

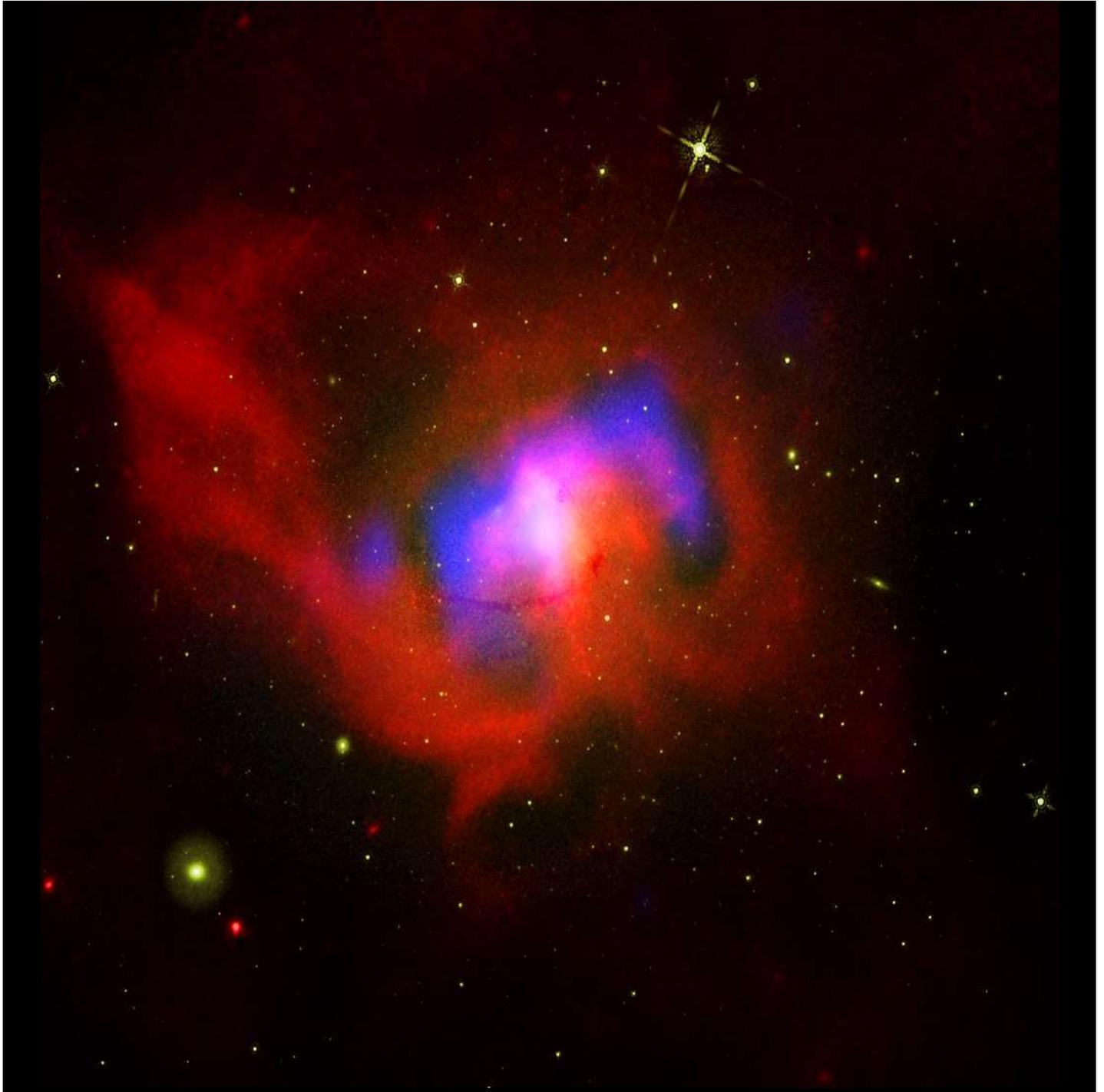
THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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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

The Arrhythmic Beating of a Black Hole Heart

At the center of the Centaurus galaxy cluster there is a large elliptical galaxy called NGC 4696. Deeper still there is a supermassive black hole.

