

COMPANY WEBLOG

ARCHIVE DEC 2008

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MY DAY: 1 December (Moon's Day) 2008

Got here at: 10:20 after oversleeping.

BBS Reduction: Thanks entirely to the work of Paul Franz, the BBS database is down from 222,693 last night to 200,466 this morning. I cleaned out website requests (which went back to 2002) and that pushed us down to 199,729. I worked on cleaning out the Hey SVC topic (since Jean is scared to), processing 2003 and reducing another slug of messages. That, and things others are doing, moves us down to 196,742. We want to get down to 150,000 by year's end. Some of that will be done by the mass extinctions (when the warnings run out) but much of it will be hard work processing and archiving text. Petrick deleted a thousand messages from Y2, and we're down to 195,598. A few more dead topic deletions by me, and we're down to 192,537. A few more major kills, and down to 188,846. Well, it's 3pm and the ONLY thing I have done since I got here was BBS pruning, so it's time to do some actual work.

Routine: The BBS is humming quietly along. The PHP forum was doing nicely. Astronomy picture of the day: Carina Nebula. Web crawl finished at 3:30pm. Note from Loren about seeing CL38 in his FLGS. Note from hosting company happy about database reduction. Lunch: Salad with shredded Chicken. Cleaned out the F&E Why topic and use it as 1/2 page of CL39. Answered a question: "What is a tournament support pack?" Industry mailing list is showing "annual reports" for various companies, which are really "annual press releases". I may do one for ADB sometime, but I'm busy. chinmoy patil had some FC rules questions. Recycled the STACKS report for the week. Starlist for Canada N6H 5X2 Sent memo to Daniel Kast about the Klingon Armada project. Sent memo to Bruce N about the Silent Star Fleet project. Sent memo to Jay W about the Victory by Any Means book. Jean sent me the PD20M errata sheet and I formatted it and sent it to Eric to post on Wednesday, and put it in a locked folder in the PD20M topic. Warren Fast sent a nice note.

Actual Work: Did ship #7 for booster 91. Did Mike West reports on the first five ships in Booster 91. Did squadron scale tug for booster 91. Went home at 10pm.

MY DAY: 2 December (Tyr's Day) 2008

Got here at: 9:25 after taking Leanna to an appointment and having a nice breakfast at waffle house.

Routine: Not much email, half the normal amount of spam. Maybe the spammers took the day off? BBS is fairly quiet. BBS is quiet. Forum had a bunch of Gary's requests to add stuff to the website, which I sent to Eric. Sudoku time 3 minutes 43 seconds. Alzheimer's at bay. Web Crawl finished at 12:46pm. Leftover email in the in-box: 98 Stacks Report: 1 finished, 3 progress, 26 pending. Old in box pushed back another day to 1 Nov 06. Inbound attachments cleaned out. No Starlist Requests. Went to a salad bar for a late lunch.

BBS Reduction: Spent over two hours compiling 553 hey SVC messages into 13 archives, posted the archives, deleted the

2004 archive. BBS is down to 187,326 messages.

Actual Work: Did fleet scale tug for Booster 91. Set up YEAR OF THE BOOK topic. Staff meeting to discuss "the year of the book". Printed out CL38: Supplemental and gave it to Petrick to review before we upload it tomorrow. Went over the eight Booster 91 ships and made a few changes, printed them out, and gave them to Petrick to review.

Other: Called Jean at 3:15; she was on a four-hour drive to retrieve something somebody borrowed, and she's fine. Read FYEO until 4:30 when Leanna said it was time to take the afternoon off and go run errands.

MY DAY: 3 December (Wodin's Day) 2008

I stayed home to watch the guys install a new furnace and air conditioner. I came to the office for a few minutes while they were at lunch, but mostly I stayed home and read the clipboard of stuff Petrick gave me. Leanna came home at 4pm, and I left and got to the office at 4:30pm.

Routine: I spent sometime with Eric, got the CL38 Supplemental file finished and had Eric upload it, and worked on "Hey SVC" files from 2005 and finished cleaning out that file, deleting 603 messages while posting 9 summaries. Astronomy picture was boring. Sudoku was 3 minutes 45 seconds because I just wasn't with it. WotC fired 24 people, sending shockwaves through the industry. D&D-4 is reportedly not selling very well, not nearly as well as D&D-3 and not as well as expected. It might be selling mostly through Amazon, but nobody is sure. There are rumors (apparently true) that GAMA's outgoing director Anthony Gallela is part of the GAG group trying to buy Gencon. Midwest regional distributor Blackhawk seems to have gone out of business owing lots of people (including us) money. Nobody is sure, but they've been in trouble for a year, not paying people on time, haven't ordered new products from most companies, and are no longer answering phone calls. (Maybe they were just out of the office?) Eric uploaded pre-ISC emblems and PD20M errata sheet. Finally gave up and went home at 7:30pm.

MY DAY: 4 December (Thor's Day) 2008

Got here at: 9:15 after breakfast at McDonald's and a chat with the manager (who used to manage another restaurant I used to eat at). Went home for lunch to check on the contractors. Leanna had been with them at the house all morning. I sent her back to the office so she could handle the flood of orders, while I (being an engineer) did the final inspections on the installation. Now Leanna has to go back down there in two hours because one piece (the humidifier) failed inspection. These "infinity" systems are tres' kewell, constantly checking temperature, pressure, humidity, particulate count, and more.

Routine: Flamewar in RWM. Somebody had a question about FC Graduation. Somebody wanted a discount for buying \$500 worth of stuff, but the wholesalers and retailers won't allow us to do that. Read FYEO for 2 Oct, the first issue I have read this week. I need to be reading 7-14 per week. Sudoku 3:13. Web crawl finished at 3:35pm. Eric stopped by to say he had finished the December newsletter and needed me to finish communicate; I sent him all of the newsletter stuff. Thanks for Tony Thomas for getting me out of trouble on a mini of the month. Update the retail store list (which had not been done in far too long).

