

THE WRIGHT STUFF



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Present Milky Way



Early Milky Way



THE WRIGHT STUFF

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Publisher J.R. Fisher
 Editor John Troan



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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

Artist renditions of the Milky Way now (top) and a possible view 11 billion years ago (bottom).

A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



The holidays are upon us and we are enjoying family and friends and great food. As you know, we were unable to get reservations at

the Peddler or the Texas Steakhouse, but Brad was able to pull off a small miracle and get us a room at the Crabtree Kanki. Dinner will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday the 14th of December. Hopefully you have called me and reserved a spot. Please be on time.

Because of the change in plans, we will not schedule a separate meeting for that afternoon, but will conduct our business immediately after dinner. If you are bringing items for our teacher's kids, you can bring them in, see us in the parking lot after

the dinner, or contact me for a separate pickup.

I have asked my family and friends with whom I usually exchange Christmas gifts to not do so this year. At this point in life, I really do not need another train, book, or *STAR TREK* ship to place on a shelf (or any flat surface) in my home. Instead, I am asking everyone to donate that money to a charity or purchase needed items for those less fortunate. In this particular case, the students we have been helping for the last several years. I hope that some of you will join me in this effort. I can assure you that it is equally satisfying.

At this time of year, any travel is dangerous, but especially if you have a long distance to drive. I ask that all of you take extra time on any journeys that you make and be sure that you reach your destination safely. We

really want to see everyone at the January meeting.

Our big event will be coming up in just a few months: UNC-TV's Festival. For the last few years we have been tremendously understaffed as a group even with help from the McDonalds and the ConTemporal group. Let's make a concerted effort to get our friends and maybe some of our former members back to the studio this year.

This issue of *The Wright Stuff* is intentionally short. I would like to see us start the new year off with a good issue filled with articles that you as members have written, not a press clip from NASA or some publication. If you read something of interest, summarize it and give us the link. This is our newsletter, so let's see what you have to say.

Esse Quam Videri

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

The *Kitty Hawk's* Computer Operations department is now working on a major upgrade in processing power for the ship's main computer. The two main cores are still running very smoothly, but the third core is now being completely replaced with a model that's comparable to the other two cores, but a newer model.

The translation of this is that I'm finally starting the process of retiring my ten-plus year old Pentium-IV system and replacing it with a new quadcore system. Combined with the other two quadcore systems, I'll have the capability to run possibly up to fifteen virtual servers -- more than I would've been able to had they all been physical systems.

A physical system is one you can put your hands on. A virtual system (or virtual machine) exists only as a file -- like a Word document, but very much bigger -- within a physical system. Companies have been running virtual machines (or VMs) for

a LOT of years. I started doing so when the required computer parts got cheap enough about five years ago.

After the new physical system is running, I'll start the intense work of rebuilding the web servers here -- including the *Kitty Hawk* web site -- with new (and free) software from Red Hat. The overall design recently changed and I'm also creating the third-generation look-and-feel for my football web site. The *Kitty Hawk's* web site will keep the same *Trek* look-and-feel that it has now.

This issue's front cover image is a recent NASA release from the *Hubble* program. Using *Hubble's* deep-sky surveys of how galaxies similar to the Milky Way have looked through the ages, astronomers have made been able to determine how the Milky Way has built up over time. The full article with additional images is at <http://hubblesite.org/news/2013/45>.

Another piece of NASA news that caught my eye was the conclusion of

the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services program -- their efforts in helping to get a viable U.S. commercial space industry for low-Earth orbit (and the space station). Both SpaceX and Orbital Sciences provide cargo capability from U.S. soil to the station, with SpaceX also able to provide safe-return capability from the station to Earth.

The next goal for commercial services is providing manned flights to and from the station. SpaceX plans to use the same cargo capsule, but upfitted for crew transport. (Their cargo capsule has a window because they're using the cargo flights as "test" flights of the eventual human-carrying rockets). Blue Origin and Boeing are also building new spacecraft for commercial service to the station.

Information on all of NASA's commercial space initiatives is at <http://www.nasa.gov/commercial> and <http://www.nasa.gov/commercialcrew>.

