

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



If you are no longer an active STARFLEET member and/or have not paid your 2001 Kitty Hawk dues, this is the last newsletter you will receive. The exception is those

persons who have paid a \$12.00 subscription fee for the newsletter for 2001. We don't want to lose anyone, as everyone is a friend, but rules are rules and it is only fair that if you want to belong, then you need to contribute like everyone else. If you need a STARFLEET renewal form, you can go online and print it out, or use a credit card to sign up, then and there. If that is not an option, call or mail a request for an application to us.

We would like to thank all of the crew who gave of their time to man the phones at the 101.5 radiothon on Saturday night. We had a good turnout and got some really nice pledges during the few hours we worked. Thanks go to Amy for organizing us. The same goes to those crewmembers that got up early Sunday morning and went over to Duke Children's Hospital to do the telethon from the lobby. While the phones were not as busy, we did our part and filled in for the no-shows of other organizations.

In the same vein, thank you to all who attended the June meeting and brought cash with them. The sale of books to the membership enabled us to reach our goal of \$250.00 for the Duke Children's jar. While this is great news, we always cringe as the deadline draws close, as to whether we will reach that goal. Thanks to all who have participated in many different ways throughout the year.

Well, we had a convention slip up on us this time, but we still managed to pull off a good showing for the Kitty Hawk. We were obviously overstaffed both days, but we only did what we were asked to do by Creation's Richard Arnold. We did not

try to do any recruiting this time, but did have STARFLEET applications on the front desk. As it turns out, we probably will net more people from this show than those where we actually try to recruit.

Anyway, thanks to all those who did work Creation in Durham. I hope everyone was happy with the benefits they provided. We believe that they were happy with us and will invite us to help out again if they ever come back to the area. We tried to emphasize that the area could use some fresh faces from other series like Babylon 5, Zena, and Farscape, but we don't think they listened.

Overall, it was a good con even though not well attended. But many attendees expressed satisfaction with a smaller audience. Of course, the dealers were not happy. Our only complaint was that the dealers were allowed to participate in the auction, thus driving up the price of those choice items beyond the average fan's ability to pay. They, of course, will double the price and offer it to the fans at a larger con. Oh, well.

It did provide us the opportunity to see some old friends who don't come around very often as well as some new faces. New people bring a sense of excitement that we are sometimes missing due to our longevity. It's nice. Which is the reason to make friends with the newer people on the ship. Make it an opportunity to guide them along the paths we have already trod and make their experience on the Kitty Hawk at least as good as your own, if not better. You may find that you are having more fun as well.

The next meeting, on July 7th, will be a cookout again. We provide dogs and buns; you bring the other dishes to share with all the crew. (This is assuming I get my grill back together by then.) We always need drinks, ice, salads, vegetable dishes, baked beans, and desserts or anything else good to eat that you are willing to share with your crewmates.

The next con of general interest to this crew is Shore Leave in Hunt Valley, Maryland, on July 13th - 15th. It is always a great show, so we hope some of you can make it. There will not be an August meeting as per usual. This is when many of you go on your vacations, so we put the Kitty Hawk in dry dock to be updated and refitted for return to duty in September on the 1st.

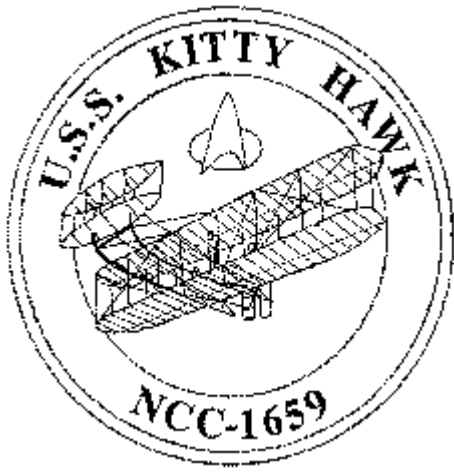
Two major conventions are slated for the weekend of September 8th, which is the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first airing of Star Trek. One is the really big party in Las Vegas by Slanted Fedora with hundreds of Star Trek guests; and the other is Dragon Con, in Atlanta, with hundreds of non-Star Trek guests. Either one would be nice to go to, if you can. Reports from attendees to any convention are always welcome articles for the newsletter.

Speaking of which, some of you are receiving this via e-mail if you gave your e-mail address to John Troan. *[Editor's note: the e-mail address to use is listed in the Comp. Ops. report.]* If you haven't, please give it to him within the next month. We would like for everyone to get this by the Internet so we can save money. We will continue to print and mail copies to those who do not have Internet capabilities.

Remember, renew in STARFLEET and pay your dues to Kitty Hawk or send \$12.00 to continue your subscription to The Wright Stuff. The roster will be trimmed in July.

