My First Report

From the Editor, Kirok of L'Stok

I like to write.

When I was a kid, authors were magical people who could take you away from your cares and transport you to worlds of wonder, mystery and intrigue.

... And they got paid for it!

Eventually though, I was convinced that I should settle down and think of a real job because, well, "people like us don't do

things like that".

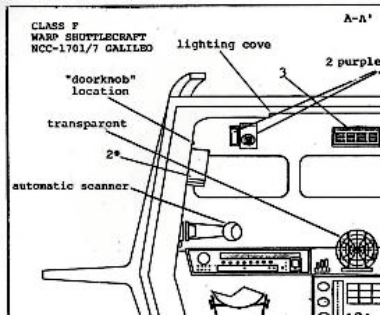
It was only after having children of my own and encouraging them to aim for the stars that I realised the con job. People like us can do anything we damn well put our minds to!

Write small, write often!

I write for my own amusement – and hopefully yours too! - and trounce what anyone else thinks!

The more you write the better you get and writing a little every day in a journal is a great way of practicing your craft. I've

Continued on p.2



Directors Statement

"The State of EROP"

The Director - Cpt Jeffrey A. Davis

Greeting, fellow EROPers.

Four score and seven....whoops! wrong speech.

Getting serious. I have some good news for you all. The long anticipated new maps are out. That's right! Previously, we had 9 maps, surveys A thru I, totalling 43,200 acres. Now, we have 25 maps, surveys A thru Y, totalling 120,000 acres!

For those of you looking for virgin territory, check out the volcanic areas in surveys J and L, an expanded geyser field for geothermal use in surveys S, T & U. Or maybe you into geology. So would the meteor lake in survey Q be of any interest to you?

The bad news is, right now, I can only offer the maps to people one of two ways. Either off the Yahoo site, or by direct email. My software to modify websites, like the one I have for the Indiana where I store the maps as well, was stolen from my abode. When I can solve this problem, who knows. But If you can't get the Yahoo downloads, let me know and I will package them up and email them to you.

Now for some other changes.

I am sorry to say, Alice Strange is no longer the RDC-Engineering for Region 02. That's Region 02's loss. But that does not mean she will no longer be with us. Alice is the

CO of the U.S.S. Drakenfire, and is also part of the I.K.A.V. Drakenfire, the Drakenfire's Klingon contingent. So, we have taken all the Drakenfire and R2 plots and reallocated them, splitting them between the U.S.S. and I.K.A.V. divisions of the Drakenfire.

So, the new tally for plots is:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Indiana | 8 |
| Tristar | 36 with 1 unclaimed |
| Jurassic | 90 with 4 unclaimed |
| Spiritwalker | 47 with 4 unclaimed |
| U.S.S. Drakenfire | 167 with 1 unclaimed |
| I.K.A.V. Drakenfire | 54 with 1 unclaimed |

Those with unclaimed plots can let me know of their choices of plots at their leisure, of course.

What is next, well, toward the beginning of February, we hope to have another issue of the "Final Frontier" available. I openly invite anyone who would like to send me an article for publishing to do so. I would love to see some articles detailing some of the aspects of the various projects in the works. And the articles can count as reports.

That is about it for now. I hope everyone had a good holiday season.

Best wishes and hope to hear from you all soon.

Capt. Jeff Davis

Administrator - Engineering Research Outpost Project (who will be at the ...

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

LOUISVILLE

KENTUCKY

FEBRUARY

26TH



<http://www.specialolympicsindiana.org/polarbr.html>

My First Report - Continued from p.1

started using Blogs more and more recently. After putting together a Web Publishing Blog (Web Log, get it?) for my daughter at ...

<http://simplyblack.blogspot.com>

... I realised that there were no limits to the concept. One neat capability of a Blog is that, just as one person can have many Blogs, many people can share the same Blog. Because it can be set to be worked on by more than one user, it can be used as a Group Blog.

If your EROP project is a Group effort - maybe it is shared by other members of your ship or Region - then you could all have permission to post to the Project's Blog and build up a report a few paragraphs at a time. Members can comment on posts and from these comments the posts can be edited to produce a polished report.

STOP PRESS!

