

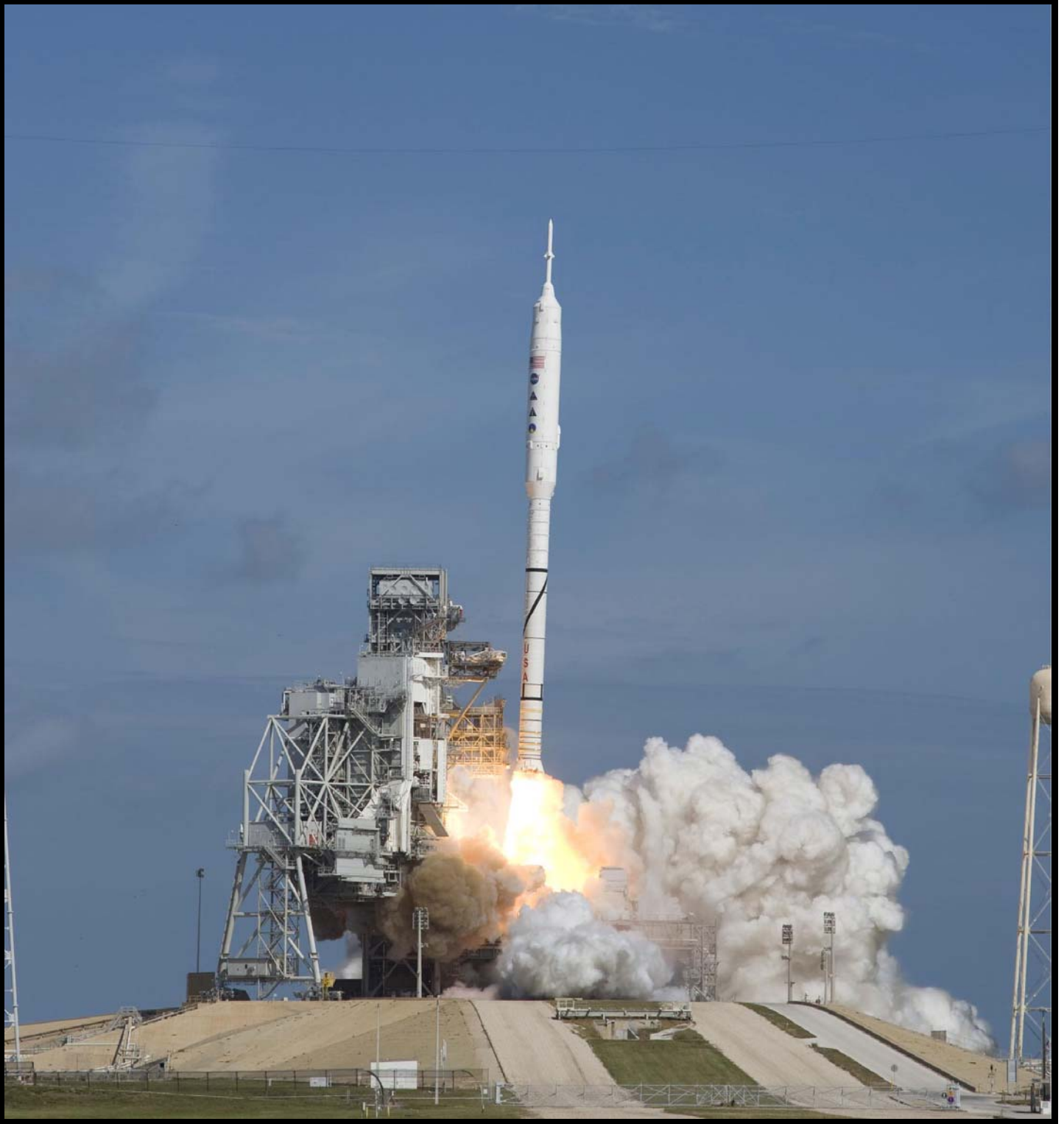
THE WRIGHT STUFF



Vol XX ♦ No 5

The Official Newsletter of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk ♦ NCC-1659

