

COMPANY WEBLOG

ARCHIVE APR 2008

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MY DAY: 1 April (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 8:45am.

I tried to think of a funny April Fool's joke and couldn't.

Going through Email (after clearing Spam).

A. Dinosaur list. Velociraptor attacks.

B. Industry mailing lists. Amazon is saying small publishers need to utilize BookSurge, or they can't sell their products on Amazon. But POD publishers who stock books at Amazon are not treated as POD publishers.

Messages (2) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Jean nagging me to do Origins event stuff.

Consumer question on counters and SSDs. Jay Waschak says I spelled his name wrong on the chain of command chart. Mike Curtis about the F&E counter project. Admin message from Jean about somebody who is disrupting development on the BBS. Thexder still trying to get art send to us. (Tricky the first time until a new artist learns what does and doesn't print on a Kyocera.) Chuck SSC (sent to ODG). Lots of time with Origins event planning; posted preliminary plan.

BBS: Origins, FCDK

Fed Commander Forum: Decals, photons.

Daily web crawl was completed late.

One Day Grace Mail on hand: 33

1. Told Ted Fay we couldn't print his Burala story. DONE
2. A list of SFB scenarios suitable for FC. (Sent to staff, DONE).
3. Worked on Dead In Space contract. PENDING
4. Memo to Leanna about identity theft insurance. PENDING
5. Further talk with Mike Curtis on F&E counters. PENDING.

Blog: Every day's post included some note about the blog. Unless it's something other than "Petrick did it" or "canned third-day blog" I will just delete it from this compilation.

FYEO: Every day's post included an update on my reading this military intel report. I deleted them from the compilation.

Petrick: Every day's post included a mention of what Petrick was doing. I deleted most of these. He was working on X1R, Y2, Omega Five, SFB Scenarios, CL37.

Mike Sparks: Every day's post included a mention of what Mike was doing. I deleted most of these. He was working on bookbinding, packing orders, PD20M.

Matt: Every day's post included a mention of what Matt was doing. I deleted most of these. He was working on Website updates, mostly.

Building. Meeting with LLC Lawyer.

Omega: Fixes to FRA and Work gunboat variants (Petrick sent to playtest). Created Loryill PF variants.

LUNCH: Appleby's

Shutting down at ... 6pm.

MY DAY: 2 April (Wednesday) 2008

Got here at 9:45am. (overslept)

Going through Email (after clearing Spam).

A. Dinosaur list. Dangers of Dramaosaurs in suburban areas.

B. Industry mailing lists. Gary Gygax charity auction.

Messages (3) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Several messages about Origins event list. Tony Thomas sent in RACE TO THE BASE. Thexder sent queries about art specifications. GAMA about GTS thing.

BBS: Origins events, FCDK.

Fed Commander Forum: Klingons, campaigns.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 12:13

One Day Grace Mail

1. Reference books sent to VBAM.
2. Told Matt to make more banners for web advertising.

3. Told William Hughes his story could go into Feline Empires.

4. F&E counter graphics on line project, N+O sent.

5. Note about an SSJ project to Herb Diehr.

New mail of note during the day (and old mail): Follow-ups to the above. Dal Downing communique suggestions. Some college girl wants to meet me for drinks. I'll ask Leanna if it's ok. No, it's not. Jean wanted something added to the site index. Leanna had a question about the new Klingon Space.

Starlist: 89136 done.

Talked with "The Cole Bulding LLC" lawyer.

F&E stuff: Sent N+O to website upload.

FC stuff: FCDK Ship card reports (all of them)

Omega: Fixed Loryill PF variants. Did Probr PFVs. Gave Petrick Iridani PF variants to check.

LUNCH: Arbys. Pretty awful, not up to their standards.

Staff meeting to revise schedule caused by the die cutting fiasco and a surge of FCKB and FCRB sales that made us run out of open space maps sooner than we thought.

Shutting down at ... 6:20

MY DAY: 3 April (Thursday) 2008

Got here at 8:45am.

Going through Email (after clearing Spam).

A. Dinosaur list. Pachycephalosaurs did not butt heads.

B. Industry mailing lists. Convention schedules.

Messages (5) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Burnside about SFU-Munchkin idea. Jean and Gary P about GPD errata sheet. Mike West FCDK ship card rechecks. GAMA "games for troops". Alliance about what their sales reps are telling retailers.

BBS: Alliance failings, Product schedule, background question.

Fed Commander Forum: Stingers vs die cutters on MXC.

Daily web crawl was completed at: never did, actually.

One Day Grace Mail

1. Old Loren Knight question about a 2nd wave of NeoTholians.
2. Frigate idea of mine sent to "after Origins".
3. F&E counter graphics on line project, ONE sent.
4. F&E counter graphics on line project, FOUR sent.
5. F&E counter graphics on line project, ISC FRONT sent.

New mail: Somebody sent in their idea of a new FC scenario format which is not as good as the one we did. A customer asked if we were replacing all SFB countersheets with new art (yes, but only as they run out of stock, which will take up to a decade). Jean about "fast heroes" which didn't sound right to me. Telephone and data contractor for new building. The university called about starting the interviews for Matt's replacement and said they had someone else who wanted a job in the game design business.

Work on new print jobs. Pre-interview with a job candidate.