Date: Thu, 30 Jan 2005 11:29:00

From: "Thomas N. Donohoe"

<tndonohoe@hotmail.com>

Subject: FRC Director of Engineering

Hello STARFLEET,

It is my pleasure to announce that after a very intensive process, Captain Jeffrey A. Davis, Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Indiana, NCC-79158 has been selected as the Director of Engineering for the Fleet Resource Center.

Director Davis is tasked with facilitating resources for STARFLEET members that will allow for an exchange of ideas, information and events as it relates to Engineering.

Please join me in welcoming Director Davis to the Fleet Resource Center Staff as we build a better, more efficient infrastructure for fostering fellowship, ideas and experiences.

Thank you,

Tom Donohoe

Director, Fleet Resource Center

Frc@sfi.org



Starship Engineering & Design Group -

See Page 8 for plans

A new ship for special operations

Cpt Jeff Davis, January 27, 2005

A new ship is rapidly approaching completion in the SEDG building slips.

Introducing the Arachnid Class Special Operations Corvette. Small, but very fast, the Arachnid Class is intended to act as a base of operations for Special Operations teams to carry out there various clandestine activities.

Boasting a crew of only 116, 50 of which are Spec Ops personnel, the Arachnid will carry and deploy the Spec Ops team to their target, inserting them either by special Scarab Class runabouts (more on them in a future issue), Type 9 shuttle, transporters, or, if necessary, by landing itself.

With a maximum speed of Warp 9.995 and a cruising speed of Warp 9, the Arachnid is intended to use speed as it's main defense. Though it has no photon torpedoes, it is still well equipped with collimated phaser arrays and has a top grade shielding system and ablative armor.

It is intended to turn the design over to the Starfleet Department of Technical Services for possible adoption as an 'official' design by the end of February, if not sooner.

More news on this project in the future.



FRC Youth / Sciences 2004 Fleet Awards for Science in Starfleet

Planned for July 1st the inaugural Fleet Awards for Contributions to Science in Starfleet will be chosen from Regional Award winners in two categories: Adult and Cadet/Youth.

Regional Award programmes should start this month so that the winners can submit their nominations for the Fleet Awards in May and the judging can be finalised in June. Watch out for further information in CQ and on Starfleet-L

Contact the Editor at AndertonBargo@aol.com for more information

Lima Echo 1

[Transcript of secure Subspace transmission: Kirok to Davis]

Continued from Page 1

Kirok - Jeff, it is satisfying to see you again. It has been a long time.

Davis - Kirok, I still can't work out if you're the ugliest Vulcan I've ever seen or the craziest Klingon!

Kirok - Your humour knows no bounds still, I see.

Davis - ... and yours is improving. How have things been?

Kirok - I'll be glad to get there to unload this cargo of Xenoarchaeologists! Whoever thought of mixing Tellerites and Andorians on the same project should be given the job of babysitting them.

Davis - That almost sounds like emotion! Surely they are not that bad?

Kirok - Perhaps individually, but there is some sort of blood feud between the two co-directors and the rest of the expedition have taken sides. If they weren't disarmed, we would have had a bloodbath by now!

Davis - I hope they realise that once the Magellan and le Corbusier are gone, they will have to be pretty much self-sufficient? The rest of the EROP projects are only just getting on their feet themselves and they haven't developed much planetary infrastructure yet - some of them are here precisely for that privacy.

Kirok - Independence they do not lack, it is teamwork that they are useless at. I am not dropping off a xenoarchaeological expedition, I'm landing two armed camps! We've tried diplomacy, counselling, mediation - they either seem unaware that there is a problem or uninterested in solving it.

Davis - That's surprising, considering the subject of their Dig - Kirok, could you confirm security channel settings?

Kirok - Black beta 1.

Davis - Good. What do *you* think? Is this *really* the LIEF Erikson?

Kirok - Jeff, all the indications are that this asteroid is, or once was, named "The LIEF Erikson" and what sensor readings we can get of it seem to confirm that the facilities beneath the surface conform with early 22nd century technology.

Davis - I understand your problem is a computer security lockout?

Kirok - It's a long story, Jeff, but if you thought I was insane you should try talking to this computer!

Davis - Either your sense of humour has increased tenfold or ...

Kirok - Oh, I don't want to spoil the surprise but, yes, insane is the best word to describe this Artificial Intelligence!

Davis - I'll talk to you again before you hit Zayin 6. Take care.

Kirok - Live long and prosper, Jeff Davis.