<https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/iodtd.html>

The Center Seat

By John Troan

My thanks to everyone who was able to join us for our volunteer shift at UNC-TV in March. For those able to be there, you saw how much things changed -- especially the very-much smaller area for taking pledges from callers. As I had been told ahead of time, there were only ten stations and we were the only group scheduled for that night. Since it was looking like we weren't going to fill all ten seats, I sent a heads-up to UNC-TV a couple of days ahead of time so that they could fill in the gaps. In the end, it worked out ok, but it would've been good had we had 10-12 people. Part of this was because the new arrangements had some of us occasionally away from the computer terminals for other things -- including some on-air time!

The May meeting will be at my house in Cary (almost Morrisville), combined with a potluck and Trek-on-TV night. Larry Pischke (larrypischke@gmail.com) will be coordinating RSVPs and food choices. I'll be sending a map and some directions, once they're ready, to the regular *Kitty Hawk* crew e-mail distribution. Remember that friends and family are very welcome to join us! (Just be sure to include them in the headcounts on the RSVP so that I know how much eating space to set up.)

STARFLEET renew packets from 2016 should now be delivered to all. (Please let me know if you haven't gotten yours yet.) The 2017 packets have been delayed while materials for them are acquired.

STARFLEET will be sending out a questionnaire to all 'FLEET members in the very near future. All COs have been asked to have members take the survey when you get it. (I'll be on the lookout for when it's sent and pass word on what to look out for.)

Also, STARFLEET Academy is launching a completely-rebuilt web site on May 1. (The old site will be linked from the new site through the end of May, then be deactivated.) The new site does require an account to be set up, which will take a little

time while the staff verifies STARFLEET membership.

We have both STARFLEET members and non-STARFLEET members, plus friends and family who help with volunteer efforts and join the social activities. Everyone is always welcome, regardless of which *Kitty Hawk* membership type you have. (STARFLEET membership is requested of everyone on board, but is by no means a requirement to be part of the 'Hawk. My only concern is that we have enough members to retain our STARFLEET commission.)

Looking ahead, there are several conventions in Raleigh (and slightly beyond):

- Animazement on May 26-28, during Memorial weekend
- SuperCon on July 14-16
- Crystal Coast Con on Sept 23 this year, a month earlier than it had been

The question for everyone is *do we want to appear at either (or both) of the ones in downtown Raleigh?* If so, what availability do you have, given that we'll likely have to also buy our own tickets to attend? Both cons are Fri-Sun and we need to have at least two people scheduled for our booth during the full run of each con.

Crystal Coast Con is at MacDaddy's in Cape Carteret. This will still be a joint operation with the *USS White Eagle*, but their CO will be coordinating with the Con folks this time (instead of me). My hope is that this will result in better organization and coordination of all the things we're doing -- the joint table, the Klingon language class(es), and the 50/50 raffle for the Food Bank.

I also have a bigger question for everyone to think about: **What other cons, charity events, and social activities do we wish to do?** One goal I have is to grow the group into a larger crew, so that we can do more things without needing to have the same people at every event the chapter does. Everyone probably spends most of each week sleeping and working, and it's up to each of us

as to how we allot our non-working waking hours. I'm sure everyone has other things outside of the *Kitty Hawk*, including that important time with family. As I mentioned at the April meeting, I'm having to limit myself to two *Kitty Hawk* events per month (in addition to all my Comp Ops duties -- web site, podcasts, and a little newsletter work), so it doesn't feel right to me to have anyone else do two *Kitty Hawk* events per month. (I also won't stop anyone from doing more, but that will be a personal choice of that crew member to do so.)

Comp Ops Report

By John Troan

I've mostly caught up with updates to the web site, with (only?) our March UNC-TV appearance to get posted at this time. With almost no backlog of updates, I can now start to turn my attention toward a few other projects within Comp Ops.

With most of our vocals now recorded, editing the next podcast is starting to rise on the To Do list. I can create the teaser since every needed vocal is now done, but we still need (at least) one more session to get the last few characters recorded before I can move too deeply into Act I. (I've also pulled every *Trek* audio effect from on-line and saved them for future use -- including AFX needed for *TNG* and *TOS*.)

As mentioned in the notes from our April meeting, we'll be begin on-line publishing one of Brad's narratives this summer. There will be a short teaser in the newsletter, but the full story will be published in two parts exclusively on our web site. A second narrative-style story is also being worked on for web site-only publishing, probably in 2018.