Some work on FCDK.

Fixed Iridani PF variants. Did Vari PF variants. Did Maesron PF variants.

LUNCH: Furr's cafeteria for ham and beans. Not very good.

Long conversation with Alliance.

Shutting down at ... 8pm.

MY DAY: 4 April (Friday) 2008

Got here at 8:35am.

Going through Email (after clearing Spam).

A. Dinosaur list. Origins of flight.

B. Industry mailing lists.

Messages (4) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Loren about the Lost Tholian Colony.

Been having random internet disconnects for weeks and they are getting worse. Sounds like a balky DSL modem cutting out.

BBS: Orion Attack, Origins F&E.

Fed Commander Forum: FCDK, Origins, miniatures.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 10:39

One Day Grace Mail

1. Did a request for a fancier Gorn Avatar.
2. Added Ye Olde Hobby Game Store to StoreList.
3. F&E counter graphics on line project, P+Q sent.
4. Added JAC Games to StoreList.
5. Turned in Origins event roster.

Loren Knight is "giddy" about his new lost colony.
Some work on FCDK.

Omega: Did Koligahr PF variants. Gave Maesron ground bases to Petrick to proof.

LUNCH: Robinson's BBQ, great as always.
Shutting down at ... 6:30

April 05, 2008 DEATH TO BACKLOG

I work 60+ hours a week, but it's never enough. More comes in than I can send back out. Some days, I get nothing done on new products because I'm just answering endless streams of Emails. Approve this, answer that, look up something else, evaluate another thing, on and on. Worse, sometimes I spend more time finding a lost Email from a week ago than I would have spent answering it the day it came in. Things that could be resolved by just moving them to the file where they will eventually be used would save me time later. (Say I get an article for CL37. If it actually put it into the CL37 file the day it shows up, I don't have to hunt it down later, or worse, publish CL37 without the article because I forgot I had it "somewhere" in the hard drive. Worst of all, if I don't answer something, I get eleven further Emails asking me when I'm going to answer it. Just a quick courtesy answer to all of those emails takes an hour or two a week, every week.

I determined, as my New Year's Resolution 95 days ago, to end this. My theory is that if I had no backlog, or could at least better manage the backlog, I will be more efficient. I am eliminating the backlog in an attack that is two-fold.

First, following the infamous Lutwak theory of warfare, I need to stop things from getting worse. I must identify what is causing the problem and put a stop to it. What is causing the problem is: not dealing with Email when it comes in. Once an Email has been here for a few days without an answer, it gets lost (it scrolls off of the screen as later emails arrive, and once out of sight, it's gone for good, or might as well be), which clutters up the computer (causing me to take more time to find things that it should), annoys those waiting for answers, and loses some good stuff that should be processed and published. The solution is to deal with things on the day they arrive. Read it, answer it, file it, and it's no longer a problem. Nice theory. The problem is that I need to be doing new products, and I just don't have the luxury to take a two-hour break from finishing Distant Kingdoms in order to review a fiction story somebody sent in. I'd be spending all of some days just on that day's email. So, I use a triage system. I look at all of the day's Email. If it's junk that doesn't need an answer, I delete it. If it is something I can answer without breaking stride, I do so. The rest of it is left in the in box. So far, that's nothing different than the failed system that got me in this mess. So, the next step is to use some discipline. I give myself an amount of time each day (whatever I can afford to take from new products) and answer everything I can, from the easiest to the hardest, on the theory that if the same time will answer four easy things or a single hard thing, it's better to keep the pile of things to do small and get rid of the most Emails. (Hint: If you are working on some project and have 23 questions for me, ask them one or two at a time and you'll get on the fly answers over a week. Send them all at once and you are at the bottom of the stack and could wait for six weeks, or two years.) Anything else gets a note telling them that I got their Email and put it into the "One Day Grace" file and giving them a guess on when they will get an answer (so they won't bombard me with "when will you do it" emails). The problem here is that the ODG file is out of sight and thus out of mind, and I take mental credit for "clearing the in box" when the 20% of Email that would consume 80% of my day if it could has never been answered, it was just sent to ODG. Thus, I saw my "ODG" file reach 70 Emails and be three or four weeks behind. The solution was to make doing some of the stuff in the "One

Day Grace" part of my daily routine. So, I do five per day. I started with the easy ones and then starting tackling some of the harder ones. I am, surprisingly, able to slowly catch up on ODG.

Some of this is training people how to get what they want from me in the least amount of my time. How to write clear questions is an art form, and I try to teach. Some of this is just the mental discipline to force myself to keep up, even if it's like trying to sip water from a fire hose. But I no longer fear sending something to ODG, not when I know it's going to stay there no more than a week. I don't want to re-label it One Week's Grace since then I'd be comfortable dealing with it a month later. People have noticed the difference and are working with me, not asking me what happened to their item until several days later, and then only asking once a week.

