

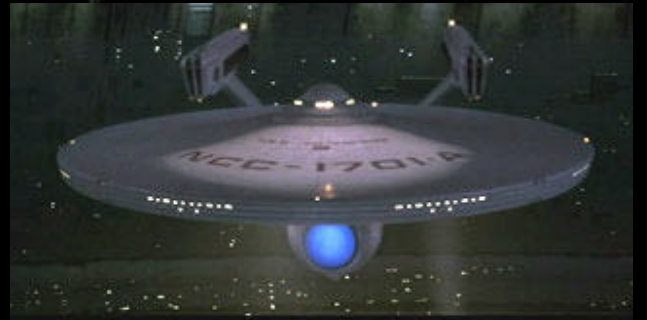
THE WRIGHT STUFF



Vol XVII ♦ No 4

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Jul / Aug 2006



A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



Summer is almost over and time for everyone to get back into the swing of life as we start the fall season with all the upcoming events and holidays.

Our first question to the crew is: Do you want to work First Night Raleigh this year? We usually make several hundred dollars and put it in the kitty to sustain our charity work throughout the next year and our treasury is as low as it has been in many years because we haven't done any fundraisers. We need a decision by this next meeting which will be September ninth. This is one day after the official 40th anniversary of the first airing of Star Trek.

Do you want to do anything special to celebrate? We will have a cookout with hot dogs and you, the crew, bringing sides and drinks and desserts, etc. Would you like to make it a uniform day? Anyway we can plan some games or anything else like playing the original episode on TV, etc.

Speaking of celebrating, two of our crew did make it to Las Vegas for the big Star Trek celebration out there. Hopefully they will have some pictures, show and tell, and some interesting stories about what went on out there. Wish more of us could have been there.

Don't forget, if you are a die-hard sci-fi con fan, that Labor Day weekend is the great Dragon Con event in Atlanta. If you have never been, you should try it.

We hope everyone had a great, safe summer, we hope each of you has thought about what we can do to make Trinoc-Con a Kitty Hawk event next year, and we hope that everyone is ready to be more involved with ship activities in the coming year. The more effort we put into it, the more fun we will have.

So, as always, what the coming year holds for you is pretty much up to you. Department Heads should be writing reports for every newsletter, it doesn't take that much time. If you aren't going to do the work, find someone who will. We don't require a lot from you. It has always been up to you what your division does as far as work on the ship and for fun.

We hope that by the next newsletter, we can put on paper the exploits of the fearless band of brothers (and sisters)

and their daring raid on the Klingon home world to achieve great honor and restore Federation supremacy. Nothing less for those with the Wright Stuff.

And don't forget that the October meeting will be at Borders at Six Forks and Wake Forest Road following the book signing.

Esse Quam Videri

From the Rec Deck

By Jeff Cohn

Jeff and Sandra Cohn would like to announce the arrival of Matthew Aaron Cohn (pictured below), born at 12:18am on Wednesday, July 26. Matthew weighed in at 7lbs 1oz and is a very healthy and happy baby. We hope to bring him to a Kitty Hawk meeting in the next month or two to say hello to everyone.



DEEP SPACE NINE - "An Old Friend"

By Brad McDonald

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE -
AURORA BOREALIS DOCKED
(OPTICAL)

The large liner is docked at one of the station's pylons.

INT. SISKO'S OFFICE - WIDE ANGLE

Sisko is working hard on a data padd when O'Brien appears, looking a bit haggard. Sisko looks up and puts the padd down.

SISKO
(worried)

Chief? You tangle with a sehlat or fall off one of the docking pylons?

O'Brien takes the first available seat, hard.

O'BRIEN
(quietly)

I think every system on this station is maxed out, but the worse of them are the food replicators!

SISKO
(sympathetic)

You need some rest. Chief.

CLOSE UP - O'BRIEN

O'BRIEN
(shrugging)

I'm afraid if I slow down too much, I won't be able to get started again. I would like a favor though.

SISKO (V.O.)
(o.c.)

Name it!

O'BRIEN

Don't create any more work for me. Put out the 'no vacancy sign'. okay?

TWO SHOT - SISKO AND O'BRIEN

SISKO
(smiling)

Understood, engineer. Anything else?

O'BRIEN
(thoughtfully)

Ask Bajor for a few extra hands. I'd settle for cadets, straight out of school.

SISKO

Consider it done.

WIDER ANGLE - INCLUDE OFFICE DOOR

Dax enters, happy-go-lucky and smiling broadly, and takes a seat next to O'Brien. Noticing his condition, she becomes worried.

