

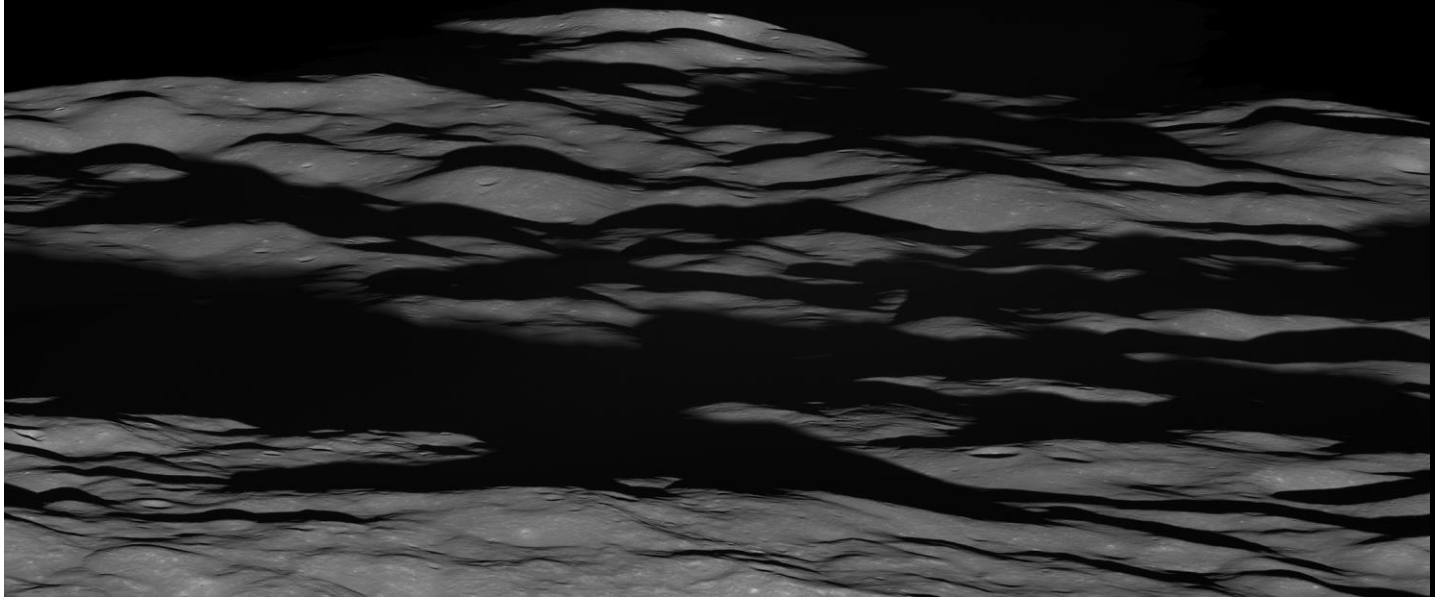
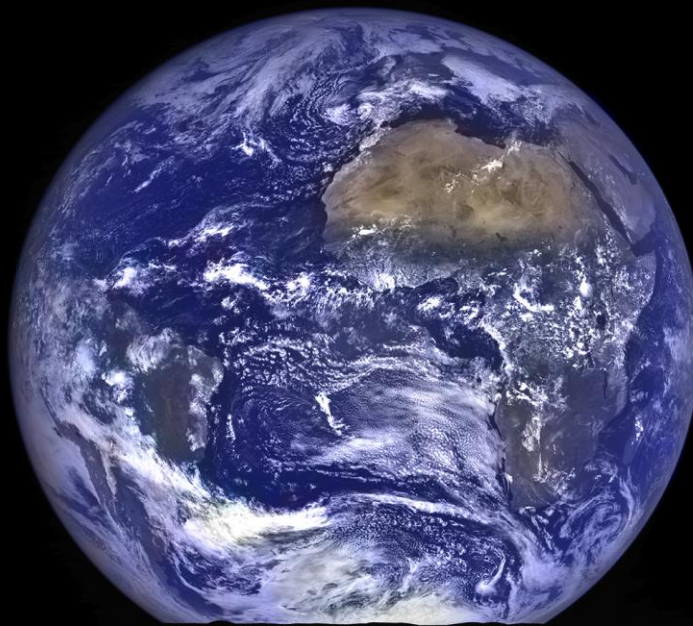
THE WRIGHT STUFF



