

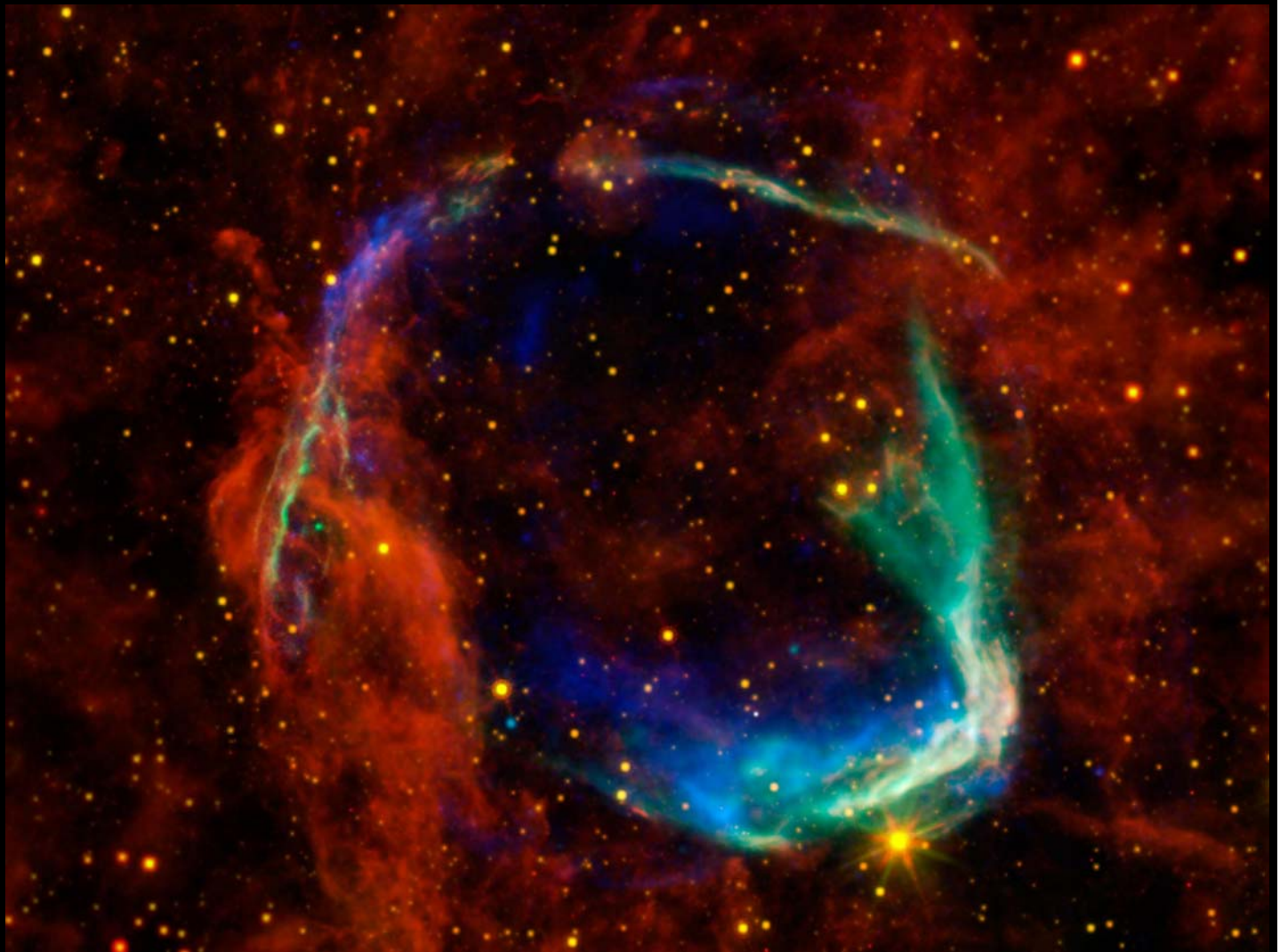
# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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# THE WRIGHT STUFF

## Volume 22 - Number 5

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Publisher ..... J.R. Fisher  
 Editor ..... John Troan



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**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](http://navicp.navy.mil); *Constitution* class cruiser from [gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk](http://gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk).

