

# 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

Well Done!!! The crew of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk performed superbly at Vulkan the weekend of January 31st. Everyone did their job in a competent and professional manner. I could not be prouder of you! So pat yourselves on the back, enjoy the moment; and roll up your sleeves and let's see how we can make the next one even better.

At the last meeting (January 6) we did a very complete analysis of not only what we were responsible for, but the convention as a whole. All of your suggestions, criticisms and complaints will be passed to the appropriate people in the coming weeks. Again, everything we talked about seems very valid and I hope the corrections can be made before this next con.

My personal concern is the amount of money we spent on putting on this show; not that it was not well spent in our initial learning experience; but what we can do to lower our cost without sacrificing the quality; especially in view of the desire to expand several of the panels. I will talk to Joe Motes about reimbursement for several things we agreed to before the convention but in light of the enormous loss he suffered at the gate, I don't feel we can push him on these things. We all can learn from this experience and do a better job next time. I don't want our cost to be considered if it means we do not get Vulkan back next year.

The lessons we learned from Vulkan will also be passed on to Dave Scott for his convention coming in July. We do not know what our role will be at that con, but we will be discussing it in the coming weeks. Also, in regards to conventions, Mike Smith has asked us to help with a convention he is doing in Jacksonville, N.C. around the first of May. It is not confirmed nor have I had any extensive conversation with Mike as to just what it is he wishes

us to do.

At this writing, we have just completed our first night on the PBS telethon. Twenty-five of the thirty-one people who signed up to work the 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shift showed up. Several people had to leave early and we wound up with only about nineteen left at the last break. We raised over \$76,000.00 during our shift.

We still have room for a few more volunteers for our next shift on March 27th. Come if you can, and please try to arrange your schedule so that you can stay for the entire shift. Uniforms and Kitty Hawk shirts are preferred as the dress for this event. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are going to help us with this event.

Speaking of events: most of you did not get to see the wonderful presentations done by our crew at the last convention because you (us, we) were busy doing your own assignments. Therefore, we have asked all of the presenters to share their performances with the crew as programs following the business portions of our monthly meeting. Amy DeJongh will present her Alien Food Class at our March 6th meeting so be sure to bring an appetite and be on time. Earth cake will also be available for those less adventurous souls among us.

As for meetings, we normally try to plan all our meetings at the first of the year; but this year, it seems we have a tremendous amount of conflicts with our usual first Saturday of the month schedule. So we will be scheduling only a couple of months at a time this year. Our first example is coming up here in April. April 3rd is our usual meeting date, but it is on Easter weekend and many of us will be travelling; so we will have our April meeting on MARCH 27th at 4 o'clock. When we finish the meeting we can go over to the PBS telethon at 6:30 p.m. This

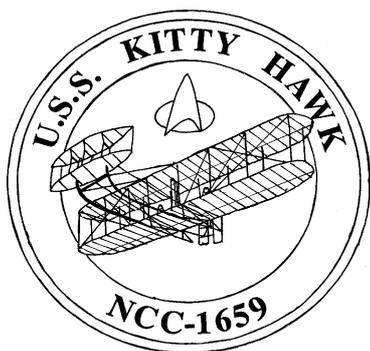
way we will free up one weekend for other things. We may do the same in May, depending on how the convention deal works out. If there are changes in our schedule, I will notify everyone by phone or by mail.

There have not been any discussions about away teams for this year, so if you want to discuss these possible trips, please bring your suggestions to the meeting this Saturday. We will also look at other upcoming conventions we could trek to.

It is hard to believe that two months of the year are already gone but that is in part, I believe, due to the intensity of our involvement with the con. If the rest of the year goes by as quick, I will never catch up again. We have already done more than in any previous year and we have an enormous schedule ahead of us.

One more item of great importance needs to be addressed: dues. We have spent more than usual so the treasury is down and the only way immediately available to bring it up is for everyone to pay his or her Kitty Hawk dues as soon as possible. Several people have already done so without even being asked and I thank them. Now, let's maintain that intensity set by the con and take care of every task as efficiently and professionally as we dealt with the con. (\$24.00 for 1999, and don't forget to join or renew in STARFLEET.)

Well, the end of another VIEW. But this one is really different; I don't have to ask the question, you have already proven the answer to me and everyone who witnessed it. YOU each have the Wright Stuff and as a crew, we have unlimited potential. I have never been prouder of our group. You have proven our motto: To be, rather than to seem. Well Done!