Thank You

We are within a couple of weeks of being at the midyear point in the school year, already! It's hard to believe and the students are really feeling the pressure to demonstrate the levels of learning required to pass their grade (and more importantly, be prepared for the end-of-grade tests!)

Collaboration is a 21st Century skill which is pushed very hard in schools now because advocates point out that more and more projects in the workplace are team efforts and people simply need to know how to work well with each other. This is difficult for certain groups of students because in order to be a functioning and valuable part of a team, there must be genuine turn-taking and listening. Due to language issues and a reticence to speak in front of others, they lose out on valuable feedback from their peers. As adults, we can appreciate the difficult process of developing a skill as difficult as collaboration.

Part of my job as an ESL teacher is to find ways for students to become more effective members of any academic group. I strongly feel the positive results of these interactions will transfer into their personal lives, which further supports their education. Your involvement, contributions, and continued interest in the lives of my specific group of students contributes enormously to this effort. You

allow me to be deliberate and intentional when I provide them your supplies to create their journals, portfolios, and products as evidence of what they've learned. They set goals and develop skills supported by your continued interest and generosity.

Thank you.

Supplies we will need for the upcoming semester will include the following:

- college ruled notebook paper
- white copy paper - 24#
- posterboard - different colors as well as white
- foam core (this is used mostly in Science for presentations)
- 4x6 and 5x7 notecards
- glitter glue from any craft store (I think Wal-Mart, Target, etc also carries this)
- quality glue sticks (otherwise it dries out and what has been affixed peels off after a week or so)
- foam letters with adhesive backing (multiple size letters, from small headings to large for titles)
- Multi colors of Sharpies
- \$10 gift cards from any of the craft stores - Michael's, AC Moore, JoAnn (or generic gift cards for students to use as a group to purchase their own needed supplies)
- Other - Anything you can think of which can be used in lieu of creating a computer based presentation such as

PowerPoint, Prezi, etc. Most of our students do not have access to computers at home and when they do, there are no printers to print out the material. I print what I can on my personal color printer at school from their technology use but it usually ends up on a poster of some sort for class presentations.

A very interesting point to remember is that most of my students struggle with creating anything on the computer because they have not had opportunities to take critical computer classes in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades; they are required to be in ESL class instead.

Again, thank you all. See you soon. I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family, loved ones, and friends.

Voyager - The Seven

By Brad McDonald

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. MINE

Janeway, Chakotay, Paris, Kim and Seven are present in the mine, walking towards their work post. Janeway spots an electronic device and points it out to Chakotay.

JANEWAY

Another type of sensor?

CHAKOTAY

Yes, but they're only in the main tunnels, not where we work.

JANEWAY

Then this is where we start. I want to disable several of these sensors and see who comes to repair them.

CHAKOTAY

At least we can confront our captors.

JANEWAY

Since it's my idea, and I may get a shock for my trouble, I'll take the first step.

She picks up a rock and takes aim.

PARIS

You really think you can--?

ANGLE ON SENSOR

She smiles at the challenge and throws. The rock hits dead center and a shower of sparks fall from it. She turns to face the others with a smile.

CHAKOTAY

Not bad. If we need a weapons specialist, you're hired.

Janeway looks around the mine.

KIM

Waiting for the shock?

SEVEN

It would appear none is coming.

PARIS

Shouldn't there be some sort of alarm? At least that annoying alien voice.

NEW ANGLE

Janeway turns back down the mine to face the others.

JANEWAY

Each of you, knock out one of the sensors. Maybe we can wake them up.

Kim, Paris and several N. D. CREW PERSONS comply and a few take several tries before succeeding. When there is no reaction from the aliens, the crew cheers. Janeway calms them down.

CHAKOTAY

Either they are on a break--

JANEWAY

(concluding)

Or there isn't anybody home.

PARIS

Is that possible? The whole planet, automated?

SEVEN

It would explain why we haven't seen anyone.

JANEWAY

If B'Elanna is right and the shields are deteriorating, then either we'll have to fix them or get back to Voyager before the radiation from the quad stars kills us all. Let's get out of here.

