

the Star Blazers Fandom Report®

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

Number 2, Volume 2, Issue 6

May 1982

A publication of the Star Blazers Fan Club

News & Notes

It looks like the clubs original goal of getting Star Blazers on the air in New York might be reached. Westchester Inc. is now in the process of getting the show on WPIX (ch. 11). It should be on this fall, weekdays at 5 PM (an hour before the old Star Trek slot). This isn't only good news to New York fans, because the nation looks to New York for programming shows. See the Communications section for more news.

The third season of Star Blazers will be out this fall. It will run on 50% of the stations that carry the show. The transition from Yamato to Star Blazers will start this summer.

The American merchandising campaign will be out this fall. Marketing will be aimed at a wide age range. Bandi America will handle model production. Included in the marketing will be everything from T-shirts to games. There will also be a novelization of all three series.

It has been learned that Westchester Inc. plans to remove Space Cruiser from the English market and replace it with Star Blazers. Space Cruiser was an early British translation of Yamato I. However the quality of the translation was not as high as Star Blazers.

As part of the New York Creation Con, the club will sponcer Star Blazers Conclave. It will be the first national gathering of fans. The event will take place August 28-29th at the Statler-Hilton in NYC. As part of the program there will be episodes as well as speakers. To attend you must register with the Creation Convention. For info on registration write-

Creation Conventions, and send a S.A.S.E. with your letter. For an info flyer on events send a S.A.S.E. to the club address and you will get the flyer at a later date. All are welcome to attend. We will keep you updated on the Star Blazers Conclave.

On Long Island a chapter of the club has been formed called Star Blazers Long Island. Activities include putting out a newsletter and going to conventions. If you are interested in forming a chapter, or have a club that would like to be a chapter send a S.A.S.E. to the club address.

The preview issue of Space Cruiser Log will be out in June. This fanzine is devoted to Star Blazers and science fiction in general. Each issue will run 20-25 pages, and will include articles, reviews, editorials and art. There will also be fan fiction. The subscription rate for club members is \$10 a year, for non-members it's \$12. To subscribe write-Space Cruiser Log, c/o Fred Kopetz,

If you have any questions send a S.A.S.E. The first issue looks good.

In the past month or so, the club has grown to 200+ members. This was due in part to an ad in Starlog. The Cartoon/Fantasy Organization gave us a good review, and that brought more members. On top of this flyers were distributed at the March Creation Con and at Forbidden Planet. Because of this explosion of members, the club has fallen a bit behind in corespondence. However things are starting to adjust back to normal. A thank you goes to all the supporting members, with out whose extra money we could never have taken out the ad in Starlog.

-Yamato Fandom: 1980-

by Ardith Carlton

When the movie Be Forever Yamato opened in August 1980, it topped off a summer of incredible Yamato-mania in Japan. As a Star Blazers fan spending two months as an exchange student in Japan at the time, I was in paradise.

Yamato was at one of its highest peaks of popularity. The mighty Space Cruiser was everywhere, appearing on T-shirts, thermos bottles, gas station signs, billboards.... Mountains of model kits would arrive in stores one day and be sold the next. Yamato suspenders, sun visors, and sandals were the fashion of the young set; some kids had Wildstar masks. Among older fans, scarlet scarves and Yamato wallets and bags turned up.

Yamato music flooded the airwaves and records bouned up the charts. In Tondabayashi, the city I lived in, Yamato music was played in department stores and plazas, and with good reason - Hiroshi Miyagawa, who wrote the music, was a graduate of Tondabayashi High School.

On August 1st, the night before the premiere of Be Forever Yamato, the telefeature Yamato the New Voyage was rebroadcast (it was first shown in 1979). An awesome fireworks show - called the biggest in the Far East - was being staged at the PL Tower just outside of Tondabayashi at the same time. There's nothing in the world like watching Yamato space battles while real fireworks are exploding outside, hurling flashes through the clear glass doors and the windows besides the TV set!

