

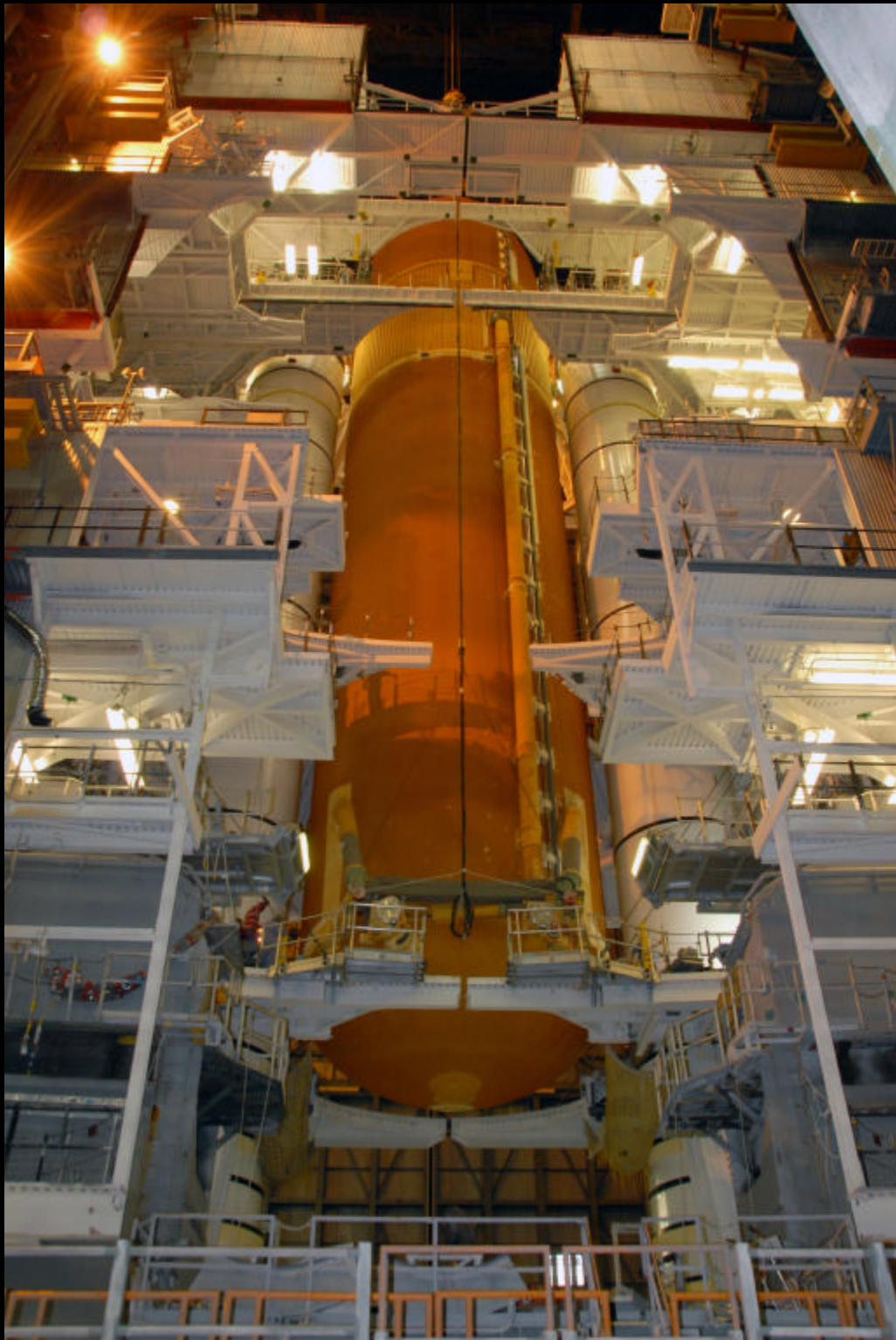
# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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# THE WRIGHT STUFF

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

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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**

The external tank is being lowered into place during stacking operations for STS-120 in the VAB. Photo: [nasa.gov](http://nasa.gov) (NASA/George Shelton).

