

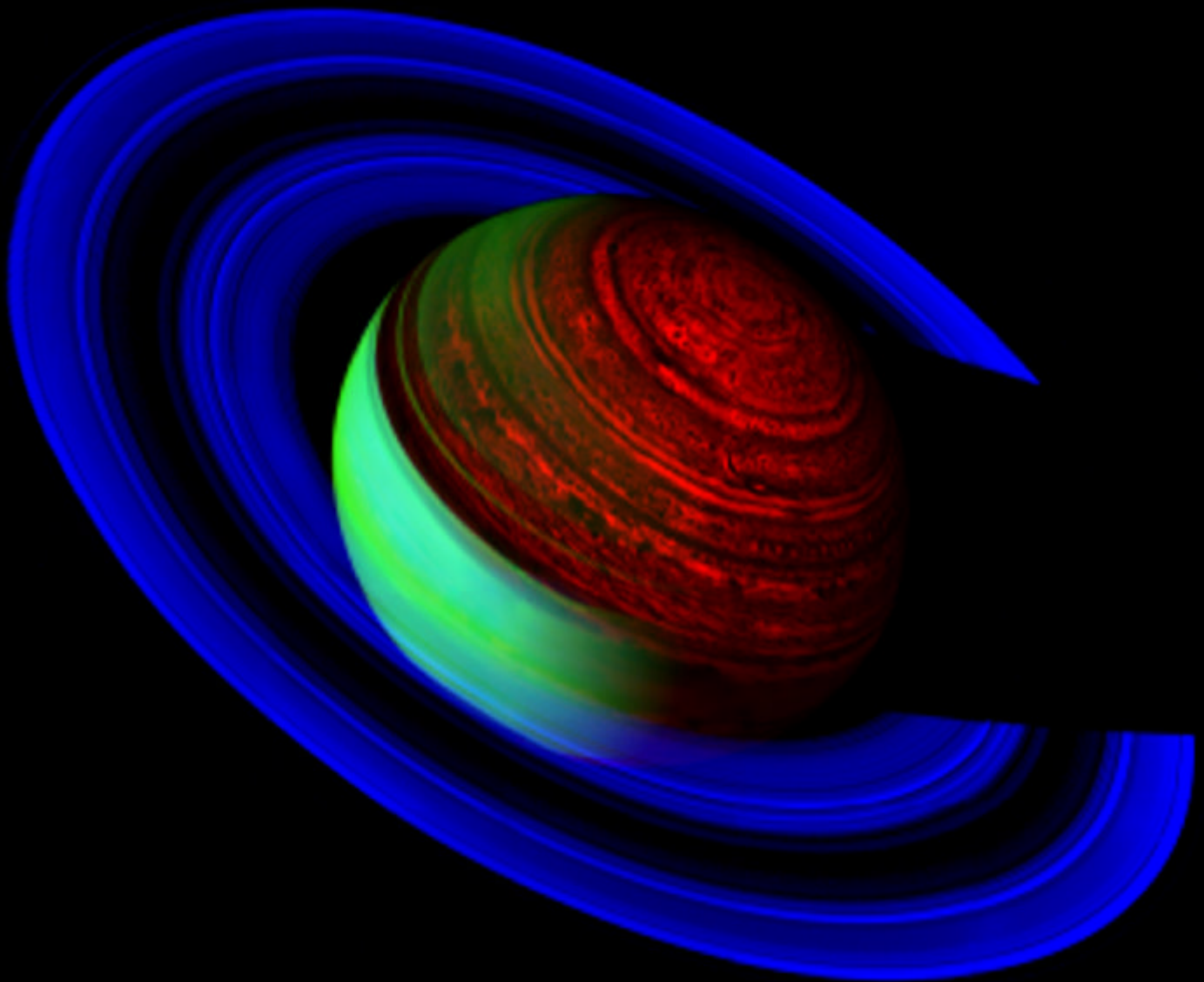
THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