The second prong of the spear is to eliminate the backlog of stuff that has built up. This is a multi-faceted operation, but basically, I try to do some of it every day. Every day I push the "most recent but never answered" Email back by one day, even if that's just putting it into ODG or the deeper "After Origins" folder. Every day, I do five from ODG. Every day, I try to leave my unfiled outgoing Email smaller than the day before. (If the "in box" is my "to do list", the "out box" is the "check to see if the assigned person ever did this list". By keeping the clutter out of this box, I can see what is there, and go through the ones I am waiting for answers to, hounding people to answer me or do their projects. (I cannot blame the guy doing an RPG book for me -- a book he hasn't finished in two years -- if I only remind him that he needs to finish it once every six months.) Every day, I clean up the "attachments received" file. Just throwing away the porn, advertising, and clutter that shows up every day makes it easier to find the stuff I do need to deal with. So every day, I file everything back to the "hard deck" (the point where I adopted my New Year's Resolution) and then push the hard deck back a few days, even if it means "put this submitted SSD into the submissions file" instead of actually dealing with it. When I started, the attachments file had over 4000 items and I couldn't find anything. Now it's down to under 1000 (just by deleting spam and obsolete items, such as photos of the sculpture-in-progress for miniature ships we put into production two years ago).

I don't know how long it will be before I have transferred everything in the in box and out box and attachment box to something else (trash or one of the pending files) but once that is done (six months?), the time spent sifting and filing can go into increasing the "pending" items actually dealt with, and eventually (a year or two?) I will have answered everything back to 1999.

Hope springs eternal.

MY DAY: 5 April (Saturday) 2008

Got here at 11am (ran errands first).

Remember that, while never on the "my day" file, I work one or two hours on SFU/ADB stuff at home several nights per week. Last night, I worked on Chuck Strong's F&E combat system.

Going through Email (after clearing Spam).

A. Dinosaur list. Velociraptor dangers.

B. Industry mailing lists. GTS

Messages (2) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Origins judges checking in. I haven't answered any of them yet (John S, Jeremy G, I can get you badges).

BBS: Origins, Orion Attack.

Fed Commander Forum: FCDK, Klingon dreadnoughts.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 1:45pm.

One Day Grace Mail on hand: 38 Yesterday

1. Gary Bear Orion proposal. (processed into CL37.)

2. Somebody sent me an old staff photo and I sent it to Matt.

4. John Crawford retyped the Captain's Log #6 story.

Sent F&E counters R+S to website upload. Reviewed Chuck Strong's enhanced SSC and ordered it into high speed development to go into CL37 and replace 310 and 318.7.

Some work on FCDK.

SFB stuff: Omega: Did Koligahr ground bases.

LUNCH: Texas Roadhouse

Shutting down at ...6:30

WEEKLY UPDATE 5 April 2008

Origins event submissions. Did another draft of the plan and posted it on 1 April. Turned in events on 4 April.

PD d20 Modern: Starting on chapter 3. (not 4, my mistake). 2A, I saw the last files from Chapter 2. 3A, something about Fast Hero (a sandwich?) on page 47. 4A, something about Tough Hero (the sandwiches are getting worse). 5A, Jean reported no progress.

Distant Kingdoms: 28M, trying to rebuild the file. 31M, Leanna recovered the entire file. Got unhappy news from die cutter (taking too long) which delays product release to 5 May.

Omega Five, April: 29M, 42 SSDs done, lack 30 (ten PF variants, no ships, 20 pages of fighters-bases-other).

CL#37, May: I haven't done anything on this project since 23 Feb.

MY DAY: 6 April (Sunday) 2008

I came by for a few minutes on a family errand, but basically took the day off to work on Leanna's list of chores.

MY DAY: 7 April (Monday) 2008

Got here at 8am.

Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

A. Dinosaur list. Could raptors climb trees?

B. Industry mailing lists. CAR-PGA

Messages (2) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail (morning and all day): Origins judges checking in.

AOG reports that prototypes for the Hydran Overlord and Lyran NCA and two monsters are en route. Sickels sent a note about the rest of the PDFed files. Scott Woodard is working on the Savage Worlds project memo. Paul Franz discussed the FCOL cards for Tholians. Chuck sent the text for his F&E small scale combat system. Eric Downey had an idea two years ago and we discussed but didn't pursue it; he was surprised when I found his old Email, but won't have time until later. A guy wanted his BBS account deleted because his boss was upset about it; sent that to Matt. A player who retyped all of the old CapLog scenarios offered to send us his file for the reprint project. (I will publicly thank him later but don't want 317 people asking him for the file, which he won't give them due to copyright anyway.)

BBS: Shuttles, Omega maps, PD files,

Fed Commander Forum: FCDK playtest, new SFB forum.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 2:14pm.

One Day Grace Mail on hand: 37

1. Sent F&E counters T+U to Matt to upload.

2. Sent F&E counters THREE to Matt to upload.

3. Sent FCOL cards 65 and 66 to Paul Franz.

4. Told Mike to contact a list of RPG sites about star fleet alert.

5. Sent note to Dean at Star Ranger; may have lost contact.

Had to leave from 10-11:30 to meet a landscaper at the house (he failed to show up).

This update list is posted every day, but I will delete all but the ones on Monday from this compilation.

Unprocessed reports on hand: 157 Yesterday, 157 today.

Pending Mail on hand: 195 Yesterday, 213 today.

Un-filed out-bound email: 127 Yesterday, 63 today.

Unanswered In-bound Email: Cleared back to 28 March 07

Un-filed attachments: 4 April: 1120. 5 April: 1011 7 April: 992

Starlist: Netherlands (done).

