

# 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



Greetings  
Earth People!

It is that time of year when people dress strangely (more than usual) and go about neighborhoods asking the stay-at-home mundanes for free food and candy. In this time honored tradition, the inhabitants of the vessel known as Kitty Hawk will gather at the residence of their first officer and science officer to enjoy a smorgasbord of fine delicacies (that they bring) and engage in an evening of games and mischievousness; beginning at 7:30 p.m. A map is herein provided (see cover sheet). Dress in a costume other than STARFLEET. Families including children are invited. This will all occur this Saturday, October 27th, 2001.

Coming up the following weekend will be our monthly meeting at the Fisher residence at 4 p.m. on Saturday the 3rd of November.

I guess most of us have now had a chance to watch at least one episode of *Enterprise*. What do you think? Have they made a good transition to pre-*Star Trek*? Any chance this group of actors will make a family? And do you think they will finish their five-year mission? The answers to these and other important questions will be at the meeting! (Provided you give them). So come, enjoy the company of your fellow travelers and explore the possibilities of this new series!

A quick reminder: the anniversary/holiday party is once more at the Kanki Restaurant in Crabtree Valley Mall on the evening of December 17th. We have already received reservations for ten people (checks for \$10.00/person) and there is only room for 30 people. Please get your reservation in soon so we will reserve the correct size room and no one gets left out. We always have a great time there and really appreciate Tom (Mukoyama) and Skip (Lanoza - along with Sally) making this available to us. Visit them often.

The other major event this year is, of course, our participation in Raleigh's First Night celebration in downtown Raleigh on New Year's Eve. We will be manning a booth from 4 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. Come have a wonderful evening of entertainment and food, while freezing your \*!\+@ (toes) off. This is our main fundraiser for the ship each year. Last year we did not do well with our button sales and only got the minimum. We can do a lot better.

Since September 11, 2001, a lot of things have changed in our lives. While we are all more aware of everything around us and will never look at life the same way as we did, it is important that we all continue to live our lives much the way we used to do. Our priorities and our perceptions have changed, maybe for the better, but we must still do the things we used to do. The trivial may not be as important, but it is important that we as Americans continue to engage in them simply because we are the only people on this

planet who can. Our goal is for all other people on this planet to reach the life style and freedom to indulge themselves to the extent that we do. But first, they must have the freedom to choose to do so. A few should not control the destiny of so many without their consent. And no person anywhere should live in fear for their life.

That is a tall order. One that will surely come with an equally tall price tag. Once more the sleeping giant has been rudely awakened by those who do not understand us or wish to try to. They do not comprehend the terrible resolve that lies within us. But they will. We have ignored the lessons of history, but so have they. They have taught us a lesson, now we will teach them one.

We on the Kitty Hawk have a responsibility to ourselves and to our fellow Americans. We must not let our fears control us. We must live up to our own expectations in every facet of our lives and set examples that others may follow. The way we conduct ourselves in the coming months and years will determine not only the course of history for our people, but for the entire world. Every person alive today has a say in what tomorrow will bring by how he or she responds to today's events. I hope that we all have the Wright Stuff to make tomorrow and all the tomorrows to come a safer and better world.

*Esse Quam Videri - To Be, Rather  
Than To Seem*



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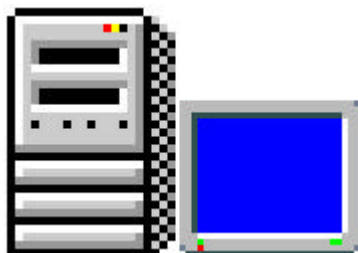


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## Computer Operations

By John Troan

Computer Ops -- for the Kitty Hawk web site -- has been relatively quiet the last couple of months. The only work that came up was some network changes resulting from the events of Sep 11.

From the information sent by my DSL provider, the network connection for my home DSL went through Manhattan. When the facility lost its external power, the emergency generators kicked-in and began supplying power. However, a couple of problems occurred and the provider eventually had to change my connection completely. On my part, I had to change the network addresses that the servers used. After a couple of bumps, I think everything is running smoothly again.

On a personal note, Sep 11 marked a milestone of sorts in that I started a short-term consulting position back with Hill-Rom in Cary. (They had downsized my position in mid-August, only to ask me back to consult in less than two weeks.) Needless to say, I -- like everyone else at work -- didn't get as much done that day as I had intended when I arrived that morning.

As a follow-up note, this week sees me changing jobs again. This time around, I'm rejoining a group that I had worked with in 1999 -- before leaving them to work at Hill-Rom. (The lesson here is to never burn your career bridges -- you never know when you'll need one of them again.) I just have to remember to drive to RTP now instead of Cary.