DAX
(concerned)

Chief, are you okay?

SISKO

I was just about to recommend him for a bit of rest.

DAX

You'd better take it easy. Miles. I promised Keiko to look after you. She may never forgive me.

O'Brien rises slowly.

O'BRIEN

I think I'll go finish the isolation quarters, then take a nap...

Sisko and Dax watch the weary engineer exit, then they begin their own conversation.

TWO SHOT - SISKO AND DAX

Dax draws near to Sisko's duty desk and leans forward.

DAX

I got your message, Benjamin. What was it you wanted?

SISKO
(quietly)

I need a shuttle pilot for a v.i.p., interested?

DAX
(curious)

Why me?

SISKO

You're available. Odo's on another assignment, Kira's got her hands full with the refugees, as does Bashir. That leaves you.
(beat, then; smiling)

Besides, you're highly qualified.

DAX
(thoughtfully)

It might help if I knew what you had in mind.

ON SISKO

Sisko gets quiet. He's torn, should he tell Dax or not?

SISKO

It's a classified matter. Basically, you're transporting a Federation ambassador to a Maquis base to begin negotiations.

DAX (V.O.)
(o.c.; surprised)

You're kidding. I thought that Federation policy prohibited --

SISKO

...contact with a known terrorist organization? They made an exception for this person.

ON DAX

Dax is thinking, her face reflects this. After a moment, she speaks, knowingly.

DAX

I know of only two people who could make the Council reverse a standing policy, Spock and Sarek.

(beat, then; smiling)

So, when did Spock arrive?

SISKO (V.O.)
(o.c.; simply)

Ambassador Spock is not involved.

DAX
(confused)

Well then who --?

ON SISKO

Sisko hesitates, then decides to tell her after all.

SISKO

Your assessment was correct. Ambassador Sarek is here.

DAX (V.O.)
(o.c.; stunned)

But I thought --

SISKO

Sarek's death was part of an elaborate cover-up for this mission.

CLOSEUP - DAX

Dax suddenly brightens.

DAX
(smiling)

Benjamin, this is wonderful!

SISKO (V.O.)
(o.c.; puzzled)

How so?

DAX
(excited)

My symbiont's second host was Shanara Dax. She was married to a man who had a trading business. During one of the trade fairs on Babel, she met Amanda, Sarek's second wife. They became friends and eventually Shanara met Sarek.

(reflective)

I carry a lot of good memories from those early years. When I heard that Sarek had died, it was a major blow.

TWO SHOT - SISKO AND DAX

SISKO
(optimistic)

Then this mission should be perfect for you. I was worried that you might not like the assignment.

DAX
(smiling)

Exactly what will my part be?

SISKO

Actually, just pilot the shuttle.

Dax looks confused and shifts in her chair uncomfortably

DAX

That's all? Sarek could do that.

SISKO

Actually, no. He's never been flight certified, he told me so himself .

DAX
(confused)

Benjamin, he told you that?

(beat, then:)

I don't understand. He was a licensed pilot, he even taught Spock.

Sisko contemplates what he's heard. He had a slight doubt about the mission before, now he's beginning to worry.

SISKO

Any chance you could be wrong?

Dax gets up and walks around Sisko's desk, activating the computer.

NEW ANGLE ON SCREEN (OPTICAL)

The screen shows a search in progress as data scrolls by. Dax is working the unit as Sisko watches, with interest.

DAX
(working)

Should be part of his biography. No, not there... maybe in Starfleet records.

She rekeys and tries again, then suddenly stops and points to the information on the screen.

DAX
(pointing)

There! Certified by Captain Robert T. April, August 2?, 2246. Sarek was certified by a starship captain while in transit to a peace conference!

TWO SHOT - SISKO AND DAX

Sisko turns to face Dax after reading the information for himself. He's a bit stunned at the revelation.

SISKO
(quietly)

Sot he's had one for some time.

(beat. then:)

Why would he lie?

Dax turns to meet Sisko's eyes.

DAX
(firm)

A Vulcan wouldn't, especially Sarek.

Sisko is very disturbed by the revelation and is temporarily speechless.

Off Sisko's reaction....

CUT TO:

QUARK'S BAR - WIDE ANGLE

The bar is almost pure bedlam. Between the Bajoran refugees and Bingham's crew, Quark is very busy. Both he and Rom are working and seem very weary from a long day.

QUARK
(to Rom)

Take this tray to dabo table two then check on the others.

