

COMPANY WEBLOG

ARCHIVE JUNE 2008

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MY DAY: 1 June (Sunday) 2008

Got here at 3:00 pm.

Reports (3) on CL37 pages processed: Jeff Laikind reports.

Other Email: A volunteer offered to test BOM FTR so I sent him the PDFs. Moellmer sent in an FCOA scenario.

Work: F&E stuff: Sent note to Jeff about scenario.

SFB stuff: Read some X1R ship descriptions. Formatted the Omega PF tactics article and sent it to the staff.

CL37: Processed some reports. Victory at 5 Nations article proofed, edited, and handed to Petrick.

LUNCH: Leanna cooked turkey.

Shutting down at ... 7pm.

MY DAY: 2 June (Monday) 2008

Got here at 8:45 am. Didn't really do a formal report.

Somebody wanted us to make more star fleet dice. Not likely but it's something I may look into after Origins. (I never had time to look into it. That's the problem. I have too many jobs and not enough sales to support hiring an assistant.)

Discussing a flooring deal with Alliance so they quit running out of stuff. With such an accounting deal, the times they are out of something would become very rare. They buy on predicted sales and don't want to have to pay for something that may sit in the warehouse for months. With flooring, we would send them what WE think would sell and they would pay for it when it sells.

LUNCH: Robinson's BBQ. Beans were not cooked enough.

Shutting down at ... 7pm

MY DAY: 3 June (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 8:45 am.

Reports (9) on CL37 pages processed: GC article. Jean report on FC tactics article. Frazier report on F&E rulings. Jean report on F&E strategy article. Moellmer report on WYN GFF and RFF. Jean report on Lyran HFF ship card disruptor range note. Jean report on Fed fighter ship card. Mike West report on FC ship cards. Frank Brooks report on omega gunboat tactics article. Laikind report on F&E strategy article.

Daily Routine: Starlist: 28052 Done.

Business: Continued talks with Alliance on the flooring deal. Interviewed a potential graphics guy today but he cannot work the website.

Work: SFB stuff: Proofread Orion ship descriptions and Lyran SSDs for X1R.

CL37: Got the GC article, formatted it, sent it to Jean and JB. With that, I now have all of the material for Venues, but the pages don't come out even. With nothing I can cut, I reach into the reserve to add a warlord article and make it 7 pages even. Selected the term papers and sent them to Jean.

LUNCH: Steak at Logan's. Huge steak.

Shutting down at ... 8pm. Petrick worked until 11pm last night and my guess is he will do it again tonight. Let's home Jean orders him home. This is a marathon, not a sprint.

MY DAY: 4 June (Wednesday) 2008

Got here at 8:55 am.

Reports (5) on CL37 pages processed: Jeans five reports on the WYN history article. Paul Franz FCOL.

Daily Routine: BBS: Fighters on freighters again. Sigh. Go AWAY!

Starlist: 60608 done. 98239 Done. 28052 Done.

Business: Alliance said they'd give us a flooring contract.

Warehouse: Got shipment of minis including overlord, Lyran Nca, space boar, death probe, monitor.

Work: F&E stuff: Did the tacnotes for CL37. Did the new

ships/SIT page and sent it to the staff with the 7 SSDs.

FC stuff: Paul Franz FCOL article.

SFB stuff: Proofread Lyran and 3 WYN SSDs last night after the report was printed. Wrote X-ship history for X1R. Worked through Petrick's hydran ship descriptions.

CL37: Finished WYN history; 5 more pages in the green column.

LUNCH: Burger and steamed veggies.

Shutting down at ... 10:15pm.

MY DAY: 5 June (Thursday) 2008

Got here at 9:00 am.

Email (after clearing Spam). 450 "the email you never sent (some Russian spam outfit sent it) was undeliverable and is returned". They hit me earlier this week and hit Petrick yesterday. If Obama can fix this, I'll vote for him.

Industry mailing lists: Some stores are selling D&D4e days before the official release event date.

