

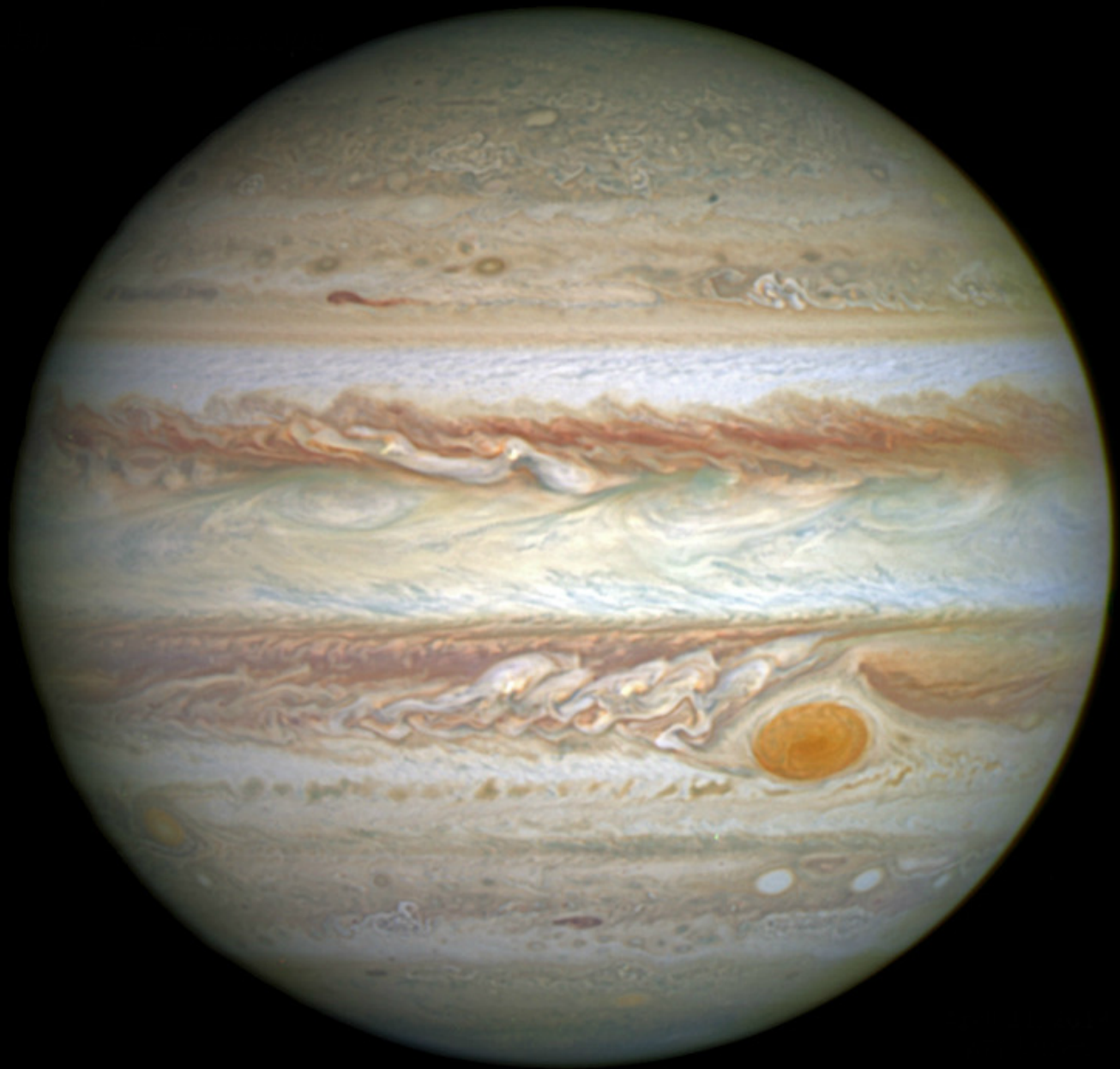
# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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# THE WRIGHT STUFF

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



## CONTENTS

A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT .....	3
J.R. Fisher	
SCIENCE REPORT .....	3
Elaine Pischke	
COMPUTER OPERATIONS REPORT .....	4
John Troan	
<i>STAR TREK</i> ON-LINE GAMING .....	5
Larry Cox	
ORIGINAL SERIES - <i>STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT</i> .....	6
Brad McDonald	
UPCOMING EVENTS .....	10



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

### IMAGE - Featured Front Page

Jupiter with its Great Red Spot, as taken by *Hubble Space Telescope*. From NASA/ESA.