Showings of Be Forever Yamato began in Osaka at 8:00 the next morning, and although we got to the theater an hour early, there were already 50 people in line. The showing was delayed 20 minutes, possibly because the theater hadn't known that the second half of the movie was filmed in 70mm and would require precise timing in opening the curtains further to widen the screen. By the time the theater's door opened, close to 300 people were waiting in a knotty line that stretched down the street.

The lights dimmed, and the long awaited Space Cruiser appeared on the screen at last, big as life. Shouts of applause erupted...but then the breathtaking battleship abruptly became a giant sausage flying through outer space, nothing more than a catchy pre-movie commercial.

The movie finally got underway, and during it, tape recorders whirled and cameras occasionally flipped up into the air and snapped away at the screen. During the three songs of the film, adults would turn to the lyrics printed in the back of the movie programs, and read through them with young children. The jam-packed crowd tittered during the confrontations between Nova and hot to trot Arufon, snickered when Wildstar mistakenly called Sashia "Nova", and quietly wept at Sashia's death.

A merchandise stand was set up outside the theater after the first showing, and it was immediately mobbed. There were posters, books, postcards...almost everything a Yamato fan could want. After shelling out the equivalent of \$9 to see the movie, paying just one dollar for a poster souvenir was a real bargain.

Yamato fandom prospered in the latest boom. New fan clubs sprang up, while old ones took in new members. The clubs covered many different aspects of Yamato: there were literary clubs, where members just wrote stories; clubs for certain characters (Conroy, who died in the original second series but was more or less preserved when his young brother showed up in Be Forever Yamato, had most clubs devoted to him); and some clubs featured parodies.

I became the only foreign member of Yamato Fan Club Mother Town, named for Startsha's city on Iskandar. Mother Town's twice yearly fanzine was a mixture of parody cartoons, serials, serious stories, poems, and letters, with news of other series such as Captain Harlock and Mobile Suit Gundam sprinkled in. My contribution was a list of characters name changes in Star Blazers.

In time the Yamato boom faded. In April 1981, both Yamato III and Mother Town ended, the series allegedly due to fan dissatisfaction, and the fan club because most of the members were graduating from college and would be too busy with new careers to put out a fanzine.

Japanese Fan Art

from Mother Town fanzine, volume 6 (7/80) & 5 (12/79)
courtesy Ardith Carlton



Ads & More

Ads are free to club members, as a service of the club. If you take out an ad please keep it under 3 lines. All ads are approved on an editorial basis. Send ads to the club address. Large ads cost money, so please check if you are going to place an ad over a fourth of a page.

SPACE CRUISER LOG- devoted to STAR BLAZERS and science fiction. Each issue has speculation, reviews, opinion, art and fiction. \$10 for members of the Star Blazers Fan Club. Send subscriptions to- Fred Kopetz,
First issue will be out in June.

SPACE CRUISER YAMATO MAGAZINE- news, art, contests, interviews on Star Blazers, Battle of the Planets, Captain Harlock and others. Years subscription, 4 issues, \$5.00. Send to Christian Heins,

WANTED-Video Cassette Tape of Star Blazers 1st or 2nd season. Betamax format. Send S.A.S.E. to Glenn Young

WANTED-Any Star Blazers movies other than 1st or 2nd series. MUST be in Beta or VHS format. Rob Kreager

WANTED-VHS video copies of English SPACE CRUISER and BE FOREVER YAMATO, also in need of a Japanese ARRIVEDERCHI YAMATO. Can trade, for any 52 episodes of Star Blazers and some of Star Trek as well as the Japanese version of Space Cruiser Yamato. Fred Kopetz

WANTED-Episode title guide for Galaxy Express 999. Also Roman Albums for Yamato III, Capt. Harlock and Galaxy Express 999. Stephen Boyd,

PEN PAL WANTED- who has been a Japanese Animation/Live Action fan and who is familiar with most of the old shows. Contact Chris Bass,

Greg, Laurie, Stephanie, Donna, Robert, Moya, Elayne W., and the whole SBLI gang, I want to see you all at Star Blazers Conclave-MJP

FOR SALE-Darth Vader T.I.E. Fighter and Remote Controlled R2D2, \$10 each write Diana Campbell

