



**command
center**

Before any of this gets under way, an introduction is in order—or, more like it, a self-introduction. Yours truly's name is Mary Bleenker, co-president of Main Mission Alpha, and as of last issue, I have been taking full responsibility (blame?) for the club operations and publications. So, if you write to the club with any question or problem, address your letter to my attention, c/o the club address (400 Saratoga Street, East Boston, MA 02128—which happens to be my apartment address, as well as Mary Hartery's)

I know we said that this issue was to be dedicated to Zienia Merton, but we belatedly discovered that Zienia's birthday fell in December, while Barbara Bain's was in September. So, we postponed Zienia's issue until December (we still love you, Zienia!) and we are dedicating this issue of Command Centre to the better half of Moonbase Alpha's command duo—Dr. Helena Russell, aka Barbara Bain.

DR. HELENA RUSSELL is in her early thirties. She was born when the first explorations of the moon were taking place. American, she is the daughter of a West Coast physician and she has followed in her father's medical footsteps, gradually expanding into the challenges of space medicine, rising in her profession to become Moonbase Alpha's Chief of Medical Section.

She has been married but her husband, whom she met at medical school and who also became involved in space medicine, had disappeared on a space mission. (MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH Series One)

BARBARA BAIN—A lifetime member of the world-renowned Actor's Studio Barbara is a native of Chicago. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.A. in Sociology and headed for New York. There she studied modern dance with Martha Graham. To pay rent and tuition, she was a high fashion model, appearing on the pages of Vogue, Harper's Bazaar and Mademoiselle.

Barbara found that neither modeling nor dancing suited her career ambitions. She was all set to dust off her sociology degree when she paid a visit to Curt Cewney's acting group one evening and decided to make her commitment to drama.

Barbara's stage credits include "Miss Julie", "Desire Under the Elms", "The Wedding Breakfast", "Richard The Third", and "Don Juan in Hell", among others.

Barbara is of course most famous for her three year role as "Cinnamon Carter" on Mission: Impossible, for which she won Emmy Awards. SPACE: 1999 is her second series and her second corroboration in a series with her husband, Martin Landau.

We know that all MMA members join in wishing Barbara Bain the happiest of birthdays!



CLUB NEWS

After due consideration, we have decided to go ahead with the planning and execution of another club journal. For those members who have just joined Main Mission Alpha, Alpha Log is the club journal which is offered free of charge to MMA members. The journal consists solely of contributions sent in by club members. Contributions may be of artwork, stories, puzzles, essayies, dissertations, anything at all pertaining to the club or SPACE:1999. Alpha Log has a tentative publication date of December of this year, depending entirely on how many members contribute towards it. Deadline for all submissions is the third week in November, so contribute now!

Requirements are as follows: Artwork must be done in black pen on white paper. Stories should be typewritten neatly, no more than 7-9 pages double-spaced. Essayies, dissertations, etc, one page single-spaced. (and if you submit puzzles or quizzes, please--include the answers!) If you wish your material returned to you after use, please include postage sufficient for return.

A partial list of contributors for Alpha Log II: Poetry by Allison Stein and Sonya Tuck; story by Dan Bromley; artwork by Jamie Barkun, Abe Rivera; puzzles by Dan Bromley and Terry Bowers.

Send all contributions to Alpha Log, c/o the club address (Main Mission Alpha, 400 Saratoga St., East Boston, MA 02128)

All members should be receiving their membership photos with this newsletter. Again, we would like to apologize for the delay many of you experienced in getting these photos. The Force just wasn't with us...

Main Mission Alpha will be represented at the Star Trek America Con in New York over the Labor Day weekend in the persons of Mary Hartery and yours truly, Mary Bloemker. We would like to meet all our members who will be in attendance there, and are planning to hold a meeting/party at the con itself. If you are at the convention, keep an eye out for a person wearing a black T-shirt that proclaims "Property of Main Mission Alpha" and who looks distinctly Psychon-ish--yell out "Mary!" and you're guaranteed to have found one or the other of us. We'll give you more information on the meeting/party on the spot. Hope to see you there!

