

COMPANY WEBLOG

ARCHIVE NOV 2008

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MY DAY: 1 November (Saturday) 2008

Got here at 10:10am. (Sleep issues with my medication, again.)

Routine: Email, mailing lists, office, etc.

Dinosaur list: dino scientist flame wars

Industry mailing lists: pre-printed 4th Edition power cards on eBay

Other mail: Jean sent the rest of the battleGroup article.

BBS: The usual.

Fed Commander Forum: The usual.

Daily web crawl was completed at: 11:59am.

Worthwhile tasks accomplished TODAY.

Warehouse: 1 Nov, checking maps. Sometime this week, I packed another box of booster packs while watching TV. I discovered that I had been putting extra ships into packs when I zoned out, so somebody out there is going to get 10 or 12 ships instead of 7 or 8.

Marketing: 1 Nov, discussed web advertising with Eric.

CL38: 1 Nov. I did Jean's reports on Frequency and Primer, moving another 1.5 pages to the finished column. I had picked out a cool ship for Petrick to do, but he pointed out that the ship had already been published in X1R.

MSSB: 1 Nov, I couldn't let the week go by without doing SOMETHING for the MSSB, even though I deliberately did three weeks of work last week so I could focus on Captain's Log. So, I did at least format all of the line item reports that I had received so far.

LUNCH: Furr's cafeteria, roast beef and a lot of vegetables.

DINNER: Microwaves something at home.

Shutting down at8pm

MY DAY: 2 November (Sunday) 2008

Got here at 1:00pm.

Routine: Email, mailing lists, office, etc.

Dinosaur list: Paleontologist flame wars.

Industry mailing lists: 4th edition power cards.

Other mail: Reports from Jean.

CL38: 2 Nov, Got lots of reports from Jean. Sent Jean the Top Ten page. Sent Jean the WHY page. Did the one-page tactics article petrick did about his ground bases and sent it to Jean. Put eight of the nine new SFB SSDs into pagemaker and pushed Petrick to do the 9th one. Sent Jean and the staff a copy of the FC Fed LTT. Sent Jean and the staff the 9 SSDs and 7 pages of ship rules including the MSC.

Shutting down at6pm

MY DAY: 3 November (Monday) 2008

Got here at 6:45pm. (Medication that kept me asleep last week is making me wake up this week. Go figure.)

Business: Sent Jean a bunch of files she needed.

Warehouse: Quality checked a thousand maps so we can negotiate with the printer and pay the bill.

CL38: Got lots of reports from Jean. Did six pages of Growler and sent them to Jean. Did the Galactic Conquest page and sent that to Jean. Did the SFC/Warlord page for a total of six pages done today (as of 2pm). I did the SFBOL half-page (6.5 so far). I did the SFBPBEEM page and sent it to Jean (7.5).

LUNCH: KFC.

DINNER: Robinsons

Shutting down at6pm, exhausted.

MY DAY: 4 November (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 9:30pm. I woke up on time but something interesting was on television so I stayed to see the end of it at 9am.

Routine: Email, mailing lists, office, etc.

Dinosaur list: Forelimb Feathers in Penguins

Industry mailing lists: 4th edition power cards.

Other mail: Reports from Jean.

CL#38 report (4 Nov): 10.0 Finished, 70.5 in PM, 91.0 in Draft.

Worthwhile tasks accomplished TODAY.

Business: Sent Jean a file she needed.

Warehouse: Quality checked 300 maps so we can negotiate with the printer and pay the bill.

F&E: see CL#38. I reorganized the REPORTS FROM THE FRONT folder to move the inactive scenarios out of the way.

CL38: Formatted Petrick's X-ship campaign update article (2 pages). Did the F&E SIT and sent it and the four new ships that apply to F&E to the F&E staff. This, however, proved to be only half a page so I only get credit for half a kill (2.5 pages sent to Jean, 3.5 to go). Sent the Input Guide page to Jean at 5pm (3.5 sent, 2.5 to go). I did three long F&E tactics article (1.5 pages each) but don't know which one will be published. I didn't send them to Jean but will if she runs out of anything else. Still, I am counting this as "done" bring me to 5 done, 1 to go. I started on the F&E rulings at got a page done, so that's six for the day. I did the AAR page and sent it to Jean, so that's seven done (and of those, 4.5 sent to Jean. Having met my quota I am going to go home and relax, watching Tivo all night with no live TV.

MSSB: 4 Nov, formatted the George Duffy reports.

Other: 4 Nov, rearranged the F&E campaign reports topic into active and inactive scenarios.

LUNCH: country barn.

DINNER: Arbys.

Shutting down at8pm. For the first time since 1960, I did not watch a single second of election coverage. I did watch Boston Legal which was more than enough.

MY DAY: 5 November (Wednesday) 2008

Got here at ... 9:30am.

