

THE WRIGHT STUFF



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A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



Wow! This is some winter we are having this year! With all that has been going on with the holidays and the weather, I wanted to take a moment and thank all of you for all of your generosity over the last six months.

At our February meeting, we had the pleasure of having Sherry Poole come to our meeting and give us an update on her kids that we have been helping these last six months. She is preparing a written report with pictures that will appear in these pages in the very near future. She would have liked to have had it ready for this issue, but needs to finish some of her work on her National Boards this weekend. I am delighted to report that she is registering at NCSU to get her masters degree to further enhance her abilities to help her students.

The short version of her report is that the hundreds of articles of clothing, toiletries, school supplies, etc., that were collected for them all found good homes and were greatly appreciated by her students and their families. In our last effort for the year, we purchased flash drives for the students without outside access to computers, so that they could do their schoolwork at the school on classroom computers and preserve the information. She has a closet in her classroom where she

keeps the large quantities of soaps, toothpaste, school supplies, and other toiletries we donated and her students can go in and get what they need as needed. The students have written thank you notes and Sherry is combining them into a scrapbook for us. While we have officially ended this project at the first of January, we will continue to gather goods for her kids on a year-round basis.

We announced at the February meeting that our "crew member of the year" was Sherry Poole. Sherry and her daughters have been in our organization for nineteen years. Tara, her oldest was our chief of security, crew member of the year, and twice won SFI scholarships. She is now a proud mother and successful business woman. We hope to see her back with us at one of our upcoming evenings at UNC-TV's Festival.

Don't you love how I segwayed into this?

Which brings us to our announcing our participation in this year's UNC-TV's Festival. This will be our twentieth year of volunteering our services for this event! That is quite an accomplishment!

We have the honor of opening Festival this year on their first night on the air: 6:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. on February 27th, 2010. We have twenty seats we are responsible for filling for this

first event. In conjunction with this, we are moving our March 6th club meeting to February 27th, so that we can meet at the mall and go straight from our meeting to the studios.

We have a second scheduled appearance on Festival on Sunday, March 28th, from 6:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. We could have all 40 seats but I am reluctant to commit to that, so we are asking for 20 volunteers again. I will be inviting other SFI ships in the viewing area to join us for this shift. One day I hope SFI can have an entire shift, a whole day or even an entire weekend! Remember, uniform and costumes are welcome as are solid colors, but, please, no stripes or plaids!

Please contact me directly to volunteer for these two shifts: 919-782-3677.

Nominations for annual awards close on February 28, 2010. If you wish to nominate someone for an award, please do so before that date. You can download the forms from sfir1awards@yahoo.com.

We are beginning the con season and there are many good ones within driving distance. Please support those that are SFI connected and have some fun while you are at it. CO will be at Coast Con first weekend in March.

Esse Quam Videri

From the Kitchen

By Lynn Stone

When they say, "Bring an hors de oeuvre", this is the one to take. This recipe originated on Risa and soon became legendary throughout the world of *Star Trek*. The chef aboard Picard's *Enterprise* added some variations and tips which follow.

Sausage Cheese Balls

- 1 pound bulk pork sausage
- 3 cups Bisquick Original or Reduced Fat baking mix
- 4 cups shredded Cheddar cheese (16 ounces)
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease jelly roll pan.
2. Mix all ingredients. Shape into 1-inch balls. Place in pan.
3. Bake uncovered 20 to 25 minutes or until brown.

Variations

Use the ingredients above and add 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary leaves, crumbled, along with 1 1/2 teaspoon parsley flakes. Mix and bake as directed. Serve warm with chili sauce.

For Holiday Ham Balls, use 1 1/2 cups finely chopped fully cooked ham instead of the pork sausage. Add 2 tablespoons parsley flakes and 2/3 cup milk. Mix and bake as directed.

Do-Ahead

Make these popular sausage cheese balls up to 24 hours ahead and refrigerate. Bake as directed.

VOYAGER - "New Beginning"

By Brad McDonald

[Editor's note. The teaser for this episode turned out to be much shorter than average. However, I wanted to stay with tradition and keep the teaser & the five acts intact across this year's issues. This resulted in only a little over a "newsletter page" from the storyline this time around.]

