

THE WRIGHT STUFF

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S.S. KITTY HAWK NCC 1659

A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT

By J.R. Fisher

READ THIS PAGE FIRST!!!

We are sending this issue out a little early in hopes that some of you will join us at the STATE FAIR on October 24th. We will meet at the Nationwide parking lot (up above Crabtree) at 6 p.m. (approximately) and ride the CAT bus to the fairgrounds for an evening of fun and good food. This is an annual event that we forgot to mention at the last meeting. We always have a good time; come go with us!

The Halloween party will be at the home of Brad McDonald this year. Brad and his family have just added an addition onto their house and are very kind to offer it to us for this event. However, they will have some rules as to where we can go in the house, especially with food! Be considerate! We will bring snacks etc. to share with the group. Call J.R. at 782-3677 to tell us what you would like to bring; this will enable us to have a planned affair.

Also, please bring your children to go trick-or-treating in the neighborhood. We will decorate the house to receive T.O.T.s that afternoon. We are planning some games and Brad will have videos for our entertainment as well.

Oh yes. This is a costume occasion. Come as your favorite whatever - just don't come in a Starfleet uniform unless you make it real unique. LET'S PARTY!!!

We will cover our November meeting sometime during the party, so be sure to come early and stay late. Remember, we will need some assistance after the party restoring the house to occupiable standards. All help will be appreciated.

We now have the information on the holiday dinner at Ballentine's. Our meal will begin with a fruit cup followed by a tossed salad. The main course will be roasted prime rib with a baked potato (for those political watchers, consider my candidacy for president, I did not put an "e" on the end) and green beans. There will be various flavors of pies available for dessert. Coffee and tea will be available throughout the evening. A vegetarian plate will also be available. The cost for your meal will be \$14.50 and this does include the gratuity. Please, start signing up, paying now, so we will have an accurate count well before the 17th. We are asking that all members and guests dress for the occasion.

There is a new convention in the D.C. area with a great guest list. See the enclosed flyer for information and details.

David Drake was well received and enjoyed himself as well. Thanks to all who came and made the day a success.

Now for all the things I usually tell you about in this section of the newsletter. Please bring your stamps for Larry. Please bring your aluminum cans, etc. for recycling; the proceeds to go to the Duke jar. That jar is very empty; if you have some spare change, why not drop it in the jar.

Jane Gault has volunteered to become the ship's quartermaster. Over the next two months, we will be talking to you about STARFLEET and Kitty Hawk merchandise. We know she will do

a great job.

Anyone wishing to suggest a field trip or any other activity for the ship is asked to contact us as soon as possible so that we can get these items on the calendar. We will ask you at the holiday dinner to help us plan for 1998.

If you have not renewed your STARFLEET membership, please do so soon. If you are not current with the Kitty Hawk, call me.

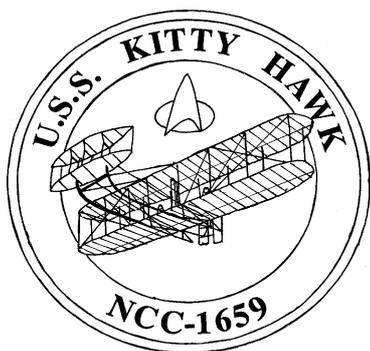
We have great potential as a group. The only way to realize that potential is to grow. We grow by participating and by recruiting. Let's have some fun!

P.S. Ask Diana Waldier and Brian Jones about the awards they won in the costume contest at Farpoint.

ESSE QUAM VIDERI

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Oct. 24:** 6 p.m. Meet at Nationwide site of CAT bus for State Fair
- Oct. 31:** Halloween party at Brad McDonald's, 7 p.m. (see map)
- Nov. 1:** Meeting will be covered at party previous evening
- Nov. 2:** 5 p.m. Lasertag
- Dec. 13:** 4 p.m. meeting (note: moved from December 6th)
- Dec 13-14:** D.C. Con - see enclosed flyer/application
- Dec. 14:** 5 p.m. Lasertag
- Dec. 17:** 7:30 p.m. Annual holiday/ anniversary party at Ballentine's in Cameron Village.
- Dec. 31:** Raleigh First Night.



