

the Star Blazers Fandom Report®

Reporting on the who, what, where, when, why & how of Star Blazers

Number 4 of Volume 2, Issue 8 November 1982 A publication of the Star Blazers Fan Club

Star Blazers has gone off the air in the Philadelphia area. It was pulled off because WTAF-TV found it was doing well in the time slot, but having been in the same time slot for two years, and with out season III, the station feared running it to death (or at least that was the official reason). They have announced that the show will return as soon as they get new episodes, which should be in several months time. The club however urges all members to write in and remind WTAF-TV that the fans still want the show on, new episodes or not. Send a typed and polite letter to-WTAF-TV, 4th and Market Streets, Philadelphia PA 19106. Letters work better than calls. Also thanks to the fans in the Philadelphia area for letting us know. Keep the letters going....

Some good news, Star Blazers fandom or Blazerdome seems to be doing well at the conventions these days. In fact some fans have called this wave of convention activity the new wave in Blazerdome. In New York, the Star Blazers Mini Con drew crowds up to 100 at some points. There were speakers, video tapes, displays and costumes as well. In Michigan at Babelcon, the Star Blazers Micro Con also had a good crowd too. At that convention there were video tapes, a panel on Japanese animation, costumes, a recording room for people who wanted soundtracks and displays of Japanese merchandise.

At the Lunacon '83 convention, there will be a Star Blazers Room and a panel on Star Blazers. Both events at the convention are being organized by the same people who worked on the Star Blazers Mini Con (in fact some have gone as far as to nickname the future get together Star Blazers Conclave II). Lunacon '83 will be March 18 - 20th, and will be at the Sheraton Heights Hotel in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey. To get into the Star Blazers Room and see the panel you must have a membership to Lunacon. Memberships will be \$14 till 2/28/83, and \$17 at the door. Make all checks out to Lunacon '83. Write

The organizers of the room were pleased

with having a room at the convention because it is one of the oldest SF cons on the coast.

On a similar note at the 41st World Science Fiction Convention, ConStellation to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, there will be a room devoted to Star Blazers. This convention will take place September 1st to the 5th of 1983. The fact that there will be a Star Blazers room at a Worldcon shows how far Blazerdome is coming. Details at this point aren't clear, but there is a chance that we might keep the room running the entire five days of the convention. Attending membership to the Worldcon is \$30 till 12/31/82, after that it gets higher. A word of advice, get tickets while they are at this price, tickets at the door to the last Worldcon (Chicon IV) were \$75. Write- ConStellation,

Besides our room there will be the usual stuff that goes on at Worldcons (panels, exhibits, art shows, food funtions, dealers room, parties, movie & video rooms, a masquerade, Hugo Awards...need I say more?). Also if you are looking for a place to stay, or want to help, contact the club.

On a last bit about conventions, there should also be some Star Blazers fans at Philcon '83, Jan. 14 to 16th at the Franklin Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia. There should be some video. Membership is \$7 to 12/1/82, \$11 at door. Checks to Philadelphia SF Society. Write- Philcon '83,

Going to fanzines, Fred Kopetz has given up control of the Starsha Amateur Press Association, and has given it to Brian Cirulnick

Cirulnick has re-named the apa, the Trelena Amateur Press Society. If you don't know an apa is a fanzine that is made up of small fanzines (several pages) done by fans. Each fan does his fanzine makes copies, sends it to the collation (in this case Brian) who takes all the other small fanzines and combines them into a bigger fanzine which is sent to all the contributors. For this next collation the copy count is 20 and the deadline is mid December. For more info write Brian or call him at Also Kopetz continues to publish Space Cruiser Log.

the Final Yamato, part 2

by Ardith Carlton

The revival of Captain Avatar, and the death of Derek Wildstar...?! The first one is a promise, the second is just a threat, and both are part of the prerelease hype and story hints for the Final Yamato movie.

Some surprising news is that the Final Yamato will be an immediate sequel to the first TV series. This splits the Yamato universe into three different lines of continuity—first there was the first series—Arrivederci, then first series—second series—New Journey—Be Forever Yamato—third series, and now first series—Final Yamato!