### IMAGE - Featured Front Page

Supernova remnant RCW 86, combined from multiple wavelengths. This is the oldest documented supernova, with the Chinese having observed it in 185.

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# A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

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WOW!! The summer sure went fast but we still have some days that remind us that it was not so long ago. But Halloween is just a week away and we can expect our first frost shortly thereafter. The holidays are fast approaching with all that they imply: shopping, traveling, gifts, and partying.

Time to start planning our annual holiday dinner so be thinking about whether you would prefer to have it on our launch date of December 17th (a Saturday) or wait and have it on a less busy date in January of 2012. Also be thinking about where you would like to have it. While we have been celebrating at the Kanki for a number of years, we may not always have that option.

Speaking of the Kanki, Sushi Freak Fest was a huge success. Hopefully [an article by John or Brad](#) is somewhere in this newsletter. A

special thanks to John Troan and Meg Hale for showing up to help out. Brad and his clan were also in attendance, but then he had to be there. Same is true for Tom Mukayama who is the manager and Skip Lanoza who is the Sushi chef. We had a great time, good music and the always fine food. Wish more of the crew had been in attendance. John did everyone else's share of the work.

We have begun the Admiral's Challenge and our first offering of food was turned over to the Central and Eastern NC Food Bank last week. The total weight of canned and packaged goods was 74 pounds, 3.5 ounces. A good start. Let's make it even better in the weeks ahead. Remember to bring canned goods to all our events.

A special reminder for our November meeting on the 5th. Comicon NC will be going on at our meeting location. This is great if you wish to attend. It was pretty good last year and they have some great guests

again this year. It may make parking a little more difficult so be aware. You may want to come early and enjoy the sights or shop. I understand there is a costume contest but I don't know if that is Saturday or Sunday. But bring your canned goods. *[Editor's note: the November meeting was rescheduled to Nov 12th after JR finished his article.]*

There are some cons in drivable range but I imagine most of you/us are already saving for the holidays and taxes. Yes, I said that terrible word. If anyone attends any of them, please write up a report and submit it to the newsletter.

I am hoping all of you are well and safe and continue to be so. Please keep all those who are less fortunate in your thoughts and prayers and do what you can to assist them. Remember, you have the Wright Stuff.

*Esse Quam Videri*

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## Enlisted Aye, Aye

By Babs Freeman

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*[Editor's note: Babs got her article in before the meeting was rescheduled.]*

I see our next meeting coincides with the local ComicCon. I suppose somebody will show up in a costume but doubt it will be any of us. While at the N.C. State Fair last week, I saw a few characters of sorts but not costumed folks, just the patrons. Some reminded me of the email showing Wal-Mart shoppers.

I was at the fair volunteering at the Peace Booth for a couple of hours. Yes, I am a bleeding heart, neo-commie liberal. I am also a bit naïve and gullible but not



stupid. I realize true peace is a pretty big dream but then hey, I also believe in The Big Guy.

Based on past conversations with y'all, I have now started to watch *The Big Bang Theory* on TBS. I must say I do like the sci-fi references and super hero stuff. I recently saw an episode with Will Wheaton and Brent Spiner so I expect to see other stars making appearances.

With Halloween approaching and various things on TV for it, I was lucky enough to catch *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Good stop-motion films are hard to beat for entertainment and this is one really good piece of work. If you haven't seen it for a while, it is worth seeing again.

And much to the chagrin of my co-workers, I am planning on bringing in a caldron with about 8-10 different varieties of M&Ms all mixed together for them to enjoy on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Seasonal joke time. How do you check for broken bones on a witch? You use a hex-ray. ☺

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# Engineering Report - SushiFreak 2011

## By Brad McDonald

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On Sunday, October 16, the North Market location of the Kanki restaurants hosted the second annual Sushi Freak event in support of the Pretty in Pink Foundation. In case you didn't know, Pretty in Pink is a North Carolina based group with a goal to become national. Their founding principal is, "breast cancer is present and insurance is not." It's a great cause and I thought they could a few extra hands. I worked the first Sushi Freak event last year and we managed to raise about \$4200. While it was appreciated by the folks at Pretty in Pink, this year's goal was to double that amount. I'm happy to say that we not only doubled it, we actually exceeded our goal, raising over \$9800!