STAR TREK: VOYAGER
"New Beginning"

Written by Brad McDonald

CAST

JANEWAY MILLER
CHAKOTAY MORDAK
TUVOK VARA
PARIS GELNA
KIM CREW
TORRES PERSON #1
DOCTOR

Non-speaking

N.D. PILOT
N.D. ARK CREW MEMBERS
N.D. VOYAGER CREW MEMBERS
N.D. SECURITY PEOPLE
N.D. NATIVES

SETS

INTERIORS
USS VOYAGER
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
BRIDGE
MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOM
MAIN BRIEFING ROOM
ASTROMETRICS LAB
ARK
ENGINEERING
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
JEFFRIES TUBE
EXTERIORS
USS VOYAGER
ARK
MAGNETAR
NEW WORLD
FOREST
CLEARING
VILLAGE

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE -VOYAGER AND
MAGNETAR (OPTICAL)

Voyager is motionless, the pulsar is visible in the B. G.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE - ANGLE
ON VIEWER (OPTICAL)

TUVOK, KIM and PARIS are at their stations, CHAKOTAY is at the Conn.

CHAKOTAY

How are the shields holding up?

TUVOK

We are within safe parameters, however, I would not recommend a closer study.

CHAKOTAY

Magnificent sight. If we could just tap the power, we'd be home in no time.

PARIS

Just how would you manage to control all of that?

KIM

Interesting problem. Maybe I could do a study on it.

PARIS

A bit impractical, isn't it?

KIM

Why? The Romulans use artificial singularities to power their ships.

Chakotay smiles at the friendly banter

CHAKOTAY

I'm going to find out how the Captain is doing. Tom, you have the Conn.

Chakotay rises to leave the bridge, Paris takes his place. An N. D. pilot relieves Paris.

SPACE - MAGNETAR (OPTICAL)

VOYAGER - ASTROMETRICS LAB

JANEWAY is alone, intent on her study of the magnetar, she fails to notice Chakotay enter. He approaches and is concerned by her lack of rest.

CHAKOTAY

Are you ever going to finish?

She is startled by his appearance, but continues working.

JANEWAY

Chakotay. Next time, knock. And yes, I will eventually finish. It's just that I've been working as a Captain for so long, I've had little time to be a scientist. And that's the reason I joined Starfleet in the first place.

He studies her more closely, she looks haggard and tired.

CHAKOTAY

Why don't you rest? Seven or Harry can finish this.

JANEWAY

It's a personal quest.

She rubs her forehead and stifles a yawn, becoming just a bit unsteady on her feet. Chakotay is even more concerned.

CHAKOTAY

Captain... Kathryn, take a short break, the Magnetar isn't going anywhere.

JANEWAY

And neither are we. Until I finish with this, our return trip is on hold. I want to finish as soon as possible, and I'm almost done.

Chakotay is not convinced and is about to protest again when his comm badge sounds. He taps it.

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

CHAKOTAY

Chakotay here.

PARIS' VOICE

Commander, Kim is picking up a distorted signal. It may be a distress call.

Janeway looks up, resigned to the circumstances

CHAKOTAY

Understood, I'll be there shortly.

He gets even closer to Janeway.

JANEWAY

Okay. I'll take a break. But if the call turns out to be a false alarm, I want to finish my work.

CHAKOTAY

Fair enough, but only after you get a few hours of rest.

Janeway moves to exit and Chakotay studies her, then taps his comm badge again.

CHAKOTAY

Sickbay. Doctor, give the Captain a once over, will you? I think she's overdone it. She's headed for her quarters.

DOCTOR

Understood. I'm on the way.

Chakotay moves to exit, concerned about the Captain and the possible distress call.

Off his expression...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

As I write this, shuttle *Endeavour* is literally returning to Earth. The deorbit burn has occurred and the orbiter is part way through reentry. Landing is at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The primary goal for this mission was to finish construction of the U.S. side of the station. The *Tranquility* node was added, along with the seven-window cupola. From the on-orbit reports during the mission, it sounds like the view from the cupola is as spectacular as it was billed to be. The node and cupola work area will also become the primary station for coordinating and controlling most of the activities outside the station.