WANTED- Video tapes of Star Blazers and Space:1999. Willing to trade. Send a S.A.S.E. to Lenore Dunlop,

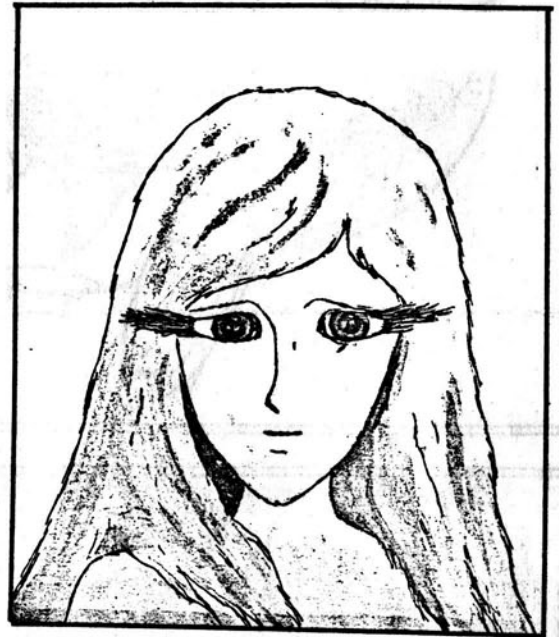
CARTOON
COMEDY

YAMATO FACES
ITS GREATEST
ENEMY IN
SEASON III...
...WILL WAVE MOTION WORK?



