

THE WRIGHT STUFF



Vol XXIV ♦ No 4

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

Jul / Aug 2013





THE WRIGHT STUFF

Volume 24 - Number 4

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 © 2013 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

A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT	3
J.R. Fisher	
COMPUTER OPERATIONS REPORT	4
John Troan	
SECURITY REPORT	4
Spring Brooks	
<i>CURIOSITY</i> NEARING FIRST ANNIVERSARY ON MARS	6
NASA/JPL	
<i>SPITZER</i> DISCOVERS YOUNG STARS WITH A "HULA HOOP"	7
NASA/JPL	
NASA'S SLS COMPLETES PRELIMINARY DESIGN REVIEW	8
NASA	
TENTH PARACHUTE TEST FOR NASA'S ORION ADDS 10,000 FEET OF SUCCESS	9
NASA	
VOYAGER - "THE SEVEN"	10
Brad McDonald	
PUZZLE	13
U.S.S. Kitty Hawk Puzzle Book	
UPCOMING EVENTS	14



TOOL BOX: Dell E6530; 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

New color logo for the *Kitty Hawk*.

A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



August is the month that the ship goes into spacedock for our annual refit and upgrades, so the crew is on liberty until time to report back the first Saturday in September. Please be extra careful while you are planetside and report back ready for another year of adventure.

I want to thank all hands for their generous donations to Ms. Poole's classes that you brought to the last meeting in July. There may be an amended list in this *Wright Stuff* of still needed items. If not, anything from the earlier list is still appreciated. [Editor's note: a reprint of Sherry's request from June appears at the end of this month's Catbird.]

I don't believe any of our crew attended the IC this weekend, but I am sure to get lots of reports from some who did. I did watch the opening session on U-tube Friday evening.

There are going to be some changes in cost to renew for Starfleet. There has not been an increase in about 18 years. The new rates will reflect how you wish to receive the CQ, either electronically or printed. I will give you the final decision at the September meeting.

Have a good and safe August.

Esse Quam Videri

The needed items are more definitive this year because we will be receiving "0" supplies from school and/or the PTA.

The things needed are what you would imagine in order for a student to be able to complete various classes:

Middle school

- wide and college ruled notebook paper
- mechanical pencils and lead #7 and #9
- graph paper - small and larger grid
- construction paper
- large poster paper - mostly white but also other colors if on sale
- pencil pouches - these are always on sale somewhere
- erasers - for the ends of wooden pencils and the larger, pink erasers for the pouches
- 1- and 3-subject spiral notebooks

Elementary school

- wide notebook paper
- lined paper to practice learning how to write letters
- fat pencils for kindergartners' hands
- colored pencils
- washable markers - for drawing
- crayons
- any writing, math, science "learning" workbook you see... anywhere (The booklets I've been picking up are the size of coloring books, somewhat narrow) and have amply opportunities to practice their newly-learned skills.)
- I will need probably 4-5 smaller, brightly-colored, *happy* bookbags for the shoulders of K-3rd grade students...

Every student is going to have a portfolio this year so they can save their work and reflect on it at the end of each semester. I'm going to recycle manila folders, preferably the 3rd-cut. They can be cut apart and the back side with the tab be trimmed to the size of a sheet of notebook paper and 3-hole punched. This is going to be a *very* important part of everyone becoming organized this coming year, even my kindergartners! I wish someone had shown me how be better organized sooner! This will of course include everyone needing a black or white, insertable, 1" (elementary) / 1-1/2"-2" (middle school) 3-ring binder. I have rounded up 30 already and will need about 15 more.

Teacher wish-list:

- Kleenex, Kleenex, Kleenex
- Antibacterial hand sanitizer for my desk and other places in the classroom. (The kids already come in and automatically clean their hands. The younger students should not be too difficult to train this coming year.)
- Expo dry-erase markers of all colors, especially black
- Printer paper - 20# mostly but 22 and 24# also needed for special projects

Any one item is so enormously appreciated and needed. You are all so incredibly helpful in assisting these children as they become more academically successful... AND LEARN ENGLISH!!!

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

I'll start this month's musings with the first thing everyone saw when reading this month's edition -- the *Kitty Hawk's* full-color logo. I started with the image that Jane created from JR's hand-drawn original. After cleaning up all the lines, I added the fill colors and experimented to find the right shadings. The biggest challenge was getting the glossy finish on the communicator -- then I found the perfect solution through some Google searching. After combining all the pieces together, we now have the finished model of the new color logo. (The debut is on the *Wright Stuff* cover, but I'll be sending it to StarFleet and Region I for updating the *Kitty Hawk* listings on those web sites.)

The other big project out of Comp Ops is the on-line archive with all of the newsletters. All the issues have been posted to the

Kitty Hawk's web site -- www.jt-sw.com/kittyhawk -- and the chronological listings are complete. I'm still working through how to list the articles in a subject listings. The challenge is how to group all the features by subtopic.

In personal news, I've now completed the first two (of three) Red Hat system admin classes and passed the first (of two) certification tests. I have plans to take the third class and take the second test in September, but haven't yet gotten a confirmation that the class has enough enrolled for it to be held.