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VOLUME 10

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# FIRST OFFICER'S LOG

## By Carey Muse

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who worked either security or had a panel discussion at the recent Vulkon. You guys who did the panels did a GREAT job! On Sunday, I had the opportunity to sit in on a few of the panels and you all did a remarkable job. Everything was well planned, you covered your topics and I give you a big hand for a job well done. The job you did gives us a good start planning and executing programming in preparation for our

own convention. There were some problems at Vulkon and we will no doubt be discussing these in the months to come in order for us to be aware of this type of problem and be able to avoid them at our convention. I hope that the organizers of Vulkon were also paying attention and will make the necessary changes when it is time for them to return to Raleigh next year. In July we will have another convention coming to Raleigh that we need to be prepared for and ready to go. It is unknown at

this time how involved the Kitty Hawk will be in this venture, it could be just security or it could be that we will be heavily involved.

Again, we are volunteering this year for the PBS Telethon. We have two dates in mind: the end of February and the end of March. If you are available to work, please volunteer to do so for this event.

Please make plans to attend and participate in all our activities and please be an active member of the Kitty Hawk.

# SCIENCE REPORT

## By Elaine Pischke

In the real world of space and science, Nasa is quietly continuing it's exploration of Mars. The Mars 98 Climate Orbiter was launched December 11, 1998 and will arrive at Mars September 23, 1999, where it will achieve a stable orbit, then proceed to collect detailed information about the surface and climate of Mars. The Mars 98 Polar Lander was launched on January 3, 1999 and it is scheduled to land on Mars December 3, 1999. The lander will land near the southern polar cap. It is equipped with cameras, a robotic arm and instruments to measure the Martian soil composition. Two small microbes will penetrate the subsurface to detect water ice.

Here on the Kitty Hawk, our scientific efforts are more modest. We are still collecting cans for recycling, so don't forget to bring yours to the meetings. Now I'd like to share a few science humor gems I found on the internet. These are all actual quotes from 11 year old's science exams. Enjoy.

"When you breath, you inspire. When you do not breath, you expire."

"H2O is hot water, and CO2 is cold water."

"When you smell an odorless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide."

"Water is composed of two gins, Oxygen and Hydrogin. Oxygen is pure gin, Hydrogin is gin and water."

"The moon is a planet just like the earth, only it is even deader."

"Mushrooms always grow in damp places and so they look like umbrellas."

"The body consists of three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abominable cavity contains the bowls, of which there are five - a,e,i,o, and u."

"The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects."

"The tides are a fight between the Earth and moon. All water tends

towards the moon, because there is no water in the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight."

"A fossil is an extinct animal. The older it is, the more extinct it is."

"Planet: A body of Earth surrounded by sky."

"Vacuum: A large, empty space where the pope lives."

"For asphyxiation: Apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead."

"For head cold" use an agonizer to spray the nose until it drops in your throat."

"To keep milk from turning sour: Keep it in the cow."

# OPERATION'S REPORT

## By Larry Pischke

Well, the holidays are finally over. I hope that everyone survived. If not, well, we'll miss you.

Nothing much happening around here, as usual. I think departments are pretty much dead, anyway. At least Ops lead the way.

There is some interesting news on the model front. As was rumored, AMT pretty much killed all of their Star Trek models. Seems that they just weren't selling well enough for them and Paramount, so the old kits were laid to rest. What replaced them were three new kits. Well actually two new kits. The third is an older kit in a new box. This is the Enterprise-E. It was discontinued shortly after the newest movie was released. It

reappeared a short time later in a new box to commemorate "Insurrection."

The other two models fill in gaps in the old line, which is odd considering the old line doesn't exist anymore. First up is a model of the Enterprise-C. People have been clamoring for this since "Yesterday's Enterprise." Well, here it is.

The second new model is another 3-ship display set. This one features the Enterprise-B, the -C, and the -E, all on a flight stand. They are also supposed to be in scale with one another. This is a snap-together set, which means easier assembly and no glue required.

The thing that strikes me as odd about this whole deal is that

there is now not even a model of the Enterprise-D, the ship that started this whole resurgence. Never mind that there aren't any Klingons, or Romulans, or ANYONE else. Kind of cold-hearted.

The big surprise in models this year is the re-release of kits from the old "Space: 1999" models. Aside from the obvious play on the name, I really can't see a reason to bring the Moonbase: Alpha and the Eagle Transport back out, unless they're just trying to keep the licensing up to date. The same thing happened last year when Revell-Monogram re-released the "Battlestar Galactica" models. Or perhaps there are movies in the works. Does anybody have any info?

