

THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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Publisher J.R. Fisher
Editors Jane Fisher
John Troan



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IMAGES - Title Banner

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

IMAGE - Featured Front Page

Space Shuttle Atlantis begins moving through the open door of the Vehicle Assembly Building for the rollout to Launch Pad 39A. First motion was at 8:19 a.m. EST. This will be the first launch from pad 39A in four years. Photo credit: NASA/Kim Shiflet.

A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



I thank everyone who was able to attend the dinner at the Kanki for coming and hope all of you enjoyed it. I wish we could get more of our crew together more often as everyone seems to enjoy the company.

I also thank Alastair Browne, Sally Lanoza, Rodney Lanoza, Alura Lanoza and Kirsten McDonald for joining me on the 14th at the Duke Children's radiothon at the hospital. I went a couple of hours early in order to beat the traffic and it was much busier before our shift. While we did not get a lot of pledges, we fulfilled our obligations and got some really good food. I don't know if they met their goal or not, but they were getting close.

It is that time of year for the UNC-TV's Festival and we are signed up to do the 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. shift on Saturday, March 3rd. Following our shift, we will have a brief meeting

in their conference room. Please stay if you can.

One of the things we need to go over is the planned trip to Charleston, SC, over the weekend of April 15th. Spring has the information for the hotel at Patriot's Point and other activities in the area in her article in this newsletter. I would like to get a head count as soon as I can. The number of nights you stay is up to you. Some of us will go down Friday afternoon and return on Sunday afternoon and some on Monday.

The books that we collected since my last trip to Mississippi have been accumulating dust as we could not find a way to get them to our troops overseas and since the libraries could not accept them because they had no storage space. Meg Hale volunteered to take five hundred of them to the federal prison where she works. We have a few other possibilities for the remainder of them.

I thank all of you who helped with this project over the past year. We did a good job and the recipients were

very thankful of the help. When the project is complete, I will give you a full breakdown.

My final item for this edition is membership. We need for all of you to get current with your dues both on the Kitty Hawk and with Starfleet. We have fallen behind several times this past year with Starfleet where we must maintain a minimum of ten members to stay an active ship.

The Kitty Hawk dues are due on a calendar year basis and are \$24.00 per year per family. Several members have already paid and I thank you. Please address this as soon as possible.

Please be thinking about what you can do for us in the way of a panel or other participation in Trinoc-Con in August. This is a great opportunity to recruit as well as have fun. Remember: this is the Kitty Hawk and we have the Wright Stuff!

Esse Quam Videri

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

Earth – the planet that supports human life (*The New International Webster's Pocket Dictionary*). The planet. Not "one of the planets." It's the only one we've got, folks.

Global warming is the observed increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans in recent decades, and its projected continuation. Models referenced by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predict that global temperatures are likely

to increase by 1.1 to 6.4 °C (2.0 to 11.5 °F) between 1990 and 2100. (Wikipedia).

If you have not yet seen 'An Inconvenient Truth', put it at the top of your 'to do' list. If you haven't given much thought to global warming, or if you are one of those people who is under the mistaken impression that global warming is not real, or doesn't think it is important, it is especially important that you watch this film. It's available for rent through Netflix and probably all the usual outlets.

For more information, go to www.climatecrisis.org.

This is not a partisan issue, or at least, it shouldn't be. We're all in this together, and if we don't fix it soon, none of the other issues near and dear to all our hearts will matter in the least.

"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value." -- Theodore Roosevelt

Security Report - Charleston, SC

By Spring Brooks

EVENTS

April 7 - 16, 2006 - [Charleston's Annual Bike Week](#) - Attend Charleston South Carolina's 3rd Annual Bike Week and feast your eyes on last year's Charleston Heritage Motorcycle Rally pictures and learn where the best deals and most fun can be found! For more info call Heritage Motorcycle Rally Committee (843) 767-4258 or Fax (843) 767-3926.

April 8-16, 2006 - [Family Circle Cup](#) - The biggest names in women's professional tennis arrive at Daniel Island to compete for one of the most coveted trophies in professional sports. For more information and tickets call (800) 677-2293. Free Parking! Location: Family Circle Tennis Center Address: Daniel Island, SC.

April 14, 2007 - [Pet Fest 2007 Paws, Claws, Scales & Tails](#) - Charleston SC's premiere pet festival. Expo, Informational and Merchandise Booths: Veterinarians, Groomers, Trainers, Pet Suppliers and a Microchipping Clinic. Pets are encouraged to bring their owners! Fee: \$3; Pets free. Annual Gold Passes will be honored. Pets must be restrained/leashed at all times. No outside food or beverages please.

ATTRACTIONS

Plantations, Parks & Gardens

Step back into the past and experience Charleston's history by visiting the local historic plantations and gardens. See original plantation houses, gardens, slave cabins, smoke houses, and other remnants from plantation life. Beautiful parks in the area provide for a variety of outdoor recreational activities including hiking, picnicking, swimming, camping, boating, and fishing.

BOONE HALL PLANTATION - 1235 Long Point Road, Mt. Pleasant, SC. Historic Plantation including original slave cabins, smoke house and original cotton gin house. Beautiful gardens and a live oak alley. Phone (843) 884-4371.