Volume 18 - Number 3

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Publisher J.R. Fisher
Editors Jane Fisher
John Troan



CONTENTS

A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT	3
J.R. Fisher	
SCIENCE REPORT	3
Elaine Pischke	
VOYAGER - <i>LEGACY</i>	4
Brad McDonald	
COMPUTER OPERATIONS REPORT	7
John Troan	
FRONT PAGE PHOTO INFORMATION	8
NASA.gov	
STS-117 PHOTOS	9
NASA.gov	
UPCOMING EVENTS	10



TOOL BOX: Pentium IV-3.0GHz; HP LaserJet 1200 & DeskJet 722C; Lotus WordPro; Adobe Acrobat.

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

False-color mosaic of Saturn from Cassini's visible and infrared mapping spectrometer, taken on Feb. 24, 2007, and posted on nasa.gov on May 31. From NASA, JPL, and University of Arizona.

A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



Summer is here and we are off to a great start! On June 9th, J.R., Jane, Spring, Meg, and Alastair ran (or rather walked) the one-mile fun run at the Race for the Cure at Meredith College. We joined Brad's immediate family, his work family, and Trina's work family for a total of about eighty people to constitute "Team Trina".

The weather had been a great concern for those of us who are not used to walking any distance; but as start time arrived, the skies stayed cloudy, the temperature stayed in the seventies and a nice breeze was blowing out of the northwest. In short, we had ideal conditions for a walk or run.

Over the course of the morning, they must have had the thirty thousand participants they had expected; maybe more. After the walk, we strolled around the grounds, taking advantage of the many free items, food, and drinks being offered by vendors and sponsors of the event. Hopefully, more of our Kitty Hawk family will join us next year when they have this event. We certainly had a great time.

Our next meeting in July will be on the seventh, and as is traditional during the summer or rather the warmer seasons, we will be cooking out after our meeting, so please bring food to share with the crew. We seemed to have accumulated enough chips for the next event so other items such as desserts or beans, etc. would be welcome. Of course, always bring a healthy appetite!

In as much as no one seemed willing to do any panels or demonstrations, etc. at Trinoc-coN, I am asking as many of you as possible to volunteer for the con in a general way. As I understand it now, if you volunteer for 12 hours over the three days, your admission will be free. I have no control over what you will be asked to do or when. We will not man a table this year. If you come from some distance from town, I would encourage you to get a room at the Hilton and stay over Friday and Saturday night, especially if you are going to do any drinking at the parties at night.

The hotel has spent seven million dollars refurbishing all the rooms so they will be new and clean for our event. There is an indoor pool, hot-tub and exercise room for those inclined.

Other events of note: Shore Leave is the second full weekend in July in Hunt

Valley, Maryland, and have a large number of guests; and Dragon Con is Labor Day weekend in September in Atlanta, Georgia, with just about everybody in science fiction.

As a follow-up to the continuing saga of the book in which I am a character (I heard that!), *Sojourn* by Jana Oliver: it won the Gold Medal for Science Fiction and Fantasy in the Independent Publisher Book Awards; won ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year Award (Editor's choice-Fiction) (first time a sci-fi novel has won that award); finaled for the prestigious Compton Crook Award; and is currently up for 5 romance awards. Not bad! Second book in the series, *Virtual Evil*, should be out by the fall, and I anticipate that it will do just as well as the first book.

Any of you who are available and are interested are invited to join us at a Fourth of July party at David Drake's home that afternoon and evening. They request a dish to share and there will be fireworks about 8:30 p.m. If you wish to go, please let me know ASAP so they can get a head count for the food!

Until next time - stay cool - stay safe.

Esse Quam Videri

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

After taking up space in the Pischke home for far too long, we prepared a box of stamps to be sent in to Starfleet for the Stamped. A few weeks later we received the following letter:

Crew of the USS Kitty Hawk
C/o Family Pischke

Dear Crew:

I received last week from your dedicated efforts a rather surprisingly large box of stamps for the Starfleet Stamped.

