

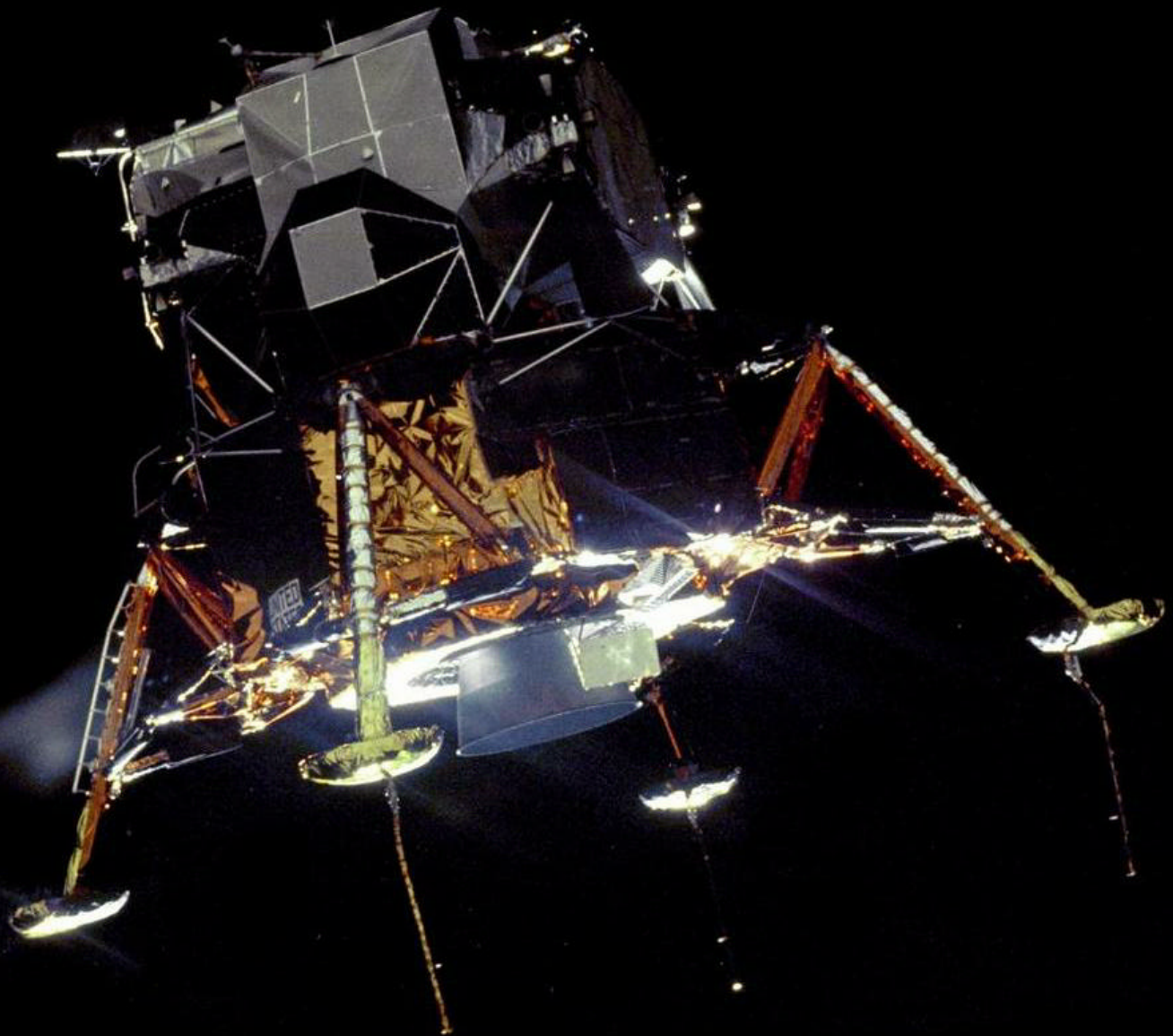
# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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# THE WRIGHT STUFF

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Publisher ..... J.R. Fisher  
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Wright Flyer from NASA/Ames PAO photo archive; *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk* (USN CV-63) from [navicp.navy.mil](http://navicp.navy.mil); *Constitution* class cruiser from [gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk](http://gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk).

**IMAGE - Featured Front Page**

Apollo 11 LM *Eagle* beginning its decent as seen from CSM *Columbia*. Original photo taken July 20, 1969, and retrieved from NASA photo archive [grin.hq.nasa.gov](http://grin.hq.nasa.gov).

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# A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

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Greetings! Summer is only half over but it is time for the children to go back to school, much to the relief of many parents. Of course, that means back to school clothes, etc., have to be bought between now and the eleventh.

This is being written at the end of July, so I do not have some of the answers to many questions or exact information on some events. In regards to Jane's health, she visits (or visited when you read this) the doctor on July 31st. Hopefully, her mobility will return and she can begin to return to normal.