A small invasion force of Psychons took over a small portion of the August Party convention, held August 5, 6 & 7 at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus (the very same convention that last year gave you Nick Tate in persona!) The Psychons went largely ignored, however, as a new threat swept ominously into the convention--it was Darth Vader himself, leaving in his awesome wake dumbstruck and trembling humans and a few Vulcans here and there. Darth Vader's menace was quickly and bravely met by a stalwart band of rebels, led by General Obi-Wan Kenobi himself (alive and well, at least for the purposes of the convention) Darth Vader was

eventually vanquished, to the relief and delight of all and in defeat retired to enjoy a movie and a pizza with Princess Leia and a Tusken Raider.

STAR WARS hit the August Party Star Trek convention in a big way, almost completely eclipsing Star Trek in many ways, especially evident during the Costume Call and in the huckster room. And curiously --no one was complaining. Especially not the owners of the local theater where the movie was currently playing. They were treated to the unusual spectacle of a fully costumed Darth Vader, Princess Leia, and Tusken Raider showing up to buy tickets to see the next showing of STAR WARS.

The full role call included four Luke Skywalkers, three Princess Leias, one Ben Kenobi (who was ably played by the convention chairman, Rich Kolker) one Darth Vader (in this person's opinion, a very impressive costume--my congratulations to the young lady who executed and wore the outfit!) one Tusken Raider (whatever he looks like under all that cloth!) one C-3PO, one Chewbacca, one Han Solo--even Han Solo's sister, Diane, was represented! (No, I didn't know, either!) And of course, a Jawa, complete with red, glowing eyes (he mentioned something about flashlight batteries--and last, but not least, an Artoo unit. He ran on a cable from a remote control box, but he was the hit of the convention nonetheless.

Main Mission Alpha members who were at the August Party convention include: Pam Beckett, Debbie Walsh, Billy Gerken, Lisa Putman, Kathleen Gillespie, and Tom Chafin, who represented Main Mission Alpha in style with an excellent costume, an Alphan tunic and slacks, with yellow sleeve. Well done!

Special thanks from me to the gentleman at the table at our back in the huckster room for his showing of the trailers from first season SPACE: 1999 on a portable screen--it made for some very enjoyable moments!

Dan Bromley is seeking stories, artwork, puzzles, etc., dealing with Maya and Psychons specifically, for a fanzine entitled PSYCHON CENTRAL. All submissions should be sent to : Dan Bromley, 781 W. 118th Ave., Northglenn, CO 80234.

Debbie Walsh has published a very fine fanzine, entitled CATCH THE FINAL SUNRISE! Written and illustrated by Debbie, it is an excellent effort and we highly recommend it to all fans of SPACE:1999. For information on ordering, send a self addressed stamped envelope (to insure prompt reply) to: Debbie Walsh, 1030 York Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446.

The MMA membership roster will be going out with the next issue of COMMAND CENTER. The deadline for getting your orange membership forms back to us (the forms included in the last newsletter) is September 30. So hurry and get yours in today!

THE FORUM

The Forum was received very well by the membership, and so MMA will continue it as a regular feature. Each month, The Forum will feature a different question and/or statement, to which MMA members are invited and encouraged to respond. Note: Editorial discretion will be exercised. Any letter which contains personal attacks on other members or fans, or any other material which is deemed in any way objectionable will not be printed.

The Forum question for last issue was: If SPACE:1999 were to come back for a third season, and you had the chance to change anything, or to keep anything you liked---what would you do to make SPACE: 1999 the kind of show that you would most like to see?

The answers:

Lynn Mims, 5734 Cedar Forest Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32210

".....what would I keep or change? Gee, there's so much... actually, I'm not sure I'd change that much. Fred Freiberger started a trend toward better shows, and I'd probably want to continue...within limits.