CHARLESTON WATERFRONT PARK - Concord Street, Charleston, SC. A public park with an ideal setting and view of the waterfront. Picnic tables, pier, benches and a public green.

CHARLESTON TEA PLANTATION - 6617 Maybank Highway, Wadmalaw Island, SC. America's only Tea plantation. Open only limited times. Phone (843) 559-0383.

CHARLES TOWNE LANDING - Highway 171, Charleston, SC. Site of the original Charleston settlement in 1670. 80 acres of magnificent gardens, freshwater lagoon, majestic oaks and plants. Animal Forest with live animals indigenous to South Carolina in 1670. Phone (843) 852-4200.

CYPRESS GARDENS - 3030 Cypress Gardens Road, Moncks Corner, SC. A swamp garden originally used as a reserve for Dean Hall, a rice plantation. Foot tours and a flat bottom boat. Gardens boast a spectacular Spring bloom. Phone (843) 553-0515.

DRAYTON HALL, (c.1738) - 3380 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC. Truly one of the finest examples of colonial architecture in America. The only plantation that survived the Civil War, intact, on the Ashley River. Guided tours are available through the beautiful gardens and marsh. Phone (843) 766-0188.

FRANCIS MARION NATIONAL FOREST - 250,000 acre forest offering a variety of recreation activities including: camping, boat ramps, fishing, hiking, horse and motorcycle trails. Phone (843) 336-3248.

HAMPTON PLANTATION STATE PARK - McClellanville (North). Plantation house (c.1750) and outbuildings are a National Historic Landmark. Park contains endangered animal species. Educational programs available. Phone (843) 887-3257.

ISLE OF PALMS COUNTY PARK - 1-14th Avenue, Isle of Palms, SC. Excellent parking, boardwalk (dunes), restrooms, showers, lifeguard and vending area. Pets allowed. Phone (843) 762-2172.

MAGNOLIA PLANTATION & GARDENS - Route #4 Highway 61, Charleston, SC. 500 acre estate and Plantation House, owned by the same family since 1676. America's oldest continually-planted garden (c. 1680) features a beautiful display of azaleas and camellias. Phone (843) 571-1266.

MIDDLETON PLACE - Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC. A National Historic Landmark featuring beautifully landscaped gardens, Plantation House and re-creation of plantation life. Restaurant serves Lowcountry recipes. Phone (843) 556-6020.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Tours of the Hunley at Warren Lasch Conservation Center

Friends of the Hunley is happy to announce that tours of the Hunley are now available every Saturday from 10 - 5 and Sunday 12 - 5.

Tickets will be \$12.00 plus a service charge. Tickets for the Hunley tours can be easily purchased by either calling toll-free 1-877-448-6539 (1-877-4HUNLEY) or on the Internet at www.etix.com. Children under 5 are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance, and walk-up tickets are also available on a first come, first serve basis.

If you have questions about what is involved in the tour, please call the Friends of the Hunley directly at 843.744.2186. If you have questions specific to your tickets, please contact Etix.com at support@etix.com. For large tour group information, contact Josephine Starnes at 843.744.1488 or email her jstarnes@hunley.org.

The **American Military Museum** in Charleston, S.C., offers a one-of-a-kind experience in military history for travelers and residents. Located in **Aquarium Wharf** adjacent to the debarkation point for tours to historic **Fort Sumter**, the Museum is filled with **authentic artifacts** from 14 American conflicts from the Revolutionary War through the recent war in Iraq. Visitors marvel at 70 display cases filled with 260 uniforms, 33 flags, medals and hundreds of military artifacts from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.. Among the highlights you'll see when you visit:

- Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's original star rank insignia.
- An 1820 bell crown shako (infantry hat) - - one of only three known to exist.
- An 1872 Afro-American 9th Cavalry dress blue uniform from the famed Buffalo Soldiers. It is thought to be the only one in the country.
- A display of Gen. George Patton's deceptive 19th Army patch and 16 phantom Division patches designed to cover the Normandy invasion.
- Several one-of-a-kind Air Force band uniforms designed by Cecil B. DeMille and rejected by the Air Force.

Monday-Saturday 10-6 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m.

Museums and Galleries

THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM - 360 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC. The oldest museum in the United States. Collection of clothing, furniture, photographs and other objects. Exhibits of animal and plant life and a "Discover Me" room for children. Admission charge. (843) 722-2996.

THE CITADEL MUSEUM - Citadel Campus, Charleston, SC. Exhibits of photographs, uniforms and archival documents portrays the history of The Military College of South Carolina and the Corps of Cadets. Free admission. (843) 953-6839.

THE CONFEDERATE MUSEUM - 188 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC. Operated since 1898 by the Daughters of the Confederacy. Museum contains flags, uniforms, swords and other Confederate memorabilia. Tours by appointment. (843) 723-1541.

GIBBES MUSEUM OF ART - 135 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC. Museum has one of the finest collections of American art. 18th century to present view of Charleston. Museum Shop features fine gifts. (843) 722-2706.