By Kirok of L'stok

Treknology Today

Communication is the key!

Part 1: The Original Series... and earlier

Kirok of L'Stok

When I need to get a message to one of the family or want to know where they are, it drums home to me that old adage about communications being the key to success.

My son goes to school at a new High School next year where he has to travel three hours a day. Sounds pretty tough but my daughter has been doing the same thing for the past five years. The key has been her mobile phone. I shudder to think how nervous *I* would be if she didn't have it. I can find out where she is at any time, she can phone if she is running late and she has instant communication with us if anything goes wrong.

THE TREKNOLOGY

The heart of the Star Trek Communicator is the Subspace Transceiver Assembly (STA) which digitises the users' words and transmits them (after encryption) through Subspace. Without getting too technical, Subspace is a domain outside the normal three-dimensional space and not to be mistaken with another dimension. The practical usage of it is primarily for Faster Than Light (FTL) travel and interstellar communications.

Radio as we know it is part of the electromagnetic spectrum and travels at the speed of light in free space. Not a good medium to use when you are thousands of light years from home! So how fast do Subspace transmissions go? The Ex-Astris-Scientia site puts it at Warp 9.9997 which, in 24th C Warp speeds is 7,912 times the speed of light. I don't know where he gets that from but in the TNG episode *'Where No One Has Gone Before'* Data tells us that a subspace transmission will take fifty-one years, ten months to return the two million, seven-hundred thousand light years back to their origin. If my rusty maths serves me correctly this means it travels at roughly 52,000 times the speed of light! Take your choice.

THE REAL LIFE SCIENCE

Like the Trek Subspace Relay system, mobile phones (or cell phones as they are called in the States) only became possible when a network of relay transmitters was laid. It took a while before mobile phones took on the *look* of the TOS Communicator. The reason was because, unlike the Communicator which had a perforated grill aerial, external aerials have always been of the more traditional telescopic rod types. The exception was the Motorola StarTAC (pictured) which had a keypad protector that



flipped up instead of the more normal down.

With the advent of large LCD screens, the "clamshell" design of the TOS Communicator has spawned many lookalikes. The Nextel i60c (pictured), for example combines cellular, two-way radio, speakerphone, paging, and internet capabilities all into one lightweight, 'clamshell' cell phone.



PROPS, MODELS AND TOYS

If we look at Communicators in Star Trek chronological order then the first is the Enterprise Communicator as used in the present incarnation of the TV series [OK, Who blew the raspberry at the back of the class?!]. Many think the design too small and "plasticky" but if you judge Enterprise on its' own merit (as we should), I think it is a fine meld of modern and retro design. Cadet Ensign Christopher has the Art Asylum toy of this (pictured) and to his uncritical yet discerning judgement it is a good toy and a passable replica.



The next Communicator in the trek timeline is little known. In the Pilot for Star Trek, which was made into the TOS episode *'The Cage'* they show a very primitive looking Communicator. It had a skeleton look to it, with a clear acrylic body and visible electronic circuitry. From a practical point of view this was probably a 'quick fix' although it proves to be a complex prop to duplicate.



Which brings us to what is generally held as a classic of design, the TOS communicator. By far the best reference on the web for these props is Richard A. Coyles' article in RACProps online magazine. One of the interesting bits of info he has about it is that...

"the working moiré [the spinning disk] was run by a stopwatch. The propmakers removed the lens and cover of a stopwatch and then mounted the bottom disk to the second hand of the stopwatch, which on an old analog piece ran at ten rev's per second. When started, round and round the moiré would spin, just a touch jerkily due to the machined movement of the stopwatch as it ticked off each tenth of a second."

The TOS Communicator is a popular choice of DIY prop to make, There is even a tutorial on the web on how to make one out of wood (pictured). The majority of posts on the Communicators forum of the Dewback Wing are about the TOS Communicator.



Playmates, who produced Star Trek toys between 1992 and 1999, issued two versions of the TOS Communicator, the second (pictured) records up to three seconds of voice or Sound Effects and included working status lights and a Belt Clip. Paramount have sold the toy making licence to Art Asylum who have, however, released little from the TOS series so far other than an interesting two part phaser.



Replicas for sale include those done by Master Replicas (pictured), IPI (which included a voice recorder, calculator, and flashing lights) and a kit available from Roddenberry.com.