Rom picks up the tray and walks off. Bingham approaches with several ladies in tow. Quark winces, noticeably.

BINGHAM
(loudly)

Quark! You devil! Why didn't you tell me you had more girls on the

upper level Now that's what I call a selection!

Bingham laughs loudly and gives one of his companions a big hug.

QUARK
(unenthusiastic)
Well, we try to please.
(reluctant)

Will there be anything else?

BINGHAM
(grinning broadly)

Yup! My crew wants all of the holosuites for another round! See you later Quark!

Bingham turns and heads off with three dabo girls close by, and a few groupies close behind. Rom returns with an empty tray and begins to busy himself, when he notices that Quark is unhappy.

CLOSE TWO - ROM AND QUARK

ROM
(working)

What's wrong? We're having a good business day. The bar is full of paying customers and so is the casino.

QUARK
(frustrated)

And Bingham has all the dabo girls and all the holosuites.

ROM
(confused)

Isn't that good?

QUARK
(exasperated)

Not when the other customers are complaining! We're losing most of our regular customers!

SICKBAY - WIDE ANGLE

Bashir is very busy. A group of refugees are present, so the small facility is crowded and a bit confused and has Bajoran medical personnel as well as Starfleet staff members. Bashir is examining a young child. At an adjacent table, there is a Bajoran female doctor doing the same thing as Bashir .

BASHIR
(working; smiling)

Okay young lady, just a bit longer and we'll be done.

He picks up a medical tricorder and scans the girl quickly, then relays his findings to the other doctor.

BASHIR
(reading)

Temperature is slightly elevated, breathing is labored, elevated white count... it's all here. Kidara. Looks like the Provisional Government was wise to send them here. Corellium fever, not exactly deadly, but in Bajor's present state of health...

ON KIDARA

KIDARA
(working)

Our first case. Not exactly alarming, but Bajor can't afford too many difficulties.

She turns to face Bashir after concluding her exam. A nurse then takes the young patient away, rewarding him with a treat. Bashir does the same with his patient.

KIDARA
Have you arranged quarantine facilities for our 'special' patients?

MED. SHOT - BASHIR AND KIDARA

BASHIR
(smiling)

I'm way ahead of you, Doctor. I put in a request with our chief of operations before you arrived. We can use post-op until it's ready.

The next two refugees are now in place and the pair of doctors return to their work, just as Sisko appears.

WIDE ANGLE

Sisko studies the controlled confusion with a mix of admiration and wonder. He makes his way through the crowd and approaches Bashir. The doctor is engrossed in his work and doesn't notice Sisko right away.

BASHIR
(working; to Kidara)

How soon will the Bajoran Health Authorities have the vaccine we need?

KIDARA
(working; to Bashir)
Within the hour. It's a priority.

BASHIR
(working)

Should be plenty of time to administer it, with your help, of course.

Sisko steps closer.

SISKO
Doctor, may I speak to you?

BASHIR
(distracted)
Commander! One moment, please.

He continues the examination, then realizes his error in protocol.

BASHIR
Oh, Commander, I almost forgot.
(indicating Kidara)

This is Doctor Kidara from Bajor. Doctor, this is our station's C.O., Commander Sisko.

The two smile and nod to each other.

SISKO
We appreciate your lending us a hand, Doctor Kidara. Julian would have been lost without you.

KIDARA
(smiling at Bashir)
Oh, I doubt that. He seems so... efficient.

SISKO
(raising a brow)
Really? I didn't know he could be like that. Too bad we don't see that side of him more often.

Sisko glares at Bashir, causing the doctor to blush.

SISKO
Doctor, I need to speak to you.

BASHIR
(working; half-serious)
In about four hours...

SISKO
(firm)
For just a moment, Doctor. And now. It's important.

Sisko's look demands a positive response.

BASHIR
(reluctant)
Aye, Sir.

Bashir finishes with his current patient, then puts down the medical tricorder and follows Sisko into the Medical Duty Office.

BASHIR'S OFFICE - WIDE ANGLE

Once inside the office, Sisko secures the office door behind them. Bashir takes a seat at his duty desk, obviously tired. He awaits an explanation while Sisko remains standing, pacing.

SISKO
How much do you know about Ambassador Sarek's death?

BASHIR
(surprised)
What on earth brought that--

SISKO
(pacing)
Please, Julian, this is important.

Bashir studies Sisko's face, then, thinking, he relates the facts he knows while conducting a search using the medical computer.

BASHIR
(working)
As I recall, he was suffering from the effects of Bendii Syndrome. That's what he eventually died of.

