

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

New View of the Crab Nebula

This composite image of the Crab Nebula was assembled by combining data from five telescopes spanning nearly the entire breadth of the electromagnetic spectrum.

The Center Seat

By John Troan

I start with news from the Academy. Robert Yates has passed OTS and had been immediately promoted to Ensign. Larry Cox has successfully completed OCC. "Congratulations!" to both of you.

Our May potluck was fairly well attended and we're now looking at the next one! The meeting also saw us welcome our newest member – Morgan Hahn, a transfer from Region 2's U.S.S. *Harry Mudd*. She becomes our Chief Medical Officer, the same position she had on the *'Mudd*. Welcome aboard, Morgan!

The June, July, and August meetings will be at the Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville. (August's meeting probably won't be much more than excuse for us to get together for dinner. ☺)

We'll do another potluck at my house for the September meeting on Labor Day weekend. (I'm voting for *ST IV: The Voyage Home* as the video for that night, but we can make the final choice that evening.)

We are now locked in for our appearance at [Raleigh Supercon](#) on the weekend of July 14-16. Several of us have purchased weekend passes, and anyone else interested in being there can certainly do so – just please let me know, including whether it'll be for part of or the full weekend. We'll use the July meeting to make final con plans, including Friday morning setup and Sunday evening teardown. One last TBD is power. I'm waiting to hear from the con folks on who to contact at the convention center to get a price for a power drop. It'd be nice to have power available to charge up the electronics.

Speaking of cons, [Crystal Coast Con](#) was moved up to September this year – Sept 23, to be exact. This will again be a joint appearance with the U.S.S. *White Eagle*. We're also planning to return the 50/50 raffle (and pure donations) to benefit the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. We chose this charity because its footprint encompasses the home regions for both chapters.

The question of T-shirts has come up several times of late. This is now being looked into. Based on initial research, I think we'll have a small batch made that I'll keep in stock. Additionally, we *might* do a small batch of multicolor t-shirts that (because of the much higher cost) would very likely be pre-ordered and prepaid. (These might also come in only blue to save us one printing color.) Information will be sent out via e-mail once we know more.

Our biggest topic of discussion right now is the dues and treasury proposal that I've been refining based on everyone's feedback. Here's what I believe to be the final (?) proposal for everyone's consideration and comments. Please let me know if you have any feedback on this revision.

First, the answer to the question of, "Why are we setting up a treasury?"

Back in the years when we had an account with a bank, there was an instance where a friend of the chapter was undergoing medical treatment that was slowly draining their personal assets just to pay for the treatments. The senior crew at the time agreed to write them a somewhat sizeable check to help with their needs. This gift made a huge difference in their life. (There was also some advice given for trying to reduce their out of pocket medical expenses, too.)

More recently, we've had a couple of times when a friend of the chapter was in need. We did pass the hat, but we didn't do as well as we would've liked to have been able to. As someone has pointed out, there is a pit-in-your-stomach feeling of helplessness when we can't help someone in need as much as we'd like to.

Additionally, there are some chapter operating costs that could be covered by the treasury. These costs would be subject to the same voting process outlined below, keeping all of our finances as transparent as possible.

I'm proposing that we establish a PayPal Business standard account and get our one free credit card reader. Please reference the PayPal information Larry Cox put together in the Treasurer's Report in the [Nov/Dec 2016 newsletter](#).

This will allow us to start building a treasury. There is an expectation that we would probably have to file taxes each year -- *Taxable Income = (Dues Paid + Other Revenue) less (Documented Expenditures)*.

The PayPal account will be directly accessible by the CO, XO, and Yeoman (CFO/Treasurer). PayPal only gives one login ID per account, so any of the three would be able to access the account to release funds. (I like the idea someone suggested of having multiple approvers, such as we had when requiring two signatures on our paper checks, but it's not possible here.) As a risk management approach, granting access to just these three people would limit our risk while still allowing each person to review the account activity.

PayPal accepts only electronic transfers -- the primary ones being credit cards and transfer to/from other PayPal accounts. This means we could be paying our dues largely by credit card; issuing a transfer from our personal PayPal account; or issuing a transfer from our personal checking account. (We'd have to work on the particulars of this last one if anyone does choose this option.)