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# A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

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Forty-one years ago, a TV show premiered on September 8th. It was a science fiction show about a crew of Earth people, and some aliens, exploring space and meeting new lifeforms and getting into all kinds of trouble in the process.

The aliens were different than the ones we were used to seeing because they looked a lot like us and were not threatening to take over our world. Or at least not all of them. The basic message was one of tolerance and compromise. It was the creation of Gene Roddenberry and it was called *STAR TREK*.

It has gone through many variations and has not always kept to the original premise, that mankind would get better and grow. Next year, we will see yet another interpretation of Gene's dream. I hope it will get back to the basics.

I would like to thank everyone who has renewed their Starfleet memberships and hope that those of you who have not, will in the very near future. The ship crew is now up to nineteen members.

I know that part of the problem is that without a series or movie to drive it, there is little in the way of incentive to maintain interest. I hope we can change that by creating things many of us would be interested in doing together. If you have ideas or suggestions, please let me know and we will explore the possibilities.

The Red Cross blood donation people have contacted me about some sort of promotions for us while getting the membership to donate blood and urging others to do the same. They have not elaborated on this yet, but I would like to know how many of you would be interested.

Also, we have a new contact who could be interested in doing a small segment (video) or script about *Star Trek*. He wants to know how many of us have *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Babylon 5*, etc., costumes and an interest in such a project. So, please let me know what you have and if you are interested.

For those of you in Starfleet, you should have gotten your ballots for the election of Starfleet's commander (president) and the proposed amendments to the constitution and by-laws. I will not tell you who to vote

for, but please vote. You have until Nov. 15 to get your votes in.

I hope everything will have settled down by the October meeting (on the 7th) and everyone can come to the meeting. I would really like to have everyone present for some face to face discussions about what we want to do this year. October 7 -- a Sunday -- is also the 17th anniversary of the commissioning of the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*. By having our meeting on a Sunday afternoon, maybe more of you will be inclined to attend and we can make this a real celebration. Of course, it is a party! We will cookout and hopefully everyone will bring side dishes and have a great time. We will also review our glorious past!

We have done so much for our community in the past and I hope that we will do even more in the future. Seventeen years is not a long time and I hope we will still be doing good works seventeen years from now. But that is really up to you and you alone. Do you really have *The Wright Stuff*?

See you on the seventh.....

*Esse Quam Videri*

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## Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

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Needless to say, this month's issue is more than a wee late. August is always a busy month for me as my fantasy football league gets into full swing. I run the league, so I handle all the functions -- including conducting the live (over-the-'net) drafts, which gets a full weekend reserved on my calendar.

The next issue will bring things back on schedule. Articles are due by Friday, Oct. 19, and I should have the issue assembled that weekend. If you have something in physical form only, bring it to the October meeting.

On a personal note, the flying lessons are coming along nicely. I took a week off from work and did a

little "catching up" on the instruction time. We got the plane up to over 7,000 feet, where the flying was beautiful -- nice and smooth. I'm still working on the landings, but so far they've all been decent. (Granted, the instructor has made sure I haven't erred *too* badly.)

Looking at the latest news from NASA, shuttle *Discovery's* rollover to the VAB has been delayed due to some last-minute repair work. No word yet on how it might impact the Oct 23 launch date. On a related note, I saw that *Atlantis* might not be retired next year if it's needed to meet the 2010 target for completing the station construction.

On Mars, the rover *Opportunity* has started its exploration of Victoria Crater. The mission team has decided that the science payoff is worth the risk of potentially not getting out of the crater. *Spirit* has climbed onto Home Plate for extended exploration. The plateau bears clues for an explosive mixture of lava and water.

Both rovers have been operating since January 2004 -- *well* beyond the original three-month plans. They were put into low-power usage in July as a global dust storm severely cut the sunlight levels, but both rovers came through in good shape and are rolling across the Martian sands.