We hope everyone has a great summer and if you don't make the July meeting, we hopefully will see you in September for another voyage of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk!

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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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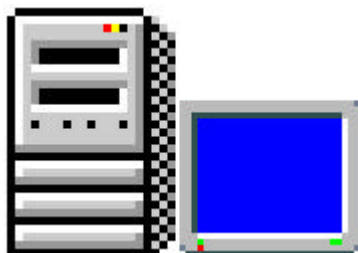


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New Series News By John Troan

Enterprise is set in the 22nd century, almost 150 years before Captain Kirk and his crew, focusing largely on the time before the creation of the Federation. From what I've been able to pick up from upn.com and startrek.com, the series features primarily human characters (like *TOS*), but should also include the other "core" Federation races, including the Vulcans and Andorians.

UPN will be showing the series on Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. According to UPN entertainment president Tom Nunan, being the fifth show in the *Star Trek* franchise "guarantees instant attention, recognition, anticipation and most importantly, success" because *Star Trek* is the most popular science fiction franchise in the world."

The cast features Scott Bakula (from *Quantum Leap*) as Captain Jonathan Archer. His crew includes Vulcan first officer Sub Cdr. T'Pol (Jolene Blalock), navigator Ens. Travis Mayweather (Anthony Montgomery), ship's medical officer Dr. Phlox (John Billingsley), weapons officer Lt. Malcolm Reed (Dominic Keating), communications officer Ens. Hoshi Sato (Linda Park),

and Chief Engineer Charlie Tucker (Connor Trinneer).

Leading up to the official announcement of the cast, a lot of the production team from the previous three series had already signed on to work on *Enterprise*, including Michael Okuda as scenic arts supervisor, Michael Westmore as makeup supervisor, and Herman Zimmerman as production designer.

The effects are said to continue to be at the leading edge of what the industry is able to do. The look-and-feel of the ship will be more like the original *Enterprise*, using more push-button controls and fewer touch screens. (With U.S. shuttle fleet halfway through being refitted with what NASA calls the "glass cockpit", it will be interesting to see if any flat-screen displays get used. Each shuttle is being fitted with eleven of them to replace about three dozen mechanical gauges, displays, and CRTs.)

With production having already started last month, it looks like there will be several episodes finished when the two-hour pilot airs.

Additional news will be included in the future as it becomes available.

First Officer's Report By Larry Pischke

Wow, that sounds kind of bizarre. Me? First officer? Uh, okay, if you guys are willing to give me a shot, I'll do my best. I'd like to thank all of my supporters; you two really stuck by me.

I would imagine there would be a lot of wonderful new perks to this new post. Of course, more responsibility. More costume jewelry for my uniform - if I can find someone who still makes it. Oh yeah - I now get a view screen for my office!

That's about all I have to say right now. I'm still trying to get a groove into my new chair, so be patient. Wish me luck, or at least don't aim at anything too vital.

Wright Memorial at Kitty Hawk By Brad McDonald

Several months ago, I reported on the sad state of affairs at the Wright memorial. A brief recap, the museum was damaged by heavy rain and had to be closed. It was partially reopened while a decision was made as to what should be done. Well, they finally made it.

During my annual excursion to the outer banks, I stopped by the Wright Memorial for an update and a quick visit. The grounds now have three construction trailers out front, encouraging if not somewhat tacky. The place is still a mess and dark, no power. All that was on site was the duplicate flyer and a much smaller book store. The crowds were still there, and during a lull in the action, I pulled one of docents to one side and gave him the third degree. I promised not to identify him or quote him directly, so here goes.

It seems that a lack of funds had led to long term neglect of the standard

commercial flat roof system. This is fatal, flat roofs are very difficult and require lots of care. The leaks got so bad that the electrical system shorted out! For this reason and falling ceiling pieces, the place was called unfit for occupancy. Now, partially reopened, they plan to move all the smaller exhibits, artifacts and book store to one of the three trailers. Then, they will rebuild the current facility, period. No new facilities, annex, learning center, etc. Work is to start shortly and is scheduled to be completed for the centennial celebration of first flight.

Which brings us to the most important issue, the centennial celebration. Nobody knows what's going on! There are too many chiefs and not enough Indians. Everybody has ideas and wants to be in charge or has their own agenda. For example, one plan was scrubbed because a U.S. senator said it was politically incorrect. The docent

would not name names or elaborate, but was genuinely disappointed by the state of affairs. Here we go again, this is the same sort of controversy that killed the Enola Gay display at the National Air and Space Museum.