Cash and paper checks would have to be handled through the CFO/Treasurer for transfer into the *Kitty Hawk* account -- and a receipt for received funds would be given as documentation for both sides (*giving member* and *Treasurer receiving*).

Almost every transaction that PayPal processes for us will incur a fee, as noted in [Larry Cox's summary](#). This fee would come out of the *Kitty Hawk* side, resulting in the proposed \$12 of annual dues being reduced to \$11-something going into our account.

Each issue of the newsletter will include a Yeoman/Treasurer report listing a financial summary for the previous two months. The summary will include a list of incoming and outgoing transactions, giving full transparency for everyone to know where the money is going. (Incoming dues payments will be only a lump sum for the report. We will keep a separate record of who is paying dues for voting purposes, with access granted only to the CO, XO, Yeoman, and very likely the rest of any future LLC's board of directors.)

Guidelines can be considered to allow for audits of the financial records to verify that the information reported in the newsletter is in line with actual records. The audit could potentially be called for in the monthly meeting and requiring simple-majority approval by the membership at large and/or the board of directors. (This will be a work in progress at first, but would need to be quickly resolved after the treasury is established.)

Dues are being proposed at \$12 per year (easily prorated to \$1/month for members that join mid-year), to be paid in January. Additionally, family memberships would be available -- proposing that for each full-dues member, there can be one half-dues member.

I'm asking for consideration that dues be retroactive to the beginning of 2017, with any members joining us during the year be prorated based on when they transferred aboard.

Dues would be completely voluntary for everyone. This part has had the most back-and-forth discussion and I would prefer to not force STARFLEET members into having to pay the dues just to remain as chapter members.

As when we had dues before, our own personal taxes don't have to account for our dues into the *Kitty Hawk*. (Someone asked me about this and I wanted the answer to be known to all.)

All *Kitty Hawk* members (including non-dues members) can make a proposal for an expenditure.

This is one part where I absolutely want **every** member to have a voice.

For each proposed expense, all dues-paying members will be able to vote by e-mail ballot that lasts seven calendar days. The CO will send out a ballot for each proposed expense. Replies should be set up to return to the CO, XO, and Treasurer so that more than one person will have complete voting results for accuracy -- another check-and-balance.

The reason for the e-mail vote is that I don't want it publicly known who has or has not volunteered to pay dues. Additionally, taking a vote during any meeting will likely not include all dues-paying members and I do want every eligible voter to be counted.

A final result will be announced by e-mail and published in the next available issue of the newsletter. The result will include the total number of "Yes" and "No" votes received.

NOTE: I am withdrawing the LLC part of the proposal, but leaving it here for possible future reference. The reason for skipping the LLC is that the amount of paperwork required as an LLC could be more than we can handle at this time. If we got buried and decided to dissolve the LLC, it would cost us the same amount to file as it did to create the LLC. (The amount is currently around \$250 for each "create" or "dissolve" filing.)

If we have to in the future, we could file paperwork with the NC Sec. of State office to become a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC). The LLC should become the official owner of our PayPal account and allow us to request a business Tax ID from the IRS (an EIN, I think.... it's been so long since I looked at this one).

We will probably not seek to become a non-profit in the eyes of the IRS because of the many potential traps we could find ourselves in if we mess up something.

For the LLC, I propose a board of directors that consists of:

- CO as President
- XO as Vice President
- Yeoman as CFO / Treasurer
- Second Officer as another board member

- A fifth member TBD.... I've heard one proposal about making this a rotating seat, with a different *Kitty Hawk* crew member coming in each Jan 1. This isn't set in stone, but I do like the idea.

Comp Ops Report By John Troan

Comp Ops has been relatively quiet the last couple of months, allowing me to start catching up on getting stuff ready to post to the web site. With fingers crossed, I'm hoping to have the web site revamp complete during the summer. In addition to overhauling the underlying file layout, my intent is to update the left-side navigation bar on every web page to include links to our social media platforms.

