

The Star Fleet Times

Volume 1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STAR FLEET UNIVERSE

Issue #16

DDB HAS ARRIVED!

As you may recall from last month, Star Fleet Battles is now under the direction of Dayton Design Bureau, hereafter DDB. What exactly is DDB? It's the team of Bruce Graw and Steve Petrick, now dedicated to bringing new life to Star Fleet Battles! Our first official product is this very issue of STAR FLEET TIMES. With the transfer of power, there is no longer any reason for Agents of Gaming (which is a separate company run by Bruce Graw) to handle SFT under the AoG heading. Agents of Gaming will, however, continue to offer AoG-packs as before, and maybe even some exciting new material as well in the near future!

We've had many questions in the past few weeks about the nature of the New Order in the Universe. Here's the scoop:

Dayton Design Bureau (Graw & Petrick) will produce all future printed products for the Star Fleet Universe, including SFT, Captain's Log, various modules, and so on. The upcoming Campaign Designer's Handbook is a DDB product and represents the first full-scale release from the DDB team.

Amarillo Design Bureau (the now-retired Steve Cole) retains all copyrights to the SFB game system and has final say whether a product can be produced, although ADB will not edit products or make changes. Naturally, the DDB team will consider ADB its most highest advisor (at least until SVC is sick of us).

Task Force Games (John and Tim Olsen) is the company which actually prints and publishes Star Fleet Universe products. Their status has not changed.

Many of you might be wondering just who you should contact with rules questions, suggestions, and submissions now that this transfer of power has occurred. For now, keep sending these to the same place you did before. The Star Fleet Universe is still in a state of transition between ADB and DDB (and will remain in this state for several months) and any mail or electronic mail you send to ADB will reach DDB as well. Submissions for STAR FLEET TIMES should be sent to the Agents of Gaming address for now, although this may change in the future.

A NOTE ON THE JINDARIAN TC

Last issue we published a preliminary Jindarian tournament ship. This is NOT a sanctioned ship (although it may be one day, when all the playtesting is done). We need you to playtest this ship in tournament battles, but not in sanctioned tournaments. Take a copy along to your tournament and try it out during a break or if you get eliminated early. Then let us know what you think!

CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The STAR FLEET TIMES will list any convention in this space which holds at least one SFB event. All cons MUST have SFB to be listed (after all, this *is* an SFB newsletter). However, cons on this list will not necessarily have a *sanctioned* tournament (and some events may cancel without notice). You should write to the address shown for a pre-registration booklet, which will tell you just what kind of SFB events you can expect. (If nothing else, this will help you decide what game materials to take!)

If you are having a convention, or know of one in your area, submit the information for it as soon as possible (preferably a flyer from the con itself). If the convention is holding a *sanctioned* SFB tournament, please let us know. Deadline for publication in any issue of the TIMES is the 15th of the month in which that issue is to be published. Note that the TIMES is not published in June or December of each year, so conventions in those months will have to be announced well in advance.

GEN CON 1996 (August 8-11, Milwaukee, WI): Gen Con will once again be held at the MECCA convention center in downtown Milwaukee. TFG and ADB have confirmed that they will not sponsor/run a major multi-round SFB event at Gen Con this year.

The poor turnout last year (compared to Origins which held steady for several years) does not justify the expense of a major tournament or the effort of a major product release. Several non-ADB judges will run one-round SFB scenarios.

FLEETCON '96 (August 18, Albuquerque, NM): This con will feature a 4-round single elimination sanctioned SFB tournament. The convention will be held at the Pinnacle 4 Seasons Hotel in Albuquerque. For information call GamesQuest at 1-800-943-GAME or email Alec Reber at areber@unm.edu.

TACTICON (September 13-15, Denver, CO): This convention will hold a sanctioned patrol-style rated ace tournament run by Ted Fay. The con will be held at the Sheraton Hotel West in Denver. For information send Email to smoell@ch1.univnorthco.edu.

NECRONOMICON '96 (October 11-13, Tampa, FL): This con wants to support an SFB tournament but doesn't have a judge. You don't need any special rank or anything to run a tournament, just a good knowledge of SFB and the ability to record game results and make fair and impartial judgments. If you want to support SFB in the Florida area, contact Con Games, 2 Water Track Radial, Ocala FL 34472 or call (352) 687-8901. Then tell AOG so we can update this listing!

CHARLESTON CON (October 19-20, Charleston, SC): Michael Gastright will be running a Star Fleet Battles tournament at this con, which will be held at the College of Charleston Gaming Guild, 66 George St, Charleston SC 29424. For information write to that location or send electronic mail to michaelg@awod.com.

PENTACON XII (15-17 November, Ft Wayne, IN): This con will hold its 5th Annual Patrol Tournament in the Grand Wayne Center in Ft Wayne. For info write to: NIGA/Pentacon, PO Box 11174, Ft Wayne IN 46856.

