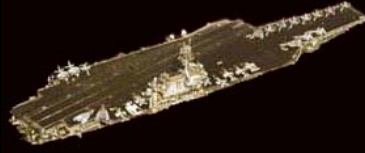


THE WRIGHT STUFF



Vol XXII ♦ No 3

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

May / Jun 2011





THE WRIGHT STUFF

Volume 22 - Number 3

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 to all chapter members in good standing. 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 © 2011 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
Editor John Troan



CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| THE VIEWS FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT | 3 |
| J.R. Fisher & Larry Pischke | |
| ENLISTED AYE, AYE | 4 |
| Babs Freeman | |
| SCIENCE REPORT | 4 |
| Elaine Pischke | |
| VOYAGER - <i>HOMECOMING</i> | 5 |
| Brad McDonald | |
| UPCOMING EVENTS | 10 |



TOOL BOX: Dell D810; 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

International Space Station with shuttle *Endeavour* docked, as seen from the departing ISS Expedition 27 crew on May 23, 2011. From nasa.gov.

The Views From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher & Larry Pischke



Summer is here and so is the heat! There is about one good convention per month and if you

have the time and the money, you should hit the road and have some fun. The headliner for July is Shore Leave in Hunt Valley, Maryland. They always have great media guests and a busload of authors. Make it if you can.

Last month, June, saw the launch of our shuttle/space station Robert de Bruce to be based in Clayton. Fleet Captain Barry Jackson has the helm and will put her through her paces and have her ready for commissioning next March. Good luck Barry and God Speed!

Things are relatively quiet in our sector with school being out and no proposed away teams' ventures. If anyone comes up with a good adventure, give Larry or me a call and we will see what we can put together.

As per tradition, we will not have an August meeting and the September meeting will be delayed one week because of Labor Day and DragonCon. Please stay safe and cool and if we don't catch you at a convention, we will see you in September.

Esse Quam Videri

Welcome to Summer! Trust me, it's here – you just have to squint to see it through the smoke.

The new season brings with it the end of an era. If all things go according to plan, sometime in July will be the last launch of the space shuttle program. What started with such promise, and touted as a low cost “truck to the stars,” is finally being put to bed. The “low cost” promise was never really met; unmanned rockets could haul loads much cheaper. The idea of catching wounded satellites, repairing them, and releasing them back to finish their mission was curtailed as too dangerous, especially in the wake of two unrelated shuttle losses.

While we rightly mourned the crews of those two shuttles, cautiousness crept in. The shuttle eventually became just a delivery van to take crews and supplies to the International Space Station.

And now the time has come. The shuttle is being retired. What is on the horizon? What is the next great vessel to take our hopes and dreams forward?

Nothing.

Oh, there was a program announced, Constellation. It was not really any technological leap forward, but a bloated look back, an over inflated Apollo-style capsule

and rocket to get us back to the moon and eventually Mars. It seemed more of a political gesture than anything else, under funded and spread all over the place like the best pork spread.

Now, even this has been canceled, replaced with “private venture initiatives.” In other words: if we give them a little money, lets hope somebody else will do it.

People will bring up the age-old question: why not send unmanned probes rather than risking lives? Unmanned probes don't THINK. They can't overcome problems. Witness all the probes lost on Mars. Oh wait, you can't. They're LOST. How about the problems with *Cassini*? It works, but not as well as designed. Too bad nobody's there to fix it. Who knows what wondrous sights might have been missed because the probes don't have the intuition to follow a hunch.

Besides, I'm not particularly moved by the phrase BEEP BEEP. I prefer TO BOLDLY GO.

Enlisted Aye, Aye

By Babs Freeman

It's June 12th and I just renewed my membership to StarFleet. I think I finally got it accepted, via the website, correctly. Whew!

