

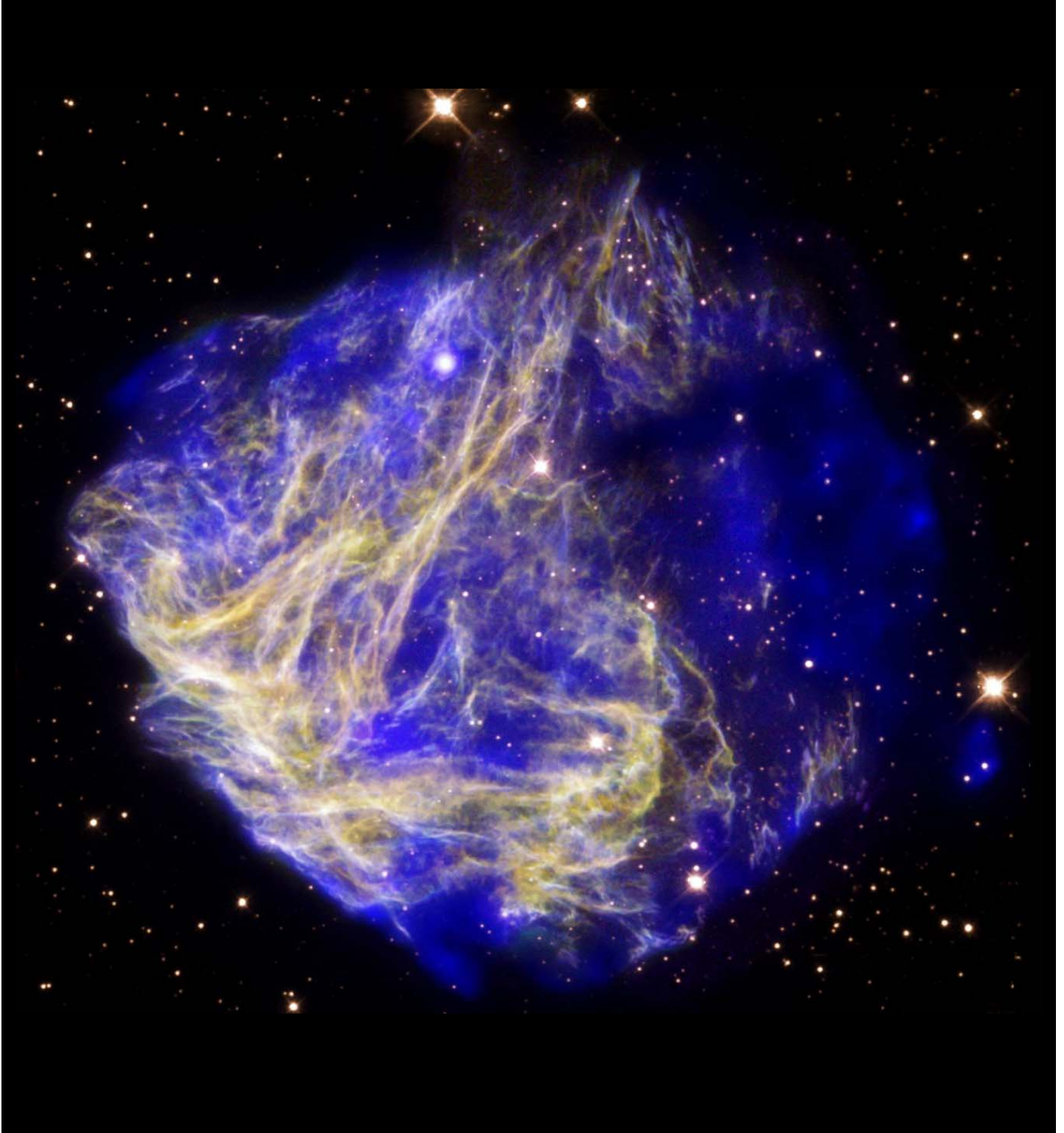
THE WRIGHT STUFF



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May / Jun 2010



A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



Summer is here and many of you have started your vacations. We always have light attendance

during these hot months, but we hope that if you are in town on a meeting day, you will attend.