The core group of workers, including key Kanki personnel and myself, arrived before 7:00 a.m. to get things going. As a side note, most of the Kanki staff, including myself, were "off the clock" all day. Hey, even my boss, the owner of the Kanki, showed up. As we began to set up tables, tents, chairs, stanchions and caution tape; even more help began to arrive. John Troan, my younger daughter Kiersten, my sister Colleen (who is a recent breast cancer survivor), along with her husband and son, plus many more Kanki and Crabtree Mall employees arrived, each giving up their day off to assist with the many tasks of the day.

We learned a lot from last year's event and had a plan, both figuratively and literally, for where to place each item, even the trash cans. This year we also added some standard Kanki dishes. As not everyone is a sushi freak, a teppan table was set up for chicken, rice and veggies. There was also a table dedicated to children, which featured Skip Lanoza, Sally's husband. He prepared special dishes for the younger guests and was the most popular feature at the event. We found out later that he never got a break all day and was worn out by 4:00.

We were set up just in time to open at 12:00 noon and I was scheduled to work the gate. However, a number of last minute problems surfaced, pulling me in a number of directions. My sister insists that she heard my name yelled a dozen times followed by a lengthy explanation of some emergency. By this time though, J.R. and Meg showed up, so they covered for me and John, already

stationed at the gate, helping with checking I.D.'s and taking E-tickets.

Surprisingly, the day went by quickly and so did the food. We didn't run out of anything except bottled water and beer. But that was just prior to closing, so it wasn't a problem. The volunteers were all great. To show their appreciation, all non-Kanki volunteers were given a t-shirt and a Kanki tote bag. Of course, all the volunteers were fed and at the end of the day, we knew we had done quite well.

My sister and her family have already 'up' for next year and I understand that Meg, J.R. and John are considering returning as well. I hope you will consider volunteering next year as well. The Pretty in Pink people were very appreciative of our work and thought that we were very special people. *[Editor's note: I'm already planning to do SF 2012 and am waiting to hear what the date is.]*



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# VOYAGER - "Homecoming"

By Brad McDonald

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## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO -  
RESIDENTIAL SECTION -  
AFTERNOON

Janeway walks to a well maintained Victorian house and knocks on the door. MRS. KIM, a middle aged Asian woman, answers.

MRS. KIM

Yes?

JANEWAY

Mrs. Kim? I'm Kathryn Janeway, commanding officer of Voyager. I'd like to speak to you about your son, Harry, if it's convenient.

Mrs. Kim hesitates at first, then allows Janeway in.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE

The shelves and walls are decorated with Harry's pictures, awards and memorabilia. Janeway is touched and just a bit uncomfortable.

JANEWAY

I don't wish to intrude, but I thought you'd like to know how important Harry was to me and the rest of the crew.

Mrs. Kim nods in understanding and indicates a seat. Mrs. Kim sits and Janeway sits opposite and begins.

JANEWAY  
(continuing)

When Harry first came aboard, he was a rather self-conscience young man, straight out of the Academy. However, over the years, I learned to depend on him more and more. So did the rest of the crew. He was well liked and respected as an officer and as a person as well. As a scientist, he

was a determined and thorough worker.

Mrs. Kim remains passive and quiet.

JANEWAY  
(continuing)

More importantly, Harry was a good friend. And I miss him very much. I wanted to bring home all my crew members, but many did not make it. Considering the distance we covered it's a wonder any of us made it. I know that's a small consolation to you and your family, but it's all I can offer in the way of an explanation.

Mrs. Kim still hasn't responded and Janeway is very uncomfortable.

JANEWAY  
(continuing)

Also, I recommend Harry for a special citation. Starfleet has approved and the medal will be presented formally within the week.