1) Keep having episodes where the Commander does not save the day, where John Koenig is either out of action or not on the scene. The personalities of Tony V., Maya, Alan, Fraser, Sandra, Etc., could be explored in more depth. Koenig's absence in "Beta Cloud" "Space Warp", "Mark of Archanon" and to some extent "Lambda Factor" helps the stories

2) This does not mean I'd favor ditching John Koenig and promoting a new commander of Moonbase Alpha. Tony could hack it, but it would change him, perhaps for the worse. And Alan, much though I love him, is not command material. He's a pilot/explorer, a leader in his area; but he's too impetuous for the top job. Koenig is definitely the right man for command.

3) Continue the romance humor angles in the stories. First season SPACE was, to put it gently, awful. I can remember one real smile--Alan Carter (who else?) grinning and giving the girls on Ultima Thule the eye in "Death's Other Dominion". And as one critic put it, the first season 'love interest' between Landau and Bain was as interesting as watching a couple of love-struck iguanas. (Again, no disparagement of the actors is meant; that's the way they were directed.) Second year was much better on both counts.

4) Continue to introduce minor characters, who show up once for that once-in-a-lifetime-experience and then fade back into the woodwork. Dave Reilly, the Australian geologist in "All That Glisters" comes to mind instantly. (I'd like to have seen more of him, too.) Pete Garforth, Chief Engineer and Carolyn Powell come also to mind, as does Shermeen (last name forgotten, sorry.)

5) Cover story angles the writers managed to miss. Example: in fifty-odd episodes, the Alphans ran into no primitive native races on any planet they explored. (The Darrians were degenerate and not on a planet considered for colonization; and the Stone Age 'savages' from "Full Circle" were the Alphans themselves) Think about it. What if they had found a habitable planet with a 'primitive' native culture? Would they have considered settling? How about

factions? You have American, Australian, British and Psychon opinion to portray. How many stories could be written on that idea? And why didn't anyone write one?

6) Tongue-in-cheekiness once in a while. Heaven knows, the possibilities are there.

7) Tie it in with UFO, if only in passing. I can just see Koenig hearing the name of Straker and wincing. "Yeah, I knew him. A real winner."

Rickey Jones, PO Box 65, Caruthersville, MO 63830

...I would bring back Prof. Bergman. Another is, I would expose more sections of Alpha, and two last changes I'd make would be to have Zienia Merten as communications officer at all times, no substitutes, and to have Koenig and Russell married.

Lisa Putman, 413 Circle Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20012

...I would keep all the cast from the last season plus the set and the uniforms. I would strive mightily to get better writers to produce better scripts in the vein of "Dorzak" and "Journey to Where".

I would like to see the characters of Sandra and Alan used a lot more and given a good background. I'd like to see Tony and Maya get married!

I'd want to see some of Alpha's problems arising from a conflict totally internal to themselves--with no alien involved whatsoever.

I think it would be fine if they keep what they have, improve some subordinate characterization and try coming up with better stories. If 1999 was brought back in that way, I'd be a certain follower!

Gene Stern, 236 Valley View Drive, Wilmette, Illinois, 60091

...I would keep the same cast and characters. However, I would make the aliens less humanoid as much as I could, physically. Also, I would make better use of the special effects. I also like the laser guns they shoot on the show. I would make more use of these lasers. And lastly I would try to develop a better relationship between Tony and Maya.

Judy Moore, 1812 Redwood Ave, Anaheim, CA 92805

...I think more personal interactions with the rest of the moonbase would be good. Perhaps some flashbacks from the lives of main characters would be nice. Holiday seasons and jeyous occasions could be interwoven in the scripts. I would also like to see a little less of the monster type alien, and aggressiveness it represents. More of the base should be exposed to the viewers.

...The Eagle spacecraft are great! Maya was a fine addition to the cast, and more of her personal life would be interesting. The commander, Dr. Russell, Tony and Alan are now very well rounded characters, and again more of their personal lives, previous and present would be appreciated.