BBS Reduction: Cleaned out the Hey SVC archive for 2006, which replaced 445 messages with 5 summaries.

Actual work: Finished the ten questions page for CL39, sent it to Jean. Finished Communique 36 but since we have more time, I sent it back to Jean and Mike West. Left the office at 6pm to buy Leanna a birthday present.

MY DAY: 5 December (Frigga's Day) 2008

Got here at: 9:15.

Routine: Not a lot of Email. A store is happy to be on the just-updated list and to be designated as a "starbase store". Richard Smith is working on the Omega faction icons. Mike West found more mistakes in Communique-36. Jay Waschak progress report on Federation Admiral. Tony Thomas has a design for the Fed NCL=LTT conversion piece. Sudoku 3:26, a little off my game. Webcrawl completed at 10:10. Manager gave us free dinners because we go there every week and because we have booked the company Christmas party there. Called XM and renewed my radio subscription for four months; they have 170 channels of which I listen to only one. Read FYEO for 3 Oct. New very large pterosaur found in dusty bins in basement of German museum: *Lacusovagus magnificens*. Losing two hours per day doing Discus cleanout (while maintaining progress on projects and losing most of the productive parts of two days while contractors worked on my house) is causing Email to stack up. Unfiled outbound email is at 168 and inbound at 125, dangerously high levels. The GenCon Acquisition Group is still trying to convince the bankruptcy judge and Paramount to hand them GenCon and oust Adkinson, while Anthony Gallela (outgoing executive director of GAMA) remains spokesman for the shadowy group of investors. Many fans oppose the deal while others are trying to gain info, none of which people have any say in the decision. I filed, answered, and deleted the main from 1 Nov 06, leaving 1701 Emails in "old unfiled inbox". There are no unfiled starlist requests on file. Memo to VBAM about when their book will get proofread and about how new ships we print could get into their system. Leanna ordered another boatload of white boxes that we use for many of our games. Mike West found four mistakes in the Communique 36 second draft. Playtest report and status report from Moellmer. I decided that Yang was right to give Karev the first solo surgery last night. He was the only one who showed he knew how to do it. Alan Pool had questions about support for an FC tournament. Petrick got somebody to send him a copy of the SFT Canadians but I had to muck with the file to get it to print. Howard Hampton offered to help update the shopping cart. I have been telling Jean all day that I have no Starlist request on file then found a lost request which is near her: 28056. Lots of email with Jean and Eric about setting up moderators and stuff. I got the inbox down to 100 and need to move on to "projects".

BBS Reduction: Cleaned out the 2007 archive of "Hey SVC" and reduced the BBS by 564 messages. That brought us down to 178,384 messages. Went to Country Barn for lunch.

Actual Work: Mike West and I planned the Early Years FC feature for CL39. CL39 workbook is showing 79.5 pages in "concept stage" but only 14.5 in Pagemaker and only 10.5 sent to Jean. Mike Sparks fixed the four minor problems in PD20M. Discussion with Iron Crown about Silent Stat Fleet. Did the Star Fleet Alert for Monday and sent it to Jean. Went home at 5pm with Leanna and a clipboard of scenarios to read.

MY DAY: 6 December (Saturn's Day) 2008

Got here at: Got here at 9:30am.

Routine: Sudoku 4:14, really really off my game today. I haven't gone over four minutes in months. Finished the webcrawl at 10:37. Reviewed the last episode of Stylista with Petrick, who thought that Anne was protecting Kate. Lunch at Logans. Ran errands with Leanna. Industry mailing lists have a lot of people who do not think Anthony Gallela did much good for Origins who are horrified with what he might do if he took over GenCon. Read FYEO for 4 Oct.

Actual Work: Mike West sent the early years rules for FC for CL39. Did Kzinti FFK for Hydran Attack. Reviewed G3 annexes (not MSC-MFC-MPFC) with Petrick. Marked 325 changes to be corrected. Petrick fixed them in under an hour, mostly with manual-confirmed computer searches. Drafted a major Prime directive memo and send it to Jean. Note to Ted

Fay, I didn't forget to work on MSSB. I formatted the recent report, but until Jean reports on each page, I cannot do anything with that page.

BBS Reduction: Note from Jean. She and Eric found the manual for Discus on line, and set her up as an admin. She's been running tests and working on topics all night. BBS seems calm. Deleted 150 Hey SVC posts. Down to 177,391 this morning, compared to 178,384 yesterday, a drop of nearly 1,000. Deleted topic "F&E: additional FCR ships for Romulans" which cut another 75 posts. Marked a couple of PBEM topics "can you archive this?" so maybe we can delete some there. It's past supper time and I am going home.

MY DAY: 7 December (Sunday) 2008

Got here at: 7:58am to do a little work. Went home at 9:40 to cook lunch for Leanna. Came back at 3:40.

Routine:

New Building: Went with Petrick to look at a building we might rent or buy, but we were not impressed.

BBS Reduction: Jean is going crazy with her new powers of administration over the BBS and her new access to the deep programming. She also found the lost manuals for Discus by the simple expedient of looking on the Discusware website and downloading new ones. Another 100 messages deleted from the BBS, replaced by one archive. This time I checked the blog and deleted the duplicate entries. With Chuck Strong's astonishing 3,100 kills last night, we are down to 174,263, compared to 177,391. So my 99 kills just covers the number of new posts and Chuck did all the work.

Actual Work: Resolved the last FEAR file and then found another FEAR file. Sigh. I finished the FEAR questions file, but only by sending three items back to Mike Curtis to be further annotated with rule numbers. I processed all of the F&E SIT reports that had been posted into the file, at least, all that I could. Reports in the wrong format were recycled for replacement.

Stacks report for the week: 72% of mission accomplished.