THANK YOU!!!

Donations have been down recently, but your box has been a big bright spot in the galaxy. I have already processed 2,000 stamps by soaking and segregated

several hundred others which will be sold on paper.

I think it will take me about 3 months or more to fully process your box, which is the second biggest donation I've received since becoming coordinator about 2 years ago. My own ship holds the record for largest, and we've always been the number 1 contributor according to previous coordinators, but then some of us have been collecting for many years and accumulate stamps very quickly, plus we collect them once per year at our casino night - I can get ten pounds there easily. For a donation from the fleet at large, however, this is certainly the biggest by a large margin - perhaps 10 pounds more than the next largest.

Trey Andrews has resigned her position as Charities Coordinator, so I'm

not sure how quickly I can get your donation listed in the Communique, but you certainly deserve it! I hope the rest of the fleet learns from your example. I'm sure we're not Ronald McDonald House's biggest contributor, but the work they do is so important that every little bit helps.

I believe I had an e-mail from you earlier in the year in which you told me your name, but I neglected to print and save it. Forgive me for not so doing, because I'd like to thank you by name. Again, my thanks, Starfleet's thanks, and the thanks of the folks at Ronald McDonald house go to you for your effort! Don't forget us next time!

Gary Telecsan
GCAPT, Starfleet
USS Maat NCC-1701-A

VOYAGER - "Legacy"

By Brad McDonald

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - NEO VULCAN HOME WORLD AND VOYAGER

Voyager is orbiting the survivors' homeworld.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Janeway is pacing in the middle of the bridge staring at the main viewer, o.c.

JANEWAY
(moving)

I wonder what's taking so long? We returned their people over five hours ago.

PARIS

Maybe they don't get many visitors.

KIM

Very possible. After all, they're home world is in the middle of a star desert. A Class 1 nebula on one side and an oversized asteroid belt on another.

CHAKOTAY

Not exactly conducive to visits. I wonder if their isolation is by design or accidental?

Tuvok is working on the data downloaded earlier.

TUVOK

Since there is no evidence to indicate otherwise, I'd say it was accidental. However, if they are paranoid about being discovered, it would be logical that this location was selected intentionally.

KIM

Captain! Incoming message, from Tapara, the Leading Citizen.

JANEWAY

It's about time. On the main viewer, Mister Kim.

BRIDGE - ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

A middle aged Vulcanoid lady, TAPARA, is visible with a very spartan setting in the B.G.

JANEWAY

Tapara, thank you for greeting us in person. I am Captain Kathryn Janeway of the starship Voyager.

TAPARA

Welcome. We are grateful for your taking care of our people and the return of our ship.

JANEWAY

Not at all, we are glad to be of assistance. We do have a few questions --

Tapara cuts Janeway off with an enthusiastic offer.

TAPARA

We've heard so much about your ship and crew, may my staff and I make a visit?

Tuvok signals Janeway to cut the transmission.

JANEWAY

Tapara, excuse me a moment.

She turns to Kim and the transmission is cut.

BRIDGE - NEW ANGLE

Janeway approaches Tuvok, just a bit impatient.

JANEWAY

What is it? We've been waiting to talk to these people for hours.

TUVOK

I simply wish to point out that if these people are indeed my ancestors, then it must be remembered that they left Vulcan at the very moment we were discovering a lasting peace. These people preferred violence and use of force and might over peace.

JANEWAY

So we should be cautious about letting them visit our ship.

CHAKOTAY

Especially when we are not that sure of their ulterior motives. In any event, we should limit their numbers.

PARIS

They do seem a bit too enthralled with our advanced technology.

Janeway considers what she has heard for a moment.

JANEWAY

Very well. Only a limited group of people will attend.

TUVOK

I would also suggest an armed escort.