Everyone drops their tools and falls in step behind Janeway.

EXT. MINE ENTRANCE

As they exit, they notice the field workers heading towards them. Tuvok is in the lead, Torres is in the rear assisting the sick crew members with others.

CHAKOTAY

It would appear we're not the only one who found the flaw in the system.

Tuvok approaches the group.

TUVOK

I have sent runners to the other camps, they will be joining us shortly.

JANEWAY

Then none of the sensors are working?

TUVOK

Not exactly. It would appear that the ones monitoring the operational perimeter of the shielding are tied directly to the warning system. There is an active signal to each one, whether someone is monitoring them, I can not say.

Tuvok's group is now gathered around Janeway's group. B'Elanna approaches Janeway and Paris tends to the sick.

TORRES

Have you told her?

TUVOK

Not yet.

JANEWAY

Tell me what?

TORRES

The shields are failing. It's been a long time since anyone worked the mines. Evidently, this world has been operating on reserves for some time. Transporting us and the added burden of power demands is going to drain what's left very quickly. And forget the mines, it would take ten Voyager crews to make a difference in power production.

EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT

INT. RUNABOUT

Doctor is at the controls, scanning the horizon and looking at his instruments back and forth.

DOCTOR

Where are they? That shield is just too powerful to penetrate.

COMPUTER

Do you have a specific question?

An exasperated and desperate Doctor snaps back sarcastically.

DOCTOR

Yes, where is the Voyager crew?

COMPUTER

Voyager crew person Tuvok is located one one two mark two, five thousand, three hundred forty four yards.

A very surprised Doctor is caught off guard by both the response and information. He is very happy.

DOCTOR

Wonderful. Assume that heading at maximum safe speed.

EXT. PLANET SEVEN - SURFACE - OPEN FIELD - MID DAY

A very ill and visibly affected Tuvok is struggling to keep erect and moving. Periodically he taps his comm badge, activating the comm channel, but not speaking. Just as he falls to the ground, he is enveloped in a transporter beam.

INT. RUNABOUT

As Tuvok materializes, Doctor realizes he is injured and goes to him rendering assistance.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

The duplicate doctors are waiting impatiently.

DOCTOR 5

I believe our mentor has failed, again.

DOCTOR 7

On what do you base your assumption?

DOCTOR 5

Elapsed time, his failure to communicate with us, his demonstrated inability to command and take appropriate actions --

DOCTOR 7

Enough. What would you recommend?

DOCTOR 5

Firing weapons at the shields. We should be able to collapse them, they have been weakening steadily over the past few hours.

DOCTOR 6

Wouldn't that endanger the crew?

DOCTOR 7

Perhaps, but if the shields do deteriorate enough on their

own, the crew will be endangered anyway.

DOCTOR 5

Agreed, prepare the phasers and the photon torpedoes. We will commence as the target presents itself.

INT. RUNABOUT - AFT COMPARTMENT

Tuvok is laid out on a table. While the Doctor fusses over him, Tuvok becomes annoyed as he wishes to begin a rescue. However, he is too weak and disoriented.

TUVOK

I must return to --

DOCTOR

(interrupting, working)

You will remain still while I continue my work or you may never return to duty again. You have been exposed to nearly every type of radiation known to the medical profession.

TUVOK

The others... are in danger.

DOCTOR

Right now, I have just a limited time in which to treat you. Now be still!

PLANET SEVEN - WORK CAMP - COMMISSARY

The Voyager crew is busy tending to the increasing number of sick crew persons. Janeway is directing others to work details and assignments.

JANEWAY

Look for anything useful. Inform the rest of the crew, Harry. We need medical supplies first and foremost, then communications and whatever else we can find.

As Kim heads off, Torres and Seven step forward.

TORRES

What about the rest of us?

JANEWAY

Take Seven and your engineering personnel and try to find the control rooms or generators for this place. If you do find a native, I want to talk to them!

As Torres and Seven move off, Chakotay approaches.

CHAKOTAY

It's a lot worse than we thought. Tom is overwhelmed and there are more cases all the time. I'd like to know what happened to Tuvok.

