

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 that everyone had an excellent summer vacation and each of you is ready to return to the Kitty Hawk for yet another adventurous mission! All

of the upgrades have not been completely finished; but will be during our shakedown cruise on September 1, 2001.

At 4 p.m. on that date all crew are expected to be at their stations and ready to leave orbit. You are also reminded to bring food, such as side dishes and desserts and drinks; while the captain will provide the appropriate main courses. Families are again welcome to this event as we chart a new course for this mission.

One of the events we have scheduled the Kitty Hawk for this year will be the annual Raleigh First Night, on the afternoon and evening of December 31st, a Monday. Once more we will have a tent on the mall and will sell the buttons which are admission tickets to all the inside events at the downtown site. Artsposure has informed me that there will only be one other tent at the convention center plaza, so we should do much better this year. Also, the price of the buttons has been reduced now that the millennium frenzy is over. Please plan to join us for an evening of fun and service.

And speaking of our service to the community; don't forget to bring your clean aluminum cans to our meetings. Only a few people are doing this now and our revenues are down considerably. A large trash can bag of crushed cans only weighs about ten pounds and we only get about three dollars. So save them at work and home; crush them and bring them to the meeting.

We know that a number of you will be going to the Slanted Fedora convention in Durham the weekend of September 28th - 30th, and we hope to be there also.

We will not be working this convention as we normally would, as Dave Scott does not want fan security and help. We hope everyone who goes will take a few applications, and if someone expresses an interest in Starfleet or your group (you will be wearing a Kitty Hawk T-shirt, won't you?) you can give them one.

If you are not going to the con or if you want to take a break on Saturday the 29th, we have a suggestion to make to you. Sherry Poole, Tara's and Leslie's mom, is hosting the first annual Jean S. Mincey "Strike Out Alzheimer's Disease" Bowl-A-Thon. Sherry's mom, Jean S. Mincey, has Alzheimer's disease but was the president of the women's bowling association in Raleigh for many years. Sherry is one of the top ranked female bowlers in N.C., year after year (usually #1). She has asked us to put together a team for this event or at least participate as volunteers, etc. When you come to the meeting you can pick up applications and get more information on this event and how we can help.

My father had Alzheimer's disease, and I know how painful it is to watch someone you love go through this. Any assistance you can lend to this event, or the organization, to help combat this horrible disease will be greatly appreciated by me as well.

While it may seem very early, I assure you that it is not. December 17th will be here before you know it. Tom Mukoyama (a valued member) has penciled us in on his calendar for that evening for dinner at the Kanki. We have reserved the same room as last year, which has seating for 30. If you and those special to you wish to join us for dinner that evening (a Monday night), we are asking that you give us a ten-dollar per person deposit to hold a seat. As per the last few years, you may order the meal of your choice from the menu and of course the show just gets better each year. You

will receive a discount on your meal compliments of Tom and Brad.

Now if you have not had a good time in the past or just want to change where we have our anniversary dinner, the September meeting is the time to tell me. There is such a rush to have holiday parties at that time, we would need all that time to find another place (you aren't serious, are you?)

With this newsletter, only about twelve members are receiving this by mail (U.S. Postal Service). Everyone else is receiving it by e-mail via the Internet. If your copy comes by USPS and you have an e-mail address, please contact John Troan (see last newsletter) and give your address to him; this will greatly reduce our expenditure of monies in getting this to you. We will only be producing about twenty copies this time; down from 45-50.

There are several conventions coming up this fall and winter which look very good (not around here, of course). Hope some of you will attend some of them and report back to us.

Don't forget about the state fair and Halloween parties that will be just around the corner.

Congratulations go out to Irene Kan, who will be getting married on September 8th; Star Trek's thirty-fifth anniversary! Hope we will see more of her this year.

Larry Pischke is stepping into the executive officer slot (as soon as STARFLEET International approves him) and into new digs for Hobby Masters. Stop in and see their new store next week.

Everyone: come join us, as we explore the undiscovered country, yet again. All it takes is you and the Wright Stuff.