Bottom line is, wait six months to a year and then ask again. Seriously, that was the advice I got from the docent. He was very apologetic and sympathetic, but I get the feeling he was mostly disgusted with the whole thing. I felt sorry for the guy and promised I wasn't inclined to 'shoot the messenger'. So, there you have it, Not only do we not know if we will be involved, no one else knows and no one can tell us either.

I'll keep you posted and hopefully things will become a bit clearer in the months to come.

Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

Well it's finally here, Pearl Harbor the movie hit theaters and set a record of sorts, the second highest sales for a three day period. The question was how did they do that? Most people were talking about the special effects, but I wondered about the profits. Who was buying all the tickets? Was it older people going to see a piece of their life portrayed in film or was it the curious, or just the action of the battles? Unfortunately, the answers are not based in history or facts.

It seems the producers were looking for a younger audience, so first and foremost, the film caters to the 12-29 year old group. To achieve this, the cast is dominated by under 30 beautiful people. Sorry Hollywood, you got it wrong. Not all of the Navy and Army were poster boys and girls and many of them were career folks, over 30. Admiral Kimmel was almost 60, considerably older than portrayed. This is annoying, but typical of Hollywood taking 'poetic license' with the facts. Next, to make the movie visually appealing still further, they based the action sequences on video arcade games. A good example of this is showing aircraft moving at four times their normal speed. The attacking airplanes look like a stupid video game instead of a historical battle. Notice I say stupid video game, because there are some games who do portray these actions realistically. If you want a better idea of how planes of this area moved, watch Tora! Tora! Tora! or The Battle of Britain, they used actual airplanes and not computer generated video games.

There are other examples, but lets move on to another subject, historical accuracy. Okay, it's just a movie, but if you're going to do a movie about a historical event, do it right, otherwise call it Pink Harbor or Pearl Diver. (Some of the critics called it Pearl Horror, now that makes sense!) History is either ignored or altered. There are far too many examples here: showing action that did not take place a ship's tripod falling over, Japanese aircraft arriving in mass instead of formation, kids playing baseball during the attack and so much more. I'll back up my observations by quoting the Pearl Harbor vets themselves. When asked if the movie was history or Hollywood all responded by saying Hollywood. (One kind vet said only half and half.) Ask for a list of the many goofs when you see me.

Next, we throw in a love story and I mean thrown in, literally. One of the most pitiful love stories ever conceived. Not to mention it takes far too much time. That brings up the next topic, time. From the Battle of Britain to Doolittle's raid is not just a few weeks, why not just do the whole war while you're at it? Give me a break Hollywood! It took 2 hours and 23 minutes to portray the events in Tora! Tora! Tora!, 2 hours and 12 minutes for Battle of Britain and 2 hours and 18 minutes for 30 Seconds Over Tokyo, this film tries to do all of them at one time! On top of that, half the film is lost to 'mushy stuff'. (A Leave it to Beaver quote.) By the way, all three of those films do a very good job, historically and visually accurate as well.

In short, the movie is a mess. However, there is a silver lining. One of the vets who saw the film had a unique perspective. Although it was most

definitely Hollywood, it did bring the basic subject matter to the attention of a generation who had no idea what it was about. Most younger people, when asked about Pearl Harbor, state they don't know who 'she' is, or what type of music 'that group' plays. Pathetic. The defining moment in mid twentieth century U.S. history and they're clueless. So the movies does serve a purpose. Also, in a rush to have product out there to cash in on the bandwagon of popularity, a number of publishers have rereleased a number of excellent books and produced even more new ones. I have already picked up a number of these.

Only one thing worries me. If this was truly an attempt to recreate the same circumstances, and therefore the same cash flow, as Titanic; and knowing how Hollywood blew the history of both events, I shudder to think of what will come next.

Security Report

By Spring Brooks

If You Are Going On Vacation - Help Burglars Take One Too!

An empty house is a tempting target for a burglar. Use this checklist of tips to help safeguard your home while you're away:

1. Have good locks on all doors and windows and USE THEM!
2. Ask a neighbor to watch the house while you're away. It's a good idea to leave an address and telephone number with a neighbor so you can be reached in case of an emergency.
3. Never leave your house key hidden outside your home.
4. Stop all deliveries, or arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail, newspapers and packages.
5. Arrange for someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves and maintain the yard to give the home a lived-in look.
6. Plug in timers to turn lights, a radio or television on and off at appropriate times. This helps to disguise the fact that you are away.
7. Turn the bell or ringer on your telephone down low. If a burglar is around, he won't be alerted to your absence by a ringing phone.
8. Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages.
9. Leave your blinds, shades and curtains in a normal position. Don't close them unless that is what you do when you are home.
10. Close and lock garage doors and windows. Ask a neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway. If you leave your car at home, park it as you normally would. Vehicles parked outside should be moved occasionally to appear that they are being used.
11. Secure storage sheds, attic entrances and gates.
12. Tell your local police you plan to be away. Patrol officers may have the opportunity to periodically check your home.
13. Engrave your valuables so that stolen property can be identified and returned to you if recovered by the police.