Mrs. Kim rises slowly and goes to a picture of Harry and studies it intently.

MRS. KIM

How did he die?

Janeway gathers herself and relates the story quietly.

JANEWAY

A month ago we encountered a group of pirates who agreed to sell us the technology we needed to get home. We made a deal which went very wrong and they fired on us. During the battle, I was severely injured and Harry was killed. I'm so sorry.

Mrs. Kim remains quiet for a moment and Janeway is about to speak again.

MRS. KIM

I'm confused. You said the deal went bad, yet you still obtained the technology to get home.

JANEWAY

They sold us a 'defective' unit, but my engineer was able to make it work.

Mrs. Kim turns to face Janeway.

MRS. KIM

Then why did they attack you?

JANEWAY

The deal included a trade for one of our weapons. We could not let them have such advanced technology, so the weapon was not functional.

MRS. KIM

So they were reacting to having been cheated?

Janeway feels trapped and tries to explain.

JANEWAY

No, more like they had been caught at their own game. We were just able to make their equipment work after all. I believe they intended to take it back after attacking us.

MRS. KIM

If you had honored the agreement, would they have let you go?

JANEWAY

Maybe, maybe not. They were, after all, pirates. Not the most honorable people.

Mrs. Kim seems unconvinced.

MRS. KIM

Thank you for your time. I will share your thoughts with my family.

Janeway rises, sensing a dismissal. She follows Mrs. Kim to the door.

JANEWAY

If it is possible, I'd like to return and speak to you and your family again.

They arrive at the door and Mrs. Kim opens it.

MRS. KIM

We shall see. Thank you again for your time. Good day.

Janeway exits and the door closes. Janeway looks unhappy as she has failed to make Mrs. Kim realize how she really felt about Harry.

EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT MISSOURI (OPTICAL)

The runabout is travelling at warp speed.

INT. RUNABOUT - COMMAND SECTION

The ship is crowded with N. D. PERSONNEL. Janeway sits in the forward section, next to other senior officers CAPTAIN PIERCE and ADMIRAL FRANK.

FRANK

What's our E.T.A.?

PIERCE

Another three hours, more or less. We have to make one more stop before we get to two-two-four.

JANEWAY

I would just like to get there and get to the task at hand.

Pierce is a bit amused at Janeway's comment.

PIERCE

Anxious to get back into the thick of it, Admiral?

FRANK

More like, idle hands are the devil's work shop, right?

JANEWAY

A little of both, actually. I'm curious as to how things are really going on the front.

FRANK

I thought you just came to us by way of Starfleet Headquarters and Stovak's direct orders. Didn't he brief you on the situation?

JANEWAY

Officially, yes, but I want to see for myself.

Frank and Pierce lean closer and drop their voices.

PIERCE

I agree. Despite reassurances from Command, our loss rates seem rather high. And, I've heard of a problem with desertions. No one seems to have a real handle on the situation, and that makes me... uneasy. I just want to know what really is going on.

Frank looks troubled.

FRANK

I've heard the same things. If the artificial wormhole generators are really doing their work, then we should be winning. And I heard that Command had some super secret plan to end the war.

JANEWAY

That's what I heard too. I just hope it works. Let's keep the rumors to a minimum until then. I will hold my judgement until I get first hand information.

EXT. SPACE - STARBASE TWO-TWO-FOUR (OPTICAL)

There is much activity with ships coming and going and the runabout Missouri in orbit.

INT. STARBASE TWO-TWO-FOUR - OPS

Ops is very busy as Janeway enters and approaches ADMIRAL RODRIGUEZ. N. D. STATION PERSONNEL occupy the various duty posts. Rodriguez extends his

hand in friendship and is genuinely glad to see Janeway.

RODRIGUEZ

Admiral Janeway! I'm glad you're here.

She accepts the handshake and returns the greeting.

JANEWAY

Admiral Rodriguez, the last time I saw you, you had command of the Perseus.

The two get close, an old friendship has been renewed.

RODRIGUEZ

I'm so glad to see you again. No one was happier to learn you had returned than me. Somehow I knew you'd make it.