ESSE QUAM VIDERI



VOL. 12 NO. 4

THE WRIGHT STUFF

is a publication of the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*, the Raleigh, N.C., chapter of STARFLEET, an international *STAR TREK* fan organization. This publication is provided free of charge to all chapter members in good standing. Subscriptions for non-members are \$12.00 per year (six issues). Please address all correspondence to CATBIRD Publications, 5017 Glen Forest Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27612. This publication is a non-profit enterprise and is not meant to infringe upon any copyright or trademark held by Paramount Pictures, Gulf & Western, or any other holder of *STAR TREK* copyrights or trademarks. Unless otherwise noted, ENTIRE CONTENTS ARE COPYRIGHT © 2001 CATBIRD Publications, THE WRIGHT STUFF. Nothing in whole or in part may be used without the written permission of the publisher. *THE WRIGHT STUFF* assumes all material submitted for publication is gratis. The publisher and editors reserve the right to edit all submissions.

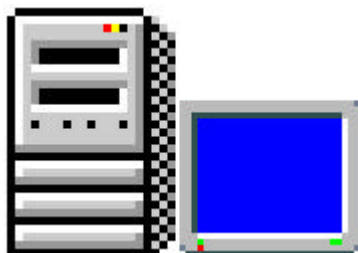


CONTENTS

A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT	1
COMPUTER OPERATIONS REPORT	3
SCIENCE REPORT	3
MEDICAL REPORT	3
ENGINEERING REPORT	4
FIRST OFFICER'S REPORT	4
SECURITY REPORT	5
UPCOMING EVENTS	6

CREDITS

PUBLISHER	J.R. FISHER
EDITORS	JANE FISHER JOHN TROAN
ASSISTANTS AND CONTRIBUTORS	SPRING BROOKS AMY DeJONGH J.R. FISHER BRAD McDONALD ELAINE PISCHKE LARRY PISCHKE JOHN TROAN



TOOL BOX: Pentium III-933; HP DeskJet 722C; Lotus WordPro; Adobe Acrobat PDF Writer (for the electronic version).

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

There's not a lot new to report in Computer Ops this month. I've been spending most of my efforts on moving my football site out of standard web and text files into a Lotus Domino/Notes structure.

Newsletters. The electronic versions of the newsletter are available as .pdf files, or Acrobat®. A free reader is available from www.adobe.com. I actually use Lotus WordPro to put the newsletter together and print it to a program that create the .pdf file.

In doing the April edition, I kept a similar format to what Jane was using. Starting with the Feb. 2002 edition, I might use a new format that could possibly include the author's e-mail address and a photo similar to what we're already using with JR's article. (These would be left out at the author's request.)

As JR requested in his article this month, please let me know what your e-mail address is so that you can see *The Wright Stuff* in color. (There isn't much color now, but the redesign might bring in a little more color.) I can be reached at jtroan@jt-sw.com.

Since Brad has some news on *Enterprise* in his article, I didn't write a separate article about it this month. One thing I will mention is that startrek.com has several videos of the promos being aired during the *Voyager* reruns. I know what I'll be doing on Sept. 26.

'Net Resources. There's now a distribution list set up with all of the Kitty Hawk e-mail addresses I've been given. If you have anything to send to the list, you can send it directly to "kittyhawk.all@jt-sw.com" (don't forget the period before "all" in the first part). Please keep messages sent to the list as short as reasonably possible. If there's something large -- especially pictures -- I can post it the web site for people to download on their own. If you run into a problem when trying to send e-mail to the distribution, let me know.

I know I've been saying it for a while, but I will be creating an area for current members. It will definitely contain copies of the "original" electronic version of the newsletters since the April '01 issue. Beyond that, I'm not sure what

else to put in. (Anyone have any suggestions?)

In a move made for my professional skills, I've secured two-year maintenance contracts with Lotus Development for both servers that the web site is housed on (and Notes client I use). One of the benefits of this is that I have licensing covered for the next version of Domino & Notes due out next year, probably by March 31.

(As a side note, the second server paid for itself a couple of weeks ago when the primary server crashed and wouldn't restart. After a couple of changes, I was able to redirect of the connections for the web server seamlessly to the backup server.)

I think that does it for this month's article. (And I thought this would be a short one.)

