

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

PLEASE READ ALL OF THIS COLUMN!!

The first thing we need to bring to your attention is not a happy one. At the end of September, Brian Jones lost his mother, Patricia, to cancer after a long battle. Traditionally, we send a memorial gift to the scholarship fund of choice to STARFLEET. Brian expressed his desire that the money should go to the medical scholarship fund and we have complied with his wishes. While we have sent a card to Brian and his family expressing our condolences, please take a moment to extend your sympathies to Brian and his family. We know they would appreciate all of you keeping them in your prayers for several months to come as they deal with this difficult time of loss and adjustment.

The second thing to advise you of is the upcoming Halloween party at Brad McDonald's home on the 31st of the month at 6 p.m. We are requesting that you bring some sort of food to share with the crew and guests. There is a map to Brad's included in this newsletter. Please, if at all possible, be at this party. We have several new and prospective members coming and it is important that they see what a good time we have. You will have a good time!

The third item we bring to your attention is our anniversary party on December 17th at 7:30 p.m. at Balentine's restaurant in Cameron Village as per last two years. The menu will be the same, prime rib, and the cost will be \$15.50 per person. We like for the crew to dress for this occasion as it also serves as our holiday party. We will provide a map for those who need one. Please sign up as soon as you can, as we have guaranteed 25 meals.

The next thing is probably obvious to all who care; that our trips for the rest of the calendar year are cancelled for various reasons. It seems only a few people are interested in

these trips so I guess we will have to plan better for next year if we want any kind of participation by the crew.

Speaking of participation, we need to start signing up volunteers for Raleigh's First Night event in downtown Raleigh soon. We will man a button tent for about 10 hours on New Year's Eve. This event can bring us as much as \$900 if we really work it. I am going to give up the merchandise committee to help with the button sales this year, because of the importance of the money as it relates to the upcoming conventions in January and July 1999. Please commit as soon as possible.

The event we don't know the specifics about is the STAR TREK movie in December. We have not been able to find out which theater will be showing the film so we don't know if we will be able to make a presentation in the lobby the weekend of the opening. We have done these before so we know some of the things to do, but this time we have a special reason to push for a presence at the theater and that is the upcoming convention in January.

We are going to need new members, lots of them. To put on a three day event is no piece of cake. Security alone is going to take probably forty or more team shifts. We know we will not have enough Kitty Hawk people to do the job without outside help; but we need to be able to team a Kitty Hawk person with every not Kitty Hawk volunteer. Beyond that, we will need to call in **all** of our previous members that have experience with security to pull this off. We are known for having the very best team anywhere; now we are going to have to prove it.

Vulkon is coming to Raleigh! Not once, but annually! Joe has the hotel booked for next year already (first weekend in February, 2000). He has **paid** the television station for all of his commercials already! This is the new

city for Vulkon and he plans to make it big!

Robert Beltram has had to withdraw from the upcoming show due to a movie commitment. Joe asked who I would suggest as a replacement. I suggested Robert Duncan McNeill as I had spoken to him at Shore Leave about coming back to the Raleigh area. Joe loved the idea and thought that might be the best choice, as he already had him signed for a convention early next year.

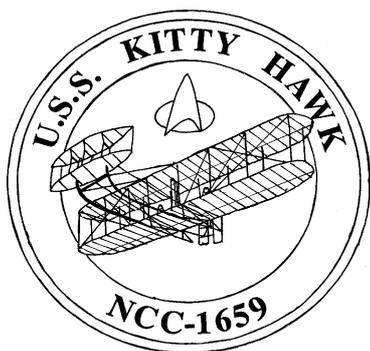
Then I asked Joe if he could bring a Babylon 5 guest and could he get a beautiful female star as the women always seem to draw well here.

Well, seems he has a package deal with Mira Furlan for three shows, so he thinks he can make Raleigh one of the three stops for her! Now, if it does not work out for this year, he will bring her for the February show in 2000!

Now, for more good news! Joe would be delighted for us to do some of the programming! He asked if we could do two hours; I offered four hours each day! Loved it! Could we invite local science-fiction writers to appear and do talks or panels? Of course! Just so he doesn't have to pay them!

One of our new members is working on a presentation of video special effects. We can easily do a panel on costuming with some of our friends. The local modeling club should easily be persuaded to do a presentation on model building and painting; and we have Brad, who could enhance the affair with his fleet of STAR TREK ships. That leaves only one hour unscheduled at this time but we will fill it! Bring us your ideas!!!

We are getting everything we have talked about over the last nine years. The time for talk is past; it is time to plan and to act! All of us must pull together as a crew to make this work! This is it! Do we really have the **Wright Stuff**?