The stacks report lists 30 categories and projects for work. Of these, 14 have mission accomplished: Star Fleet Alert (done and ready to send Monday, Communique #36 (done and ready to send Wednesday), December hailing frequencies (done and ready to send Wednesday), Website updates (work order list completed), update one of the 13 rotating website documents (retail store list updated), Silent Star Fleet (memo sent, reply to reply sent, Hydran attack (did both sides of Kzinti FFK), G3 (reviewed annexes), MSSB (formatted all reports received), SIT updates (formatted all reports to date), F&E FEAR Q&A files (processed every question received), PD20M (posted errata sheet), PD-Other (drafted major staff memo).

Nine line items show some progress, but not enough to meet the goal: FYEO (read 3 days, not 14), Victory by any means (memo sent), Klingon Armada (memo sent), War & Peace (did fleet scale ISC FF), Booster 94 (updated SPH), PD-Fed (read the Janus survey), Order new minis from AOG (none needed, previous shipment received), Border Box 8 (Orion DNs received, so I'm told), Captain's Log #39: only one page sent to Jean instead of four, BUT, I sent 10.5 last week and Petrick sent her the text for victory at 5 nations.

Three items are pending reply from others: Art update (waiting to hear from Adam), Star Fleet Battlestations (waiting to hear from Jason), ISC War (waiting to hear from Chuck).

Four items have ZERO progress (mission failure): Reprinting old Caplogs (cannot get Leanna to work on it), Short jobs list (well, I added some stuff to the list), Briefing #2 (ran out of time), Ninja Magic (didn't want to start a conversation I was too busy to keep up with).

End of Day: I am going to have to call a halt at 7pm and go home for the evening. Sunday nights are about the only family time Leanna and I get.

MY DAY: 8 December (Monday) 2008

Got here at: 8:55am.

Routine: De-spammed Leanna's email for her. Jean has gotten through page 12 of MSSB, so I guess I will get to work on that this week. Jean sent a list of fixes to the new ISC web page and I forwarded them to Eric. Downloaded FYEO. The BBS is quietly moving forward. Telenko is terrified over what he accidentally started. APOD has a beautiful photo of the Dark Doodad Nebula. PHP Forum is discussing a booster pack of cargo ships. Sudoku time today is 3:11, more my speed. Web crawl finished at 10:14. Outbox has reached a staggering 245 messages. I cut this down to 52. In Box is over 120, and I cut it to 99 before I had to move on, but that's where it was days ago. Pushed old in Box back one day to 30 Nov 06. No Starlist requests on file. Lunch was a nice plate of broiled catfish. Andy Reid wanted to do a homebrew WYN campaign so I sent him the geography paragraph out of CL37. Jean has me on a program to review certain documents (like catalogs and the contact page) every three months to see if anything is out of date. Today (for this week) I updated the gift-giving guide page. Sent this week's Star Fleet Alert to Mike, and he sent it out. Did the alert for next week and sent it around the office for proofreading, make the one fix and sent it to Jean, who sent it back and I fixed it. Filled out Federal Bailout Form requesting \$3 billion. Told an online store that they were not going to get listed on our retailer locator because we do not list online stores, only real stores. Staff meeting decided on a release plan for the Reference Rulebook and posted it to the BBS. Put it on the cart (inactive) for Leanna to add the binding options. Read FYEO for 5 Oct. Discussed various projects with Jean (D20M conversions of Klingons and Romulans assigned to JT, memo about new core rulebooks, plan to release reference rulebooks, better proofreading systems, her trip to Texas on 27 Dec). Wrote memo on how to convert Klingons to another game system.

BBS Reduction: Deleted the last of the old Hey SVC posts. eSpoke with Frank Brooks about cleaning out his topics.

New Building: Went to look at a building we might buy for a new HQ.

Actual Work: I edited Mike West's rules for FC Early Years and handed them to Petrick. Did the Squadron Scale Lyran NCA for Hydran attack. The scoring system for my STACKS report says I have met 25% of this week's goals in one day. Printed out a file from Sickels and took it home in case the prediction of bad weather tomorrow turns out to be more true than usual. Went home at 11pm.

MY DAY: 9 December (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 9:30am. Very cold, a few snowflakes.

Routine: A note from Jean about minis contests. A store asking to be listed. No word yet on our bailout form. Downloaded FYEO. Nothing problematic on the BBS. Leanna put the FC Reference Rulebook and CL38 supplementary file on the shopping cart. Skorpiovenator bustingorryi, a new South American abelisaurid, has been official "described". Sudoku time 3:17; my doctor insists that this is helping push Alzheimer's farther away. Web crawl finished at 10:22am. In Box stands at 89, too many. Let's do something about it. A store asked to be listed but doesn't seem to stock our products (but we will order them!) so no, they do not get on the list. Lunch at the bowling alley (always good). Asked Mike about miniatures inventory status. Asked MSSB staff if any of them lacked reports on pages 1-12.

Actual Work: Finished the Reference Rulebook so it's ready for publication. I spend the bulk of the day reading 17 pages of Federation Political History and reworking it so the Republicans are the good guys. (Just kidding!) Leanna worked up the reprint of CapLog #1 for SPP and me to review; she is now preparing it for printing. Did the CL38 Supplemental booklet and loose leaf hard copies for publication.

Packed up and went home at 5pm because I don't want to

drive on icy streets after dark. Stacks report says 39% of weekly goal met.

MY DAY: 10 December (Wednesday) 2008

Got here at: 9:10am.

Routine: Email had a lead from an old friend about how to find the parts we need to make the M2 bookletmaker run faster. Jean reminded me to take my meds. Ken Burnside was looking to contact somebody. Vanessa sent us a coupon for Applebys. The MSSB staff report they will send reports on pages 1-12 by Friday. I asked them to send 1-6 by Thursday. I ordered a restock on the new Orion minis and the Orion DN. Professional paleontologist list is debating whether Jurassic Park 2 or Jurassic Park 3 was worse. Lunch. Taco Salad. Today's APOD is NGC281 and is begging to become a game cover.