A friend of mine was reading the *Houston Chronicle* on-line and found an article he knew would interest me -- a *Trek* fan in the Houston area has purchased and financed the complete restoration of shuttlecraft *Galileo*. The restoration was done at a New

Jersey-based ship wright, but the new permanent home is in Space Center Houston. The [article in the Chron](#) isn't long, but the pics are great!

Wired magazine has [an article](#) about a group using the open source model to design an airplane. The goal is to have a standard design -- available for free -- for a home-built light sport aircraft (LSA) that can hopefully be built for under \$15K. There are already lots of plans for home-built planes, but they all have to be purchased and the planes are usually much more expensive to build. LSA's are light-weight planes -- with limited space, range, and speed -- that largely target pilots who don't want to go through the full training required for any bigger planes. (There is still FAA-mandated training for a sport pilot license.)

Security Report

By Spring Brooks

Where have all the burglars gone?

The rich world is seeing less and less crime, even in the face of high unemployment and economic stagnation.

In the 1990s John Dilulio, a conservative American academic, argued that a new breed of "superpredators", "kids that have absolutely no respect for human life and no sense of the future", would terrorize Americans almost indefinitely. Mr. Dilulio later recanted and it is clear that the pessimists were wrong. Even as he wrote, America's crime wave was

breaking. Its cities have become vastly safer, and the rest of the developed world has followed. From Japan to Estonia, property and people are now safer than at almost any time since the 1970s. Confounding expectations, the recession has not interrupted the downward trend. Even as America furiously debates the shooting of Trayvon Martin, new data show that the homicide rate for young Americans is at a 30-year low.

Some crimes have all but died out. Last year there were just 69 armed robberies of banks, building societies and post offices in England and

Wales, compared with 500 a year in the 1990s. In 1990 some 147,000 cars were stolen in New York. Last year fewer than 10,000 were. In the Netherlands and Switzerland street dealers and hustlers have been driven out of city centers; addicts there are now elderly men, often alcoholics, living in state hostels. In countries such as Lithuania and Poland the gangsters who trafficked people and drugs in the 1990s have moved into less violent activities such as fraud.

Conservatives who insisted that the decline of the traditional nuclear family and growing ethnic diversity would unleash an

unstoppable crime wave have been proved wrong. Left-wingers who argued that crime could never be curbed unless inequality was reduced look just as silly.

There is no single cause of the decline; rather, several have coincided. Western societies are growing older, and most crimes are committed by young men. Policing has improved greatly in recent decades, especially in big cities such as New York and London, with forces using computers to analyze the incidence of crime; in some parts of Manhattan this helped to reduce the robbery rate by over 95%.

The biggest factor may be simply that security measures have improved. Car immobilizers have killed joyriding; bulletproof screens, security guards and marked money have all but done for bank robbery. Alarms and DNA databases have increased the chance a burglar will be caught. At the same time, the rewards for burglary have fallen because electronic gizmos are so cheap. Even small shops now invest in CCTV cameras and security tags. Some crimes now look very risky—and that matters because, as every survey of criminals shows, the main deterrent to crime is the fear of being caught.

Loosen the cuffs

Many conservatives will think this list omits the main reason crime has declined: the far harsher prison sentences introduced on both sides of the Atlantic over the past two decades. One in every hundred American adults is now in prison. This has obviously had some effect—a young man in prison

cannot steal your car—but if tough prison sentences were the cause, crime would not be falling in the Netherlands and Germany, which have reduced their prison populations. New York's prison population has fallen by a quarter since 1999, yet its crime rate has dropped faster than that of many other cities.

Harsh punishments, and in particular long mandatory sentences for certain crimes, increasingly look counter-productive. American prisons are full of old men, many of whom are well past their criminal years, and non-violent drug users, who would be better off in treatment. In California, the pioneer of mandatory sentencing, more than a fifth of prisoners are over 50. To keep each one inside costs taxpayers \$47,000 a year. And because prison stresses punishment rather than rehabilitation, most of what remains of the crime problem is really a recidivism issue. In England and Wales, for example, the number of first-time offenders has fallen by 44% since 2007. The number with more than 15 convictions has risen.

Politicians seem to have grasped this. In America the number of new mandatory sentences enacted by Congress has fallen. Even in the Republican South, governors such as Rick Perry and Bobby Jindal have adopted policies favoring treatment over imprisonment for drug users. But more could be done to support people when they come out of prison.

Predictive policing, which employs data to try to anticipate crime, is particularly promising. A combination of officers talking

to the people of neighborhoods the police and targeting "hotspots" has reduced crimes. Example, the area around Canal Street in Manhattan has had the murder rate of 29 per 100,000 residents in 1990 drop to around 1.5 by 2009. This method seems to work in countries as different as Sweden to Trinidad

Some broad social changes have helped. Young people are increasingly sober, well-behaved, better educated and more are still living with their parents. In countries where wife-beating has become more stigmatized self-reported domestic violence has fallen. The end of crack-cocaine epidemic in the 1990s and explosion of heroin use in the 1980's has receded even through hard economic times are back.

The repopulation of inner cities is probably helpful. Gentrifiers set up neighborhood watches, clean-up streets and lobby politicians to take crime more seriously.

Not all crime is falling. Not all sexual offenses are reported. Bank fraud and identify theft has growth potential. Pick-pocking and shoplifting has increased. Hate crimes are on the rise due to scape-goating.

THE ECONOMIST (July 20, 2013)