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VOLUME 9

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EXPERIENCING THE STAR TREK EXPERIENCE

By Barry Jackson

One of the ways to get to the entrance of the Experience inside the Hilton is through the Space Quest Casino. The inside walls of this casino are replicas of the inside of Deep Space Nine complete with Jefferys tubes, reactor doors, reactors and several status displays. Since these walls are inside of the casino, we were not allowed to take pictures. Talking to a guard, he suggested that we call the Hilton publicity department and ask them if we could take pictures of the walls as long as we did not take any pictures of any people that were playing at the slots. I called and the lady stated that it would not be a problem, and if there was a problem for the guards to call her and she would inform them of her decision. We took pictures of most of the items mentioned above. We are probably two of only a very few visitors to the Experience allowed to take pictures of the inside of the casino. They can only say no if you ask.

Anyway there are two entrances to the Experience. The one on the left goes down into Quark's bar and restaurant and to the gift/memorabilia shops. The one on the right goes to the paid entrance to the Experience and to a balcony overlooking Quark's bar. In the ceiling above the bar is a starry sky where there is a 1/50 replica of a Klingon Bird of Prey, a 1/50 replica of Voyager, a 1/80 replica of the Enterprise D and at the front above both entrances there is a 1/50 replica of the Enterprise, 1701. It appears to be coming out of space dock. The sight of all four of these replicas is really a breathtaking experience. There are also several videos on the walls showing Star Trek episode/movie scenes and a constant Star Trek theme playing.

Before visiting the Experience, JR and I decided to eat lunch at Quark's. The bar itself is similar to the real bar on TV. There were Paramount (real TV costumes) Klingons and a Ferengi or two walking around through the bar. The costumes these people had on were a lot better than the food.

After lunch, JR went back to the room to get his ticket voucher and camera. I already had my ticket

voucher so I took it to the ticket counter to redeem it for my ticket. Somehow the hotel had messed up. I received two tickets to the experience. I guess you can realize just what opportunity this opens up. When JR returned we used my two tickets for our first visit.

Upon entering there is a lighted display depicting the Star Trek time line on the left side and on the right there are glass case displays of quite a lot of the episode/movie props. Also the walkways are under the aforementioned starships in the ceiling. After about fifty yards of time line and props, you enter the last hallway before the real experience. After about 20 or so people arrive, you enter what looks like a small anteroom. A few seconds later a door opens and you enter what appears to be the entrance to a shuttlebay. There are Starfleet uniformed personnel directing you. The entrance is marked with lighted blue lines on the floor. You are watching instructions on TV monitors, but wait, there is a problem. The lights go out and there is a rush of air and then the lights come back on. You are now standing on a real looking transporter pad. How the floor changed from blue lights to transporter pad I have no idea. We are informed by the transporter operator that we have been transported to the year 2371 and they have no idea why we are here. Another officer enters the transporter room and tells us we have to go to the bridge. On the way to the bridge, we go through real looking Enterprise D corridors because when we arrive at the bridge we realize we are on the Enterprise D.

The bridge is fantastic and the displays are also really authentic looking. We are informed by Commander Riker on the bridge display that one of us is a ancestor of Captain Picard and that a Klingon ship discovered this and has transported all of us to the 24th century to kill all of us in hopes of destroying or killing Captain Picard. There are several exchanges between the bridge officers and Commander Riker and it is decided that we are to board a shuttlecraft and go back through time

using a wormhole or space distortion. We are herded into the turbolift. During our ascent to the shuttlebay, the Klingon Bird of Prey attacks the Enterprise D. Once again the lights dim and we are in a free fall and other exciting things. Finally we arrive at the shuttlebay. We are lined up in front of the shuttlebay door and are asked to listen while Ltcmdr LaForge briefs us on the operation of the shuttlecraft and tells us he will be piloting the lead shuttlecraft. Finally the door opens and we board the shuttlecraft. After boarding the door closes and after a few seconds, the interior lights dim. We are told that due to the Klingon ship doing damage to the Enterprise that the outside shuttlebay door will be blown open to allow us to exit. The door is blown and all sort of stuff exits the door with us right behind. When we exit the shuttlebay, we drop into the void of space. We come around and line up behind La Forge's shuttlecraft and do a fly by of the Enterprise going between the main structure and the warp nacelle. We continue for a few seconds and then go to warp. We have a very exciting ride and finally find the wormhole and exit into the sky above Las Vegas.