...fewer explosions! It seems every episode has an explosion in it! The special effects in the show equal no other and the explosions look so lifelike, but please! not in every episode!

Pam Beckett, 64 West South Street, Uniontown, PA 15401

...The first thing I'd change would be the dependence on alien attacks; with all these people on Alpha, surely it would be possible to have more 'internal conflict' stories—or even without a conflict. An episode showing a normal day on Alpha not only would be a change, it would be a precedent. Secondly, I'd have either John and Helena or Tony and Maya get married. C'mon now, you know darned well that they haven't been celibate all these years; as mature adults surely somebody wants to get married! Besides, it would be a boost for morale—marriage means future, the promise of a future that will be better. Third, as much as it pains me to say it...I'd have Alan become romantically involved with Sandra. Seriously, this would allow for further development for both characters and also would give Nick and Zienia (hopefully) more and better scenes. However, I would stay with the present theme and incidental music; I would continue the use of Year Two sets, especially Command Center; I would further emphasize the humor and 'humanness' of the Alphan situation. Most importantly, I would at all costs use the same cast. After all, how can one improve on perfection...

Tom McLaren, 4217 Arlington Drive, Royal Oak, Michigan, 48072

...I would rid the show of laughing aliens and some less than satisfactory guest stars. The scripts were excellent for Year Two, especially bizarre ones like "Brian the Brain", "New Adam, New Eve", "Bringers of Wonder", etc. Scripts that are far from normal tend to stay in your mind longer. Production and photography reminded me of STAR TREK (which sure isn't bad). Special effects were no less than superb.

Year Two is ideal and only minor changes would help. Keep Zienia Merton as a regular co-star and I will be happy. (Year Two jumped from Zienia to Yasko to Alibe at communications and I found it confusing). Maya is pleasant and necessary to Alpha. The love between Maya and Tony (and Helena and John) provide the human element necessary to the show. SPACE: 1999 is fantastic and almost too good to improve.

Bill Earle, 73 Leslie St., St. John's, Newfoundland, A1E 2W1 Canada

...First of all, Eagles would no longer be used for attack and defense purposes. They would be the freighters and transporters they were designed to be. Hawks would be the only heavily armed craft based at Alpha for use in space. On the lunar surface, laser equipped tanks would be employed more often, leaving the stationary laser cannon for defense only in close proximity to base.

Eagles should be equipped with a pod containing some sort of ground exploration vehicle, like the moonbuggy, only larger and housed in.

At least one episode should concern what life on Earth was like during the late 1990's with respect to the style of aircraft, land vehicles, and building architecture. This might be in the form of a flashback, dream or an episode concerning the building of Alpha. Gerry Anderson's movie "Doppelganger" (American title "Journey to the Far Side of the Sun"—Ed.note) shows that he is capable of getting the desired effect.

Alpha may have been the only permanent lunar base in 1999, but what became of earlier attempts at lunar colonization, of space defense installations such as SHADO moonbase. Even for viewers unfamiliar with the TV series UFO, a SPACE: 1999 episode could be written concerning what eventually became of SHADO, or at least contain some mention of it...

Finally, Brian the Brain should be made a permanent member of the crew. Whether the character is the voice of Alpha's computer system, or a humanoid robot who accompanies the crew on exploratory missions doesn't matter as long as he is there somewhere. He, like the Hawks, and the laser-equipped tanks, is too good to waste in just one episode.

Jamie Barkun, 7508 Guelph Rd., Montreal Quebec, Canada H4W 1H3

"...Space 1999 is perfect the way it stands right now. The theme song is perfect, the actors/actresses, the sets, the special effects (video/audio), they're all perfect. It's impossible to improve on something that's perfect, don't you agree? The only thing that should be changed is the amount of networks that show SPACE:1999--there should be more.

That's it for this issue. For the next issue, the Forum question will be: Who is your favorite 1999 character--and why?

