

THE WRIGHT STUFF



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The Official Newsletter of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk ♦ NCC-1659

March / April 2004



A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



Our newsletter has gotten a month out of schedule, so we will double month the issue for a while until something really important comes up.

I wish to thank all of our crew who volunteered to man the phones for UNC-TV the two times we assisted them in March. We had a good showing given the times and I hope everyone had a good time. Sometimes the food was good, sometimes it was not. Still, we did our part and were appreciated.

I recently got an e-mail from Fleet Operations listing who was currently active in Fleet. While I know that some of you are current and their records are wrong, some of you have not stayed current and need to re-enlist or renew now! We cannot stay a chapter if we do not maintain certain numbers. There is a new

address for renewal other than what is on our current form:

StarFleet Membership Processing
P.O. Box 1400
Westminster, MD 21158

Please pay your dues and make sure you give me the renewal/assignment card they send you. Without that I cannot prove you are current and assigned to Kitty Hawk.

Here it is halfway through April (today is tax day) and we still have not planned or taken any trips. If you don't come to the meetings and bring your schedules/calendars, we will never be able to plan anything. Make an effort!

We have decided to have a cookout for the May 1st meeting. The Fishers will provide burgers and dogs and everyone else bring drinks, side dishes, chips, beans, deserts, snacks, etc. Please be on time: 4 p.m.

Esse Quam Videri

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

Welcome to Spring! I hope the warmer weather and flowers in bloom helps to raise everyone's spirits.

The Hubble telescope has again amazed us with the discovery of a new planetoid within our solar system. The planetoid has been named Sedna. Scientists suspect it may also have a moon, but have been unable to see a moon as yet. Sedna has a 40-day rotation and a 10,500 year orbit around the sun.

Did you know that by watching satellite images of the earth, scientist can predict outbreaks of certain diseases? A new pilot program to track the likely outbreak of Malaria is underway. Scientists hope that by watching satellite images of the Earth, they will be able to tell what areas are

ripe for an outbreak and concentrate prevention measures on those areas.

Now more evidence that the universe is full of planets. Another new planet has been identified, which is almost ho-hum news by now. "The newly discovered star-planet system is 17,000 light years away in the constellation Sagittarius. The planet, orbiting a red dwarf parent star, is most likely one-and-a-half times bigger than Jupiter. The planet and star are three times farther apart than Earth and the sun. Together, they magnify a farther, background star some 24,000 light years away, near the Milky Way center." (NASA website)

Computer Ops

By John Troan

A short round-up of information from the web and other sources.

Here's the remaining episodes of *Enterprise* this season --

Apr 21 Damage

While dissension among Xindi ranks festers, *Enterprise* tries to recover from a devastating attack

Apr 28 The Forgotten

Two high-ranking Xindi offer to stop the launch of their superweapon if Archer can prove they've been manipulated.

May 5 E²

An attempt to use a Xindi subspace corridor leads *Enterprise* to a bizarre encounter with another Starfleet ship.

May 12 The Council

Archer confronts the Xindi Council.

May 19 Countdown

With help from some Xindi factions, the *Enterprise* crew attempts to stop the arming of the Xindi weapon.

May 26 Zero Hour

(Paramount is keeping things quiet on the plot.)

Also, *Enterprise* has not yet been renewed for next season. According to a *USA Today* article from a week ago, the series is on the bubble and is not yet on the schedule for 2004-05.

NASA has extended Spirit and Opportunity for another five months. Both have met all initial objectives, including each traveling 600 meters and operating for 90 sols. With the mission being extended until at least September, JPL was going to upload new software to take care of the nagging problem each rover has been experiencing since landing.

On the shuttle front, *Discovery* is being readied for the next mission, currently scheduled for a target window of Mar 6 to Apr 18 (2005). *Atlantis* is scheduled for the next flight, also designated as a logistics flight with no ISS modules being carried. *Endeavour* is currently in its previously-scheduled maintenance period, which I'm guessing will be completed sometime late next year.

Upcoming Events

May	1	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home <i>Cookout Follows</i>
	18	<i>Voyager</i> (Season 2) DVDs Released
Jun.	5	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
Jul.	TBD	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
	6	<i>Voyager</i> (Season 3) DVDs Released

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