There is no meeting in August, as per usual, but we will return to our first Saturday in the month with our September 6th meeting which will be a cookout. Hopefully, everyone will be settled in to their regular routine and can attend.

Also, at this writing, the International Conference of STARFLEET is being held in Greensboro, N.C. and several of us will attempt to attend. We will report to the club in September if we do make it.

To the best of my knowledge, only two of us got to go to Shore Leave in Maryland this year and I have not gotten any reports on how well that went. Anyone who attended is encouraged to write up a report and submit it to the newsletter. People will only go to these cons if they know that they are fun and worthwhile.

Speaking of which, there are a number of things on our calendar for the fall: Duke radiothon, R-1 fall conference in Charleston, S.C., a small con in Durham, a one day venture to Kinston, N.C., the 100th anniversary of flight in Kitty Hawk, and our usual fall gatherings.

At the last meeting, we decided that because of the festivities at Kitty Hawk, we would postpone our anniversary dinner until January 17th. This will lessen

the number of holiday parties to attend as well as make reservations easier to obtain. Will probably increase the attendance to the event as well.

E-mails to me over the last few weeks brought to my attention that a member of R-1 in Charleston has had enormous difficulties of late which has resulted in a cascade effect within their family. A plea has gone out for all of our chapters to help with donations to relieve their debt which is in the thousands of dollars. I contacted the members of the bridge crew and we agreed to make a sizable donation to their effort in lieu of a donation to Duke this year. Details will follow at the September meeting.

It is refreshing to know that there is still a sense of caring and generosity within our group and we still have "The Wright Stuff".

Please continue to pray for our troops.

*Esse Quam Videri*

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# Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

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Hello again! It's been quite a busy time since I last communicated. The kitchen work is finally done. Well actually, there are six more pieces of small trim to do, but that will be done this weekend of the Fourth. We're a bit over budget in time and money, but everybody in the family is happy with the results and I must admit, it's a vast improvement.

Hope all went well at the mini telethon for UNC TV. I watched the crew at work from the beach while on vacation. At least I was there in spirit. There's a few topics that I want to hit on, so let's get started.

The media has been full of news regarding the future of the shuttle program. As I indicated in earlier, the remaining ships will be back in service within the year. There will be a number of changes in procedures, primarily a full radar, photo and satellite scan just after launch and just before landing. If damage is detected, repairs will be made, or if the damage is too great, the crew will be transferred to another shuttle or the space station. Details on this have to be worked out, that's why the delay in

returning to space. The shuttle is important to remember that the shuttle is vital to the space station's operation. For this reason alone, the shuttle fleet must resume flights. As far as the next generation of shuttles, that's remains to be seen. Right now, there's a competition between three designs, with no clear winner and no clear idea from congress as to how it will be financed, if at all.

Also in space news is the beginning of the new Mars missions. There are three total, two are from NASA and one from the European Space Agency. Each one contains rovers, which will test mainly for the presence of water. The missions are expected to last about three months on the Martian surface, but will require a seven month voyage just to get there. Keep your fingers crossed as only three of nine attempts have succeeded so far.

Sci-Fi summer movies are in the theaters already and there are more on the way. Personally speaking, I found the *Hulk* severely lacking in all aspects. I'm a Marvel fan from the early 60's and the *Hulk* movie in no way resembles the comic. (Other than the big fellow in his

trademark purple pants.) A new story line recreates the *Hulk's* origin and the movie itself is a hodge podge of individual, split screen images, not a cohesive story. Too bad, as *Spiderman* was such a treat. On another topic, *T-3* wasn't bad, compared to *Hulk*, it was great. I did have a problem with the ending though, a bit of a let down after a big build up. If you have limited time and money, go see *Finding Nemo*. It's a charming story and a visual treat as well.

As you know, *Star Trek the Magazine* is dead. The last issue went out in April and so Paramount is revamping the fan magazine, *Communicator*. Included in this change is change in the fan club as well. This will include discounts on merchandise and advance purchase preference on fan club items and limited edition products. Also, some features from the old *Trek* magazine may be carried over. With the failure of *Star Trek the Magazine*, this leaves only the *Communicator* as a *Trek* only publication.

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## Engineering Report

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Is this another sign of the slipping of the *Trek* franchise? Maybe, TNN is actually suing Paramount for letting the franchise slide and thus making their exclusive on all things *Trek* less valuable and therefore, less profitable for TNN.

*Star Trek V* will be released this fall on DVD in a special format. Details are still sketchy, but there won't be an attempt at a re-cut, as in *The Motion Picture*. For years, Shatner has complained that the reason his film is rated as the poorest in the series, is due to last minute budget cuts. His original script called for a number of special effects which were cut, causing him to have to rewrite and improvise. Lest you dismiss this as an excuse, it has been confirmed by others. No word on new feature films but with *Enterprise* hanging on by its fingernails in the ratings and *Nemesis* performing poorly, I doubt Paramount is clamoring for another *Trek* project.