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Jan/Feb 2016



The Center Seat

By John Troan

I've got a bunch of things that could start my second-ever *Center Seat*, but I've chosen to begin by recognizing several crewmembers:

- Thank You! to Elaine Pischke for taking over assembly and editing of *The Wright Stuff*.
- Thank You! also to JR and Jane for passing along a lot of the *Kitty Hawk* files they'd built up during the first twenty-six years of the 'Hawk.
- Congratulations! to our newest officers for being promoted to Ensign after completing OTS –
 - Larry Cox
 - Keung Hui
 - Dianne Ripollone
 - Galen Pischke

.... which leads to my promise from last time to publish the preliminary point system this month. As you can tell by the lack of any kind of table in my article, it's not quite ready yet. Part of the treasure trove I got from JR and Jane includes the first point system we used. Because I wanted to consider multiple sources in drafting the point system – and our original system is a great resource – I wanted to look at it along with others that I've received over the last couple of months. With fingers crossed, I'm targeting to have something ready for the next issue.

In continuing the shuffling around of our duties, a couple more department head positions have been assigned:

- Elaine is the new Communications Officer as she becomes the new *Wright Stuff* editor.
 - Diane is the new Science Officer, reflecting her deep science interest outside of the 'Hawk.
- Congratulations! to both of you on your new positions.

One quick note of STARFLEET business. The next issues of the Region 1 and STARFLEET newsletters are both out. Region 1's *Channel One* has an [on-online](#)

[archive](#) that's freely available to everyone.

The STARFLEET *Communique* is available for download from [db.sfi.org](#) – but does require an active membership login ID and password. (Contact me if you don't know your ID. Passwords can be reset through the "SFI Membership Service Helpdesk" link at the bottom of the login page.)

It was great seeing everyone who joined us for our annual anniversary dinner last month, and we definitely missed those of you who weren't able to make it. Thank You! to Brad for making the arrangements at Kanki.

A reminder to all the UNC-TV's Festival is around the corner. We're scheduled for March 12, with our usual evening shift at 6 pm. (Our March meeting is still on March 5.)

In closing, this is the Golden Anniversary of *Star Trek* – 50 Years since the first broadcast (Sep 8, 1966). There will (obviously!) be celebrations galore by CBS and Paramount this year, including a special touring show *Star Trek: The Ultimate Voyage*, which features the music across the entire *Star Trek* franchise. A few of us went to the performance at DPAC in early February. [Brad's review](#) is elsewhere in this issue.

- The set design was made to resemble segments of the *Enterprise-D* primary hull, with a horseshoe arch across the back similar to the *D*'s tactical console at the back of the bridge.
- Most of the main themes from the series were performed -- *Enterprise's* theme was excluded because of the vocals), with *TNG's* fanfare an appropriate opening for the show. Also included were most of the movie themes.
- The second musical segment featured the "Klingon theme" from *ST:TMP* and a couple of the early *TNG* episodes.

- The end of Act I featured *TNG's Best of Both Worlds - Part 1*, with the lead up to Riker saying, "Mr. Worf, Fire!" (Naturally, the sound track was done by the live orchestra.) Where the broadcast episode normally cuts to "TO BE CONTINUED....", the live show cut to nothing to signify the end of the act. It would've been great if they started Act II with the rest of the scene from *Best of Both Worlds - Part 2*, but that's not the direction they went.