I chose this month's cover after getting a recent press release from the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL), which manages a lot of NASA's unmanned missions.

It was twenty years ago this Valentine's Day that *Voyager 1* passed beyond the planets' orbits and started its "extended mission". I even had to go to current missions, instead past missions, while looking for the cover image.

The primary mission was Jupiter and Saturn, but the planetary mission was extended for *Voyager 2* to continue on to Uranus and Neptune. The current mission for both probes, *Voyager Interstellar Mission*, takes them to "the outermost edge of the sun's domain" and beyond.

Both probes will be able to operate and maneuver for another ten years, which might be long enough to reach the heliopause -- which is where "true" interstellar space begins. Data is still coming back from both probes, indicating that systems on both are still alive and functioning well.



Looking out over shuttle *Endeavour's* cargo bay, shortly after undocking from the station on Feb 19. Image from NASA.

Security Report

By Spring Brooks

Network Attacks on a Twitter Tripled in 2009

Nearly two thirds (60 percent) of businesses believe social network Facebook poses the biggest threat to security, says Sophos.

Research by the security firm for its Security Threat 2010 report revealed that MySpace was voted second with 18 percent, closely followed by Twitter with 17 percent of votes. Only 4 percent named LinkedIn as a security threat.

"Facebook is by far the largest social network -- and you'll find more bad apples in the biggest orchard," said Graham Cluley from Sophos in a blog.

Cluley added that the security team at Facebook works hard to counter threats on their site -- it's just that policing 350 million users can't be an easy job for anyone.

However, he pointed out that when Facebook rolled-out its new recommended privacy settings late last year, it was "a backwards step, encouraging many users to share their information with everybody on the internet."

As more organizations allow employees to use social media like Facebook and Twitter at work, cybercrime attacks on these networks have exploded, according to a report released Monday by IT security firm Sophos. Reports of malware and spam rose 70 percent on social networks in the last 12 months, the security survey reveals

Sophos' investigation, titled "Social Security," finds 57

percent of users report they have been spammed via social networking sites, and 36 percent reveal they have been sent malware via social networking sites. The "Social Security" survey is part of Sophos' 2010 Security Threat Report, which looks at current and emerging computer security trends.

"Computer users are spending more time on social networks, sharing sensitive and valuable personal information, and hackers have sniffed out where the money is to be made," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos. "The dramatic rise in attacks in the last year tells us that social networks and their millions of users have to do more to protect themselves from organized cybercrime, or risk falling prey to identity theft schemes, scams, and malware attacks."

While most of the 500 firms Sophos polled, 72 percent, were worried workers behavior on social networks is putting their business at risk, almost half of them, 49 percent, allow all of their staff unfettered access to Facebook and other social networking sites

"The grim irony is that just as companies are loosening their attitude to staff activity on social networks, the threat of malware, spam, phishing and identity theft on Facebook is increasing," said Cluley.

The report also points out the inherent security problems presented by LinkedIn, which is a social network targeted to working people that allows them to network and job seek, among

other things. Although LinkedIn is considered to be by far the least threatening of the networks, Sophos advises that it can still provide a sizeable pool of information for hackers.

"Targeted attacks against companies are in the news at the moment, and the more information a criminal can get about your organization's structure, the easier for them to send a poisoned attachment to precisely the person whose computer they want to break into," explained Cluley. "Sites like LinkedIn provide hackers with what is effectively a corporate directory, listing your staff's names and positions. This makes it child's play to reverse-engineer the email addresses of potential victims."

Since I've been on Facebook (Farmville that is...want to be my neighbor?), I have passed at least one phishing spam onto to my Friends. Luckily, they knew me well enough to alert me about "my post" about a website for an incredible internet security software deal. How I picked this up? I have very few friends on Facebook. After investigating this particular spam on the internet I was relieved that I had had only one. Facebook has them every second.

Upcoming Events

Feb	27	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet 6 p.m. UNC-TV
Mar	28	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet 6 p.m. UNC-TV

NOTE THE NEW DATES FOR THE NEXT TWO MEETINGS

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS
.....AND WITH THE NEW YEAR, *KITTY HAWK* DUES ARE NOW DUE.**

THE WRIGHT STUFF
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