In the last SEFR issue, a few pieces of the Final Yamato storyline puzzle were printed. Now with five months to go with the planned release date in March, many of the films details are still being kept secret. But some new bits of the storyline have been revealed:

The year is 2203 AD. The speed of the passing of Aquarius, a huge planet of water, has caused a galaxy nebula to undergo a dimension dislocation and end up overlapping our galaxy. Many of the stars collide, and spout hydrogen gas, infrared and X-rays. Earth Defence Force, not use to such spectacular but messy phenomena, dispatches Space Cruiser Yamato to investigate.

Yamato under Captain Derek Wildstar, struggles through turbulent space to reach the overlapped galaxy. There they find Desslok's mechanical Garuman-Gamilon planet from the 3rd series. But Desslok's Palace, his paeon to Iscandar, has been destroyed. Wildstar assumes Desslok has been killed and pays tribute. Suddenly, another planet careens into Desslok's, setting off tremendous explosions. Yamato can't out run the blast and is forced to "free warp" with no calculations.

At warps end, a very lost Yamato winds up with a ringside seat to see Aquarius drown the entire planet of Deingil. Wildstar send the Cosmo Hound, another refugee from the 3rd series, to save as many people as possible. But only one Deingilan, a small boy can be saved.

Wildstar wires the Earth Defence Force about Aquarius afraid Earth may suffer Deingil's fate someday, and Yamato leaves the drowned planet to try and find their way home. Suddenly a huge fleet accosts them. Aboard the mothership, Lugar II, son of Deingil's leader Lugar, takes Yamato for an enemy and attacks it with radioactive missiles that slice right through Ymato's armor. Radioactive rays speed through the ship, bringing down the crew one by one. Sandor has everyone put on their spacesuits...but when the rays hit the bridge, Wildstar is the only one who doesn't have his helmet on in time.

The radiation puts the rest of the crew in a synoptic state and Yamato plummets. But suddenly, an automatic operation defence system swithes on, and somehow guides the ship back to Earth.

Nova and Dr. Sane are on Earth all the while, rush on to Yamato as soon as the Yamato reaches home. Dr. Sane assures Nova that everyone who wore space suits would recover. Then she sees the helmet-less Derek, and breaks down. Nova then takes the gun and points it at her own chest...

Reportedly in a much later scene Wildstar is hovering between life and death. As for Avatar - his body is irreversably dead, so his sprit must be revived. But where? Is the automatic operation defence system really Avatar, living on the ship he loved so much? Or has his sprit gone inside Wildstar saving him from death? The answer is five months away!

A NOTICE TO ALL members that with the next issue of the Star Blazers Fandom Report that membership in the Star Blazers Fan Club will rise to \$5.00. This change will take effect February of 1983. The main reason for this raise was the basic cost of running this club. However a new membership package will be put together to give the members more. For one thing the size of the issue will increase several pages and there will be better printing. We will also add more club services as well. If you joined the club while it was \$2.00, you will not have to pay this rise in membership until you have to renew.

the STAR BLAZERS MINI CON

by Michael Pinto

August 28th and 29th marked a date to be remembered in Blazerdome. For it was on this date that the first big group of Star Blazers fans got together. Beforehand there were meetings of chapters of the Star Blazers Fan Club, but nothing on the grand scale. The gathering was held at the Creation Convention in New York City. While holding it at the Creation Convention had it's bad points (lack of equipment being given to us, ect.) but it also had it's good points as well (one of which was a good sized space for people who before had no experience running anything).

The program of the Star Blazers Mini Con was made up of several things. The major events the gathering featured was video tapes, several speakers, a slide show or two, poster displays and the assorted other stuff that goes on at fan gatherings.

The video program was made up of several key American episodes, several Japanese episodes, and the Japanese movies which drew the biggest crowds of all. When the video first started, a group of people started singing the theme song from the show. Soon the entire group watching on Saturday started singing the theme song. There seemed to be some sense of unity that was there with everyone watching it. It's the sort of feeling one gets not sitting in front of a TV set at home, but the feeling one gets at the movies when the audience cheers on it's protagonist.

The Japanese movies shown were "Yamato the New Voyage" on Saturday, and "Be Forever Yamato" and "Arrivederci Yamato" were shown on Sunday. The movie that drew the biggest crowd was Arrivederci. It got to the point where people were in the halls and even a few hucksters strayed from their tables to see what was going on. What made it more interesting was that they were all watching this on the TV monitor that the hotel rented out to us.