A special "thank you" to the members who participated in the "Race for the Cure", especially if you were on Team Trina. We support a lot of different charities from the Kitty Hawk platform but cancer is one that everyone can relate to.

Conventions will abound this summer with the notable ones fast approaching. Shore Leave, Nasfic and DragonCon being the big ones within driving

distance. Cons are a great way to unwind and get together with old friends. Try to take in at least one this summer.

Our July meeting falls on the 3rd and those attending the June Meeting expressed a desire to hold it at the usual time and place. I have received an invitation to the annual 4th of July cookout and fireworks at the Drake's home and can bring friends. If you wish to go with us, please let me know no later than June 21st so that I can give them a head count. Dishes to share are the only requirement. Fireworks start about 9 p.m. so you will not get away until about 10:30 or 11:00 p.m.

Aluminum is selling for more than 50 cents per pound, so be

sure and collect all the drink cans that you can and bring them to the next meeting. School supplies, particularly notepaper and mechanical pencils, are high on the want list of our school kids; do what you can. Ms. Poole says she will bring cards and scrapbook to the July meeting.

All in all, we have a full plate even though it is summer. I know each of you have your own set of problems within your families, but try to help those less fortunate than we are. We will be starting over with an entirely new class this July.

Be safe, have fun and remember that you have the Wright Stuff.

Esse Quam Videri

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

Even though NASA's Constellation program was seemingly financially gutted, work is still continuing on the hardware and systems. (The new direction envisioned is to leave low-Earth orbit to commercial industry and the NASA manned program would focus beyond that.)

NASA recently named new program managers and noted that the program is for taking "humans beyond low-Earth orbit and develop the next generation launch vehicle and spacecraft."

The Constellation ground systems passed a preliminary

design review in early June. This covers all the processing and support systems used in building, prepping, and launching the new rockets. There was also a photo showing one of the new mobile launchers nearing completion. As was planned, it looks a lot like the Apollo-era launchers, with the gantry tower built on the platform itself. (For comparison, the shuttle program's gantry tower is built on the launch pad instead.)

This tells me that Constellation is still going forward, but with some new more distant targets in mind.

NASA is offering a unique opportunity to the public around the world by flying electronic images of people's faces aboard either of the last two scheduled shuttle flights. You can fly just your name without an image instead. Go to <http://faceinspace.nasa.gov> and follow the directions. You'll get a confirmation that it's been received and after the mission is completed, you'll be able to print a flight certificate. The last two flights are scheduled for September and November, so there's time to find an image of yourself to make the trip into space.

Enlisted Aye Eye

By Babs Freeman

As many of you know, I am a military veteran. I served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years and I am now a volunteer at the local USO. J.R. asked me to share some information about the USO so here goes.

First, let's start with the name. USO stands for United Service Organization. It began in 1941 when FDR asked 6 different organizations to create a group that supports the military. It is a congressionally chartered, private nonprofit organization. It is not now, nor ever has been, a government agency but it clearly gets verbal support from the Department of Defense and others.

It has been as large as 3000 locations and is currently operating at 130 locations worldwide including Iraq and Afghanistan. There are thousands of volunteers around the world and celebrities often visit the facilities or give tours. Most of us remember the big Bob Hope tours during the Vietnam War but he actually



started touring with the USO back in WW2.

Other well-known artists and groups that have in the past given USO shows are Kansas and The Judds. Recent tours included AeroSmith, Toby Keith, Dana Carvey, Billy Ray Cyrus, and Gary Sinise with the Lt. Dan Band.

To bring this closer to home, here in North Carolina we have four USOs. The first one was at Jacksonville-Camp Lejeune, the second is the RDU Airport USO and in the last two years, we added one at Charlotte-Douglas Airport and one at Fort Bragg. There is also a new mobile USO canteen here in N.C.