Medical Report

By Amy DeJongh

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

In science news, scientists are discovering more and more planets around distant stars. Recently, astronomers found a solar system with two gaseous planets with an unusual quality -- the orbits of these planets are circular and even, much like our own solar system. So far, all of the other solar systems (besides ours) detected have had planets in erratic patterns. The planets in this system, 47 Ursae Majoris, are beyond the zone normally considered habitable for life. It is unlikely there are any Earth-like, habitable planets in this system, but not completely impossible. Astronomers estimate that only 5% of solar systems have planets in circular orbits.

In other science news, you have to give those NASA scientists credit for thinking out of the box on this one. In order to solve the problem of how to traverse Mars' rocky, treacherous territory without getting stuck, they came up with a

unique idea -- make the rover round. "Tumbleweed" is an oversized beach ball (about 20 ft. in diameter) that can (theoretically) roll over more Martian territory in a few seconds than Sojourner covered in its' entire month-long mission. The Tumbleweed project still has some bugs to work out before it can be put into action. For one, it will be moved by the wind -- which is notoriously unpredictable, whether you are on Earth or on Mars. So steering will be complicated and imprecise at best. And secondly, what to do if Tumbleweed tumbles into one of Mars' massive craters? I can hear those NASA engineers arguing about it now. "I'M not going to go get it. YOU go get it." "It's YOUR ball, YOU get it." "Uh, uh." "Uh huh!"

And one last thing, just a reminder -- keep collecting those aluminum cans for recycling!!

What we Learned From...Baseball?

You have a dominant hand and a dominant eye, but they don't always go together.

Though most people show dominance on one side or the other, at least 35 percent of people are crossed. That means they'll be right-handed, but have a dominant left eye, or the other way around.

According to the journal *Binocular Vision & Strabismus Quarterly*, this makes a difference in the way you play baseball. When the ophthalmology department at University of Florida in Gainesville studied the effects of ocular dominance on college baseball players, they found that the best hitters had crossed eye-hand dominance, and the best pitchers had uncrossed dominance.

There are also a small percentage of people who have central eye dominance, in which both eyes work equally, like being ambidextrous. These were the best players of all.

Something to keep in mind the next time you go to throw a ball, or any other task that requires hand-eye coordination.

Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

Another month has gone by already?! It's a fact, the older you get, the quicker time goes by. Now I know there absolutely no logic or scientific data that can be used to support that, but I know its true! Anyway, the month has been full of all sorts of news, primarily for Trek folks, the new series.

Enterprise will debut in September, the 35 anniversary of the original series, on UPN. That's the official word from Paramount. Of course, announcements concerning cast members and basic format and such have been the focus of many magazine articles. *TV Guide* even had a feature which included a fold out of the new ship and a brief interview with Scott Bakula, the star. This brings up an interesting point. Will Scott be an asset or a liability? I'm not questioning his acting ability, far from it. What I am concerned about is his previous series. *Quantum Leap* was on for a long time and created a loyal following. What I'm wondering is whether those fans will be comfortable with the change. Remember, many of those fans are Sci-Fi fans and will, or at least should, be part of a Trek audience. Sometimes it's hard for fans to see their favorite character in a new setting, particularly when there is such a change in their personality. The part Scott will be playing in *Enterprise* will, according to previews, be very different from his previous role. My concern is whether the transition will be quick and smooth, otherwise there might be a problem. Consider this, on all previous Trek series, the producers have gone out of their way to use 'unknowns' or at the very least, familiar faces with no strong previous typecasting problems.

Other concerns center around Paramount's choice of using UPN as the primary means of releasing the series. This was a terrible problem for *Voyager* as it reduced the number of outlets to a mere fraction of those for a direct to syndication offering. Many folks at conventions said they could not get into *Voyager*, simply because they never saw it. I'm not talking about 'Frostbite Falls', Minnesota or some remote spot out west, but major metropolitan areas which don't have a UPN network outlet. This seriously limits the potential for a good series, simply because they can't get to the audience they need to support them. My other worry is, that since it is a network

show, Paramount execs will again be obligated to tinker with the show since they consider it their 'personal property'.