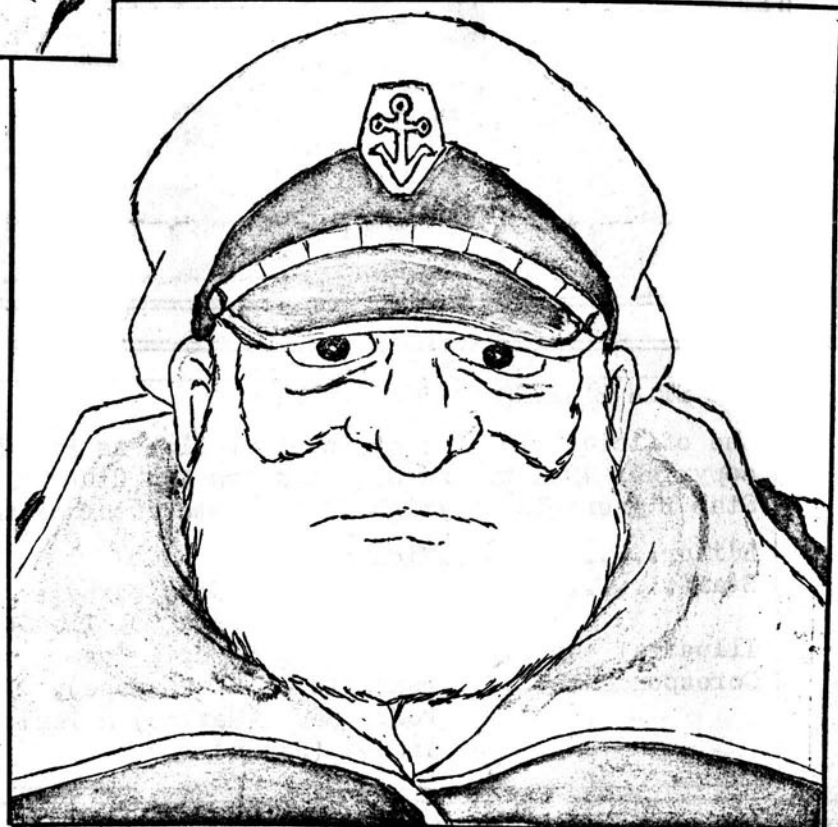
The Art File

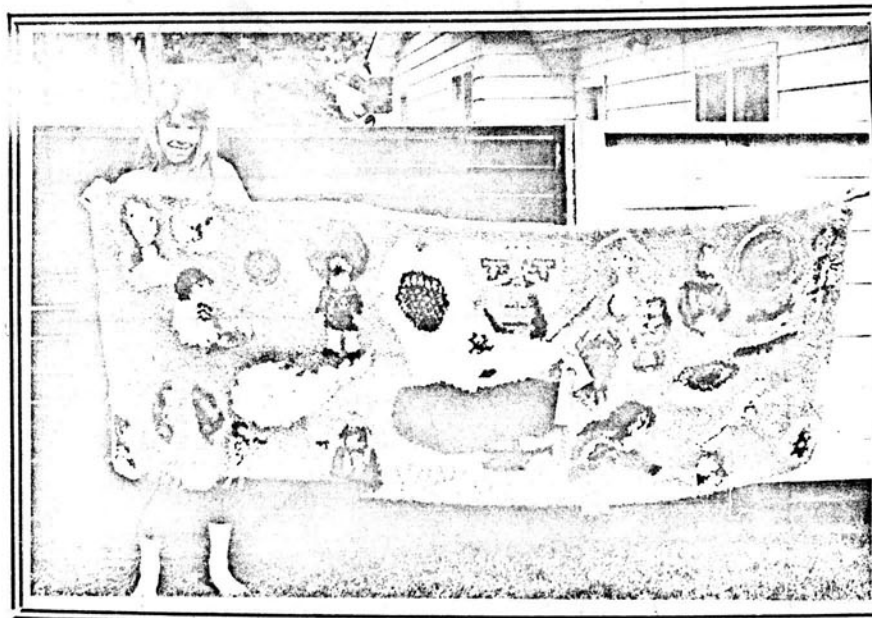
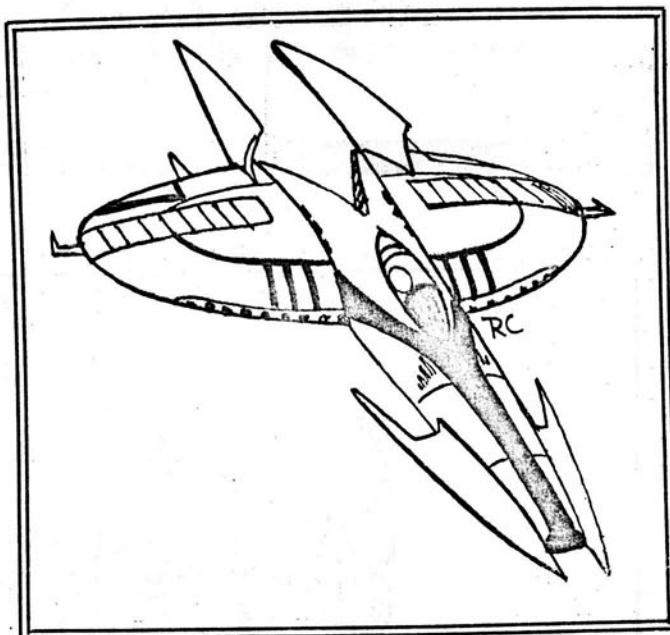
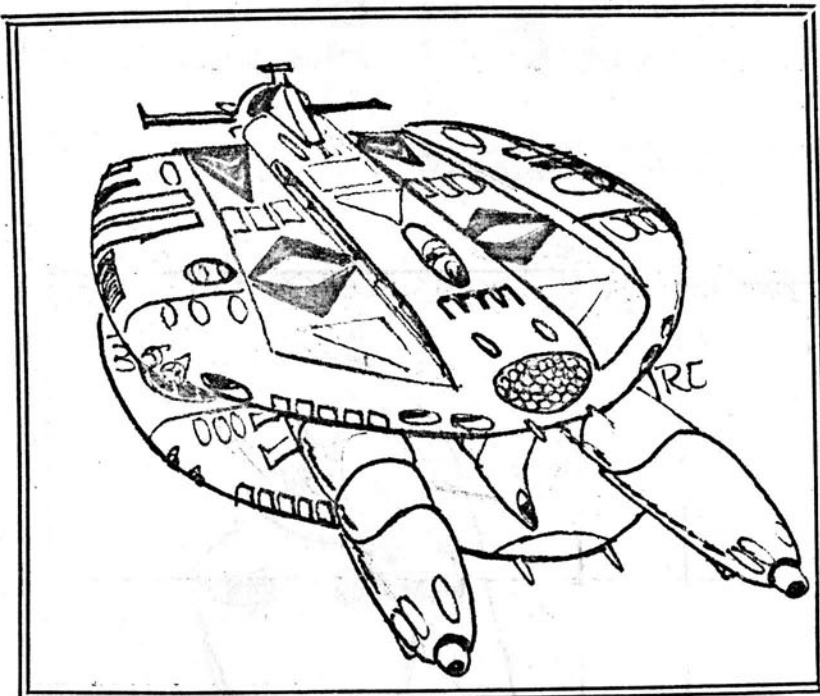
art by
Chris Goge,
Hagerstown
Md.