Sep / Oct 2009





THE WRIGHT STUFF

Volume 20 - Number 5

is a publication of the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*, the Raleigh, N.C., chapter of STARFLEET, an international *STAR TREK* fan organization. This publication is provided free of charge to all chapter members in good standing. Subscriptions for non-members are \$12.00 per year (six issues). Please address all correspondence to CATBIRD Publications, 5017 Glen Forest Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27612. This publication is a non-profit enterprise and is not meant to infringe upon any copyright or trademark held by Paramount Pictures, Gulf & Western, or any other holder of *STAR TREK* copyrights or trademarks. Unless otherwise noted, ENTIRE CONTENTS ARE COPYRIGHT © 2009 CATBIRD Publications, THE WRIGHT STUFF. Nothing in whole or in part may be used without the written permission of the publisher. *THE WRIGHT STUFF* assumes all material submitted for publication is gratis. The publisher and editors reserve the right to edit all submissions.

Publisher J.R. Fisher
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TOOL BOX: Dell D810; 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

Ares I-X liftoff from KSC Pad 39B on Oct 28 for a short suborbital test flight. From nasa.gov

A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



We are well into the fall now, with the NC State Fair having concluded and football games almost every day or night and, of course, the leaves on the trees have changed their colors and are dropping off.

Unfortunately, no one wants to host a Halloween party this year, so the crew is left to their own devices as to how to celebrate this holiday. Don't eat all the treats at one time; spread them out over a period of weeks and if you are so lucky that you enjoy an overabundance of goodies, you can bring them to our meeting and share them with your less fortunate crewmates.

Speaking of meetings, I want to remind you that the November meeting will be held at the mall at 4 p.m. on SUNDAY, November 1st, instead of the traditional first Saturday, as I have my annual train show at the state fairgrounds that weekend.

We do not have anything special planned for this meeting since we finished Brad's script last time and I do not think we want to wear this program out. We do need to decide about our holiday/anniversary party for this year as it is the twentieth anniversary of the launch of shuttle *Kitty Hawk*. Be thinking about what we want to do to celebrate.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the release of the DVD of *STAR TREK* on November 21st. We will spend the day at Suncoast in the Cary Town Center, recruiting and advertising the movie. Uniforms are encouraged for all attending.

The last week produced two nice letters to the crew: one was from Rita Lewis thanking us for the donation in Carl's memory which will be used towards his headstone, as well as your generosity over the preceding years; and the other was from the Food Bank of Central and Eastern

North Carolina, thanking us for our donations to their cause.

It is always good to remember that no matter how difficult our lives may seem at a given time, we only have to look around us and see people who are having a far more difficult time than we are.

The children we are helping with our clothing drive are truly worthy of our help and I have been told that those who have received it are most happy and appreciative. Please continue to help as you are able. We will continue to assist them through the holiday season. I hope to have a report on the entire effort by the end of the year.

I hope that each of you will continue to give whenever and to any organization that helps other people and animals. These are difficult times and now is when your help and support is most needed. "Let me help" is part of having the "Wright Stuff".

Esse Quam Videri

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

The delay in getting this issue finished gave me an opportunity to get this issue's cover photo.

The Ares I-X launch this past week is a major step in the development of the planned successor to the shuttle program. The design is versatile enough to cover missions to the space station, the moon, and Mars.

The biggest question is what direction NASA will take when the White House issues a decision. For now, NASA is still proceeding

with the moon-then-Mars direction that was given a couple years ago.

Shuttle *Atlantis* is on the other pad at Complex 39, with a scheduled launch for Nov 16. This mission focuses primarily on stocking the station with spare parts, especially the bigger parts that only the shuttle can bring up. There will also be a rotation of one of the station's crew members.

The MESSENGER probe completed the third flyby of Mercury in late September. It's the

final flyby of the planet before the probe enters orbit. Findings and images from this flyby are going to be released in the next few days.

The IBEX team recently released an updated map of the solar system and where we are in the Milky Way. IBEX is designed to map the solar system boundary by detecting energetic neutral atoms that are created at the interstellar boundary region. This is where the solar wind encounters the interstellar medium.