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## A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

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It is interesting how events shape us and everything we do. After returning from

CoastCon in March and seeing what the relatively new ships are doing in that region, I feel like we should be doing so much more as a *Star Trek* club. Sure, we have gone to all the sites within driving distance in the past and sometimes several times.

Our opportunities to do telethons have somewhat dried up due to corporate sponsorship, but we don't participate in the numbers which garnered the respect we once commanded. Our attempt to do a radio show was torpedoed by politics and we don't have the numbers to take on large construction projects.

So what do we do? This is the question before us. First, I would encourage all of you to write articles for *The Wright Stuff*, not because you are required to do so, but because you want to share information or views with your ship members.

Do you have a uniform? (One you can get into?) I think we all should look into acquiring a uniform that we can afford. Do any of you know of a seamstress or family member who would like to help out with this? Maybe just for you, not the entire crew. Let's look

around and see what we can find.

At the last meeting we asked these questions and decided to start over with what seems to work. At the next two meetings, Brad is going to bring in the scripts from the attempted radio play and we will begin recording them with the idea that by August we might find someone who has the recording equipment and know-how to redo the show. We will meet an hour earlier (3:00 pm) in June and July to encourage those who don't like to drive after dark to participate. Remember that the June meeting has been changed to the 14th and the July meeting is July 5th as scheduled. We will choose roles and do a couple of reads to establish a rhythm. Hopefully, by sometime in August we could attempt another recording session.

Obviously, some parts would require separate times according to actor's availability and recording location.

Anyway, we hope this will jump start our group and get us active again. I know we don't have a lot of cons in this area anymore but maybe we could attend some of the closer ones and begin to recruit once more.

Dinners, parties, cookouts; we should start socializing more. We are open to all suggestions.

We still have the *Wright Stuff*. Let's get going again.

*Esse Quam Videri*

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## Science Report

By Elaine Pichke

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[Editor's note: This was supposed to run in the previous Wright Stuff, but somehow disappeared between my Inbox and the list of articles for that issue.]

Sometimes I really wish I understood physics a lot more, which is to say, more than just a tiny bit. Apparently today is a really big day in science, and I'd like to explain it, but I can't. So here it is, in case you haven't heard. A team of scientists from Harvard have direct evidence of cosmic inflation right after the big bang. Astronomers discovered a twist of light called primordial B-mode polarization. This refers to the swirling effect that enormous gravitation waves had on photons that escaped from the Big Bang and serves as proof that those gravitational waves actually exist. Einstein predicted this in 1916 and scientists have been looking for the proof ever since. So, basically, it confirms that the big bang theory is correct.

Climatologists at the University of California – Riverside have confirmed that the region of the world known as the tropics is widening and has been for decades. The tropical belt has been known to widen and contract in the past, but this widening seems to be driven not only by sea surface temperature variability in the Pacific Ocean, but also by human-made pollution. A widening of the tropics is likely to result in some normally dry areas, such as the Mediterranean, the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, southern Australia, southern Africa, and parts of South America experiencing even dryer than

normal conditions, and may bring increased moisture to other areas.

