

THE WRIGHT STUFF



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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

Shuttles *Atlantis* on Pad 39A (foreground) and *Endeavour* on Pad 39B (background) at Kennedy Space Center. This is expected to be the last time both pads will have shuttles at the same time. Image from nasa.gov.

A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



It has been a while since my last column has graced this page and I apologize for my absence. As most of you know, both Jane's and my mother have had some serious health issues and we have spent a portion of every week in Washington with them. Now we seem to be getting a break, as they are both doing better since Easter and we are trying to catch up on everything else.

First, I want to ask all of you who have not paid your dues for 2009 to please pay them as soon as possible, both your STARFLEET and your *Kitty Hawk* dues.

Second, all officers holding department head rank are expected to file a report/article for each issue of our newsletter. We have been very lax about this but will have to insist on compliance beginning in June.

Third, Brad has selected a script from his many offerings and has begun to modify and edit it. When he has finished his work on it, he will pass out copies to each member who wishes to have a character part,

age and gender respective, and we will begin to rehearse reading our parts. When we are comfortable with our efforts, we will get with Anthony Dowling and rehearse in the studio a few times and then record the show.

This should be great fun! Hopefully, as many of you as there are parts will sign up for this gig and we can share some great times together. If successful, we may be asked to do this with more of Brad's scripts. I think he has a few!

The new *STAR TREK* movie is scheduled to open on May 8th, and we need to make an effort at recruiting during this event. Three theaters have offered to host us the weekend of the opening but I have narrowed it down to one, the Raleigh Grand off Lynn Road. They will have two showings on Thursday evening, the 7th of May. I am recommending that we have our mass showing for the 7 p.m. show that Thursday evening. Tickets are already on sale.

If there is sufficient interest, we can man a table in the lobby on Friday evening, but I feel that Saturday will be the best day to get interest from the movie-going crowd.

We will have a table with one or more models, some flyers (SFI applications), scrapbooks, and members in uniform, maybe a few red shirts, and any other display material they will allow. I will check with the management about times, but am guessing we will be there from about 10 a.m. until the start of the last show that evening. The Sunday following is Mother's Day and I do not want to have an exhibit then. However, if enough of the crew would like to, one could be arranged, most likely.

Please be at the May 2nd meeting at Loco Lu's coffee house to discuss final arrangements for the movie and decisions regarding parts in the upcoming radio show.

Finally, if you have not heard, Trinoc-con has canceled its convention for this July 4th weekend. Despite having some great guests, there simply was not enough interest from local people to be able to physically put on a convention of the planned size. Maybe another year will see better times.

Remember you have the *Wright Stuff*. Go out and show everyone else how it is done!

Esse Quam Videri

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

Hubble is not dead yet. The shuttle *Atlantis* is set to lift off on May 12 for an 11 day mission to repair and upgrade the Hubble telescope. Once the upgrades are completed, Hubble should be good for another four years, at least.

Be sure to look up the cool picture of the x-ray nebula in the shape of a hand that was photographed by NASA's Chandra Observatory. You can

find it at <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/space/04/14/space.hand/index.html> if you haven't seen it yet.

The hot weather is coming, and with it most likely the annual water restrictions that usually accompany the dry season. Consider getting a rain barrel, especially if you have a garden and don't want to see your tomatoes shrivel on the vine. It's

one of those old fashioned ideas that is making a comeback.

For the *Star Trek* fan who has everything... Genki Wear has introduced a new line of colognes. The names are Tiberius ("Boldly Go"), Red Shirt ("devotion to living each day as it could be your last") and Ponn Farr ("drive him wild"). Check it out -- <http://trekmovie.com/2009/03/04/trek-spring-collection-preview-first-look-at-genki-star-trek-fragrances>.

2009 Space Exploration Alliance Legislative Blitz

By Alastair Browne

The 2009 Space Exploration Alliance (SEA) took place in Washington, D.C., from February 22-24. This is where space advocates from around the country gather and walk the halls of Congress to explain the importance of space exploration and development to our senators and representatives. This is so they will support, or continue to support, the appropriations bills as they pass through the House and Senate.