We also need to turn our collective attention to getting the last vocals recorded for our second podcast. According to my notes, we've got seven characters that can be done with as few as four people. (Most of the remaining parts have been paired so that several crewmembers can each read two parts without getting caught talking to themselves in a scene.) If all interested crew (who have yet to read a part) were to gather for one last recording session, it would probably take no more than an hour or so. We can also engage in a group dinner afterwards.

Brad's narrative story is being targeted for release with the July/August issue. Brad and I have already discussed what excerpt will be in the newsletter and where to split the on-line publishing between Part One and Part Two. The trick is that the story and newsletter need to be released at the same time, so I need have the story ready to post right when that issue of the newsletter is published.

StarTrek.com ran a multi-round poll this spring, attempting to get a list of the best *Star Trek* episodes across all the series. [The results](#) weren't completely surprising -- *TNG's "Best of Both Worlds"* was the top vote-

Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

getter, with "Inner Light" at #2. TOS's "City on the Edge of Forever" took third, followed by DS9's "In the Pale Moonlight". The rest of this Top 10 were a mix of TOS and TNG episodes.

The [James Webb Telescope](#) is moving closer to completion. It was recently at Johnson Space Center in Houston for testing before being shipped to California for spacecraft integration and final testing. The next stop after that is French Guiana for the launch!

The next resupply mission to the space station is scheduled to launch on June 1, dock on June 4, and return to Earth on July 2. This is [SpaceX's eleventh cargo flight](#) under NASA contract (and twelfth overall to the station), but is the first to reuse a *Dragon* capsule. This is also the 100th launch from Kennedy Space Center's Pad 39A. The pad was previously used for some Apollo and space shuttle launches, and is now being leased to SpaceX. (NASA is retaining exclusive use of Pad 39B for its own needs.)

A few quick notes from around the solar system –

- On Mars, [Opportunity](#) has reached its [primary study target for its current mission extension](#): Perseverance Valley, which is part of the rim of Endeavour Crater.
- [Juno](#) is near the one Earth-year mark in its mission orbiting Jupiter. [Returns for that first year](#) include several surprising discoveries. The mission is designed with a close-in flyby every 53 days (July 11 scheduled to be the next one) with "a fire hose of Jovian science" coming in during each flyby that can take up to a day and half to download.
- While [Cassini](#) is nearing the end of its mission around Saturn, it's still returning some fascinating science of its own. It also reached a noteworthy milestone – [the first solstice while in orbit](#), which in this case is the "summer" solstice for the northern hemisphere and the "first day of winter" below the equator. (It was also in orbit during the equinox in August 2009.)

First up, John's pot luck dinner meeting was a hit. To those who showed up and contributed to the dinner, I thank you. I had a little of everything, which is why I'm up about three pounds. I also appreciated the fact that I didn't have to cook (Katy made the chili I brought). I really enjoyed the evening's special program, "50 Years of Star Trek". If you haven't seen it, do so. It's really good and it also has the last interview with Leonard Nimoy. My only criticism: the background music, which was unnecessary, sort of 'quasi-Trek'; ran a bit loud in places and sometimes made the interviews hard to understand.

Of special interest this summer is the showing of a special on BBC America, "Stephen Hawking: Expedition New Earth". In the program, he outlines the need to 'get out there' and explore space right now! Then he outlines the reasons for colonizing other worlds within the next 100 years. Previews say it's quite good and a real eye opener. I haven't seen the broadcast date yet, but I can't wait. Keep an eye out for it.

Speaking of space, the [Cassini](#) mission is still providing much information and many pictures. As the mission closes in September, they are doing all they can to maximize use of the spacecraft and there haven't been any disappointments. Since our manned missions have been almost non-existent for years, the robotic ones are making up for it in spectacular ways!

Two big conventions are scheduled for Raleigh. Hope you can attend at least one of them. Kanki and I will be at both Animazement and [Supercon](#). If you'd like to help with the Kitty Hawk table at Supercon, contact John for the details and scheduling. I'll be working the *Kitty Hawk* table and Kanki, too. It's going to be a busy weekend. Oh, and both of my daughters will be there too; all in the family.