BBS: Somebody was happy about his new monitor. I wonder if it as a flat screen or digital LCD?

Work: Worked on CL37. Finished shipyard and sent three pages to press. Did four pages of the story. I really really really HATE HATE HATE the part of the issue when I have to take Petrick's notes on the story and deal with them. I wish writer's did a better job. When Petrick says "The ship is here at this speed, the torpedo is there at that speed, the distance is thus, and the phasers can do at most THIS much, so the story is wrong, three times as much damage got through the shield" I could just SCREAM and often do. I have to screw up a perfectly good story with bad rewrites trying to fix tactical screwups like this. Causes changes to three scenes over three pages, rewrites two dozen paragraphs, changes major plot lines, takes most of the day. Almost to the point of throwing the story away and writing a new one, but not quite.

MY DAY: 6 June (Friday) 2008

Since this is Friday I will do a full report.

Got here at 9:00 am.

Email (after clearing Spam).

Dinosaur list: T-rex skin.

Industry mailing lists: Origins stuff.

Messages (0) from Jean, Gary, JT, Andy P, about PD20M.

Reports (4) on CL37 pages processed: Jean is now Emailing scans of proofed pages as it's easier for us both.

Other mail: alliance about flooring. Really, very little Email today. Very strange.

Daily Routine: BBS: Origins, SFBF expansions.

Fed Commander Forum: computerized counter graphics.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 1:49pm.

FYEO: Read to M24; Downloaded to June 6. Posted to M20.

Petrick: X1R, CL37, blog, SFB Scenarios, Y2.

Mike Sparks: did more bookbinding, packing orders, PD20M.

Worthwhile off-list tasks TODAY.

Business: Signed flooring contract with Alliance. This means they will stock stuff equal to four months of sales (with a minimum of one of everything at all four warehouses) and in theory will never have an "out of stock" again.

F&E stuff: Talked with Chuck about scenarios. He's going to sit down with Jean at Origins and learn the stylebook, and create a master F&E blank scenario format.

SFB stuff: Reviewed the last of the X1R SSDs.

Work: CL37: Finished the story, 7 more pages after doing 4 yesterday. Fixes to warlord page.

LUNCH: French dip sandwich, about half as much food as I normally eat, because Leanna says I gotta lose weight.

Shutting down at ... 7:30pm.

MY DAY: 7 June (Saturday) 2008

Got here at 8:00 am.

Not much Email today.

Work: SFB stuff: Did the three easiest pages of X1R to save Petrick an hour of typing and gave them to him.

LUNCH: Roast beef at Furr's Cafeteria, with fresh vegetables and fruit (no syrup) for desert.
Shutting down at ... 7:30pm

My Day: 8 June SUNDAY

Work: I have been up here a couple of times, working on some CL37 files (but due to various glitches, none of them are ready to send out). I moved five pages from "in PM" to "finished". And I did about half of the MSC for X1R, which gave Petrick something to do (filling in the blanks I couldn't fill in). He's been writing ship descriptions all day.

MY DAY, 9 June MONDAY

Read 3 days (31-2) of FYEO; posted through May 31.
CL37: Did growler, 4 pages. Sent to Jean.
X1R: Finished MSC. Proofread ship descriptions.

MY DAY: 10 June (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 9:00 am.
Read 2 days (3-4J) of FYEO; posted through May 31.
Work: CL37: Did Jean's fixes to Growler (4 pages). Did the scenario for the story and sent it to Petrick who finished it for me. ESSC rule.
Going home at 9:45

MAY DAY: 11 JUNE (Wednesday)

Got here at 9:30, did the daily routine.
Gave Petrick the scenarios I read last night so he could fix them and get them to Jean, got everything ready for Leanna to do the CL37 and X1R covers.
Left for Dallas at 2pm with Mike Sparks, arriving at the hotel at 8:30. We watched a little TV, then read books for a while and drifted off to sleep.