KARPELES MANUSCRIPT MUSEUM - 68 Spring Street, Charleston, SC. Museum houses the largest private collection of manuscripts with historical significance in the world. Manuscripts rotate among other Karpeles museums. Free admission. (843) 853-4651.

MUSEUM ON THE COMMON - 217 Lucas Street, Mt. Pleasant, SC. Award winning museum of local East Cooper history features Hurricane Hugo Revisited exhibit. Free Admission. (843) 849-9000.

OLD EXCHANGE AND PROVOST DUNGEON - 122 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC. Exchange and Customs house built by the British during the prosperous Colonial period. American patriots were imprisoned by the British in the Dungeon and George Washington was entertained in the Great Hall. (843) 727-2165.

PATRIOTS POINT NAVAL & MARITIME MUSEUM - Charleston Harbor, Mt. Pleasant, SC. Home of the World War II aircraft carrier YORKTOWN and other naval vessels. Vintage military aircraft and weapons display. Ships open for tour. Admission charge. (800) 884-2727.

SHEM CREEK MARITIME MUSEUM AND LIBRARY - 514 Mill Street, Mt. Pleasant, SC. Outdoor exhibits show the rich heritage of Charleston's maritime history. Boat Builder on premises. Free admission. (843) 849-9000.

SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM - 100 Aquarium Wharf, Charleston, SC. With thousands of enchanting animals and plants housed in a dramatic setting on Charleston Harbor, the Aquarium offers the perfect complement to traditional Charleston activities. Birds, rays, sharks, otters, and fish represent a few of the amazing creatures that will be found under one roof. (843) 720-1990.

Historic Places

Charleston's history is evident throughout the city. Historic houses, churches, and forts throughout the area gives visitors a glimpse into the past. Well-preserved architecture and furnishings help to document what life was like in Charleston's early days. Guided tours are available and admission is charged at some attractions.

AIKEN-RHETT HOUSE, (c.1817) - 48 Elizabeth Street, Charleston, SC. A palatial residence of antebellum life in the American South. One of the most complete and compelling survivals of African-American urban life. (843) 723-1159

DOCK STREET THEATRE - 135 Church Street, Charleston, SC. Built on the site of one of America's early playhouses, it is a combination of an early Georgian playhouse and the preservation of the old Planters Hotel. (843) 720-3968 or (843) 965-4032 for Box Office info.

DRAYTON HALL, (c.1738) - 3380 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC. Truly one of the finest examples of colonial architecture in America. The only plantation that survived the Civil War, intact, on the Ashley River. Guided tours are available through the beautiful gardens and marsh. (843) 766-0188

EDMONDSTON-ALSTON HOUSE - 21 East Battery, Charleston, SC. A Greek Revival house with a commanding view of the Charleston Harbor. The house contains an outstanding collection of documents, portraits, furniture, silver and family furnishings. (843) 722-7171

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 48 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC. Founded in 1682 it is the oldest Baptist Church in the South. The present sanctuary building, designed by Robert Mills, was completed in 1822. (843) 722-3896

FORT MOULTRIE - West Middle Street, Sullivan's Island, SC. Attacked by a British fleet in 1776, the colonists repelled the assault in a decisive victory and began a tradition of seacoast defense. (843) 883-3123

FORT SUMTER - Charleston Harbor, Charleston, SC. The first shot of the Civil

War was fired on Fort Sumter (a man-made island) in 1861 and in 1865, when Confederates evacuated, it was little more than a heap of rubble. May be visited by tour boat. (843) 883-3123

FRENCH PROTESTANT (HUGUENOT) CHURCH, (c. 1844) - French Huguenots were worshipping in a church on this site as early as 1687. A French Liturgy service is still held each Spring. (843) 722-4385

HEYWARD-WASHINGTON HOUSE, (c. 1772) - 87 Church Street, Charleston, SC. Home to Thomas Heyward, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Many of the 18th century furnishings were crafted by Charleston artisans. (843) 722-0354.

JOSEPH MANIGUALT HOUSE, (c. 1843) - 350 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC. A beautiful example of Adam-style architecture, designed by Gabriel Manigault for his brother Joseph. A curving cantilever staircase adorns the entrance hall. (843) 723-2926

NATHANIEL RUSSELL HOUSE, (c. 1809) - 51 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC. An unusually beautiful example of Adam architecture that features flying staircase spirals unsupported from floor to floor. Fine period furnishings adorn this house. (843) 724-8481

OLD ST. ANDREWS PARISH CHURCH - 2604 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC. The oldest surviving church in the Carolinas. Founded and built in 1706 the site has a number of historic tombs in the church yard. (843) 766-1541

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - Meeting at Broad Street, Charleston, SC. The oldest church edifice in Charleston. George Washington worshipped here in 1791. The church bells have tolled for over 200 years. (843) 723-0603

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, (est. 1670) - 146 Church Street, Charleston, SC. The present building was built in 1835. Known as a lighthouse church, a light was put into the steeple to help guide ships to port. (843) 722-7734

Sightseeing and Tours

Guided tours are a good way to see the city and learn it's glorious history at the same time. The large variety of tours allows you to experience Charleston, SC on foot, by bus, carriage, trolley, limousine, boat, or even hot air balloon. General tours are available, as are more specialized adventures. Specialty tours focus on such topics as the Civil War, the Colonial Period, Black History, Ghosts of Charleston, Historic Architecture, Churches & Graveyards, and Art & Literature. Looking for something

different? Try a Tea Party Stroll, a Ghost Walk, or a Murders and Mysteries tour.