Matt: Created PHP forum for SFB.

F&E counters T+U & THREE to website upload. Klingon SIT update project, did the Klingon battleships. Sent Kzinti line items to F&E staff with formatting notes.

FC stuff: Wrote the special test scenario for the stinger decision.

LUNCH: Robinson's BBQ. Great!

Shutting down at ...7pm.

MY DAY: 8 April (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 9:20am. Very sick to my stomach.

Email (after clearing Spam).

A. Dinosaur list. Spitzbergen pliosaurus.

B. Industry lists. d20 Magazine Rack is shutting down.

Messages (3) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Ken Burnside about combining a print run.

Jeremy Gray and John Schneder about Origins minis events. Adam Turner sent Squadron Box 20 cover. Loren Knight about Draco-Tholians. two different people asked for the FCDK ships that will be in Communique on Thursday. Mike West and Mike Filsinger are working up the contents of the next module.

BBS: Master Starship Book.

Fed Commander Forum: FCDK playtest.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 12:45pm.

One Day Grace Mail on hand: 54 Yesterday, 59 today.

1. Sent F&E counters V+V to Matt to upload.

2. Sent F&E counters TWO to Matt to upload. This completes the project as I do not have E-M in the current computer format. Those will be created and sent later.

3. Sent FCOL card 67 to Paul Franz.

4. Mike West FC rulings put into Communique 28.

5. Note from Bob's Service about shrinkwrap. Done.

Starlist: 44646 done.

Meeting with building contractor. Meeting with LLC lawyer.

FC stuff: Communique 28 sent to staff.

LUNCH: Furr's, Turkey.

RANDOM EVENTS 1: Sigh, lots of these today. Contractor walked in with revised documents and we chatted a bit. Had to go to the lawyer to sign the LLC documents which took two hours. Had to talk to mother's annuity company. Then, finally, had to leave at 4:30 to go to a reception for everyone who won an Enterprise Grant in the last ten years (we won in 2005 and hope to win again when we're eligible to enter again).

Shutting down at ...4:30 to go to Mayor's reception.

MY DAY: 9 April (Wednesday) 2008

Got here at 10:00am. Rain, glorious rain.

Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

A. Dinosaur list. New Swiss pterosaur.

B. Industry mailing lists. Gencon, GTS.

Messages (3) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: VBAM weekly update. GAMA about games for troops donations. Discussion with FC staff of what might be in Hydran Attack or Kzinti Attack or Gorn Attack.

BBS: Master Starship, FCDK playtest.

Fed Commander Forum: Orion BR, FCDK playtest.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 12:07

One Day Grace Mail on hand: 59 Yesterday, 58 today.

1. Sent F&E counters G+H to Matt to upload. (I found the old files and while they are lousy graphics and black and white, figured they would do for now as reference copies.)

2. Sent FCOL card 68 to Paul Franz.

3. Sent FCOL card 69 to Paul Franz.

4. Sent FCOL card 71 to Paul Franz.

5. Sent F&E counters I+J+K+L to Matt to upload.

Ok, so I took the easy way out because I was going to lose the afternoon to doctor appointments.

Next Star Fleet Alert: Need to do one for new schedule.

1. Business: new catalog for GTS show.

LUNCH: Robinson's BBQ.

Shutting down at ... 6pm.

RANDOM EVENTS 1: Dentist appointment and stop by doctor's office for blood test (they decided that they couldn't do the test after making me wait a while), lost most of the afternoon.

MY DAY: 10 April (Thursday) 2008

Got here at 7:15am

Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

A. Dinosaur list. Behavior of rooks (birds).

B. Industry mailing lists. Power packs for convention laptops.

Messages (1) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Reports on Communique (lots). Report on world

league. Mike West on FCZA. VBAM had questions about slipways and shipyards. About 20 Emails back and forth between Matt and myself about the Newsletter, Alert, and Communicate. Memo from Mike Sparks about a marketing project I gave him. Ben H wanted the Fusion rules so he could test the scenario (sent them to him and discovered why the table never printed out; it was in white text).

BBS: Kzinti Attack vs Hydran Attack. Ship modification rules.
Fed Commander Forum: Orion BR.
Daily web crawl was completed at: 1pm.

One Day Grace Mail on hand: 58 Yesterday, 58 today.

1. Sent F&E counters E+F to Matt to upload.
2. Sent FCTA counters to Paul Franz.
3. Mike West FC questions put into Communique 29.
4. Jean Sexton request to update FC MSC done.
5. Petrick sent me a guy to add to Starlist.

Starlist: 98115 done, 98686 done.

Next Star Fleet Alert: Did one for the 5 May releases, sent it.

1. Business: Stuff for GTS show. April newsletter. Building plans updated for posting to website. Star Fleet Alert. Origins minis events finalized.

3. F&E stuff: F&E counters E+F sent to Matt to upload.
4. FC stuff: Communique 28.

LUNCH: Whataburger. Dinner: Robinson's BBQ.

RANDOM EVENTS 1: Interviewed a college student who wants an internship in a game company.

Shutting down at ... 7:30.