MY DAY: 12 June (Thursday) 2008

In Dallas: Mike woke me up at 6:30 at the hotel. We had the free breakfast, watched the morning news, and drove over to the die cutter's. We watched them spend an hour dialing in the die cutting machine, then they cut half of sheets in about an hour and a half. We loaded enough to cover us for a few days and drove to Pappa's BBQ where we had the "full pound of meat" lunch. Then we drove home, leaving Pappa's at noon and reaching the office at 6:15pm. I read my Email and eventually went home.

MY DAY: 13 June (Friday) 2008

Got here at 9:00 am.
LUNCH: Robinson's BBQ, especially good today.
Work: X1R: Petrick handed me the MSC with the 627 blanks filled in via ball point pen. I told him where to put it.
Shut down and went home at 6:30pm.

MY DAY: 14 June (Saturday) 2008

Got here at 9:00 am.
Email (after clearing Spam).
Dinosaur list: scales evolving into hair.
Industry mailing lists: Origins. Discounts.
Reports (5) on CL37 pages: various.
Other mail: Questions about tournament rules, Attempts to find a short-run card printer, Loren Knight about art, GAMA about origins exclusivity, Jean with the daily to-do list I don't even have time to read much less do anything about, McKee about art for CL37, somebody about printing his RPG, Mike Filsinger about an FC article he thinks he's seen before.

Daily Routine: BBS: Origins, SFC
Fed Commander Forum: FCDK
Daily web crawl was completed at: 10:30
Starlist: 60608 done. 98239 Done. 28052 Done.
F&E stuff: Did the Q&A and ruling pages.
SFB stuff: X1R annexes proofread. X1R MSC finished.
Work: CL37: Last pages sent to staff.
LUNCH: Chili's for an unremarkable hamburger.
Shutting down at ... 9pm.

MY DAY: 15 June (Sunday) 2008

Got here at 1:30 pm.
Email (after clearing Spam).
Dinosaur list: Psittacosaurus major
Industry mailing lists: Origins.
Reports (14) on CL37 pages: various.
Daily web crawl was completed at: 2:45pm
Starlist: 60608 done. 98239 Done. 28052 Done.
Work: SFB stuff: Read the X1R scenarios and weapons rules.
CL37: Working on reports. Finalized Table of Contents and gave Jean one final shot at it.
LUNCH: Leanna cooked at home, a Sunday treat.
Shutting down at ... 7pm.

MY DAY: 16 June (Monday) 2008

Got here at 8:30 am.
Email (after clearing Spam).
Dinosaur list: vaulting pterosaur launch
Industry mailing lists: Origins.
Reports (16) on CL37 pages: various.
Other mail: Loren about F15 art. Tenhoff about X-andros. Jean and Jim Hart about updating his site. Tos Crawford about doing an entire extra day of work on X1R to accommodate one of his bright ideas. Somebody wants me to print his Hong Kong RPG.

Daily Routine: BBS: Origins, SFC
Fed Commander Forum: FCDK
Daily web crawl was completed at: 9:27am
This update list is posted every day, but I will delete all but the ones on Monday from this compilation.

Unprocessed reports on hand: 116 Yesterday, 116 today.
Pending Mail on hand: 218 Yesterday, 218 today.
Un-filed out-bound email: Keeping this under 40.
Unanswered In-bound Email: Cleared back to 28 March 07.
Un-filed attachments: 2 June 691; 14 June 632;
Starlist: 60608 done. 98239 Done. 28052 Done.
FYEO: Read to J4; Downloaded to June 10. Posted to M31.
Petrick: X1R, CL37, blog, SFB Scenarios, Y2.
Mike Sparks: did more bookbinding, packing orders, PD20M.
Work: CL37: Working on reports.
LUNCH: chicken fried steak and black eyed peas at the bowling alley. I got extra black eyed peas because Leanna doesn't like them and I got hers.
Shutting down at ... 11pm

MY DAY: 17 June (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 8:20 am.
Email: Dinosaur list: bipedal lizards.
Industry mailing lists: Origins.
Reports (4) on CL37 pages: various.
Daily Routine: BBS: Origins, SFC
Fed Commander Forum: FCDK
Daily web crawl completed at: 4pm.
Work: CL37: Started Printing.
LUNCH: BBQ at Robinson's.
Shutting down at ... 5:30pm. Petrick stayed until 2am working on X1R BPV changes.