BBS Reduction: Jean killed a slew of obsolete messages. We're down to 170,303 from 254,000 something. BBS clean up: I deleted 220 messages in "Nuke the ECM drone" after making it an entry in CL39PB. Deleted 550 messages in one of the old useless rant topics, and 59 from another, and 250 from another, 20 from another, 65 from another, and 56 from another. That's over a thousand and brought the BBS down to 169,276. Jean cleaned out a bunch of topics, getting us down to 164,725. That's a long way down (90,000 or so) from where we were, and nobody is missing the deleted stuff. E-conversation with Siadek brothers about Battlestations game and marketing directions. Did a starlist request for 03909.

Actual Work: Mike West found a rules problem in FC nobody had never noticed. I told him to get the partial rack reload rule ready for the March RRB. Reviewed John Sickels revisions to the Fed political history and sent it to Petrick. Mike West sent some FCEY fixes. I added them to the FCRRB that Leanna hasn't started printing yet. You guys have given up griping that I don't work on submissions, but today I processed over 20 of them. So, ok, I took the path of least resistance and just processed ones that were easy to reject, but it's progress of a sort.

New Building: Went to look at another building. It's not ideal, but it's better than what we have. The rent is too high, but Leanna and I might buy it ourselves and rent it to the company cheaper.

Went home at 8pm. Stacks report 51% of goals met.

MY DAY: 11 December (Thursday) 2008

Got here at: 9:05am.

Routine: Jean reminded me to take meds. Did a starlist request for 03904, which is bizarre, since I did one for 03909 yesterday. MSSB progress: Unable to actually do any pages because I won't have one guy's report until next week, I spent the time formatting a bunch of reports that came in over the last day or two. I approved the RPG memo for Jean to send out after fixing one typo (which was from my original outline, not her work). Fascinating report on Skorpiovenator. Warren Smith had some FC questions. Howard Bampton did a scan of one part of the shopping cart and send a list of fixes. I qured them up for Eric to do tomorrow since he's wanting to be busy.

BBS Reduction: BBS is down to 157,537. I cleaned out some old proposal topics that went no where, are long abandoned, and were frankly not even interesting enough for the rejected proposals article.

Actual Work: Somebody sparked an idea for a new index for G3 and I worked on it for hours. Petrick asked me what possible use it is since he already knew how to find what the index made it easy to find.

New Building: Turned in an offer to buy a building a mile from the office which has 50% more room than we have now, and triple the office space. (Others are bidding on the same building, so who knows if we'll get it.)

It's 6pm and I am planning to go get something to eat and go home.

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MY DAY: 12 December (Friday) 2008

Got here at: 10:00am after sleeping late and having a country breakfast at the bowling alley.

Routine: Not much in Email to speak of. APOD is one of those awful "earth skyline with something in the sky" photos. Guys, give us a nebula or a planet; I can see the sky for myself. Sudoku 3:19; I'm losing my edge. Reports show rampant vote recount fraud in Minnesota Senate race, where total corrections in three precincts exceed total corrections in the other 3997 precincts.

BBS Reduction: More assorted BBS cleaning has the database down to 156,031. Reaching 150,000 by 31 Dec seems easy, but won't be. Tried to reorganize the proposals topics on the BBS so I could go through them.

Actual Work: I wrote a one-page CapLog article about something and gave it to Petrick to read. Did the Squadron Scale vudar CL for W&P so I could mark a line item on the stacks report "finished". I processed all of the proposals in the ground combat folder. Well, all but one. Did enough proposals from various places to create a proposals board page for CL39 and gave that to Petrick to read. I tried to work on F&E SITS but ran into a discrepancy that Chuck has to explain to me. Note to Ted Fay, I formatted all of the MSSB reports I have received but I cannot work on anything until I get Ryan's report, which won't be until next week. Him being in a war zone makes it hard to schedule his work.

Anyway, Leanna wants to go home (5pm) and is getting grouchy (we came in one car to save gas, a point she forgot when she mentally shifted into "go home" mode) so as soon as I can get Eric in here and wind up his work for the day, I'm leaving.

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MY DAY: 13 December (Saturday) 2008

Got here at: 10:30.

Routine: Not much Email. Lunch at Furr's for roast beef, potatoes, vegetables, and chocolate pie. KB Toy & Hobby went bankrupt, owing China \$27 million and Mattel \$1.3 million. Over a half million Chinese workers in 3,600 factories making toys and other goods for the US market are out of work in the last 90 days, causing massive labor riots in China. APOD is another "skyline of Earth looking up" photo; how boring! Brief pre-meeting with Petrick asked for a memo about G3 for the meeting next week.

BBS Reduction: Deleted over a thousand messages (Jean did almost that many) which brought us down to 154,104, very close to our goal and we have now passed 100,000 deleted posts. More deletions and we're down to 152,917. Did a starlist request for 30813.

Actual Work: Chuck Strong and I are trying to figure out how the wrong numbers got published in CL39 base conversion cost chart and the Gorn SIT. (They ARE wrong!) Turned 500 background question posts into two pages of CL#39. Sent two pages of CL39 that Petrick had read to Jean. Sent a memo to Ninja Magic. Sent seventeen pages of PD FEDS to Jean. Went home at 9pm.

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MY DAY: 14 December (Sunday) 2008

Got here at: 1:05pm.

Routine: BBS is active but calm. Forum is hopping about the Bom1 book. No starlist requests on file. I'm unhappy with APOD which just gave us another "view of the sky you could see for yourself if you walked outside" instead of an astronomy picture. Sudoku time is 3:40. I just still be sleepy. Web crawl completed at 1:46. Pushed the old in box back to 25 Oct 06, down to 1695 emails. Out box has 163 Emails. Let me try to make some of those go away. I got it down to 99 and had to move on to other things. In box is at 102. Some guy who designed some children's games asked if we accepted games for publication.