Also concerning Kanki, the North Market location on Old Wake Forest Road should be getting the second half of its facelift soon. With the dining, sushi bar and exterior done, it's now time for the main bar and bathrooms. Oh yes, the whole strip mall is getting an exterior renovation as well. Just in time for my daughter's rehearsal dinner.

There will be a web page posting of my story 'Friends and Enemies' soon. John is working on the technical details as I'm writing this. This is the story I submitted to the writing contest and since it wasn't selected, I decided to give it to *Kitty Hawk*. Hope you enjoy it.

Time to 'type this up' and send it to Elaine. Hope to see you at the next meeting!

ST: Voyager — Command Decision (Podcast)

By Brad McDonald

ACT FOUR

NARRATOR

In the main briefing room, all senior staff members are present.

JANEWAY

Why didn't we have any indications of intelligent life before now?

CHAKOTAY

What little evidence there was, was hard to spot. We literally stepped all over it and still didn't recognize it.

KIM

None of our scans showed anything even remotely indicating life, far less any intelligence.

TORRES

No physical evidence of any kind, such as structures, generated power, agriculture, or anything else.

SEVEN

There hasn't even been an attempt at communication, other than lines in the sand.

JANEWAY

No obvious communication. Question is, what or whom are we dealing with? I need answers and I need them quick. We must reconsider our other options concerning the asteroid. Seven, re-examine the other scenarios. Tuvok, try to identify and locate the aliens. Tom, check the computer records for similar circumstances and see what other options we have. Harry, you will attempt to establish communications with the aliens.

NARRATOR

Janeway rises and walks about the room continuing.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

B'Elanna, I want an evaluation of all our available power, reserves and all. If it comes to it, we will even sacrifice our ability to temporarily make warp speed.

CHAKOTAY

What about Neelix and myself?

JANEWAY

Check out Home World in detail. Just in case all else fails, we may have to consider an evacuation. Do a quiet survey, don't alarm the locals.

NEELIX

We could use Tinker's assistance.

JANEWAY

(hesitant)

All right, but tell him we still haven't completely given up on diverting the asteroid. Let's get started. Dismissed.

NARRATOR

Everyone moves out quickly except Paris.

JANEWAY

What is it Tom?

PARIS

(hesitant)

I'd like to request a change of assignment.

JANEWAY

For what reason?

PARIS

I'm already familiar with the people on Home World.

Neelix and I have made several contacts –

JANEWAY

(interrupting)

Commander Chakotay has some experience with mass evacuations. He can use Neelix and Tinker as contacts.

PARIS

(assertive)

I need to see –

JANEWAY

(out of patience)

You have your assignment, take care of any personal errands later. Dismissed.

NARRATOR

She exits quickly before Paris can respond, leaving him frustrated and angry.

(audio effect: engineering sounds)

In engineering Torres is briefing her staff of engineers and technicians.

TORRES

We have limited time to inventory every erg of energy available. Don't overlook anything and bring any idea you have, no matter how small or ridiculous it may seem. Let's get to it!

(audio effect: footsteps and conversation)

NARRATOR

Torres begins to work, talking to herself as she does.

TORRES

I no sooner get this ship running at peak efficiency, and now we may have to take it apart.

NARRATOR

(sound effect: bridge electronics)
On the bridge, Kim is working intently and fast at his station.

KIM

Computer, use a broad band transmission. Begin sending basic math models, starting with addition tables. Start rate of data at lowest recommended levels and increase, then repeat periodically.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Affirmative. Data stream active. Give operation parameters for endurance.

KIM

Until further notice.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Affirmative.

JANEWAY

Aren't you limiting your scope just a bit?

KIM

That's just the first step. I'm reconfiguring all of the shuttles to broadcast repeating signals of other math constants and such, on rotating frequencies. Maybe I'll get lucky.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: footsteps)

Janeway likes his dedication and plan and walks over to his station.

JANEWAY

Luck has nothing to do with it. It's your thorough approach. Sorry to have bothered you. Carry on, Mister.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: footsteps)

She now approaches Tuvok, who is also engrossed in his work.