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# VOYAGER - "Legacy"

By Brad McDonald

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## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND NEO VULCAN WORLD (OPTICAL)

Voyager is orbiting the Neo Vulcan home world.

VOYAGER - MAIN BRIEFING ROOM

Present are Janeway, Tuvok, Kim, Chakotay, Paris and Seven, the meeting is in progress.

KIM

The time portal she described, could it be a wormhole?

PARIS

Sounds consistent with her description, even if it is second hand.

SEVEN

Could she be misleading you intentionally in order to get what she wants?

JANEWAY

Possibly, but I don't believe she knew what it was she was describing.

CHAKOTAY

I trust your instincts. Do you believe she was telling the truth?

JANEWAY

Yes.

KIM

But if there were a stable wormhole, in the Alpha Quadrant, why hasn't anyone found one.

TUVOK

Any number of reasons, the primary one being that it is somehow hidden. There are several nebulas within a relatively short distance. It would be possible for one to remain undetected within, or even close to, one of nebulas. It could even be subject to irregular appearances.

JANEWAY

So, it's possible that these people could hold the secret to a quick way home. Question is, what do we do about it, if anything at all.

The others look surprised at her comment.

KIM

You mean we might pass up the opportunity?

JANEWAY

We have a planet which may be on the verge of civil war, or worse. Those are the words of their own leader. I would prefer that our presence does not provide the spark to set it off.

PARIS

What if we simply investigated the possibility and had a look around?

KIM

A small party of five or six could attempt several avenues of --

Tuvok interrupts Kim without apology.

TUVOK

I believe the best approach would involve a single visitor, myself. As the captain has pointed out, there is great unrest. Our people could be exposed to unforeseen dangers by asking the wrong questions or simply being discovered.

CHAKOTAY

We could have the doctor alter our appearances so we would blend in a bit better.

Tuvok seems agitated with Chakotay's suggestion.

TUVOK

Again, there is a question of knowing what to look for as well as what to ask and how to ask it. The language of these people is very similar to our own, as is a number of things.

Janeway challenges her friend

JANEWAY

Such as?

ON TUVOK

Tuvok steepled his fingers and becomes immersed in his explanation.

TUVOK

Aside from the language, there is an adherence to a strong Vulcan tradition of matriarchal hierarchy. Tapara is their Leading Citizen, a female leader. The clothing of the advisors and various attendants is very similar to those used by Vulcan government officials. The technology of their ship is a direct progression of ancient Vulcan types. And, their mental powers have the potential of equaling the modern Vulcan.

Tuvok pauses, then looks directly at Janeway

TUVOK

(continuing)

Captain, there is an even more important consideration I wish to present. This 'lost tribe' affords us a rare opportunity to observe a 'primitive' Vulcan culture. We can literally look back at my ancestors and observe an alternate evolutionary path.

ON JANEWAY

She understands the motivation of her friend.

JANEWAY

And perhaps discover why these people never became Romulans, or worse.

(beat)

An irresistible temptation to be sure, Tuvok. But no matter how great the temptation or the possible return of knowledge, I can't

risk you as a solitary operative. Your scans read as one of them, so if you lost your communicator, emergency transport would be impossible. In fact, our tricorders would be hard pressed to pick you out of a crowd, even at close range. No Tuvok, I can't let you take the risk. Besides, I didn't like Sarn's attitude towards 'Vulcans'. You may be treated as an enemy or spy.

(beat)

We'll all share that risk, assuming they even invite us to visit. And we won't go unless we're invited.

#### BRIEFING ROOM - WIDE ANGLE

The room is very quiet following Janeway's statement.

CHAKOTAY

How long do we wait?

JANEWAY

Let's be generous, say forty-eight hours. We can gather information on that Class 1 nebula, that's good scientific 'busy work'. Besides, if we discover the wormhole, on our own, we may save ourselves a lot of headaches. After that --

Janeway's communicator interrupts her statement.