But wait, the Klingon Bird of Prey has followed us and has both of the shuttlecraft in a tractor beam. But wait, the Enterprise D has also followed and fires on the Bird of Prey breaking us free of the tractor beam. We race for the Hilton and finally land back on DS9. The shuttlecraft door opens and a very astonished Hilton maintenance worker wants to know what we are doing on this lower level. Are we all OK? Are we lost? Anyway she leads us to an elevator and we go back to a lower level and finally exit at the back of Quark's bar.

There is no way I can fully make you understand the excitement of the shuttle ride. We twist and turn and dodge Klingon disrupter beams. Dive and shoot around the Klingon Bird of Prey and generally have a very exciting and very realistic time. This is something that you will have to experience yourself and I don't want to

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FIRST OFFICER'S LOG

By Carey Muse

Well, summer is over and fall has arrived. Hope everyone had a good vacation this summer and are now ready to commit to the chores the Kitty Hawk will have for them in the following days. Whatever the CO and the members of this ship decide to undertake in the following months I hope we will all give our assignments 100%.

OPERATION'S REPORT

By Larry Pischke

When we last left our intrepid hero, he was sitting in EXACTLY the same spot. In a BLAZE of inactivity, he has done NOTHING and gone NOWHERE.

It's amazing that, no matter how little gets done, there is always paperwork to do. So right now, I'm scrambling to finish this report, with our beloved captain standing before me tapping his foot impatiently.

I've decided to combine a couple of my usual features into one article; otherwise, this report would be short indeed.

For those modelers out there, Revell/Monogram has finally released the model of the Babylon 5 station. Unfortunately, I do not have one in front of me to look at (I'm at my mundane job, and the computer is lying to me about inventory), but the quality of the examples that I have seen has been admirable. Overall length is about 16", so some detail is lost, but all in all it seems worth the \$18.50 price tag. Rumor also has it that the next model due out in this series is the Minbari War Cruiser, but this is not confirmed.

I am still reading the rulebook for the Star Trek: Next Generation role-playing game put out by Last Unicorn Games. The presentation is beautiful, with lots of photos from the series. The first part of the book is a must for Federationphiles, giving a complete history of earth and the formation of the UFP. The character generation appears easy and flexible from what I've seen, allowing a wide diversity of backgrounds. I hope to know more when I get a chance to finish reading. Unfortunately, I usually only get about five minutes at any one sitting, so I don't expect to finish anytime soon. The second product in the line, a Gamemaster Screen, has already been released; I'll tell you more later.

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.

which, if perfected and deemed safe

for humans, promise to alter your man's chemistry in yet more ways to suit your fancy. The following is a list of the most promising.

DIRECTRA-a dose of this drug given to men before leaving on car trips caused 72% to stop and ask for directions when they got lost, compared to a control group of 0.2%.

PROJECTRA-Men given this experimental drug were far more likely to actually finish a household project before starting a new one.

CHILDAGRA-Men taking this drug reported a sudden, overwhelming urge to perform more childcare tasks, especially cleaning up spills and "little accidents"

COMPLIMENTRA-In clinical trials, 82% of middle aged men

administered this drug noticed that their wives had a new hairstyle. Currently being tested to see if its effects extend to noticing new clothing.

BUYAGRA-Married and otherwise attached men reported a sudden urge to buy their sweeties expensive jewelry and gifts after taking this drug for only 2 days. Still to be seen: whether the drug can be continued for a period longer than your favorite store's return limit.

NEGA-VIAGRA-Has the opposite effect of Viagra. Currently undergoing clinical trials on sitting US Presidents.

NEGA-SPORTAGRA-This drug had the strange effect of making men want to turn off televised sports and actually converse with other family members.

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MEDICAL REPORT

By Amy DeJongh

With all the new medications breaking into the market, it can be hard for even health care professionals to keep up with them all. With the release of the impotence medication, Viagra, women around the globe are eagerly awaiting other new developments.

Good news ladies! Already under development at Pfizer's Male Behavioral Health Laboratory (staffed entirely by female scientists) are a number of other new drugs

ENGINEERING REPORT

By Brad McDonald

Hello again! Seems hard to believe, but another month, or more, has passed again. A lot has happened since my last report, so I'll try to bring you up to speed.

On a few personal notes, the house is ready for another invasion. The Halloween party will be at my place again, see map and J.R.'s words for details. Hope to see you there, I plan to introduce a few new hopeful members at the gathering, so let's do our best to make them feel welcome. Also, I contacted the assistant script supervisor at Paramount and she informed me that I had made first cut with my submission. (That means that they didn't throw it out as soon as they opened it. It wasn't done in crayon, on lined paper, or 1000 pages long. After all, they do have their standards.) So I'll keep my fingers crossed, and my toes, and so on.