JANEWAY

Anything, Tuvok?

TUVOK

Since our original scans failed to turn up any life form readings, I'm using alternate life form parameters, such as silicon, sulfur and even noble gases.

JANEWAY

(surprised)

A gas based life form?

TUVOK

Not without precedent, even in the alpha quadrant. It would explain our inability to detect them and why they would have no discernable infrastructure.

JANEWAY

(impressed)

Fascinating. Let me know what you find.

NARRATOR

Janeway moves to her command chair, deep in thought.

JANEWAY

Computer. Assemble a model of the projected impact on Other World if the asteroid is not diverted.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Working. Model available.

JANEWAY

Display model on main viewer.

NARRATOR

We see the asteroid head towards the planet, striking it nearly dead center. Almost immediately, the atmosphere erupts in flame and consumes the entire world. Janeway is deeply moved by the sight.

(audio effect: lab sounds)

In the Astrometrics Lab, Seven is busy at the main console and Paris is working at an auxiliary panel nearby. Seven is frustrated.

SEVEN

Both alternative solutions have a major drawback. If we attempt to split the asteroid, there is a forty per cent chance of major impacts on Other World and 60 per cent on Home World. If we try for total destruction, the resulting fragments would have an equally disastrous impact on both planets, over a longer period of time. Both methods are unacceptable.

PARIS

How many methods have you tried?

SEVEN

Over thirty, so far. I am using a variable of vectors and tractor forces in an effort to reach the optimum effect. Any luck with your research?

NARRATOR

Paris now reveals his level of frustration and resentment.

PARIS

No. I could be more useful in some other capacity. So far, I've found sixteen other asteroid impact scenarios, none of which is similar to our situation.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: footsteps)

He stands up and moves over to Seven's position.

SEVEN

You are giving up?

PARIS

The solution is not in the past, we already have it here and now. We know what to do. The longer we wait, the more difficult it becomes.

SEVEN

You believe the Captain is wrong? You think we should sacrifice the unknown aliens

for the benefit of those you do know?

NARRATOR

Paris is struck by her statement and realizes what he is advocating.

(audio effect: bridge sounds and doors)

On the bridge Janeway, Tuvok and Kim are present as Chakotay enters.

JANEWAY
(hopeful)

What did you find?

CHAKOTAY

Evacuation would be difficult with our resources, but it goes far beyond that.

JANEWAY

How so?

CHAKOTAY

If it were just the people, it would be difficult, but with the livestock, belongings, equipment; there's just too much. However, there's a much bigger problem, it's cultural. Home World to the people is everything. Just moving across the horizon is a traumatic experience, but leaving Home World is unthinkable to them.

JANEWAY

You sure?

CHAKOTAY

Maybe if we had Tinker to help explain –

NARRATOR

Kim shouts in triumph, cutting Chakotay off.

KIM

Got them! Captain, I'm receiving a response through one of the shuttle channels. They've sent a basic dictionary, looks like a binary code.

NARRATOR

Janeway rushes to his side, eager.

JANEWAY

Tie in the universal translator and see if the computer can sort it out. Open a channel, Harry.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: radio static)
There is some static and a very faint voice, but unintelligible. Kim and Janeway are very excited.

JANEWAY

See if you can clean up that signal and give it a boost.

KIM

Working on it, Captain. We should have a better signal... now!

ALIEN'S VOICE

You are from the nearby world?

JANEWAY

No. We are visitors to your space. We come from a long distance and represent a variety of life forms and cultures.

ALIEN'S VOICE

Why do you visit our world? Why do you take from us?

CHAKOTAY

(whispering)

Our samples?

JANEWAY

We mean you no harm and do not desire any of your resources. We simply... investigate. We wish to meet with you, are you able to leave your world? We can arrange for any type of special environment you require.

ALIEN'S VOICE

Not possible. Our world is what gives us life. If we leave it, we will not survive.

JANEWAY

If you prefer, we will return to your world to establish –

ALIEN'S VOICE

(interrupting)

Do not return. Your presence is a threat to our existence. You have already caused harm.