JANEWAY

(tapping communicator)

Janeway here.

CREW PERSON'S VOICE

Communication from Tapara, Captain.

Janeway raises a brow in the Vulcan manner.

JANEWAY

I'll take it in here, voice only.

TAPARA'S VOICE

Captain! I'm sorry it's taken so long for me to reestablish communication.

JANEWAY

I was just discussing that with my people. What can I do for you?

TAPARA'S VOICE

We're having a traditional festival tomorrow and would like for you and your crew members to attend. Say midday at the capitol city?

JANEWAY

We'd be delighted. I will contact you then, at midday. Janeway out.

She looks surprised, but relieved.

JANEWAY

Well, that solves the invitation problem. Tuvok is right, their mental powers may be interesting.

#### EXT. NEO VULCAN HOME WORLD - CAPITOL CITY MIDDAY (OPTICAL)

The city is modest, but very Vulcan in appearance. The away team materializes, attracting instant attention. Waiting for the team is Tapara, Sarn and Tlan. Arriving are Janeway, Tuvok, Kim, Paris and Seven. Janeway's log can be heard as the scene opens.

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Personal log. I have decided to make the visit without being armed. If we are captured, the Federation will not be providing weapons to these people. Equipment has been kept to a minimum as well. Chakotay is keeping an active transporter lock on us, just in case.

#### NEW ANGLE

Tapara and her party moves forward, the crowd seems more curious than hostile, but not openly friendly.

TAPARA

Welcome! Stories of your amazing crew and ship have already spread. When it become known that you would be present at the festival, the crowds began. I hope you don't mind.

JANEWAY

Not at all. Is it possible for my people to move freely? Or do you think an 'escort' is necessary?

Tapara looks at her advisors briefly, Sarn scowls.

TAPARA

They may go as they please, there is little danger here in the capitol.

JANEWAY

Thank you, Leading Citizen. We are honored by your trust and hospitality.

Tuvok and Seven head off into the crowd together. Janeway remains with Paris and Kim.

TAPARA

Captain, before the festival begins, let me show you some of my our accomplishments.

Janeway, Paris, and Kim follow Tapara and her entourage.

#### CAPITOL CITY - OUTSKIRTS - MID AFTERNOON

Tuvok and Seven are making their way through the Capitol.

SEVEN

We have seen and recorded much of this society already. What are you looking for?

TUVOK

Tapara said there was little danger in the heart of the city. Perhaps it is because there are no dissidents there. I am hoping to encounter someone who is less than happy with the present government.

SEVEN

You think Tapara surrounds herself with those who are loyal to her?

TUVOK

It is a standard practice. While she may be aware of the current social problems, it is quite another matter to confront it daily.

SEVEN

But how will you know when you have reached an area which meets your criteria?

Tuvok stops walking and points off to one side.

TUVOK

This is the first establishment which does not display Tapara's symbol of leadership. Instead, it displays words indicating they are outcasts.

The two enter a public house.

INT. PUBLIC HOUSE

Their presence arouses mild interest. Tuvok approaches a WAITER.

TUVOK

May we obtain refreshment and food?

The waiter nods to an empty table in the middle of the room where Tuvok and Seven sit.

WAITER

What do you want?

Tuvok studies a wall menu.

TUVOK

Two nacarae with plomeek soup and, conversation.

WAITER

Conversation about what?

TUVOK

The T'ka. I am from the Voyager and rescued several of their members. I wish to know how they are doing.

NEW ANGLE

From behind the waiter, another Neo-Vulcan appears. NLEN is cautious, but grateful. The waiter exits.

NLEN

You must be Tuvok. I heard of you. Those you rescued did not survive their 'visit' with the security forces I am Nlen, there are others here which believe as I do, that it is time for a change on our world.

Several other T'ka members approach the table.

SEVEN

What is the t'ka?

Nlen is about to explain but Tuvok speaks first.

TUVOK

T'ka is an ancient word which means those apart from the whole; outcasts.

