



# On The Horizon

USS Horizon

Volume 2 Issue 1

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## Satellite taken down by missile from the USS Lake Erie near Hawaii

Defense officials say it appears a missile hit its mark and blasted apart a dead spy satellite's toxic fuel tank.

One of the officials say observers saw what appeared to be an explosion, suggesting the tank was hit. It's the first-ever use of the Pentagon's missile defense system to shoot a satellite from the sky. Wednesday night's shot was aimed at the contents of the fuel tank, which was filled with hydrazine and the Bush administration determined would pose a health hazard if it landed intact.

The Pentagon says it

should be able to confirm within 24 hours if the tank was hit. Debris should be raining back down on Earth immediately and the Pentagon says nearly all of it will fry up on re-entry.

Pieces of the satellite were tracked falling over the Atlantic and Pacific oceans

In western Canada observers gathered to watch the full lunar eclipse. Although disappointed by clouds covering the moon for most of the eclipse, they were able to witness another light show in the sky as

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## Disk Wars

Back in the 1980's two video tape formats slugged it out. If you sided with the VHS format you came out on top, if you sided with the Beta format you eventually had to give up your player, and the Beta tape format and bow to the inevitability of change and purchase the VHS format tapes and player.

Recently a new video format war started between High Def and Blu-Ray. Victory came to Sony the developer of Blu-Ray technology now that Toshiba, the developer of HD Compact Disk technology has backed out of the

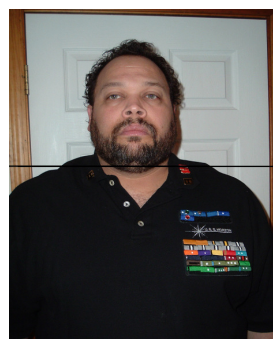
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## USS Horizon CO, Fleet Admiral Eddie Allen

CO of the Horizon, Eddie Allen has been reinstated with Ameren Utility Corporation after a 15 month wait. The arbitrator in the case determined that Eddie was unjustly terminated and should be given a job that was equal to or better than the position that he had previously held. In compliance with this directive Eddie is now working for the Ameren plant in Venice, IL, just east of St. Louis. Eddie has moved temporarily to St. Louis but will spend his weekends with his wife Rhonda in Columbia. Congratulations to Eddie on his reemployment with Ameren.





### Disk Wars (Cont.)

market. They have bowed to the technology of Blu-Ray by Sony Corporation. For now the new "Disk Wars" are over, but that is not necessarily good news for the gotta have the newest technology type of consumers. The price of Blue Ray is expected to stay high for a while longer. Fortunately for many, the DVD format and players will be supported by the hardware and disk manufacturers for long time. The old adages of "Good things come to those who wait." and "Patience is a virtue." often applies to purchasing new technology.

One good reason to wait to purchase a Blu-Ray player is cost. Currently they sell for about \$400 to \$500 each. Waiting for the price to come down is not the only reason to wait to purchase your Blu-Ray, the current version is 1.0 and not upgradeable because it does not have an internet connection, unless it is part of a Playstation 3. By 2009 you will have an obsolete player. Version 2.0 will have the internet connection and if you bought version 1.0 you will need to upgrade.

So what makes Blu-Ray so

great? "One thing most people don't know is that this is a technology that harnesses 1080p resolution." Steve Koenig, senior analyst for the Consumer Electronics Association

said. "Thirty-nine percent of households have TVs with HD, but a fraction of those have high-def sets capable of displaying 1080p resolution, which is the full-output capability of next-generation DVD.

The number of households that can really take full advantage of next-generation DVD is still somewhat limited."

### XO's Log



Fleet Captain, Khane Williams  
Executive Officer

February is coming to a close and I don't know how many people I have heard say they are tired of winter. That is usually true about this time of year. Christmas, New Years and Super Bowl Sunday are all behind us, all of which we associate with cold weather and snow. By the end of February we start looking forward to spring.

This year seems to be different. February 2008 has brought with it some of the nastiest ice and snow storms that we have seen in a long

time. Here is my theory on the whole thing.

On February 3rd some people in Punxsutawney, PA dressed up in fine wool coats and top hats and headed out into the cold Pennsylvania morning to check on their buddy Phil. It was not enough that they were going to disturb Phil at this early hour, they brought flood lights and cameras with them to illuminate and record the visit. Poor Phil was sound asleep in his cozy little home when he was unceremoniously dragged from his humble abode into the cold morning by the scruff of the neck and into the blinding light of the flood lights and the flash of cameras. Everyone was excited to see Phil, but I am not convinced that Phil was real happy with this early morning visit.

Everyone wants to know Phil's weather prediction for the next six weeks after all on this date everyone knows that Groundhogs have a psychic powers to predict weather for the future. If he sees his shadow there will be six more weeks of winter, if no shadow, spring is just around the corner.

They pulled Phil from his cozy bed into a well lit area to see if he would see his shadow. Hello people, of course he is going to see his shadow. It is a brightly lit area. We all know that light will not pass through a solid object and there-



## Disk Wars

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The real question then comes down to how much money are we willing to spend for this new technology that may be obsolete in 10 months time?

## What's with the beef?

Recently the news has presented information on the largest meat recall in history. The only thing they are telling the public, it seems is that the recall is because the meat company was abusing and torturing the animals. The question that is raised is, what is abuse in a meat processing plant?

The real concern is not abuse but lack of proper ante mortem inspection of "downer" cows, or cows that are lame or no longer standing. Without proper inspection they are not to be processed for consumption. Inspectors are checking the animals for Mad Cow, and other bovine illnesses.

The USDA recalled the beef after the Humane Society of the United States released undercover video that showed slaughterhouse workers at the Chino-based Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. kicking and shoving sick and crippled cows and forcing them to stand with electric prods, forklifts and water hoses.