Routine: Email, mailing lists, office, etc.

Dinosaur list: gigantism as a liability

Industry mailing lists: Ninjalistics

Other mail: Reports from Jean.

Warehouse: I packed more Booster 23 and 24 last night while watching television.

CL38: did the heavy plasma superiority fighter article. Edited AFTER THE AMBUSH which brings me up to six pages for the day. Petrick is reading it now (5pm) and I want to send it to Jean before I leave. Did the starline page so that is seven. Sent Starline page to Jean. Also sent it to Mike West and Gary Carney to verify that the right minis were listed. Sent Jean the story after I make Petrick's changes. Sent Jean the fighter page after I made Petrick's fixes.

MSSB: I did a little work on the Gorn fighter section while I was researching the heavy plasma superiority article.

LUNCH: Salad with Leanna.

DINNER: Robinson's BBQ with Petrick.

Shutting down at7pm.

MY DAY: 6 November (Thursday) 2008

Got here at ... 9:30am after taking Ramses rabbit hunting.

Routine: Email, mailing lists, office, etc.

Dinosaur list: Michael Crichton dies

Industry mailing lists:

Other mail: Reports from Jean. Note from ICE about minis.

CL38: Did the Prime Team page and sent it to Jean (1). Did the two FC scenarios pages and sent them to Jean and staff (3). Did the tournament and news page and sent that to Jean (4) at

3pm. That puts me 9 pages ahead of Jean and the day is not over, but if I don't get the F&E scenario and the 5 Nations thing pretty soon, I'm going to be in deep trouble. I did the FedComm intro page (5), which put me 10 pages ahead of Jean. Since she's doing as many pages a day as I am, or more, I'm fast running into a corner and going to have problems staying ahead. Did the three-page F&E rulings section, bringing me to 8 pages for the day (two more than the quota of six).

LUNCH: Stockyards for pork chops.

DINNER: I'll find something in the fridge.

Shutting down at8pm

MY DAY: 7 November (Friday) 2008

Got here at ... 8:45am

Routine: Email, mailing lists, office, etc.

Dinosaur list: Michael Crichton

Industry mailing lists: seeking shadowrun fiction

Other mail: Reports from Jean.

CL38: 7 Nov: Did the half page for FC Command Notes (0.5). Fixed the fed LTT. Did the other three LTTs (FC ship cards) which brings me to (3.5) pages done. I did the Star Fleet battle force page (4.5). (I just couldn't bring myself to do the suggested Anarchist-Exile, and did commando ships instead.) Sent that to Jean, which brought me to 4.5 pages. Did two pages of SFB term papers and sent those to Jean (6.5). I did the reserve F&E article and liked it so much that I gave Joe Stevenson another six months to finish special raids (8.5). Did the three pages of F&E Tacnotes (11.5).

LUNCH: salad with chicken.

DINNER:

Shutting down at7pm.

MY DAY: 8 November (Saturday) 2008

Got here at ... 7:00am (woke up hungry and came to work)

Summary Report: I did seven pages of CL#38 scenarios and sent them to Jean. That filled the quota for the day. Without the files from Peter and Chuck, there is not much else I can do, so I'm going to work on reports. No, I lied. I did the F&E intro page, which means 8 pages done today. I did reports on several pages, then went home at 5pm to take Ramses hunting before it got dark. I have a clipboard of stuff to read.

MY DAY: 9 November (Sunday) 2008

Summary Report: Got here at ... 1:45pm. Sent Jean some pages she had lost. Did the F&E Scenario that Chuck sent in, which came up half a page short, so I added three tactical notes in the empty spot. Sent that to Jean and the staff. That's five pages for today. Petrick finished his example article, which is brilliant, and I sent those three pages to Jean. I also sent Jean a two-page spare scenario. That means I sent her ten pages just today. I just lack four (the three pages allocated to the last article and the table of contents, but if we use the article, she'll have to read a total of six).

We got the Five Nations article and it looks to be about five pages, but by that time, other things had take up some of the allocated space and this was delayed to CL#39.

I did some of the reports (picking easy ones to put points on the board). Did Jean reports on After the Ambush (5), Anarchist (0.5), Background (1), Borders of Madness (1), command the future (1), Lyran cruiser history (1), FCOL-FCPBEM (1). Going home at 6pm to have a nice supper and watch television while reading pages of CL38.

MY DAY: 10 November (Monday) 2008

Got here at ... 8:24am. Left at 8pm.

Routine: Email, mailing lists, office, etc.

I helped Leanna get the cover done for CL38 and send it to the printers after I got quotes. Got the table of contents done,

verified the page count, and renumbered all reports by actual page numbers. Had a nice lunch at Country Barn. Leanna didn't like the meat they gave her, so she made them give her more. I ate mine, hers, and half of the replacement meat she got. I'm stuffed and it's a wonder I got any work done at all.