NARRATOR

There is a moment of silence and Janeway becomes worried.

JANEWAY

Is the channel still open?

KIM

Everything checks, channel still open.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: static)

After another pause, the static returns, then settles down.

ALIEN'S VOICE

We wish to learn more about you, but only communicate in the current manner. Is that acceptable?

JANEWAY

Of course. You may ask anything you wish. Do you have a name I can address you with?

NARRATOR

There is another pause, this one lasts longer and Janeway becomes worried.

KIM

(whispering)

Channel still open, Captain.

JANEWAY

Maybe I committed a faux pas.

TUVOK

Captain, I believe I have located the aliens. They are near one of the original sampling points. Very interesting beings.

NARRATOR

Janeway moves to Tuvok's station and speaks quietly.

JANEWAY

What do you have?

TUVOK

They are very unique. A mixture of energy and gas. They are difficult to pinpoint, even when I know what to look for. They use themselves as an energy source and linked together in intelligence. I cannot ascertain their numbers accurately, as they are... fluid.

JANEWAY

You mean they move in and out of your scan? Fascinating.

TUVOK

My exact thoughts. These beings are unique in our database, perhaps in the entire galaxy.

JANEWAY

Humans used to think they were unique until a group of Vulcan's landed on Earth. Transfer any data you obtain to ship's records. I sure would like to meet them.

CHAKOTAY

(clearing his throat)

Captain? Let's not forget our original problem. We have only a few hours before our window of opportunity is lost. We must commit to a course of action, soon.

NARRATOR

Janeway's enthusiasm is dampened by Chakotay's reminder.

JANEWAY

You're right.

NARRATOR

Janeway returns to Kim's station.

JANEWAY

Harry, try to reestablish the channel.

KIM

Still open, as far as I can tell, ma'am.

JANEWAY

We will contact you again, later. Janeway out.

KIM

(confused)

You mean you're going to –

JANEWAY

(interrupting)

I'm closing the channel so we can continue our work on the asteroid problem. The final decision has not been made, yet. I'm going to review all the information we have and get this resolved.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

NARRATOR

(audio effect: door chime)

Janeway is in her ready room, staring out the view ports, when the door chime sounds. She is physically tired and mentally fatigued.

JANEWAY

Come!

NARRATOR

(audio effect: doors, footsteps)
Chakotay enters with data padd in hand.

CHAKOTAY

The latest from Tuvok. He reestablished contact with the aliens. It seems they are very sensitive and very susceptible to injury. Tinker's previous visit left them a bit... paranoid. They welcomed our contact, but want little to do with us or anyone else, at least, for the foreseeable future.

NARRATOR

Janeway turns to face Chakotay and seems less than enthusiastic.

CHAKOTAY

Decided yet? Our window of opportunity will expire in an hour.

JANEWAY

No, no decision yet.

CHAKOTAY

May I help in some way?

NARRATOR

(audio effect: footsteps)

Janeway walks to her duty desk.

JANEWAY

I'm not sure. Why don't you take a seat?

NARRATOR

Chakotay sits opposite Janeway and he is sympathetic.

CHAKOTAY

Not the easiest decision to make, it's understandable.

JANEWAY

(thoughtfully)

In my second year in Command School, a group of new candidates arrived. I was chosen to give them their orientation tour. I remember one boy in particular. He was nervous and unsure of himself and I thought, 'What is he doing here? Out of place, with no future in command.'

CHAKOTAY

Not the bold and take charge type, is that it?

JANEWAY

Absolutely. He bungled many assignments and sneaked past most of the academics.

CHAKOTAY

How'd he get there?

JANEWAY

Recommended by a senior officer.

CHAKOTAY

They must have seen some potential to make such a recommendation.

JANEWAY

Evidently. Near the end of the academic year, we took the academy cruiser, Halifax, out on maneuvers. It was an old Constellation Class starship. We used to call it 'the bucket of bolts'. Tough, but past its prime.

CHAKOTAY

The reasoning for its use was to see if you could keep it going and make do with the old technology and inconveniences.

