

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

Staring down Hurricane Florence. Ever stare into the gaping eye of a category 4 hurricane? It’s chilling, even from space.

<https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/staring-down-hurricane-florence>

The Center Seat By John Troan

I hope everyone in the Triangle area has recovered from Florence. (As I write this, flooding is still highly prevalent between I-95 and the coast; those areas need to wait for the water to recede before recovery can start there.)

I saw a message from the folks at MacDaddy's in Cape Carteret that this year's [Crystal Coast Con](#) has been canceled due to damage incurred at both the business and a lot of employees' homes.

My hopes and thoughts to all still affected for as speedy a recovery and rebuild as circumstances will allow.

In an effort to raise donations, the folks at [Raleigh Supercon](#) were recently auctioning off signed memorabilia to help raise money for "charities that are helping those in need after the effects of Hurricane Florence."

As reminder, we're collecting non-perishable food items for the Food Bank of Eastern and Central North Carolina. The final collection will be at the November meeting, with the delivery being made before Thanksgiving. (We're also collecting new unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. December will be the final collection.)

For both collections, please contact Larry Cox if you'd like to donate food or toys, but are unable to make the meetings before we make our delivery.

Our December meeting will be combined with a Christmas party that Diane and Debbie are hosting. We'll have more details at the November meeting and in the November meeting notes.

Esse Quam Videri

Comp Ops Report By John Troan

I normally save the non-*Kitty Hawk* material for the end of my report, but this is BIG. Astronomers have [discovered a planet orbiting star](#)

[HD 26965](#) – or 40 Eridani A. Given that the planet is on the inner edge of the habitable zone, could this be the Vulcan envisioned by Gene Roddenberry? (The habitable zone is the range of distances from a given star that liquid water could exist – not too hot and not too cold.)

I'm a little behind on getting our [Raleigh Supercon pics](#) posted, but should be getting to them very soon (if not before this issue is published).

I'll also be posting the final installment of our [current narrative](#) at the same time.

As of this writing, the list server application on my server is very, very nearly finished. The core functions (receiving and processing messages) have passed testing and I just have to add a couple more functions before the initial version is ready for use.

Engineer's Report By Brad McDonald

There is a lot to discuss regrading *Star Trek* and not much of it is good. It concerns all current and future productions regardless of venue or source. Basically, it is a question of who owns what and how it works or, in most cases, not. The long and short of it involves a convoluted deal between Paramount, CBS, Viacom A, Viacom B, Bad Robot and a host of others. If someone wrote a script about this and produced it, it would be a great movie or TV series, probably better than what *Star Trek* has been getting lately.

I ran into the source for all this information by accident on-line while listening to music on YouTube. I do this while working at my desk, drawing table or eating lunch. The website had [a twenty-five minute program](#) that basically stated the current movie series was in very deep trouble. While the first movie did quite well and the second okay, the third tanked. It took too long to make and interest dropped. Regular fans were not

impressed with the remake of *Khan* and stayed away from #3. The movie was the most expensive *Trek* movie ever made so far at \$390 million and grossed only \$330 million. Hollywood bookkeeping interprets this as a \$50-100 million loss after factoring in advertising, marketing and such.

Another aspect in the profits involves merchandising associated with the Kelvin timeline. It hasn't done very well, further adding to Paramount's financial woes. CBS makes about \$10 million annually on comics, figures, t-shirts, mugs and more. Abrams wanted that to stop to avoid confusion with his *Trek*. CBS said NO! So Abrams left, but under an agreement, which I can't begin to understand, where Bad Robot still has an interest in the franchise and makes money even if the movies are not profitable!

If this isn't bad enough, Paramount itself is in horrible financial trouble as a number of recent movies have all failed, miserably: the latest *Transformers* movie, *Suburbicon*, *Ghost in the Shell*, *Monster Truck* and the remake of *Ben Hur* and more. The studio is in debt to the sum of \$10-15 billion. Their new president has announced cost cutting measures and that includes the latest *Trek* movie and its cast. Since they all signed to a three picture deal, contracts had to be redone and Paramount stated they had done so, based on a verbal agreement until salaries were discussed, that's when it all fell apart.