Little did the fans notice it, but in their own way they were helping out the show itself. While the huge crowds watched a photographer from Westchester Films was taking pictures. So in their own little way just by sitting there the fans did that little bit to save the show. Most of whom most likely didn't realize what was going on.

Outside the video, the next biggest attractions were the speakers. The speakers were Arnold Freedman from Westchester Films, Chris Henderson who wrote for Questar magazine and Robert Greenburger from Comics Scene magazine.

Arnold Freedman who works for Westchester Films talked about the distribution of the show and Westchesters plans. In basic he informed fans what they could do to help save the show. He said the best way was to write the station a good typed letter, and not just one letter but many. According to Freedman the station is selling time to the advertisers, and the advertisers want big ratings. If we are to prove that the audience is out there, we have to show it...that was the basic message. He also said that it costs a lot of money to produce a third season, and one thing fan mail does is encourage backers to invest. From Mr. Freedman's speech one got the impression that Westchester was 100% behind their product. After that he took audience question which ranged from questions about a movie version, (it might interest some to know that at this point they don't own movie distribution rights, but if the support is there there is a good chance) to the stuff about what the average fan can do.

Robert Greenburger from Comics Scene gave his speech on coverage of the show. First off he told the crowd that the publishers didn't care about how good the quality of the show was, even if it was better than half the stuff in Starlog, it still be covered in Comics Scene. One got the impression from the speech that he has little knowledge of the show, which made one question if they (Comics Scene) could cover the show. He didn't even realize that there was new stuff going on in Japan! However he told the fans that they could get by the policy changed, but they

would have to let the publishers of Starlog know. (the address of Starlog is tell them why you want it covered in Starlog, or why you feel it is a quality show).

The other speaker was Chris Henderson who wrote an article on the show for Questar magazine. His speech echoed alot of what Freedman said. However Chris had the unique appeal from speaking more from a fans point of view. His speech went over well, and ended with everyone cheering for the show and the speech.

In addition to the speakers there was also a slide show. Both slide shows didn't come out that good, but the organizers promise a better presentation at Lunacon. There were also poster displays and hucksters selling stuff related to the show. They had everything from buttons to records to models. There seemed to be a sence of ecitement in the air, that this was just a start to something bigger. (We urge all NY fans to write WPIX-TV, please make all letters neat and typing helps too).

ADS & MORE

Small ads are free to members as a club service. A full page ad costs \$17.00, half pages cost \$10.50 and quarter page ads cost \$6.00. All ads must be photo ready. For any other info write the club.

Have Star Blazers and other Japanese Science Fiction models from Japan. Send \$1.00 & self addressed stamped envelope to Mike Evans,

For sale-back issues of the 4 major animation magazines, the Anime, Animage, My Anime and Animedia - from Jan '82, only one each, \$9 each plus postage, also have models of Yamato, Gundam, Diamos & more - send a S.A.S.E. to Greg Baradi,

Nancy get to work!!!!!! - From Brian & Michael

Att'n NY Japanimation fans: Entel Communications is taking QUEEN MILLENIA into consideration for broadcast! Please write & support! Write your letters to Entel, also write Nippon TV,

Attention to all attending the '83 Worldcon, for the 1985 Worldcon Site lets support to to hold the 1985 Worldcon on Gamilon! That's right, GAMILON IN '85 sure it's a joke bid, but's a good excuse for a party...

PLASTIC MODEL KITS; I buy, trade and sell kits from SF, Movies, TV & Comics, also figure and unusual kits. Many Star Blazers kits available. Send S.A.S.E. for newest list. John F. Green

WANTED: A pen pal with artistic abilities. Willing to share and trade art work. Contact Brian Pohl,

WANTED - Any Yamato tapes other than the 1st & 2nd seasons of U.S. Beta I & II preferred but VHS considered. Prefer to buy but can trade for Star Blazers or uncut old and new Dr. Who. Doug Peacock

WANTED - 1 st & 2nd Season Star Blazers, Japanese Arrivederchi Yamato, and other Yamato related films on VHS Video tapes. Ted Blasingame,