As I live happily here in Raleigh, I obviously do my volunteer work at the RDU USO. It is currently located above Southwest Airlines in the "old" terminal but is scheduled to move sometime in the future to the new

terminal. We have a kitchen, computers, free phone, recliners, television, Xbox, and a kid area. Food is given free to the military folks, retirees, and guests. The recliners are often used for folks crashing overnight so we have pillows and blankets to make them comfortable. I have been there when it is so crowded that people sleep on the floor both in our USO and in the hallways just outside.

Annually, we have various donation drives including the Harris-Teeter drive which was June 12, 2010 and a table at the Freedom Ride event in downtown Raleigh.

You can read gobs of information on the USO at www.uso.org but the state web site is www.uso-nc.org. I realize this, my first article, is coming off boring so next time, I will try to keep it light. A small joke: Did you know that 3.14% of sailors are Pi Rates?

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

Once again, the science fiction of *Star Trek* has become science fact. Whereas the *Enterprise* makes it look easy, until now, for a space craft to enter 'standard orbit' around an object in space was impossible. Not any longer. NASA's current mission to the asteroid belt is called Dawn. And Dawn represents a new day in space travel.

Dawn will do something no human-made spaceship has done before. It will enter a standard orbit around asteroid Vesta, where it will remain for a year, collecting information about the asteroid. Then it will leave Vesta and enter a standard orbit around the asteroid Ceres. Dawn's maneuvering capabilities are due to the implementation of ion

propulsion, a term Marc Rayman, Dawn chief engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, says he first heard on *Star Trek*. Ion propulsion makes the craft very energy efficient, making it possible for Dawn to explore these two large asteroids for an extensive period of time without having to carry a huge payload of fuel.

Security Report

By Spring Brooks

How To Screw Up A Car Thief's Day

It takes less time for a professional thief to break into your car, start it up and drive away as it does for you to walk into 7-11, plunk down three bucks for a bagel and coffee and emerge to watch your ride recede into the distance. And don't presume your elderly clunker is immune; the most stolen vehicle of 2008, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), was the 1994 Honda Accord.

"We know that thieves never miss an opportunity to make a quick buck by stealing a car," says Joe Wehrle, president and CEO of NICB. "They work weekends, nights and holidays and, ironically, they are particularly busy on New Year' Day and Labor Day."

The holidays ranked by number of thefts reported to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for 2008.

<u>Holiday Car Theft</u>	<u># of Thefts</u>
New Year's Day	3,017
Labor Day	2,847
Halloween	2,727
President's Day	2,683
Memorial Day	2,599
Independence Day	2,584
Valentine's Day	2,389
Christmas Eve	1,841
Thanksgiving	1,806
Christmas Day	1,267
New Year's Eve	916

While there isn't any way to stop a crook who really wants your ride and has the tools and know-how to make it happen, the following tips can help your car become a less inviting target and slow down,

discourage or actually prevent car theft.

Park in plain sight. Our natural inclination is to hide something we don't want anyone to steal, but for cars, visibility is the key to safety, say experts. Thieves prefer to work out of sight of people and electronic recording devices, so leave your car in a well-lit, populated area.

Take your keys---always. If you think this tip falls into the "duh" section of car theft prevention, try Googling the phrase "keys in ignition" or similar and you'll see many trusting souls leave the equivalent of a sign reading "FREE CAR!" hanging from their ignition switches on a daily basis. Car theft is often a crime of opportunity, so shut yours off and pocket your keys even if you're only ducking into a convenience store.

Don't hide your keys anywhere within or outside the car. You know those magnetic key holders you can buy to store your spare key? Leave it in your house on the fridge, not under bumpers, in the glove compartment or anywhere in the car. Thieves know all the hiding places you do, and probably a few more.