From the Kitchen

By Lynn Stone

The Great Bird of the Galaxy Cake

Starfleet Academy had commissioned a wonderful statue to honor its founder and creator, Gene Roddenberry. The chefs at Starfleet wanted to create a special cake to be shared at the unveiling of the statue. The cake became almost as legendary as the Great Bird himself.

- 1 (18.25 ounce) package butter pecan cake mix
- 1 (16 ounce) container coconut pecan frosting
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Spray a 9 or 10 inch Bundt pan with non-stick cooking spray.

Combine the cake mix with the frosting, eggs, oil, water and 1/2 of the pecan pieces. Mix until combined.

Sprinkle the remaining 1/2 of pecans in the prepared Bundt pan then pour in the cake batter.

Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 50 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

VOYAGER - "Dealer's Choice"

By Brad McDonald

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND BORG PLANET (OPTICAL)

The ship is still orbiting the Borg planet, visible in the B.G. A shuttle departs from Voyager and heads off into space.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

Janeway, Chakotay and Paris are present on the bridge with N.D. CREW PERSONS at remaining duty stations.

PARIS

Last shuttle is away Captain. Our picket line will be established on schedule.

JANEWAY

Very well. Commander, tell the away team they have four hours, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

Chakotay is surprised by her orders.

CHAKOTAY

You would want them to stay longer?

JANEWAY

If the team makes a discovery worth investigating, yes I would.

Chakotay is still not comfortable with the decision.

CHAKOTAY

Captain, we are at reduced power, I still advise caution. We're a long way from Starfleet directives. Our situation requires special consideration.

Janeway is now becoming annoyed at his protests.

JANEWAY

So noted, Commander.

CHAKOTAY

(tapping comm badge)
Mister Tuvok, commence transport.

PLANET SURFACE - LATE AFTERNOON (OPTICAL)

The team arrives; Tuvok, Kim, Seven, RUSSELL and N.D. SECURITY PERSONS.

ON TUVOK

TUVOK

Mister Kim, continue your readings in the larger structure. Seven, resume investigating Borg technology in that direction.

Tuvok points indicating the area.

TUVOK

(continuing)

Both of take a security person to assist you. At the first sign of trouble, you will inform the others and call for an immediate transport. I shall continue to analyze the beacon and its transmission.

ON TEAM - WIDE ANGLE

They move quickly to their assignments, leaving Tuvok and another security person. Tuvok taps his comm badge.

TUVOK

Tuvok to Voyager. Transport is complete, we are beginning our assigned tasks. Next communication will be in thirty minutes.

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Understood. Good luck.

Tuvok nods to his companion and they move off.

INT. BUILDING #3

Seven is busy taking readings and directing RUSSELL.

SEVEN

Mister Russell, take a position here and continue sensor sweeps. You're watching our backs, Okay?

Russell nods and moves to a defensive position, sweeping with a tricorder, phaser at the ready in the B.G. Seven resumes her work and immediately becomes 'troubled'.

SEVEN

Power levels fairly constant, little deterioration, even after all this time...

Seven looks up from the tricorder and is visited by further mental images and is now deeply troubled.

BUILDING - ON TUVOK

Tuvok is standing near Russell, reading his tricorder; he pauses and taps his comm badge.

TUVOK

Tuvok to Janeway.

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Janeway here, trouble Tuvok?

TUVOK

I must report the disappearance of Seven. Mister Russell says she left the structure they were investigating through another exit, leaving her tricorder and comm badge behind. I am attempting to locate her now.

INT. VOYAGER - ON JANEWAY

JANEWAY

Understood. Do you require further assistance?

TUVOK'S VOICE

That would be greatly appreciated.

JANEWAY

On the way. And Tuvok, relax. Our picket line reports 'all clear'.

TUVOK'S VOICE

That at least, is reassuring. Tuvok out.

Janeway looks puzzled.

JANEWAY

Bridge to sickbay. Doctor, I want you in my ready room in five minutes. Chakotay, send Tuvok some assistance for a search party.

CHAKOTAY

Already working on it.

JANEWAY'S READY ROOM

Janeway and the doctor are engaged in conversation.

JANEWAY

You cleared her for duty, but is there a chance she 'went off the deep end'?