J.R. asked me to look into a trip to the U.S.S. North Carolina. As I reported at the last meeting, the ship's deck was still being replaced

and they informed me that certain areas of the ship may be difficult to get to. So, we'll wait a bit longer, maybe the deck work will be done and we'll have total access.

I've also been assigned with locating the theaters that will be showing the Star Trek film, due next month. I have yet to find which one will have it and if you find out, please let me know. As usual, we'll try to get a special midnight showing, but also be permitted to have a display and do some recruiting and so on. Contact either me or J.R. directly and thanks in advance.

If you've been watching the Sci-Fi Channel's special Trek, you've noticed the beautifully restored footage, the insightful commentary and the incredibly long commercial breaks. Oh well, I suppose there's a price to pay for everything. Speaking of Trek, Deep Space Nine **will** be concluded this season and all loose plot lines will be concluded before the series ends. We've already

been introduced to a new Dax and Kira has been promoted and Sisko restored the wormhole and other points. Before the end, look for a few surprises, as promised by the aforementioned script supervisor. So far she has delivered on all other promises. If Voyager goes as planned, there will be several eye openers here as well. Time will tell.

Another programming note, Turner Classics is running all of the Universal Studio monster films this month, check your listings. So far I've seen Dracula, Frankenstein, the Invisible Man, Wolfman, and the Mummy. More will follow and they will repeat these as well. In addition, there is a very good documentary which goes along with the special. It has Ray Bradbury plus others who were there when the films were made.

Oh yes, I just made it to the 21st century this week. I'm now on the internet, my address is:

brtrkaki@mindspring.com
See you at the party!

SECURITY REPORT

By Spring Brooks

Fantasy author, was having his annual "Big Party" and we were scouting it out. It was a big party. The custom built 3-story house was pentagon in shape and made of unobtrusive wood. It blended in with the vast country surroundings. Flowers and ornamental bushes filled the gardens that bordered the house. Inside was a great deal of food including a roast pig. Beer was the alcoholic beverage. The Drakes were cordial and laid back as were the other quests. No suits or high heels were noticed. Close to a hundred mostly academic-related computer nerds and SciFi fans of all ages.

The Drakes collect interesting weapons, SciFi/Horror/Fantasy books and Roman Empire items. I've never seen as many books in a private house. It must be hell to clean.

Soon after the sun fell below the horizon, a large fireworks show was put on by a small group of people that could run fast. There was also a safety course taught to the attending children. After that we headed back home with the captain piloting the ship with Jane and I navigating.

Captain J.R. Fisher, Captain Jane Fisher and myself took a great journey outside of Pittsboro, way outside. David Drake, prolific SciFi/

1998 DARWIN AWARDS RELEASED

For those not familiar with the Darwin Awards, it's an annual honor given to the person who provided the entire human gene pool the biggest service by getting killed in the most extraordinarily stupid way. As always, competition this year has been keen again. Some candidates appear to have trained their whole lives for this award!

DARWIN AWARD CANDIDATES

1. In September in Detroit, a 41-year-old man got stuck and drowned in two feet of water after squeezing headfirst through an 18-inch-wide sewer grate to retrieve his car keys.
2. In October, a 49-year-old San Francisco stockbroker, who "totally zoned when he ran," according to his wife, accidentally jogged off a 200-foot-high cliff on his daily run.
3. Buxton, NC: A man died on a beach when an 8-foot-deep hole he had dug into the sand caved in as he sat inside it. Beach goers said Daniel Jones, 21, dug the hole for fun or protection from the wind, and had been sitting in a beach chair at the bottom Thursday afternoon when it collapsed, burying him beneath 5 feet of sand. People on the beach used their hands, as shovels, but could not reach him. It took rescue workers using heavy equipment almost an hour to free him while about 200 people looked on. Jones was pronounced dead at a hospital.
4. In February, Santiago Alvarado, 24, was killed in

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FOUNDING CONVENTION OF THE MARS SOCIETY

By Alastair Browne

From August 13-16, 1998, Dr. Robert Zubrin chaired the first convention of the Mars Society at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Formerly a senior engineer at Lockheed-Martin, Dr. Zubrin is the founder of Pioneer Astronautics, a space exploration research and development firm. It was Dr. Zubrin who came up with the concept of Mars Direct, a vision to send man directly from Earth, using off-the-shelf technology. This is without the use of a space station or a Moon base.

In 1989, President Bush announced that the United States would return humans to the Moon and then send them on to Mars. The Space Exploration Initiative was born and NASA was sent into overdrive to come up with a Mars strategy. Congress heard that the whole thing would cost \$450 billion, and SEI crashed.

