

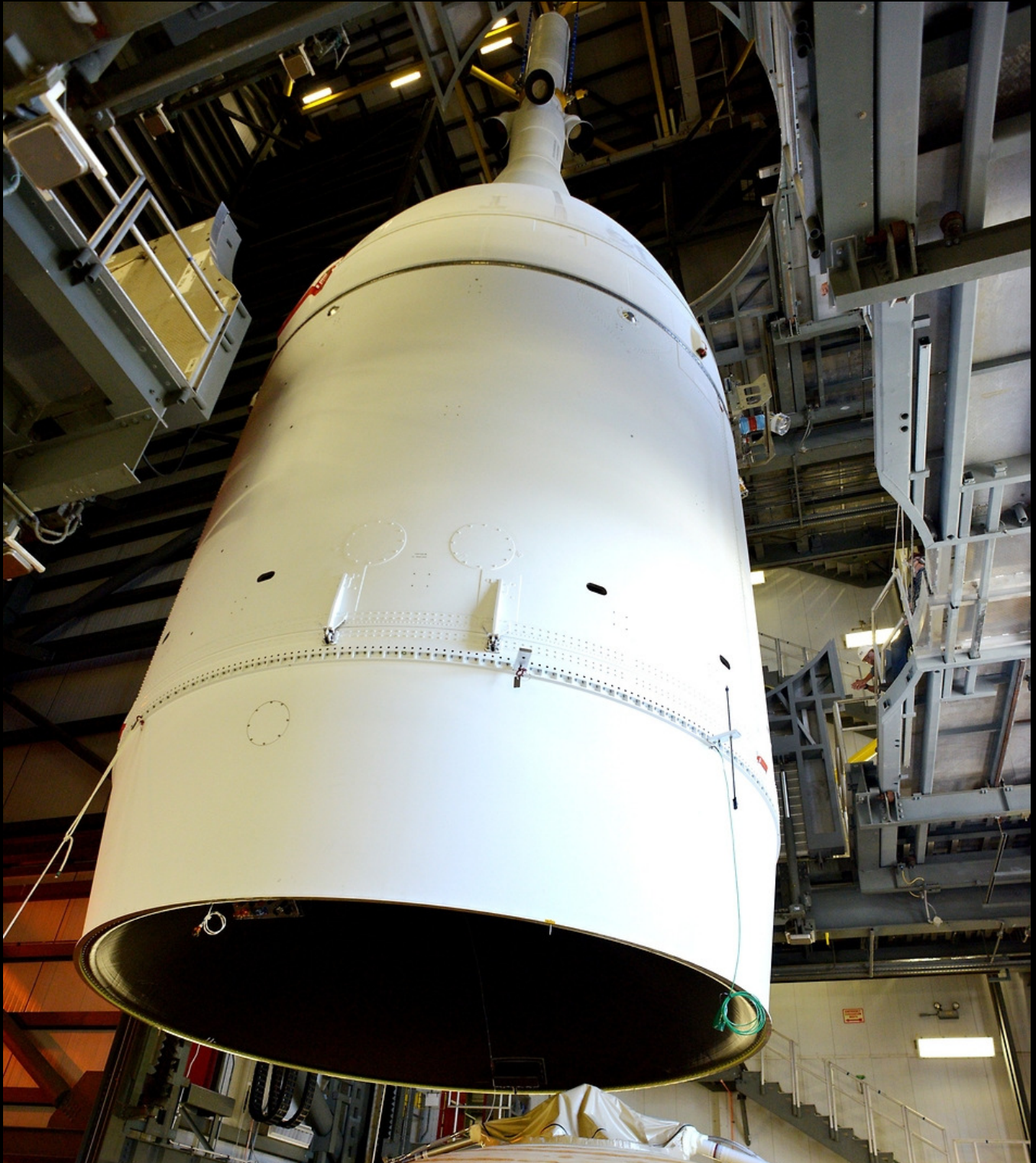
# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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# THE WRIGHT STUFF

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## CONTENTS

A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT .....	3
J.R. Fisher	
COMPUTER OPERATIONS REPORT .....	3
John Troan	
ORIGINAL SERIES - <i>STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT</i> .....	4
Brad McDonald	
UPCOMING EVENTS .....	7



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**IMAGE - Featured Front Page**

The Otion capsule being stacked on top of its Delta IV Heavy lift rocket in preparation for its December 4 test launch. From [NASA.gov](http://NASA.gov).