- One of the most memorable segments started with the tin whistle solo at the end of *Inner Light*. It was expanded and lengthened into a very tasteful symphony piece, which then scaled back down to just the tin whistle solo at the conclusion. This segment clearly earned the most applause from the audience.

- When the show appeared to have finished, someone observed that they hadn't done the *TOS* theme. Sure enough, there was a planned encore as the conductor came back on stage and indicated there was one more segment – and it turned out to be the *TOS* theme. It, too, was stretched longer, and had a couple of different musical feels to it. They showed images from the *TOS* days during this (final) music segment, starting with the Great Bird himself and (very appropriately) ended with the alien head used by Blalock in *Corbomite Maneuver* – and used at the end of most of the *TOS* episode credits. A very nice touch to end the performance. (Someone did their homework on that one!)

Overall, I found the show to be very well done and I thoroughly enjoyed going..... and I would see it again should the opportunity arise.

Comp Ops Report

By John Troan

Comp Ops has gotten a little behind on things while the Chief has been spending more time in the Ready Room instead of the department office. Pending updates for the web site include pictures from January's anniversary dinner and the recent *Star Trek* concert that a few of us went to. Work on the final act of our first podcast is also at the top of the To Do list – and *should* be complete in the somewhat near future.

Roddenberry.com (led by Gene's son, Rod) is commemorating *Trek's* 50th Anniversary with the [366 Project](#) a daily Facebook post of something from the Roddenberry Vault. The posts thus far have included pictures of the cast & crew, memos, and scripts. A [small collection of the posts](#) was recently posted on StarTrek.com.

In January, [the Smithsonian started very intense conservation work on the TOS USS Enterprise](#). After a LOT of research to make sure they do it right, the *Enterprise* model was disassembled and is now being painstakingly restored. A key piece of work involves completely replacing all of the lights with safer (and cooler) LEDs that can also be programmed to more closely mimic the lighting patterns in the TOS visual effects seen during the episodes. The *Enterprise* will go back on display in the Udvar-Hazy Center's Boeing Milestones of Flight Hall later this year.

One of the things I meant to include in last issue's report was a list of some of the various on-line fan-produced *Star Trek* series and closely-related projects. Creating this (alphabetized) list sprung up from [CBS' announcement of the new Trek series in 2017](#), with people (including me) mentioning them in the comments section of the CBS announcement:

- [\(Star Trek\) Axanar](#) is the group that STARFLEET International has partnered with. They're also the group who's made the most press recently because of the CBS lawsuit to cease production.
- [Star Trek Continues](#) currently has a half-dozen episodes posted. From their web site, they could give the *New Voyages* folks some "competition" for the most complete set of TOS sets.

- [Star Trek New Voyages / Phase II](#) is the group the *USS Kitty Hawk* has done the most work with, coordinating with some of the North Carolina-based STNV participants. Checking out their [YouTube channel](#), there's about half a traditional season of episodes already created (plus several short vignettes), with another being created each year.
- [Star Trek Renegades](#) appears to be building very solid support, based on the number of *Trek* cast members that appear to be endorsing it. This group also created the completed [Star Trek: Of Gods and Men](#), which was very good.

My NASA coverage starts this time with news that [assembly of the primary mirror of the James Webb Space Telescope has been completed](#). JWST, the successor to the *Hubble Space Telescope*, is scheduled for launch in 2018.

The [next cargo flight to the International Space Station](#) is slated for March 10. This is Orbital ATK's slot in the rotation, between two SpaceX missions. This delivery includes more crew supplies and miscellaneous hardware for continued station operations.

The first week of February saw the [arrival of the next Orion capsule at Kennedy Space Center](#), in preparation for the first fully-integrated test flight (EM-1) with the new [Space Launch System \(SLS\) rocket](#) in 2018. The SLS variant for the EM-1 mission, currently scheduled for some time in 2018, is called the Block I, designating the capabilities of this launch configuration. To compare, the already-planned Block IB and Block II configurations are intended for missions with more weight and/or distance – especially the future manned missions to Mars.