BBS Reduction: I started cleaning out the SFB tactics

archives, downloaded 25 posts for archive posting, and had to move on to other projects. We are down to 152,160 posts, and I see no problem in reaching 150,000 by 31 Dec.

Actual Work: Sent six or seven more pages of CL39 to Jean. Did the Middle Years fed CC, so I could mark off the last red block on my stacks report. Left at 4:30 when Leanna called wanting me to run errands and come home. Stacks report says I did 75% of goals this week.

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MY DAY: 15 December (Monday) 2008

Got here at: 2:05pm, after being with Leanna during eye surgery this morning. She's resting comfortably.

Routine: Not much Email. Called the HVAC contractor about some rebate form I need to fill out. BBS is busy but calm. GAK, Four days in a row with stupid skyline photos on APOD. Did NASA run out of Nebulae? Sudoku 3:30, boy, I gotta learn to focus. Web crawl finished at 2:51pm. Got the outbox down to 48 by filing stuff, deleting work orders Eric had finished, and throwing away minor stuff I did not need to keep. Started work on comm-37 by cloning the Comm-36 file, deleting the ship cards and other data (scenario, rules updates, what's in this issue, etc.) which meets the Comm goal for the week. Did the Star Fleet Alert for next week after Petrick and Mike West approved the cover art for Briefing #2, which is stunning. HVAC contractor got the rebate figured out. Told Adam the next four covers to do. Read two days of FYEO. Straightened out the paperwork to get Paul Cordeiro his free CL#38. Todd Boyce sent word that he would focus on the drone minis in January. Pushed back the old in box to 20 Oct 06, still 1660 there. Sent Triaxian page to Jean. Starlist request for 29341. In box down to 90. In box down to 89.

BBS Reduction: Deleted 300 posts. Archived 2001 tactics and sent the 89-page document to Eric to upload. We're down to 152,050 messages.

New Building: Real estate guy says we'll hear about the building soon.

Went home at 10pm. (I checked on Leanna regularly, who was resting comfortably and happy to have quiet time without me making noise there.)

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MY DAY: 16 December (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 10:00 after Leanna's post-operation exam; she's recovering nicely from retinal surgery.

Routine: Not much mail. BBS is calm. Forum is calm. APOD has another stupid skyline picture for the fifth day in a row. Sudoku 3:19, better than yesterday. Finished web crawl at 11am. Lunch was at Cheddar's (which Leanna loves and I find underwhelming). No Starlist Requests. Eric created a new Andromedan web page. I sent Eric instructions to update the FAQ page. Jean slapped somebody who seemed to think he had a constitutional right to make my other customers miserable. Read FYEO for 8 Oct and 9 Oct.

BBS Reduction: Archived and deleted 400 tactics posts from 2002, and this brought us down to 151,827. (Since there are about 100 new posts per day, it's a struggle.)

New Building: The company with the building (the building we may buy) made a counter-offer that is almost ok on price, but moves a chunk of work and the corresponding chunk of money to our side (i.e., we pay a lot less for the building but have to do the repairs to some previous damage ourselves). I almost (and should have) said "no" on the spot and moved on. Did another (more complete) tour of the building.

Leanna wanted to go home at 6pm, so I went with her rather than stay here all night.

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MY DAY: 17 December (Wednesday) 2008

Got here at: 9:30am.

Routine: The Mike Powers incident (part 8) erupted last night, when he came on the BBS under a phony name and tried to get himself banned (and succeeded). BBS is fairly calm.

APOD has a nebula today! Hooray! Lunch at Country Barn. Leanna made reservations for the company Christmas party. Sudoku 3:23, not that great. Web crawl complete at 2:45. No starlist requests. Eric finished updating the FAQ page, one of the 13 pages Jean says I have to update every calendar quarter. Board of Directors meeting bans Mike Powers and his imaginary friend Richard F Smith. Out box cut to 57 posts. Old In-box pushed back to 14 Oct 06 and cut to 1623. Did an FC rules update Mike West wanted about Defsat weapons which clarifies (not changes) existing rules. In box is down to 66. Sent weekly check-in memo to Gorilla Games. Sent Eric a list of shopping cart fixes so he won't be bored tomorrow.

BBS Reduction: Archived another 475 messages from tactics, so we're down to 151,630.

Actual Work: Did a Ketrick page of CL39. Did Fleet Scale Lyran NCA for FCHA.

New Building: Went to see the possible new building with the contractor, who gave us an estimate higher than the insurance company did. Went with Leanna to pick tile color for new building. Sent in what should be the final offer on it.

Went home at 8pm.

MY DAY: 18 December (Thursday) 2008

Got here at: 10:34 after Christmas shopping.

Routine: Deleted 93 spams on one account (plus 47 more during the day), 173 in the other (plus 87 more during the day) and that's just what came through the traps and filters, which stopped well over 800 (and it was a slow spam day). New theropod: Austroraptor. Read FYEO for 10 Oct. Downloaded FYEO for 18 December. Pushed old In Box back to 12 Oct 2006 and down to 1579 emails. No starlist requests. Sudoku 3:23. Finished the web crawl at 2:52pm. Talked to Jean about RPG project memos due. Frank Brooks wants to hand over the PBEM Coordinator job to someone else; anyone who wants the job should talk to Frank as he will pick his own replacement. Talked to a ship-sculptor who wanted a lot more money to do what my current ship-sculptors do. Gave Mike the Star Fleet Alerts for next week and told him to go ahead and send them. Daniel Kast says he can finish Klingon Armada in 30 days if I'll just give him a contract that I haven't had time to finish writing. Spoke with Brian Gewitzke about resin starship kits. Richard Smith sent a new set of Omega emblems to replace the ones he did which apparently had a minor error.

