



# 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

We hope everyone had the very best holiday season ever and that each of you is ready to come back on board and make 1998 the best year yet on the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk. We have modified the format for this edition to get the information out as quickly as possible regarding the TV schedule for Babylon 5. The reports are short and articles are few. We hope everyone can catch the new programming as the new season begins.

If you haven't signed up for First Night yet, but would like to come downtown and party with us, give me a call now! We will have a tent at the Civic Center end of the mall and Tara will be running it from 12 noon until midnight. I will be in the merchandise booth nearby and inside the Civic Center from 2 - 6 p.m. Hope to see a lot of you there. Happy New Year!

We had a great turn out for the annual holiday party and everyone seemed to have a good time. The food was great and the service was good also. We probably need more events where we just sit and talk with one another. That is what makes family get-togethers so much fun. And that is what we are; family.

Please make every effort to be at the January 3rd, 1998, meeting. We would like to have as many of you as possible there to plan our calendar for the entire year. If you know of a scheduled event, convention, etc., please come and inform the crew and let us get it on our schedule. We had some great trips last year and with proper planning we can do even better this year. Today's mail included a flyer for Vulcon in Baltimore for March 14-15. Someone asked that we go back to D.C. to the museums; and another wants to go to

Patriot's Point. Let's get as much input as possible: where do you want to go?

Another point we need to decide on is what type of community activity do we want to engage in for the coming year. Do we continue to support the Duke Children's Hospital? Do we adopt a highway or a stream? Do we volunteer for Habitats for Humanity? Where does your interest lie?

We need to address **everyone's** situation with STARFLEET. I need to know **everyone's** current status. Are you current with your dues? Are you receiving your newsletter? Did you send them a change of address when you moved? Did you take O.T.S. or O.C.C.? We need to become an all STARFLEET ship again and I need all the information on you to bring my records up to date as well as STARFLEET records.

Some of you have gone to associate memberships on the Kitty Hawk and it is vitally important, as the new year starts, that we get your status with us straight. Dues are now due, and we will be reminding you over the next two months. It would be very nice if everyone could pay early so that I don't have to spend my time reminding you over and over again. Yearly dues for full membership is \$24.00 and associate dues (newsletter) are \$12.00 for a calendar year. This newsletter is the last edition of 1997. We will not renew you for next year unless we receive payment for 1998.

Speaking of money: I would like to remind you that First Night button sales represent approximately 90% of our treasury above operating costs. Your support is vital to our continued well being.

One suggestion for doing something different this year is to have department meetings one month instead of the full ship meeting. This might be preceded by a bridge staff meeting and followed by one. The purpose would be to get the various departments more active on the ship and build some closer bonds with your shipmates. It has come to my attention that many of you seem more comfortable in smaller groups; so if you could build closer bonds with your department, then you might become more comfortable with shipwide meetings and events. Say, you might even just plain have more fun!

And speaking of fun; don't forget that we do laser tag on the Sunday following the meeting at 5 p.m. So far, we have had about fifteen different members show up at different times. Some of us are starting to become adequate at this, so if we could all show up and start playing as a team, we might have some real fun and start scheduling some other games.

Anyway, it has been another great year on the Kitty Hawk and I thank each of you for making it so. We have old members, new members, babies, graduates, mothers, brothers, sisters, fathers, husbands, wives, etc. That's family - don't tell me, we don't have The Wright Stuff. It is in every one of you!

ESSE QUAM VIDERI

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Dec. 31:** Raleigh First Night  
**Jan 3:** 4:00 p.m. Kitty Hawk Meeting  
**Jan 4:** 5:00 p.m. - Lasertag

# FIRST OFFICER'S LOG

By Carey Muse

Not much to report this time. Exams are coming up and then freedom from NCSU. Hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season and has a successful new year.