ADVENTURE SIGHTSEEING TOURS - 1090 Fort Sumter Drive, Charleston, SC. (843) 762-0088

BOHICKET BOAT ADVENTURE - 1880 Andell Bluff Blvd., Johns Island, SC. (843) 768-7294

CAP'N RICHARDS ACE BASIN NATURE TOUR - Charleston, SC. (843) 766-9664

CAROLINA POLO & CARRIAGE COMPANY - 45 Pinckney Street, Charleston, SC. (843) 577-6767

CHARLESTON CARRIAGE COMPANY - 14 Hayne Street, Charleston, SC. (843) 577-0042

CHARLESTON HARBOR TOUR - 205 King Street, Charleston, SC. (843) 722-1691

CHARLESTON HOSPITALITY TOURS - 17 Colonial Street, Charleston, SC. (843) 722-6858

CHARLESTON STROLLS WALKING TOURS - Charleston. (843) 766-2080

CHARLESTON TOURS - 545 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC. (843) 571-0049

CHARLES TOWNE PRINCESS HARBOR TOUR - 196 Concord Street, Charleston, SC. (843) 722-1112

CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR - 17 Archdale Street, Charleston, SC. (843) 722-7033

"DOIN THE CHARLESTON" TOURS - Charleston, SC. (843) 763-1233

FORT SUMTER TOUR - 205 King Street, Charleston, SC. (843) 722-1691

GRAY LINE BUS TOURS - Charleston, SC. (843) 722-4444

GULLAH TOURS - 9 Trachelle Lane, Charleston, SC. (843) 763-7551

NATURE ADVENTURES OUTFITTERS - Francis Marion National Forest, Awendaw, SC. (800) 673-0679 Horseback riding, kayaking/canoeing, bicycling and hiking; Professional Guides/ Tours and rentals

OLD SOUTH CARRIAGE COMPANY - 2 Anson Street, #A, Charleston, SC. (843) 723-9712

ORIGINAL CHARLESTON WALKS - 58 1/2 Broad Street, Charleston, SC. (800) 729-3420

E-mail: info@charlestonwalks.com / www.charlestonwalks.com

PALMETTO CARRIAGE WORKS - 40 North Market Street, Charleston, SC. (843) 723-8145

SCHOONER PRIDE - Johns Island, SC. (843) 559-9686

TALK OF THE TOWNE - 2166 St. James Drive, Charleston, SC. (843) 795-8199

TOUR CHARLESTON, LLC - 184 East Bay Street, Suite 302, Charleston, SC. (843) 723-1670

YACHT SANTEE - 154 Market Street, Charleston, SC. (843) 723-8968

Candlelight Tours of Homes & Gardens Spring and Fall 147 King Street Charleston, SC 29401(843) 722-4630

Charleston Walks Charleston History & Sights Walk . . . For those seeking a general overview of Charleston's most popular sights and history, The Original Charleston Walk is the perfect introduction to the city's storied past. This comprehensive and entertaining presentation includes accounts of early times in the colony, the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the impact of assorted calamities that have befallen the city. 45 Broad Street, Suite 200, Charleston 866-550-8939

The Ghosts & Legends® of Charleston. Since 1994, The Ghosts & Legends® of Charleston is the city's original year-round ghost walk and remains a perennial favorite for visitors. The Ghosts & Legends® of Charleston, the city's most popular walking tour, is filled with traditional ghost stories and legends from Charleston's peculiar past. We visit a haunted restaurant, peek into Charleston's oldest graveyards, and duck into hidden alleys as your guide mingles tales of the supernatural with eerie anecdotal history. 45 Broad Street, Suite 200, Charleston 866-550-8939

Charleston Civil War Walk. Hear the story of Charleston's role in The War Between The States. The Ordinance of Secession (1860), first shots fired on Fort Sumter, and the surrender of the city are just some of the highlights on this fascinating walk. We will discuss what daily life was like living in a city under siege – the second longest siege in modern history. We will visit the High Battery and White Point Gardens where weapons of war encircle the park. Remember the movie, Glory? 45 Broad Street, Suite 200, Charleston 866-550-8939 / 10:30AM DAILY

Charleston Historic Homes Walk. Join us on the Historic Homes of Charleston Tour for a leisurely stroll along the timeworn streets of Charleston's Historic District. As you explore the architecture and flora in the "South of Broad" residential district, our expert guides will highlight the most colorful stories of the Charlestonians who have lived in these majestic southern homes. 45 Broad Street, Suite 200 Charleston 866-550-8939 / 10:30AM TUE. ~ SAT. / 1:30PM DAILY

Charleston Slavery and Freedom Walk. Did you know that Charleston was the largest and most active slave port in America for well over one hundred years?