MY DAY: 18 June (Wednesday) 2008

Got here at 7:40 am.
Email: Industry mailing lists: Origins.
Daily Routine: BBS: Origins, CL37
Fed Commander Forum: FCDK
Daily web crawl: never got that far.
Starlist: 60608 done. 98239 Done. 28052 Done.
Business: Solving the crisis of badly-cut CL37 covers.
Warehouse: Folding what good CL37 covers we got.
F&E stuff: Arranged to have F&E room locked at night.
Work: FC stuff: CL37 Finished.
SFB stuff: I did an Annex for X1R that Tos Crawford wanted

but Petrick just wants Tos in the agonizer booth.

CL37: As copies printed down the hall, I worked on the post-production list for CL37.

LUNCH: Applebys.

Shutting down at ... 7pm

MY DAY: 19 JUNE (Thursday)

I dunno. I didn't seem to keep a formal document. Blinded by pain all day on my left side. Like I was kicked by a mule or hit by a hammer. I've felt both and this is what it's like. What did I do? Trying to remember....

I did the CL37 large print edition.

I did the X1R scenario graphics. three or four times until they worked.

I folded covers for the bookbinder.

We had a meeting about production schedules.

We had a tornado alert (sirens and everything).

I answered a bunch of emails from people about their free copies.

I moved the BBS conversation about Block 5 SSDs to it's own topic.

I helped Petrick fix two pages of X1R. He handed me the X1R "final glitch check" copy and I went home. Or rather, he handed it to me, I typed this, and now I plan to go home.

MY DAY Friday, 20 June:

We finished X1R and started printing it. I worked on the LIST OF STUFF TO DO FOR ORIGINS while Petrick trimmed copies of Captain's Log. We pretty much finished the Captain's Log print run. I went home for Ramses's Birthday Party where he (and Isis) had all-you-can-eat shrimp. Still had blinding pain in my side. Not sure but it seems to have been a torn muscle.

MY DAY: Saturday 21 June:

Still blinded by pain in the side. Working on the GET READY FOR ORIGINS list. Packed enough X1Rs to take to Origins, so we will have both products there. Drove all the way across town for a special expensive lunch which was pretty much awful and I will never go there again. Then Leanna wanted salad for dinner at a place that doesn't actually serve FOOD. Went home and took Ramses for a walk and he had a double bunny chase.

MY DAY: Sunday 22 June

Vala broke down (well, she didn't break, but her print quality dropped by 2% and Leanna suspended using her) so we won't have all the X1Rs ready for wholesalers, but Leanna says she can print those after we leave so we're good. Finished the "get ready for Origins" list except for the Walmart run for snacks. Packing X1Rs for wholesaler Monday and Tuesday shipments. Pain in my side is a dull ache but then I've taken about 200% of the maximum daily dose of ibuprofen. Very good lunch.

MY DAY: 23 June Monday

No time for a formal report. This is "get everything done, load the car, and leave for Origins day" and it's crazy.

10am: Both Vala and Kate broke down (lost print quality, they still work) over the weekend, but I called the service technicians at 8:30am and they had them both up and running by 9:30am. We already have all of the Origins copies and all of the "pick up at Origins" copies done, all wholesaler orders packed for Monday and Tuesday, and all of the CL37s for wholesale orders on Wednesday and Thursday. Leanna is now printing what might be enough CL37s for mail orders on the 30th, and more X1Rs. She can print X1R by herself but cannot do more CL37s after we leave due to the special trimming needed.