As a movie fan, I am looking forward to several films this summer season. I saw *Super 8* last night and plan to see *Green Lantern* next week. I have listed on my yahoo calendar to see the third *Transformers* movie, *Captain America*, and the last of the *Harry Potter* films. August will probably find me thinking of watching *Rise of the Planets of the Apes*. And heaven only knows how many more movies I will watch on cable tv!



There are certain movies I can watch while doing chores (*Shrek*) and others I cannot (*Sleepless in Seattle*). Some movies I almost know line for line (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*, for instance). Some movies have scenes that will distract me while I am doing chores (the plummeting airplane in *Superman Returns*). Some movies are on my "too see again list" as I either didn't GET them the first time (*Citizen Kane*). And there are movies I

never want to see again (*The Shining*). I also enjoy some of the classics (*The African Queen*).

My favorite western is *Lonely are the Brave*, my favorite sport movie is *Field of Dreams*, my favorite Christmas movie is *Prancer*, and my favorite Jerry Lewis film is *Cinderfella*. I am a big Jerry Lewis fan and have been since I was like ten years old.

It may surprise you to know that I don't own any of the *Star Trek* films and I don't own a lot of films and this is because I get so many movie channels on cable TV. On that note, I will close this article and hope to see you all in July.

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

We know we live in the Milky Way galaxy, and we have a pretty good idea what it looks like, but being on the 'inside', we can't really see our home galaxy. But now we can get a pretty good idea by looking at NGC 6544, a galaxy not so far away (cosmically speaking) which could be our galaxy's somewhat larger twin. NGC 6544 is very accommodatingly tilted toward us so that, with a telescope like ESO's Wide Field Imager camera at La Silla, in the high desert of northern Chile, we can get a

pretty good idea of what our galaxy looks like from the outside. If you want to view NGC 6544 with your backyard telescope, you'll need to set it up in the southern hemisphere as NGC 6544 is located in the southern constellation Pavo.

There is growing evidence that life can thrive in places no one thought possible until recently. The same scientist who discovered bacteria growing in pockets of hot water deep underground in 1998 has recently discovered nematodes (a step up from

bacteria) thriving miles below ground where there would have been no interaction with the surface for thousands of years. This is significant for the possibility of life on other planets, particularly Mars, because it proves that life can exist in very extreme environments.

Finally, for your enjoyment - <http://www.scifiainshow.com/guided-tour.html>

VOYAGER - "Homecoming"

By Brad McDonald

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. EARTH - STARFLEET
ACADEMY - MIDDAY
(OPTICAL)

INT. STARFLEET ACADEMY

The corridor is very busy and Janeway makes her way through to an office at the end.

OUTER OFFICE

Janeway enters the outer office where there is an ACADEMY STUDENT at a duty desk.

ACADEMY STUDENT
Admiral, may I help you?

JANEWAY
I'm here to see EMH-1,
Doctor Zimmerman.

ACADEMY STUDENT
Do you have an
appointment?

JANEWAY
I'm not here for a medial
exam. This is a social
visit, I'm a friend.

ACADEMY STUDENT
The doctor doesn't have
any patients, all of his
visits are social, but
without an appointment --

Janeway loses her temper and cuts him off.

JANEWAY
Just tell him Kathryn
Janeway is here to see
him, now!

The Academy Student becomes very friendly and apologetic.

ACADEMY STUDENT
Oh yes! I'm sorry, Sir. I
didn't recognize you.
He's in the middle of
preparing for a lecture but
I know he'll want to see
you. Follow me, please.

He jumps up and heads for the inner office and Janeway follows.

INNER OFFICE/LAB

Doc is busy with all sorts of equipment, scattered over several lab tables. The Academy Student approaches timidly.

ACADEMY STUDENT
Doctor? You have a
visitor.

Doc's back is turned and he speaks gruffly.

DOC
I said, no visitors! This
lecture must be perfect!

The Academy Student is embarrassed and looks at Janeway apologetically.

ACADEMY STUDENT
But, Doctor, it's --

DOC
Later! Your sole purpose
is to prevent visitors from
interrupting my work. My
time is valuable.