## Medical

By Amy DeJongh

Hurricane season is almost over for this year, but it is also a good time to review the contents of your first aid kit. It is advisable for all personnel to have one on hand in their home as well as available for away missions when medical personnel are not present. A first aid kit should include:

- ✓ Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
  - ✓ 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
  - ✓ 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
  - ✓ Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
  - ✓ Triangular bandages (3)
  - ✓ 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
  - ✓ 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
  - ✓ Scissors
  - ✓ Tweezers
  - ✓ Needle
  - ✓ Moistened towelettes
  - ✓ Antiseptic
  - ✓ Thermometer
  - ✓ Tongue blades (2)
  - ✓ Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
  - ✓ Assorted sizes of safety pins
  - ✓ Cleansing agent/soap
  - ✓ Latex gloves (2 pair)
  - ✓ Sunscreen
- Nonprescription drugs
- ✓ Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
  - ✓ Anti-diarrhea medication
  - ✓ Antacid (for stomach upset)
  - ✓ Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)
  - ✓ Laxative
  - ✓ Activated charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)

For those crew members on maintenance medications, it is always wise to keep a few days on hand (order your refills before you run out!)

Other items may be added as space allows and as you feel is appropriate to your individual situation.

Please contact sickbay for more information.

Be safe, be happy, be healthy.

## Science

By Elaine Pischke

For those interested in a little star gazing, (or more precisely, meteor gazing) there are some interesting events coming up soon. The annual Leonid meteor shower should be especially bright in the predawn hours of November 18th. The east coast of the U.S. should be a good place to view these from between 4-6 a.m., with the best view being over eastern Canada. Also, the Geminids will blast the Earth on December 13 and 14, and should be visible from anywhere that has a clear, cloudless view. Make a note on your calendars now!

If you are interested in keeping up with the official activities related to the Centennial of Flight, I'm providing the following contact information:

### FIRST FLIGHT CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

430 N Salisbury St, 4635 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, 27699-4635

Executive Director Kathryn Holten

(919) 733-2003

Fax (919) 715-8959

Web Site <http://www.firstflightnc.com>

Finally, don't forget the annual Kitty Hawk Halloween Party, which will be held at the Pischke house, October 27th at 7:00 p.m. Kids, costumes, and party food are all welcome!

# Engineering

## By Brad McDonald

It's been a long time since my last report. A lot has happened since then, primarily 9-11-01. So much has been about that day, anything I could add would be repetitious and meaningless. All I will say is, let's continue our public service work and increase our time on task whenever and wherever possible. Virtually anything we can do will help in the long run. Giving time, money and blood are all part of being good citizens. Personally, I'm a bit short on the money, but I'll make the effort to give a bit more time and blood. The current situation will not go away soon, the President and others state over and over, this is going to take a long time. The Gulf War gave a lot of people the wrong impression that war can be done quick and relatively painless. This time, think more in terms of the Cold War, which lasted 50 years or the Vietnam War, nine years. I believe somewhere in between is just about right.

As a side bar to recent events, our namesake ship, the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*, has been sent to the Persian Gulf. Curiously, it was sent without aircraft. Speculation abounds, but most likely, it will be used as an addition to the amphibious assault group. Helicopters for Marines, Seals, Rangers and other special forces would be transferred to *Kitty Hawk*, then transported to various hot spots in the area. Smaller ships, which already perform such duties, would simply be overwhelmed by the scope of operations necessary in the upcoming war. Let's wish our namesake ship well and hope they return successfully and safely.

On another front, so to speak, the new series, *Enterprise*, made its debut. Both the premiere and first episode were good. In fact, *USA TODAY* had the ratings posted and they kicked the competition's butt. I had voiced some misgivings about Scott Bakula being able to shed his *Quantum Leap* image and stereotype, but not to worry. Captain Archer seems to have found his place quickly and ably. I still don't understand why the producers didn't go for more of a retro look, but that's my problem. I am confused about one thing though. In other *Star Trek* series, we've been told that one of the reasons the Prime Directive was created, and the primary reason the

Federation and Klingon Empire were at war for almost 100 years, was due to the horrible first contact with them. Sorry, but I didn't see any evidence of this. Did I miss something?

Anyway, *Enterprise* ship and crew are okay and they have a good feel for drama with a bit of friction and humor. There a lot of small details which add the crew being more familiar for us; steak and baked potato for dinner, baseball caps, uneasiness with new technology and the child like wonder of being in deep space for the first time. Nice touches. One thing that always bothered me about Picard was his 'stuffed shirt' approach to command. The attitude that 'I've seen it all before' just didn't cut it. Also, the 'one big happy family' routine ruined the dramatic appeal. Characters like Bailey (The Corbomite Maneuver) and Stiles (Balance of Terror) gave the original series some flavor. Even the constant 'battle' between McCoy and Spock was interesting during lulls in the action. *Next Gen* missed the boat entirely. Only Worf provided any interaction, and he was usually, if you'll pardon the expression, browbeaten every time he 'offered his opinion'. Having the Vulcan, T'Pol, who provides a bit of tension helps, I just wish they hadn't put her in Seven's famous skin tight jumpsuit. I feel that was a bet against loosing the 16 to 39 year old male audience acquired during Seven's stint on *Voyager*.