My final comments about the series center around the lost opportunities. When I heard the new series might predate the original, I was genuinely intrigued. Here was a segment of Star Trek history previously untapped, (Except in novels and comics), and full of possibilities. In fact, a number of years ago, I wrote a premise and a pilot for such a series. (I called mine, *Star Trek: The Beginning*). Without going into a lot of detail, it focused on the beginning of Starfleet and the early explorations. Because I put a lot of thought into it, I came up with many basic premises for the characters, settings and possible conflicts of plot and such. So as I read about the new series I was interested to see how many of my ideas would parallel theirs. Well, so far only one, that of a linguistics expert and both are oriental women. But that's about it. I had focused on a retro look concerning uniforms, ships, weapons and so on. Rick Berman says they have taken poetic license and given everything an up to date look. Boo, hisss. Klingons will look like those we currently see, ships look like those in *Next Gen*, *DS9*, and *Voyager*. I believe they missed their first opportunity to give us something different and special. Just remember how good Kirk's *Enterprise* looked in the retro Tribble episode of *DS9*? Oh well. I will hold of further judgment until the series appears.

One final note in this report concerns a previous topic, the movie *Pearl Harbor*. You will remember my many comments concerning the inaccuracies and such before and during its release. Now it seems the producer and director agree, surprise, surprise! A re-release of the film is being scheduled for December 7 and will be a new version of the film. This edition will do away with most of the silly romance story and concentrate on the friendship between the two main male characters. It will also excise all the politically correct nonsense and restore many of the action sequences deleted due to their violent nature. This was dictated by the parent company, Disney, so they could retain their PG rating. According to the press release, all the horrors of actual combat, a la *Private Ryan*, will be shown. In addition, there will be three different

First Officer Report

By Larry Pischke

Well, here it is, newsletter time again. And again, I have nothing to write about. I was hoping that with my new position on the ship, I would have access to more items of note. I mean, Operations really didn't have a lot to do; we didn't make things run or design things like Engineering, or have real-world duties like Security. We pretty much just delegated ship's resources to those who needed them. Not very glamorous, but necessary. And not very newsworthy.

So I was very excited when I was chosen to be the next first officer of this wonderful ship of ours. Just think, I am a phaser shot away from the captaincy! There must be some interesting stuff going on here that I can write about!

Well, here's a shocker: there's still nothing going on! I'm hoping that this will change as I really get into the swing of things. I haven't really been officially "sworn in" or whatever yet, but this is my second newsletter article. And we didn't have a meeting or anything last month, so I guess it's pretty slow for everyone.

I'm hoping that it picks up shortly. For me, this is the start of the most exciting time of the year. Fall is approaching, and so are all the holidays and parties. Besides, I'm a cold weather person. With any luck, there will be some interesting things for me to talk about soon!

versions of the film for DVD release. The first will be the film as released, the second will be the revised version and the third will be a combination of the two with an extra National Geographic Special included. All three will have behind the scenes features and the price will be anywhere from \$29 to \$49, depending on which one you buy. These are very tentative plans and are subject to change. I'll keep you posted.

See you at the next meeting and as always, long live and prosper.

Security Report By Spring Brooks

2001 Hurricane Season

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a hurricane? Hurricanes are severe tropical storms that form in the southern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Hurricanes gather heat and energy through contact with warm ocean waters. Evaporation from the seawater increases their power. Hurricanes rotate in a counter-clockwise direction around an "eye." Hurricanes have winds at least 74 miles per hour. When they come onto land, the heavy rain, strong winds and heavy waves can damage buildings, trees and cars. The heavy waves are called a storm surge. Storm surges are very dangerous and a major reason why you MUST stay away from the ocean during a hurricane warning or hurricane.

When is the official hurricane season? The hurricane season in the Atlantic Basin, which includes the North Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico, runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. In the eastern Pacific, the season begins on May 15 and ends November 30. Of course, hurricanes and tropical storms can and do form outside these time periods, albeit rarely.

How are hurricanes named? Atlantic tropical systems are named from lists maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization. Six lists are used in rotation. Thus, the 1999 list of names will be used again in 2005. At the beginning of each season, the first storm is always the A storm no matter how many storms formed in the previous season. A separate set of six name lists is used for Eastern Pacific storms. For storms that form elsewhere in the Pacific Ocean, around Australia and Papua New Guinea, or in the Indian Ocean, names are used sequentially. In other words, if the last storm of the 1999 season was the M storm, the first storm of the 2000 season will have a name beginning with N. When the bottom of one list is reached, the next name is taken from the top of the next list. The only time that the name lists are changed is if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on a different storm would be inappropriate for reasons of sensitivity. To see the various name lists for the world's tropical systems and to learn more about the retirement of hurricane names.