CL#38: Replaced 5.5 pages which had been done the wrong way and had to be done over and sent back to Jean. Did reports on about 33 pages of CL38. Did all the reports on Communique 35 but could not find Jean's. She had set it aside to finish CapLog 38 so we will post Comm-35 in a few days.

MY DAY: 11 November (Veterans Day) 2008

Got here at ... 9:20am. Left at 8pm.

Did Jean's reports on Communique 35. Conference with printers on the CL38 cover and the map debacle. Lunch was salad. Industry mailing lists on fire with news that WizKids is closing.

Finally got to start on CapLog at 1pm. By the end of the day, I had gotten through the F&E Scenario (but not the F&E SIT) so I had done 95.5 pages.

MY DAY: 12 November (Wednesday) 2008

Got here at ... 8:30am.

Summary Report: Usual random mail. Jean reports that commander's circle isn't working so I sent that to Eric to fix. Ryan Opel is working on the next generation of F&E Orders of Battle. Adam Turner has done the art for Squadron Boxes we are shipping on Monday. I downloaded another FYEO that I don't have time to read. GAMA is interviewing the four finalists for executive director over the next week. Dinosaur list has Gobiceratops minutus, a new horn-head. Boring lunch at some place called Cheddars that Leanna likes. (Leanna pretty much only eats Chicken Strips and has about eleven favorite places to get them.) Something strange on the site, as the PHP stuff stopped working, perhaps due to a global PHP upgrade. Eric will try to fix it tomorrow. Got the covers for Squadron Boxes 22-23-24 finished and ready to go to press. Fixed the rest of Jean's fixes on the book, did the missing graphics, did the alibi list, did Petrick's fixes, checked the book and did more fixes, finally had a finished copy in hand at 9:14pm and went home.

MY DAY: 13 November (Thursday) 2008

Got here at ... 8:45am.

Summary Report: Checked Email. No new photos from Iron Crown. Jean says "Pet Peave" is spelled "Pet Peeve". Who'da thunk dat? Why is translating Klingon firing arcs into Fed Commander so hard? Finalized the book and did the PDF. Did the checks and found nothing to change. Went to lunch and came back and still found nothing to change. Started printing at 12:15. Kind of numb, tired, happy, need a nap, need a week of naps. Worked on designer's notes file for the rest of the day. Went home at 5:45. Took Ramses rabbit hunting and he had a wild bunny chase just as the sunlight was fading to darkness. He pursued the rabbit to the rabbit hole and then whined that I had not brought a shovel. Went home and curled up with Grey's Anatomy and Survivor-Gabon.

MY DAY: 14 November (Friday) 2008

Summary Report: Got here at ... 9:15am after stopping at Whitney-Russell to approve the proofs for the new Squadron Box covers. Got to office and manually replaced page 98 in the first 100 copies of CL#38 to fix a typo caused by the F&E staff not telling the SFB staff that they changed a ship production date. Worked with Eric to create the Empire pages for the Vudar, WYN Cluster, and ISC, or at least get started on them.

Finished the CL#38 designer's notes and asked selected staffers to send their comments to be added before it is posted. This is going to be very different from previous Captain's Log

Designer Notes documents, as you will see in good time.

Picked up the Squadron Box covers at Whitney Russell while on the lunch run (Mexican food, pretty good).

Did the Star Fleet Alert that should have been done a week ago.

Petrick did Quality Control on the new minis to come in because Mike was busy bookbinding. I helped by cleaning flash.

I worked with Leanna to set up the bookkeeping for the new minis, including discussing the cost with Bruce. I worked with Petrick to find and clean up the ships for Eric to photograph and put onto the back covers that I had done.

Downloaded the FYEOs I haven't had time to download until now.

I did one Starlist request (for Australia) and went home at 5pm to spend time with the family.

MY DAY: 15 November (Saturday) 2008

Summary Report: Got here at ... 9:00am after the country breakfast at the bowling alley. Email from Mike that Star Fleet Alert went out yesterday. Emails from Jean with edits of the CL38 publisher notes file. Note from Jean to have Eric fix something on that what's new page. Mike West asked Petrick to put the Y2 MSC on the website download page. We will do this shortly. Industry mailing lists still discussing the Mattel layoffs, closure of Wizkids, and upcoming GAMA trade show. Still working on the CL38 publisher notes file. Downloaded another FYEO that I haven't had time to read.

Started the CL38 FLAP list. Put it on the cart (not yet active) along with the three new squadron boxes and four new minis.

Did the CL38 Large Print Edition.

Went grocery shopping with Leanna at 5pm and didn't come back.