12n: We were supposed to pick up the rental van at noon, but there will be a two-hour delay. We have to have "stow and go" seats (that fold up out of the way) to carry the boxes, but nobody but us cares so the rental car company doesn't even track which mini-vans do and do not have them, and mini-vans are hot summer rentals. They basically had to start this morning looking at each mini-van turned in and see if one had stow-and-

go. One arrived at 11:45 that did, and we'll get that, but at 2pm instead of at noon, as they have to clean and fuel it. This is just horrible. I prefer to do the final list my way, where I do each item in order, and if some item says "Put XYA in the car" I get up and take that something to the car and if the "to do" item does not require the car the car just sits there. Now I'm (oh, the ennui!!!!) having to do the not-car stuff first and then will have to go BACK through the list and do all of the car stuff at once. Oh, the agony! Oh, the pain! Oh, the anguish!

1pm: I have personally packed all of the X1Rs that have been printed so far and somebody took them to the shrinkwrap machine, but they probably won't get shrinkwrapped until tomorrow. I have quit drinking sodas so I won't have to make Petrick stop so often during the drive. I folded more CL37 covers for Mike, who says that the ones he is doing should handle the 30 June mail orders, so they won't be delayed.

2pm: The rental van has arrived and loading will begin when Petrick figures out how to fold the "stow and go" seats. I bought two 50-foot chunks of clothesline (3/16" rope) to suspend the banners over the concourse. (Pity, as GAMA told us we had to take the sign down because of their contract with the convention center.)

2:30 update: We're running out of things we can do without Mike, who is busy binding the rest of the Captain's Logs that Leanna will need for 30 June mail orders. (Leanna printed 50. Mike is binding them, and Petrick will trim them before we leave and then set the trimmer for X1R.) When Mike finishes the CL37 binding, he and Petrick will load the car. Due to the injury in my side, I cannot pick up the 50-pound boxes like I usually do. We have the softdrinks sorted: 12 in the car-fridge, 12 in the cooler, 24 in the reserve box. That should get us to Columbus where we can get more.

3.45 update. The car is loaded, and packed pretty much solid. I hope there is room for the snack cooler!!! Throw out those games we're carrying for Ken Burnside and load my snacks!

Petrick is out there trimming Captain's Logs, both the fifty CL37s for 30 June orders and a dozen CL36s for other orders as we ran out of those. That's the thing about print on demand, you can never get ahead. Every time we print something, we print 10-20 extras, but we still run out of stuff before the girls stopping running on whatever else they were printing.

Loren Knight is Emailing me some "read on the trip" stuff and he had better hurry!

We will leave sometime soon, no later than 5pm, but possibly sooner. I have to go take a shower in the company locker room before I get into the car. (Mike, fill up that bucket and go up on the mezzanine and wait for my signal, ok?)

4:30 update. The books are all trimmed, and Mike had Petrick help him get more SFB and F&E boxes off the top shelf as we're out of packed games and he's going to pack more after we leave. The car is fully loaded. Zero space left.

4:49pm: We're on the road!

final report: Had a quiet drive. Got to the hotel in Tulsa at 11:40pm, checked in, read a few pages of a civil war book, drifted off to sleep.

MY DAY 24 June, Tuesday

Origins Trip: Woke up in Tulsa, drove to Sweetwater BBQ, ate a huge lunch, then drove on to Indianapolis, eating BBQ sandwiches as we went. Stayed at the same hotel as always (well, 9th time in 10 trips) and drifted off to sleep. Tuesday is always the "relax after the stress of getting ready" day.