BBS Reduction: Processed the 2002 tactics archives and sent the files to Eric to upload. Deleted 476 tactics messages, reducing the BBS to 151,431 posts.

Actual Work: Updated the ISC cards I had done so far and sent them to the staff. Reviewed a PDFEDs weapons file from John Sickels and sent it to Jean. Sent two PDFEDs memos from Sickels to Jean which added some information to the 17-page politics file. Memo exchange with Mike Filsinger about Mike West's FC partial rack reload rule. Mike West and I decided that FC doesn't really need a rule that says "If your ship has no warp boxes, it can't move".

New Building: Sent final bid on building and hope to see this done today.

Went home at 6pm. Stacks report says 51% of goals met for the week.

MY DAY: 19 December (Friday) 2008

Got here at: 10:52am after a sleepless night.

Routine: No Email from Jean, leaving me deeply concerned for her safety. Flurry of phone calls and she turned up safe and sound. Lunch at Braum's for a so-so hamburger. No starlist requests on file. Outbox at 90. In Box down to 53. Sent data for paravian page to Eric. Old in box pushed back four days to 8 Oct 08 and down to 1521. Sudoku had a horrible time of 3:53 because Leanna kept interrupting me in mid-game. Web crawl completed at 12:59pm. Email exchange with Neale D about Leanna's Fighting Starships. Read FYEO for 11-12 Oct.

Downloaded 19 December.

BBS Reduction: Deleted over a thousand messages. Given 2,799 kills last night by SPP and more by others, we're down to 147,801. Deleted 100 Klingon Tactics posts from 2003.

Actual Work: Did Briefing #2 Middle Years cards for Fed CAR, CL, FF, and POL; sent to Mike West. Note to Ted Fay: I did three pages of MSSB, but had to send several items back to the staff. Previously, I would just mark them for further attention, but I want this to be the LAST time through this.

New Building: Got word at 4pm that our bid for the building had been accepted, and we're signing the contracts today. That makes it about 98% certain we will be moving to the new building by the end of January. (Pity, that didn't work out, after due diligence exposed some ugly issues.)

Went home at 6pm.

MY DAY: 20 December (Saturday) 2008

Got here at 9:30am.

Routine: Exchanged Emails with somebody who wants to buy the mezzanine after we move. Ordered snuggies for Leanna's Christmas only to be told as they were hanging up that it will take six weeks to get them. No Starlist requests on file. BBS is quietly productive. Lunch was pulled pork at Texas Roadhouse. Sudoku was 3:23, not bad. Finished the web crawl at 12:41. Got the outbox down to 57. Old in box is back to 6 Oct 06 and down to 1482 emails. MalisAlleman said he would do Omega minis. I put the CL#1 reprint on the cart, but Leanna won't activate it until she adds the bound/unbound options. Sent the last of Howard Bampton's shopping cart fixes to Eric. Reviewed G3 page count with Petrick (which took a lot longer than you might think it would.) Read FYEO for 13 Oct; that being eight days read this week, a minor catching up.

BBS Reduction: Deleted 340 posts from Battle Groups. Deleted 100 Romulan tactics posts. BBS is down to 147,021.

Actual Work: Got some alibi reports on MSSB and fixed them. Did Squadron scale Fed GSC for Briefing #2 because Mike West asked nicely.

New Building: Spent an hour planning the move to the new building. Went home at 6:30pm.

MY DAY: 21 December (Sunday) 2008

Summary Report: Got here at: 4:45pm, much later than most Sunday's. Don't plan to stay long, just to kill Spam. BBS is quietly buzzing. Downloaded FYEO. Not much Email. Sudoku was 3:21, not bad. No Starlist requests on file. Webcrawl done. Nothing much on Dinosaur List. Sent the SFB rules templates Burnside wrote for CL#23 to Eric for upload to Input Guide. Kept the outbox down to 57. Pushed old In box back to 4 Oct 06 and down to 1470 messages. In Box is down to 54. Deleted 50 Kzinti and 50 Gorn tactics. Went Christmas shopping at 6:30pm.

Stacks Report: Week of 15-21 Dec 2008

It was a good week, with 83% of goals met. This includes 22 projects that met goals, 3 that had some progress, and 5 that wait for replies from others. Sent Star Fleet Alerts. Started work on Communique 37 and January hailing frequencies. Waiting on Leanna to make further progress on CapLog reprints. Sent SFB rules templates to Eric to upload. Eric did a bunch of fixes and a new Paravian page. Reviewed art schedule with Adam. Updated FAQ page on site. Read eight issues of FYEO. Waiting on reports from Gorilla Games and Iron Crown. Exchanged memos with Starmada and VBAM. Did Lyran NCA Fleet Scale, updated the existing ISC ship cards, reviewed and rejected a "no warp can't move" rule for FC, and did four ships for Briefing #2. Reviewed G3 page count with Petrick and did three pages of MSSB. Discussed ISC war with Chuck. Sent Fed SIT reports to staff and got two of six reports back. No work one on F&E Q&A as I am up to date and Mike Curtis is busy cleaning BBS topics. Sent Jean a memo to get JT moving on PD20M-K/R or replace

him. Sent PDFed weapon files to Jean. Discussed project status with Jean on new PD game engines. Sent sculptors a memo on ships. Ordered more minis from AoG and got a new shipment. Approved the Orion DN and ordered production run. Waiting to hear from Ninja Magic. Sent Jean two pages of CL#39 (instead of four).

MY DAY: 22 December (Monday) 2008

Got here at: 9am on the dot.