MY DAY: 11 April (Friday) 2008

Got here at 10:00am (after stop at building site)
Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

- A. Dinosaur list. Theropod skin.
- B. Industry mailing lists. Convention business license mess. Messages (1) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Knipfer about F&E counters for Paravians. Filsinger about CWLs for FC. Responded to Adam's Emails about squadron box cover for 21 and 20 with Petrick's reports. Loren about Draco-Tholians.

Note: Tuesday we signed the LLC papers. Thursday we had bank credit card offers for the LLC in the mailbox. Sheesh.

BBS: MSSB, FCDK, ship modification rules, ISC War.
Fed Commander Forum: FCDK, Orion BR, Minis.
Daily web crawl was completed at: 11:07

One Day Grace Mail on hand: 58 Yesterday, 62 today.

1. Old "things to do" list checked against current list.
2. Another old "things to do" list checked against current list.
3. One more old "things to do" list checked against current list.

4. Advertising idea deferred until RPG books are ready.
 5. Press release site, send to Mike to investigate.
- I'm falling behind keeping up on routine to work on products and I'm cleaning up old files which dumps more in here.

Next Star Fleet Alert: Need to do one for 2 June and 23 June.

Business: Long meeting with phone people about building.
Warehouse: Got the special merchandise we had made and packed to give away at GTS but it's packed wrong so we either have to get more or repack all of these. Sheesh.

3. F&E stuff: Helping Knipfer make counters.
- LUNCH: Grilled chicken and salad.
Shutting down at ... 6pm.

MY DAY: 12 April (Saturday) 2008

Got here at 9:00am
Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

- A. Dinosaur list. Life in Cold Blood.
 - B. Industry mailing lists. GTS.
- Messages (1) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Several from Neale about LFSS. Adam about art. Brodie about SIGINT.

BBS: Origins minis events, F&E warbook, FCDK tests, LFSS.

Fed Commander Forum: Next Gen SFB drawings, FCDK.
Daily web crawl was completed at: 2pm.

One Day Grace Mail on hand: 62 Yesterday, 62 today.

1. A query I sent a year ago about something; re-sent query.
2. A query from a guy who wants to write novels. Answered.
3. Treknews.net is gone, but other sites looked into.
4. Sent a note to www.startrek-gamers.com. (They answered.)

5. Sent a note to futurelegend about resin starships.
 1. Business: GTS list of things to do.
 2. Warehouse: staff meeting on inventory control.
 4. FC stuff: Rebuilt FCDK pages 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; sent to various members of the staff.
 5. SFB stuff: Omega: Went over SSDs with Petrick.
- LUNCH: Pizza.
Shutting down at ... 6:30pm.

WEEKLY UPDATE 12 April 2008

PD d20 Modern: 5A, Jean waiting for file from JT. 10A, I have seen a few pages go by.

Omega Five: 12A, I haven't kept up with this listing (but have listed each day as I did another SSD or two). We're closing the book on this one.

Origins. 4A, turned in events. 7A, memos to John S and Jeremy G. 8A, memos from John S and Jeremy G. 10A, event list finalized. 11A, turned in minis events. Did first pass at the "list of things to do for origins" for the year.

Next Communique (April): 7A, did most of it. 8A, did the rulings and sent it to staff. 10A, made staff fixes and sent it to Matt to upload. 10A, cloned file for May issue #29 and put Mike West's leftover questions into it.

Next Newsletter (April): 9A, asked Matt for a list of what he needed; 10A, sent it to him; he posted the newsletter.

Build a new building. contractor brought new numbers. Lawyer set up LLC. long meeting with phone people. Short meeting with partners.

Leanna's Fighting starships: 12A: After months of having Emails trapped by spam filters, I am back in contact with Neale and exchanging data on getting the prototype section done.

Victory By Any Means Deal: VBAM had questions about slipways and shipyards.

MY DAY: 13 April (Sunday) 2008

I stayed home and did stuff around the house.

MY DAY: 14 April (Monday) 2008

Got here at 9:00am
Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

- A. Dinosaur list. British dinosaurs.
- B. Industry mailing lists. GTS. Amazon vs POD.

Messages (1) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.
Other mail: Bruce Graw about doing novels. Star Ranger about banner ads. VBAM about ship construction time. Bruce Graw about GTS. Future Legend resin starships. FCDK reports from Tony Thomas, Scott Moellmer.

BBS: Galactica, FCDK, CL37
Fed Commander Forum: Fed Mauler, FCDK testing.
Daily web crawl was completed at: 12:35pm.

One Day Grace Mail on hand: 62 Yesterday, 58 today.

1. Sent ship card 72 to FCOL.
2. Sent ship card 73 to FCOL.
3. Started staff memo circulating to replace Matt when he leaves.

4. Posted Chuck Strong's ESSC thing in topic on BBS.
5. Note from Jean about the FC MSC updates.

This update list is posted every day, but I will delete all but the ones on Monday from this compilation.

Unprocessed reports on hand: 161 Yesterday, 157 today.

Pending Mail on hand: 216 Yesterday, 217 today.

Un-filed out-bound email: 38 Yesterday, 38 today.

Unanswered In-bound Email: Cleared back to 28 March 07.

Un-filed attachments: 12 April 949; 14 April 940;

Worked on building specifications with contractor. Talked with ISP about how they will get DSL to the new building.