The Space Exploration Alliance is the collaboration of about 13 space advocacy groups, among them the National Space Society (of which I represent); the Mars Society; Students for the Exploration and Development of Space; and the National Society for Black Engineers, among others. This partnership, with a combined membership of over 700,000 people, maintains the goal of the human and robotic exploration of space through the communication to elected officials, corporate and industrial representatives, and other prominent organizations with the means of achieving this goal.

Each year, since 2004, the SEA recruits members to go to Washington, roam the halls of Congress in order to speak to senators and representatives to continue to fund our space program, even in these difficult economic times, because this is vital to the future of America as a whole, even if we are not aware of it.

On Sunday, February 22, we all (about 30-35 of us) gathered at the Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, where we were briefed on protocol with government officials. We were to visit a total of 128 government reps, of which 37 were U.S. Senators, and the rest, U.S. Representatives.

Among the subjects to be discussed were space solar power, private launch services, and the new Constellation programs with the Ares I and V vehicles, with the capability of not only exploring the Moon, but also near Earth asteroids.

The next morning, Monday, February 23, we began our blitz, which lasted two days. We all met in the Sam Rayburn Building, downstairs in the cafeteria, and were assigned our own separate groups of four. Our group leader was a member of the National Society of Black Engineers, and he did most of the talking when we visited the offices of certain government officials, but we all added our input when needed.

In our group, we mostly discussed the energy problem, relevant to today's headlines, and how space solar power can help solve this. We can launch a solar power satellite into geosynchronous Earth orbit (22,300 miles up above one fixed point on the Earth, 24 hours a day), have the satellite collect the sun's rays in the vacuum of space, convert it to microwaves, and beam them down to a 10 mile by 10 mile (100

square miles) receiving antenna, called a rectenna, where the microwaves would be converted back to five to 10 billion watts (gigawatts) of electricity for distribution to wherever needed. This could make us more energy independent, preserve the environment, and even make us an energy exporter. Should we decide to obtain resources to build these satellites from the Moon and asteroids, this could not only get us into space, but generate for us a multi-trillion dollar economy.

That's a lot to take in, but that was mainly our own group's discussion during those two days.

We never saw the senators and representatives themselves, but we met their legislative correspondents, and they listened to us. Most of them favored our cause, since they themselves listen to many different causes each day, all stressing that they are just as important.

However, the trick here is to convince these officials that they are not "spending" money on space, but "investing" it, knowing that there will be a payback of seven to 14 times the amount they originally put in, while saving our economy at the same time. This means generating new high-tech jobs; putting math, science, and technology back into the educational system; and making America once again competitive with the rest of the world.

From the Kitchen

By Lynn Stone

The Enterprise had hosted one delegation after another. Each meal reflected each delegation's dietary requirements and each member of the Enterprise was expected to partake. Now that the social events were over, the crew was looking forward to some "normal" food. Multiple requests came from all over the ship for Chef to prepare some kind of pasta dish. Chef did not disappoint. The following quick and easy recipe became a ship's favorite.

Fettuccine with Chicken Breasts (makes 8 servings)

- 12 ounces uncooked fettuccine or egg noodles
- 1 cup made at home Ranch Dressing (recipe follows)
- 1/3 cup Dijon mustard
- 8 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, pounded thin
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup dry white wine

Cook fettuccine according to package directions; drain. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Stir together dressing and mustard; set aside. Pour fettuccine into oiled baking dish. Sauté chicken in butter

in a large skillet until no longer pink in center. Transfer cooked chicken to the bed of fettuccine. Add wine to the skillet; cook until reduced to desired consistency. Drizzle over chicken. Pour the reserved dressing mixture over the chicken. Bake at 425 degrees F about 10 minutes, or until dressing forms a golden brown crust.

Ranch Dressing Made at Home

- 1 (8 oz.) carton of plain, fat free yogurt
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 envelope Hidden Valley *Buttermilk* Dressing

VOYAGER - "Dealer's Choice"

By Brad McDonald

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes)

INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

Continuous action from the Teaser. The crew is still reacting to Kim's remarks, wanting not to believe it is true but frozen in apprehension.

JANEWAY
(tense)

The Borg! Are you sure?!

TUVOK

Mister Kim's findings, confirmed. It is a Borg signal.

JANEWAY

That's good enough for me.
(to Paris, urgent)
Let's get the hell out of here, now!