If anyone has looked closely at the URLs for recent event postings on the web site, a new directory structure is starting to get used. These are the first steps in a long-desired (by me) revamp of the entire web site. The problem originates within the previous restructuring, when I didn't plan the

underlying layout well enough for the long term. In keeping with an IT tradition for migrations of any type, new items are being put where they would go after the next restructuring instead of adding to the already-large amount of editing I'll have to do. To prevent the dreaded "Page Not Found" errors, I'll have a redirect page for each current page that will automatically send site visitors to that content's new location.

Speaking of web site construction projects, NASA has recently announced [a new website](#) "to help the public search and download out-of-this-world images, videos and audio files by keyword and metadata searches from [NASA.gov](#)." The announcement mentions that this single location will search more than 140,000 individual items in over sixty collections across all of the [NASA.gov](#) on-line presence.

Communications Report

By Elaine Pischke

Happy Earth Day to all. Unfortunately, Graeme and I didn't make it to the March for Science as planned. He was suffering from a kidney stone that had him down and out. Also, Larry's dad had a bad fall and broke his hip, so I was on standby in case Larry's mom needed a ride to the hospital. Life got in the way, but apparently it was a pretty successful day for the march around the world. Besides the march in D.C. and the one in Raleigh, marches were held around the world, including New York City, Boston, Chicago and London. Besides scientists, celebrities and concerned citizens, the march was even attended by one Time Lord. Apparently Peter Capaldi participated in London. Here's to science!

Science Report - Tribute to *Cassini*

By Diane Ripollone

On September 15th 2017, the *Cassini* Mission to Saturn will end. The spacecraft will eventually plunge into the upper atmosphere of Saturn. Before doing that the spacecraft will take a series of dives, orbiting the inner rings and the planet. They are calling this the Grande Finale.

Cassini has been one of the most successful missions to date. Over 17 countries were a part of this mission; "NASA, European Space Agency (ESA), Italian space agency Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (ASI); total of 17 countries involved". For 19 years, this spacecraft has given us amazing pictures of Saturn, the moons, and the rings of Saturn. It has helped to discover

erupting geysers on Enceladus and seas of methane on Titan. Carrying the *Huygens* probe, *Cassini* investigated Titan by sending the probe to the surface of the moon. The amount of information and pictures that have been sent back to Earth from the mission has become part of the greatest scientific discoveries today.

And now we will say "Goodbye" to a mission that included many people across the globe and inspired more than one scientist. If you would like to be inspired by this mission, check out its website at <https://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov>. There is huge amount of information on the website that I can't even begin to write about here.



Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

It's time for another report? Well, last month did feel like six weeks. The shortest week was 62 hours and the last one was 78 ½ hours. It's the reason I missed the March meeting. However, that project is done and I have some time to put a few thoughts on paper, so let's get started.

First of all, my urologist has pronounced me cancer free for one year. Of course, as you can imagine, I did a little celebrating. Also, Katy was given a promotion, a pay raise and most important, full medical benefits; another reason to celebrate!

Equally important is the announcement by Buzz Aldrin about his independent plans for a Mars mission. It's not associated with Musk, NASA or any of the other agencies currently working on Mars projects. A video summary of the plan will be available soon from Time, Inc. or Time and Life VR productions through many VR outlets. Aldrin's ideas are based on scientific and engineering concepts. His engineering background was established long ago and his line of sight guidance techniques for orbital rendezvous are considered an important part of space exploration. He first proposed the idea in 1985, originating a Mars exploration trajectory called the Aldrin Cypher, which uses less propellant than the usual means. Last August, he finally revealed the overall plan; should be interesting so keep an eye out for it.