Routine: No email of note. Report on Austroraptor cabazai (a new dinosaur). Out Box down to 54. Old In Box back to 3 Oct 06 and down to 1431. No Starlist requests. APOD photo of one of Saturn's moons. Sudoku 3:25. Web crawl done by 9:35. Did Star Fleet Alert for next week and sent it to Mike and Eric. Lunch was grilled chicken, pleasantly boring and not enough of it. I sent the updated Chain of Command Chart to Eric; that was this week's "update something on the site" project to keep Jean happy. Read FYEO 14-15 Oct. Supper at Robinson's.

BBS Reduction: Deleted 300 tactics posts from 2003. BBS at 144,870. Processed the 2003 tactics archive and sent it to Eric to upload. Deleted another 225 posts from General Tactics. Deleted many more obsolete posts.

Actual Work: Selected the four ships for Comm-37 and put them into the issue.

New Building: Went to new building with Leanna to do survey of work to be done.

I was at the office until way past midnight, but didn't get anything constructive done.

MY DAY: 23 December (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 11:43 after a sleepless night and a good lunch. Uh-oh. Cake frosting had too much sugar and is making my stomach roll over.

Routine: Guy with line of minis wants co-marketing deal. BBS is quietly productive. Out Box holding steady at 54. Many of those are work orders for Eric and will go away as he clears them. The rest are pending stuff where I'm waiting for somebody to answer the Email. Dino scientists dismiss Kaosaurus as an invalid name for a badly-described sea turtle. In box is at 64, and I need to make some of that go away. Mike Sparks had me update the Text Catalog. Starlist request from 15905. Old In box pushed back more than a month to Aug 06 and down to 1391. PHP forum is quietly productive. APOD had a star cluster; ho-hum. Sudoku 3:19, not bad. My average is 3:49 and my fastest is 2:47. Web Crawl complete at 1:17pm.

BBS Reduction: Deleted 500 tactics posts (Fed, Klingon, and some of the Romulan ones from 2004). BBS is down to 141,936.

Actual Work: MSSB report from George Duffy. Did the Fed Survey Cruiser for Middle Years.

New Building: Went to building for an hour with Mike and SPP to figure out how to lay out the warehouse.

Went home at 4:30, not feeling well.

MY DAY: 24 December (Wednesday) 2008

Got here at 9:06am on Christmas Eve. We don't plan to work the whole day.

Routine: Not a lot of mail. Somebody wanted some graphics for his personal rulebook and I told him where to find them. Jean reminded me to take my medication. Somebody asked if the minis in the squadron boxes were the same scale as the separate minis. Tos annoyed me about his drone chart again. Patrick wanted gift certificates for his Fed Com tournament. Out box holding steady at 54. I seem to be clearing old ones (as reminders of stuff I am waiting for) as fast as I add new ones. In Box at 59. The next email in the old in box was one from Franco Mamoli about an update to the Robot Opponent. I did the update and sent the file to Eric, then discovered a problem and cancelled it and made a note to do it over. This moved the file to 25 Aug 06.

I deleted around round of obsolete emails and filed some submissions, reducing the old in-box to 1349. No Starlist requests on file. Nothing much on dinosaur list. BBS is humming along toward some kind of ECM drone-like-things for everybody. PHP Forum is fine. APOD is the ancient Apollo 8 photo of the earth rising over the moon. Snore. Sudoku 3:24, which is at least better than my average, but given hundreds of games, it takes dozens of games this good to lower my average one second. Web Crawl complete at 10:40. Sent Tactics Archive for 2004 to Eric to upload.

BBS Reduction: Deleted 600 tactics posts from 2004, reducing the BBS to 141,477.

Actual Work:

New Building: A stack of paperwork about the Acton building. Worked on the floor plan for the new warehouse.

Major staff meeting (schedule for remodeling of new building, schedule for moving to new building, fattening inventory to avoid interruptions during move). Working on schedule for next year, reviewed Year of the Book topic. Went home at 6pm.

MY DAY: 25 December (Christmas) 2008

Summary: Got here at 3:40pm on the way back from Christmas dinner with the relatives. I actually enjoyed it, and actually enjoyed Christmas this year. Strange not to have "annual Christmas depression". I saw project memos for Fudge and HERO. Went home at 4:30pm because it's Christmas and I feel like being home.

MY DAY: 26 December (Boxing Day) 2008

Got here at 9:15am.

Routine: Lots of mail, but not much that requires a note here. Jean sent her "final" email from North Carolina and headed for the bus station. Jeff Wile reported that KODT did a review of SFB noting with sadness that it had been out of print for ten years. KDL checked in on his PDFudge project. Marke checked in on the HERO project. Nothing on dinosaur list (literally). Outbox has crept up to 61 due to pending stuff for which I await replies. Tried to call Jean's cell but she had turned her cell phone off. BBS is quietly productive. I really want to sit down and write the Striker rule but today is promised to contract writing. PHP forum is quiet. APOD has a nebula today, but one of those dark ones that's hard to see. No Starlist requests. Web crawl finished at 10:34. Pushed the old in box back to 20 Aug 2006 and down to 1307. Jean called in about noon to say she was in Columbia, South Carolina, changing busses to Atlanta. Petrick and I tried to go see Valkyrie but it was sold out. Finished the contracts for Klingon Armada, Silent Star Fleet, and Federation Admiral and gave them to Petrick to proofread. Read FYEO for the 16th.

BBS Reduction: Deleted 503 tactics posts from 2005. Sent 2005 tactics archive to Eric to upload.

Actual Work: MSSB: Formatted reports from Jason Schaff and did the MSSB reports into page 10 (I got to the fighter conveyor pallet and had to ask Petrick and question and he's out of the room at the moment). Stacks Report at 52% (a low total due to the work missed for Christmas, Christmas eve, and being sick Tuesday, but I have Saturday and Sunday).

Went home at 7pm.

MY DAY: 27 December (Saturday) 2008

Got here at 10:20 in a blowing snowstorm. Petrick is here. Leanna is an hour behind me. Jean checked in from Fort Smith. Mike and Eric are not here yet.