Members may also continue to respond to the first Forum question as well. Thanks, everyone who wrote in with their answers to make this feature a success! We hope for more of the same in the future.

The success of STAR WARS has considerably brightened the outlook for science fiction in the visual media. (what? You haven't heard about the new STAR TREK series?) STAR TREK hasn't been the only show given a second look because of STAR WARS phenomenal box office receipts, either. STARLOG magazine reports that ABC-TV contacted Gerry Anderson after their network received letters from fans in support of SPACE:1999 (!) However, the question of whether or not ABC-TV will ever be able to produce new episodes of 1999 is entirely up to ATV--and at this moment it does not seem likely that ATV will sell ABC the rights to 1999, which is necessary for them to produce a new series. Letters to ATV are needed now more than ever, and keep writing to ABC to let them know that you're still with them!

Mr. Fred Silverman
President, ABC Entertainment
ABC-TV
4151 Prospect Ave
Hollywood, CA 90027

Mr. Patrick Plevin
Program Development
ABC-TV
1330 Ave of the Americas
New York, NY 10019

The possibility is very strong that ABC-TV may contract with Gerry Anderson for a new science-fiction series. STARLOG magazine will have a special interview with Gerry Anderson in their next issue--watch for it!

ALPHA NEWSLETTER: Steve Eramo, 5 Kimball Drive, Stoneham, MA 02180. Published 6 times yearly. Price per issue \$1, subscription price \$6. A very fine newsletter, it comes highly recommended.

B.N.T.C.

The British Nick Tate Fan Club is the official fan club for the man who so ably brought the character of Alan Carter to life on SPACE:1999. The club has existed for almost a year now under the hand and watchful eye of its president Carole Abbs and vice-president Pat Jenkins. Based in England, many of Main Mission Alpha's members also belong to the BNTFC, and so as a public service, we present the British Nick Tate Fan Club in Carole Abbs' own words:

THE BRITISH NICK TATE CLUB

"...is what can happen to you if you write letters to actors in the hospital! It formed in December of 1976, opening 'officially' in January 1977, and has now grown to over 200, which so far has resulted in writer's cramp, 2 broken typewriters, a huge telephone bill and Post Office clerks who scatter rapidly when I walk in!

"New members receive a photo, 2 biographies (Nick and Carter) a filmography and membership card. Newsletters are quarterly and so far 2 have been produced. I aim for a friendly, personal touch which means extra work but which I, and I'm sure the member prefer. I have a responsibility to them and to Nick, whom, after all, I represent, and who takes a great interest in the club. And it seems to work.

"...And to think all I wanted was a signed photograph!"

For more information on Carole's club, send two international reply coupons (available at the post office) to: BNTFC, c/o Carole Abbs, 37 Kingswood Crescent, Leeds LS8 2BG West Yorkshire, England. Dues are £1, English membership, \$5.00 (international money order--post office again) US membership.

We would like to have FAN CLUBS--IN THEIR OWN WORDS as a regular feature of COMMAND CENTER. If you run a 1999 fan club, write in and tell us about it. Or if you know of someone you runs a club, get them to write in, or write in for them. If you want to start a 1999 club, this is the place to start. Fanzines, newsletters, 1999 publications of all sorts--tell us about them, so that we may pass the information on to our members.

Janet Ellicott, 74 Sunningdale Ave., Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 5JU, England, needs names of people interested in pen pals, trading zines, club memberships, photos, etc., for specialized lists for her correspondence club. Free listing for all who write and enclose 2 IRCs (international reply coupons) Send as many details of interest as you can, including your favorite 1999 characters and episodes.