The editor would like to ask all members with a talent for art to contribute to Art File. If you have done a work that is too big (mural or sculpture) just take a clear black & white photo of it. If you want to do a drawing, try to keep the size down. Also if you can please do it in ink. You might want to send a few small drawings as well. Poetry is also accepted. Send entries to- the Star Blazers Fan Club, Art File

All works should have the artists name on the back.





art by
Randy Chua
San Diego, Ca.

hook rug by
Ardith Carlton
Battle Creek
Michigan

THE STAR BLAZERS FANDOM REPORT

the official clubzine of the Star Blazers Fan Club
copyright 1982 by the Star Blazers Fan Club
Star Blazers is copyrighted by Westchester Films

Editor.....Michael Pinto

Staff.....Laurie Knox, Greg Baradi,
Ardith Carlton & Rob Tingley

Illustrations.....Randy Chua & Chris Goge

Correspondents.....Jeanette Eilke (Europe),
Pedro Sada (Mexico) & Teruo
Yamada (Japan)

THE STAR BLAZERS FAN CLUB
c/o Michael Pinto

also known as the Space
Cruiser Yamato Fan Club
of America

For information on club
T-shirts send a S.A.S.E.
to-Kens Kreations,

Membership in the Star Blazers Fan Club is \$2 a year & \$5 for supporting members. Members get 4 issues of SBFR, membership card & club services. Supporting members get nothing extra, but the extra dollars help us put out a larger newsletter.

communications

Editorial

Not too long ago I had quite a unique experience which I would like to share with the club. The story goes back to the Thanksgiving Creation Con in New York City. At that Con a person from the C/FO NY suggested the possibility of getting the club to be an official entity. I followed that up with a letter to Westchester Inc.

About a week later I received a call from Westchester Films. They asked me to come and visit their offices. It was a dream come true. How could I pass it up? So I journaled into New York. What happened next was more mind blowing than 2001; a Space Odyssey in full stereo.

I met Claude S. Hill who runs Westchester Films. His office was enough to make the biggest collector of Star Blazers cringe. On one wall he had two posters from Star Blazers, framed! Next I was shown the first two episodes from Yamato III. But that was only half of it. Next I was told about the plans for Star Blazers. I found out about the upcoming episodes, the merchandising campaigns and about the show coming back to New York. The optimism in the show that Claude expressed in the show was enough to make the gloomiest fan smile. Also now our club is semi-official. Not only that but he promised to give us a hand with Star Blazers Conclave.

Since that visit I have kept in touch with Westchester Films (or APR Films), and things are looking better for the club every day. Also I have a few personal notes. First off I have been a bit behind with answering my mail, it's just that with the expansion of the club the flow of mail seems never ending, so if I owe you a letter just keep on waiting. Also I would like to welcome all the C/FOers to the club. Also thanks for the article Ardith, and welcome to the staff. Also special thanks to the people who made the first meeting of Star Blazers Long Island 'interesting' and to the people who helped get this issue out. I would also like to give my seal of approval to Space Cruiser Log.

Letters

-It should be noted that from now on the Letters column and the Just Ask column have been combined. All letters & questions should be sent to the club address.