THE WRIGHT STUFF

VOLUME 8 NO. 5

is a publication of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk, the Raleigh, N.C. chapter of STARFLEET, an international STAR TREK fan organization. This publication is provided free of charge, to all chapter members in good standing. Subscriptions for non-members are \$12.00 per year (six issues). Please address all correspondence to CATBIRD Publications, 5017 Glen Forest Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27612. This publication is a non-profit enterprise and is not meant to infringe upon any copyright or trademark held by Paramount Pictures, Gulf & Western, or any other holder of STAR TREK copyrights or trademarks. Unless otherwise noted, ENTIRE CONTENTS ARE COPYRIGHT 1997 CATBIRD Publications, THE WRIGHT STUFF. Nothing in whole or in part may be used without the written permission of the publisher. THE WRIGHT STUFF assumes all material submitted for publication is gratis. The publisher and editors reserve the right to edit all submissions.



THE WRIGHT STUFF

VOLUME 8

CONTENTS

NUMBER 5

A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT 1

UPCOMING EVENTS 1

FIRST OFFICER'S LOG 3

SCIENCE REPORT 3

OPERATION'S REPORT 3

ENGINEERING REPORT 3

4TH INTERNATIONAL MOON & MARS EXPLORATION CONFERENCE 4

SECURITY REPORT 4

MEDICAL REPORT 4

MODELER'S CORNER 5

HIGH SPEED SHUTTLE UPDATE 5

CREDITS

PUBLISHER..... J.R. FISHER

EDITOR JANE FISHER

ASSISTANTS AND CONTRIBUTORS

ALASTAIR BROWNE
J.R. FISHER
BRAD MCDONALD
CAREY MUSE
ELAINE PISCHKE
LARRY PISCHKE
DIANA WALDIER
TARA WEAVER



TOOL BOX: Trigem Pentium/75; Hewlett Packard Laserjet III; Microsoft Publisher; Logitech Scanman Plus; Word for Windows; Logitech Ansel Image Editing Software.

FIRST OFFICER'S LOG

By Carey Muse

Sorry I haven't been around much lately. Those reviews at Headquarters take awhile. Due to the fact that I suffer from Riker's Disease I have refused a promotion to command a ship of my own.

Hope everyone had a good summer and are full of energy and ready for the upcoming holidays. This will be a very busy period (from now to December 17) for me.

There is no Collector's Corner this time because there is nothing significant out there.

SCIENCE REPORT

By Elaine Pischke

I hope everyone is having a nice Fall. It seems hard to believe that Christmas will be upon us by the time our next newsletter goes out, so I'd like to remind everyone about the Christmas party/dinner and hope everyone plans to attend. This is our one "formal" occasion of the year and it would be nice to have a great turnout for this. Now I'd like to get in a little commercial announcement - I'd like to let everyone know that I am now selling Avon - I'll be bringing books to the meetings or you can give me a call at 847-6645 if you'd like to order. Also, I have AmeriPress products - great for personalized Christmas cards or other gifts (trading cards, postcards, calendars) or fundraiser's for your kids' scout troupes or whatever. And one last pitch - I also have several gumball type candy machines I am trying to find places for. These are nice looking machines. If anyone out there can get permission to place one in their place of business or any public place you can think of, I will pay you a "finder's fee" and contribute a portion of the proceeds to the Duke Children's Hospital.

I have a suggestion for a Science related field trip. "Imagination Station" Science Museum in Wilson. If anyone has been there and can tell us all a little more about it, I'd appreciate it. I have a brochure and will try to remember to bring it up at the next meeting.

OPERATION'S REPORT

By Larry Pischke

Once again, there is next to nothing to report from my neck of the ship. Things are pretty slow, but that seems to be the rule, rather than the exception.

There is one bright spot, though. I just got an e-mail from across the big pond. Margaret, the lady who puts the "S" in OPS (it's a lonely department), will soon be moving back from a three year stay in England. She should be settling in sometime in November, so when you see her, welcome her back (and try not to snicker when a bit of an accent creeps in).

ENGINEERING REPORT

By Brad McDonald

9/6/97: Another month already? Time flies when you're working all the time, days at my regular job and nights trying to finish the addition to my house. Which brings up the first subject of my report. J.R. and I have discussed the possibility of 'breaking in' my new addition by having the Halloween party at my house. My wife already has visions of red fruit punch on the new carpet or chocolate stains on the freshly painted walls. The details will be worked out and maps and directions will be made available at the next meeting, okay?