# OPERATION'S REPORT

By Larry Pischke

Things are pretty quiet here in Ops land. Margaret is finally back in the country (I know-I've seen her). It's a good thing that the ship can pretty much run itself. Real life keeps getting in the way of having a good time, especially this time of year. The holidays are the most hectic time of the year, but they are also the most fun for most people. I hope that you are one of those people.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

# SCIENCE REPORT

By Elaine Pischke

Yes, it's another new year. Welcome to 1998. We have had a lot of changes on the Kitty Hawk in the past year. Many of the "old timers" have wandered off, and there are some new faces. The bridge crew is faced with the task of planning a year that will be fun and rewarding for everyone, but we need your help. Please seek out your department head and discuss what you would like to see us doing in 1998. Resolve to attend as many meetings as possible, and make suggestions. If there is something you would enjoy doing, chances are someone else would enjoy that, too. Not every outing has to appeal to everyone, although we should all try to attend as many of the key events, such as telethons and holiday parties, as possible. In the past few years we have gone from being one of the most active ships in the fleet to just barely limping along. Let's resolve to turn the ship around in 1998.

In the world of science, the big news lately has been the conference on global warming in Japan. Since in recent years it has been possible to actually measure the rate of global warming and it's effects,

there's actually not much scientific debate on the topic. Global warming has moved to the political arena, where it is likely to languish for a long time. Miraculously, the delegates were able to come up with an agreement on goals. Unfortunately, even these modest goals will probably be impossible to achieve because politicians perceive that the short term goal of getting elected would be put at risk. Long term benefits like saving the planet from disaster seem remote. Once again greed and short-sightedness determine policy, rather than reason and the greater good. I think that if Kirk or Picard were to visit us from the future they would marvel at our selfishness and pettiness, and wonder how we managed to survive at all (and they'd probably force us to sit down together and work it out). So what can we do? Let our elected officials know we consider the environment a vital issue that concerns everyone, and not just the nutty "fringe" element. And look around your own backyard to see where you could be cutting down on energy consumption. And keep those aluminum cans coming in.

# ENGINEERING REPORT

By Brad McDonald

Well, everyone, and my house, survived the Halloween party. It turned out real nice and I think everyone had a good time despite the weather. Since it wasn't as bad as I had imagined it might have been, I may do it again next year. Thanks to those who helped set up and clean up, it was almost completely painless.

Now that I have initiated the new addition on the house, I'm starting another project, redoing the old. Already I have begun remodeling the lower level to expand storage, laundry room and create a master bedroom suite. (And you thought the Death Star was a big

project!) Maybe by the time I get this done, it will be time for next year's party!

On to other things. I urge you to go see the Titanic movie, so far the previews have been great by all. In fact they're even talking about Oscars in several categories including best picture. If that's the case, it will be a far sight better than the last two I saw - Alien 4 and Starship Troopers. Although visually very satisfying, both story lines could be condensed to either "kill the bugs" or "get away from the bugs". What a shame, especially Troopers, which had such wonderful source material. My only joy in film

watching so far has been Anastasia, the animated film. I took the kids to see it and liked it as much as they did.

In my last couple of reports I mentioned the salaries of the various stars associated with the Next Generation crew. It turns out that the 11 million dollar salary for Patrick Stewart includes a multi-picture deal, of non Trek projects. I'm not sure how this breaks down, but Paramount execs evidently made the details public to counter fan concern about the crew pricing themselves out of a job. I still believe that DS9 folks will get a

*(Continued on page 3)*

# MODELER'S CORNER

By Larry Pischke

Actually, this report is more about games than models, but there's no column called "Gamer's Report", so I figured I would put it here.

First off, the model of the Enterprise-E from First Contact finally appeared. And just in time for the cable debut of the movie, too.

The first of the models for Babylon 5 is late, of course. The Star Fury was scheduled to be released in October. I'm not sure how this delay will affect the release of the station in the spring, but I will keep you posted.

The last model I have information on is news to me. I haven't heard about this movie being done yet, but I have seen pictures of the model. For those of you who are not in the *movie know* (like me), let me explain. Apparently, there is going to be a new version of 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea sometime next year. This is not going to be done by Disney, so the submarine Nautilus is being redone. If you want to see the pictures, just stop by the store and ask me. Personally, I like the Disney Nautilus, but I guess I'm going to have to go to Disney World to get a model of it.