Use a variety of methods to slow would-be thieves. Car alarms are ubiquitous and often go ignored. When used in tandem with other theft prevention methods, though, they will make a thief naturally try to work faster, and if he comes across other security measures, he may give up altogether and move on. Apply the emergency brake, turn your

wheels hard left or right and set the car in "park" or in gear, making it more difficult for you to be quickly towed, and consider using a vehicle recovery system like LoJack or an engine immobilizer device such as Ravelco.

Disable your battery if parking long-term. A thief won't spend time trying to diagnose an apparent engine problem. Consider yanking one of the cable wires to your battery if you're leaving your car parked at an airport or anywhere else where it will sit unattended for more than a few days.

Sign valuable parts. Take the time to embed your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the inside of your trunk, inside your doors, on your sound system components and any other pricey parts thieves like to chop. If you don't feel like doing it yourself, contact your local police precinct or even your insurance company, some of whom offer free VIN etchings.

Go east. California is the number one state for auto theft, according to the NICB, with the town of Modesto ranking #1 with 4,235 vehicles stolen in 2008.

The good news for all of us is that auto thefts were down almost 9% overall in 2008, according to the NICB, to less than one million a year in 2008. With foresight and preventive measures that don't take much time, you can help ensure you'll never have to experience that unique nausea familiar to anyone finding a grease spot where their car was parked.

From the Kitchen

By Lynn Stone

A fabulous feast was served aboard *Voyager* when Seven Of Nine became a member of Star Fleet. The following three recipes were suggested by Paris and Kim (from their rather indelible memories of San Francisco). These dishes were served at a picnic on the holodeck of *Voyager*. Needless to say a good time was had by all... even Tuvok.

Deep-fried Classic Buffalo Wings

These are the wings that started it all. You know the drill. Serve with carrot and celery sticks and blue cheese dressing.

The Blue Cheese Dressing

- 1 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 2 to 4 tablespoons whipping cream, half-and-half or milk
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

The Wings

- 24 chicken wings
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 to 3 tablespoons hot sauce (Frank's, Texas Pete or your favorite)
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon vinegar, any kind
- 4 cups flavorless cooking oil
- Carrot sticks and/or celery sticks, for serving

Make the dressing: In a blender, place 1/2 cup of the blue cheese and all the remaining ingredients and liquefy. For a thinner consistency, add a little more whipping cream. Stir in the remaining 1/2 cup blue cheese. This can be done up to 12 hours before cooking, and then stored, tightly covered, in the refrigerator.

Cut off and discard the chicken wing tips. Cut the wings in half through the joint. You will have 48 pieces. Rub the chicken with salt and pepper. Place the hot sauce, butter and vinegar in a small saucepan. Bring the mixture to a simmer, then set aside.

Place a 12-inch frying pan over medium-high heat on an indoor stovetop or an outdoor gas grill. Add the cooking oil. Heat the oil until bubbles form around the end of a wooden spoon dipped into the oil, 350 to 375 degrees. Turn the heat to high. Add half the chicken wings. Deep-fry until the wings becomes deep golden and meat is cooked along the bone (cut into one with a paring knife), about 12 minutes. Transfer the wings to a wire rack to drain. Cook the second batch of wings.

Place the wings on a serving platter. Pour the butter sauce over the wings. Serve with the dressing and the sticks.

Serves 4 as an entree or 6 to 12 as an appetizer.

Oven-baked Best-Ever Wings (Alternative to Fried Wings)

- 24 chicken wings
- 4 cups red wine
- 3 cups ketchup
- 1/2 cup Heinz 57 Sauce
- 6 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/4 cup chili powder
- 2 tablespoons molasses
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon Tabasco sauce
- 3 tablespoon flavorless cooking oil
- 6 cloves garlic, minced

Cut off the wing tips and save them for making stock. In a large bowl combine the red wine, ketchup, Heinz 57 Sauce, brown sugar, chili powder, molasses, oregano, thyme, paprika and Tabasco sauce.

In a 12-inch sauté pan, add the oil and sauté the garlic. When the garlic begins to brown, add the red-wine mixture. Bring to a low boil, then simmer for 20 minutes. Cool to room temperature.