TREKNOLOGY IN YOUR LIFE

Recently a Bluetooth Trek Communicator look-alike was sold on eBay for \$US527.37. Bluetooth is an industry standard for connecting, amongst other things, mobile phones and mobile computers, notably PDA's, via a short range radio signal. You might know it best as the trendy mobile phone headset / earpiece

Billed as "the only working Star Trek communicator in existence ... a one of a kind prototype", the maker, Nik Roope of Pokia, has taken the case of a TOS Communicator style garage door opener (see below) and put bluetooth headset electronics inside. What this means is that you can use it to make & receive calls with your mobile phone which you can keep out of sight in your pocket or bag. The buttons on the side make the classic

For a hyperlinked copy of this article and more Treknology Today, go to < <http://trektoday.blogspot.com/>>



era bakelite to gangster era brass.

communicator hailing signal and can adjust the volume.

This is an extension of the whimsical design concept used at Pokia to make it possible for mobile phone users to appear to be talking into "Convoy" style CB handsets or a range of telephone handsets ranging from 50's

The "Star Trek Communicator Universal Garage door Opener" by Dakmart features Star Trek sound effects, a "Clip with automatic Star Trek Logo for convenient visor and pocket use" [?] and an extensive command library to open just about any standard type of automatic garage door - all in a replica of the Star Trek original series communicator.

The accuracy of the replica used by Dakmart and Pokia is way off, but it probably has something to do with copyright / licencing reasons. There is of course no reason why someone handy with electronics could not take the hardware out of either of these and put them into, say, a Master Replicas TOS Communicator for their own use.



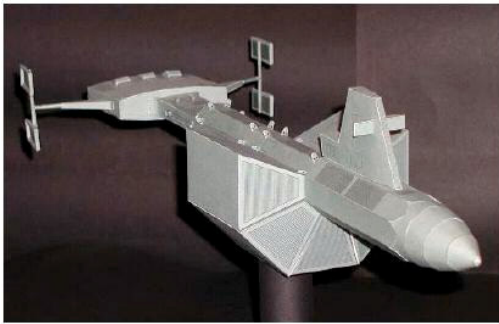
Not quite so handy and you already have a mobile phone? Why not confuse passers-by with the TOS Communicator ringtone? This is also available as a download for a Pocket PC Phone.

For we 'Net Trek fans there is always the TOS Communicator WAV file that you could integrate into your computer desktop. On looking I found a wide choice of TOS Desktop themes. ThemeWorld, for example, listed over 150 desktop themes when I searched for them, of which many were obviously TOS themes.

I downloaded one, it's a hoot to hear the Original Series sounds, engraved on our subconscious, come out of your own computer



Support the Ironmen (and women) of Starfleet! Donations can be made at ... <http://www.soky.org/specialevents/polarbearplunge.htm>

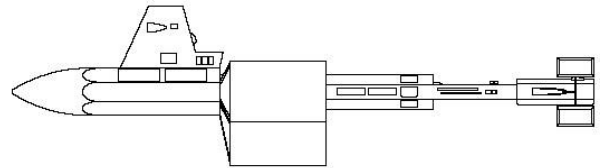


Featured Trek Paper Model for January

DY-100 SS Botany Bay

The 20th Century sub-light space ship on which Khan Noonien Singh and his followers escaped Earth after the Eugenics Wars by being cryogenically frozen. [Space Seed - TOS]

Once again from Europe, this time from Robert Merkstallinger in Austria. Amazingly this was the first paper model he had designed - talk about jumping in at the deep end! Great draughtsmanship, well presented, clear instructions. You even get the option of different cargo pod arrangements! An amazing achievement for a newcomer



Free download from ... <http://www.clubs.privateweb.at/vwbulli/main01e.htm>

LIEFCon Launchlog - Courtesy of "Jonathans Space Report" (JSR) <http://www.planet4589.org/jsr.html>