Dear Michael,

Just some comments in regard to the latest issue of THE FANDOM REPORT(#5). First of all, I like the new name — it refers not only to news about the series (as the name News-Line implied) but encompasses fandom — in a whole. Its many aspects are nicely represented in issue #5 (with the exception of fan fiction). I especially liked the "Speculation on Star Blazers" piece—it showed how much closer the future is. Perhaps Robert can write longer articles for future issues. The art by Randy was excellent. I hope the Art File becomes a larger and permanent feature of THE REPORT. The "Just Ask" column is very informative. Every feature has something interesting to say, and it is this variety that makes this issue a step up in quality of the clubzine. Your staff deserve congratulations for the effort you have put into the THE REPORT. Keep up the good work!

Lenore Dunlop,

-Thanks for the compliments! As you can see we did expand Art File, and plan to keep it as a permanent feature as long as there is fan art to fill it. Also I think you can look for more of Robert and his 'sugar coated science fiction' in future issues.

Letters Section continued on the next page.

LETTERS CONTINUED

Dear Mike,

Thanks very much for THE STAR BLAZERS FANDOM REPORT. It looks very good: well laid-out, with alot of news. You seem to have a nice objective, too. The REPORT would look a little better (and would probably save you some postage, too) if you could print on both sides of the paper.

We'll be glad to give you some publicity for your club in the C/FO's bulletin.

Fred Patten, Cartoon/Fantasy Organization, [REDACTED]

Dear Michael,

Im a very big fan of Star Blazers and have seen every episode many times. I was reading the February issue of SBFR when I noticed a small but vital mistake. This mistake concerns the picture of the Andromeda class ship not the Earth Flag ship Andromeda called by Randy in the letters section. I just wanted to point out the Andromeda has the so called pointed nose on it. The Andromeda class ship does not have this nose on the front.

Dean Blodgett, [REDACTED]

-I think it's more of a trivial mistake. Also I think it was a case of artistic licence on Randys part.

Write Now!!

Currently the club is involved with two letter writing campaigns. The latest campaign deals with Starlog. In issue 57 there was a letter to the editor that had alot of signifigence. It was on page 8 of that issue and under the heading Shunned SF. The letter defended some lousy animated show called Blackstar. But it isn't the letter that was important, but the answer. In the answer we found the following line, "STARLOG chose not to cover any Saturday morning animated programs this year because of the birth of our new magazine COMICS SCENE which will be covering animated productions on a regular basis." Translated this means NO STAR BLAZERS IN STARLOG!! They are trying to push us animation/science fiction fans into the ghetto of comics fandom, which is more of a business than a fandom. The choice is clear, Star Blazers can stand along side of the greats in science fiction like Star Trek and 2001 in Starlog, or we can be stuffed inbetween coverage of such sick creations like Howard the Duck!! Write letters of protest to O'Quinn Studios Inc.,

Tell him why Star Blazers is science fiction and belongs in Starlog. Send a S.A.S.E. if you want to get a reply. Star Blazers fans stand up for your rights! Lets not let this editorial injustice go on! What we do now determines our future, write today!

The older campaign is still there. When Westchester Inc. goes to a local station they have to show there is an audience for Star Blazers. A letter from a die hard fan could make the difference if the show goes on the air in a town or not. Also when Westchester goes to the process of getting Star Blazers on WPIX-TV New York, it will need as much support as possible. So if you are a New Yorker send a letter to both WPIX and Westchester Inc. There will soon be a second phone campaign. The address of Westchester is Westchester Inc., [REDACTED] The address of WPIX is WPIX-TV, [REDACTED]

In the November issue of the Fandom Report there will be a special pen pal section. To be listed just send an index card listing your name, address and interests (in and out of science fiction). From there we will put you on the list. The deadline is in Sept. Send your listing to-the Star Blazers Fan Club, [REDACTED] and put PEN PAL PROJECT on the front of the card or letter. Also if you send for the last one, send in an entry again. Also please get involved, the club needs your support. It is up to YOU to make this a good or bad club. Also try to get in your entry soon.