Now, on to the game stuff. The first sourcebook for the Babylon 5 roleplaying game has been released. The Earthforce Sourcebook continues on with the format of the Babylon Project game book. What this means is that the pages are beautifully formatted, but the artwork sucks. Chameleon Eclectic, the company producing the game, apparently doesn't have access to images from the show, although there are a few computer generated images of ships. Some of these are new ships that I haven't seen before (I know that doesn't mean much). The Earthforce Sourcebook has some good history in it, which I enjoy reading. The timeline doesn't go as far as the show, though; it talks about Babylon 3 coming online shortly. Also included in this book is a miniature ship combat system based on another game, Full Thrust. This is a new book, so I don't have much more information at this time.

Now to confuse the issue, there is another miniature ship combat system for the B5 universe. This is called Babylon 5 Wars. It is put out by an entirely different company called Agents of Gaming. This game is rather math intensive and realistic, so beware. There are also miniatures available. The big news is that this game should be back in stock just before Christmas. The ins and outs of this saga I'll save for another column.

Finally, I have word on the collectible card game for Babylon 5. This is due in just before Christmas as well. I have a card from the game already. They are using photos from the show for the cards. I don't know how this plays yet, but as soon as I do, you will.

*(Continued from page 2)*

project of their own. And the idea of another series is on again, off again. Someone at Paramount may be worried about going to the well one too many times.

Exciting news in the technology department, the Galileo space craft made a very close pass to some of Jupiter's moons recently and it looks very favorable for water, frozen or otherwise. Of course, this doesn't mean there is life out there, but water is one of the basic necessities. Who knows, maybe we will have proof in the next few years, that something else does exist. Already scientists are calling for more detailed probes of Europa and her sisters. I just hope the funding can be found.

One more personal note, before I conclude. I'm having a major evaluation soon to determine the future of my arm. It seems that not all is going according to plan. In fact, instead of typing this in the usual manner, I have to resort to the two finger hunt and peck style. My manual dexterity is just not progressing and I'm not sure what the next step is going to be, so keep your fingers crossed.

Lastly, J.R. and I have some ideas for next year and we will begin presenting them at the next meeting. Please be there, we need your input and insight.

As always, live long and prosper!

# SECURITY REPORT

By Tara Weaver

Happy holidays to you all! I hope everyone is having a safe and happy holiday season this year. First Night Raleigh is coming up quick, and we can use as many volunteers as we can get out there. I hope to see a good Kitty Hawk turn-out.

Aside from that, very little is going on in Security. That said, I'll close with the customary "All clear!"

# MEDICAL REPORT

By Diana Waldier

The medical Department would like to extend a "Happy Holidays" to all the crew of the ship as well as a "Happy New Year". We hope that the coming year will see more new members and greater participation from all of the membership. Don't overeat!

# BABYLON 5 SCHEDULE (All Times ET)

## The Guide to Babylon 5:

Dec. 26: 11 p.m.; Dec 28: 11 p.m. & 2 a.m.; Jan 3: 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.; Jan 4: 12 midnight, 2:30 a.m., 5:30 a.m.

## 2001: A Space Odyssey (hosted by Bruce Boxleitner & Jerry Doyle):

Dec 28: 8 p.m., 2:30 a.m.; Jan 2: 4:15 a.m.

## In The Beginning (The Prequel Movie):

Jan 4: 8 p.m., 12:30 a.m.; Jan 10: 8 p.m.; Jan 14: 10 p.m.

## Re-edited, Re-scored B-5 Pilot "The Gathering":

Jan 4: 10 p.m.

## Babylon 5 Strip; seasons 1-4:

Jan 5 starts 7 p.m. Monday through Friday

**Babylon 5; 5th Season** starts Jan 21 at 10 p.m. (Wednesday) with replay on the following Saturday at 7 p.m.

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