MY DAY: 16 November (Sunday) 2008

Summary Report: I came by about 5:00pm and cleaned out my Email and went home at 6:30pm. While here, I sent the Y2MSC over to Eric to upload Monday, answered an Email from an old friend (Dennis Sustare, who designed INTRUDER for TFG), answered an Email from Loren Knight (mostly asking Jean if she wanted me to execute Loren's suggestions or execute Loren), and reviewed some Email from Bruce Graw about the last minis shipments. Petrick left a stack of eight or nine King Eagle variants on my desk, asking how many of them I want to put into CL#39.

MY DAY: 17 November (Monday) 2008

Got here at 9am.

CL#38 FLAP List: Put the new products on the shopping cart. Sent Eric a bunch of website work orders. Did the Captain's Log Index for #37 and #38 (which took the lion's share of the day). Did the catalog page for Greater Games Industry Catalog. Put Chuck Strong's Origins Report and Staffer Notes into the CL#38 designer's notes document.

Summary Report: Did the free half-page ad we get to put into Greater Games Industry Catalog. Set up the blank PageMaker files for Captain's Log #39. Conference with Jean about when she can finish the Galactic Conquest rulebook and get back to work on Prime Directive Federation. Went home at 10pm.

MY DAY: 18 November (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 10am.

Summary Report: Not much Email today. Sent Berg some art for the new Galactic Conquest rulebook. Mostly, I worked on the CL38 FLAP List (Finish Like A Professional). I did a PDF of the input guide from C37 and CL38 and sent it to Eric to upload. Sent Eric PDFs of the CL37 and CL38 tables of contents to upload. Sent Eric PDFs of the SFBF pages of CL31, CL32, CL33,

CL34, CL35, CL36, CL37, and CL38. I posted the F&E Q&A and Rulings files from CL37 and CL38. I updated the Greater Games Industry Catalog database and sent it to them. I created a half-page ad for inclusion in the Greater Games Industry Catalog and sent it to GGIC. I updated the Text Catalog and sent Eric a new copy to upload, replacing the one uploaded on 10 Oct. I sent work orders to Eric to update the New Releases Page and the Product Schedule Page. Did the list of who got free copies, merchandise credit, and checks and sent the Emails out. Went home at 6pm.

MY DAY: 19 November (Wednesday) 2008

Summary Report: Got here at 9am after waiting in line 20 minutes for breakfast only to be told the restaurant had ran out of food. Bummer. Oh well. Did the GGIC ad over again because they wanted it in a format that the software could not generate. Continued to work on the CL38 FLAP list, and finished it. Sent instructions to Mike to send review copies. Prepare the "just released" Star Fleet Alert and sent it to Mike to send on Monday the 24th. Sent Eric a paragraph for the December newsletter about the eight new products. Reminded Leanna to do the copyright documents. Dentist appointment, teeth cleaning, good checkup, no problem, actually doing better than in the past. Did a Star Fleet Alert for the four new ships, had Petrick and Jean read it, and sent it to Mike and Eric for upload. Mike sent it. Spent way too much time explaining to somebody that the deal he offered us would lose money for us (while making a lot of money for him) and this was why I wasn't interested (not because I was "old school" or didn't like him). Went home at 7pm.

MY DAY: 20 November (Thor'sday) 2008

Summary Report: Got here at 9am. Ate breakfast at home. Tired of explaining to that guy Emailing me that the deal he keeps offering would lose us money and we're not going to take it. Somebody claims JT gave him a secret rules change to PD20M which JT denies knowing anything about. A pterosaur known as Jeholopterus. Devonian tetrapods from Poland. Duriavenator, a new Megalosaur. Did more work orders for Eric including adding more stuff to the downloads page. Did everything for Communique #36 except the rules updates and gave it to Petrick to read.

Discuss Crisis Begins: Some spam outfit tried to post 400 advertising messages to the Discuss BBS and this caused our hosting company to get upset. I spoke with them at some length on the solution. (They don't like discuss much as it uses a lot of processor time and gave us two weeks to build another BBS using other software.) Spent rather more time on this mess than I wanted to.

MSSB: Jean sent some reports on the MSSB (as scans, not line items, of pages 5 and 6 of Draft E) so I did them now, out of the normal sequence. They won't be in the "processed reports file", but they're just stuff about "race-vs-empire" and capitalization. I also downloaded and reformatted reports from Jason Schaff and Tos Crawford. While I had the files open, I went ahead and did pages 25-27 (out of about 38) and sent them to Team MSSB.

Went home at 7pm.

MY DAY: 21 November (Frigga'sday) 2008

Summary Report: Got here at 9am.