In a bowl large enough to hold the wings, combine the wings and the red-wine sauce. Mix thoroughly. Marinate the wings in the refrigerator for 1 to 24 hours (the longer the better).

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a shallow baking pan with foil. Coat a wire rack with nonstick cooking spray and place the rack in the baking pan. Drain the chicken and reserve the marinade. Arrange the wings on the rack (smooth surface down) and roast for 30 minutes. Drain the accumulated liquid from the pan. Baste the wings with the reserved marinade, turn them over, and baste again. Roast until the wings turn a mahogany color, about another 30 minutes. Cut the wings in half through the joint. Serve hot or at room temperature.

Serves 4 as an entree or 6 to 12 as an appetizer.

Fresh Corn Salad with Black Beans and Tomatoes

Dressing

- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 1/2 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1/2 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
- 1 small clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon table salt (no iodine)
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper

Salad

- 1 cup frozen shoe peg (white) corn
- 1 cup grape tomatoes or cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 (15.5-ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 scallions, sliced thin (using green part also)
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh cilantro
- 1/4 green pepper, diced very small

For the dressing: Shake all of the dressing ingredients together in a jar with a tight fitting lid. Put salad ingredients into a mixing bowl and toss with dressing. Season with salt and pepper to taste and serve.

This salad can be prepared, covered and refrigerated days ahead. Before serving, freshen with a squeeze of lime juice. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Classic Potato Salad

- 1 cup Hellmann's Real Mayonnaise
- 2 TBSP vinegar
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt (use only 1 tsp. if using Kosher or Sea Salt)
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 4 cups cubed, cooked potatoes (5 to 6 medium)
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 2 hard boiled eggs, chopped (optional)

Combine the first 5 ingredients. Stir into the next 3 ingredients. Makes 5 cups.

VOYAGER - "New Beginning"

By Brad McDonald

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

VOYAGER - TRANSPORTER ROOM

Action is continuous from Act One. The away team materializes and Janeway rushes to meet them.

JANEWAY

Is everyone okay?

TUVOK

I believe we are all undamaged Captain.

KIM

Speak for yourself.

He indicates his tricorder which has been 'fried'

CHAKOTAY

Looks like it saved you, Harry. It must have stopped a phaser impact.

JANEWAY

What happened?

TORRES

(angry)

They shot at us! We went to help them and they tried to kill us!

SEVEN

I believe there was an objection to my presence.

CHAKOTAY

Everything was fine until of their crew spotted Seven, pointed her out and said 'kill her'.

KIM

It was an ambush! They were waiting for us.

Janeway was intrigued by his statement.

JANEWAY

What makes you say that?

KIM

They were all armed, even the technicians and repair teams.

TUVOK

Hardly conclusive, as we were all armed and we were essentially present to provide technical assistance.

Janeway's comm badge sounds and she taps it.

JANEWAY

Janeway here, go ahead.

PARIS' VOICE

It's Ark, Miller says he's just learned about the incident. He wants to meet with you to apologize and to explain.

JANEWAY

It better be one hell of an explanation.

(to away team)

Return to your normal duties. Chakotay, I want you with me when he offers his explanation. Tuvok, keep a close eye on them. Have shields and weapons on standby, just in case. And have a security team report here on the double.

Everyone exits except Janeway and Chakotay.

JANEWAY

Tom, tell them they can transport over. No more than four and no weapons or we may leave without assisting them.

PARIS' VOICE

Understood. Bridge out.

Janeway indicates Chakotay's phaser.

JANEWAY

We, however, will not be under such restrictions.

Two N. D. SECURITY PEOPLE enter and stand by. Satisfied, Janeway taps her comm badge again.

JANEWAY

Ark, ready to transport?

MILLER'S VOICE

Yes Captain. Lock on my signal, there are four of us standing by.

Janeway nods to the security team and they draw phasers as does Chakotay.

TRANSPORTER ROOM - NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

Four persons appear: Miller, GELNA an Andorian female, VARA a Romulan female and MORDAK a Cardassian male. None are in uniform or traditional clothing. Miller is very apologetic.