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# A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

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Thursday, November 20: two great things happened today. I got to visit Sherry at Duke Hospital for the first time and was very impressed with her appearance as well as the medical reports. Then just before noon, she called me to say that her blood work and other responders to the chemo were so good that they were sending her home for two weeks! Thank all of you for all of your prayers! What a wonderful report and news!

She will have to follow a very strict regimen of rest, PT, and medication, but she is going to be able to rest in her own bed in her own house until the next round of chemo. She is still going to have restricted visitation so please don't drop in or call. She will keep us up-to-date on her condition and progress which I will forward to John to post to all. Keep those prayers coming!

At the last meeting we decided to postpone our annual holiday/-anniversary dinner from the normal date of December 17th until January when things have

calmed down. We have not set a date but will probably be mid-to-late January on a Saturday evening. More conversation at the next meeting on December 6.

Check out [the photos from the Crystal Coast Con at our web site](#). Let's hope we can have an even larger presence at the next one.

The holidays are here so we want to wish everyone the best of all the seasons and ask that each of you be especially careful when driving.

Hope to see you all soon.

*Esse Quam Videri*

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## Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

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First, a hearty welcome to our new subscribers who signed up at Crystal Coast Con. If you haven't done so already, browse through the [newsletter archive](#) portion of our [on-line media archive](#).

Comp Ops had a major problem to deal with recently -- complete failure of one of the computer cores. After replacing the faulty storage modules, it took a full system rebuild was needed. Fortunately, all systems are now functioning nominally.

Now that I've figured out how to carve out time to work on our first podcast (radio play), it's now coming along quite nicely. Act I has been rough-cut and needs mostly polishing before it gets posted to the [download page](#).

Brad and I are already getting the second podcast script ready for recording at least parts of the dialog over Christmas while some of the crew is in town during the holidays. We'll have copies of the script at the December meeting

and we can begin to see who wants to read which part(s). Several of the parts are small enough that some people can read multiple parts that are scattered across different scenes. I've already "volunteered" Brad for the character I think he's best suited for -- and not the narrator this time around.

The front cover of this issue shows the Orion capsule being stacked on a Delta IV Heavy rocket at Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex 37. [Launch for this first test flight](#) is scheduled for a week after Thanksgiving, with a 7:05 am ET liftoff. The launch window -- the period of time during which the launch can occur in -- is a couple hours long, so there's plenty of time for a (short) delay if a small glitch crops up. The flight is scheduled to go about 4.5 hours and ends with a Pacific Ocean splashdown well away from the San Diego coast. NASA has [posted the "Trial by Fire" video](#)

that shows a lot of what the test flight will involve.

A couple of weeks after that is the fifth contracted [SpaceX cargo mission](#) to the space station (and sixth mission overall), which will deliver almost two tons of experiments, technology demonstrations, and general supplies.

NASA has recently released [a new version of Jupiter's Europa](#). They still used the original images from the *Galileo* mission in the late 1990s, but have used more modern image processing to create this new version.

On Mars, *Curiosity* [is continuing its research of the lower terrain around Mount Sharp](#), focusing on the first rock outcrop it encountered upon reaching Mount Sharp. *Curiosity* performed an initial survey of the area and is now conducting a more detailed examination of some of the rocks to determine which ones will be drilled into during the third pass.