JANEWAY

My father might argue your first point, but I'm grateful for your concern and your confidence.

Rodriguez gets a serious face.

RODRIGUEZ

I'm going to need your experience in dealing with the Borg and in getting out of tight spots.

JANEWAY

That's what I'm here for. What's the situation?

He gets a bit closer and quieter.

RODRIGUEZ

Seven ships lost in the last two days. Our last encounter with the Romulans was a draw, we can't keep losing ships and personnel, not without achieving some gains.

JANEWAY

What's your resources?

He motions her to a nearby vacant station and brings up a listing.

RODRIGUEZ

We've got a dozen ships in full readiness, another five in

repair docks and two more on the way.

JANEWAY  
And patrols?

RODRIGUEZ  
Three in each of the adjacent sectors, five in this sector. But some of those are not in prime fighting order. I'm using reduced crews to meet demand and some of the ships are not up to spec.

Janeway confronts him directly.

JANEWAY  
So it is as bad as I've heard. I suppose the shortage of manpower is due to... desertion?

Rodriguez is caught by her statement, then acquiesces.

RODRIGUEZ  
You are well informed, Kathryn. Truth is, all my ships are low on personnel. That's why I was hoping Starfleet was sending some of their newest replacements.

JANEWAY  
Holos? I knew they were being... created, I just didn't realize they were being put into use so quickly.

RODRIGUEZ  
All the major outposts are in desperate need of personnel. It's reached the critical stage. Any ideas?

JANEWAY  
Several. Let's start by redeploying the ships in the adjacent sectors. I doubt the Romulans will do an end run to get at the systems behind us. There isn't much worth getting.

She brings up another Okudagram showing the surrounding space in relation to the station.

RODRIGUEZ  
I can just hear the protests now. When they realize our ships are gone, the Federation Council will get a strongly worded message.

JANEWAY  
Let them. Those ships are needed at the Neutral Zone. (off screen, pointing)  
What are these other ships?

RODRIGUEZ  
Klingons. They're being held in reserve, just in case the Borg appear. And don't ask for them on the front lines, they're a 'special' group, a suicide squadron.

JANEWAY  
Suicide? Out here too?

He gives her a confused look.

RODRIGUEZ  
A reduced complement with a hair trigger on their matter-antimatter controls. Quite effective. They've already destroyed two Borg ships.

Janeway is very surprised by the revelation.

JANEWAY  
Are things that desperate?

He shrugs at her inquiry.

RODRIGUEZ  
Who can say? But I'm glad they're here.

In the B. G. we can see an Ensign approaching, anxious.

ENSIGN  
Sir? I have an incoming message for you.

Rodriguez turns to greet her and moves to take the call.

RODRIGUEZ  
I'll take it in my office.

The Ensign is a bit embarrassed.

ENSIGN  
Sorry Sir, it's for Admiral Janeway.

Janeway is surprised.

JANEWAY  
For me?  
(to Rodriguez)  
May I use your office?

RODRIGUEZ  
Of course. Ensign?

The Ensign indicates Janeway to follow and points her to an office.

ENSIGN  
It's on the primary channel, Sir.

JANEWAY  
Thank you.

RODRIGUEZ' DUTY OFFICE - ON JANEWAY

Janeway enters and immediately goes to the comm board.

JANEWAY  
Computer, open the primary comm channel.

There is static and it clears just a bit.

SEVEN'S VOICE  
Admiral Janeway. We are the Borg. Your attempt to destroy us has failed. We now target you as our next objective. You will not be able to stop us. We are the Borg, resistance is futile.

The static continues for a moment, then cut. Janeway is shocked by what she has heard.

Off her reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

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# NASA Telescopes Help Solve Ancient Supernova Mystery

## From NASA-JPL/CalTech

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*[Editor's note: this is the press release that accompanied the front cover photo for this month's Wright Stuff.]*

A mystery that began nearly 2,000 years ago, when Chinese astronomers witnessed what would turn out to be an exploding star in the sky, has been solved. New infrared observations from NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope and Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, or WISE, reveal how the first supernova ever recorded occurred and how its shattered remains ultimately spread out to great distances.