JANEWAY

Usually that's the case. But we were ambushed by a Cardassian ship. It was early in the war, before hostilities had actually been declared, and we took a beating. The senior staff was killed or incapacitated in the first attack. Each department fell under the senior Command School trainee. I got environmental and life support systems.

CHAKOTAY

And your nervous friend?

JANEWAY

He was on the bridge when the others were killed. He reestablished helm and weapons control by himself. Then he launched a counter attack with only twenty per cent shields and fifty per cent phasers. Scared the hell out of the Cardassians. They must have figured we wouldn't be so bold unless help was on the way, so they took off.

CHAKOTAY

So he was command material after all.

JANEWAY

You don't know the half of it. After we got things under control, I took a team to the bridge. It was flooded with plasma from a ruptured conduit. A slow leak had developed and he knew it. But if he took the time to repair it, the ship would have been lost if the Cardassians had attacked again. He still had his hands on the phaser controls when we found him, dead.

CHAKOTAY

(moved emotionally)

I would have been proud to serve with someone like that.

JANEWAY

I always felt guilty about doubting his command potential. Because of that, I volunteered to be part of the honor guard at his funeral. Starfleet awarded him the Federation Medal of Honor. We returned his body to his family, just simple farmers, like those folks on Home World.

CHAKOTAY

I'd like to offer you an alternative to your dilemma.

JANEWAY

Really, what is it?

CHAKOTAY

If it comes to it, turn temporary command over to me. Once the decision has been made, I'll turn the ship back over to you.

JANEWAY

I appreciate the offer, but I must make the decision. It goes with the center seat and this office.

(beat)

I am curious, though. What would you do?

CHAKOTAY

(smiling)

Not unless I'm in command. Fifty-three minutes, Captain.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: doors and comm. badge)

Chakotay rises to leave, as he exits, Janeway taps her comm. badge.

JANEWAY

Tuvok? Contact Tinker and have him transported to Voyager. Janeway out.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: doors open & close)

Kim and Paris meet while entering the mess room. Paris is a bit caustic.

PARIS

Off duty?

KIM

(enthusiastic)

No, just taking a quick break. I'm still collecting data on the new aliens.

NARRATOR

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

The two pick up the special of the day from Neelix and sit together.

PARIS

I heard you were responsible for their discovery.

KIM

(modestly)

Well, I guess so. It's really fascinating work. Tuvok and I have put together a bit of their history. When you get a chance, you should take a look at it.

PARIS

If you hadn't discovered them, we could have saved

those wonderful people on Home World.

KIM
(defensive)

So I shouldn't have followed up on my discoveries? Isn't that a bit unrealistic on your part? Just because I haven't visited –

PARIS
(interrupting)

You're right! You don't know them like I do. And we may let them die because of some half energy and half gas aliens who don't even want us around.

KIM
Great. The discovery of a lifetime and you treat it like the plague.

PARIS
Well, that's just about right.

NARRATOR
An angry Kim gets up and exits quickly, leaving Paris to think, alone.

(sound effect: transporter)
In Voyager's main transporter room Tinker arrives with a large scroll in one hand and a tricorder in another. Janeway is at the controls and steps up to meet him. She is subdued.

JANEWAY
Welcome aboard, Tinker.

TINKER
You don't have good news for me, do you?

JANEWAY
Is it that obvious?

TINKER
I've made a living out of being able to read faces and voices. I suspected something when I got the call.

NARRATOR
He steps off the platform and gets close to Janeway.

JANEWAY
You heard about the aliens on Other World?

TINKER
Yes, I understand I 'upset them' and you wish to avoid their destruction.

JANEWAY
I'm sorry, but I simply can't endanger one civilization just to preserve another. It goes against our –

TINKER
(interrupting)
I understand completely. No need to explain. You and your crew are not the type of people who cause trouble. I know you were going out of your way to help us, even at the expense of your own safety and convenience.

NARRATOR
He gives her the tricorder.

TINKER
Mister Paris let me borrow this. It contains a rather crude, but complete chart of this sector of space. There aren't many advanced cultures around here, but I marked all of them and a few interesting places to visit. I've been updating this for years.