3. F&E stuff: Posted Chuck Strong's F&E SSC fix.

4. FC stuff: Did the covers for Boosters 19 and 20 and sent them to Matt. Sent Matt the instructions for the FCDK cover.

LUNCH: Applebys.

MY DAY: 15 April (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 9:00am

Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

A. Dinosaur list. Biblically correct dinosaurs.

B. Industry mailing lists. GTS.

Messages (1) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Chinese printer offering to print games for more than I can get them done in Texas. Adam Turner sent in more art that I checked and sent back for fixes. Star Trek Gamers is setting up a section for SFU (<http://www.startrek-gamers.com/amarillo.htm>). Conquest Vegas sent me a free VIP pass. Jeff Laikind says he won't run GenCon events this year due to schedule conflicts. FCDK reports from Mike West. Note from retired senior staffer Ray Olesen. John Crawford is going to retype a PD1 page from an old CapLog for the web site. Project memo for GURPS STARSHIPS from Gary Plana. Rick Knox asked for FCDK rules.

BBS: F&E SSC, FCDK.

Fed Commander Forum: FCDK playtesting.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 12:00

One Day Grace Mail on hand: 58 Yesterday, 59 today.

1. Sent ship card 74 to FCOL.

2. Sent ship card 75 to FCOL.

3. Sent ship card 76 to FCOL.

4. Sent ship card 77 to FCOL.

5. Sent ship card F5W to FCOL.

Ok, the coward's way out, but I'm really busy.

4. FC stuff: Laid out the FCDK ship card sheet and gave it to Petrick to check. Sent it to press. FCDK cover sent to press. Approved counter proofs. Petrick accidentally discovered an error in the FCDK ship cards and we had to re-do the squadron scale side of the print layout.

5. SFB stuff: Omega: Did the map for the back cover.

LUNCH: Hamburger patty and cottage cheese.

Went to doctor's for blood tests. I hate needles. They had to stick me twice since the first time didn't work. They had to take multiple vials so that mean jiggling one end of a needle of which the other in was in my arm. Major bruises and pain in both arms.

Shutting down at ... 6pm to go find REAL food.

MY DAY: 16 April (Wednesday) 2008

Got here at 8:40am

Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

A. Dinosaur list. Disproving & debunking creationism.

B. Industry mailing lists. GTS.

Messages (6) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Conquest says they'll give Leanna a free pass to their convention in Vegas. FCDK reports from Mike West, Jean Sexton, and Mike Curtis. Adam Turner booster covers approved. Rick Knox about some art he did.

BBS: FCDK, Web snares in FC, F&E SSC.

Fed Commander Forum: Months of FCDK playtesting wiped out by the missed "cripple" rule, which I thought I had distributed widely but in fact only mentioned once off hand and put into a document only one staffer saw. Not a total loss. All of the playtesting showed stingers to be ridiculously over-deadly so those reports confirm that this cripple rule is needed.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 10:10am

1. Sent ship card 78 to FCOL.

Had Matt do the CL37 cover for game buyer ad. Checked catalog so they could print it for the show.

Warehouse: Prep for GTS trip.

F&E stuff: Read the SSC topic.

FC stuff: Did Mike West's fixes to the Fusion Rule. Rewrote the hellbore rule with Mike West's report. Sent to staff.

Omega: Cover sent to Matt.

BBQ and potatoes.

Shutting down at ... 7pm.

MY DAY: 17 April (Thursday) 2008

Got here: Got here at 10:40am (Doctor appointment)

Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

A. Dinosaur list. Birds are (by all conventional science) dinosaur descendants, but are they (legally speaking) dinosaurs?

B. Industry mailing lists. Convention promotions. (Some really nice GPA companies like Castle Perilous that are going to conventions will pass out flyers for other companies.)

C. Messages (2) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Senior Sergeant Knipfer about the F&E counters. Mike Curtis Kzinti SIT report. Email with Reaper about minis.

BBS: FCDK Hellbores, Klingons Tactics.

Fed Commander Forum: Booster covers, FCDK testing.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 4:37pm.

Sent ship card 79 to FCOL.

Next Star Fleet Alert: Did the one for 2 June releases. Need to do the one for 23 June releases.

Warehouse: Prep for GTS trip. Printed flyers for GTS trip.

F&E stuff: Read the SSC topic.

FC stuff: Checked proofs at the printer. Changed hellbore table to the one Mike West wanted.

SFB stuff: Omega:

LUNCH: Enchiladas.

Annual doctor exam. My blood sugar is fine (A1C=5.6), my blood pressure is fine, everything else but my weight is fine. The Doctor wants me to exercise more and gave me something for the infection in my head that makes me cough all the time.

Picked up the raw meat to take the wolf sanctuary.

Went to a trade show our paper supplier was throwing at the civic center.

Approved the catalog so they can print it.

Shutting down at ... 7pm.

WEEKLY UPDATE 12-18 April 2008

PD d20 Modern: 16A, something about Gorn speed and level adjustments.

Distant Kingdoms: 15 April, cover and ship cards sent to press; countersheets approved. Covers for boosters 19 and 20 sent to press.

Omega Five, April: 14A: 56 out of 76 SSDs done.

X1R: 15 A, countersheets approved.