The Art File



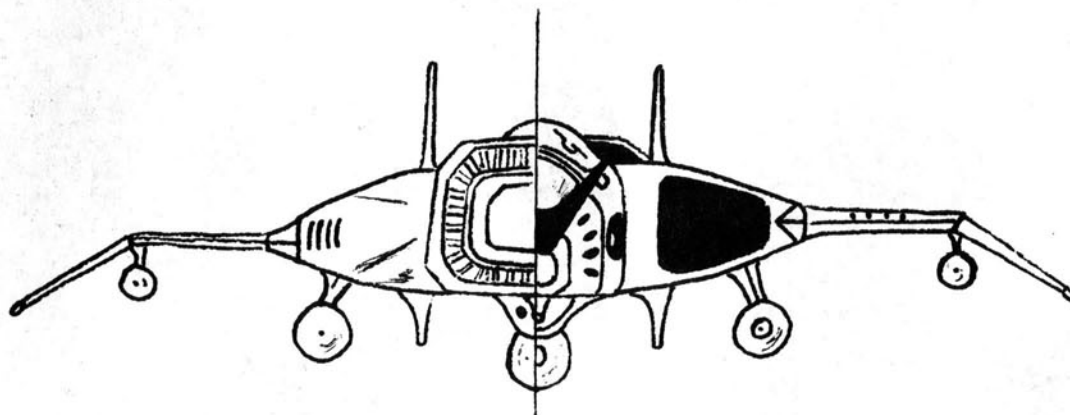
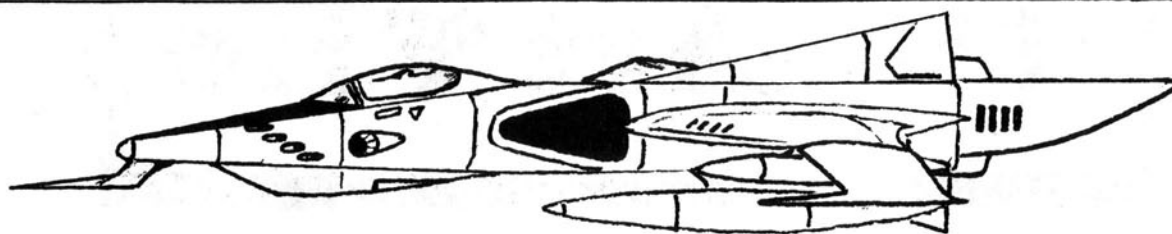
Michael Manning

STAR BLAZERS



"Hans"

666 8/18/82



Brian Pohl

STAR BLAZERS Fan Club

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This Issues Staff-Michael Pinto, Ardith Carlton, Michael Manning, Jeanette Eilke, Bonnie Watson, Brian Pohl and several others (special thanks to the Philly fans for letting me know about the fate of the show down there).

*STAR BLAZERS LONG ISLAND-Michael Pinto,
*STAR BLAZERS WEST MICHIGAN-Ardith Carlton,
*STAR BLAZERS ROCKVILLE-Chris Bond,
*STAR BLAZERS NEW JERSEY-Nelson Tatham,

-If you are interested in starting a chapter contact me. Also please support your local chapter of the club. It's your club, make the most of it!

communications

Editorial

With Star Blazers Mini Con a new era in Blazerdome has started. As fans of Star Blazers we have a long way to go, but we have come a long way too. Sure we have yet to gain the fame given to other fandoms like Star Trek, but we have made our steps. For one thing the size of this club (over 300 and growing) proves that we are getting over the "I thought I was the only Star Blazers fan in the world." This club grows in phases, and I think we are on to something big. Because of this growth I am falling behind in alot of things. For one thing the pile of letters grows by a few letters daily, after a week or so that adds up. I am trying to get on top of things, but I am slowly facing the idea that it might take more than one person to run this club. But until I get that other person, or people, I can only ask for understanding with matters concerning the mail. Also I owe several of you back issues from a time back, as I write they are being printed up, sorry for the wait. By the way I am going to start a few new policies that should make things a bit more interesting.

My first new policy deals with the letter column. Back in the 30's & 40's when science fiction fandom was just getting off the ground, there was a fanzine called Peon. This fanzine had a policy of giving a \$1 for the best letter in each issue. So in the spirit of this, from now on I will give away \$2 for the best letter in each issue. It's not much, but it should encourage a few of you. The award will be given not on merits of if I like the letter, but if it brings up a point or if it strikes me as interesting.