Not too long ago I reported that Patrick Stewart signed on again for the next Trek movie. I stated that his fee was 10 million, I was wrong, it's closer to 12 and Frakes has agreed to 5 million but with a directing deal tied in. Whether he

will direct the next Trek film is still undecided at this point, but Michael Pillar has been brought back to write the script. It seems the original reason he left was because he hadn't been chosen to write the last one. Now he's back but details of the plot are not forthcoming. Pillar states he wants to concentrate more on Picard's relationship with his crew members. Of course, this will have to be tied in to an action story. Possible villains include the Borg, Romulans, Jem Hadar and Q. My money is on the Romulans, they have been overlooked as a source of villainy for a long time. In fact, they were originally set to be set against the original crew in Star Trek III, at the last minute they changed to the Klingons. (Hence the name of the ship being called a Bird-of-Prey.) The Borg have been used and over-

used, the Jem Hadar and Dominion are currently being featured in Deep Space Nine, the Cardassians aren't much of a threat now and peace has been restored with the Klingons. That leaves Q, but in most cases he has been used as comic relief, not really high adventure stuff. Only time will tell.

On other new fronts, news of a new series is in the air. One of the major networks has opted to remake The Andromeda Strain as a t.v. movie, then use the newly established characters to begin a series. I'm not sure they will be able to make it work, the original is one of my favorites and a classic.

Speaking of remakes, Lost In Space is ready for release. The previews look promising, it's not campy and light this time. Much

(Continued on page 5)

THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL MOON AND MARS EXPLORATION CONFERENCE

By Alastair Browne

I arrived at Cocoa Beach, Florida, for the conference that was to last four days, October 5-8, held at the Cocoa Beach Hilton. Chaired by Andy Clark, head of the Space Frontier Organization (SFO), this conference briefly covered many aspects of a proposed lunar base, asteroid mining, and a Mars mission, including technical and legal details. Commercialization, along with its social benefits, were also presented.

The vision of space is to be shared with society. As the space program is put into schools, especially in the inner cities, the teaching of Math and Science would have to be enhanced, thus improving our educational system. With kids having a fascination for the space program, they would be given the hope that they, too, may one day go up into space. This dream, with the incentive to work can be offered as an alternative to drugs and gangs.

Some technical details were discussed as well. A model of the Lunar Prospector, a satellite designed to orbit and map the lunar surface, was put on display. Processing lunar and asteroidal resources were discussed in several presentations, covering not only the benefits, but the hidden costs. For example, with the problem of mining machinery breaking down, would the paybacks from the minerals mined be worth the work involved? How many pounds of regolith must be processed to obtain, say, one pound of Helium-3? (to be used with deuterium for fusion) Even a space station, as seen with *Mir*, must have spare parts and an efficient repair crew.

Energy sources were also covered, dealing with the pros and cons of solar, wind, hydroelectric, biomass, and nuclear (both fission and fusion) energy sources. Remember that waste from fission energy must be stored from 10 thousand to one million years. During that time, waste buried deep underground could seep into water tables, even at a place such as Yucca

Mountain in Nevada.

A reduced budget gives NASA the incentive to build smaller, simpler probes. The quality increases if they are built as planned, with no additions. They become better, faster, and cheaper. Although NASA's budget is now down, many feel that it will go up again.

Congressman Dave Weldon, representing the Cape's district, went up to speak on the commercialization of space. With a complete and thorough knowledge of this subject, Congressman Weldon not only supports commercial space, but went on to state that should the United States cease to explore (space), it will cease to exist. Maybe not immediately, but it will nonetheless. There is also the staggering national debt which must be dealt with and the space program must abide by it, but the space program must also be treated as an investment towards the future.

What was stressed was that we must turn towards commercialization to develop space. Large bureaucracies tend to drag out and costs greatly increase as a result. Access to space must be made affordable with lower launch costs and commercialization must be done by whatever means available. Examples are space tourism, products made in space such as medicines and costume jewelry made from lunar resources, as a start.

Space law cannot be allowed to hold back commercialization and the settling of space. We must have an incentive to invest and we must be able to show a profit.