On a more personal note, as we approach the graduation of our last child from high school, I wanted to brag a little. Galen has been keeping busy. He has earned the rank of Life Scout in the Boy Scouts. This weekend he is participating in the North Carolina Youth Legislative Assembly, a mock General Assembly for high school students from across the state. This will be his third year as a member of the leadership team, serving as a Co-Chair of the Science and Technology Committee. Before that he was a delegate for two years, and before that he was a page for three years. This year he received the Sud-Freemark Award of Service. This award is given to members of the Leadership Team who have participated in YLA for four years and served on the Leadership Team as Co-Chair or Tri-Speaker three years. Galen was also awarded the Richard White Leadership Award. This award is given to the senior-ranking members of the YLA Leadership Team who demonstrate strong leadership and organizational skills. (Obviously, they have not seen his room!) Galen has been accepted to the Savannah College of Art and Design, where he is planning to study Interactive Design and Game Development. Also, Graeme is finishing his second year at UNC School of the Arts. He will be spending his summer working for the Environmental Assistance Center, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as an intern through the North Carolina State Government Internship Program.

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# Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

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First thing from me this month are apologies to Elaine and Larry C. for somehow misplacing their articles for the March/April *Wright Stuff*.

Comp Ops has been hopping busy again this month. Brad and I are looking at the tech options for doing the script recordings. During a brief phone call, he mentioned something that got me Googling -- and led to the discovery of a small gold mine of *Trek* sound effects.

I've also been working through the early stages of converting the data as I change the web server software. The *Kitty Hawk's* web pages will be reasonably easy since they'll look pretty much the same as they do now. The challenge has been defining the new look for my football site.

Cutting into that effort is the time I need to work on the [Fedora Project](#). Fedora is a completely free version of Linux that is backed by Red Hat (based in Raleigh). Several Red Hat employees form the core of the Fedora group and the rest of the people are largely volunteers from around the world. I decided to join the infrastructure team, which keeps all of the Fedora Project servers running. I've become an apprentice system admin and have just found a project that I can help with -- diagramming and documenting what the massive collection of servers looks like and how the pieces fit together. (I couldn't find this information when I first joined and my team lead thought this was a great idea when I asked him about doing it.)

This month's cover image relates to a recent NASA press release that [Jupiter's Great Red Spot has been shrinking](#) -- and the

shrink rate has been getting faster in the last couple of years.

As I write this, the latest [SpaceX Dragon cargo capsule is about to return](#) after a month-long visit to the space station. It's scheduled to splashdown in the far eastern Pacific Ocean (close to North America) on May 18. The Dragons are still the only way to get large amounts of cargo safely back to Earth. (Russia's Soyuz capsules don't have enough room to bring back a lot of cargo with the crew rotations.)

Speaking of a space station crew rotation, the [latest group of three have just returned](#) after their six-month stay on the station. This group was very multinational, with an American, a Russian, and a Japanese -- who was the station commander for his last three months on board.

The station has a crew of six, with people serving staggered six-month rotations in groups of three -- the capacity of each of the two Soyuz capsules normally docked to the station. Each group of three has someone designated as the next station commander when the current one rotates off the station, which (presumably) gives that "next" commander three months to settle in before his/her three-month rotation as the station commander.

NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) is getting ready for [a new research experiment](#). The Low-Density Supersonic Decelerator (LDSD) is designed to be taken up to 180,000 feet (about 34 miles) by balloon, then rocket, to simulate both reentry to Earth of large payloads and entry into the Martian atmosphere. We'll get more details in [the upcoming briefing](#) in early June.

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# Star Trek On-Line Gaming

By Larry Cox

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*[Editor's note: This was supposed to run in the previous Wright Stuff, but somehow disappeared between my Inbox and the list of articles for that issue.]*

STO has just had its 4th anniversary. To celebrate, "Q" arranged special activities for all players. These happen several times a year for different occasions; winter festival, summer holiday, etc. During these events players compete for special prizes offered only during the event, usually just fun and frivolous items to commemorate the event. This year's anniversary prize was a "party noise maker". Lighthearted fun to add something different to the game world.

When beginning a new character a player has an option on the species they want

to play; human, Vulcan, Andorian, Tellarite or others; and an alliance; Federation, Klingon or Romulan (I have one of each) As with most on-line games a player has lots of options to customize their avatar's appearance; from male/female, height, over-all size, facial features, etc.