| JSR | Date | UT | Site | Name | Launch Vehicle | Mission | INTL. DES. |
|-----|------|---------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 538 | Nov | 6 0310 | Taiyuan | ZY-2C | CZ-4B | Imaging | 44A |
| 538 | Nov | 6 0539 | Canaveral SLC17B | GPS SVN 61 | Delta 7925 | Navigation | 45A |
| 539 | Nov | 8 1830 | Plesetsk LC43/4 | Oblik | Soyuz-2-1A | Test | U01 |
| 539 | Nov | 18 1045 | Xichang | Shiyan 2 | CZ-2C | Imaging | 46A |
| 541 | Nov | 20 1716 | Canaveral SLC17A | Swift | Delta 7320 | Astronomy | 47A |
| 541 | Dec | 17 1207 | Canaveral SLC41 | AMC 16 | Atlas 521 | Comms | 48A |
| 541 | Dec | 18 1626 | Kourou ELA3 | Helios 2A | Ariane 5G+ | Imaging | 49A |
| 541 | Dec | 18 1626 | Kourou ELA3 | Parasol | Ariane 5G+ | Remote sen. | 49G |
| 541 | Dec | 18 1626 | Kourou ELA3 | Nanosat | Ariane 5G+ | Tech | 49B |
| 541 | Dec | 18 1626 | Kourou ELA3 | Essaim 1 | Ariane 5G+ | Sigint | 49C |
| 541 | Dec | 18 1626 | Kourou ELA3 | Essaim 2 | Ariane 5G+ | Sigint | 49D |
| 541 | Dec | 18 1626 | Kourou ELA3 | Essaim 3 | Ariane 5G+ | Sigint | 49E |
| 541 | Dec | 18 1626 | Kourou ELA3 | Essaim 4 | Ariane 5G+ | Sigint | 49F |
| 541 | Dec | 21 2150 | Canaveral SLC37B | Demosat | Delta 4H | Test | 50A |
| 541 | Dec | 21 2150 | Canaveral SLC37B | 3CS-1 | Delta 4H | Imaging | |
| 541 | Dec | 21 2150 | Canaveral SLC37B | 3CS-2 | Delta 4H | Imaging | |
| 541 | Dec | 23 2219 | Baykonur LC1 | Progress M-51 | Soyuz-U | Cargo | 51A |
| 541 | Dec | 24 1120 | Plesetsk LC32 | Sich-1M | Tsiklon-3 | Remote sen. | 52A |
| 541 | Dec | 24 1120 | Plesetsk LC32 | MK-1TS Mikron | Tsiklon-3 | Imaging | 52C |
| 542 | Dec | 26 1353 | Baykonur LC81/23 | Kosmos-2411 | Proton-K/DM-2 | Navigation | 53A |
| 542 | Dec | 26 1353 | Baykonur LC81/23 | Kosmos-2412 | Proton-K/DM-2 | Navigation | 53B |
| 542 | Dec | 26 1353 | Baykonur LC81/23 | Kosmos-2413 | Proton-K/DM-2 | Navigation | 53C |
| 543 | Jan | 12 1847 | Canaveral SLC17B | Deep Impact | Delta 7925 | Comet probe | 01A |
| 543 | Jan | 20 0300 | Plesetsk PL132/1 | Kosmos-2414 | Kosmos-3M | Navigation | 02A |
| 543 | Jan | 20 0300 | Plesetsk PL132/1 | Universitetskiy | Kosmos-3M | Tech | 02C |