CHAKOTAY

Set a course for that nebula. It will mask our course and energy signatures.

JANEWAY

Maximum safe warp. Red alert!

(anxious)

Can we make warp six?

Chakotay taps his comm badge.

CHAKOTAY

Engineering, we need warp six.

TORRES' VOICE

Not for long, our dilithium --

CHAKOTAY

We've got a Borg ship in the vicinity, B'Elanna. Give us all you can.

TORRES' VOICE

I'll squeeze every erg of energy available.

Chakotay taps off his comm badge.

CHAKOTAY

(to self)

That's my girl...

JANEWAY

Engage, Mister Paris.

PARIS

We're half way there already, Sir.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER
(OPTICAL)

The star field shifts to show the change in speed. Ahead we can see the nebula.

AS BEFORE

NEELIX

(confused)

I don't understand, what is a Borg?

PARIS

(working)

Trust me, you don't want to meet them, and yes Mister Tuvok, that is a definite personal prejudice.

TUVOK

(simply)

Understandable.

JANEWAY

Any readings on the Borg ship?

KIM

Negative. Do you wish me to continue scanning?

Janeway is about to chastise the young officer when she realizes his point.

JANEWAY

Minimal scans, let's not reveal our location in the process, correct?

KIM

Aye, Sir

Neelix stands and moves towards Janeway.

NEW ANGLE

NEELIX

(impatient)

Isn't anybody going to tell me what a Borg is?

JANEWAY

Your worst nightmare Neelix. A race of violent beings, half humanoid and half machine.

CHAKOTAY

First they take your technology and then they take you.

PARIS

Then they convert you to their own race, make you one of them.

NEELIX

(indignant)

I wouldn't let that happen!

TUVOK

They do not give you a choice.

KIM

You either join or die.

NEELIX

(horrified)

I think I'd rather die.

JANEWAY

Excellent choice.

(beat; thoughtfully)

Question is, what are they doing in this quadrant?

PARIS

(working)

Nebula dead ahead Captain, we'll be there in five minutes.

CHAKOTAY

Any more on the Borg?

TUVOK

(working)

Most curious. I do not read another ship in this sector.

JANEWAY

Then they're cloaked?

TUVOK

Possibly.

JANEWAY

(sarcastic)

Wonderful. They have another advantage...

Kim is very busy and working hard on something. Janeway notices and

becomes curious, moving towards him.

TWO SHOT - JANEWAY AND KIM

JANEWAY
(to Kim, curious)

Ensign, you have something to report?

KIM
(working)

Nothing positive... but I'm not convinced it's a ship.

JANEWAY
Care to explain?

KIM
(working, hesitant)
It reads more like a... beacon

NEW ANGLE

Tuvok overhears and begins to run his own checks. Chakotay moves behind Tuvok, it makes Kim just a bit self-conscious, but he continues.

KIM
(working)
It is a signal beacon...
(guessing)

Could be a distress call, It's constant and repeating.

TUVOK
(working)

Confirmed.

CHAKOTAY
Are we sure it's Borg?

TUVOK
Yes. I have cross checked it against Starfleet records from the incident at Wolf 359.

Everyone reacts visibly at the mention of Wolf 359.

CHAKOTAY
And possibly a distress call, interesting...

PARIS
Nebula in sixty seconds, in case anyone cares.

JANEWAY
Understood, Lieutenant. Come to a stop once you've entered. Go to yellow alert, then we'll give the situation some proper consideration.

Neelix becomes nervous at her suggestion. Chakotay is interested in her thinking and moves to her side.

NEELIX
Like what? Whether you wish to die or become a Borg?

The bridge crew ignores his comment, but not entirely.

CHAKOTAY
(quietly to Janeway)
Just what do you have in mind?

JANEWAY
Curiosity, Mister.

CHAKOTAY
Curiosity killed the cat, Captain.

She eyes him with suspicion and suppressed smile.

JANEWAY
Is that an old Indian saying?

CHAKOTAY
(slight smile)
It's not even an old Indian saying it.

JANEWAY
If you know the saying, I trust you know the standard response.

Chakotay simply nods in acknowledgment.