Janeway gives the Academy Student an indication to leave and he exits.

JANEWAY
So is my time. You've got
ten minutes, no more.

Doc turns to see Janeway, he's not impressed and continues his work and is only superficially friendly.

DOC
Nice of you to stop by,
Captain, or rather,
Admiral. Mind if I
continue my work? I have
a very important lecture to
give in just fifteen
minutes.

Janeway is bothered by the snub, but tries to make light of it and continues the conversation.

JANEWAY
What are you working on?

DOC
A presentation on the
various life forms we
encountered during our
journey. It's a series of
ongoing lectures.

His back is still turned, so she moves around to face him.

JANEWAY
Sounds interesting.
Should merit a major
paper. Perhaps a --

DOC
(interrupting)
Already did that. This is a
more detailed
presentation on the
Vidians and the phage.
Seems the medical
establishment is
fascinated with the
condition.

JANEWAY
No doubt. Hopefully we
won't run into it again.

He absently knocks a tricorder to the floor and Janeway retrieves it for him. He does not comment or notice and Janeway is a bit disappointed in him.

JANEWAY

Not the Doctor I once knew.

He responds in a prideful and pompous manner.

DOC

I should say not. The Federation has officially recognized me as a sentient being. I am now a citizen as well. I am unique in the Federation.

JANEWAY

Wait. That requires self awareness, intelligence and the ability to reproduce. How do you... uh --

DOC

Don't you recall my legion of progeny?

He finally looks at her.

DOC

(continuing)

Oh yes, your head injury again, right? Well I have over twenty thousand offspring, as of today, and that number promises to increase dramatically.

Janeway is surprised.

JANEWAY

Twenty thousand?

He is becoming agitated and distracted again.

DOC

Yes, that is what I said. When Starfleet found out how good a program I had developed into, they couldn't do without me. And my little addition from the twenty fourth century...

He pats the mobile emitter on his shoulder.

DOC

(continuing)

... made me perfect for all sorts of duties. Not only doctor but advisor, diplomat, scientist, and an 'able bodied' crew person.

JANEWAY

You mean a regular crew person on a starship?

DOC

Of course! I understand that since they learned how to reproduce my enhancer, there are entire crews of EMH-1's. Delightful, isn't it?

Janeway shakes her head in disbelief.

JANEWAY

(to self)

Evidently I'm not the only one in Starfleet who needs their head examined.

Doc is preoccupied again.

DOC

How's that?

JANEWAY

Never mind. Do you think my head injury is anything to worry about? I mean my inability to recall --

DOC

Give it some time. Your memory will come back to you. However, if you have fainting spells or blackouts, consult the ship's doctor. If you think he can help, that is. Why they didn't install my improved program is beyond me.

JANEWAY

So my condition --

DOC

(interrupting)

Is not important now. What is important, is this lecture. Please let me finish.

She is visibly disappointed by his brush off and coldness.

JANEWAY

Perhaps you're right. I won't bother you any more.

DOC

Oh yes. I almost forgot to tell you about all my advances since we returned. And the new programs I've installed, fascinating.

Janeway is not impressed.

JANEWAY

No doubt. It's a shame you didn't include a heart or real feelings.

DOC

How's that?

Janeway grabs him and spins him around to confront him face to face.

JANEWAY

You spent the better part of four years in a quest to become more human and you've lost it all in less than a month. Too bad you can't give a lecture on that!

She exits in a hurry, mad as hell.

DOC

Well! Her mental condition may be worse than I originally thought.

EXT. EARTH - STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS - AFTER-NOON (OPTICAL)

INT. STARFLEET HEAD-
QUARTERS - STOKAR'S
OUTER OFFICE

Janeway is waiting in the outer office of the Commander in Chief of Starfleet and she is apprehensive. An N.D. AIDE is sitting behind a desk working when a door opens and ADMIRAL STOKAR, an elderly Vulcan male appears.