Disney made a major announcement regarding future productions. Due to the success of the live action *Jungle Book*, *Cinderella*, *Maleficent* and *Beauty and the Beast*, they're either now in production or going to produce 19 more live action movies based on their animated library. *Mulan* will be out next year and will be joined by *Jungle Book 2* and *Maleficent 2* soon afterwards. Also planned are live action versions of: *Lion King*; *Dumbo*; *The Sword and the Stone*; *Prince Charming* (an origin story); co-productions of *Aladdin* and *Genies* (a

prequel to *Aladdin*); *Cruella DeVille* (an origin story); *Winnie the Pooh* (Christopher Robin returns as an adult); *Little Mermaid*; *Peter Pan* (one more time), with a tie in or spin off titled *Tinkerbell*; *James and the Giant Peach*; *Pinocchio*; *Chenabog* (another origin story) from *Fantasia's* "Night on Bald Mountain" segment; and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, with a tie in production titled *Rose Red*. Wow! That's a pretty ambitious schedule. Of course, if a few of these don't do well at the box office, these plans will be scrapped. Let's not forget that Disney got all excited about converting their rides into movies with the success of *Pirates of the Caribbean*, but Tomorrowland tanked and Haunted House didn't do as well as expected. That was the end of that idea.

The rebooted *Star Trek* movie franchise announced plans for #4, though no details have been made available as of yet. By the way, the new TV series has been bumped back again, so now we're looking at late summer or early fall. However, the update gets even worse as they have announced the intended schedule. According to the producers, the new series will consist of 12-15 episodes per season and will have a continuous plot line rather than individual or stand-alone episodes. The reasoning, according to them, is that most viewers now are binge watchers and don't care for the 'old format' of individual episodes. I estimate that the episodes will be about 40 minutes each and at an average of 13.5 episodes that gives us about 540 minutes per season. Compare that with the 'old format' of about 50 minutes and 26 episodes which gives us 1300 minutes. That means, arithmetically, we only get about 41% of the 'old format'. I prefer the old format, thank you. As for the continuous story, a soap opera is a soap opera, no matter what you call it. I don't like having to watch last week to know what's going on this week and have to watch this week to know

what is going on next week. Well, there goes any interest I had left in the new series. A real shame, as I had hoped for better. Oh well, I'll save the fee to watch it.

Looks like there is a movement to reinstate Pluto as a planet; it seems that all the publicity that Pluto has been getting is creating a new interest in the tiny world. A number of questions have been raised as to why it was demoted to begin with. We now know it's not a lifeless rock in space as originally thought. It has an atmosphere, evidence of glaciers, liquids on the surface and internal heat. Pluto also has multiple moons, which makes it a mini-system of its own. All the scientists associated with the exploration mission have stated over and over that Pluto is nothing like they expected. It continues to surprise them and there are new discoveries every time there is a data download. It will take another year before all the data will be processed and analyzed. During that time we will learn even more about Pluto and this will keep the planet in the news which will help the effort to be reinstated. I hope so as I'm a real Pluto fan!

I worked the recent UNC-TV telethon and found many changes. The format had been altered and the computers had received an upgrade. It was an interesting evening, but the reduced requirement for personnel may mean we'll need to rethink our commitment; more on that at the next meeting.

Looks like some good conventions are planned for the Triangle this year. I hope you can attend one of them, either as a fan or part of a *Kitty Hawk* presence. Maybe we can work something out with one or more of these gatherings.

Time for bed, I'm trying to catch up after so many long weeks at work.

ST: Voyager — *Command Decision* (Podcast)

By Brad McDonald

ACT TWO

NARRATOR

Voyager is holding a position in space, between Our World, Other world and the asteroid. Tinker's ship is nearby.

(audio effect: bridge)

On the bridge there is much activity, present are Janeway, Chakotay, and Tinker.

JANEWAY

Have we heard from any of our teams yet?

CHAKOTAY

Not yet. Torres did report from her shuttle before landing. Other World is covered with sulfur dust, just as Tinker said. A complete decontamination will be necessary.

TINKER

Went there about fifteen years ago to look for treasure. Biggest collection of nothing I ever saw. Will the sulfur be a problem?

JANEWAY

Just an inconvenience, but we need to check out the moon completely before aiming an asteroid at it. After all, if it can't handle the impact, we may just compound the problem.

CHAKOTAY

We only get one chance, so we have to be sure about our theory and data.

TINKER

I understand completely.

JANEWAY

The basic theory is fine and we've even run numerous simulations. If everything checks out, we'll begin operations today.

NARRATOR

Tinker approaches Janeway, awed by her statement.

TINKER

You mean you can resolve the whole situation by tomorrow?

NARRATOR

Janeway understands his being overwhelmed and is amused.