NARRATOR
Janeway takes the tricorder and is touched by the gesture, making her a bit uneasy.

JANEWAY
Thank you very much. Somehow I don't think we deserve it.

TINKER
Nonsense, you've done your best, no one could ask for more. However, there is one favor I'd like to ask.

JANEWAY
Name it.

NARRATOR
Tinker hands her the scroll.

TINKER
It has the names and histories of all the people in my village. It's been handed down for generations. I'm the current 'keeper'. I'd like you to keep it. When you get home, tell your people about us and our simple culture.

NARRATOR
Janeway accepts it and her emotion rises.

JANEWAY
Tinker, why don't you come with us? We'd be happy to have you aboard. Your knowledge of this sector –

TINKER
(interrupting)
Is all in your hand. And what would a backwards old man do on such an advanced ship such as yours? I'd be in the way.

(reminiscing)
The locals took me in to their families and Community. If I left, they'd want to know why. In any event, they'd be hurt and I couldn't do that. I always knew I'd die on Home World. Anara's family even agreed to look after my burial site when the time came. It's simply come a bit sooner than I had imagined.

JANEWAY
Will you tell them?

TINKER
No. I couldn't make them understand the concept and all I would do is upset them. From what I understand, our village is near ground zero, they'll never know what happened. It's better that way.

NARRATOR

Janeway really wants him to stay and is near emotion.

JANEWAY

You sure I can't persuade you to remain with us?

TINKER

No, Captain.

(beat)

You're blaming yourself for this, aren't you?

JANEWAY

If my insatiable scientific curiosity hadn't needed to know why we were getting anomalous readings on Other World, I wouldn't be in this situation.

TINKER

We've talked about this before. Your scientific mind serves you well. You've discovered a totally unique form of life and avoided its intentional destruction. That is quite admirable.

(beat)

Good-bye Captain... I mean, Kathryn.

NARRATOR

He smiles and she steps closer, giving him a big hug. He is caught off guard by her action.

TINKER

Surprising behavior for a Captain.

NARRATOR

She steps back to face him.

JANEWAY

Nonsense. The officer who recommended me for Command School told me, that if I ever lost my compassion, then I wasn't fit for command.

TINKER

A wise person.

JANEWAY

Yes. My father, the Admiral.

NARRATOR

Tinker steps back on the transporter platform and takes in his surroundings one last time, while Janeway goes to the control console.

TINKER

At least I lived long enough to see all of this... and meet you. Good luck on the rest of your voyage.

JANEWAY

Good bye, Tinker.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: transporter)

His image fades and Janeway remains at the console for a few moments.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: doors, bridge & comm. badge)

Later, on the bridge, Janeway enters at a clip and taps her comm. badge.

JANEWAY

Engineering? Are we ready to go?

TORRES

Give the word, Captain.

NARRATOR

There's a pause as Janeway takes the command chair.

JANEWAY

Tom, impulse power until we clear the system. Warp drive as soon as possible.

PARIS

Course laid in and ready, Captain.

JANEWAY

Let's get the hell out of here, engage.

NARRATOR

Later that evening, we see Paris pacing nervously outside the holodeck when Kim shows up, grim.

KIM

You wanted to see me?

PARIS

I've done some thinking since our last conversation.

KIM

And?

PARIS

It's your turn to pick the next holo program.

(beat)

I was wrong. I let my personal feelings interfere with my judgement.

(beat)

I managed to swap holo time with Torres.

NARRATOR

Paris smiles weakly at Kim. Kim relaxes and returns his smile.

KIM

Why don't we try billiards again?

PARIS

Really? I was looking forward to some diving in Hawaii. It's already programmed.

NARRATOR

(audio effect: doors)

Kim breaks into a big grin and the two enter the holodeck together.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

Upcoming Events

July	1	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville
	14-16	Raleigh SuperCon Raleigh Convention Center
	22	Articles for July/Aug <i>Wright Stuff</i> due
Aug	5	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville
Sept	2	4 p.m. Ship Meeting And Potluck at John Troan's house
	23	Crystal Coast Con Cape Carteret, NC

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

THE WRIGHT STUFF
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