FC Orion Attack: 15 A, countersheets approved.

Y2: 15 A, countersheets approved.

Build a new building. 14A, sent specifications to contractor. 17A, contractor delivered revised contracts.

Mother's estate: 14A: sent in forms to do the last thing for mother's estate.

Leanna's Fighting starships: 12A: After months of having Emails trapped by spam filters, I am back in contact with Neale and exchanging data on getting the prototype section done.

Victory By Any Means Deal: 14A, questions about ship construction time.

My Day, 18 April

Day One of the GTS 08 trip

Pleasant drive, more or less. I felt sick this morning but was better after lunch. We left at 1:20pm and did a couple of stops (drop building contract at lawyer, pick up watch battery for Leanna) and passed the city limits at 2pm. We spent an hour at the dinosaur museum in Tucumcari. The annoying thing about New Mexico roads is that you cannot predict anything. If you're 75 miles from something and the speed limit is 75, you might get there in anything from 60-90 minutes due to construction, safety zones (a flimsy excuse to double traffic fines, and no, I never got a ticket), and all kinds of up and down speed limits. It can suddenly drop from 75 to 45 (the locals keep going but out of state cars beware).

MY DAY, 19 APRIL

Day Two of the GTS 08 trip

Neither of us slept well. The hotel was full of noisy people who woke me up every few minutes with shouting, arguing, slamming doors, or whatever.

Leanna and I got up early and got to the wolf sanctuary at 9:30 local. We had brought beef hearts for Genghis Khan and Artemesia, and enjoyed watching then enjoy them. Artemesia ate hers very quickly (so Genghis couldn't steal it) but Genghis "showed off his trophy" to the other wolves before settling down to eat it.

I was getting increasingly sick during the day.

The side trip to the wolves took four hours and took us back to I40 at Gallup, which was one hour (by I40) from where we started. Then three hours to Flagstaff. Took us more than that as we stopped a lot to rest. I couldn't drive much and Leanna wasn't much better. I was running a fever. We got to Flagstaff and I went to bed right away and woke up feeling much better four hours later.

My Day, 20 April

Day Three of the GTS 08 trip

We woke up early in Flagstaff and came on up to Vegas, about a 4-hour trip (given the security at Hoover Dam). Right now, I'm sitting at Conquest talking to Hugh Bishop. It's my brother's birthday. I miss the kid and pray he has a nice job in the library in heaven. On the other hand, it's also Hitler's birthday and I hope he's not having a good day in Hell.

My Day, 21 April, GTS 08,

Day Four of the GTS 08 trip

Day one of the show: seminar day. Lots of worthwhile seminars. Helped Ken with print on demand. Ken did a spiffy seminar on packaging. Food is horrible but at least it is ridiculously expensive. Best part of that is that I'm too sick to eat, but at least I can walk around and be functional.

MY DAY, 22 APRIL, GTS 08,

Day Five of the GTS 08 trip

Day two of the show, day one in the booth.

A good day. We got a new wholesaler (Warpath), a decent shot at another new wholesaler (GTS), and a couple of dozen new stores. Lots and lots of old friends came by. Talked with Bruce Graw about miniatures. GAMA gave the vendors free tickets for lunch (hamburgers and chicken strips) and dinner (fried chicken) which wasn't half bad and made up for the overpriced junk the casino calls food which nobody will pay them for. Helped some stores solve wholesaler problems.

Ken was good to hang with. I was pretty sick in the morning but perked up after lunch. I found myself with a "posse" consisting of Ken Burnside, the Siadek brothers, Bruce Graw, and Todd Boyce.

MY DAY, 23 April,

Day Six of the GTS 08 trip

Day three of the show, day two of the booth.

Quieter than yesterday but we got some more new stores.

The free food was non-edible leaving us paying \$5 per slice for cold pizza.

Good chat with Reaper. Ken was fun to hang with.

MY DAY, 24 APRIL, Thursday:

Day Seven of the GTS 08 trip

Leanna and I woke up fairly early and decided to pack up and start home. The theory would be to get to somewhere in New Mexico (Gallup, Grants, or Albuquerque) to spend the night, then get home on Friday. We were pretty tired and packing up to go took a few minutes, but we carefully checked drawers for items left behind. Leanna sent for a bellboy while I went downstairs and outside to the valet. I got the car and pulled everything out of it and stacked it by the driveway so we could repack the car in

some logical order. Leanna finally showed up (the bellboy took forever) and we got packed. We left the hotel on Flamingo boulevard heading east, did a U-turn to get back west to the I-15, then took Highway-215 to Highway-515 and then to Highway-93. Less than an hour later we were in Boulder and stopped at McDonald's. (We did not eat breakfast at the hotel because the food was expensive and awful.) Breakfast was the first decent meal in a day. Security at Hoover Dam was no delay as there was no traffic that early, and I drove us on down to Kingman. Leanna drove to Flagstaff, then I drove to Gallup, then Leanna drove to Albuquerque. It was dusk, 8pm, and we were four hours from home and not tired. We decided to sleep in our own beds. I took over but would have to drive all of the last four hours as Leanna cannot drive in the dark. We were going to get supper in Cline's Corners but it was closed (it's not really a town, just two or three stores), so we pushed on to Santa Rosa (an actual town), where the McDonald's was still open (at 10:30) only because a local sports team was having a victory party and would not leave. We had sandwiches and pushed on. It took five hours to drive the four hours home (New Mexico roads are like that) and with the time zone shift we got home at 2:30am. I managed to unload the suitcases before I fell asleep sitting up on the edge of the bed, and woke up two hours later, still sitting up! I got some more sleep. **Leanna and I agreed that not stopping in Albuquerque was about the stupidest thing we did this year.**

MY DAY: 25 April (Friday) 2008

Got here: Got here at 11am after returning rental car. Very sleepy. I'm just barely here today.

Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

A. Dinosaur list. Source of KT asteroid found in collision in asteroid belt that also caused Crater Tycho. Mysterious lack of filter-feeding pliosaurus.

B. Industry mailing lists. Pending expiry of d20v3.5 license.

Messages (2) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Daily web crawl was completed at:

1. Business: After action from GTS trip.

2. Warehouse: Unloading car from GTS trip.

3. F&E stuff: Read the SSC topic.

4. FC stuff: Cards and covers are on the table.

LUNCH: Walked over and got a hamburger.

Trafton called to say map reprint will take two extra weeks to get 80 point stock. Should not be a problem.

Shutting down at ... 6pm.

MY DAY: 26 April, Saturday:

I was here some of the day but was so tired from the trip I didn't get much done.

MY DAY, 27 April, Sunday:

I stayed home, took a long nap, and took Ramses rabbit hunting.

MY DAY: 28 April (Monday) 2008

Got here at 10am.

Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

Dinosaur list. Are dinos "legally" reptiles or something else?

Industry mailing lists. Making game boxes.

Messages (2) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Jean dealing with a troublemaker. Talked with a new artist. Tony Thomas sent in FEAR questions and painting article.

BBS: FCDK.

Fed Commander Forum: FCDK. Pink Panther.

Daily web crawl was completed at: noon.

1. Sent GTS after action report to industry mailing lists.

This update list is posted every day, but I will delete all but the ones on Monday from this compilation.

Unprocessed reports on hand: 163 Yesterday, 172 today.

Pending Mail on hand: 219 Yesterday, 219 today.

Un-filed out-bound email: 60 Yesterday, 33 today.

Unanswered In-bound Email: Cleared back to 28 March 07.

Un-filed attachments: 17 April 925; 28 April 1177;
Starlist: 27513 done. WA3 6QL done. 20151 done.
Warehouse: Getting ready for FCDK and O5.
F&E stuff: Read the SSC topic.

FC stuff: Cards and covers have arrived. Updated the rulebook and sent it to the staff and several playtesters who asked for it.

SFB stuff: Omega: Did the Vari bases.
LUNCH: Burger King. Surprisingly non-awful.
Shutting down at ... 8pm.

MY DAY: 29 April (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 9am.

Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

A. Dinosaur list: Did dinosaurs store fat?
B. Industry mailing lists: GTS after action reports.

Messages (2) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Jean dealing with another troublemaker and my warning for him to never use that language to Jean again. FCDK playtest rules requests. Various FCDK reports. Jean's reports. Jeremy Gray about origins schedule conflicts.

BBS: FCDK.

Fed Commander Forum: FCDK. Orion & Hydran minis.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 1pm.

One Week Grace Mail on hand: 67 Yesterday, 70 today.

1. Did Talkshoe button for Paul Franz.
2. Sent card B17 to FCOL.
3. Loren Knight question on Draco-Tholians.
4. Ninja Magic (Todd Boyce) about miniatures technology.
5. Found a duplicate file I could eliminate.

1. Business: Meeting with lawyer for building contract.

2. Warehouse: Getting ready for FCDK and O5.

3. F&E stuff: Read the SSC topic.

4. FC stuff: Reading FCDK reports.

5. SFB stuff: Omega: Probr ground bases. Drex ground bases. Loryill ground bases.

LUNCH: Dyer's, for roast pork. Very good; I ate too much.

Hopefully the final forms on mother's estate.

Shutting down at ... 6pm.

MY DAY: 30 April (Wednesday) 2008

Got here at 9am.

Email (after clearing Spam). Lots of good stuff this morning.

A. Dinosaur list: Eoconfuciusornis

B. Industry mailing lists: GTS after action reports.

Messages (2) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Other mail: Klingon firing arcs in FCDK.

BBS: Moving along swimmingly.

Fed Commander Forum: Orion and Hydran minis.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 9:30, record time.

One Week Grace Mail on hand: 70 Yesterday, 68 today.

Sent card (B) to FCOL. Two Mike Powers FC scenarios from

Oct 06 put safely in file.

Starlist: 97005 done. 46031 done.

1. Business: Reviewed draft contract from lawyer.

2. Warehouse: Getting ready for FCDK and O5.

3. F&E stuff: Kept up with SSC topic.

4. FC stuff: Reviewed reports.

5. SFB stuff: Omega: Iridani ground bases. Worb ground bases. Aurora ground bases. Qixa ground bases. Alunda ground bases. Ymatrian ground bases. Singer ground bases. Ryn Ground bases.

LUNCH: Robinson's BBQ.

Shutting down at ... 8PM.

END OF APRIL 2008 FILE