STOKAR

Admiral Janeway. Please come in.

She rises and enters the office.

STOKAR'S OFFICE

JANEWAY

Thank you for seeing me on such a short notice. I'll be brief.

Once in, the door closes and they both take a seat.

STOKAR

I have as much time as you require. One should always find time for our heroes. How may I assist you?

JANEWAY

I'd like to see Seven of Nine. I've been told she is here undergoing a 'debriefing'.

Stokar leans forward and steeples his fingers.

STOKAR

Anything else?

JANEWAY

The location of Commander Chakotay and my other crew persons. I know they were sent to a rehab colony, but I can't find out where.

STOKAR

Is that all?

She's not sure if he is being evasive or cooperative.

JANEWAY

I believe that will keep me happy for a while.

STOKAR

As to the location of Seven, she will be returned to Voyager later today. Mister Chakotay is in Rehab Colony Number Five. However, I am not sure if he is receiving visitors.

JANEWAY

By his choice or Starfleet's?

STOKAR

Perhaps you should reconsider your request in view of your newly acquired rank.

Janeway is sensitive to the implication.

JANEWAY

Meaning I might loose it as fast as I got it if I 'associate' with undesirables? Admiral, Chakotay is a friend and a first rate officer. If it weren't for him and the others, Voyager would not have made it home. If I can't persuade Starfleet to change their minds about putting them in rehab, I can still show my loyalty and gratitude for their exemplary service.

He nods in understanding.

STOKAR

Loyalty is a commendable trait, just don't carry it too far. How are the repairs to Voyager progressing?

Janeway relaxes just a bit.

JANEWAY

Tuvok reported repairs were ahead of schedule. Voyager should be ready within seventy two hours.

STOKAR

Then his mission will proceed as scheduled. Tuvok honors all of Vulcan with his sacrifice.

Janeway is unclear as to his meaning.

JANEWAY

His sacrifice? I don't follow --

STOKAR

You really believe that he will return from engaging superior Borg forces?

Janeway is shocked by the revelation.

JANEWAY

That's his mission? I didn't know he --

She stops mid sentence realizing Stokar is studying her.

JANEWAY

I mean, he didn't plan an escape route?

STOKAR

A bit unrealistic, is it not? And somewhat understandable considering the loss of his family due to Borg attacks.

Janeway is struck by the information but tries to hide it.

JANEWAY

I suppose so. Well, I better be on my way. And thank you for your time, Admiral.

She rises to exit, he remains seated.

STOKAR

Remember our conversation regarding the Maquis crew members.

She stifles a retort and forces a smile.

JANEWAY

Of course, Admiral.

She exits Stokar's office in a hurry, angry.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND SPACE DOCK

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

Janeway enters with Tuvok engrossed in his work and two N. D. TECHNICIANS working separately. She approaches the N. D. technicians.

JANEWAY

Dismissed! You will be recalled to work later.

The two sense her anger and exit quickly. After they leave:

JANEWAY

Tuvok! I want to speak to you, now.

He remains focused on his work, or is he avoiding her?

TUVOK

Of course, what did you want -- ?

JANEWAY

Cut the pleasantries. I've been informed by Admiral Stokar that your operation with Seven is to be a suicide mission.

TUVOK

Suicide, no. However, I would estimate our chances for survival are less than one in a thousand.

She is now very angry and he remains placid, making her even more angry.

TWO SHOT - JANEWAY AND TUVOK

JANEWAY

And you don't call that suicide?

TUVOK

I recall moments when our chances of returning home were even less optimistic, yet we made the journey none the less.

JANEWAY

That was different. We always had a goal to return home, no matter how bad things got. I've seen your mission profile, there are no provisions for an escape.

She softens just a bit.

JANEWAY

Tuvok, I know about your family and I know there is nothing I can do or say that will bring them back, but you can't throw your life away like this. There has to be another way. Perhaps if you thought it through --

He finally rises to her challenge and cuts her off.