Janeway nods in approval, then signals Kim.

AS BEFORE - ANGLE ON VIEWER (OPTICAL)

JANEWAY

Forgive me for the interruption. We would welcome your visit and we will include a formal dinner too. Due to our limited resources, perhaps a group of six? Signal us when you are ready and we will arrange transportation.

TAPARA

Very well. Until then.

BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

JANEWAY

No mention of the survivors condition or the repairs to their ship.

CHAKOTAY

They look like Vulcans and act like Romulans. Tapara's friendliness seemed superficial and a bit forced.

KIM

So, who gets to be a tour guide, besides Mister Tuvok?

JANEWAY

Volunteers?

When none are forthcoming, she drafts a few.

JANEWAY

Very well. Tuvok, Kim, Paris, Seven and myself. Chakotay, you will have the Conn. I want you to keep an eye on the store, just in case.

PARIS

So you don't trust them either.

MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOM
(OPTICAL)

Tapara materializes with a five other Neo Vulcans including SARN, TLAN, and three N.D. Neo Vulcans.

TAPARA

How wonderful! You don't even need ships, your technology is indeed amazing.

JANEWAY

It is simply a tool for speeding up the exploration of new worlds and assisting those in need.

Janeway turns to indicate the crew persons nearby.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

May I introduce some of my crew. Paris, Kim, Seven and of course, Tuvok and our honor guard.

Tapara studies Tuvok for a moment then steps forward.

TAPARA

And those who serve me. My Chief Advisor, Sarn; Minister of Science, Tlan and our protectors.

Tuvok raises an eyebrow at the use of 'protectors'. The small group moves off to enter the ship.

SHIP'S CORRIDOR

As the others proceed ahead, the protectors stay back. Janeway

motions her honor guard to watch them. Tuvok stays close to Janeway.

JANEWAY

(to Tuvok, quietly)

If you see me about to commit a diplomatic faux pas, stop me.

TUVOK

I will not be able to help you as I am sure there are many differences between my people and this society.

JANEWAY

Great. Why did you want to be here?

TUVOK

To ensure your safety and curiosity, of course.

MAIN MESS HALL

Dinner is over and now there is polite conversation in progress.

JANEWAY

So, the Federation is made up of many different worlds, each with their own uniqueness. My particular crew is mostly human, but we have a few other representatives, including Tuvok.

TAPARA

And what world do you represent?

TUVOK

I thought that would be obvious, I am Vulcan, as are you.

The graciousness of the Neo Vulcans dissipates.

SARN

We are not Vulcans. We lead from strength. Not to follow like sheep.

TUVOK

Indeed. We have come a long way from our beginnings and with the spirit of cooperation --

SARN

(interrupting)

Cooperation! You mean subjection! We bow to no one and we have come a long way as well.

JANEWAY

Perhaps, but as an example, you have stated you admire strength. We derive ours as a result of the cooperation between the various worlds in the Federation.

Janeway turns her attention to Vapara.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

The Federation thrives on the diversity of it's people. Culture, beliefs, customs and so on. In fact, the foundation of this practice comes from our friends on Vulcan, the IDIC.

There is a marked quiet in the room as Tapara speaks.

TAPARA

This is true Tuvok?

TUVOK

Yes. The philosophy of Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations. It is the cornerstone of modern Vulcan culture.

TLAN

I thought peace and nonviolence was the basis of your world.

TUVOK

True, in part, but in order to understand ourselves even better, we study others and rejoice in their diversity. It has rewards as well.

TAPARA

Such as?

KIM

The technology you admire so much. Our transporters came from an amalgam of several technologies, from Vulcan, Andoria and Terra. The advanced shielding from Alpha Centauri, the deflectors from Tellar and so on.

SARN

We prefer to take what we need.

PARIS

Evidently that method hasn't worked as well. Your technology seems to be many decades behind our own.