Things are looking good for First Flight Centennial. (I used the word Bicentennial last time, sorry. I was just thinking ahead.) Out in Kitty Hawk, the old museum is completely rebuilt and had just been completely reopened the week I was there. Also, the new pavilion was open and activities were in progress. In fact, Katy and I participated in the kite flying event. Katy made her own, with a little help from her dad and then we took it for a very successful test flight.

Word is, they now expect between 100,000 and 200,000 visitors during the week of First Flight Celebration. What a crowd! I'm sure glad J.R. and I made reservations last December and bought our tickets too. It seems that almost everything is booked solid or sold out.

Well, my time is up again, the wife has more 'honey do' items lined up for me.

Take care and see you at the next meeting! Long live and prosper.

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## Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

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This report will be brief, as the Pischkes are getting ready to head out of town on some much-needed shore leave. Destination: Williamsburg, PA. Sorry we missed the last meeting, but Graeme was participating in the Special Olympics Equestrian competition, where he won blue ribbons and gold medals in both of his events!

For you collectors out there, on August 9-10 there will be a toy and collectibles show at the Civic Center, downtown Raleigh, being billed as the Imperial Quartermaster II show. Apparently there will be guests from various movies and T.V. shows, including *Star Wars*. Some guests include Richard Hatch, Herb Jefferson, Jr., Erin Gray, Gil Gerard, and Baris Oftee (to be in Episode III). Admission is \$10. Children under 10 are admitted for free. For more information go to <http://www.imperialquartermaster.com/>.

In science news, if it appears that everybody wants to go to Mars right now, there's good reason. NASA just launched two Mars rovers, *Opportunity* and *Spirit*, to take geological surveys of the Martian surface. Their mission is to determine if there was ever enough water on Mars to sustain life. Also, Japan has sent a probe, *Nozomi*, scheduled to arrive in late December or early January. The European Space Agency's *Mars Express* orbiter and *Beagle 2* lander are also scheduled to arrive around that same time. So why the big fascination with Mars right now? As the name of one of NASA's rovers so aptly states, it's all about opportunity. Mars is approaching a point where it will be the closest to Earth that it has been in 73,000 years – officially, at 5:46 a.m. on August 27, 2003, Mars and Earth will be a mere 34,646,418 miles apart. This is about one third closer than it usually is. It hasn't been this close since September 12, 57,537 BC, and won't be this close again until August 28, 2287. Obviously, the shorter distance means less fuel needed to get there, less time to travel there, and less time needed for transmissions from the probes. Also, the number the missions headed to Mars at this time means an increased probability that at least one of them will be successful.

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## Comp Ops Report

By John Troan

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While trying to figure out 1) what to put in this month's report, then 2) how to fill this column of space, I took a look through a few issues of the computer industry trade magazines that piled up on my desk at work. (The last several weeks at work have been busy and I didn't have time until just recently to finally dig through the stack.) Part way through my reading, I found a listing of InfoWorld's 2003 Readers' Choice Awards.

While reading through this list, do bear in mind that these are largely from the corporate perspective, not that of a home user. (For that reason, I didn't include a lot of the categories.)

- Best Product: Mac OS X 10.2, more than ten percentage points over #2.
- Favorite Vendor: Microsoft, over Apple Computer by .3 points.
- Best Gadget: Apple iPod, more than twice the points as the #2.
- Biggest Hype: Anti-spam software, easily #1 over wireless networking.
- Worst Disaster: Spam overload, 15 points ahead of the #2.
- Best Operating System (probably server): Microsoft Windows 2003, barely ahead of Red Hat Linux 8.0.

Moving on to stuff from the 'net, the first two episodes of *Enterprise's* third season have been shot. The season premiere, *The Xindi*, will air on Sep. 10, with *Anomaly* airing a week later. Browsing through the production news, the reports mention the military contingent on board; two new *NX-01* new sets; and a lot of stunt work & special effects. One interesting note is that the leader of the "Military Assault Combat Operations" (MACOs) is played by Steven Culp. He appears in the original ending of *Nemesis* as Martin Madden, the new XO of *Enterprise-E*.

I found out that Lego Company now has a model of the *Wright Flyer* -- which I immediately ordered and assembled in three evenings after work. (I included a photo of it in this issue.)

Checking [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), I see that the fourth season of *DS9* will be available on Aug 5.

On the homes front -- yes, I do mean the plural -- I'm looking forward toward selling on my old townhouse, which is set for a closing in mid-August.



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## Upcoming Events

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<b>Aug.</b>	<b>5</b>	<b><i>Deep Space Nine (Season 4) DVDs Released</i></b>
<b>Sep.</b>	<b>6</b>	<b><i>4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home cookout follows</i></b>
	<b>10</b>	<b><i>Enterprise season three premieres</i></b>

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