In the evenings we would go out for dinner. Monday night we visited the Apollo/Saturn V Center at Kennedy Space Center where we saw the massive Saturn V rocket, the Lunar Module, and displays showing the history of the Moon missions. We had dinner beneath the rocket itself.

The next night, we went to a planetarium, had wine and cheese,

and saw a presentation of Mars and later a movie called "The Ring of Fire", a documentary about volcanoes aligning the Pacific Rim.

Although only a few people showed up at the conference, 30 in all, there was a lot to offer and I would call this a small success.

SECURITY REPORT

By Tara Weaver

All is well in Security at the moment. As the weather turn cooler and nastier, I hope everyone remembers to stay safe. I hope you all have a Happy Halloween and enjoy the coming Thanksgiving... And until next time I'll close with the customary "All Clear!"



MEDICAL REPORT

By Diana Waldier

The recent STARFLEET Interspecies Medical Conference introduced sixteen new species and gave us updated medical information on current known species. The EMP has access to all new information.

21 new holodeck base programs have been added. Please note the stricter safety measures on the more active programs.

Everyone on the ship is encouraged to get first aid and CPR training. Anyone who does so will please report it to the CMO and the Captain.

MODELER'S CORNER

By Larry Pischke

There are a lot of new and reissue model kits coming out soon for those interested in science fiction. I have recently gotten a new list from AMT. These are the guys that do all of the Star Wars and most of the Star Trek models (except for *Voyager*, but who cares about that?). I don't have release dates or prices yet, but I'll let you know when I do.

There is not much new for Star Trek this time around. We're still waiting for a model of the *Enterprise-E*, but we've been waiting since the last movie came out. The last release date that I saw was for September, but that was wrong. Anyway, AMT is also supposed to be coming out with the *Enterprise-C*. This will finally finish out the *Enterprise* line. Also expected out is a three piece snap together set of the B,C, and E. I don't know why they picked these three; the only thing that I can think of is that they did a three piece set of the original, the A, and the D versions before.

There are a lot of things still pumping out for the Star Wars phenom. Rereleases include the snap together AT-ST, the snap together TIE Interceptor, and the snap together X-Wing. AMT will also rerelease the Mos Eisley Cantina Scene, but they are apparently going to retool it first.

There are also some new releases. To start off will be a large vinyl kit of the Rancor. There will also be a snap together Death Star (how hard can it be to make a ball?). The two new kits that I'm waiting for are the AT-AT and the AT-ST. They are both reissues as well but now they will come with windup motors to supposedly makes them walk. OOOOHH!!

We are still waiting for Revell-Monogram's releases for *Babylon 5*. There are only two scheduled. The Star Fury is due out sometime in October, but there is no sign of it yet. The Babylon 5 station is due out some time in the spring of 1998..

The last of the new kits are some that I wasn't expecting, though I guess I should have. To coincide with the upcoming movie, AMT is releasing two *Lost in Space* kits. The robot will be available as a snap together kit, and the Jupiter 2 will be a regular glue together model.

That's all that I have for now. More news as it becomes available.

(Continued from page 3)

darker and gritty, with a real look of action and adventure. I grew up with the original and this is one case where the remake is bound to be better.

Voyager started out with a bang and we met the new crew member. My previous report stated that Kes would be featured in four episodes of the new season, but that has been changed and, as seen in the previews, Kes will leave next week. No word why she was hustled out ahead of schedule, perhaps it was Paramount's way to cut costs.

On a personal note, the healing process continues. I'm recovering nicely and the therapist says my range of motion and strength are coming along at a nice rate. It just seems a bit slow to me. I've been dealing with this since the last week in February and I'm getting tired of the whole process. Also, I have a high school reunion coming up and I would like to be able to shake hands.

One final note, as you know, this is the first anniversary of Hurricane Fran. It's hard to believe that it's been a year, but I'm in construction and there are still houses with blue tarps on the roof, trees down, and so on. So while it's over for most of us, some still suffer from the after effects.

That's about all for now, see you at the next meeting and take care!

10/11/97: The heat is on. At the last meeting I offered my recently renovated home, which is still undergoing work, as the location for the next meeting and the Halloween party. Okay, now comes the mad scramble to get

(Continued on page 6)

HIGH SPEED SHUTTLE UPDATE

By Larry Pischke

The trials and tribulations continue in the Research and Development Department.