Somebody sent me one of those Email snowball fight messages and I told him to bug off and filed a spam complaint with his ISP, called the Secret Service and filed a criminal complaint and had him arrested, had BuyMore repossess his computer, and had Internic blacklist his server, but I wasn't upset or anything. Somebody used the new contact form to ask me why there was no C8 SSD in CapLog 22 (its in R3). A tabletop gaming website is asking me about buying banner ads there, and possibly to pay to have them convert SFBF into an on-line

computer game. We might do that. The conversation continues. During all of that, Mike West and the FedComm guys came up with the idea of doing paper books for FedComm Middle Years, Early Years, Omega, Magellanics, and so forth. Leanna green-lighted the idea. GGIC said that the ad we sent didn't work and Leanna started doing it over in another program.

Discus Crisis: Some Email with various software ideas but they're all PHP and until somebody shows me a version of PHP that will do what Discus does (give me one screen listing a link to every new message with the first few words of that message) we're looking at a major loss in functionality. Eric suggested that we ask Go-Daddy if they'll let us use Discus. Leanna talked to the host for the shopping cart who said "sure you can use discus, by the way, what is discus?" Spent most of the afternoon talking to hosting outfits and trying to explain to Eric that PHP is less functional than Discus. (He says that Discus is old and therefore is bad. Never mind that PHP is the same age and does less.) Asked our host for more info on the spambots but got no answers.

Went home at 7pm, pretty disgusted with the whole day.

MY DAY: 22 November (Saturday) 2008

Summary Report: Got here at 10:15am. Mike was already hard at work. Petrick, Leanna, and Eric got here later. I didn't have much Email;

I took Leanna to pizza for lunch and we discussed how busy we were. She said we'll all work Sunday to get the huge volume of CL#38 orders out and that she wasn't going to cook Sunday, but would on Thursday. Told Eric to create an X-ship page and a Magellanic page; he did the Magellanic page. Finally did the web crawl at 3pm. Dinosaur list had an interesting note about Cryolophasaurus. Finally went through my entire outbox, mostly work orders to and from Eric, and filed or deleted everything not pending. Did Starlist requests from Tennessee-37922, Maine-04562, Australia-2604, and Wisconsin-54956, which caught me up. Did Eric's intern evaluation (very good and improving). Discussed with Petrick the seventeen SSDs he did for variants of the King Eagle (commando, survey, carrier, scout-carrier) and lesser Romulan ships using King Eagle engines, at least four of which will be in CL39. Did one page of CL39 (Jean's input guide page). Quit working at 6pm and eventually went home.

Discus Crisis: none of the hosting companies I asked questions last night have responded but they probably work M-F. I sorted through Eric's work order reports and sent him notes to fix some more stuff. Jean had me PDF an updated capitalization and usage guide and send that to Eric to upload.

MY DAY: 23 November (Sunday) 2008

Got here at noon.

Did the Fleet Scale Hydran Pegasus for Hydran Attack. Converted the ISC CA from Booster Zero to modern format for use in War & Peace. Set up a folder for Booster #91 and moved to it the Original CA, Original DN, the DD, and the Scout, and started making revisions to them. Set up a folder for Briefing #2 Middle Years and moved copies of some ships into it.

Checked email, nothing on the Discus Crisis but then it's a Sunday. Dinosaur scientist are poo-pooing a report of dinosaur teeth from a post-meteor geological later, saying they obviously washed out of one rock bed (that had been lifted higher than tectonic activity) downhill into another (younger) rock bed. Industry mailing list is yattering about a report that D&D books have nothing but white people. Checked Eric's reports of work orders done and sent him a list of corrections.

There are 110 messages in the In Box. I'm supposed to keep that empty but it got away from me during CL#38. There are 50 in the Out Box which is ok. There are 103 in One Week Grace but the In Box comes first. There are 312 in One Month Grace and I'm dubious I will see any of those this year.

Discus Crisis: Jean sent me a list of topics to approve deletions so she can reduce the size of the BBS we have to

archive and back up. Got another Organized Play League Battle Report Form which is full of gibberish, which means some spambot tried to upload an image of a Viagra ad.

Did the daily super-advanced Sudoku in 3:23 (but I hate the way the system works as you just "guess" over and over instead of taking an hour to actually figure it out, but my doctor says every day I do this pushing Alzheimer's Day half-a-day further away).

Finished the daily web crawl at 2pm.

Stacks report, ending of the week, shows 28 projects of which eight went nowhere, 3 are waiting for somebody else to do something, 10 (December hailing frequencies, Hydran Attack, War & Peace, Booster 91, FC Middle Years, ISC war, PD20M, Sculptors, Order minis, and Border Box 8) had at least some progress and 7 (Star Fleet Alert, Comm-36, Website, art schedule, MSSB, Squadron Boxes, and CL38) met their weekly goal.

I am supposedly down here to work on orders but Leanna went to the clinic with a sinus infection and Mike doesn't need help with orders.

I guess I'll work on new products and the Stacks List. Hmm...

First item I can actually get done is Star Fleet Alert. I already did the one for Monday, but I did one for Thanksgiving greetings and sent it to Jean to check. (Vanessa said we should do an alert for major holidays and wish people well.)