Generally, downer cows — those too sickly to stand, even

## XO's Log

from pg. 2

fore a shadow is created. I think to get even, this year, when they pulled him from his nice warm bed, Phil took a good long stare at his shadow. Now we get to put up with all of the freezing cold and area to see if he would see his shadow. Hello people, of course he is going to see his shadow. It is a brightly lit area. We all know that light will not pass through a solid object and therefore a shadow is created. I think to get even, this year, when they pulled him from his nice warm bed, Phil took a good long stare at his shadow. Now we get to put up with all of the freezing cold and nasty winter weather just because some folks can't let sleeping groundhogs lay.

with coaxing — are banned from the food supply under federal regulations. Downer cows carry a higher risk of mad cow disease. And because sickly animals typically wallow in feces and have weakened immune systems, downer cows are more likely to carry E. coli and salmonella, too.

Veterinary inspectors examine the animals for unsteady gait, droopy ears, sores, poor muscle tone, and facial paralysis prior to the animals demise.

The USDA is in need of inspectors for the packing plants. It is reported by the FDA that there is a 10% shortage of inspectors nation wide.



***"To shine like a beacon on the horizon that others may follow."***  
*Motto of the USS Horizon*

## Glowing cat clones created

What was the weirdest science story of the past year? Well, have you heard the one about the South Korean scientists who transferred genes into cloned cat embryos so that they glowed red under ultraviolet light? That tale was the top vote-getter in the 2008 Weird Science Awards. Although this seems like a waste of research time to some, there is a serious point behind the glowing kitties. Such alterations may be used in the future to correct genetic flaws.

## Satellite (Continued)

pieces of the downed satellite began to rain down and burn up in the atmosphere.

I'm reminded of the Sky Lab in the 1979 which crashed in Western Australia. Debris was found between Esperance, Western Australia, and Rawlinna, Western Australia, the Shire of Esperance, fined the United States \$400 for littering.



LeVar Burton

## LeVar Burton: More than just Star Trek

LeVar Burton was born in Landstuhl, West Germany on February 16, 1957. His full name is Lavardis Robert Martyn Burton, Jr. His father was a career Army man who left the military service in 1976, just as LeVar's career was beginning to gain notoriety.

He graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in theater.

In 1992 he married Stephanie Cozart. They met during the filming of "Roots: The Gift" in 1988. Stephanie is a makeup artist. They have one child, Michaela Jean, born in 1995.

Other than Star Trek LeVar is probably best known for his acting role in the epic film "Roots" as young Kunta Kinte. While he was a sophomore at USC he auditioned and was awarded the role.

He is a passionate supporter of reading in young people. To support his conviction for literacy LeVar

was the host of 150 episodes of the "Reading Rainbow" from 1983 to 2005. He was also part of the cast of the animated series, "Captain Planet" which was to empower children to be environmentally responsible.

His career has spanned all venues of entertainment from the game show \$10,000 Pyramid and the World Poker tour to voice work in "Family Guy" and appearances on various talk shows.

LeVar Burton also was the strongest link in the special Star Trek Episode of *The Weakest Link*, winning \$167,500 for his charity. His final opponent was Robert Picardo. It was a record for the show.

As of November 2003 he holds the record for the most number of Star Trek episodes directed by a Star Trek actor. He has directed more than two-dozen episodes for every one of the four "modern era" Trek series.

His directing career branched out from Star Trek to shows like "Charmed," "JAG," and the "Tiger Woods Story." His most recent directorial project, "Reach For Me", will be in theaters in 2008.

LeVar's talents are not all in the film or television industry. He has also published a book titled "Aftermath," in 1997.

LeVar Burton, known to Star Trek fans as Geordi La Forge, is a man who has grown from a young actor to a talented actor, director and producer. To his Star Trek credit he not only had a recurring role in The Next Generation tv show, but he has also appeared in all of the Next Generation movies.



LeVar and Stephanie Cozart Burton



LeVar Burton as Geordi LaForge



LeVar Burton, Gates McFadden and Michael Dorn

## Horizon Calendar - March—May 2008

- Mar 22**      **(Mission) Monthly Meeting 1:30 p.m.**  
Mandarin House, 3302 Broadway Business Park Ct. # E  
next to Arby's by HyVee, 573-445-6688.  
After the meeting we will go to the first movie  
after 4 pm at Forum of "[Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns](#)"
- Apr 26**      **(Mission) Monthly Meeting 1:30**  
The Bread Basket Café 2101 W. Broadway, 573-445-1965  
After the meeting we will go to the first showing  
After 4 pm of "[The Forbidden Kingdom](#)" at Forum 8
- May 2-4,**      **(Fleet) Region 12 Summit**  
Best Western, 3100 I-70 Drive 573-474-6161 in Columbia.  
<http://summit2008.region12.org/>  
For those interested, we will be going to see the  
Movie "[Ironman](#)" during the afternoon while  
Everyone else is doing breakouts. We will go to  
The first movie after the CO/XO meeting is done  
Or after lunch. Our lunch location will be chosen  
By those attending Summit.
- May 24**      **(Mission) Monthly Meeting at China Star, 1:30 p.m.**  
3301 W. Broadway, Columbia 573-446-8866  
After the meeting we will go to the first movie  
After 4 pm of "[The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince  
Caspian](#)" at Forum 8.
- May 26**      **(Mission) Holiday BBQ**  
C.O.'s house in Columbia. This  
Will replace the Allen Family BBQ. The Dinner  
Will be at 1:00 pm and we will go to the next movie  
At Forum 8 after the lunch to see "[Indiana Jones:  
And the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.](#)" at the Forum 8.