DOCTOR

It's difficult to determine. I'm not even sure what was bothering her. She came to me with a headache. I gave her a mild analgesic and ran some basic tests.

JANEWAY

And?

DOCTOR

I couldn't detect any condition that would prevent her from returning to her duties, only a slight elevation in her basic autonomic responses. I presumed that was a result of being close to Borg signals and technology.

JANEWAY

In your opinion, is she capable of handling the stress associated with the proximity of Borg technology?

The doctor is exasperated and just a bit apologetic.

DOCTOR

I don't know. Frankly, the removal of some of her implants and the other 'rehumanization' steps I took, were only the beginning. I always planned on a long term recovery and gradual return to complete normalcy.

JANEWAY

And the recent Borg contact caused her to back slide a bit?

DOCTOR

It's possible. But I must point out, it is also possible, we may lose her permanently. Without my periodic monitoring and treatment, she would 'back slide' as you put it. It could be difficult to reverse. This close to the Borg signals and their technology, who knows what the effect could be?

JANEWAY

She's disappeared on the Borg planet. Tuvok is leading a search party for her as we speak. What I want to know is, will she resist returning to us?

DOCTOR

I honestly don't know. We can only hope that your efforts to make her feel like part of the ship board family, gave her some comfort.

NEW ANGLE

As the doctor turns to leave, Chakotay appears.

CHAKOTAY

I've got an update on Seven.

JANEWAY

They found her?

CHAKOTAY

Tuvok's teams are still searching. This could take some time. Many of the buildings are made of a naturally shielding materials. Whatever your original intention for remaining here, we may have another.

JANEWAY

Take a seat Commander.

(beat)

I thought we had a special understanding. Many times we even know what the other is going to do. Why

are you challenging me so hard on this?

CHAKOTAY

I'm your first officer. It's my duty to point out alternatives. And how I, and the crew, really feels.

Chakotay sits and Janeway stares out the window, then:

JANEWAY

The first time the Enterprise met the Borg, they were deep inside the Delta Quadrant. In less than two years, they annihilated Starfleet at Wolf 359. Ever wonder how they got there so quickly? Also, if they originated here, how did they wind up on the other side of the Delta Quadrant, nearly exterminating the El-Aurian's over five hundred years ago? True, they may have had the time, but why take such a long trip?

Chakotay smiles slightly and relaxes.

CHAKOTAY

They have a worm hole generator?

JANEWAY

Something like that. I've been reading the logs of the Enterprise, they have the most information on the Borg. If we can disable the Borg and find a way home in the process, why not?

CHAKOTAY

And you didn't tell us so if your plan didn't work out, we wouldn't be disappointed, right? Maybe we can even find something that will help Seven.

JANEWAY

Now that's the Commander I know... and understand.

INT. BORG PLANET - BUILDING #1

Kim is working on his tricorder intently, when he sees a partially

concealed side door. He scans it and finds the opening mechanism and opens it.

KIM'S P.O.V.

Inside the room we see row after row of small data discs on multiple shelves. Kim calls to the security person o.c.

KIM

Rogers? Come here, will you?

ROGERS' VOICE

(o.c.)

Right behind you, no traps or security measures.

NEW ROOM - TWO SHOT - KIM AND ROGERS

Rogers moves into view behind Kim, who is already taking readings. The pair now move into the room, looking at the sight before them.

ROGERS

What is all this?

Kim is still taking readings but is visibly excited by his findings.

KIM

These are data storage discs. I think we've just discovered a record of the entire Borg history. I'm going to report this, you start reviewing the data.

Rogers begins work as Kim taps comm badge.

KIM

Kim to Voyager.

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Report, Harry.

KIM

I think I hit the jackpot, Captain. We've discovered a record of Borg history. Rogers is already looking at the data.

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Good work, Harry! Do you think we can isolate their command and control signals from the data?

Kim looks at the thousands of data discs.

KIM

I suppose, but there are over ten thousand data discs. Even with the entire crew working on it, it would take months, maybe even years.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

Janeway is slightly disappointed by the news, but still encouraged by the discovery.

JANEWAY

Kim, is there any particular order to the information? Can we choose the subjects we want?