Mike found a format mistake in the large print CL38. (Fortunately, we have only printed one copy and I took it.) So I did a new page to fix that.

I finished Communiqué 36 and sent it to the staff after making Petrick's changes to it.

Finally remembered to pay the two sculptors.

Went home at 4:30 when Leanna wasn't feeling like staying. She has gotten most orders processed and Mike has packed about half of them.

MY DAY: 24 November (Monday) 2008

Got here at: 8:35am. About 20 actual Emails and 200 spams (and that's after the various filters killed about 900). Mike West report on Middle Years; I was able to tell him that Leanna had approved 96 pages.

Crisis. Jean confirmed the work orders finished by Eric. Amazing how much work you can do on a website and still find more to do. Sent updated listing to GGIC changing Briefing #2 to \$19.95 so Mike West can have 96 pages for Middle Years. Long discussion of unions in the financial crisis topic. Some action on the FC Forum. Sent the Thanksgiving alert to Mike and Eric. Long talk with Lou Zocchi about production of plastic ships. Leanna warned that plans to spend Friday rebuilding inventory won't work due to a predicted temperature of 40°F. Weekly Art Schedule memo sent to Adam Turner. Did Fleet Scale wildcat for Hydran Attack bonus card. Did fleet scale ISC CC for War & Peace. Did the Middle years old Fed CL and sent it to Mike West. Long conversation with printer about the defective maps. Set up the Booster 94 file. I did the post office run because Petrick was sick and stayed home.

Discus Crisis: Finally had a note from hosting company. They said that the processor load "hit 40" but didn't tell me 40 WHAT which was a big help. Until I get a load number, I am pretty much at a standstill unable to make progress.

MSSB: Sent pages 28-30 to staff today.

I quit working at 7pm but I may stay here a bit longer puttering.

MY DAY: 25 November (Tyr'sday) 2008

Got here at: 8:30.

Summary Report: Deepak Chopra says "there is no evidence for feathered dinosaurs" which is just wrong, false, and stupid (like he is). Industry mailing lists continue to discuss the sale of Gencon (to some one using a law firm in Kentucky). Today is the 149th anniversary of the publication of Origins of Species. According to some accountings, today is the 4,356th

anniversary of the day Noah's wife said: "It's raining, don't you think you should herd the animals into that new barn you built?" Some guy who likes d20 just found out about PD and is all gushy and pushy. Read the BBS and it was active but calm. The forum is buzzing about possible new products. Finished the web crawl at 10:25. Funny. Some website is trying to sell me advertising. I told them "I am busy with the BBS crisis; contact me again in two weeks". I got an answer the next day saying "The ball is in your court." I guess he really doesn't want to sell advertising. Or maybe he cannot read? Lunch at Country Barn was very good. Robert Pomroy wanted a list of Klingon ship names and didn't realize we had them on the website. Did a "name a starship for someone you love" certificate for Kelsey Rostkowski. Read FYEO for 27 and 28 Sept. Somebody was looking for a reprint of CL#17 and it turns out that we have a stock of old CL#17 counters, but it's the only old issue we have not scanned yet. Updated the Gorn sit with the new base costs. Did not do other updates as I don't have staff reports on them. I was asked to do the Gorns as they were the oldest one on the site. I did a blog about new products for Jean. Petrick went home as he is still not feeling well. Conference with Eric about his plan to write a computer game.

MSSB: I finished the E-draft today and sent it to the staff, so all 38 pages are done. I already have four pages of reports. Sigh.

Discus Crisis: Nice note from the host company, but no real information. They admit that the problem stopped when we removed the outside links to discuss, but just do not like discuss and just don't want to hear about ways discuss could solve their problems.

MY DAY: 26 November (Wodin's day) 2008

Got here at: 8:45am. Not much email, but some.

Medical Report: The swelling and bruising in my leg from yesterday's fall on the concrete-and-steel stairs is pretty bad, and hurts like heck. But what can I do? It would hurt as much at home as it would here.

Discus Crisis: Hosting company seems less frantic this morning, more willing to work on solutions instead of just demanding we do what is best for them. Quick meeting with Eric about the Discus Crisis which is now reduced to the Discus Problem and will be reviewed Monday.

Summary Report: Bruce says he can get the Orion DN done sooner than we were planning, but that doesn't really mean anything as we cannot ship new product before the last Monday in January anyway. However, sending him the DN now would mean we do not HAVE to do a master mold on 5 Jan, which relaxes some of the panic, so we sent it.

- The guy looking for a CL#17 found one on Ebay without counters, but Mike Sparks found leftover counters, so that's good to go. The guy said he wanted the upcoming reprints to be done with color covers, which would add maybe \$3-\$5 to the price. I'm dubious many want them, but sent the comment to Leanna to review. Maybe she will offer them both ways.