2001 ATLANTIC BASIN SEASONAL HURRICANE FORECAST

	7-Dec-2000	7-Apr-2001	7-Jun-2001	7-Aug-2001
Named Storms (9.3)	9	10	12	12
Named Storm Days (46.9)	45	50	60	60
Hurricanes (5.8)	5	6	7	7
Hurricane Days (23.7)	20	25	30	30
Intense Hurricane (2.2)	2	2	3	3
Intense Hurricane Days (4.7)	4	4	5	5
Hurricane Destruction Potential (70.6)	65	65	75	75
Maximum Potential Destruction (61.7)	60	60	70	70
Net Tropical Cyclone Activity (100%)	90	100	120	120

* Number in () represents average year totals based on 1950-1990 data.

** Hurricane Destruction Potential measures a hurricane's potential for wind- and ocean-surge damage. Tropical Storm, Hurricane and Intense Hurricane Days are four, six-hour periods where storms attain wind speeds appropriate to their category on the Saffir-Simpson scale.

How are tropical storms & hurricanes categorized in terms of strength? When a tropical system first begins to organize, it is initially called a tropical depression. Once sustained wind speeds reach 39 mph, the system is upgraded to a tropical storm and given a name. If a tropical storm intensifies to the point where sustained winds reach 74 mph or greater, it is classified as a hurricane. The strength of a hurricane is categorized by the Saffir-Simpson scale. There are five categories on the scale which are used to estimate the storms potential for property damage and flooding were it to make landfall.

2001 Hurricane Prediction

Changing weather patterns have led forecasters to amend their hurricane predictions for the Atlantic Ocean this year, and now they predict a more intense season. William Gray, a hurricane forecaster at Colorado State University, and his team of researchers released a forecast Thursday for the 2001 season calling for 12 named storms, seven hurricanes and three intense hurricanes -- those registering Category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson scale.

In their initial storm forecast in December, the researchers predicted nine named storms, five hurricanes and two intense hurricanes. They raised the numbers slightly in an amended forecast in April. "There were mixed signals this year," said Gray. Among the reasons for the updated forecast, he said, was that the El Nino phenomenon in the Pacific was not proceeding as expected. El Nino, a warm body of water extending from the South American west coast north in the Pacific, can produce strong westerly winds

that move across the Atlantic and rip the tops off developing storms.

Gray also cited above-average sea temperatures in the Atlantic Basin, which includes the North Atlantic, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico and below-average Atlantic trade winds, both of which promote hurricane activity.

The team also forecasts above-average rainfall in West Africa, another reason for the amended prediction. "All of the climate signals in the Atlantic Basin that we've been monitoring are very positive for above-average storm activity this year," Gray said. Gray also estimated a 69 percent chance that one or more major hurricanes would make landfall along the U.S. coast during in 2001. The past century's average is 52 percent. He forecasts a 50 percent chance of landfall along the East Coast and Florida peninsula, where the past century's average is 31 percent, and a 39 percent chance of landfall along the Gulf Coast, where the average is 30 percent.

One factor for landfall, he said, is warmer, saltier water making its way to the northern Atlantic. The heavier, saltier water sinks, warming the Atlantic and giving storms a greater chance to develop into a hurricane. "Even with the increased forecast numbers, this won't be one of the worst seasons of the century," Gray said, "but we are anticipating an active season not unlike several of the most recent years."

Since 1995, 79 named storms, 49 hurricanes and 23 major hurricanes have occurred in the Atlantic Basin, Gray said. Three of the 23 major hurricanes have made landfall in the last six years.

Upcoming Events

Sept.	1	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
		Dragon Con, Atlanta (correction from last issue)
	26	8 p.m. <i>Enterprise</i> Premiere (UPN)
	28-30	Slanted Fedora, Durham
Oct.	6	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
Nov.	3	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
Dec.	17	<i>U.S.S. Kitty Hawk</i> Anniversary Party
	31	Raleigh First Night