Medical Report

By Amy DeJongh

With this report, we continue the journey into new frontiers of alternative healing practices. Again, please be aware that this article is intended as an information source only. Please discuss any lifestyle changes with your health care provider.

The Reiki Principals

Just for today I will give thanks for my many blessings.

Just for today I will not worry.

Just for today I will not be angry.

Just for today I will do my work honestly and with integrity.

Just for today I will be kind to my neighbor and every living thing.

Just for today I will not place judgment upon the actions of others.

What is it? Reiki, pronounced ray-key, is the Japanese word for "universal life energy". Ki is the vital energy force purported to flow through all things. This energy is channeled through the Reiki practitioner and out through the palms. The more a Reiki practitioner channels outward for the greater good, the more universal energy is introduced into the practitioner's own system for his/her own healing purposes.

A little history - Although Reiki is an ancient healing art, it was lost until the mid-1800's when Mikao Usui rediscovered it after a 10-year quest to uncover the method by which Buddha and Jesus healed. His many studies into ancient texts described the healing formulas, but didn't reveal how one could activate the energy to make it work. In order to learn how to activate the healing energy, Usui decided to go into prayer and fasting for 21 days on the Mountain of Koriyama in Japan. As legend has it, Usui was on his 21st day and feeling despondent that the answers he sought were not forthcoming when a projectile of light approached him. His first instinct was to run from this light, but he remained, hoping that it was the answer for which he was looking. This light is reported to have struck Usui in his third

eye (the psychic energy center between and just above the eye brows), causing him to go unconscious. When he awoke, he saw millions of tiny bubbles, and then finally the Reiki symbols appeared to him. He was gifted the information about each symbol and how to activate the healing energy. It was the first Reiki attunement and the rediscovery of an ancient healing method recorded to be at least 2500 years old.

When has it been used? Reiki has been used for any situation that involves energizing or balancing the physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual bodies. Reiki may be used, if desired with all other treatment modalities, and will enhance the healing experience. Reiki not only has been applied when there is an imbalance present, but also to prevent imbalances from occurring in the first place. Reiki is purported to work with the body's natural system to enhance healing and regenerative capabilities and to strengthen the immune system by gently and non-invasively moving a person's energetic functions back into alignment. In this way, it is said to address the "energetic disturbance", and balances the body in a state of relaxation allowing it to access its own innate wisdom, and thus, healing occurs. Because of this, Reiki may be an excellent compliment to conventional medicine and does not serve to replace it. It can be used to lessen pain, enhance the immune system and to lower stress related anxiety about the illness. According to Reiki practitioners, Reiki energy basically has five effects:

- It brings about deep relaxation
- Dissolves energy blockages
- Detoxifies
- Supplies healing universal life-force energy
- Increases the vibration frequency of the body

As explorers, we look to new ideas and experiences. I hope that these articles provide more insight to the views of others in our universe and no matter how alien the concepts may be, that we all expand our knowledge and try to make the world a better place in our own ways.

Be safe, be happy, be healthy

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

Happy Fourth of July, everyone. Things are pretty quiet in the Science Department. So what is NASA up to these days? We are still trying to learn more about Mars. On April 7, NASA launched Odyssey, which is scheduled to arrive at the red planet on October 24, 2001. Odyssey will be mapping chemical elements and minerals, looking for water, and analyzing the radiation environment. If you are interested in looking at pictures from the Hubble telescope, you can go to

<http://opposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/pictures.html>.

For those of you who have never been to the Garber facility of the National Air and Space Museum, you can go to www.nasm.edu/nasm/garber/Garber.html and get an overview there. There are even lists of what aircraft are to be found in each of the main hangers that are open to the public.

The Galaxy Fair at Morehead Planetarium was not as well attended as in past years. (I'm wondering if the fact that it was graduation day at UNC kept some people away.) The planetarium had an all new show to preview for the occasion. Those of us who attended enjoyed it, especially the kids.