The findings show that the stellar explosion took place in a hollowed-out cavity, allowing material expelled by the star to travel much faster and farther than it would have otherwise.

"This supernova remnant got really big, really fast," said Brian J. Williams, an astronomer at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Williams is lead author of a new study detailing the findings online in the *Astrophysical Journal*. "It's two to three times bigger than we would expect for a supernova that was witnessed exploding nearly 2,000 years ago. Now, we've been able to finally pinpoint the cause."

A new image of the supernova, known as RCW 86, is online at <http://go.nasa.gov/pnv6Oy>.

In 185 A.D., Chinese astronomers noted a "guest star" that mysteriously appeared in the sky and stayed for about 8 months. By the 1960s, scientists had determined that the mysterious object was the first documented supernova. Later, they pinpointed RCW 86 as a supernova remnant located about 8,000 light-years away. But a puzzle persisted. The star's spherical remains are larger than expected. If they could be seen in the sky today in infrared light, they'd take up more space than our full moon.

The solution arrived through new infrared observations made with Spitzer and WISE, and previous data

from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and the European Space Agency's XMM-Newton Observatory.

The findings reveal that the event is a "Type Ia" supernova, created by the relatively peaceful death of a star like our sun, which then shrank into a dense star called a white dwarf. The white dwarf is thought to have later blown up in a supernova after siphoning matter, or fuel, from a nearby star.

"A white dwarf is like a smoking cinder from a burnt-out fire," Williams said. "If you pour gasoline on it, it will explode."

The observations also show for the first time that a white dwarf can create a cavity around it before blowing up in a Type Ia event. A cavity would explain why the remains of RCW 86 are so big. When the explosion occurred, the ejected material would have traveled unimpeded by gas and dust and spread out quickly.

Spitzer and WISE allowed the team to measure the temperature of the dust making up the RCW 86 remnant at about minus 325 degrees Fahrenheit, or minus 200 degrees Celsius. They then calculated how much gas must be present within the remnant to heat the dust to those temperatures. The results point to a low-density environment for much of the life of the remnant, essentially a cavity.

Scientists initially suspected that RCW 86 was the result of a core-collapse supernova, the most powerful type of stellar blast. They had seen hints of a cavity around the remnant, and, at that time, such cavities were only associated with core-collapse supernovae. In those events, massive stars blow material away from them before they blow up, carving out holes around them.

But other evidence argued against a core-collapse supernova. X-ray data from Chandra and XMM-Newton indicated that the object consisted of high amounts of iron, a

telltale sign of a Type Ia blast. Together with the infrared observations, a picture of a Type Ia explosion into a cavity emerged.

"Modern astronomers unveiled one secret of a two-millennia-old cosmic mystery only to reveal another," said Bill Danchi, Spitzer and WISE program scientist at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "Now, with multiple observatories extending our senses in space, we can fully appreciate the remarkable physics behind this star's death throes, yet still be as in awe of the cosmos as the ancient astronomers."

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., manages the Spitzer Space Telescope mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington. Science operations are conducted at the Spitzer Science Center at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. Caltech manages JPL for NASA. For more information about Spitzer, visit <http://spitzer.caltech.edu> and <http://www.nasa.gov/spitzer>.

JPL manages, and operated, WISE for NASA's Science Mission Directorate. The spacecraft was put into hibernation mode after it scanned the entire sky twice, completing its main objectives. Edward Wright is the principal investigator and is at UCLA. The mission was selected competitively under NASA's Explorers Program managed by the agency's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. The science instrument was built by the Space Dynamics Laboratory in Logan. The spacecraft was built by Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. in Boulder, Colo. Science operations and data processing take place at the Infrared Processing and Analysis Center at Caltech. Caltech manages JPL for NASA. More information is online at <http://www.nasa.gov/wise> and <http://wise.astro.ucla.edu> and <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/wise>.



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## Upcoming Events

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**Nov 12 4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet**

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

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS**

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***THE WRIGHT STUFF***  
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