Tlan stiffens at the comment: and argues back

TLAN

That's not our fault! Many years here were spent simply trying to survive! Ancient records prove we barely made it. So I think we have done very well indeed.

Janeway decides to prod a bit and find out what is really going on in the Neo Vulcan society.

JANEWAY

So you haven't experienced the same problems as other cultures, such as struggles for power, social unrest and even revolution?

SARN

None worth mentioning, we had some problems but managed to work them out.

TUVOK

Indeed, and now? We were under the impression that those we rescued in the Great Nebula were less than happy with the current 'situation'.

Sarn stands in protest and confronts Tuvok.

SARN

A few dissidents in a society of millions! You have no such problems? Perhaps no emotion means no thinking as well. We allow free thinking, Vulcan. And we don't need outsiders to tell us if what we are doing is right or wrong.

Janeway adopts a calm voice and tries to restore order.

JANEWAY

We agree completely. The most important law of the Federation is the Prime Directive, which forbids us from interfering with any culture we encounter. We

were simply wondering what became of them.

TLAN

They will be dealt with. It is all you need to know.

Tapara leans closer to Janeway, who is seated nearby

TAPARA

Is there a way we could speak privately for a moment?

The suggestion takes Janeway by surprise but she doesn't want to lose an opportunity for cooperation.

JANEWAY

Tapara and I will retire to my ready room for awhile. Mister Tuvok, would you continue the tour?

Before Tuvok or Sarn can protest, Janeway escorts Tapara out of the mess room and into the corridor.

CAMERA FOLLOWS TAPARA AND JANEWAY

Once in the corridor, Tapara seems more relaxed.

TAPARA

I'm afraid my advisors are a bit... stiff and they tend to be somewhat defensive about our own world. They also tend to be a bit overprotective.

JANEWAY

Understandable pride about many remarkable accomplishments coupled with a basic distrust of outsiders.

TAPARA

Then you are as wise as I thought. I feared you might dismiss us as a rather primitive and crude people, technologically and socially.

The two turn a corner and enter a turbo lift.

JANEWAY

Don't sell your people short, they're simply passionate. We humans are sometimes distracted by our passions as well. I suppose that's why the Vulcans, that is Tuvok's

people, have an edge over all of us.

The turbo lift stops and the two exit.

TAPARA

Actually, I'd like to discuss more about that with Tuvok. Right now, though I'd like to speak about a trade agreement.

Walking across the bridge, Tapara continues.

TAPARA

(continuing)

My people are severely limited by the surrounding space. We can't safely penetrate the Great Nebula and our area, your Paris described as a star desert, is lacking in many of the raw resources needed to expand. The Endless Asteroid Belt is also a major obstacle, but your advanced technology seems unaffected.

Now in Janeway's ready room the two sit.

JANEWAY

What did you have in mind?

TAPARA

We would be willing to trade any of our limited resources for some of your incredible technology.

JANEWAY

I'm afraid that may not be possible. What you ask for, comes under the Prime Directive. Early on, we made mistakes, in that regard. Well-intentioned, but mistakes.

Tapara is visibly disappointed and becomes quiet.

TAPARA'S VOICE

(o.c.)

Such as?

JANEWAY

Putting advanced technology into hands not ready for it. We thought we were doing those primitive cultures a favor, allowing them to advance well

before their time. In the end,
we did more harm than good.

When Tapara does not respond,
Janeway continues.

JANEWAY

I hope you are not too
disappointed.

TWO SHOT - TAPARA AND
JANEWAY

TAPARA

Then we will not survive as a
people.

JANEWAY

Why not?

Tapara is reluctant to discuss her
concerns, but tries.

TAPARA

What you suspected is true.
For some time we have been
experiencing... changes.
Some of my people are...
unhappy with the way we
have... progressed.

JANEWAY

You're afraid of a civil war?

TAPARA

Or worse. We left the ancient
home world so long ago,
ruled by our passions, now
they may be our undoing.