Routine: Nothing on Dinosaur list. Started a topic for the Revolution Edition. BBS and Forum are quietly productive. APOD has the first clear picture of the Crab Pulsar Wind Nebula in X-Rays. Sudoku 3:41. Web crawl finished at 11:24. No Starlist requests. Outbox down slightly at 59. Old out box is back to 29 July 06 and down to 1250. Read FYEO for 17 Oct.

BBS Reduction: Deleted 771 tactics posts from 2006, which

put the BBS down to 140,563. Sent the 2006 tactics archive to Eric to upload.

Actual Work: Did WYN Frigate for Hydran Attack.

Jean's Visit: Jean called in at 3:00 to say she made the final connection and was due in at 7:20. Jean got in at 7:40. I got her into the hotel and fed and put to bed and went home at 10pm.

MY DAY: 28 December (Sunday) 2008

Summary Report: Got here at 10:55pm after picking up Jean at her hotel. Leanna met us at the office. Chest pains this morning are somewhere between seriously annoying and really hurting. BBS is quietly productive. I want somebody to remind me of that idea in clicky base a week or two from now. We went to lunch at 11:30, and after taking Jean on a tour of the new building, Amarillo, my house, and Palo Duro Canyon (where Jean saw three deer and two longhorn bulls) we were back at the office at 6:30. We printed out some stuff for Jean to work on while I am busy with the building inspector tomorrow morning, and I took Jean to the hotel and went home about 7pm.

STACKS REPORT: 28 DEC 08

Not one of my better weeks, due to Christmas and building interruptions and being sick one day. Only achieved 69% of goals. I did the Star Fleet Alert and the quota of work on Comm-37 and Jan 09 Hailing Frequencies. Leanna made no progress on reprinting captain's log, saying we had not sold enough #1 reprints for the #2 reprint to be worthy of her time. I started talking to Alliance about updating our listings which are incomplete and messed up, but that conversation is ongoing. Eric got a bunch of cart and web fixes done (this week's update was the chain of command chart) and I talked with Adam about art. I read four issues of FYEO which is not seven and is not fourteen. I exchanged memos with the four outside contractors and finished the contract, which is now being reviewed by the Board. I did a ship from Hydran attack and half a ship for war and peace but (major failing) got nothing done on Briefing #2. Petrick and I made format decisions on G3 and I did a few pages of the MSSB. Nothing got done on ISC War and I am waiting on Mike Curtis to move the SIT project and Q&A project forward. JT agreed to do PD20M Klingons/Romulans and Jean got some project memos from PD staffers. I talked with the sculptors but never got the report on new minis to order from Mike. I did get a notice of a UPS shipment which may or may not have the Orion DNs. No word from Ninja Magic. No work got done on CL#39. Like I said, not one of my more successful weeks.

MY DAY: 29 December (Monday) 2008

Got here at 8:30am, stayed a few minutes,

Routine: Jean and Petrick seem to be getting along. A few emails about the SFB revolution, not enough to count one way or the other (less than ten so far), mostly not grasping that the FC rules we think we may port to SFB are in fact SFB rules we didn't put into SFB for fear that SFB players might not like them, but the drive to get them into SFB is not from FC players but from SFB players who want to play SFB without its known hang-ups. Nothing from the dinosaur list (maybe because college campuses are shut down for the holidays). BBS and Forum seem quietly productive. Sudoku 3 minutes 19 seconds. No starlist requests. Web crawl finished 1:24pm. Old In box is back to 22 July 06 and down to 1212 emails. Outbox holding at 60.

New Building: went over to the building to visit with the inspector I hired (two hours), went to lunch, ran an errand, got back to office at 1:00pm. Second meeting with building inspection company. Not liking what I'm hearing. Repairs are going to cost a lot more than I was told, and if the seller isn't covering that cost, we are not buying his building. Leanna and I reviewed the building situation and the potentially much higher costs.

Company Christmas party at 6:30pm, broke up at 9pm.

MY DAY: 30 December (Tuesday) 2008

Got here at 8:30 after picking up Jean at her hotel.

Routine: LOTS of email back and forth between Jean and Gary Plana and John Sickels about PD FEDS. I'm ignoring anything that doesn't say "SVC, DECIDE THIS." Somebody asked about Sargasso. Somebody asked about getting special order books through his store (possible if the store orders direct from us). Dinosaur list had some interesting stuff from China that I set aside to read later. BBS seems productively calm. Forum is busy but calm. Sudoku 3:43. Web Crawl finished at 9:34am. Starlist 15201. Old in Box down to 1198. Out box is holding at 59. Got Mike Curtis report on Fed SIT and put it into the file.

BBS Reduction: Deletions include 65 from General Tactics 2007, 120 from Fed Tactics, 82 from Klingon Tactics, 52 from Romulan Tactics, 21 from Kzinti tactics, 64 from Gorn tactics, 19 from Tholian tactics, 14 posts from Orion tactics, 47 from Hydran tactics, 24 from Andro tactics, 201 from PBEM; we are now under 140,000.

Actual Work: Uploaded ISC counters for Chuck. Worked with Jean on PDFED. The theory is that with no interruptions she can proofread more pages, and she will make me write the missing pages schedule for me to write them. I did page one. Jean finished the story and we paginated that. I wrote the missing cultural overview page, and John Sickels even liked it. Jean edited Fed government and was starting to work on Fed history/politics. I wrote the geography section, the cosmopolitan section, and the marshals section.

Took Jean home at 10pm. Well, we stopped for a snack on the way.

MY DAY: 31 December (New Year's Eve) 2008

Summary Report: Threw up at home. Got here at 10am. Sick at my stomach (turned out to be food poisoning), not sure why. Couldn't do anything other than throw up and lay on sofa. Went home and threw up some more. Petrick sick too. Jean got sick that night. Mike went home sick, and Eric called in sick.

END OF DECEMBER ARCHIVE.