The EM-1 flight is designed to go into relative deep space (beyond the moon's orbit), making it a perfect opportunity for [several specially-targeted CubeSat missions to hitch a ride](#). CubeSats are small self-contained missions that are added to previously-planned missions that have a little extra weight and space capacity available for "hitchhikers". This provides cheap access to space for small experiments

from universities, companies, other NASA programs, and other countries' space agencies.

Showing that no one (or no thing) wants to be left out of the ongoing selfie craze, [NASA's Curiosity rover recently took a selfie](#) while taking a brief break from digging in the Martian soil. Fortunately, *Curiosity's* arm is long enough that it doesn't need a selfie stick.

Moving outward, [NASA's Juno probe is now the record holder](#) for being the farthest man-made device from the sun to use solar panels. *Juno* is set to arrive at Jupiter on July 4 of this year and will use a polar orbit to stay out of Jupiter shadow while dropping to within 3,100 miles of Jupiter's cloud tops to find out what's under them.

January also marks the [30th anniversary of Voyager 2's flyby of Uranus](#). Among the numerous observations were the discoveries of ten new moons and two new rings. The flyby was used to also help *Voyager 2* change speed and direction to continue on toward its Neptune encounter three year later. [Both Voyager probes](#) are still operating, but with a new mission to explore the transition out of the solar system (the heliopause) and into interstellar space.

As a final note, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory – the group that manages most of NASA's probes and rovers – has released a very interesting [set of space tourism posters](#) for several cosmic locations. A couple of my favorites are *The Grand Tour* (the *Voyager* missions) and 51 Pegasi b (the first exoplanet confirmed to exist by humans). All of the posters are free to download and print.

Communications Report

By Elaine Pischke

New station, new responsibilities, same pay... oh, well. I'm just settling in here so I'm keeping it simple and straightforward for the maiden voyage. Please have patience while I learn the ins and outs of this newsletter business. Thank you!

Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

A Night at the DPAC

Last night, John Troan, Larry Cox and I, attended the Star Trek 50th Anniversary, Ultimate Voyage Concert, at the DPAC. It was my first time at the DPAC and I was genuinely impressed. It's a great facility and should the opportunity arise to go back, I will. However, the real focus here is, of course, the music.

The stage was dressed with 'machine parts' which were lit with alternating colors to reflect the moods of the musical segments. A large flat screen, displayed various scenes from each TV series and movies in the Star Trek franchise.

I have all the Star Trek soundtracks (except the reboot series) and I listen to them on a regular basis, so it's easy for me to recognize all the songs. They played many of the ones I expected and a few that I didn't. The quality was very good and it was solid music; one right after the other. So much so, the audience was unable to applaud individual pieces. No complaints though, after all, it was a concert, not a lecture.

Actually, my only complaint, as such, was the way the presentation was organized. There were 'introductions' to each series segment, yet intermixed with the featured series, were flashes of other series and movies. We were formally 'introduced' to the Klingons and there was a nod to the Borg, but not the Romulans, Cardassians, Jem Hadar and the other 'bad guys'.

The program seemed to jump around a bit, maybe too much so. There didn't seem to be much organization but maybe that was intentional. It was an eclectic selection of scenes and mini-themes, rather than an overall, ordered sequence. (A more artsy approach, I suppose.) It was a bit distracting at times and I noticed a repeat of some scenes, probably due to the flash forward and flash back and forth style.

There were some priceless sequences involving 'family' themes,

(I won't give specifics in case you want to see it) with some character introductions, key speeches and noting the loss of some favorite crewpersons.

There was a narration, which was uncredited, but general consensus concluded it was probably Michael Dorn. The narration was subtitled, which I thought was more of a distraction, rather than a service. However, with some of the louder passages of music, it proved essential.

Overall, I'd say the program was well worth the cost and I enjoyed it. In fact, the evening went by rather quickly and I never felt compelled to check the time.