Paramount's chief wants more movies with smaller budgets and more popular features. Paramount is out of money and made the announcement for *Star Trek* #4 before finalizing all deals to generate interest. But Pine got 6 million for #3 and who knows what the others made. Add to that the large special effects budget and other costs puts #4 in a precarious position.

Worse yet, the primary financial backers were Chinese institutions and

Plot Plugs — “One More Thing to Do Before We Go”

By Brad McDonald

The Voyage Home is one of my favorite movies of the *Star Trek* franchise. However, there was a bit of a flaw in the story. With any story, there is always the risk of holes or gaps, but one always bothered me about *The Voyage Home*. When discussing this with other people they usually agreed with my point.

This is a very short story which is an attempt to correct that flaw. Rather than try to do this in a script format, I am using the short story as simply a matter of convenience.

To make this work, my addition would add about three minutes to the overall story. Not a great deal of time and I think it would have been a good addition to the story. It would have made the overall story a bit more acceptable, at least to me and those who agreed with my point of view.

Please read it and see if you agree.

If any of our readers think of other plot holes in a (non-Kelvin) story – *TOS*, *TNG*, *DS9*, *VOY*, or *ENT* – that need attention, please contact me. If we get enough of these, Plot Plugs will become a regular feature in the newsletter.

After being rescued from the hospital, Chekov was in a daze for minutes. The trip in the transporter didn't help very much as the Klingon device wasn't as refined as the ones he was used to. Walking up the ramp to the beat-up Klingon ship, a thought struck Chekov that terrified him. Suddenly, he was no longer dizzy or nauseated as he had been. Now he was clear-headed and

determined, with a purpose in mind.

First things first, although he was dressed in a less than dignified manner, he headed straight for engineering. Sulu reluctantly released him and Dr. McCoy tried to protest, but Chekov waved off the surgeon's help and the plea for a follow-up exam.

Scott was fine tuning the Klingon ship's power systems as Chekov entered the room, breathless and excited. In short order, he was face to face with Starfleet's finest engineer and a good friend as well. "I have a problem, Scotty!"

The engineer gave the Russian a close look and smiled broadly. "I'll say! You're out of uniform, Pavel!"

Chekov looked down at his unusual attire and shrugged, "No, Scotty, it's about my interrogation on the old *Enterprise*. While I was there, they took all my belongings!"

The grin on Scott's face continued and he spoke in a dismissive tone. "Don't worry we'll replace them for you."

Becoming a bit frustrated, the Russian navigator tried to explain. "No, you don't understand, they've got the Klingon communicator and disrupter plus my Starfleet I.D. and more. If we don't get them back..."

Now the Scotsman's grin disappeared and realization hit him. "Those items will contaminate the time line; they'll have 23rd Century technology!"

"Exactly!" Chekov looked positively scared. "Is the transporter up to full strength?"

"Aye, Mr. Spock's plan worked perfectly. We're nearly 100% now,

but you can't go back, we're getting ready to leave!"

Thinking a moment, Chekov asked, "What about scanning for the Klingon technology? It should stand out like a sore thumb on a 20th century ship."

Scott nodded in agreement and Chekov could see the 'wheels turning,' as the engineer moved to the transporter control console. "Do you remember where you were when you saw them last?"

Following like an obedient pet, Chekov thought out loud, "Yes, well, sort of. When I left the reactor room, they took me, um...three decks up and forward, almost mid-ship."

Now at the transporter console, Scott began working on another one of his miracles, "Good!"

The very confused Russian studied the face of his friend. "How is that good?"

"It's far enough away from the ship's reactors, that I can get an accurate reading." After a few heart beats, Scott's face lit up. "I think I've got them!"

Chekov moved around the console and looked at the readouts for himself. "It looks like the items are in a container of some type."

"Aye lad, we'll have to bring up the entire contents and sort it out, then send back anything that's not ours."

Making the necessary adjustments, Scott deftly manipulated the controls until the now familiar whine and glow of the Klingon transporter deposited a modest collection of personal belongings on the floor.

Nearly jumping, Chekov quickly sorted through the items,

***ST:TOS* – “Hades”**

By Brad McDonald

then realized everything was his, including his clothes. Now it hit him, this was an evidence locker. Evidently, the authorities wanted all of his belongings in one place for their intended investigation. Now, however, they would have an even bigger mystery to solve.