Dan Bromley is looking for people in the Colorado area interested in a 1999 club for that area. Write to him at: 781 W. 118th Ave, Northglenn, CO 80234

For those of you wondering whatever-happened-to-AVATAR #5--there is some bad news. On its way to the printers, it was stolen, along with Mary H.'s briefcase and other items of value. It's been some weeks now, and the hopes for its recovery have dimmed considerably. AVATAR # 5 is in the process of being reconstructed from scratch. Mary is willing to refund money to anyone who doesn't feel they want to wait any longer. There may be some added surprises in this issue to add to what has already been done, and #5 promises to be the best issue yet. COMMAND CENTER will keep you up to date

ASTRA*CON has been cancelled. If you were a member of the convention, your money will be refunded shortly. Cancellation came about as a result of a number of reasons, which included low funds and enthusiasm.

Mary has extended an invitation, however, for everyone who wants to be in Boston for the holiday--please, come up! She is at present toying with the idea of a mini-one day convention. Write to her if you are interested, c/o the club address. She wants to hear from interested people, so write today.

NEDIA, International's First newsletter is coming along nicely, with material from the press kit, artwork by Kathi Lynn Higley and Mary Bloemker, with personal comments by several people, with quotes from popular magazines. (Issue #1 is a special STAR WARS edition)

Single issue price has unfortunately had to be raised to \$1.75 for issue #1. Subsequent issues will remain \$1.00 a piece, plus postage. Order your special STAR WARS edition of NEDIA, International's newsletter today!

MOONSTAR, LTD.: For those of you who have written to MOONSTAR from the sales directory, here is the status. Patches in two different Alphan designs can be ordered, but only in lots of fifty or more. If you are interested in ordering a set, write to MOONSTAR, care of Mary H., and enclose a SASE for reply as to how to order, and how much. T-shirts and photos will be made available at a future date. T-shirt designs are welcome--camera ready designs only. Artists will receive full credit for their work.

The SPACE:1999 sales directory is still available for 25¢ and a large, business sized self addressed stamped envelope (SASE). Also available are back issues of Main Mission Alpha's newsletters--Oct/Nov '76, the special Christmas issue '76, and the May/June issue '77. Back issues are 50¢ each.

Main Mission Alpha also has stationary for sale in various designs. A set of three designs, drawn by Debbie Walsh, include the Main Mission Alpha letterhead with three colors--Sandra/yellow, Maya/pink, Tony/blue. Twenty-five sheets for \$1.25 (includes postage) all one design, or mixed (please specify when ordering).

That's all for this issue--see you in two months! Until then--

ciao!



MARTIN

and

BARBARA

FANS

There! Now that I've got your attention

Would you possibly be interested in either of the following?

1. An official and authorized club for them?
2. A special one-shot (at the moment) fanzine saluting the entire career of both the Landaus?

Now, with regard to Item #1 up there ... Yes, I have been in correspondence contact with them about a club, and I've gotten word from them via Gerry Anderson's secretary that they are interested in discussing a club with me. Right at this moment, however, they are in the middle of packing their entire household for return to California, and they'd prefer to wait until they are settled before setting up anything concrete. Having just moved, myself, I understand *completely*!! However, I am going ahead on a special fanzine -- which brings me to Item #2

As you can see, I already have a superb artist interested in the project! I have an enormous collection of photos of both Martin and Barbara Bain Landau -- *Space*, of course, but also loads of *Mission* filmclips -- covering just about the entire careers of both of them. If you're picking this up at a con, ask me to see the album that I've put a sampling in: Martin Landau's first photos are from Alfred Hitchcock's *North by Northwest* back in 1959, and Barbara Bain's are from *Murder Once Removed* co-starring John Forsyth in 1971. Most of the best ones are right now in the hands of Joni Wagner for the fanzine art. You should see the beautiful one of Martin from *Cleopatra*! Some of the pieces she's already completed are being shown in the art show -- do check it out! They'll all be in the fanzine ... which is at this point tentatively entitled "Fusion: 1957 / Fission: Impossible" -- and if you don't like it, suggest another one! You can see that the art is going to be fantastic; I'm planning on articles about their various films, transcription of a taped interview with both of them done by Pat Jenkins while visiting the *Space* studios, and hopefully some good fiction. Not just *Space*, I'd like *Mission* too ... and other TV guest appearance characters they've both played. Interested? I am hereby soliciting material! Yes, there will also be a limited number of actual photos printed as well.