He works quietly at the computer for a moment, then smiles.

BASHIR
(reading)
Here it is...

Sisko moves around the duty desk to look at the information for himself.

TWO SHOT - BASHIR AND SISKO

BASHIR
(reading)
...diagnosed with Bendii syndrome 2365, concluded Legaran Treaty, 2367, his last assignment. He submitted himself for experimental treatment afterward.

Julian keeps scanning the material, then reads out another point of interest.

BASHIR
(reading)
The experimental drug was a failure. but the results of the treatment were used in a more promising follow-up study.

SISKO
(pointing)
What's that?

NEW ANGLE ON VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Bashir stops the information from scrolling.

BASHIR
That's the autopsy report. Want the results?

Sisko reacts unfavorably to the doctors question.

SISKO
(distant)

I don't suppose they could fake that.

ON BASHIR

BASHIR
(confused)

Faked? Hardly. It was done by Doctor Sordan, Chief of Surgery at the Vulcan Science Academy.

(beat, then:)

Sarek donated his body to science, as part of his will. Forgetting he was two hundred and four, which is old even by Vulcan standards, Bendii Syndrome is always fatal.

ON SISKO

Sisko reacts to the doctor's words with disbelief.

Off Sisko's reaction...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

I would like to use this opportunity to put in a plug for a new show on the SciFi Channel on Tuesday nights. It's called "Eureka". You may have seen this already. Several episodes have aired. I wanted everyone to at least check it out because one of the writers is a young lady I have known since she was an infant. She is the daughter of a good friend and one of my daughter's best friends growing up. Johanna Stokes was born and raised in Chapel Hill and attended UNC. Now she's all grown up, living in L.A., writing zombie comics and now writing for a television show. Here is her web site if you're interested in learning more: <http://johannastokes.blogspot.com>.



Amie and Johanna

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

I hope everyone likes the front cover of this issue. I knew several months ago what I wanted to do and managed to keep it a secret from everyone. (Even J.R. found out when he got his usual printed copies to proof before the newsletter is sent.) I'll admit it didn't work exactly the way I originally pictured, but I think it still looks pretty good.

As I write, shuttle *Atlantis* is poised on pad 39B in Florida, ready for launch in a few days. The countdown clock started today, marking a symbolic beginning for all the launch activities. (Launch prep has been occurring all week.) Technicians resolved the one big issue -- the anchor bolts for the Ku-band antenna in the cargo bay -- last weekend and nothing else currently appears to be in work. As NASA is fond of saying, this mission resumes construction of the space station with the addition of the P3/P4 truss and the accompanying solar panels. (The P6 truss & panels are already in use and will be moved to

the final location in another year or two.)

Discovery returned from its mission in mid-July with most reports indicating it came back extremely clean -- very few hits on the tiles. Between this and the minimal foam shedding, NASA approved the resumption of flights in order to complete the station by 2010.

After previously stating there will be no Hubble repair mission, NASA is wavering and will make a final decision after *Atlantis'* flight. If there is a Hubble flight, it's expected to be done in 2008 or early 2009. Most of the replacement instruments and other hardware is nearing completion and would easily be ready for launch. There would still need to be an unmanned mission to attach a reentry package to control were Hubble burns up -- and make sure any debris avoids populated areas. (If there is a repair mission, it largely guarantees no gap between Hubble and its successor -- the James Webb Space Telescope in 2013.)

The biggest recent news is the demotion of Pluto from "planet" to "dwarf planet". The International Astronomical Union (IAU) -- which is the official decision-making entity for these matters -- has just made its final vote on the matter. An earlier proposal would've elevated Ceres, Charon, & UB313 and left the door open for more planets to be discovered. A new clause was added during the ensuing debate that was Pluto's eventual "undoing".

In a bit of an "oops," the name for NASA's next manned spacecraft was made public a little early. News of the "Orion" name was to have been announced a week later with the prime contractor selection, but a recording made on the space station was transmitted on an open channel and let the cat out of the bag. Earlier news had announced the Constellation program rockets were going to be called the Ares I (manned) & Ares V (cargo), using the Greek name for Mars and in homage to the Saturn rockets used in Apollo.

Upcoming Events

Sep	1-3	Dragon Con (Atlanta)
	8	40th Anniversary of <i>Star Trek</i>
	9	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home <i>Cookout Follows</i>
Oct	7	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, <i>Borders</i> Bookstore at Six Forks Rd. and Wake Forest Rd.
Nov	TBD	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home

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