- Jay Wasach wanted to be sure we were still going to do an FC paper expansion (Briefing) with whatever support ships he needs, and I told him sure, that we'd whip it up when we had his final manuscript and scheduled the release.

- Peter Kendrick had some d20 ideas that I sent to Jean.

- BBS is calm. Some discussion of the Discus Crisis. Ted Fay said something nice about my doing the Gorn SIT.

- Lunch: salad with grilled chicken. Bought a new sweater (actually, it's an ultra-suede shirt, I don't wear sweaters, but I do get chilled and use such things as pseudo-sweaters) and went to see the Falconry convention. Lots of nice birds of prey.

- Quick meeting with Mike Sparks on what I can do to help in the warehouse restocking program. I packed a box of fifty S2s and then a box of fifty R2s.

- Did Moellmer's Branthodon primer (1.5 pages of CL39 done!) and sent it to Jean.

- Nice Echat with a retailer having trouble getting miniatures from the wholesalers.

- Worked on Loren Knight's Sniper Squad rule, which might become a page of CL#39, and gave it to Petrick.

- End of the day (when it's too late to do anything with the information until Monday) we got a nice note from the hosting company allowing us to keep Discuss for a while.

- Went home at 6pm to spend time with the family.

MY DAY: 27 November (Turkey Day) 2008

Stayed home. Watched Tivo. Ate a big dinner. Took Ramses rabbit hunting. Did not go to office.

MY DAY: 28 November (Retail Day) 2008

Got here at: 8:25am.

Medical Report: The pain in my leg from the fall a few days ago has reduced from being hit with a sledge hammer on every step to being hit with a ball peen hammer with every step. But it wouldn't hurt any less at home so here I am at the office.

Summary Report: Simon Robinson asked us to resume publishing the boarding party diagrams in R modules and to do the missing ones as on-line documents.

Jean suggested we have Mike Curtis admin powers in F&E to delete extraneous chatter messages and wrong answers. I told her to set it up if she can, or get Eric to do it.

YeHobbyGameStore about getting direct shipments of miniatures that the wholesalers don't want to bother selling.

Dinosaur list is agog about *Odontochelys semitestacea*, a 220 million year old turtle from China. This turtle evolved in the ocean while the previously-oldest turtle (from Germany) was a land creature. Nobody really know where turtles originated, but we may be getting closer.

Turns out that the "sale" of Gencon is a mysterious "hostile take over attempt" which Gencon has rejected.

Memo from Tony Thomas (who is doing the new Pegasus mini) about whether I want a DemonHawk mini. Memo from John Schneider listing a dozen minis he would be willing to sculpt (one of which is DemonHawk).

Bennett Snyder noticed that the back of Squadron Box #20 has a mistake in the text.

Jean reports that the BBS is quiet.

The host for my backup email account says I have to go fill out a security form at a website in Hong Kong. (Wanna bet?)

Tos is speaking foreign languages on the BBS again. Something about quadcores.

BBS is discussing rifle calibers.

Forum has lots of discussion about minis.

Daily web crawl completed at 10:55am.

Ann Coulter's column is worth reading. Seems terrorist Abdullah Massoud lost a leg to a land mine before being captured. He was given an artificial leg at Guantanamo (US taxpayers paid \$75,000 for his special leg). He was released and sent home, resumed his terrorist activities (which caused China to pull its engineers out of Pakistan, stopping a project for a new dam), and was just killed in a raid on a terrorist base camp. I guess this means we need to release everyone else in Guantanamo so we can get another chance to kill these terrorists?

Went through my reports folder and sent Mike Curtis a bunch of Lost Fear Files for him to do with as he will.

Did six growler pages for CL38 and sent them to Jean.

Discus Crisis: No email from the hosting company so I guess we're good to go for a while with Discuss.

We home at 3pm to help Leanna clean house.

MY DAY: 29 November (Saturn's Day) 2008

Got here at: 7:48am.

Discus Crisis: No email from the hosting company so I guess we're good to go for a while with Discuss. An email from the cart host offering a deal to combine the cart and site into one virtual server. Asked them some questions. Tos Crawford had

some ideas about buying our own server, but I had to ask him questions before asking the ISP questions. An Email from Jean about getting Paul Franz to clean the deadwood out of the SFBOL part of the BBS. If he doesn't answer my emails soon, I'm going to start deleting stuff. Had a note from another possible hosting company asking for site specs and sent it to them for quote on hosting. Same, again, specs sent to another hosting company for quote.

Summary Report: No email from the hosting company so I guess we're good to go for a while with Discus.

Not much Email. One guy asking about tournaments in Florida, a note from the FEAR, and Jean's usual reports.