Did you also know that the city had one of the largest free black populations of any southern city prior to the Civil War? For guests who want to understand the challenges of the African-American experience in the South this unique tour is a must. 45 Broad Street, Suite 200, Charleston 866-550-8939 / 1:30PM DAILY

Charleston's Pirates and Buccaneers Walk. Did you know that one of the first true South Carolinians was a pirate? In fact, there was a time that our bustling seaport was frequented by many famous pirates more often associated with the Caribbean. Our guides will take you to sites where pirates once caroused with their mates, were imprisoned, and where they were hanged. 45 Broad Street, Suite 200, Charleston 866-550-8939 / 1:30PM DAILY

Charleston Tea Plantation A drive from historic downtown Charleston down Maybank Highway onto Wadmalaw Island is like a trip back in time. As you wind along the road look for our sign on the left hand side of Maybank Highway. Once you turn into Charleston Tea Plantation the first impression will be the sight of hundreds of thousands of tea plants (camellia sinensis) over acres and acres of rich and fertile Lowcountry land. Take a stroll under the grand oaks that lead you up to our brand new factory and enjoy the remarkable views from the porch (rocking chairs included!) then step inside for a one of a kind experience. Wednesday through Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm Sunday: noon to 4 pm Directions to Charleston Tea Plantation From Charleston: Take Ashley River Bridge (US17), stay left to Folly Rd. (SC171), turn right onto Maybank Hwy. (SC700) for 18 miles, look for entrance sign on the left.

Ghost Walk Join us on an eerie journey into Charles Towne's haunted past as you stroll 18th and 19th century neighborhoods of the historic district. Stories and legend of the unusual and supernatural are combined with the fun and fascinating history of our city. Leaves from One of A Kind Gallery - 7 & 9 pm Mon-Sat, 164 Church Street, Charleston, SC 29401 (843) 720-TOUR / 5:30, 7:30, & 9:30PM NIGHTLY

Patriots of Charleston Walk. Along with Boston, Philadelphia, and New York, Charles Towne played a pivotal role in both the Colonial Era and the American Revolution. Many Charlestonians were instrumental in forming our new nation. Our expert guide will bring the people, and the violent events of their time, to life on this Revolutionary two hour tour. 45

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

Patriots Point

Open Daily (Except Christmas)

Tickets sold **9:00am to 5:00 pm**

Ships close at **6:30 pm**

Adults (12+) \$ 15

Seniors and Active

Duty Military w/ID 13

Children (6-11) 8

Children under 5 w/parent Free

HOTELS - APRIL 13-15, 2007

Hampton Inn

255 Johnnie Dodd Blvd
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
NO ROOMS AVAILABLE

Holiday Inn

250 Johnnie Dodds Blvd
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
\$198/per room, per night
1 mile from Patriot's Point

Quality Inn & Suites, Patriot's Point

196 Patriots Point Rd
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
\$145 /per room, per night
1 mile from Patriot's Point

Sleep Inn

299 Wingo Way
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
\$145/per room, per night
3 miles from Patriot's Point

Extended Stay America

304 Wingo Way
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
\$90/per room, per night
3 miles from Patriot's Point

Red Roof Inn

301 Johnnie Dodds Blvd
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
\$80/per room, per night
2 miles from Patriot's Point

Days Inn, Patriot's Point

261 Johnnie Dodds Blvd
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
\$85/per room, per night
3 miles from Patriot's Point

Best Western, Patriot's Point

259 McGrath Darby Blvd
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
NO ROOMS AVAILABLE
3 miles from Patriot's Point

Masters Inn

300 Wingo Way
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
\$54/per room, per night
1 mile from Patriot's Point

Mainstay Suites

400 McGrath Darby Blvd
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
\$90/per room, per night
3 miles from Patriot's Point

Admittedly, I'm writing this about a week later than I should be, but it does allow me to use more recent updates from NASA.

First up is news from the shuttle program. As pictured on the front cover of this issue, *Atlantis* has rolled out to the pad. Latest word is the mission is still on schedule for a tentative launch on March 15. The date will be confirmed following the two-day launch readiness review, where the status of all systems are checked and confirmed to be ready for the planning date. (This is standard for every shuttle mission.)

STS-117 is bringing up the next piece of the station's truss structure -- the S3/S4 truss -- which includes another set of solar panels. This is almost a replay of the last two missions combined. Once mounted on the station, it will double the available power. The second half of the P6 arrays will be folded up to allow the S3/S4 arrays to fully rotate and get the maximum sun. (For more information on the truss, NASA has a great feature on their [space station structure web page](#).)

Currently, the P6 arrays are scheduled to be moved to their "permanent" location in September (STS-120). They'll also be redeployed and reconnected to the station power system. This mission will also involved adding Node 2, a "hub" for connecting future modules.

In looking at future missions, two more research labs will be added in October (Europe) and December (Japan); the fourth and final set of solar panels get added in July 2008 (STS-119); and the final Hubble service mission is scheduled for September 2008 (STS-125).

I noticed on NASA's launch schedule that *Atlantis* is scheduled to fly the Hubble mission -- then be retired, as previous announced. With the unique requirements of this flight, another shuttle (*Discovery* so far) will probably already be on the pad for its mission a month later.