MY DAY 25 June, Wednesday

Origins Trip: Woke up, had a pleasant drive to Columbus; the new highway makes reaching the hotel oh so easy. Checked in and unpacked. Went over to the Food Court for Charley's Steak Sandwiches; not the same without Joe Butler. For the first time in ten years, did NOT meet anyone I knew. Petrick went back to hotel. I walked over to D240-243, met Chuck, Jean, and others (which explained why nobody was in the food court). Had a nice chat. Telephoned Petrick to move car to loading dock. Met

him at booth. Set up booth. Went back to D243 for more chats. Somebody brought me my dinner. (Scott Moellmer did this other nights, but I am not sure who did it Wednesday. The theory is that I have a ton of work to do and somebody else can walk the half mile to the food court and back.) Singalong was a hoot as we had birthday cake for Jean and a hilarious spoof on why Petrick should marry her. Well, Petrick was the only one who didn't think it was hilarious. Judge meeting went well. F&E meeting was swell. Went back to hotel for a good night's sleep.

MY DAY 26 June, Thursday

Origins Trip: Got up, grabbed some pastries at the free breakfast bar at Red Roof Inn and went to D243, chatted with group, took Jean to booth before it opened. Sales were brisk. Colleen Knipfer relieved Jean at 2pm, but Jean stayed most of the day. Sales continued very well, we reached \$4,000 total by end of day. Nice chat with guys in D240. Had a meeting with another game company that took up most of my evening, disappointing some people who wanted office hours. Sorry! I got some sleep.

MY DAY 27 June, Friday

Origins Trip: Grabbed breakfast and walked over to D243. Chatted with friends. Booth time went well with Colleen and Jean; Celestia (who had stopped by some on Thursday) dropped by some more, and did so again the next two days. I love being surrounded by beautiful women! Anyway, Friday evening I had meetings with lots of people, including Filsinger (FC) and the playtesters (Scott Moellmer and Tony Thomas). Stayed very late chatting with friends and having meetings.

MY DAY 28 June: Saturday

Origins Trip: This was expected to be a big day as \$20,000 worth of advertising by GAMA was supposed to bring in customers from all over Ohio. Didn't see them; crowd remained ... uncrowded. Sales good despite non-crowd.

A guy came by and said I should go on the "vendor run" of the aliens combat simulator at 7pm, but that I had to go there now to sign up or it would be full. Walked over there and was told there was no 7pm vendor run but they offered me a standby slot in the 4pm run, which I took, and got to use. Went as a combat engineer, saved the colonel's life, fixed the radio to call the dropship, shot several aliens, and was given a "coin" as the best Marine on that run. How cool is that? Came out of simulator bloody, bruised, limping, and feeling better than I had in years. (Did anybody notice?) Wrote a blog about importance of having some FUN now and then.

After booth hours and dinner, long meeting with Jean about RPG stuff and then long meeting with F&E guys. For the first time, passed out F&E prizes at F&E seminar. Went back to hotel and packed for trip home, then went to sleep.

MY DAY 29 June, Sunday

Origins Trip: Got up, checked out of hotel, loaded car. Petrick took it to the dock. I walked over to convention center and went to seminar room. Had seminar. Went to booth. Sales were steady. Show closed at 4pm. Jean helped me pack up the booth while Petrick carried the boxes to the car when the decorator would not allow anyone to use the carts because of a dispute with GAMA. Left 25 minutes late and lost more time due to a major traffic accident on I-70 outside of town. Finally reached Effingham, refueled and decided to go for broke. Reached Saint Claire Missouri after midnight with Petrick barely awake and me going through dangerous microsleeps (but at least not driving). Counted the money and found out that the show was better than we thought. Much better.

MY DAY: 30 June: Monday

Origins Trip: Quiet (but very long) drive home, reaching office at 9pm. Found out about major computer problem on my Mac, which is eight years old and suffering Alzheimer's (and from Leanna trying to install a CD burner I told her I did not want and

have never used). Repaired what damage I could but most of my bookmarks are lost forever. Backups didn't cover them as the bookmarks are stored in the system file, not the browser "back this up" file which has nothing of any real importance. Passed out. Woke up at midnight and spent an hour trying to find my car keys, which were under some petrified wood that Jean gave me. Got home. Watched Ice Road Truckers but fell asleep. Leanna woke up and wanted her present. We had a nice reunion at 4am Tuesday.

END OF JUNE 2008