The concert did give me food for thought, regarding a comparison between Star Trek and Star Wars. Since its debut in 1977, Star Wars has had basically, one composer, John Williams. Star Trek has had many, although that is somewhat due to the nature of weekly TV production. Star Wars has been mostly large screen productions, but even some of the games and smaller budgeted shows use a mix of original and Williams' material.

With so many composers working on Star Trek, the music, is by nature, more varied. This leads to some unusual or distinct compositions and I think this makes Star Trek music more interesting.

Don't get me wrong, no one is a bigger fan of John Williams than I am. (Well maybe his mother and wife.) I have many of his soundtracks, some going back to his TV work in the 60's. But the overall variety of composers working on Star Trek, lends itself to different approaches and sounds. We've heard from a pretty diverse group of composers during 28 seasons of 5 series and, how many episodes? Not to mention, more movies than Star Wars! That represents a lot of material, so there is much more to listen to and with a greater variety of sounds and styles.

If you get a chance to see *The Ultimate Voyage*, do so. That's all for now!

Science Report

By Diane Ripollone

The Passing of Apollo 14

Edgar Mitchell passed away on February 4th, the eve of the 40th anniversary of his Apollo mission. With his passing, the entire crew of Apollo 14 are all gone now. Shepard in 1998, and Rossa in 1994. Only seven moon walkers remain alive today.

One of Edgar Mitchell's most famous quotes is "You develop an instant global consciousness, a people orientation, an intense dissatisfaction with the state of the world, and a compulsion to do something about it. From out there on the moon, international politics look so petty. You want to grab a politician by the scruff of the neck and drag him a quarter of a million miles out and say, 'Look at that, you son of a bitch'.— Mitchell, describing his experience of seeing the Earth from the Moon.

NASA picked Mitchell as part of the Group 5 Astronauts. Before that he served in the Navy and became a test pilot. He went back to school and received a doctorate from MIT. Mitchell became the 6th person to walk on the Moon in 1971. His mission brought back 94 pounds of Lunar rock and became a major scientific success.

"In a statement following Mitchell's passing, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden noted:

"Edgar spoke poetically about seeing our home planet from the moon saying: 'Suddenly, from behind the rim of the moon, in long, slow-motion moments of immense majesty, there emerges a sparkling blue and white jewel, a light, delicate sky-blue sphere laced with slowly swirling veils of white, rising gradually like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery. It takes more than a moment to fully realize this is Earth ... home.'" <http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-administrator-remembers-apollo-era-astronaut-edgar-mitchell>

ST: TOS -- Nobody's Son

By Brad McDonald

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE

Ship is at warp speed.

INT. SICKBAY – MEDICAL OFFICES
– WIDE ANGLE

Present are Kirk, Spock and McCoy.

KIRK

Spock, are you recovered enough to continue?

Spock is visibly uneasy and more subdued than usual.

SPOCK

Yes, Captain, but I would appreciate keeping this brief.

KIRK

Understood. Doctor, status of the patient.

MCCOY

Thanks to Spock, he's doing much better. Recovery is actually accelerated.

(beat)

In fact, it's time to check on him now.

McCoy exits in B.G.

KIRK

Now, the question of just who we are dealing with.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

I was quite overwhelmed during my contact. It was not what I expected. He is very intelligent but highly conflicted and deeply troubled, not focused like a Klingon; no sense of duty, purpose or mission, even more...

AS BEFORE – TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

Kirk is curious but doesn't want to push too hard.

KIRK

Can you... sort it out?

Spock looks a bit surprised.

SPOCK

I will. But it will take time.

ON KIRK

KIRK

Meanwhile, we have another problem. I've told Command who we have and that we're returning to Earth as quickly as possible. I'd like to have a few answers to go with our questions before we get there, any ideas?

ANGLE ON DOOR

Scott enters and remains quiet for the moment.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Several, Captain, but first I need to point out something. If the original intent was, in fact, a suicide mission, would it not be logical to assume that the Klingons would want to monitor the results?