Although I hadn't planned on attending the Durham Convention, I was disappointed to learn that it had been canceled. It was due to the Stars backing out, fear of flying. That was most unfortunate, as it disappointed many fans, interrupted our attempt at returning to normalcy and ultimately, gave in to the terrorists' goals.

Recent events have forced a lot of people to rethink their lives in many ways. It has brought out the best of us and the worst. My neighbor is Moslem, from Bangladesh, and frankly, he is scared. Not by the terrorists or the downturn in the economy, but by taunts, threats and stares form those 'less enlightened' folks who see him as an outsider and a threat. We haven't come so far after all. To assume guilt of all by the acts of a few, we

# First Officer's Report

By Larry Pischke

Gee, and I thought that being first officer would give me more to talk about. New office, new view, same report. Boy, you people certainly know your jobs – you certainly don't need any help from me.

This is the start of my favorite part of the year. Fall, holiday season, party season. In that vein, the Halloween party will again be at our house this year on Saturday, October 27th. Everyone please bring something, and let us know so we can coordinate (although 8 chocolate cakes wouldn't go to waste....). Party starts at 7 or so.

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are no better than those who caused all the recent suffering. They also believe that only they can be right and that all outsiders are not to be trusted. My neighbor hosted a dinner last weekend where he shared traditional Bangladesh dishes and customs. While I may never become a big fan of goat meat, I understood his reasoning. If we share with someone, it's difficult to mistrust them and far easier to understand them. I have always been proud to call myself a Trek fan, it's now seems more important than ever to recognize the differences in others and, not only tolerate them, but to rejoice in them. IDIC, Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations. That's what made the U.S. the great place it is today. We adopt the best of many cultures, ideas and people, in return, we have a unique society and much to be thankful for. Our country leads the way in many fields of science, technology, inventions, medicine, research and so on. Most of this is due, not to a homogeneous society, but one of many individuals with a wide diversity of thoughts, ideas and ways of doing things.

Time to get off the soapbox again. Take care and, as usual, long live and prosper.



# Security By Spring Brooks

## Afghanistan Facts:

Is Afghanistan a middle-eastern country? No, a South Central Asian country, north of Pakistan.

Are Afghans and Arabs the same? No, Afghans are not Arabs.

People of Afghanistan are called Afghans, not Afghani. Afghani is name of the currency used in Afghanistan.

Population: 21,251,821 (July 1995 est.).

Are all Afghans Muslims? Mostly, but there are also Hindu, Sikh and Jewish Afghans. Religions: Sunni Muslim 84%, Shi'a Muslim 15%, other 1%.

## Age structure:

0-14 years: 42% (female 4,342,218; male 4,507,141)

15-64 years: 56% (female 5,406,675; male 6,443,734)

65 years and over: 2% (female 256,443; male 295,610) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 14.47% (1995 est.).

Infant mortality rate: 152.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.).

Life expectancy at birth: total population: 45.37 years, male: 45.98 years, female: 44.72 years (1995 est.).

Total fertility rate: 6.21 children born/woman (1995 est.).

Ethnic divisions: Pashtun 38%, Tajik 25%, Uzbek 6%, Hazara 19%, minor ethnic groups (Chahar Aimaks, Turkmen, Baloch, and others).

## Major Ethnic Groups in Afghanistan:

Pashtuns: Mostly living in south and eastern Afghanistan. People living in the western regions of Pakistan (previously Afghan territories) are also Pashtuns. Pashtu (Pakhtu) is the language spoken by Pashtuns.

Tajiks: They speak Dari and mostly live in northern and western half of Afghanistan. Tajiks also live in Tajikistan, the northern neighbor of Afghanistan, an ex-Soviet republic.

Hazaras: They live in the central mountainous areas of Afghanistan and are known to be very talented and hardworking group of people. They speak Hazaragee, which is almost the same as Dari.

Uzbeks: It is mostly the Uzbek riders who play Buzkashi, the Afghan national sport. Living mostly in the northern areas of Afghanistan, they speak Uzbeki, a language also spoken in Uzbekistan, an ex-Soviet republic north of Afghanistan. Uzbeks are famous for their round breads and red rugs.

Turkmen: Also living in the north, they speak Turkmeni. There are also other smaller ethnic groups living in Afghanistan such as Sikhs, Hindus and Jews.

Languages: Pashtu 35%, Afghan Persian (Dari) 50%, Turkic languages (primarily Uzbek and Turkmen) 11%, 30 minor languages (primarily Balochi and Pashai) 4%, much bilingualism.

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1990 est.).