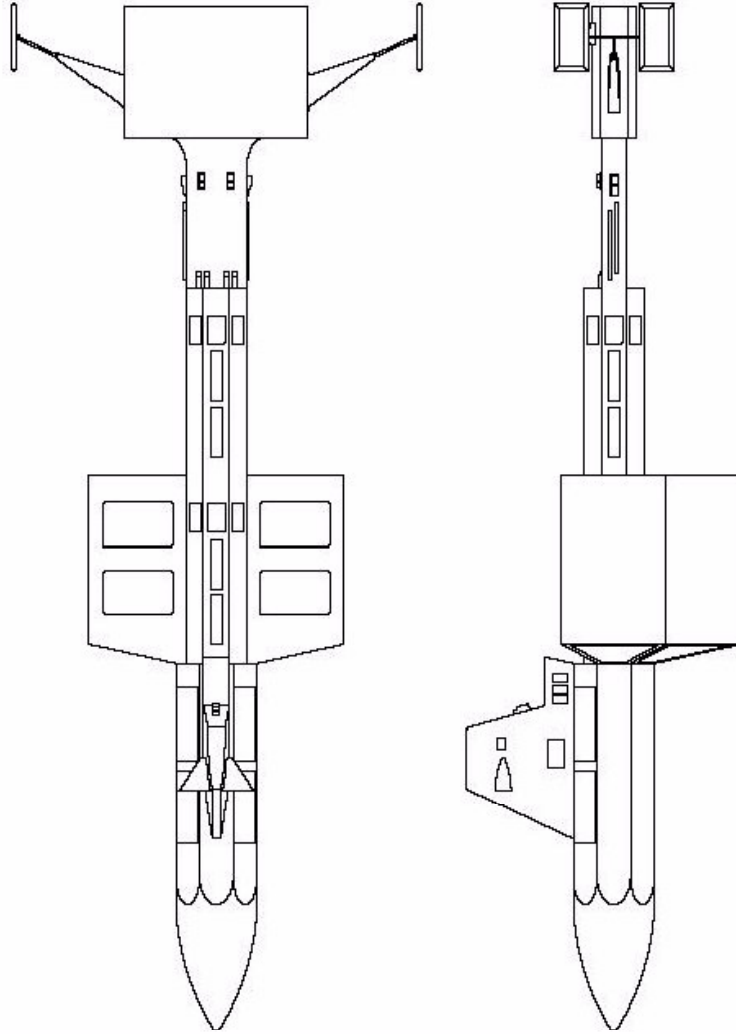
Star Trek and its images & representations are the property of Paramount Pictures. This fan production is respectfully dedicated to the actors & designers who took us with them to the Final Frontier

From a model design by Robert
Merkstallinger
markplatz@utanet.at



Different Cargo Pod arrangements possible with
this model design

Free Download available from ...
<<http://www.clubs.privateweb.at/vwbulli/main01e.htm>>

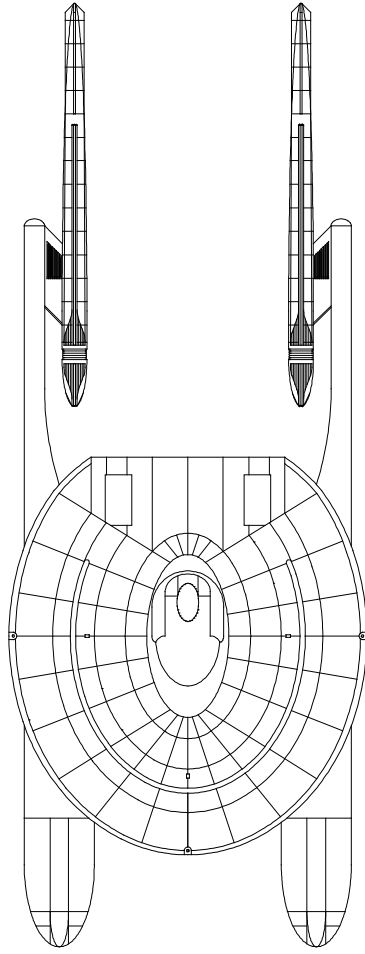


*As featured in the episode "Space Seed"
from Star Trek, The Original Series,
now available on DVD*

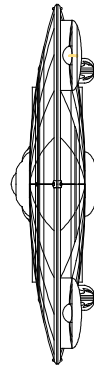
DY-100 SS Botany Bay



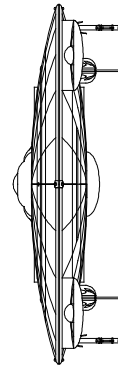
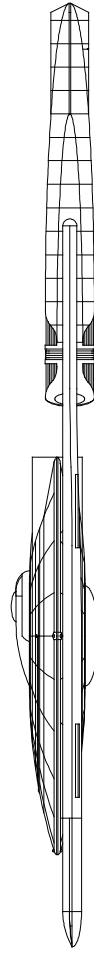
*Design & Production by
Cpt. Jeffrey A. Davis
Director, Starship
Engineering & Design Group*



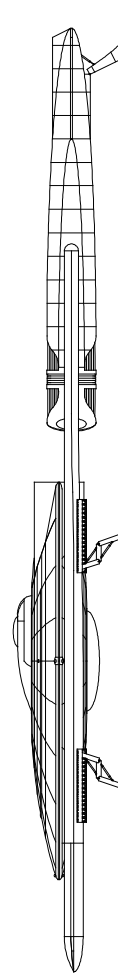
DORSAL VIEW



FLIGHT CONDITION



LANDED CONDITION



Arachnid Class Special Operations Corvette