ON KIRK

Realization dawns on Kirk's face.

KIRK

Of course. A cloaked ship could wait here unseen.

Kirk is deep in thought, he notices Scott waiting.

KIRK

(continuing)

If our guest is the Chancellor's son, they'll want him back.

(beat)

Mr. Scott, ship's status.

WIDE ANGLE

Scott looks confident and proud.

SCOTT

One hundred per cent in all respects and all departments.

McCoy enters in B.G. and approaches.

MCCOY

(smiling)

Jim? I have a patient with a lot of questions.

Kirk looks at Spock, concerned.

KIRK

Spock, can you handle that for me? It may even help you sort out a few things in the process.

SPOCK

Perhaps I could be of more service on the bridge?

Kirk gets closer to Spock.

KIRK

If we're going to tangle with the Klingons, I need as much information as possible.

Spock reluctantly nods in agreement. Kirk then turns to Scott.

KIRK

(continuing)

Mr. Scott, you're with me.

Kirk and Scott exit quickly.

BRIDGE – ANGLE ON TURBOLIFT DOORS AND UPPER LEVEL

Kirk and Scott enter bridge. Scott goes to engineering station, Kirk stops at Uhura's station.

KIRK

(continuing)

Miss Uhura, yellow alert.

Kirk moves to command chair. Scott activates his console.

SCOTT

Transferring engineering controls to bridge.

UHURA

All hands, yellow alert. This is no drill. Yellow alert.

Lighting changes to reflect alert, as Sulu rises, Kirk takes command chair, Sulu relieves N.D. helm.

KIRK
Mr. Chekov, take the science station please.

CHEKOV
Aye, sir.

Chekov moves to the science station as an N.D. CREW PERSON takes the navigation station.

ON KIRK

KIRK
We may have a Klingon visitor in the area. Our mission is to deliver our 'passenger' to command as soon as possible.
(to Scott)
Let's see if we can avoid an 'encounter', maximum warp.

WIDE ANGLE

SCOTT
Aye, sir. I can give you warp eight point two.

KIRK
(smiling)
Mr. Sulu, warp eight point two.

SULU
Aye, sir.

The ship hums with the additional power and speed.

KIRK
(to self)
Either we'll leave them in the dust or provoke a... response.

SICKBAY – ON DIAGNOSTIC BED AND KARN

He is surveying his surroundings, a bit nervous and confused but calm. There is N.D. security in the B.G. Spock and McCoy enter quietly.

SPOCK
(to Karn)
How should we address you?

KARN
Sub Lieutenant Karn.

SPOCK
I am Spock, first officer and Science Officer of this ship.

KARN
(matter-of-factly)
Enterprise.

Spock is a bit surprised, he then indicates McCoy.

SPOCK
Yes... and this is Dr. McCoy, our ship's surgeon.

Karn looks about the room, then:

KARN
Since this isn't the Klingon afterlife, I must be alive.

MCCOY
Thanks to us. We had to perform a delicate and dangerous operation.

Karn reaches down to touch the area of the device.

KARN
It was supposed to go off if you used a phaser on me.

SPOCK
I used an alternative —

Karn smiles knowingly.

KARN
(interrupting)
The nerve pinch.

MCCOY
You've had contact with Vulcan's before?

KARN
Not really, but I know about them, quite a lot actually.

Spock raises an eyebrow and notices Karn's focus on the security team.

ON KARN

KARN
(continuing)
They're not necessary. My mission failed and I'm not going to make another attempt.

He smiles to himself, then explains.

KARN
(continuing)
Can't figure me out, can you? Don't feel bad, neither could the Klingons, least of all, my own father.

SPOCK (O.C.)
(matter-of-factly)
The Chancellor.

Karn is mildly surprised, then he smiles.

KARN
A mind meld and the Vulcan self-healing process as taught by T'Pran herself, right?

THREE SHOT – SPOCK, MCCOY AND KARN

Both Spock and McCoy are surprised.