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# Original Series - *Star Light, Star Bright*

By Brad McDonald

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[Editor's note: the first five parts of this story were printed in the other 2014 newsletters, which are all available in our [on-line archive](#).]

(continuing Act IV from Sep/Oct)

KIRK

.....In the meantime, the Romulan vessel is a plague ship and will be destroyed.

MCCOY (V.O.)

Right now, Enterprise is a plague ship, too.

Kirk is struck by McCoy's words.

Off his reaction...

ENGINEERING - WIDE ANGLE

There is moderate activity, several N.D. Crewpersons are working in B.G. and several seem weak. KEVIN RILEY enters and works at the main control board.

RILEY

(to crewpersons)

All systems nominal. We have a slight drop off in warp drive. Let's get that back to 100 per cent.

KIRK (V.O.)

Engineering; status.

Riley moves to the intercom and tabs the button.

ON RILEY

RILEY

Lt. Riley here, sir. Impulse at 100 per cent; warp drive at 90 per cent

but we're working on that now.

KIRK (V.O.)

Status of personnel?

RILEY

I can always use more hands, but we can manage for now, sir.

KIRK (V.O.)

Any more... casualties?

RILEY

Yes, sir, and a few more look weak.

BRIDGE – ON KIRK

KIRK

Understood, mister. Carry on, bridge out.

Frustrated, he slams his fist on his chair's comm board control.

KIRK

(to Spock)

That seems to be the case ship-wide Spock.

SPOCK (V.O.)

Reports for sick call are over fifty per cent of the crew, sir.

Kirk is deep in thought, then jumps up, moving to Spock's position.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

KIRK

(moving)

That's it Spock! We head for Starbase 121, maybe they can help. In any case, our waiting here is pointless. If an

invasion did come, we're in no position to do anything about it.

SPOCK

Logical Captain. Do you wish to inform Starfleet of our intentions?

KIRK

Affirmative, Spock. Navigator, lay in a course for Starbase 121. Helmsman, prepare to get underway.

ON HELMSMAN AND NAVIGATOR

NAVIGATOR/HELMSMAN

Aye Sir!

They both set controls quickly as Kirk approaches.

WIDE ANGLE

NAVIGATOR

Course plotted and laid in, sir.

HELMSMAN

Engines show ready, sir, all speeds through warp drive.

KIRK

Very well, ahead warp six, more if engineering will allow it, helm.

Spock returns to Kirk's side.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

KIRK

Now, if our luck will hold out...

SPOCK  
Really? What luck  
would that be, sir? So  
far I'd say our luck has  
been less than...  
enviable.

KIRK  
(quietly to self)  
Point taken, Mister  
Spock.

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE  
IS MOVING AT WARP SPEED

INT. SICKBAY – WIDE ANGLE

It's very crowded and busy.  
There are sick people  
everywhere. N.D. medical staff  
are rushing about taking scans  
and administering aide.

NEW ANGLE

McCoy is seen moving slowly,  
checking staff and patients  
when Kirk enters. Kirk is weak  
and shocked by what he sees.  
He moves toward McCoy.

KIRK  
(moving)  
Bones?

Close to McCoy he sees that  
his friend is very ill and fading  
quickly.

MCCOY  
Yes, Jim?

KIRK  
Are you... well?

MCCOY  
Hardly -- how about you?

KIRK  
That's why I'm here. I  
feel awful; dizzy spells,  
nausea and I can't focus.  
I may have to turn

command over to Spock,  
he seems fine.

McCoy turns to face Kirk.

ON MCCOY

MCCOY  
This thing went through  
the Romulans in a  
matter of days. Vulcans  
and Romulans are very  
close in medical terms,  
so why is our first officer  
doing so well?

KIRK (V.O.)  
His human half?

MCCOY  
That's what I thought. I  
even tried a line of  
research in that  
direction.

KIRK (V.O.)  
And?