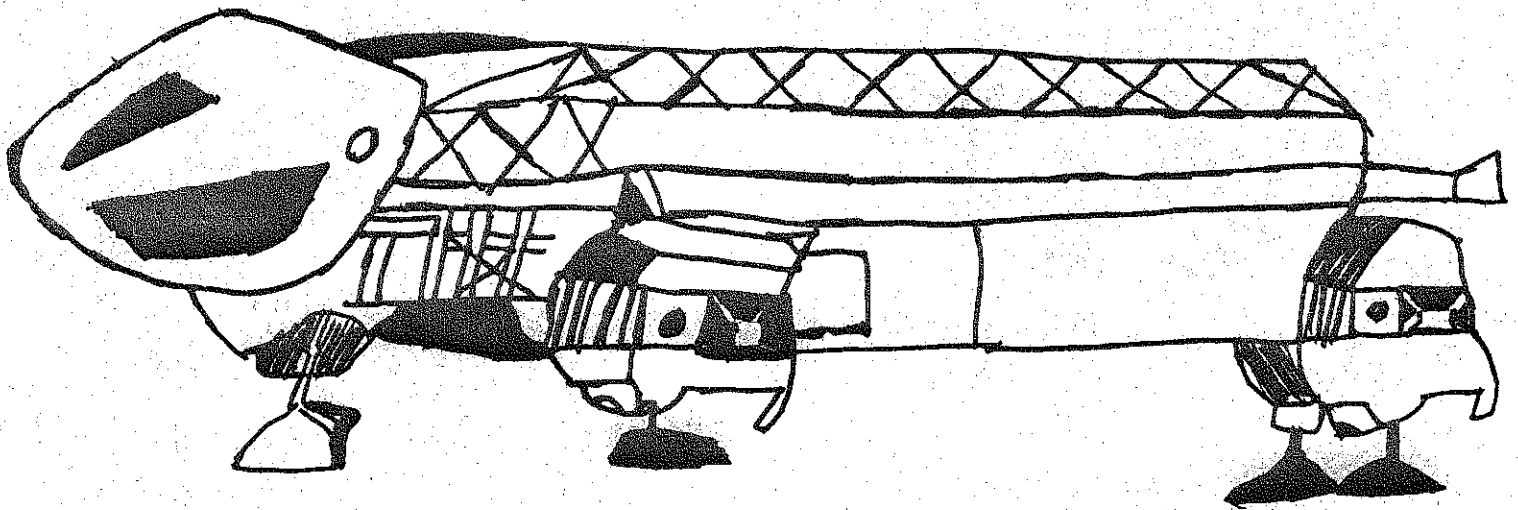
I'd like the fanzine to run between 100 and 200 pages (yes, I know that's a lot of leeway ...) & want to try to keep the cost as low as possible. Depending on the size and the number of photographs that have to be screened, and the length of the issue itself, cost will probably run between \$3 and \$5.

If you're interested in the club, send me a couple of SASEs so I can keep you posted on its progress, or you can fill out your address on the bottom of this sheet and drop a couple of stamps' worth of change in the postage fund box right here at the con.

If you're interested in the fanzine, you can do the same. If you're really overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the idea, you can reserve yourself a copy by filling out your address and giving us a deposit on a copy of \$1 or so. And if you're really crazy, you can order your copy right now at \$3 and we'll let you know how much more when it's ready. Just remember we're only getting started on it, so don't expect it next week! Right? Right.

Enquiries, submissions, ideas, suggestions ... all are welcome. Spacefans, Missionfans, one and all. We're at

Martin and Barbara (Bain) Landau
Association of Fans
48 Clark Street
Lynn, Mass. 01902



MAIN MISSION ALPHA

400 Saratoga Street
East Boston, MA 02128

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

serial number

exp date