MILLER

Captain, I'm so sorry about what happened. Please let me explain --

She holds up her hand to stop him.

JANEWAY

First things first. Two of your team members are carrying weapons. Until they disarm, we do nothing.

The N. D. security team moves forward training their weapons on the Ark people. Miller turns to the others angry and upset.

MILLER

I said no weapons!

Vara and Mordak reluctantly produce weapons moves in and Chakotay retrieves them, but hesitates.

JANEWAY

All of them.

Mordak produces one more and holds it out. Miller grabs it angrily and hands it to Chakotay. Chakotay turns to Janeway who scans the control board and nods approval. Chakotay and the N. D. security team steps back.

JANEWAY

Let's get something straight right away. I have certain minimum requirements which must be met before any further progress can be made. First of all, when I state the conditions of a meeting, they will be met.

Miller begins to protest, but she cuts him off.

JANEWAY
(continuing)

Second, I don't like being deceived or lied to. And most important, when I send assistance to you, my people better be treated well or the assistance will be terminated and you will be left to your own devices. And in this sector, it could be a long time before anyone finds you again. Understood?

Miller is very upset with his team members and frustrated.

MILLER

I understand completely and let me offer my sincerest apologies.

He steps off the platform towards Janeway, the N. D. security team reacts but Janeway waves them off.

MILLER
(continuing)

We are both humans, we share a common ancestry and we need each other's help out here. Let's start over. No more deceptions or surprises. I'd like to start by introducing the senior staff. First Vara, our engineer. Mordak, security and weapons. Gelna, our ship's doctor and myself, I'm the communications specialist and currently, the senior staff member.

JANEWAY

No Captain?

MILLER

We share that responsibility. Right now, it's my turn. A holdover from the various agreements made during the Borg invasion. Which reminds me, I need to bring you up to speed.

Janeway considers his words a moment, then:

JANEWAY

All right. Let's adjourn to our briefing room.

(to N. D. security)

Please escort our guests, I'll be there shortly.

Miller and the others leave with the N. D. security team. Chakotay approaches Janeway putting his own phaser away.

CHAKOTAY

Strange group. They ask for help and attack us. Then when they ask for a truce to apologize, they deceive us and abrogate the conditions of the truce.

JANEWAY

I don't like them and I don't feel comfortable with this situation.

(indicating weapons)

Take those to B'Elanna and have her give them the once over. Anything she finds out of the ordinary, I want to know. Rejoin me as soon as possible. I still want you there when they explained why they fired on you.

CHAKOTAY

Understood. And I agree with your assessment and feelings. I'm surprised you don't just leave them here anyway.

JANEWAY

Two reasons. I want to hear their story and how they got here. Maybe we can use that technology ourselves. Right now Kim and the others are upset about what these people claim. But, if it is true, we need to alter our plans significantly. I'm going to let them sit and think for awhile, see you in the briefing room.

The two exit quickly.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND ARK (OPTICAL)

The two remain motionless.

VOYAGER - MAIN BRIEFING ROOM

Seated on one side of the table is Miller, Vara, Gelna and Mordak. Opposite is Janeway and Chakotay. The two N. D. security persons stand at either end of the room.

JANEWAY

First off, I want an explanation for the attack on my people.

MILLER

Again, my apologies, but we had no idea there was a Borg on your ship. Consider our situation. We have been fighting the Borg for years. Suddenly, one appears on the last ship to survive Borg domination. What would you have done?

CHAKOTAY

I tried to explain, Seven was not a part of the collective, but your people ignored me.

MORDAK

They saw an enemy. One who has killed or taken over billions of lives. What did you expect? Would you hesitate to use force against the Borg?

CHAKOTAY

Probably not, but this was only one Borg, not an invasion and she was part of a rescue team.

VARA

We could not be certain it wasn't an elaborate deception. They have used similar tactics before.