MCCOY  
Dead end... if you'll  
pardon the expression.  
We even took into  
account that the original  
pathogen went through  
the decontamination  
process, possibly  
mutating it.

KIRK (V.O.)  
Still no luck?

MCCOY  
Some mysteries are  
never solved.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND  
MCCOY

KIRK  
We don't get all the  
answers all the time,  
Bones.

MCCOY  
Yes, but they don't  
usually kill us.

(beat)  
As for your situation, I  
can't do anything. Better  
let Spock take  
command. Eventually  
it'll catch up with him,  
too.

KIRK  
There's still hope. At our  
current speed, we'll be at  
Star Base 121 in ten  
hours.

MCCOY  
That may be too late,  
Jim.

Off Kirk's reaction...

BRIDGE – ON SPOCK

Spock is seated in the captain's  
chair.

HELMSMAN  
Sir. Speed is dropping off.

Spock tabs the intercom button  
on the chair.

SPOCK  
Bridge to engineering,  
report.

He waits a few beats, stands up  
and moves to the upper level,  
then:

SPOCK  
(continued)  
Miss Uhura, you have  
the conn. Inform the  
Captain where I am.

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

UHURA  
Aye, sir.

She stands, unsteady and weak, not her usual self. Spock enters the turbolift at a trot.

ENGINEERING – WIDE ANGLE

There are a number of bodies visible in the B.G. Riley is seated at the control panel.

NEW ANGLE

Spock enters, looks at bodies then confronts Riley.

SPOCK

Lieutenant, why are we losing...

Spock studies Riley closely.

ON RILEY

He is catatonic and unaware of Spock.

ON SPOCK – CAMERA FOLLOW ACTION

He studies the control board and makes adjustments, then activates the intercom.

SPOCK

Spock to bridge.

UHURA (V.O.)

Report, Mister Spock.

SPOCK

Our speed will be restricted to sublight, permanently. We will not make Star Base 121 in time.

He thinks for a moment, then:

SPOCK

(continued)

Lieutenant, alter course to two-one-nine mark five.

TRANSPORTER ROOM - WIDE ANGLE

The room is empty except for Spock at the control console. He is moving slowly activating circuits.

SPOCK

First Officer's log. Self-destruct has been set after launching a message buoy with all information relating to my... our situation.

Spock activates the controls.

SPOCK

(continued)

Computer, commence final sequence. Emergency code alpha one: Code 1-a, 2-a, 3-a destruct. Initiate auto transporter recall in final ten seconds of count.

COMPUTER

Affirmative. Working. Final sequence accepted, commencing countdown after transport is done.

Spock activates the transporter controls and struggles to move quickly to the pad just as the effect takes place.

EXT. PLANET – WISHING WELL - AFTERNOON

Spock materializes next to the wishing well.

MEDIUM – ON SPOCK

Spock removes his tricorder and holds it over the well.

SPOCK

I wish to return myself and my ship to a time

period sixty-five hours prior to this moment.

He drops the tricorder into the well and waits a beat until his communicator sounds. He prepares for the automatic beam up until the communicator sounds again. Surprised, he flips open the communicator.

SPOCK

(continued)

Spock here.

UHURA (V.O.)

Mister Spock? Where are you? We're ready to leave.

Spock is stunned.

SPOCK

On the planet's surface. I had to check on something here...

(to self; quiet)

... and should have wished for seventy hours.

UHURA (V.O.)

Sorry, sir, I didn't read your last transmission.

SPOCK

Never mind, Lieutenant. Ready to beam up.

He studies the wishing well and arches an eyebrow.

SPOCK

(to self)

Fascinating. Absolutely fascinating.

The transporter effect covers him and he fades.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END

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## Upcoming Events

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Dec	6	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville
Jan	3	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville
	TBD	<i>Kitty Hawk</i> Anniversary Dinner
	24	Articles due for Jan/Feb <i>Wright Stuff</i>
Feb	7	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville

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

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