JANEWAY

Your people are... restless?

TAPARA

Similar to the time we left the
ancient home, the Great Rift.

JANEWAY

Tell me of that journey, it
must have taken you several
generations to travel so far.

Tapara looks surprised at the
comment

TAPARA

Not so long. Our ancestors
fell into a... time well or portal
in space. We covered great
distances in a short time, but
were separated from the
other groups traveling with us.

Janeway sits forward, very interested.

JANEWAY

This time well or portal, you
couldn't return through it,
could you?

TAPARA

Yes, but we choose not to. In
fact the entire record of our
journey was sealed. That was
our ancestors way of saying
we could never go back and
to look only to the future.

Janeway is now captivated by
Tapara's tale.

JANEWAY

Just how long did it take you
to reach this space from
Vulcan?

TAPARA

I'm not exactly sure of those
things, but less than twenty of
our years.

Excited, Janeway leans forward.

JANEWAY

You mean your people
traveled over 60,000 light
years at sublight speed in less
than twenty years?

TAPARA

Yes. It was a miracle, but our
ships were damaged during
the journey, primitive
technology again. We were
able to travel much farther
and settled here.

JANEWAY

Tapara, is it possible for
outsiders to look at those
records?

TAPARA

I'm afraid our laws forbid
anyone from looking at them,
but why would you care about
them?

JANEWAY

Because, we are trying to get
back to our home, near
Vulcan. If we could use the
route you used, it could get us
home in a matter of months,
rather than decades. Maybe
even a few days.

Off her comment.....

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

Comp Ops Report

By John Troan

Shuttle *Atlantis* got off the ground
in a near-flawless launch. As of this
writing, the only problem spotted is a
little tearing in the thermal blankets
on the left OMS pod near the tail.

While the engineers on the
ground work their way through how to
address that, the station and shuttle
crews are adding the S3/S4 truss to
the station. Once fully deployed, the
solar panels on this truss segment
will double the power generated by
the U.S. panels. The P6 panels were
half-retracted and disconnected from
the station power grid during
STS-116 last December, leaving the
P3/P4 panels as the only U.S.
providing power for the last six
months. (P6 is tentatively scheduled
to be moved to the end of the P5
truss -- and reconnect to the grid --
during STS-120 in October.)

Looking farther down the
schedule, NASA has set a target date
of Sep 10, 2008, for the last Hubble
Service mission (STS-125).
Endeavour is slated to be on Pad
39B when *Atlantis* launches, just in
case a rescue mission is needed in
short order. (Without the station as a
refuge for the Hubble mission, any
rescue would need to be fairly quick.)

From what I've read over the last
few months, *Endeavour's* launch is
probably the last shuttle mission from
39B, with 39A being used until the
shuttle program concludes.

Following the launch, 39B would
be turned over to the Constellation
program and readied for the first Ares
I test flight after pad modifications
are complete. (Ares I is the manned
launch vehicle that will succeed the
shuttle.)

As evidenced by the front cover,
the *Cassini* is still going strong in the
Saturn system. So far, it's found
several new moons and a couple new
rings.

Spirit and *Opportunity* are still
operating on Mars, with the relatively
new MRO continuing to orbit.

The *Messenger* probe just passed
Venus last week, on its way to orbit
Mercury in 2011.

Front Page Photo Information

By NASA.gov

Flying over the unlit side of Saturn's rings, the Cassini spacecraft captures Saturn's glow, represented in brilliant shades of electric blue, sapphire and mint green, while the planet's shadow casts a wide net on the rings.

This striking false-color mosaic was created from 25 images taken by Cassini's visual and infrared mapping spectrometer over a period of 13 hours, and captures Saturn in nighttime and daytime conditions. The visual and infrared mapping spectrometer acquires data simultaneously at 352 different wavelengths, or spectral channels. Data at wavelengths of 2.3, 3.0 and 5.1 microns were combined in the blue, green and red channels of a standard color image, respectively, to make this false-color mosaic.