JANEWAY

All in a day's work, Tinker. We like being able to use our advanced technology for constructive purposes. We've carried out similar operations before.

NARRATOR

Tinker is moved to near emotion and has a deep admiration for Janeway.

TINKER

Thank you, so very much!

NARRATOR

On the surface of the asteroid, Tuvok and Kim are working in space suits.

KIM

This should be our last group of samples. So far, there are no surprises. If our luck holds, we can proceed with our plan.

TUVOK

Luck has little to do with it. If the samples are consistent with the others, then we will take more from alternative locations. We must be sure of our data base.

KIM

Nothing like being over cautious.

TUVOK

(admonishing)

Not overcautious, just thorough. Shall we continue our work now?

NARRATOR

(audio effect: birds and B.G. conversation)

Neelix and Paris are on Our World walking through a very simple farm village. Neelix is examining the local foods, stopping periodically. He has a shoulder bag with various samples of his dishes. They approach an outdoor market.

NEELIX

What exactly are we looking for?

PARIS

You're looking for an alternate to the 'Talaxian pudding surprise'. I'm looking at the local people. The Captain wanted me to observe and make an official report on these people for the ship's records.

NARRATOR

Paris looks around at the community, unimpressed and bored.

PARIS

Not that there's much to report.

NEELIX

Still, they have amazing foods. Their fruits look really good. It will be a real pleasure to barter with these vendors.

PARIS

(unimpressed)

Why not just ask what he wants and give it to him?

NEELIX

That takes all the fun out of it. Besides, I may even insult him. In some cultures, bartering is a real art form and I am a master.

NARRATOR

The next kiosk has trinkets and art. Paris is about to bypass it too, when a beautiful young girl, ANARA.

steps out. Neelix is studying the artwork while Paris stares at Anara, mesmerized.

PARIS

Now that is worth the trip here.

NEELIX

See something you like?

PARIS

That, Mister Neelix, may be the understatement of the year.

NARRATOR

Paris superficially exams one of the trinkets while studying Anara.

PARIS

Did you make these?

ANARA

Some of them; my mother made the others. My family works the land during the day and at night, we make these. They are good luck charms.

NARRATOR

Paris absently toys with the trinket, focused on Anara.

PARIS

What does something like this cost?

ANARA
(confused)

The cost?

NARRATOR

Paris removes his comm badge and hands to Anara.

PARIS

What about this?

NARRATOR

Anara examines it carefully, turning it over and over.

ANARA

What is it?

PARIS

It's for communicating with my friends. If you have one, I could talk to you anywhere on this world.

ANARA

(confused)

Why would I need that? I only live a short distance from here and I'm always here or home. Besides, if I wanted to talk to you, I'd want to see you.

NARRATOR

Neelix has been observing quietly and now he pushes Paris aside, taking over the 'bartering'.

NEELIX

(to Paris quietly)

Let me show you how bartering is really done. Watch the master, Mister Paris.

(to Anara with confidence)

Of course you have no need for that, young lady. However, I have something I know you'll want.

NARRATOR

Neelix reaches into his bag and produces a small bread roll. Anara returns the comm. badge and takes the roll.

NEELIX

Go ahead, taste it.

ANARA

It's good.

NARRATOR

Neelix winks at Paris and becomes wrapped up in his sales pitch.

NEELIX

Now I have some grain, which is the basis for that tasty morsel. If your family were the only ones that had this, wouldn't that be worth something?

NARRATOR

Anara remains silent and looks puzzled.

NEELIX

Well, you could then process the grain and make these bread rolls yourself. I'll even throw in the recipe at no extra charge.

NARRATOR

Again, Anara remains quiet and so a persistent Neelix presses the sale.

NEELIX

Very well, I'll even show you how to make them.

NARRATOR

Anara is still confused and looks to Paris for help.

ANARA

What does he want?

PARIS

He's offering you a trade for one of your good luck charms.

ANARA

But I was giving it to you. You do not need to give anything to me.

NARRATOR

Paris is amused and whispers to a dejected Neelix.

PARIS

Thanks 'master of bartering', but I can handle it from here. Maybe you can try your technique out on the fruit stand vendor.

NARRATOR

Neelix returns Paris' comm. badge and heads off to the fruit stand. Paris now directs his full attention to Anara.