MCCOY
You know about that?

KARN
My mother was a teacher; she was very fond of Vulcan teachings and practices.

SPOCK
And where did she learn about Vulcan?

KARN
Visited Vulcan, of course.

Spock's eyebrow arches and McCoy is skeptical.

MCCOY
Now wait just a minute. I may not know a lot about Vulcan history, but I do know that Klingons haven't been guests.

Spock is studying Karn with close scrutiny.

KARN
Right, but humans have. My mother was Doris Andrews of Utica, New York, Earth.

Spock and McCoy exchange glances of disbelief.

MCCOY
You'll pardon me while I check up on this.

McCoy exits quickly and Spock moves closer to Karn.

ON KARN

SPOCK (V.O.)
I thought I sensed an inner conflict.

KARN

I'll say. An outcast or rather a half-cast. Even my own father treated me like the others. It's why I took the suicide mission. I figured I'd end my problem one way or another. I considered activating it when you showed up.

SPOCK (V.O.)

And the original plan?

KARN

If the device didn't go off on the planet, get aboard a Federation ship, then activate it. We've been monitoring your exploration of this sector. Found a suitable planet and I was placed there for rescue or capture.

SPOCK (V.O.)

And now?

KARN

I'm not sure. I don't intend any harm to you. But now I'm without a home. The Klingons will call me failure and traitor. Humans won't accept me when they see what I am. I'm caught between two worlds and don't belong in either.

(beat)

You wouldn't understand that...

TWO SHOT – SPOCK AND KARN

Karn studies Spock for a moment then understands.

KARN

Or would you?

SPOCK

The meld does work two ways.

KARN

It's now beginning to make sense. You're like me, half human.

Karn smiles broadly and an unspoken bond is formed between the two men.

NEW ANGLE

McCoy enters, bewildered, with tricorder in hand.

MCCOY

Doris Andrews disappeared with crew and passengers on the S.S. Cyprus fifteen years ago.

He's confused and tries to ask a question.

MCCOY

(continued)

I didn't know that Klingons and humans could...

KARN

Came as quite a surprise to the Klingons as well. Mom was captured by Orion pirates, then sold to Captain Kiran, now Chancellor, Kiran.

MCCOY

Well at least we solved the mystery of the S.S. Cyprus.

SPOCK

Your mother must have been a remarkable lady.

ON KARN

Karn reflects for a moment, then reluctantly relates:

KARN

Mom tried her best to adapt, but the Klingons wouldn't accept her. Kiran wanted me as son and heir. I had almost no human physical qualities, but my mother gave me an education that no Klingon ever had.

MCCOY (O.C.)

I don't suppose that went over well with the Chancellor.

Karn now gets a bit emotional and bitter.

KARN

Actually, he thought my education about humans and the Federation would give me an edge as a Klingon warrior.

(beat)

When it came time to begin my training, he was angry when he found I wasn't

'suitable'. For that, he executed my mother; Then forced me into training. I resisted at first, then learned it just made things worse.

SPOCK (O.C.)

It explains much from our mind meld...

KARN

When I graduated from training, I heard about this mission and volunteered, hoping to end my existence once and for all. My father was proud, at last I was a true Klingon warrior.

He laughs at his own statement.

KARN

(continuing)

I even failed at that! Now what, Federation prison?

SPOCK

Not necessarily. There are always options. A lot will depend on your cooperation and willingness to work with -

The klaxon sounds and lighting changes.

KIRK'S VOICE

Red alert, all hands to battle stations; repeat, red alert!

Spock runs for the exit. Karn tries to set up but his movement causes N.D. security team to pull phasers and approach.

Off their action...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

Upcoming Events

Mar	5	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville
Mar	12	6 p.m. UNC-TV
Apr	2	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville Articles for Mar/Apr <i>Wright Stuff</i> due
May	8	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

THE WRIGHT STUFF
U.S.S. KITTY HAWK
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