JANEWAY

I'd like to know what happened to the Doctor and Voyager.

CHAKOTAY

Maybe the doctor is on the way.

JANEWAY

So Harry's optimism is contagious. I just hope it's not unfounded.

INT. RUNABOUT - AFT COMPARTMENT

The Doctor is still working on Tuvok.

TUVOK

Doctor, I am fine. We must begin --

DOCTOR

I am the doctor here and you are not fine or even reasonably well.

TUVOK

But the rest of the crew is in equal danger.

DOCTOR

Not to worry, my counterparts on Voyager will handle the situation.

Tuvok relaxes just a bit.

TUVOK

Then you were able to create the duplicate holo programs?

Doctor is confident and boastful.

DOCTOR

Actually, it was quite simple. I even managed to install basic skills into the duplicates from several specialty fields. Then, I --

A moving shadow is cast over the runabout, distracting the Doctor and Tuvok.

DOCTOR

It's Voyager. My crew is coming to assist me.

Tuvok sits up, he is visibly concerned, studying Voyager.

TUVOK

It would appear that Voyager is making an attacking run on the labor camp.

Tuvok pushes the Doctor out of the way and takes the pilot's seat.

DOCTOR

Wait, you're not ready to --

TUVOK

If Voyager attacks the camp, they will kill many of the crew.

Tuvok quickly activates the comm board.

TUVOK

(continuing)

Tuvok to Voyager. Break off your attack! Repeat, break off your attack, you're endangering the crew members. Acknowledge!

DOCTOR 5'S VOICE

Lt. Tuvok, are you well?

TUVOK

Reasonably. Have you discontinued your attack?

DOCTOR 5'S VOICE

Of course. What do you recommend?

EXT. PLANET SEVEN - LABOR CAMP - MID DAY

Janeway and others are attending to the sick when Seven approaches at a quick pace.

SEVEN

Captain. Lt. Torres has discovered a main computer complex. It controls the entire complex and a series of camps similar to our own.

Janeway gets up and faces Seven.

JANEWAY

Can we take control or get out a signal?

SEVEN

She is working on that now. We should have complete control in an hour.

Janeway is only mildly relieved.

JANEWAY

I'm not sure some of our people can wait that long. Take any other crew members you need to expedite the work.

Chakotay approaches the two from behind as Seven moves off.

CHAKOTAY

We've found the perimeter shield generator. It's failing and there is little we can do about it. I'd say we have less than an hour.

Janeway is struck by the statement and turns to look at the sick crew persons. Chakotay senses her concern.

CHAKOTAY

Maybe we should move everyone to the mines. They might be protected there.

JANEWAY

We won't be able to do anything to escape except wait for the shields fail. But it may buy more time for the more critical cases. Do it. Take all the help you need.

Just as Chakotay begins to move off, there is the sound of a transporter beam, O. C.

NEW ANGLE

Chakotay and Janeway turn to see Tuvok and Doctor.

JANEWAY

Tuvok! You're okay.

DOCTOR

I could give you an argument on that topic.

TUVOK

It is true, I'm less than well. However, our primary concern should concern leaving this place.

JANEWAY

I agree. How were you able to get through the shields?

TUVOK

A bit easier than it should be. We used a focused beam on a weak point in the shield. We must hurry, the shield is in eminent danger of collapse.

JANEWAY

The sick must go first. We have many more.

The doctor takes an interest and follows Janeway to the commissary pavilion.

DOCTOR

What type of illness --

He catches sight of all the ill crew members.

DOCTOR

(continuing)

Good gracious, this is horrible.

JANEWAY

Can you help them?

DOCTOR

I don't know. There are so many of them and they all need so much attention. I just don't know if I can save them all.

INT. VOYAGER - SICKBAY

Sickbay is overflowing with N.D. sick crew persons and the Doctor is running back and forth attempting to assist each one. He is frustrated and very worried. Janeway looks on as crew persons come and go.

DOCTOR

How can I hope to cure them all?

JANEWAY

Doctor? Aren't Voyager's facilities adequate?

DOCTOR

It's a matter of time, by the time I conduct triage on these people, others will die. Even with Mister Paris' assistance...