The chosen alliance will determine several factors for game play; location the player begins the game; Earth Space Station, Qo'noS, or New Romulas (as in the reboot film, the original Romulas has been destroyed): the type of uniform that can be worn; type of ships available; and some other alliance specific options. Uniforms are also customizable. Most of my uniform selections have been with my Starfleet character, Joshua H. Nelson (heroic, uh?).

Options include different styles, colors and other details, even down to the collar pips, denoting Starfleet rank. I have a standard First Contact movie style uniform as well as my "fleet" uniform, an "Ambassador's tunic" uniform and a couple of off-duty outfits. My Klingon and Romulan characters aren't utilized as much as my Starfleet so they still have only the standard issue uniforms. (Plus I'm not as familiar with their varieties as I am Starfleet). Some of the Starfleet options are TOS, Wrath of Khan, TNG, DS9, and Voyager, among others; many many options available.

*Below: Capt. Joshua H. Nelson, returning to Starfleet Academy, San Francisco, Earth.*



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# Original Series - *Star Light, Star Bright*

By Brad McDonald

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(continuing Act II from Mar/Apr)

INT. ROMULAN SHIP – BIOLOGY  
LAB – WIDE ANGLE

*Sulu is checking the lab records as Chekov enters from behind, unseen.*

CHEKOV

*Didn't you get Spock's recall? We're transporting back, Doctor McCoy says the ship needs to be decontaminated because of a virus.*

*Sulu reacts visibly and becomes excited.*

SULU

(off console)

*Look at this! It's a biological research project.*

CHEKOV

You sure?

SULU

I'm no expert but my interest in biology tells me I'm right. Let's download these records before we leave, they might help Dr. McCoy.

Sulu's communicator sounds and he opens it.

SULU

Sulu here!

SPOCK (V.O.)

Mr. Sulu and Mr. Chekov, you need to transport back to Enterprise.

SULU

Understood, sir. I believe I have information on the virus.

CLOSE ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Well done. Transport as soon as you can.

SULU (V.O.)

Leaving now, sir.

Spock reactivates his communicator.

SPOCK

Mr. Conner, we need to effect transport immediately.

CONNER (V.O.)

Sir, there's something that you need to see on the hanger deck.

Spock's eyebrow arches.

ROMULAN SHUTTLEBAY – TWO  
SHOT – SPOCK AND CONNER

Conner is indicating a device.

CONNER

This sir. It looks alien; I mean it's not Romulan. From what I can gather, it was a probe or similar device.

SPOCK

I concur. The Romulan's brought it aboard to investigate it.

SPOCK

There is no indication of this activity in the main computer.

CONNER

Classified work, sir?

SPOCK

Evidently. Bring the probe for further analysis. Again, good work Ensign.

Spock continues to take readings.

ON CONNER – CAMERA  
FOLLOWS ACTION

He moves to pick up the probe but it's too heavy. He rearranges his tricorder and tries again. He picks it up but his communicator is knocked to the floor.

SPOCK (V.O.)

Ready to transport, Ensign?

CONNER

Aye, Sir!

NEW ANGLE

Spock and Conner disappear in the transporter effect. The communicator is still on the floor.

INT. ENTERPRISE – MAIN  
TRANSPORTER ROOM - TWO  
SHOT SPOCK AND CONNER

Spock and Conner appear with the probe. They fade in and out several times before materializing.

SPOCK

Mr. Kyle, is there something wrong with the transporters?

WIDE ANGLE

McCoy is standing next to Kyle, irritated and emotional.

MCCOY

I'll say, my atoms were nearly lost in that... thing!

Spock and Conner step off the platform and join McCoy and Kyle. McCoy indicates the transporter.

MCCOY

(continued)

Spock, have a look at this thing, is it supposed to do that?

KYLE  
Mr. Spock, I was just explaining—

MCCOY  
(interrupting)

I know how the damned thing is supposed to work.

Spock turns to Conner.

SPOCK  
(to Conner)

Take the probe to the lab and join Mr. Sulu while I assist Mr. Kyle.