Based on timing and facility needs at Kennedy Space Center, I'm guessing pad 39B will be turned over to the Constellation program after the Hubble mission concludes. KSC's Operations and Checkout Building is starting to get ready for Constellation work, primarily for final assembly and testing of Orion capsules. The building has recently been used for testing Spacelab modules and station truss segments, but the next use will be a "return" to its original use of checkout of Apollo capsules.

For both Apollo and Constellation, the capsules were/are then moved to the massive Vehicle Assembly Building, where the rockets are assembled before rolling to either of the Complex 39 pads. The shuttle counterpart is the Orbiter Processing Facilities, but the idea is the same -- prepare the manned portion separately, then move to the VAB for connecting to the launch rocketry before going to the launch pad.

The big A-1 test stand at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi has already been transferred to Constellation, in preparation for testing J-2X engine. (The J-2 was used in the Saturn rockets of Apollo. The "X" is just a modernization of the original.) The A-2 test stand gets turned over after the shuttle program concludes in 2010.

This week, NASA started the bidding process for the design assistance and manufacture of the Ares I second stage -- which will use a single J-2X engine -- through testing and flights through 2016. Ares I is the crew launcher part of Constellation. The first stage is planned to be a five-segment shuttle SRB with five segments instead of the current four.

On a final note, daylight savings time starts three weeks earlier this year than last year. (It's been on my mind because of all the computer updates we're having to do at work.)

DEEP SPACE NINE - "An Old Friend"

By Brad McDonald

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - ORINOCO, MAQUIS SHIP AND ROMULAN SHIP (OPTICAL)

All three ships are motionless in deep space.

INT. ORINOCO - COMMAND - ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Action is continuous from Act Four. Dax is busy at her post and Odo joins in.

DAX

(working)

Odo! Get a reading on that ship!

ODO

(working)

I'm ahead of you. They're powering up weapons... I'm raising our shields!

SILSBEE

What the hell is going on -- ?

Dax cuts the link with Silsbee and attempts to contact the Romulans.

DAX

Orinoco to the Romulan warship! Identify yourself and your intentions!

There's a long beat, then, just as Dax is about to repeat her hail, the viewer shimmers into focus. The image is that of a Romulan officer, his face reflects arrogance and determination.

TABOK

I am Commander Tabok. One of our people is on your ship. Lower your shields and prepare for transport!

Before Dax can respond, her instrument board chirps another warning! There's another ship in the vicinity!

EXT. SPACE - ORINOCO, MAQUIS, ROMULAN AND DEFIANT (OPTICAL)

Another ship decloaks! The Defiant!

INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

Visible are Sisko and O'Brien, plus a number of Bajorans and other N.D. crew persons. Sisko is in the command chair and O'Brien is at OPS.

SISKO

(angry)

Defiant to Romulan Commander! You are in violation of treaty terms and Federation spacer Withdraw or prepare to be fired on!

(to O'Brien)

Chief! Weapons on line! Let them know we mean business!

O'BRIEN

(working)

Aye Sir! All weapons on line!

BRIDGE - ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

As the main viewer comes into focus, we see the image of Tabok. The Romulan is angry and frustrated as his plans have been disrupted. He is now attempting to save face through intimidation and bluff.

TABOK

(arrogant)

Your runabout has one of our people. We demand --

SISKO

(angry)

To hell with your demands! You will leave this space in thirty seconds or we will open fire!

(beat, then:)

Your presence has been relayed to Starfleet Command and additional ships are on the way. Now...

The image of Tabok fades from the viewer.

EXT. SPACE - THE ROMULAN WARBIRD

The Romulan spaceship moves off and goes to warp speed quickly.

INT. ORINOCO - COMMAND SECTION - ANGLE ON VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Dax and Odo relax somewhat as Sisko's image appears on the viewer.

DAX

(smiling)

Thanks Benjamin. Your timing is impeccable.

The image on the viewer is disrupted by another face, Silsbee. A split screen image takes over with both Silsbee and Sisko in view.

SILSBEE

(confused)

What's going on? Where is the Ambassador?

SISKO

The man you met was an impostor, a Romulan plant. You've been had!

SILSBEE

(sputtering)

Nonsense! We were negotiating --

ODO

...an arms deal?

SISKO

The Romulans would have destroyed your ship after you boarded the runabout...

DAX

...then killed both of us, leaving evidence of our supposed arms deal...

SISKO

...which the Cardassians would just happen to stumble upon. Now do you understand?

SILSBEE
(quietly)

But why?

ODO

The Romulans want Cardassia as an ally. By providing Cardassia with a reason for open warfare, and proof that the Federation was responsible, the Romulans had hoped to gain favor within the Cardassian military.

That said, Odo rises from his seat and exits to the rear of the runabout, to check on his prisoner once again.

SISKO
(firm)

Go home, Silsbee. Think about how easily the Maquis almost gave the Cardassians exactly what they wanted, an excuse for full scale war!

(beat, then:)

But, the next time I see your face, it will be in my brig. Now get out of here before I change my mind and have your ship destroyed!

The split screen image dissolves.

EXT. SPACE - MAQUIS SHIP

The ship moves off quickly, going to warp speed immediately.

INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE - ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

As before, Sisko is still in the command chair. The image of Dax can be seen on the viewer.

SISKO
(smiling)

Dax! Are you and Odo all right?

DAX

Just fine. Glad you could make it after all. How long have you been here?

SISKO

Long enough to get bored watching you and Odo get bored.

(beat, then:)
Let's go home, shall we?
Have you got the 'ambassador'?

ODO

(entering view)

Unfortunately, he's dead, Commander. I'm not sure why though...

EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

The Aurora Borealis is no longer docked at the station.

INT. QUARK'S BAR

Quark and Rom are surveying the damages and examining the books. Quark is devastated and so is his bar, which is totally empty. It is late and both of the businessmen are tired.

ROM

(exhausted)

Well, I suppose it's not as bad as it could have been...

QUARK

(disgusted)

Oh, great! A minor disaster instead of a major one! I estimate I'll have to use three bars of gold-pressed latinum from my savings, just to cover damages and compensate my regular customers.

ROM

(hopeful)

At least Bingham left you a gift.

Rom begins searching for the gift amongst the litter.

ROM

(smiling)

Here it is!

Rom has located a small package under the bar, wrapped by someone who was obviously in a hurry, or drunk, or both. He hands it to Quark and watches closely as it is opened.

QUARK

(working)

It's heavy... probably something cheap!

He stops, mid-sentence and becomes quiet. A piece of paper falls from the wrappings and ROM retrieves it, then reads.

ROM

(reading)

"Quark. I had a wonderful time. Your place is the best. Consider this a tip"

(beat, then:)

What did he give you, brother?

Quark holds up five objects for Rom to see.

QUARK

(shocked)

Five bars of gold-pressed latinum! That wonderful man!

Quark smiles broadly.

SISKO'S OFFICE - WIDE ANGLE

Present are Sisko, Odo and Kira. The group is seated informally around the room and everyone seems relaxed. Bashir enters in a hurry, nodding to Sisko, then takes a seat. Sisko poses a question to the doctor.

SISKO

(puzzled)

Where is O'Brien?

BASHIR

Back in bed, my orders.

(beat, then:)

I think he said something about liking my orders better than yours.

Everyone smiles at the comment, even Sisko. There's a quiet moment, then Sisko becomes serious and puts another question to the doctor.

SISKO

(quietly)

What did the autopsy reveal, Julian?

BASHIR
(matter-of-factly)
He died from a poison implant. The pills that Odo found, were actually keeping him alive. He had to take them on a regular basis.

ODO
(thinking)
A built-in fail-safe, very efficient. I thought he was trying to kill himself.

DAX
You couldn't have known; there wasn't enough time to analyze the pills...

SISKO
Don't blame yourself, Constable.

(beat, to Kira)
Refugees all gone?

KIRA
There are a few more groups awaiting housing on Bajor and a few individuals in quarantine, but better than that, Bingham's gone!

(beat, then:)
What happens now, Commander?

SISKO
Starfleet Command has been notified. They will check the neutral zone sensor net and reevaluate the detection system. Obviously, the Romulans can get around it.

DAX
Better to find out now than at a more critical moment.

(beat, then:)
By the way, how did you know the details of the Romulan plan? Odo and I found out from the impostor.

KIRA
(smiling)
I told him. Odo had initiated a search for any information on Torm. It found an outstanding warrant on him.

SISKO
When Kira arrested him, she told him about the Federation's extradition agreement with Deneb Five.

ODO
(laughs)
Wonderful.

BASHIR
(confused)
Wonderful? Why?

DAX
(realizing)
Because the penalty for any illegal dealings on Deneb Five is death!

KIRA
(smiling)
Exactly! After that, he told us everything, rather than face the possibility of extradition. He's now resting in a Bajoran jail, where he'll face lesser charges.

SISKO
And, we managed to decode Torm's messages. I decided Odo and Dax needed some help.

Satisfied with the explanation, Odo continues.

ODO
Commander, how were you able to crew the Defiant?

SISKO
With Bajorans, Kira's idea. Of course the ship would not have been able to perform to its usual standards of efficiency. If we had gone into battle...

DAX
Great! No wonder you let Silsbee go.

SISKO
The Bajorans did perform well. We should keep that in mind, should the need arise again...

(beat, then:)
I get the feeling the Romulans timed their plan for a moment when we were busy with other matters.

(beat, then:)
It's been a long day. Let's join O'Brien and get some rest.

Everyone files out and the room becomes silent. Dax notices that Sisko has become lost in thought and remains behind.

TWO SHOT - SISKO AND DAX

DAX
What is it, Benjamin? Are you okay?

SISKO
(quietly)
I was just thinking, it's a shame that our impostor wasn't the real thing.

(beat, then; sadly)
I'm going to have to get over Sarek's loss a second time and the impostor was much like what I had expected...

Sisko looks at his old friend, searching for an answer. Then he asks a favor.

SISKO
Since you knew him, do you suppose you could tell me more about the man? I'd very much like to know.