PARIS

My name is Tom. Do you always give your charms away or am I special?

ANARA

I am called Anara. And yes, I give my good luck charms away to all who visit us. After all, we get so few visitors here.

PARIS

I can't imagine why, when you have so much to offer.

NARRATOR

(audio effect:

electronic sounds and breeze) On the surface of Other World, Torres and Seven are in space suits. The surface is covered with sulfur dust and a

mild breeze is blowing. The two are taking samples and readings.

SEVEN

How many of these are necessary before we have enough for a sufficient data base?

TORRES

Until we're sure that the samples are typical to the planet's general make up and not unique to the areas tested so far. I know the Captain, she likes to be thorough. Let's take a few more over by that rock outcropping and then we can head back to the ship.

SEVEN

I will work the base of the small hill on the other side of the rocks.

TORRES

Take detailed scans of the entire area, anything that looks different or unusual, just in case the samples don't give us the entire picture.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: tricorder and scanner)

Seven moves off leaving Torres alone who is taking samples and running scans. As she works, she is unaware of a movement behind her. She reads aloud to her self, studying the tricorder closely.

TORRES

Sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and dioxide, traces of radon and what is this? Unusual compounds. Slight energy reading too. Must be static electricity generated by the breeze.

NARRATOR

Again there is a slight movement behind Torres. As she moves, her foot covers a peculiar arrangement of lines. This is unseen by her as she is concentrating on her tricorder and then by Seven waving at a distance.

TORRES

On my way, Seven.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: lab equipment)
In Voyager's lab are Janeway, Seven, Kim, Chakotay and Tuvok. All are busy with the analysis of the samples.

JANEWAY

How long before Torres returns with the rest of the samples?

SEVEN

She's in decontamination now. All the samples have been cleared and will be here shortly.

CHAKOTAY

Any surprises, Mister Kim?

KIM

Not really, sir. It looks like Other World is just what we thought. A mix of primitive compounds and elements, with a only a few unusual finds. The core samples show a basic similarity to Jupiter's Io. An iron core and a generous smattering of the usual elements. Plus, a lot of sulfur and sulfur compounds.

JANEWAY

Strong enough to take the impact from the asteroid?

KIM

No problem, Captain.

JANEWAY

And the asteroid itself?

TUVOK

Standard nickel-iron composition. Class B type, unremarkable. It should not cause any problems.

CHAKOTAY

Time is short. If we're sure of these results, we better get started with the preparations.

JANEWAY

Agreed. I want to look at Seven's last group of samples, but let's proceed. If we find any last minute surprises, we can make

adjustments then. Let's get to it, people.

NARRATOR

Everyone exits the lab except Janeway and Kim.

JANEWAY

Double checking, Harry?

KIM

You can never be too sure, right, Captain?

JANEWAY

I admire your thoroughness. Stay here and give Torres' samples the once over. If you come up with anything, let me know.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: door opening, footsteps)

Janeway exits leaving Kim working.

(audio effect: bridge sounds, door opening)

On the bridge the crew is at stations, except Kim. Paris enters, all smiles and just a bit full of himself.

JANEWAY

Mister Paris, will we have a new specialty in the mess hall tonight?

PARIS

Absolutely! I mean, affirmative, Captain. But that's not all, the planet is a virtual paradise. The people are...lovely. I recommend shore leave for all.

CHAKOTAY

Any 'lovely' people in particular?

PARIS

(embarrassed)

Yes. Her name is Anara, the sweetest farm girl this side of Kansas. She gave me a gift.

TUVOK

What, if I may ask?

NARRATOR

Paris holds up the charm for everyone to see.

PARIS

A good luck charm. She made it herself, just for me.

NARRATOR

Janeway is amused by the conversation.

JANEWAY

And what did you give her, or should I ask?

NARRATOR

(audio effect: comm. board)
Before Paris can respond, the comm. board sounds.

CHAKOTAY

Incoming call, Captain; it's Tinker.

JANEWAY

Let's give him the good news. Open the channel, Chakotay.

(audio effect: comm. channel open)

TINKER

Captain, I hate to be a pest, but is there any word on your plan?

JANEWAY

Relax. It looks like we have a solution. You can tell your people that they have nothing to worry about.

TINKER

Not necessary. I never told them they were in danger. No sense in upsetting them unnecessarily, right?