Total population: 29%, male: 44%, female: 14%.

Labor force: 4.98 million. by occupation: agriculture and animal husbandry 67.8%, industry 10.2%, construction 6.3%, commerce 5.0%, services and other 10.7% (1980 est.).

Area: total area: 647,500 sq km, slightly smaller than Texas. Landlocked.

International disputes: periodic disputes with Iran over Helmand water rights; Iran supports clients in country, private Pakistani and Saudi sources also are active; power struggles among various groups for control of Kabul, regional rivalries among emerging warlords, traditional tribal disputes continue; support to Islamic fighters in Tajikistan's civil war; border dispute with Pakistan (Durand Line); support to Islamic militants worldwide by some factions.

## Government Names:

conventional long form: Islamic State of Afghanistan

conventional short form: Afghanistan  
local long form: Dowlat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan

local short form: Afghanistan  
former: Republic of Afghanistan

Type: transitional government

Capital: Kabul

Independence: 19 August 1919 (from UK)

National holiday: Victory of the Muslim Nation, 28 April; Remembrance Day for Martyrs and Disabled, 4 May; Independence Day, 19 August

Flag: NA; note - the flag has changed at least twice since 1992.

Climate: arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers.

Terrain: mostly rugged mountains; plains in north and southwest

Land use: arable land: 12%, meadows and pastures: 46%, forest and woodland: 3%, other: 39%. Irrigated land: 26,600 sq km (1989 est.).

## Economy:

Overview: Afghanistan is an extremely poor, landlocked country, highly dependent on farming (wheat especially) and livestock raising (sheep and goats). Economic considerations have played second fiddle to political and military upheavals during more than 15 years of war, including the nearly 10-year Soviet military occupation (which ended 15 February 1989). Over the past decade, one-third of the population fled the country, with Pakistan sheltering more than 3 million refugees and Iran about 3 million. About 1.4 million Afghan refugees remain in Pakistan and about 2 million in Iran. Another 1 million probably moved into and around urban areas within Afghanistan. Although reliable data are unavailable, gross domestic product is lower than 13 years ago because of the loss of labor and capital and the disruption of trade and transport.

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 56.7% (1991)

Exports: \$188.2 million (f.o.b., 1991); commodities: fruits and nuts, hand-woven carpets, wool, cotton, hides and pelts, precious and semiprecious gems. Partners: FSU countries, Pakistan, Iran, Germany, India, UK, Belgium, Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia

Imports: \$616.4 million (c.i.f., 1991); commodities: food and petroleum products; most consumer goods. Partners: FSU countries, Pakistan, Iran, Japan, Singapore, India, South Korea, Germany.

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External debt: \$2.3 billion (March 1991 est.)

Industrial production: growth rate 2.3% (FY90/91 est.); accounts for about 25% of GDP

Electricity:

capacity: 480,000 kW

production: 550 million kWh

consumption per capita: 39 kWh (1993)

Industries: small-scale production of textiles, soap, furniture, shoes, fertilizer, and cement; hand-woven carpets; natural gas, oil, coal, copper

Agriculture: largely subsistence farming and nomadic animal husbandry; cash products - wheat, fruits, nuts, karakul pelts, wool, mutton

Economic aid:

recipient: \$450 million US assistance provided 1985-1993; the UN provides assistance in the form of food aid, immunization, land mine removal, and a wide range of aid to refugees and displaced persons

Exchange rates: afghanis (Af) per US\$1 - 1,900 (January 1994)

Transportation:

Railroads: total: 24.6 km

Highways: total: 21,000 km, paved: 2,800 km, unpaved: gravel 1,650 km; earth 16,550 km (1984)

Inland waterways: total navigability 1,200 km

Pipelines: petroleum products - Uzbekistan to Bagram and Turkmenistan to Shindand; natural gas 180 km

Airports:

total: 48 with paved runways over 3,047 m: 3, with paved runways 2,438 to 3,047 m: 5.

Telephone system: 31,200 telephones; limited telephone, telegraph, and radio broadcast services; 1 public telephone in Kabul.

International: one link between western Afghanistan and Iran (via satellite)

Radio: broadcast stations: AM 5, FM 0, short-wave 2.

Television: broadcast stations: several television stations run by factions and local councils which provide intermittent service.

Defense Forces: Branches: the military still does not exist on a national scale; some elements of the former Army, Air and Air Defense Forces, National Guard, Border Guard Forces, National Police Force (Sarandoi), and tribal militias still exist but are factionalized among the various mujahedin and former regime leaders.

Manpower availability: males age 15-49 5,646,789; males fit for military service 3,011,777; males reach military age (22) annually 200,264 (1995 est.).

Defense expenditures: exchange rate conversion - \$450 million, 15% of GDP (1990 est.); the new government has not yet adopted a defense budget.

# Map to Pischkes'