There's Tribble in the Collective

By Jeff Cohn

Part XV: This Is The End, My Furry Friend

"...and with the last of the Triborg fleet within the Eagle's Aerie nebula, we expect the chain reaction to reach critical mass in approximately... 45 minutes. Lawrence out." Commander Benjamin Lawrence tapped his PADD, ending his supplemental entry to the ship's log. "Ensign, status of repairs to the *Renown*?" Ensign Xiao looked up from her station. "Warp drive is still out, Sir. They have stabilized the core, however the plasma injectors are offline and will require extensive repairs. They do have minimal impulse drive and life support. Captain Fentyr is aboard the Klingon cruiser, still unconscious but expected to recover." "Sir," interjected First Officer Satrel, "the *Renown* is well within the expected blast radius. They must be capable of at least 1/2 impulse within the next 18.4 minutes in order to outpace the expected shock wave. Beyond that, they would need to get underway at full impulse at least 2.4 minutes prior to the detonation. Given their current rate of repair, it is questionable whether either objective is attainable." "The crew?" "The *K'hartoo'n* has removed all but an emergency damage control team." "Very good, Ensign. Maintain our position. We'll be able to monitor the detonation from here. Ensign Nephila, make sure the Klingons are aware of our estimates. They'll need to get the remaining personnel off the *Renown* in time to warp out of there." "Aye Sir."

Sipping his coffee, Lawrence looked out at the nebula, glowing eerily green on the main viewer. He recalled painfully the astrophysics courses he struggled with during his Academy days. The tremendously hot young stars born within the nebula radiated their energy outward into the surrounding gas. Emission nebulae such as this were about 90% hydrogen, with the remainder helium, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements. High-energy photons ejected from the stars ionized the atoms of the gasses, knocking electrons from their orbits. As these electrons collided with others and slowly returned to their former orbits, they emitted light. Since electrons can reside in atoms only in discrete energy levels, when they drop from outer to inner orbits,

light is emitted at discrete wavelengths, providing the weary crew with its stunning vista. Lawrence smiled, pleased that he retained this much knowledge. The smile faded when a warning chirp was emitted by Satrel's science station. "Lieutenant?" "Commander, there's been a slight drop in the acceleration rate of matter-antimatter reactivity within the Triborg swarm." "Are we still within projected parameters?" "Yes Sir, assuming that the rate does not fall by more than an additional 0.04 percent. "Can you determine the cause?" "It may be an oscillation due to movement of large group of Cubes within the swarm, Sir. Such movements will invariably produce alterations in proton-antiproton density. These have been included in our models, however there will always be a degree of uncertainty as to the accuracy of our underlying assumptions." "What's at risk here? Is there a chance that the chain reaction will collapse?" "No Sir, the physics are based upon universal constants, the process will continue. However once critical mass is achieved, the yield will depend upon many variables including the rate of matter-antimatter reactivity. Currently, a worse case scenario would result in a significant number of Triborg vessels escaping destruction." Commander Lawrence took a breath and sighed deeply. "And with all that digestible matter floating out there in the nebula, we'd be essentially right back where we started. All right Satrel, it's not a serious problem now, but I'd be more comfortable if you and Dr. Fisher started working on contingencies. Keep me apprised. We don't have a lot of time."

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The Eagle's Aerie stretched across nearly 15 light-years of space, about half the size of the famous Orion nebula so clearly visible from Earth. It had not been thoroughly explored, but was thought to contain some 200 young stars at various stages of formation. High-speed jets of hot gas spewed by some of these stars sent brightly lit shock waves tearing into the nebula at over 160,000 kilometers per hour. To the exhausted repair crew on board the *Renown*, working feverishly to save their ship, the shock waves appeared as thin curved loops arcing in tremendous parallel ripples across the firmament.

Despite the awesome spectacle, these shock waves posed no danger. The nearest one was billions of kilometers away. Moreover, the actual density of the hydrogen gas comprising the nebula was less than a millionth of that found in a standard laboratory vacuum. A direct impact would barely register on the ship's sensors.

"Hey Frodo! Pass the spanner!" Grimy with soot, PO3 Pete Stromlo sighed and handed the tool to his buddy Raj. He'd made the mistake of going on a bit excessively about how much he liked playing that character in the Lord of the Rings trilogy, a 400-year-old work of fiction newly released as a big budget holo-novel. Flat on his back, Raj struggled with a stubborn junction box linking two vital ODN conduits near one of the plasma injectors in Engineering. "I don't see it... wait. There. Got it." He was rewarded with a bright spark, the smell of ozone, and a small cloud of smoke emanating from the opened panel. He flung his arm back from the mild shock, the small hand phaser he was using to cut through damaged casings skittered a few feet away. "Damn!" "Good going Raj" smirked Stromlo, glad for a chance to return the ribbing, "Do you think you could keep the next one intact? I'd rather not have to eat *Gakh* and listen to them sing *Aktuh and Melota* on that Klingon ship after you short out our last chance of getting out of here on our own." Raj sat up, an aggravated scowl on his face. "Yeah? Well you better think about learning the lyrics 'cause no way we're gonna get this done in time." Stromlo was about to come up with a smart retort, when both of their comm badges activated. "Folks, we're gonna need to evacuate. Please proceed immediately to the transporter." First Officer Meade sounded exhausted. It had been a harrowing time on board the little ship. "Take pride in what you've done. You've acted in the finest tradition of this vessel and of Starfleet. Prepare for immediate transport to the Klingon cruiser." Raj and Stromlo got up and looked at each other. The *Renown* was their first assignment, and this wasn't going to be easy. "C'mon, Pete, don't worry. I tried *Gakh* once. It's