# ENGINEERING REPORT

## By Brad McDonald

If you made it to the recent convention, you already know it had a few bugs. However, overall it was fun for all. Several new group members made their debut and had a ball. The guests were very nice and very open to long discussions on a wide variety of topics, Sci-Fi and not. Especially appreciated were surprise guests Darth Vader and Grilka. Both were very receptive to long conversations and very fan friendly. After much pestering by myself, and others, "Grilka" (Mary Kay) was allowed to speak to the convention as a whole and did a very good job. Another act of kindness was extended by Jeff Conaway. When I explained that my sister was ill and that she was a huge fan of "Grease", he did a very special autograph that made my sister very happy and picked up her spirits. Lastly, I had heard that Garrett Wang was a bit of a prima donna and a pain to deal with. Wrong, wrong, wrong. He was very nice, funny, and gracious at the

autograph table.

In other matters, an interview with a noted computer expert, (responsible for the original programs written in the sixties), said the Y2K problem was bunk. (Not his word) The whole situation was overblown by the press when a few programmers wanted to 'advise' people of a possible problem, which was easily resolved. The doom sayers, fatalists, survivalists, and conspiracy theorists, immediately jumped on this, prompting many to start hoarding bottled water, toilet paper, cash, and moving to Montana. (I don't know about you, but the last place I want to be in January of any year, is Montana.) The expert said people were even canceling travel plans for December 31, 1999 or January 1, 2000. He illustrated his point by offering to fly all the way to Hawaii to prove his point. (Much better than Montana, smart man.) I always thought the problem was a bit overblown, I'm glad to hear a voice

of reason amongst the masses of chicken littles.

As part of my research for the panel on model building, I checked into the availability of the various Star Trek kits. I previously reported that many would be taken off the market soon. It's true. Only a few shops had any kits at all and only two shops in the area had any in variety or numbers. Hobby Masters had several on hand, but as Mr. Pischke pointed out, reordering was not possible. Hobby Town had several as well, but as they are part of a national chain, they have their own warehouse and can still get a few. However, the original Enterprise is gone. Does this mean forever? Hardly, they are always withdrawing kits and then reintroducing them later, at higher prices. For many years, hobbyists have complained about the poor quality of the various Star Trek kits. (I believe this was one of the reasons for switching to a

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different company for the Voyager kits.) It is possible that more improvements will be made to the kits before returning to the shelves. Consider this, in the long history of scale models, the most successful line of kits are those of Star Trek. I doubt seriously they will remain unavailable for too long.

Two newsletters ago, one of our esteemed members wrote a piece about medications she wanted invented for the benefit of the male population. Here now, is the opposite view for the benefit of the female population. Enjoy.

**NOSALE** - Prevents arbitrary purchases simply due to items being on sale.

**NOMOVEIT** - Prevents rearranging of furniture and furnishings just because it looks better.

**PEDILIMIT** - Prevents user from buying too many shoes. (Number of shoes is determined by dosage.)

**TRASHOUTAHERE** - Once the trash can or garbage bag is full, user is compelled to take it out. No more cramming in just one more item, again and again.

**GROCERIMAX** - If you go in the store for two items, you come out with two, not a bag full.

**ANTI-HONEYDEW** - No more lists, I've got enough to do for the rest of the year.

**SENSE BLOCK** - Take one just before bed and she won't hear all those bumps in the night, see things, etc.

**PHONIA** - Take just before

making a phone call and it will limit her call to three minutes, saving lots of time and money. (Note: If you have a daughter, start administering it soon!)

**EVENING MUTE** - Taken just before bed, it will prevent her from talking about everything under the sun while you're trying to sleep. (Can be used with Sense Block with no side effect other than a good night sleep.)

**CLEANUP MAKEUP** - Causes user to put away tons of make up, rollers, blowers, brushes, etc. once finished, so that others can see, and therefore, use the bathroom counter.

## SECURITY REPORT

### By Spring Brooks

The Kitty Hawk provided security and workshops for the Vulkan convention held in Raleigh January 29-31<sup>st</sup>. Capt. Fisher coordinated security along with Vulkan's own personnel.

There were so many volunteers that there wasn't enough work for them all. It was good to see so many Kitty Hawk T-shirts.

Other than security, the ship had their own recruitment table, manned mostly by the First Officer, Capt. Muse. Next time we need more Kitty Hawk people to recruit since others did not know about the charities the ship sponsored.

The biggest problem was that Vulkan did not provide nearly enough signs to direct guests to Dealers' Room or workshops and Guest Speakers. The Kitty Hawk made up

some signs and posted someone at the hotel's main lobby.

Personal provided security at the Workshop Hall. MCPO Lamb was peculiarly vigilant.

Next time we are asked to provide security:

1. Only Kitty Hawk crew at the recruitment table and not just Capt. Muse.
2. Signs everywhere!
3. We could use some walkie-talkies.
4. Keep security at the workshop halls, dealer's room.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 6: Kitty Hawk Meeting**

**7: Laser Tag**

**27: Kitty Hawk Meeting**

**PBS Telethon**

**28: Laser Tag**

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