This image was acquired on Feb. 24, 2007, while the spacecraft was 1.58 million kilometers (1 million miles) from the planet and 34.6 degrees above the ring plane. The solar phase angle was 69.5 degrees. In this view, Cassini was looking down on the northern, unlit side of the rings, which are rendered visible by sunlight filtering through from the sunlit, southern face.

On the night side (right side of image), with no sunlight, Saturn's own thermal radiation lights things up. This light at 5.1 microns wavelength (some seven times the longest wavelength visible to the human eye) is generated deep within Saturn, and works its way upward, eventually escaping into space. Thick clouds deep in the atmosphere block that light. An

amazing array of dark streaks, spots, and globe-encircling bands is visible instead. Saturn's strong thermal glow at 5.1 microns even allows these deep clouds to be seen on portions of the dayside (left side), especially where overlying hazes are thin and the glint of the sun off of them is minimal. These deep clouds are likely made of ammonium hydrosulfide and cannot be seen in reflected light on the dayside, since the glint of the sun on overlying hazes and ammonia clouds blocks the view of this level.

A pronounced difference in the brightness between the northern and southern hemispheres is apparent. The northern hemisphere is about twice as bright as the southern hemisphere. This is because high-level, fine particles are about half as prevalent in the northern hemisphere as in the south. These particles block Saturn's glow more strongly, making Saturn look brighter in the north.

At 2.3 microns (shown in blue), the icy ring particles are highly reflecting, while methane gas in Saturn's atmosphere strongly absorbs sunlight and renders the planet very dark. At 3.0 microns (shown in green), the situation is reversed: water ice in the rings is strongly absorbing, while the planet's sunlit hemisphere is bright. Thus the rings appear blue in this representation, while the sunlit side of Saturn is greenish-yellow in color. Within the rings, the most opaque parts appear dark, while the more translucent regions are brighter. In particular, the opaque, normally-bright B ring

appears here as a broad, dark band separating the brighter A (outer) and C (inner) rings.

At 5.1 microns (shown in red), reflected sunlight is weak and thus light from the planet is dominated by thermal (i.e., heat) radiation that wells up from the planet's deep atmosphere. This thermal emission dominates Saturn's dark side as well as the north polar region (where the hexagon is again visible) and the shadow cast by the A and B rings. Variable amounts of clouds in the planet's upper atmosphere block the thermal radiation, leading to a speckled and banded appearance, which is ever-shifting due to the planet's strong winds.

The Cassini-Huygens mission is a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, manages the mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington, D.C. The Cassini orbiter was designed, developed and assembled at JPL. The Visual and Infrared Mapping Spectrometer team is based at the University of Arizona, where this image was produced.

For more information about the Cassini-Huygens mission visit <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov>. The visual and infrared mapping spectrometer team homepage is at <http://wwwvims.lpl.arizona.edu>.



Above: Following rollback of the rotating service structure, or RSS, on Launch Pad 39A, Space Shuttle Atlantis stands bathed in lights atop a mobile launch platform. The RSS, the massive structure to the left of the shuttle, provides protected access to the orbiter for changeout and servicing of payloads at the pad. Photo credit: NASA/Kim Shiflett.

Left: Trailing fire, Space Shuttle Atlantis roars toward the sky on mission STS-117. Below it can be seen the lighting mast atop the fixed service structure. Photo courtesy of Reuters via NASA.gov.

Upcoming Events

Jul 7 4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
Cookout follows

13-15 Shore Leave -- Hunt Valley, MD

Aug No monthly meeting, but there will be newsletter
..... and articles due mid-month.

3-5 Trinoc-coN -- North Raleigh Hilton

Sep Labor Day DragonCon -- Atlanta
Weekend

8 4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR KITTY HAWK DUES, PLEASE DO SO ASAP

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