MILLER

And your ship and crew. We knew Voyager was in this quadrant, but the odds that you would be the ones who answered our call . . . just a bit too convenient.

We can see that Janeway is impressed by the logic.

JANEWAY

Is it normal for all your crew members to be armed ?

GELNA

Necessary. Since the Borg invasion, everyone capable of using a weapon, has one. Either for defense or self destruction, in case of capture.

Janeway and Chakotay turn to each other, shocked.

JANEWAY
Things were that bad?

MILLER
You have no idea.

JANEWAY
Then tell us.

MILLER
It started about three years ago. Ferengi traders complained about disappearing ships. Because the Ferengi were the only ones affected, Most governments ignored the warnings. It was the Borg. They were establishing a beachhead in the quadrant, constructing facilities and carrying out raids and scouting missions. When the time was right, they struck. Not just five or six ships, but fifty. They went through the Ferengi Alliance in less than a month.

VARA
The Ferengi panicked. Most ran like scared animals, seeking refuge where ever they could find it or buy it. Very quickly, that whole sector of space was lost.

MORDAK
Now the Borg were firmly entrenched in the quadrant. From Ferengi space they fanned out in all directions. Quickly, we learned to put aside old memories and hatreds. We now had a common enemy, the Borg.

GELNA
Romulan fought side by side with Klingon. Cardassian with Human, even Tholians the Gorn and other non-aligned governments joined in the effort. We shared technologies, man power, intelligence and resources.

MILLER
We tried all sorts of tactics and strategies. All to no avail, except for the Klingons.

VARA
Entire squadrons attacked the Borg and committed

suicide by initiating self destruct. They set off matter antimatter devices and destroyed many Borg ships. Eventually, the Borg were reduced to a handful of ships. But the Klingons had ceased to exist. They died as a race to the last man, woman and child. Young an old alike. Many Romulans changed their opinion of their old enemy, I for one hold their memory in the highest regard.

JANEWAY
But surely some of them survived on their home world of Kronos --

MILLER
No. The Borg attempted to defeat the Klingon strategy by destroying the Klingon people. Kronos was destroyed, not assimilated mind you, just totally destroyed. The last report we received from that sector, stated that Kronos appeared as a large glowing ember in space.

JANEWAY
Mister Miller, we were in contact with Starfleet within the last few months. Why didn't they tell us?

MILLER
I honestly don't know. Maybe so you wouldn't worry or maybe they were being optimistic. At that time, there was still hope.

CHAKOTAY
The Borg had only a few ships left. What happened? How did they manage to dominate the Quadrant?

GELNA
They kept up their attacks. A few new alliance crews even adopted the Klingon tactics. We thought we were winning.

MORDAK
Then it happened. Evidently while the fifty Borg ships had been attacking us, another seventy five or so had begun attacks behind us. Before we

knew it, they were everywhere.

MILLER
They began systematic attacks on our home worlds. Romulus, Andor, Cardassia, Vulcan, everywhere!

CHAKOTAY
But weren't you alerted?

GELNA
Communications had been spotty at best. The Borg had jammed all our communications. They knocked out relays, stations, anything that allowed us to coordinate attacks.

Janeway takes in what she has heard for a moment, then:

JANEWAY
And Earth?

The others turn to Miller, he becomes quiet.

MILLER
The Borg made the home of the Federation pay dearly, the same price as Kronos. It was reduced to a cinder. No survivors, except those who were elsewhere or on ships. And now, only we survive.

He is now emotional and confronts Janeway.

MILLER
(continuing)
So you see Captain, there is no reason to go home. There is no home to go to. We can never return

Miller then becomes emotional.

Janeway is struck by Miller's statement and emotion.

Off her reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

Upcoming Events

Jul **3** **4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet**

Aug *no meeting... annual refit & shore leave for all*

7 **Articles for next *Wright Stuff* due**

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

THE WRIGHT STUFF
U.S.S. KITTY HAWK
5017 Glen Forest Dr.
RALEIGH NC 27612