Fascinating new pterosaur database:

<http://www.fhsu.edu/biology/cbennett/bib-arch-pter/>

Notice a list of F&E topics nominated for deletion and scanned them for things to use in the F&E proposals board article. This created another page of CL39 and a page of CL40, plus two new F&E rules. Also cleaned out a few hundred posts.

Lunch: Vegetable plate. Leanna and I ran some errands.

Read the Forum. Continuation of previous discussions.

Daily trial-and-error computerized-Sudoku was 3 minutes 8 seconds. I wish I could do the "no guessing allowed" puzzles in the newspaper that fast.

I needed to do something from the "odd jobs" list, so I did the factional emblems of the early ISC that Gary Carney sketched.

Read FYEO files for 29 and 30 Sept.

Finished the daily web crawl at 1:41pm.

I have 131 emails hanging around in my in box. That must change and change fast. Here goes.

Warren Fast, another guy returning after 13 years, had some questions about where to find tournaments and rules updates.

When doing Growler, I ran into a guy who used an allied andro to teleport his entire Romulan fleet inside the enemy web. I sent this to Petrick asking if he thought we should make it illegal. He said no, that it would confuse the rules too much, and anybody allowing his enemy to use Andros as allies in a pickup game better know what he's doing.

A note from John Sickels on how much Orion stuff to leave in the PD Feds book.

A note from Jean about some ideas somebody else had. Not my problem. She's in charge of PD so I don't have to read this. Found several more emails from/to this guy and filed them.

Clell Flint has been looking into SMF software for the BBS and I sent him word that the host said it was worse (for them) than Discus and they won't allow it.

I told somebody named Brad that he had to include the required legal statement in his posted SSDs or take them down.

Found some old To-Do lists from Jean and deleted them.

Found a bunch of Email from that website selling ad space and filed all but the most recent one.

Found a bunch of Email that was obsolete, overtaken by events, or had already been answered. Deleted it.

That got the inbox down to 98 Emails and I moved on to other matters of greater urgency.

Read another day of FYEO since I am two months behind.

Read a two-page file from FEDERATION and sent it to Jean.

Officially told John Schneder to work on the ISC BB and told Tony Thomas to work on an engine for the Fed DD.

Did FedFF for Briefing #2 and sent it to Mike West.

Sent Mike West 5 ships from Booster 91: DN, CA, DD, SC, DDM

Did the the sixth B91 ship, the DDG.

Cleaned out some more Email and went home at 6pm.

STACKS REPORT,

WEEK OF 22-29 NOVEMBER

There are a total of 28 line item projects.

The term "stacks" metaphorically refers to "stacks of stuff I haven't done yet, one project per stack".

Of these, 12 met goals, including:

Star Fleet Alerts Sent

Communique 36: finished and sent to staff.

Short jobs list: Did the ISC factional emblems

Website Upgrades: Did a bunch.

Art situation update: Discussed with Adam.

Booster 91: did five ships.

Master Starship Book: Finished Draft E.

F&E SIT Update: Did Gorns. Sent Feds to Staff.

PD Federation: Read non-fed worlds and sent to Jean.

Sculptors: Assigned ISC DN to Schneder, Fed DD engine to TT.

Minis Inventory: Ordered 300 more ships from AOG.

Border Box #8: Sent Orion DN to Bruce.

Captain's Log #39: Did 10.5 pages.

Eight projects had some progress:

Stardock Jefferson RPG setting: The other company put this on hold for eight-twelve months. End item.

FYEO: I read five files (need to read at least seven)

Hydran Attack: did fleet scale wildcat.

War & Peace: Did Flet Scale ISC.

Briefing #2: Did two ships and sent them to Mike West.

F&E Q&A: Found all lost files and sent them to the FEAR.

PD20M After Action: Discussed with Jean.

Three projects are waiting to hear from outsiders:

Ninja Magic has not answered emails.

Dead in Space contractor has not answered emails.

Told Eric to set up December Hailing Frequencies.

Five projects had virtually no progress:

Contracts.

Reprinting Captain's Logs 1-17

Module G3: Petrick actually did a lot of work on this, but the line item tracks my participation, which was sorely lacking.

Future PD projects: Need to talk with Jean about this.

ISC War: Waiting for Chuck to get home.

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MY DAY: 30 November (Sun's Day) 2008

Got here at: 3:30pm. Cleaned the spam out of my Email. Nice note from Tos with info about buying our own server. Cleaned out the captain's log BBS topics due to the drive to delete obsolete messages. BBS is down from 254,829 to merely 224,277 posts. I cleaned out "requests for new topics" and gave Jean clearance to delete older posts in Lost Souls. Jean got the BBS down to 222,693.

If we clone mammoths, can we put them in a mixed herd with elephants so that they can learn proper herding behavior from adults like young elephants have to do?

Went home sometime after 6pm.

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END OF NOVEMBER ARCHIVE.