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U.S.S. Wisconsin

By Brad McDonald

During my vacation, I did a bit of scouting for the Kitty Hawk, well okay, I did it for myself too. The best of the trip involved a visit to the battleship *Wisconsin*, BB 64, now part of the skyline of Norfolk!

Nauticus, in downtown Norfolk, is a three story marine biology and technology museum with lots of things to do. The first floor is mostly cafeteria and shops. The food was okay but costly. The shops were good, with lots to offer, but again, costly. There were a couple of bargains, though and I picked up a few items. The second floor has many exhibits, including a complete history of the Hampton Roads area. Interesting and informative, the display includes scale models, artifacts, maps and more. This area also provides access to the *Wisconsin*. The first and second floors are free to the public.

The third floor has a fee: \$9.50 for adults, children 4-12 for \$7.00, 3 and under are free, seniors get in for \$8.50. This is where the fun stuff is. Lots of hands on exhibits, films, demonstrations and interactive displays. The later items include flying a F-14, steer a large freighter, hunt for submarines and more. Movies on marine life, the battleship *Wisconsin* and famous shipwrecks are also found on this level. Also, there are petting zoos as part of the hands on feature. While we were there, several guests gave scientific demonstrations and one on woodcarving.

Still, the biggest and best show was the *Wisconsin*. It's a deck tour only as the ship is still in the Navy Reserves, as is the *Iowa*. Technically they are considered mothballed as there is no crew other than a deck watch. In fact, the ship can be loaded in three weeks and put to sea, fully crewed in three months. At this point, it is uncertain how long it will remain in the reserves. (By the way, the *New Jersey* is being readied in the Philadelphia yard for a permanent and complete viewing. All decks will be available including engines, powder magazines, bridge and so on. I'll keep you posted as to when it will be available. Oh yes, it will be in Trenton, not Bayonne as previously announced.)

There were several vets on board; one WWII, one Korean War (also a WWII vet who served on another battleship, and a Persian Gulfwar vet. All were enjoyable to talk to and very informative. I was curious as to why there were so many *Wisconsin* vets in the area and then I found out why, Norfolk was the *Wisconsin's* home port! This was the reason that Norfolk was chosen as the place to display the ship. After all, it would be difficult to get the ship to Madison or Milwaukee.

The ship is in excellent shape and the decks look like new. This is due the the complete refit during the Reagan administration. Even though the ship is closed below decks, there is still plenty to see. The tour can be done as guided tape tour if you choose, but not necessary. About the only disappointment was the ignorance of some of the younger naval personnel at the point of entry. When I mentioned I had been to the *U.S.S. North Carolina*, he was quick to inform me that it was the last of the *Iowa* class ships. I straightened him out only to have his associate tell me that there were only four *Iowa* class ships, again I had to correct their history a bit. After the third sailor informed me that these were the biggest ships ever built, I just gave up. I told the vets on board about this and they rolled their eyes and shrugged, "Kids."

The last of the *Iowa's* is the *Missouri*, and is at Pearl Harbor on permanent display. I'll get to see it when I make the trip to Hawaii this December, for the 60th reunion and observance. Anyway, the Norfolk area has lots to offer:

Virginia Air and Space Center, Mariner's Museum, Historic Fort Norfolk and more. Could be a good destination for a long weekend. Plan a full day at the Nauticus and *Wisconsin*, if you do get bored or want a change of pace, there is a collection of shops and restaurants nearby. Anyway, that's my report. Hope you enjoyed it, I took a lot of pictures. I'll bring them to the next meeting along with the books, flyers and handouts I brought back with me.

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

First my apologies for not including my e-mail address in April's edition. I thought I put it in the report, but found it wasn't when I read the published article and looked at the text as I wrote it. To reach me, send your e-mail to jtroan@jt-sw.com.

Computer Ops has been busy the last couple of months. I've been working on the web site, primarily getting the rest of activity images posted (including the Galaxy Fest photos sent to me).