KIM'S VOICE

There's no indexes or labels that I can find.

She thinks a moment, then:

JANEWAY

Continue your work for now. I'll assemble a team to assist you. Janeway out.

She turns to Chakotay with an 'I told you so' look.

JANEWAY

All it takes is a little patience.

CHAKOTAY

A little? Can we wait here until Harry can find the correct discs?

JANEWAY

Maybe you'd like to help? I'll rescind my previous order, organize an away team. If our power reserves get too low, I will abandon the search. Until then we continue to find a Borg weakness and save Seven.

Chakotay sighs in exasperation and rises.

CHAKOTAY

(moving)

Mister Paris, better extend our current picket lines by an additional twenty per cent.

PARIS

Increasing pickets by twenty per cent. Captain, couldn't Kim and Tuvok find a way to sabotage the Borg without the data discs?

Chakotay exits.

JANEWAY

Possibly, but I'm looking for something else, Tom. Let's get an update from Tuvok.

EXT. BORG WORLD - LATE AFTERNOON

Tuvok and several N.D. CREW PERSONS are using tricorders to locate Seven. Tuvok taps his comm badge.

TUVOK

Captain? We are making progress. A set of tracks have been located and we are currently following them.

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Sounds encouraging. Anything other than the tracks?

TUVOK

Unfortunately no. Time is the most important variable. How is the ship?

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Holding on. And we've extended the pickets by another twenty per cent. Give me another update in thirty minutes. Janeway out.

TUVOK

(to team)

Fan out and just in case she doubled back. Keep your comm lines open.

The search party moves off, using their tricorders.

INT. DATA ARCHIVES ROOM

There are several people working, Kim, Rogers, Chakotay, Smith and two SECURITY CREW PERSONS.

KIM

Commander, Rogers and I have already reviewed a few data discs. The bodies we found were definitely part of

the original experiments. At one time, the Borg were humanoid, very much like Terrans. They had an untreatable cancer-like plague, so they simply replaced diseased organs and limbs. Then they tried to enhance their abilities by using cybernetics. Essentially, they altered themselves to improve the species.

Chakotay reacts with disapproval, shaking his head.

CHAKOTAY

How many times have we heard that story? What else?

ROGERS

It appears that the collective thought process was begun as a means of increasing intelligence. They interconnected their thoughts for instant communication and a way to solve problems. Put enough people on the problem, the solution is bound to solve itself. Too late for the cancer plague, though.

Again, Chakotay is dismayed.

CHAKOTAY

So the entire race became, Borg?

KIM

I don't think so. They were only the workers or drones. Eventually, though, the Borg became dominant.

Chakotay reflects on what he's heard, then:

CHAKOTAY

Kim and Rogers will continue their work on early history, Smith and I will concentrate on later.

Chakotay seems hesitant to explain, but does so.

CHAKOTAY

(continuing)

The Borg may have a means to get us home.

Probably they depleted the resources in this sector, then moved on. But we don't know when they acquired the technology for inter quadrant travel. Let's make the most of our time here.

INT. VOYAGER - TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Janeway moves closer after Torres materializes.

JANEWAY

What did you find, engineer?

Torres is tired and a bit unfocused.

TORRES

I have a healthy respect for Borg technology. It's entirely self regulating and repairing.

JANEWAY

Any chance we can use some of that to our advantage?

TORRES

Perhaps, if we spend some time analyzing all of the data I have, there might be something, but we may lose our reserves by then. And I think we better cut back on our transporter use, energy levels are very low. As far as that goes, we need to think about leaving, soon.

JANEWAY

Understood. If you come up with --

The conversation is interrupted by a call.

PARIS'S VOICE

Captain! Pickets report unidentified ship. Bearing two two five, mark twelve, at warp two. Headed our way!

Janeway looks at Torres with dread, is it the Borg?

Off their reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

Upcoming Events

Nov	1	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet (This is a Sunday)
	21	<i>Star Trek</i> DVD Release Gathering at Suncoast (Cary Towne Center)
Dec	5	4 p.m. Ship Meeting -- Location TBD
	12	Articles due for the next <i>Wright Stuff</i>

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

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