Dax smiles and retakes her seat, then begins to tell Sisko.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

Map to UNC-TV

From unctv.org

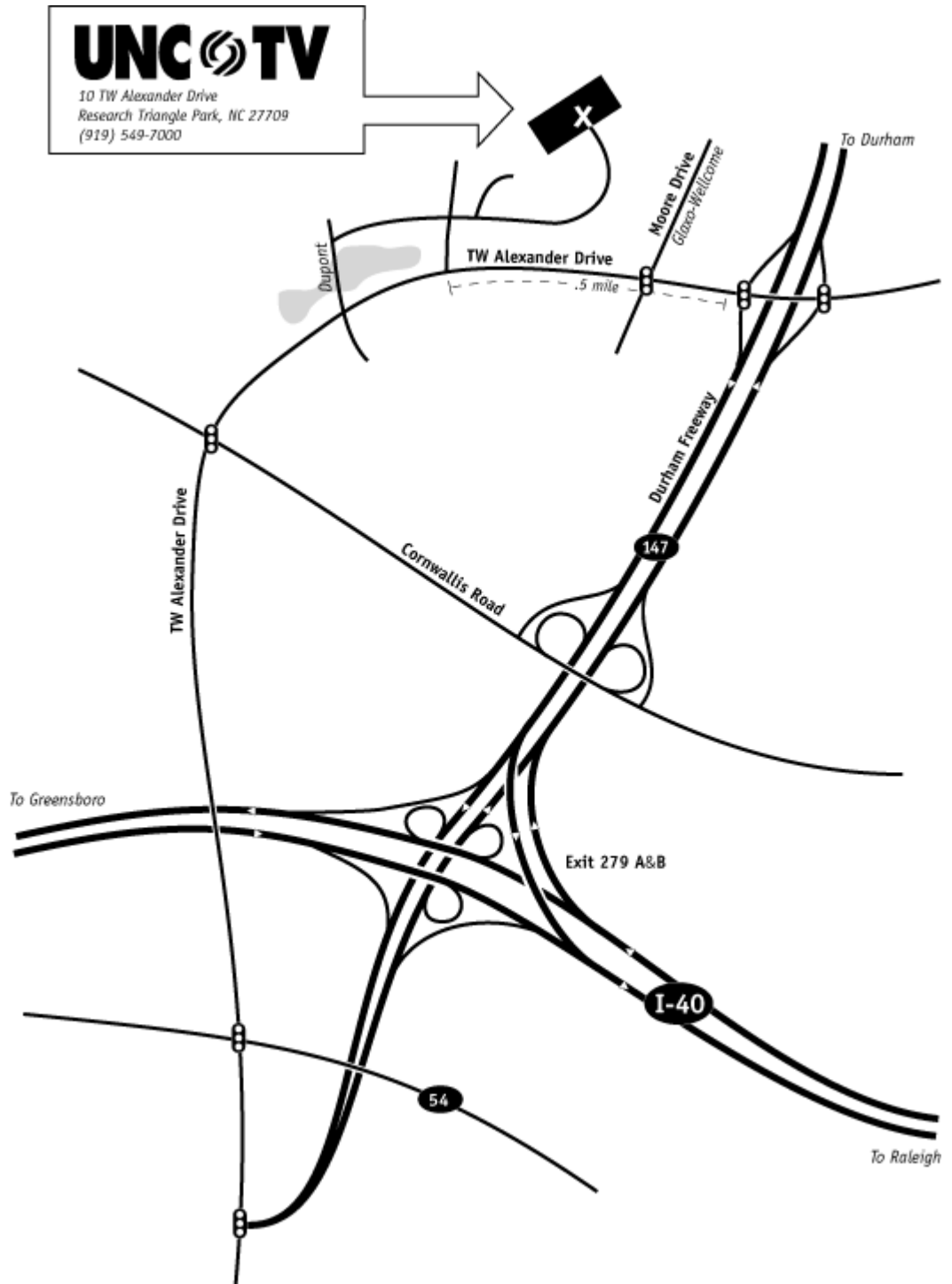
From I-40 East (Chapel Hill/Greensboro/Charlotte):

1. Take Exit 279B (Durham Freeway/Highway 147 North).
2. Take the second exit (Alexander Drive).
3. Turn left at the traffic light at the top of the exit ramp.
4. Cross over the bridge and take the second right (approximately 1/2 mile).
5. At this point, you should see signs for UNC-TV.

[Note: If traveling I-40 East, you will see Exit 279A (To Alexander Drive/Durham Freeway South). Please do not take this exit as you will be on the opposite end of Alexander Drive from UNC-TV and increase your travel time.]

From I-40 West (Raleigh/RDU Airport):

1. Take Exit 279B (Durham Freeway/Highway 147 North).
2. Take the second exit (Alexander Drive).
3. Turn left at the traffic light at the top of the exit ramp.
4. Cross over the bridge and take the second right (approximately 1/2 mile).
5. At this point, you should see signs for UNC-TV.



Upcoming Events

Mar	3	2:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. UNC-TV shift Ship Meeting Follows
	10	Daylight Savings Time starts (starts earlier than last year)
Apr	7	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
	13-15	Trip to Charleston, SC (Fri-Sun); see JR's article for details

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

THE WRIGHT STUFF
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