Next on the list is to finish building the e-mail distribution list for the crew. I've got the e-mail addresses for all of the department heads, but only a couple more beyond that. With J.R. hoping to do an electronic distribution of the newsletter to as many people as possible, I would like to get everyone's e-mail addresses. If we can do the e-mail distribution, I might try to get a little color added to the electronic newsletters (but probably not the print versions) -- especially if I put a few more editions together.

Also planned is a Current Members area that would require a simple name and password that everyone would use to access current information. Part of this area would also allow people to submit their newsletter articles through the web. J.R. and I have discussed this and plan to do it as soon as conditions permit. (The major hurdle -- the access license -- has been addressed since I have extra licenses already in my possession.)

If anyone has ideas for the site, *please* drop me an e-mail and let me know. This site is for all of us and I'd like to include as many suggestions as reasonably possible.

Tribble

not too bad if you don't look at it while you eat." Stromlo smiled and nodded. They left the tools on the floor and headed aft towards the transporter room. Raj's eyes widened as Stromlo began to sing in a harsh, guttural tone. "Where did you learn that?" "I don't spend all of my time in fantasy holo-novels. I said I didn't like Klingon opera, not that I didn't know any."

Raj laughed as they reached the transporter and stepped up on the pad. He knew a little as well and their voices rose together as the beam-out commenced: *'aqtu' mellota' je in tlhIngan Hol*

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Lawrence bade farewell to the Captain of the K'hartoon, who confirmed the final evacuation of the stricken *Renown*. The Commander pivoted in his command chair as his First Officer re-entered the bridge, accompanied by Ensign Brett and Dr. Fisher. "Sir, matter-antimatter reactivity in the swarm has fallen below the level needed to ensure its complete annihilation. While the decline has stabilized, the acceleration in reaction rate remains 0.002 percent below target levels. It appears that a significant proportion of the swarm has moved towards a denser region of the nebula, far enough from the main body to reduce the reactivity we require to produce the desired results. Currently, I expect that approximately 1200 Cubes at the fringes of the detonation have a significant likelihood of survival. Given the nebula's large number of young, iron-rich star systems, they would be able to resume geometric growth in numbers almost immediately." "How much time remains?" "Approximately 16 minutes until critical mass is achieved." "Satrel, I asked earlier for contingencies. Do you have anything?" "One Sir. Dr. Fisher feels that a sustained burst of anti-protons at a concentration of $2 \times 10^{18}/\text{cm}^3$, initiated from the appropriate location within the swarm, will be enough to draw the Triborg Cubes into a denser formation. If the burst begins at least of 30 seconds prior to critical mass, I estimate a 96.7 percent likelihood that the Cubes will have drawn in close enough to increase the yield of the detonation to its desired value." " 2×10^{18} ? We don't have the capability for that level output, especially with the *Renown* out of commission." "No Commander, we do not. But Ensign Brett has an idea that could work, albeit with some significant risk. Ensign?" Brett gulped involuntarily

as Lawrence turned to him, but proceeded. "Sir. There is one way to quickly produce this level of output. The *Renown* is adrift near the edge of the nebula. With our help, she can be maneuvered into a central position within the bulk of the swarm. By removing all the flow regulators on the plasma injectors and flooding the core we can initiate a sustained release of anti-protons at nearly twice the required rate. That is, if we also reduce the core's containment field by 45 percent." "Which would be followed quickly by a core breach." "Yes Sir, but the Triborg would be drawn in. Commander, one more thing." Lawrence looked at him and nodded. "I've studied the *Renown's* damage reports. There's no way to automate the process. Someone has to be in Engineering to physically remove the regulators and adjust the containment field." "I see." "I'd like to go Sir. You can beam me out before things go critical." "No Ensign. I appreciate your willingness, but this is something I'll need to take care of." "Commander" interjected Satrel "logically..." "Thanks Satrel, but you know I'm going to end up going, so lets stop at that. Helm, lay in a course to the *Renown*, Warp 1. When I'm on board, grab her with a tractor beam, and tow her at Warp to the appropriate coordinates. Then I want you to take the *Redoubtable* out to a safe distance. I'll contact you when I've finished." Satrel nodded and Lawrence smiled. He always preferred "the Kirk approach" to a crisis, as his Starfleet instructors had called it, despite the occasional muttered accusation that he was either glory seeking or playing with a death wish. *It was neither*, he thought, *it just wasn't right to risk someone else's life over your own where it wasn't absolutely necessary*. Lawrence had complete confidence in his crew and knew they wouldn't let him down. He rarely stopped to consider, however, that they might know the same thing about him.