On a last note I would like to thank all of you who came to the Mini Con. Some of you came as far as Massachusetts and Virginia, and still some of you came less far off places. I thank you all for starting this, and I hope to see as many people at Lunacon. Also if you have any ideas just call me at [REDACTED]

Letters

Star Blazers has not been shown in my area for over 3 years now - I have found memories of setting the alarm & a timer on the TV so that I awoke to it at 6:30 each morning - when it was moved to 7:00, I was often late for work - My carpool buddy started turning it on for his daughter, and soon aquired my bad habit - we used the excuse of waiting for the rush hour traffic to subside - since he had a color TV, I started coming early to pick him up - on days when one of us had an early meeting, the other would provide the missing pieces the next day...-Yamato Lives!

D.A. Harrod, [REDACTED]

-As a fan of Star Blazers this letter has alot of meaning. Like many other fans this letter has once again reminded me that I am not alone. I think when alot of the members out there read this, they might see a bit of themselves in this letter. I think there is something special about a show that a person would wake up at such a time, or that a person would watch episode after episode. It is my personal opinion that this quality is what makes Star Blazers more than a passing space opera.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

I really liked the "It's your club" editorial. It certainly chastised me for being as lazy as I have for the last few months. I know it is important to let the station know your watching them. I called channel 29 the other day when they showed the wrong episode. When I reached the stations operator, she cut me off with an exasperated "Yes I know! We are showing the wrong episode of Star Blazers!" It was really the greatest feeling to know that I had joined alot of concerned fans in letting the station know we were upset.

I've put off contacting the station since, but now I'll write to them. I want them to know when I think they are showing too many commercials or that I am looking foward to eventually seeing the 3rd season if they can get it.

Thank you for the last part of the letter page in the last zine. It's a relief to know how many other adults watch Blazers. I am 22 and just out of college. My parents can't understand how I can possibly be so serious about a "cartoon". So I read them your questionnaire results.

I am going to the mini-con to show my support for the show. I hope it is a huge success and there will be many to come.

Connie Theis,

-One comment, and I think this applies to all fans. The next time someone claims you are watching a cartoon, correct them and say "it's not a cartoon, it's adult animated science fiction drama."

...While I will readily agree that the comics industry is in a state of stagnation brought on by the profit motive I do not accept, and resent, the implication that they have less potential for creativity than Science Fiction. There appears to be a gross generalization among others stating that anyone remotely suggesting a "comics fan" is incapable of fathoming the deeper concepts of Asimov, Heinlein ect. Comics are a single or series of panels with dialogue. They do have limitations brought on by that format, but claiming that they are unworthy of serious consideration for storytelling is fallacious and self-limiting.

By the way I am enjoying the newsletter, keep up the good work.

Luke Menichelli,

-Intellegent and convincing, two qualities which make this letter good. This letter has changed my opinion on the matter. I still feel Star Blazers shouldn't be pushed into Comics Scene. Thank you Luke for writing. This is the best letter on the subject so far, so I think you deserve to be the first one to be awarded with the best letter policy.

So far I have enjoyed the SB Fandom Report immensely. It's nice to read some information about the show itself instead of solely club activities. Your editorial on Starlog's passing the buck got me to write a long and angry letter to Kerry O'Quinn to which I recived a reply (!) I just hope the situation will clear up too.

A note of interest. While reading Stephen King's "Cujo"[editors note- King won the Hugo award recently for "Danse Macabre" for a non-fiction book], I noticed Star Blazers was mentioned in a part of the plot concerning weekly syndicated programs! Maybe not the highest form of recognition there is, but still something to keep in mind.

A comment on the "comics & Star Blazers" issue. I would have to agree with you on Star Blazers out-classing such comics put out by DC and Marvel, but I feel that the subject (SF) is becoming confused with medium. I have read some excellent SF that has been presented in comics form, both adapted and origional. "Mere comics" is as bad a habit to get into as "Kidvid." The real telling factor is the amount of talent and interest in the creator. Just as there are times that we must suffer through Superman, Battle of the Planets, and others there will be an occasional Cerebus, Killraven, Force Five, and yes...Star Blazers.

Mike Manning,

-I like this letter as well. I this this should rap up any argument at hand. I think the argument is that should we let the powers at Starlog put us in a corner. By putting us in Starlog they are in a way saying that we are not as good enough as half the crap they cover. They are saying that Star Blazers is nothing more than the animated image. The question isn't if comics are any good, the question is if Star Blazers is any good. Thanks to all for writing.