Dr. Zubrin believes that there is a better way to get to Mars. Using existing technology, an unmanned craft would be sent to Mars, to be used as both a habitat and a return rocket to Earth. This would be a heavy lift launch vehicle, using space shuttle technology. Upon landing, a fuel manufacturing device on the rocket would begin to function. Oxygen would be extracted from the

abundant Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere, to be used for fuel and water for the coming manned mission. The only element that will be brought from Earth is Hydrogen.

The manned Mars vehicle will then be launched, with a four person crew. This would take six to nine months to get to Mars and there would only be enough fuel for a one way trip, to provide room for food and living space. By the time the ship arrived on Mars, there would be another ship with fuel waiting for them to use for the return trip.

The purpose of this project would be to live off the land, using the soil to grow food and the air to extract oxygen and water.

Every two years, two more ships would be launched to a different place on Mars, all for eventual colonization and later, terraforming.

The cost would be about \$50 billion, but only a small increase in NASA's annual budget is required. The infrastructure to send men to Mars is already in place.

People from all walks of life attended this conference: authors, astronauts, scientists, and engineers. Many workshops from extracting water from Mars, to terraforming, to the social aspects of sending people to the red planet. I myself did a

presentation on establishing a Moon base and mining the asteroids first, explaining all the benefits of doing so.

Dr. Robert Zubrin states that we, humanity, need a new frontier to expand. We need to expand into space, otherwise we will sit back and wallow in the problems we have on Earth, set in our ways, and eventually deteriorate.

Settling and terraforming Mars provides humanity with new dreams, a chance for humanity to start anew, to expand into a multi-planetary society.

At the banquet after everyone finished dinner, Zubrin read aloud the ratification of the Founding Declaration of the Mars Society.

"The time has come for humanity to journey to Mars!...We must go, not for us, but for the people who are yet to be. We must do it for the Martians."

When he finished, everyone jumped up and applauded. Zubrin called for a voiced vote. The ayes had it, unanimously. Zubrin was ecstatic. The crowd was pumped. They had a society. They had a movement. They were going to Mars, a cold little planet 40 million miles away, but a world, they believed, would someday be wonderful.

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Lompoc, CA, as he fell face-first through the ceiling of a bicycle shop he was burglarizing. Death resulted when the long flashlight he had placed in his mouth (to keep his hands free) rammed into the base of his skull as he hit the floor.

5. According to police in Dahlonoga, GA, ROTC cadet Nick Berrena, 20, was stabbed to death in January by fellow cadet Jeffrey Hoffman, 23, who was trying to prove that a knife could not penetrate the flak vest Berrena was wearing.

6. Sylvester Briddell, Jr., 26, was killed in February in Selbyville, Del, as he won a bet with friends who said he would not put a revolver loaded with four bullets into his mouth and pull the trigger.

7. In February, according to police in Windsor, Ontario, Daniel Kolta, 27, and Randy Taylor, 33, died in a head-on collision, thus earning a tie in the game of chicken they were playing with their snowmobiles.

8. In September, a 7-year-old boy fell off a 100-foot-high bluff near Ozark, Ark, after he lost his grip swinging on a cross that marked the spot where another person had fallen to his death

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FLATULAGRA-This complex drug converts men's noxious intestinal gases back into food solids. Special bonus: Dosage can be doubled for long car rides.

FLYAGRA-This drug has been showing great promise in treating men with OFD (Open Fly Disorder). Especially useful for men on Viagra.

LIAGRA-This drug causes men to be less truthful when being asked about their sexual affairs. Will be available in Regular, Grand Jury, and Presidential Strengths.

On a more serious note, any crew members interested in CPR classes, please call me at 266-7315 for details. What better way to help out other people than to know what to do to save their lives? Also, any one with information or interest in walkathons for various organizations, please let me know. It's a great way to contribute to your own health while helping others!

Be safe, be happy, be healthy.

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tell you the complete story. But here is a tip to help you experience the ride to it fullest. When you leave the bridge, be the last one on the turbo lift. This lets you be the first one out. Line up at the far blue line. The far blue line allows you to sit in the front of the shuttle craft where the view of the ride is much better. I guess I forgot to mention that we used JR's tickets to take a second ride on the shuttle. It was better than the first.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Oct. | 31: | Halloween Party |
| Nov. | 7: | Kitty Hawk Meeting 4 p.m. |
| | 8: | Laser Tag 5 p.m. |
| | 6-8: | Sci-Con 19: VA Beach, VA |
| Dec. | 5: | Kitty Hawk Meeting 4 p.m. |
| | 6: | Laser Tag 5 p.m. |
| | 17: | Anniversary Party |
| | 31: | 1st Night Raleigh |

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