JANEWAY

Very well. We've already begun our work. I'll keep you informed. Janeway out.

(audio effect: comm. cut)

Looks like the hard work is just starting.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: comm. badge)
Janeway's comm. badge sounds.

JANEWAY

Janeway here.

KIM

Captain. We may have a fly in the ointment. I have a few strange readings from the Other World survey.

JANEWAY

Understood Harry, I'm on the way!

(audio effect: comm. badge closes)

Chakotay, you have the conn. Keep the crew working on the asteroid diversion, for the time being. I hope Harry's 'fly' is easy to remove.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

NARRATOR

The ship's main lab: Kim is sitting at a lab table with Janeway looking on.

JANEWAY

What have you got for me, Harry?

KIM

I'm not sure; that's why I called. I thought I might get some help from the ship's leading scientist. Feel like taking a break from the bridge?

JANEWAY

I would enjoy the break and the challenge. What is it that got you worried?

KIM

Torres, Seven and the other teams collected all the samples from a variety of areas on the planet. Normally, we should find the basic elements with variations at the various sites.

(audio effect: tricorder)

Look at this. In all the samples they took, I found rare trace elements and compounds. Maybe we would find that in a few samples...

JANEWAY

...but not in all of them. I see your point any chance the instruments are the cause?

KIM

I've checked and rechecked all of them. The locations of the samples were logged using coordinates and visual checks on each tricorder, so

they had to be from different locations.

JANEWAY

A real mystery. Nothing that will hold up our mission, but I'd like an answer before Other World's surface is changed forever. Humor me, Harry. Let's go through this data one more time, just to be sure.

KIM

Already set up the samples for you to check. I knew you'd want to do it yourself.

JANEWAY

(amused)

I hate being predictable. Let's get started.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: birds and animals)

It's late afternoon on Home World, Paris and Anara are walking through an open field.

PARIS

Home world is a very nice place. It reminds me a little of Kansas or Nebraska. Only they'd have wheat or corn instead of... what did you say you grew here?

ANARA

Galur. Early in the growing season, it has a small flower. Very pretty, it has a short life, but the grain grows quickly. That is why we use it, we get two crops in one season.

PARIS

Courtesy of Tinker, right?

ANARA

Why yes, how did you know?

PARIS

(matter of factly)

It's a hybrid. Your science hasn't progressed enough to come up with it on your own.

ANARA

(hurt)

We're not good enough? Is that why no one visits us?

NARRATOR

Paris realizes he has hurt her and takes her hand.

PARIS

You and your people are good enough for anyone. I've never met more wonderful people in all my travels. Decent, warm, kind...and very pretty too. The reason no one visits, is that they don't know you're here. We wouldn't have found you if it hadn't been for Tinker. I'm very glad he did call.

NARRATOR

Anara misunderstands Paris and gives him a big hug.

ANARA

Then you'll stay too and help us like Tinker does? That would be wonderful. My good luck charm works better than I thought.

NARRATOR

Paris pulls himself away from Anara and tries to make her understand.

PARIS

Anara, I didn't mean I'd be staying here with you.

ANARA

(hurt again)

Then you will return to your ship?

PARIS

Yes. I must go back, there are people who rely on me there. I am a member of the crew, with responsibilities.

ANARA

And someone special waits for you?

PARIS

Nearly everyone on board is a friend, but back home, I have my family.

ANARA

(still upset)

Then I was right. They are smarter than me. That is why you like them and not me.

PARIS

If I didn't like you, then why would I spend all my free time with you?

ANARA

(brightening somewhat)

I suppose that's true. You sure you're not here to make fun of me and my people?

PARIS

Absolutely not. Now, do I get to see your farm?

ANARA

(happier)

All right. Let's go.

NARRATOR

Seven and Chakotay are on Other World in space suits, instruments in hand.

SEVEN

This is the place. According to the computer models, we needed sample from here. I'll get started right away.

CHAKOTAY

I'll start at the next location. Remember, we're working against the clock.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: electronics)

Chakotay moves off as Seven begins sampling. She is unaware of the slight movement behind her. There is a peculiar pattern at her foot. A series of lines, which do not make any sense. Her foot steps on it as she stores the samples. Moving off to join Chakotay, the pattern is restored, but Chakotay and Seven do not notice.