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With eight minutes remaining, Lawrence was beamed directly to the *Renown's* Engineering section. He began by reducing the strength of the warp core's containment field. Entering the commands, he felt the ship jerk as it was grabbed by *Redoubtable's* tractor beam and accelerated to warp speed. *Not good* he thought to himself. There was no time to don protective gear. He would be increasing his exposure to lethal levels of radiation with every second he remained. Tapping a final key on the containment field's control panel, Lawrence now turned his attention to removing the flow

regulators, six in all. Warnings flashed and the computer announced a dangerous increase in pressure within the warp core. It was the increased pressure that would force the release of vast numbers of antiprotons. Unchecked, the plasma would soon crush the matter-antimatter reaction chamber, initiating a core breach. The containment field was designed to protect the crew from normal radiation leakage, as well as from emergency situations such as failed flow regulators, however that was not the problem now.

After a few minutes, Lawrence's comm badge activated, but there was interference and it was difficult to make out the sound of Satrel's voice. It sounded like he said they had arrived at the coordinates and were releasing the *Renown* from the tractor beam. *It's very loud in here*, Lawrence thought. He checked his chronometer. Two minutes remaining. He wasn't feeling very well, dizziness and nausea were eating away at him. The core was brightening significantly; the swirling patterns of bluish light playing about the room did nothing to help his vertigo. Shaking it off, Lawrence began removing the final flow regulator. *Stuck! Just lovely*. A small flange was bent just enough during the earlier battle to keep the whole unit sealed tightly in place. The comm badge crackedle again. "...one...ute...left, Sir... We...to...onboard... have to...anoth... way" *Damn, it's not coming out*. Quick check, *20 seconds!* Lawrence looked around wildly. *A lever, something!* His eye caught the small blue hand phaser lying on the floor a few feet away. Leaping for it, he dropped it once, grabbed it again, and upped the setting to maximum. Hoping this would work just as well, he whirled and fired at the stubborn flow regulator.

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The flash started as a small blindingly bright pinpoint. Expanding at more than half the speed of light, within the first two seconds it reached across a distance equivalent to that from the Earth to the moon. Intensifying and accelerating, it bloomed within the nebula, a brilliant sphere of matter converting to energy, feeding upon itself as it pushed outward. The individual Triborg Cubes were disposed of in the same manner as the smallest dust particles drifting within the Eagle's Aerie, instantly consumed in a nuclear crucible. The swarm was swept up into the expanding ring of energy and ash that soon pushed out more than 200 million miles.

It was sufficient. None of the Cubes survived. Those furthest from the initial blast still could not escape, as an electromagnetic pulse raced out ahead of the shock wave. The pulse immobilized the Triborg ships, which could only drift slowly for the few minutes it took for the fire to reach them.

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 On board the *Redoubtable*, Lieutenant Satrel sat in the Command chair, analyzing the results of the detonation. He nodded slightly as the data proved satisfactory. The other members of the little flotilla had departed six hours earlier for Burnham IV, *Redoubtable* would remain on station for a couple days, assessing the effects of the explosion, and scanning for any remaining signs of surviving Cubes. There was a *whoosh* behind him as a doorway opened, then closed. Satrel turned and stood, as

Commander Lawrence slowly made his way onto the Bridge. "It is good to see you. Sir." "Thanks Satrel, it's good to be up and around again. I'm told that the residual effects of the radiation will linger for a bit, but things will be fine with some additional treatment once we get to Starbase 103. I haven't had the chance to thank you. I wasn't sure you heard my message that I had finished, with all the interference." "We didn't, Sir. Your signal was thoroughly blocked by the radiation. We were, though, able to detect the increase in anti-proton emissions you initiated. When they reached the necessary levels, we assumed you would have no objection to being retrieved." "An excellent assumption, my friend." grinned Lawrence. "Well done everyone. All right then Ensign Nephila, initiate scan of Sector 5 alpha. The sooner we finish this up the sooner we can head for

home. The great tribble menace has been contained. May the Great Bird of the galaxy ensure it never returns."

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 A small silvery puddle rippled, then parted. A sphere of liquid mercury lifted into the air, settling on a small rocky outcrop. The two humanoid figures stooped down and slowly, reverently placed a cup before it. The silvery sphere flowed towards the cup, then stopped, quivered, and split into two. While the humanoids stared, the surface of each sphere dimpled, then sprouted filaments. More appeared, dozens, then hundreds. The surface of the spheres soon disappeared beneath a fine coat of soft brown fur. A soft cooing noise filled the thin air of the small planet, deep within the Gamma quadrant. The Vorta looked at each other. One shrugged and reached for another cup.

Upcoming Events

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| July | 7 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
Cookout follows -- bring side dishes, drinks, desserts, etc. |
| | 13-15 | Shore Leave, Hunt valley, Maryland |
| Sept. | 1 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home |
| | 8 | Slanted Fedora, Las Vegas
Dragon Con, Atlanta |