CONNER  
(amused)

Aye, Sir.

Conner exits with the probe.

THREE SHOT – SPOCK, MCCOY AND KYLE

KYLE

Mr. Spock, please tell the doctor why I had—

MCCOY  
(interrupting)

You had a problem with my atoms, not to mention Conner's and Spock's. Let's get Mr. Scott up here to give this thing the once over, now!

SPOCK

Doctor, if you will calm down for a moment, I will explain. It was my fault and yours.

McCoy is surprised by Spock's comment and is now more subdued.

MCCOY  
Our fault? How?

ON SPOCK

Spock attempts to calm McCoy.

SPOCK

Remember your own words, "This is a very nasty bug." Therefore I

instructed the captain to maximize the transporter decontamination process to prevent our contracting and spreading the "bug", whatever it is.

AS BEFORE – THREE SHOT – MCCOY, SPOCK AND KYLE

McCoy is silent and Kyle seems more relaxed.

KYLE

I tried to tell him, Mr. Spock. It took three passes before the scanners showed all clear.

SPOCK

You did a through and commendable job Mr. Kyle. Thank you.

Kyle looks satisfied.

MCCOY

I suppose so, but I still think Scotty should take a look at it.

Spock is exasperated but concedes.

SPOCK

Very well. Mr. Kyle, inform the chief engineer the our ship's surgeon wishes a transporter checkup.

(to McCoy)

Will that be satisfactory doctor?

MCCOY  
(quietly)

Yes.

BIOLAB – WIDE ANGLE

Present are Spock, McCoy, Sulu and Conner. They are examining the probe and reviewing tricorder readings.

MCCOY

(indicating probe)

From what I can gather, this thing could be anything from an attempt to

communicate by biological means to someone's garbage.

SPOCK

Essentially correct. However, what we need to ascertain is if we can effectively decontaminate the Romulan ship.

CONNER

If the transporters were capable of neutralizing the danger, can't we duplicate the process on the Romulan ship?

MCCOY

Not practical; what we need is a biological countermeasure. I'll start by evaluating what the Romulans tried. No sense in duplicating their efforts.

SPOCK

Logical, since their work was ineffective.

SULU

I thought the Romulans were more concerned with using it as a weapon.

MCCOY

Spock?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Based on my early investigations, that is correct. Mister Sulu and Mister Conner evaluate the Romulan weapons approach as it may still provide some useful information. Meanwhile Doctor McCoy and I shall work at providing a means of neutralizing the contaminant.

AS BEFORE – WIDE ANGLE

MCCOY

Agreed. I'm going to my lab and begin work with my staff. Sulu, keep in touch.

SULU

(nodding)

Aye Sir. You'll get a regular report every thirty minutes.

SPOCK

Feel free to use any facility or personnel to expedite your work. I shall report to the captain.

Spock and McCoy exit, Sulu and Conner move to the probe.

TWO SHOT – SULU AND CONNER

SULU

Okay, where do we start, Conner?

CONNER

I'd like to translate all of the Romulan data, any suggestions?

SULU

Uhura! She's a wizard with all languages. Let's get her working on it while we analyze the probe.

CONNER

Sounds like a plan!

Conner reaches for his communicator and can't find it. Sulu notices his search.

SULU

You lose something?

CONNER

Yes, my communicator.

SULU

Where did you have it last?

CONNER

(shocked)

The Romulan ship, where I found the probe!

Sulu begins to tease Conner.

SULU

Uh oh, you know Spock...

CONNER

No, I don't. What's wrong?

ON SULU

He continues the teasing, playfully.

SULU

He's going to want an accounting of missing equipment. Also, if we're forced to return the ship, we don't want any evidence that we were aboard. Not to mention the ramifications of the Romulan's acquiring Federation technology.

AS BEFORE – TWO SHOT

CONNER

(confused)

All that over a communicator?

SULU

The emergency recall circuit could be used to put a Romulan agent on a starship.

Conner is stunned by Sulu's statement.

CONNER

I never thought of that.