NARRATOR

Back on Voyager, Janeway and Tinker are enjoying a drink in the Captain's ready room.

TINKER

What did you call this again?

JANEWAY

Raktagino. It's a Klingon drink, like it?

TINKER

Wonderful, I have to get the recipe.

JANEWAY

Sorry, it's from the replicator. I don't think we can duplicate it with the local foods.

TINKER

Marvelous ship. Makes me feel even older than I am. Also makes me feel really behind the times, about like my adopted family must have felt like when I arrived. Awed by the most basic technology, just like children.

JANEWAY

Anxious to please and starved for attention, with a million questions to ask as well, right?

TINKER

Like I said before, good looks and intelligence, quite a combination.

JANEWAY

(embarrassed)

And you are full of the old blarney.

TINKER

How's that?

JANEWAY

A person given to laying it on thick. I suppose that comes from extensive travel and having to deal with all sorts of beings and their cultures.

TINKER

(with admiration)

You've learned a lot from your travels, haven't you. I wish I could convince you to stay longer.

JANEWAY

Not possible. I've promised my crew that I'd get them home as soon as possible.

TINKER

I understand. You have a tremendous responsibility, but you seem to handle it well.

JANEWAY

I've had my share of bad days, I just try to minimize them. Actually, I'm a scientist by training, I went to command school on recommendation by another officer who saw leadership potential.

TINKER

(smiling, understanding)

But you lead as a scientist; look at the options, form a possible solution then test the results when time allows, and implement the plan.

JANEWAY

Nearly any good command officer does that.

TINKER

True, but you have a special approach, like our current situation, unique to the scientific mind. Not many have that special combination. You're perfect for command of this ship. Trust your basic intuition, I'm sure you'll get your people home safely.

JANEWAY

So among your other talents, you're a psychologist as well. I'll keep what you said in mind.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: comm. badge)
Janeway's comm. channel sounds.

CHAKOTAY

Captain? We have the results of those additional samples ready, care to have a look?

JANEWAY

(quietly to Tinker)

That's his way of tempting the scientist in me.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: comm. badge)
Janeway taps her comm. badge.

JANEWAY

On the way, Janeway out.

(beat)

Care to join me Tinker?

TINKER

I better get back to my family before they begin to worry. I've spent far too much time here already. Just let me know how things are going, I would like to be here when the major fireworks begin.

JANEWAY

I'll call you before we start, I promise.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: lab and doors open)

In Voyager's lab are Seven, Chakotay and Kim as Janeway enters.

JANEWAY

(anxious)

Let's have it, same results?

CHAKOTAY

Yes and no. We found the same compounds all right, but something else, too.

SEVEN

On this display are the scans of the areas we took the original samples from. Notice the patterns in the sand? They seem to be random.

JANEWAY

I take it they're not.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: electronic sounds)

Chakotay enters a series commands into the display and the view changes.

CHAKOTAY

These are the scans from the second expedition. Note the similar patterns.

JANEWAY

You mean someone else has been on that planet recently?

KIM

It goes far beyond that.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: electronic sounds)

Kim resets the display once again.

KIM

Torres stepped on this pattern and, before she returned to the ship, it had been restored.

JANEWAY

(stunned)

Then Other World is inhabited. Any chance...

CHAKOTAY

It's a natural occurrence? Look at this.

NARRATOR

Chakotay resets the display one more time.

CHAKOTAY

Due to Harry's diligence, we found this. The patterns seem random, until you change the orientation.

KIM

The lines on the left represent the first three numbers. One line, two lines, then three. The lines on the right are their square, one line, four lines, then nine.

NARRATOR

Everyone watches as Janeway reacts, she is stunned.

JANEWAY

Good Lord. Intelligent life on a planet we're about to destroy.

END ACT THREE

Upcoming Events

May	6	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Pot Luck at John's house 106 Chandra Ct., Cary
	19	Articles due for May/June <i>Wright Stuff</i>
	26-28	Animazement Raleigh Convention Center
June	3	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville
July	1	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville
	14-16	Raleigh SuperCon Raleigh Convention Center

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

THE WRIGHT STUFF
U.S.S. KITTY HAWK
5017 Glen Forest Dr.
RALEIGH NC 27612