PARIS
(to no one)
Curiosity killed the cat, but the satisfaction brought him back.

(beat)
All stop, Sir. We're in the Nebula. Safe, at least for now.

NEELIX.
(nervous)
Shouldn't we... keep going?

Janeway ignores Neelix again, but she is definitely up to something. We can see her mind set to working.

JANEWAY
Kim? Call up the records on distress calls.

KIM
(surprised)
We have such a record?

TWO SHOT - JANEWAY AND CHAKOTAY

JANEWAY
(confident)
Logs of the Enterprise, I'd say it was within the last three years.

CHAKOTAY
(matter-of-factly)
You know something?

JANEWAY
The Enterprise once discovered a wrecked Borg scout ship and it was broadcasting a distress signal. We can compare ours with that one.

CHAKOTAY
(smiling)
Maybe I should have stayed in Starfleet, I missed out on some very interesting occurrences.

JANEWAY
You don't know the half of it.

BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

TUVOK
I am unable to continue scanning the Borg signal, interference from nebula.

JANEWAY
(smug)
That's a double-edged sword mister.

NEELIX
(hopeful)
Meaning they can't scan us either?

PARIS
That's the general idea

CHAKOTAY
(to Janeway)
Just what do you have in mind?

ON JANEWAY

She lowers her voice just a bit and meets Chakotay's eyes, speaking firmly.

JANEWAY
When the Enterprise encountered the damaged

Borg ship, they found a survivor. They were able to tap into the Borg collective and had planned to place a self destruct command into their control circuit.

(beat)

For some reason, they altered their plan. But, if we are presented with a similar opportunity, I'm under orders to carry out the original plan at any cost.

CHAKOTAY'S VOICE

(o.c.)

Orders?

JANEWAY

(controlled)

Upon receiving command of this ship Admiral Nechayev gave me a standing order, destroy the Borg at any opportunity.

(beat, angry)

Almost twelve thousand lives lost and over forty ships lost or severely damaged... you bet, orders.

(to Kim)

How's that analysis coming along?

AS BEFORE

KIM

You were right about the records...

Janeway moves to look over Kim's shoulder and studies the data on his viewer.

JANEWAY

What's wrong?

KIM

It's not a distress beacon.

TUVOK

It is a directive beacon.

PARIS

A what?

TUVOK

Simply put, it is a set of directions or operational orders.

CHAKOTAY

A communications relay?

TUVOK

Quite possible.

JANEWAY

Not as good as I had hoped for, but it does have possibilities.

CHAKOTAY

Such as?

JANEWAY

Tuvok, the Borg collective operates on a unified command structure. What would happen if we severed that link?

TUVOK

(thoughtfully)

Confusion and disorientation, but only for a brief time. I suspect they have contingency plans for just such an event. They are a very... efficient race.

JANEWAY

(disappointed)

Not much better than a mosquito bite, right?

(beat)

But, if they are engaging Starfleet or someone else right now, the loss of this beacon could give someone a fighting chance...

PARIS

If nothing else, it may cause the Borg to slow their advances.

TORRES' VOICE

Engineering to bridge.

Janeway taps her comm badge.

JANEWAY

What is it Torres.

ENGINEERING - ON TORRES

TORRES

Captain, we've got a problem. I used what little reserves we had to get us out of harms way. But being inside the nebula is putting a tremendous strain on our systems Either we leave the nebula within thirty minutes, or our power will be depleted.

BRIDGE - AS BEFORE

Janeway is obviously unhappy with the news.

JANEWAY

Looks like we can't play cat and mouse anymore.

KIM

(hopeful)

Well, if it's just a beacon maybe it's automated.

(beat)

There may not be any Borg nearby.

PARIS

And if there are? We're 70,000 light years from reinforcements or assistance and our power levels are minimal.

CHAKOTAY

Not much of a choice, stay in the nebula until we lose power, or go out there...

He nods towards the main viewer.

CHAKOTAY

(continuing)

...and take our chances.

Off the crew's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

Upcoming Events

May	2	4 p.m. Ship Meeting -- Loco Lu's Cafe
	8	<i>STAR TREK</i> opens; see JR's article for our theater plans that weekend
Jun	6	4 p.m. Ship Meeting -- Loco Lu's Cafe

**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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