NLEN

You know the words of our ancient ones, you must be one of us. But why do you care about our friends?

TUVOK

I wanted to speak with them about their beliefs. Perhaps you could do the same.

Nlen and other N.D. Neo Vulcans sit with Tuvok and Seven. The waiter soon arrives with the order.

CLOSE UP ON TABLE GROUP

NLEN

For many years we have felt it was time for a change, although exactly what, we are still uncertain.

Seven begins to eat, but Tuvok begins conversing.

TUVOK

Your friends were attempting to break out of this space and establish a separate society, were they not?

NLEN

Yes. Our current society has become stagnant. We neither improve nor grow. Tapara is friendly and open, but she is unwilling to change.

TUVOK

Therefore, in order to placate the people, she desires our technology with hope that they will forget their problems with the promise of a better future through innovation.

NLEN

Exactly. You must be careful.

SEVEN

We are prepared for such a possibility.

Nlen studies Tuvok who is now eating.

NLEN

(to Tuvok)

I wish to know more about you, your people and the ancient home.

Tuvok stops eating and steeples his fingers, resting his elbows on the table.

TUVOK

My people found a lasting peace and enlightenment through various mental disciplines. Along the way, we encountered humans and other beings who were different from us. They provided unique opportunities.

NLEN

For conquest?

TUVOK

No. For friendship, commerce, an exchange of science, technology, and other endeavors. Eventually, this informal alliance led to the United Federation of Planets.

(beat)

Vulcan itself has had a long and prosperous existence, with peace and harmony the cornerstone of its well being.

ON TUVOK

TUVOK

The teachings of Surak offered more than just an opportunity for our planet's well being, it helped the inner person as well. With the control of our emotions, we were at last able to improve ourselves. The expenditure of emotions wasted time and resources. By controlling our emotions, we had more time for self improvement and enlightenment. Our mental powers increased as well, and Vulcan now enjoys the

reputation of being one of the leading intellectual societies in the Alpha Quadrant.

AS BEFORE

NLEN

Could you tell us more of the teachings of Surak? Our ancestors refused to repeat his words.

TUVOK

I would be happy to.

(beat)

It began over two thousand years ago. The home world had been ravaged by a series of bloody wars and another was about to begin...

DISSOLVE TO:

CAPITOL CITY - FESTIVAL - EARLY EVENING

Janeway and the others are in the middle of a very boisterous and happy celebration. Tapara is close by with her staff and advisors. Kim and Paris are 'entertaining' two N.D. NEO VULCAN LADIES in the B.G. as Tuvok and Seven approach.

JANEWAY

Tuvok, Seven, we were beginning to worry. What did you discover on your 'expedition'?

TUVOK

A number of enlightening facts.

SEVEN

And a group of people called T'ka. Those we know as dissidents.

JANEWAY

What else?

TUVOK

Perhaps we should go somewhere more private to continue our discussions.

those we returned to Tapara were killed for their actions. Ostensibly the theft of the ship, however, it goes much deeper. There is a movement which is open to change and peaceful ways.

JANEWAY

Can they be dealt with, without causing problems for ourselves?

SEVEN

It may be too late for that.

Janeway is disturbed by Seven's revelation

JANEWAY

How so?

TUVOK

I have already started relating the teachings of Surak to a number of the T'ka. In fact, I plan to remain on this planet in order to continue teaching.

Janeway is shocked by Tuvok's statement.

FADE OUT.

END ACT THREE

NEW ANGLE

Tuvok indicates Tapara, who is watching closely. Janeway moves to an area where there are few people.

JANEWAY

Very well, report.

TUVOK

We made contact with the dissidents and found that



Shuttle *Endeavour* approaches touchdown at Kennedy Space Center, completing STS-118.

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## Upcoming Events

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<b>Oct</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home</b> <i>Cookout follows</i>
	<b>19</b>	<b>Articles Due for Sep/Oct issue of <i>The Wright Stuff</i></b>
<b>Nov</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home</b>

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS**

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