He leaves the statement unfinished and continues his work.

DOCTOR 5

Perhaps we can be of assistance.

Doctor turns to see his duplicates standing close by.

DOCTOR 3

As officers of the line, we were less than 'stellar'. However, we still retain some of our medical knowledge, correct?

Janeway steps closer to Doctor and speaks so others can't hear.

JANEWAY

I know they aren't exactly up to specs, but if they can help, why not?

The Doctor is hesitant, but agrees.

DOCTOR

Very well. Number Two will conduct the triage. Numbers three through six will assist with the treatment.

As the seven doctors go to work, Chakotay approaches Janeway.

CHAKOTAY

Captain? I have a final report on that planet.

Janeway continues to watch the doctors work as Chakotay reads findings from a tricorder.

CHAKOTAY
(continuing)

It seems the planet's inhabitants were aware of the danger from the quad stars and constructed a planet wide shield to protect them. As the stars danger increased, the power was increased too. Soon, the natives were incapable of providing enough power.

JANEWAY

So they 'drafted' help. That's what started the legends of haunted space.

CHAKOTAY

Exactly. The legends worked against them. Fewer aliens visited the sector and the power levels dropped. The native inhabitants all died long ago.

JANEWAY

The natives converted more and more of their systems to automated service as their numbers dwindled. We must turn them off so this won't happen again.

CHAKOTAY

Unnecessary. The shields are so weak now, that the planet's surface will be rendered useless within a few days.

He turns to watch the seven doctors in action.

CHAKOTAY

Will they make it?

JANEWAY

Time will tell.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER

Voyager is moving through space at warp speed.

INT. VOYAGER - CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Janeway is seated when her door chime sounds.

JANEWAY

Come!

Doctor enters, a bit more relaxed and confident.

DOCTOR

Good news. All the radiation sickness cases are improving. It appears they will recover.

Janeway is relieved by the news and smiles.

JANEWAY

Wonderful. And your 'brothers'?

DOCTOR

Since they were not totally reliable, I 'erased' them.

JANEWAY

Maybe they weren't completely a failure either. They did give us some assistance when we needed the most. Perhaps I could have Harry work on improving any future duplicates.

The Doctor looks worried.

DOCTOR

Not to replace me, I hope.

She smiles again.

JANEWAY

Never. I wouldn't want to be without you, no matter what the circumstances. Let's take a tour of sickbay, I need to talk to my people.

The two rise and exit the Ready Room.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

Answers to Last Month's Puzzles

ST:TOS Episode Names

1. Catspaw
2. Arena
3. The Conscience of the King
4. The Cage
5. The Menagerie
6. Tomorrow is Yesterday
7. Amok Time
8. What are Little Girls Made Of?
9. The Apple
10. A Private Little War
11. Journey to Babel
12. The Naked Time
13. The Enemy Within
14. City on the Edge of Forever

ST:TOS Planetary Classifications

1. J
2. C
3. M
4. I
5. K
6. A
7. B
8. L
9. F
10. G
11. N
12. D
13. E
14. H

Puzzle - ST:TNG Universal Translator Word Search

From U.S.S. Kitty Hawk Puzzle Book



Words can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards, and/or forwards, and always in a straight line. Spaces and punctuation aren't included.

ANALYSIS
 COMMUNICATOR
 COMPUTERS
 CONTEXTUAL
 CULTURAL
 DATABASE
 FOREIGN
 FORM
 GENERATION

GRAMMAR
 KINESTHETIC
 LINGUISTIC
 MATRIX
 MODULATION
 PATTERN
 REFERENTS
 SOCIOLOGIC
 SYMBOL

SYNTAX
 SYNTHESIS
 TRANSLATED LANGUAGE
 TRANSLATION
 UNKNOWN LANGUAGE
 USAGE DATA
 VOCABULARY
 XENO

Upcoming Events

Dec	14	6 p.m. Anniversary Dinner, Crabtree Kanki (See JR's article for details)
Jan	4	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet
	31	Articles due for Jan/Feb 2014 <i>Wright Stuff</i>

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

THE WRIGHT STUFF
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