GARDEN STATE GAMES FAIR (November 22-24, Jamesburg, NJ): Ted Mantuano will GM an SFB tournament at this convention at the Holiday Inn of Jamesburg. For convention info call Ron Meichker at (609) 443-5088.

JONESCON IV (January 17-19, Gainesville, FL): Doug Oosting will GM a sanctioned rated ace tournament at this convention. For information write to: Peter Taylor, 1020 SW 3rd Ave, Gainesville FL 32601 or check out the web page at <http://www.infocomp.com/jonescon>.

LONGEST-RUNNING SFB PBM CAMPAIGN: A new game is under way and in Y152! Positions are available. For info send SASE to: John Berg, 609 Apollo Dr., Joliet IL 60435.

STAR FLEET WARLORD: Agents of Gaming operates this play-by-mail strategic SFB campaign in the Greater Magellanic Cloud. Buy ships to search for (or conquer, or defend) resources needed to buy even more (and bigger) ships. For a rulebook (with no obligation to play), send \$5 to Agents of Gaming at the address on the last page of this newsletter.

KNOW OF A CONVENTION? We get most of our con announcements from flyers. If you pick up a con flyer and that convention has one or more SFB events, send it to us! We can't print it here if we don't know about it!

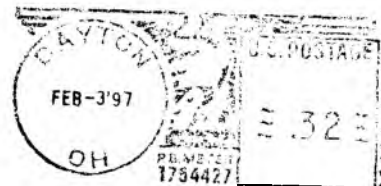
WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MORE CONS? *Convention Contact* is a quarterly newsletter dedicated to keeping readers informed about conventions in their area. It is not limited to SFB and is not affiliated with ADB, DDB, TFG or AOG. For information write to PO Box 1281, Homewood IL 60430 or email mgca@aol.com.

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NETWORKS & ELECTRONIC MAIL

GENie: On this network, SFB is category 10 of page 805 (menu item #1). For information on GENie call Client Services at 1-800-638-9636 (voice only). SFB services include questions & answers, playtest material, ongoing discussions, weekly real-time conferences, and overnight access to the staff. On GENie contact Amarillo Design Bureau by sending electronic mail to ADB\$, Task Force Games by sending to TFG and Agents of Gaming by Emailing B.GRAW1.

Compuserve: SFB has established an active presence on this network. Call 1-800-848-8990 for information on Compuserve. To contact ADB, send Email to 71333,2123. TFG can be reached at 76443,3031.

Internet Email Addresses: ADB: ADB\$@genie.com or Steve.Cole@genie.com. TFG: TFG@genie.com. Agents of Gaming: B.Graw1@genie.com or Agent1@gnn.com.

Web: ADB: <http://www.task-force-games.com/sfu/sfu.htm>.
AOG: <http://members.gnn.com/agent1/aog.htm>.

SFB CLEARINGHOUSE

Agents of Gaming is authorized to act as a clearinghouse for some out of print TFG material. Chief among these are back issues of Starletter, Star Fleet Times and Subspace News, all of which are available for \$2 each; \$3 each for overseas customers.

Starletters:

Back issues available: 80, 82, 86-92. Others sold out.

Subspace News:

#1: Early Years Hydrans; rules for Nova Cannon.

#4: Alliance conjectural maulers (Thol, Kzi, Hyd, Gorn).

Star Fleet Times:

#1: Gorn, Rom fast cruisers; Custom Ship Design System.

#2: Thol, ISC maulers; D5 squadron SSD; MON scenario.

#3: Romulan Saberhawk SSD; CDS expansion rules.

#4: Humor issue with 4 weird ships.

#5: Tournament issue (tactics for new tournament ships).

#6: Origins report; Quality Campaign Design article; Canadi'en non-mauler heavy cruiser SSD.

#7: SFB campaign rules, Deltan war destroyer SSD.

#8: Legendary officers, Fed carrier hybrid SSDs.

#9: Scary Ships I: Andromedan Shiva, Rom Megahawk, Lyran SSCS, Fed CVN (72 fighters!).

#10: More legendary officers, two Barbarian SSDs.

#11: Naval Construction Dock and Warp Gate SSDs.

#12: Fiction, F&E Production Wheel, Flivver carrier group.

#13: 4 more humorous ships including Fed police mauler.

#14: Bombers and fighter-bombers (*really* big fighters).

#15: Steve Cole retires; TC reference chart; F-111 primer;

Nicozian first look; Jindarian playtest TC; Fed scout carrier.

#16: Origins report; Orb scenario; Hidden Agenda fiction.

#17: Term papers; crossword; Klingon D5VP.

#18: The Josers (a humorous new race).

#19: Scary Ships II: Paravian DN, Kzinti Super BT, Lyran Triple-Tooth Tiger (3 maulers!), Hydran Assault DN (8 HBs!).