Sulu smiles and lets Conner off the hook.

SULU

Don't worry, we'll get it back when we take the Romulan ship.

Conner doesn't look convinced and Sulu laughs.

SULU

(continued)

Just call Uhura on the intercom.

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

Spock exits the turbolift and goes to Captain Kirk. The bridge is quiet with many N.D. crewmembers.

SPOCK

(moving)

Captain?

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

Kirk turns to greet Spock cheerfully.

KIRK

(smiling)

Spock; what's the word?

SPOCK

The 'word' sir?

Kirk understands the confusion.

KIRK

Your report?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Yes, of course, sir. We have two teams working on the problem, but many crewmembers will be assisting in a variety of means.

KIRK (V.O.)

Chances of success?

SPOCK

Better than 50/50, however, it is difficult to be precise with so many variables.

ON KIRK

KIRK

I'm going to add another variable, time. We need to resolve this soon. Enterprise is vulnerable; a cloaked ship could pop up anytime. I'd like to get out of here, with or without the Romulan ship.

SPOCK (V.O.)

Understood, captain.



BIOLAB – WIDE ANGLE

Uhura, Sulu, Chekov and Conner are working on the probe using tricorders and ship's computers, several N.D. crewpersons are assisting.

UHURA

Looks like the Romulans disregarded the initial symptoms; too focused on the acquisition of weapons.

CHEKOV

The probe was not a weapon as it has no release / dispersal mechanism.

CONNER

So it was someone's trash.

CHEKOV

How good are the Romulan records?

UHURA

From what I can decipher, they were surprised by the rapid spread of disease and it attacked victims differently.

SULU

Better forward that to Dr. McCoy.

Chekov enters the data in the console; looks at Sulu.

CHEKOV

What's wrong?

SULU

I'm beginning to think we're not going to beat this bug.

CONNER

You mean we won't take the Romulan ship back home?

UHURA

It would seem the wisest choice.

CONNER

Uh oh!

UHURA/CHEKOV  
What?

SULU

Mr. Conner left a 'souvenir' on the Romulan ship.

Uhura and Chekov look at Conner for an explanation.

CONNER

My communicator.

CHEKOV

Uh oh is right.

UHURA

Well don't worry too much. I heard the brig isn't too bad.

Uhura, Sulu and Chekov exchange glances and smile.

SULU

Time to update Spock.

Sulu, Uhura and Chekov exit still smiling.

TRANSPORTER ROOM – WIDE ANGLE

The room is empty but systems are on standby. Conner enters and goes to the control panel.

CLOSE ON CONNER

CONNER

(to self)

Can't go over or I'll get into even more trouble.

(thoughtful)

I know!

NEW ANGLE – CONNER AND CONSOLE

Conner operates the controls. As the transporter effect begins, a warning light glows.

CONNER

(to self)

Oh yes, decontaminate.

CLOSE ON TRANSPORTER PAD

The communicator appears.

WIDE ANGLE

Conner rushes up to the transporter as the ship's intercom sounds.

SULU (V.O.)

Ensign Conner, report to the biolab, on the double.

Conner picks up the communicator and rushes to exit, placing the communicator on a rack by the door, but it doesn't go in all the way.

CLOSE ON CONTROL BOARD

The warning light comes on again.

ON TRANSPORTER ROOM ENTRY DOORS

The doors open as Conner exits at a clip and then close again. In a few beats Kyle enters and notices the communicator out of place. He straightens it and begins to inventory shore party equipment.

CLOSE ON TRANSPORTER CONTROL PANEL

Warning light blinks several more times, then stops.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

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## Upcoming Events

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**\*\*\*\* Note the Meeting Date & Time Changes \*\*\*\***

<b>Jun</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet</b>
<b>Jul</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3 p.m. Ship Meeting, Cookout Follows 707 Madison Avenue, Cary, NC (<a href="#">directions</a>)</b>
	<b>19</b>	<b>Articles due for Jul/Aug <i>Wright Stuff</i></b>

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

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***THE WRIGHT STUFF***  
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