TUVOK

I do not do this to exact revenge, nor am I emotionally distraught. I am simply trying to end this conflict as soon as possible, in the only manner I know of.

JANEWAY

End the conflict? Isn't that a bit over optimistic?

TUVOK

If I am successful, there is a seventy-five percent possibility that the Borg will be neutralized. The Romulans will then be forced to discontinue hostilities. If they do not, the combined resources of Starfleet and the Klingon Empire will be more than a match for them.

Janeway is still not sold. She softens her approach more.

JANEWAY

We've been friends for a long time. I've never seen you like this. Please tell me what you are thinking. Let me help.

He resumes his work, avoiding her completely.

TUVOK

Further discussion is pointless. I have already decided on my course of action. I have a crew of volunteers and you have orders which require you to relinquish command of this ship in exactly eight hours, fourteen minutes and twenty one seconds. If it were not for the formal ceremonies for the public, that would have happened already.

She is stunned by his coldness.

JANEWAY

I can't believe that we've been friends for so long and yet I never knew you were capable of... this. Maybe I can talk some sense into Seven.

Tuvok reacts to her statement, visibly.

TUVOK

I believe you understand her even less than you do myself. In either event, she is less disposed to open discussion. Feel free to seek out her feelings, she returned just moments ago. Perhaps you will understand the situation better once you have talked to her. She is in engineering, section four, deck eleven.

Tuvok continues his work and Janeway seems puzzled by his directions. She exits quickly. In the B.G. we hear:

TUVOK'S VOICE

Repair team ten, return to duty.

ENGINEERING - SECTION FOUR

Janeway enters and passes by a number of N.D. REPAIR TEAMS. In a very cramped and out of the way corner, she finds SEVEN 'attached, to the bulkhead'. She is disembodied and more Borg than ever. Janeway is repulsed by the sight.

JANEWAY

Seven! What on earth -- ?

SEVEN

It's just what it appears to be. Your 'precious' Starfleet reversed all the Doctor's work to re-humanize me.

JANEWAY

But why?

SEVEN

I'm the new 'secret weapon'. Tuvok will take

Voyager to the center of the Borg fleet. The crew will put up a valiant fight, but lose. The Borg will find me and take me back into the collective. When they do, my new Starfleet program and nano probes will destroy the collective in days, along with me and any surviving crew member from Voyager.

Janeway still can't believe her eyes.

JANEWAY

I had no idea!

Seven is sarcastic and bitter, openly hostile.

SEVEN

Really? You chose not to visit me at Starfleet so you could deny my very existence and put my fate out of your mind.

JANEWAY

No, I went to Starfleet. They told me that you were not available. And I've been experiencing memory lapses and recall problems --

SEVEN

How convenient. All your speeches about how the Federation respected those who were different and how I could begin a new life. Just words.

Janeway is visibly upset by Seven's predicament and tries to make Seven understand her position.

JANEWAY

I promise you, I had no idea this would happen and I am appalled by your treatment.

SEVEN

Words again, but somehow they mean even less than those you spoke before, regarding personal freedom or choice.

She indicates the surroundings.

SEVEN

(continuing)

The Borg were more compassionate than this. At least they took away my ability to think for myself and did not instill me with hope or the will of an individual. That makes this even more difficult to understand or accept. If it were possible, I would willingly join the Borg and fight to eliminate your precious Starfleet and the Federation!

Janeway tries to protest, but Seven cuts her off.

SEVEN

Leave now. I have no desire to talk with you anymore. It is the last freedom I still enjoy.

Janeway exits the section and contemplates Seven's words.

Off her reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|------------|-----------|---|
| Jul | 2 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet |
| | 8 | 11:26 a.m. Scheduled Launch for STS-135 |
| Aug | -- | no August Ship Meeting |
| | 12 | Articles due for next <i>Wright Stuff</i> |
| Sep | 10 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet |

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

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