First off, terrorists (I'm not sure whose; they were never caught) broke into the shuttle and stole important files and documents. The damage to the shuttle was minimal; the starboard viewscreen was broken. It was the insult and the disgust that was most stinging. That and the drain on the budget to replace the viewscreen.

We are still trying to establish a baseline of performance before we begin modifications. This baseline, however, seems to be unachievable. The age and previous neglect of the shuttle, as well as bad luck keep interfering.

First off, the cooling lines for the power transfer conduit began leaking. Sometime in the past this conduit had been replaced, but the cooling lines had just been cut and spliced, rather than being replaced wholesale. This was now done.

Alignment of the warp fields was off due to preliminary speed runs, so these had to be realigned. Two new warp field generators were also installed, as they were worn out and in danger of exploding (the two other generators were replaced last year for the same reason). Unfortunately, the research station does not have the equipment to handle this kind of work, so the shuttle had to be taken to a large repair facility.

The final insult (this time around) came from a system long thought repaired. The rear braking thrusters stopped working. These were replaced as soon as the shuttle was acquired over two years ago. Closer inspection revealed fuel leaking from the nozzles. We managed to scrape up enough in the budget to replace these units AGAIN, as well as most of the the entire system. The only thing not being replaced is the front two thrusters.

I love research, don't you?

(Continued from page 5)

ready! I have had a few offers of assistance and any others who wish to do so, will not be refused. I hope it will be a lot of fun for all concerned. And as promised, I will try to have the fleet on display, with one proviso, look all you want, but no touching allowed. (Same rule applies to "Mrs. Engineer")

Moving on to other subjects, the new Las Vegas casino/playroom, Star Trek Experience/Hilton Hotels, opens this fall to coincide with the annual electronics convention. A sneak preview on CNN Friday nite was very impressive. The space ride uses the same type of simulators that the Air Force, Navy and commercial aviation industry uses in their evaluations and skill upgrades. The preview was very limited as Paramount is determined to keep the details a secret, but they promise surprises and special guests. I haven't been to Las Vegas since 1969, maybe it's time for a return visit.

Recently, I've had a lot of non-Trek fans ask me what gives with the new crew person on Voyager. Is this a deliberate attempt to boost sagging ratings by playing 'Babe Watch' in space? Is Seven supposed to be a throwback to the good old days when all the ladies on Kirk's Enterprise wore skirts so short that none could perform their duties without revealing more of their 'talents' than they needed to? And so the questions go. In fact a number of formerly disgruntled fans have actually admitted to returning, just to see Seven of Nine. While I admit to being interested in her character (a converted Borg does have possibilities), is it really necessary to dress her in a non-standard uniform with no explanation as to why? I mean if they put Kes in that type outfit, maybe she could have stayed on. Perhaps Janeway or Torres... no, forget it. I does make you wonder about the possibilities. As

a side story, one of my co-workers told me that 15 minutes into the most recent story, her high school boy left the room to complete his homework. When she informed her son that he could watch the rest of Voyager in the kitchen, he replied "Better not Mom, Seven is too much of a distraction." Ah yes, raging hormones.

On other fronts, my work schedule has become such that I've had to miss out on a number of the recently planned excursions. Please don't take that as a sign that your trusty engineer is fading out. I'm just attempting to catch up on all my missed work from my accident. Many of the projects that were put on hold, have now been restarted, and some are 'critical'. So I'm just temporarily out of circulation. Hopefully, but the end of the year I'll be back in full.

As this is being finished I'm preparing for a real treat, my 30 year high school reunion. As part of the preparations, I made a list of things comparing 1967 to 1997. Some of it was quite humorous, while other parts were disheartening. (I quote Khan here from the original series.) "Technology and science has come so far, but man himself has changed so little." Maybe that's not exact, I don't have time to look it up, but the thought's the same. That's why I like working with STARFLEET, the motto says it all, Let Me Help. Perhaps if more people were concerned with helping others instead of getting something for nothing, mankind itself could have made more progress in thirty years. Here's hoping the next thirty are better.

Live long and prosper! See you at the Halloween party.

**THE WRIGHT STUFF
U.S.S. KITTY HAWK
P.O. BOX 52112
RALEIGH, N.C. 27612-2112**