Still, the bigger mystery to Chekov was why the military authorities chose a civilian hospital to tend to his injury. Maybe the ship's surgeon was on leave. More importantly, why were there no military guards at the hospital? Through his haze, while traveling on the hospital gurney, he saw only local police.

“It's okay, Scotty, all these things are mine.”

He was about to change his clothes when he was admonished, “No time, son, better get to the bridge on the double. We have to leave, now!”

Dropping the bundle, Chekov turned towards the hatch and added, “Thanks, Scotty, it's a great load off my mind. I'd hate to think I might be responsible for causing a... major problem.” Chekov still looked concerned.

A very understanding Montgomery Scott put his hand on the Russian's shoulder, “Don't worry, not a word of this to the Admiral, okay?”

Relieved, Chekov rushed off to the bridge while a grinning Scotty watched closely.

The entire operation had taken only about three minutes or so, but would probably make a world of difference for the next three hundred years of history. Even though he was forced to return to the bridge, ‘out of uniform,’ Pavel Andreievich Chekov smiled to himself, satisfied that he may have saved the timeline, at least part of it. Now, as he took his seat at the navigation console, it was time to save the whales and Earth itself.

PART I - ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – THE PLANET OLIN

EXT. OLIN – LATE AFTERNOON - CLEARING

We see four Domai; Benel, PILIT, JORAN and TUVAR wait, dressed in casual native clothing. A small stone building is visible in the B.G.

NEW ANGLE

Transporter effect reveals Spock, Udval, Lingari, Zana, Montalva and Coloradas. Spock steps forward.

SPOCK

I am called Spock. I am First Officer and will lead the team.

BENEL

I am council leader Benel. My advisors: Pilit, Joran and Tuvvar.

He indicates each in turn. They remain silent and wary of Spock and the team.

ON BENEL

BENEL

(pointing, continuing)

You will find a marker of size and importance in that direction. It's at the base of the tallest peak in the mountains.

He steps closer to Spock.

BENEL

(continuing)

It takes about twenty days to get there, depending on the abilities of the individual.

TWO SHOT – SPOCK AND BENEL

SPOCK

Is there any special significance to this journey, Council Leader?

BENEL

A rite of passage for all those who wish to be called true Domai.

SPOCK

I completed a similar task on my home world of Vulcan, which is very similar to Olin. Also, one third of Earth's surface is desert.

Benel is surprised and mildly impressed but still skeptical. He points to the team's equipment.

BENEL

(sarcastic)

Aided by your advanced technology?

SPOCK

If permissible.

Benel and the other Domai laugh.

ON BENEL

BENEL

My advisors are amused. Anyone can survive given devices. But this is a test without weapons, or any type of technology; not even your uniforms. We will provide that which is used by our own people.

ON SPOCK

He is unimpressed and relaxed.

SPOCK

If that is your choice. I survived my own ordeal

under similar
circumstances as did
several of my team
members.

BENEL (O.C.)
I doubt that.

NEW ANGLE – ON THE DOMAI

There is talk among the advisors
then Benel holds up his hand for
quiet.

BENEL
Words. Your actions will
speak much louder and
more truthful.

He points to the small stone
building.

BENEL
(continuing)
You will find all you need
inside there. Leave
everything else.

ON SPOCK

He hesitates a moment.

BENEL (O.C.)
(continuing)
You wish to decline?

SPOCK
Not at all, I was wondering
if our things will be... safe
in our absence.

TWO SHOT – SPOCK AND BENEL

BENEL
(angry)
We are not common
thieves!

SPOCK
I wish to contact my ship to
let them know we have
arrived safely and that I will
be out of touch until we
finish the challenge.

Benel considers the request for a
moment.

BENEL
Since you were unfamiliar
with the conditions, one
contact is permitted.

Spock pulls his communicator and
activates it.

SPOCK
Spock to Enterprise.

KIRK (V.O.)
We were beginning to
worry.

SPOCK
Unnecessary, however, we
will be out of touch for
approximately twenty days
as communicators are not
permitted on the challenge.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – ON KIRK

He's seated in the command chair.

KIRK
And the other... devices?

SPOCK (V.O.)
None are permitted,
Captain.

Kirk leans forward, concerned.

KIRK
Do you think -- ?

SPOCK (V.O.)
(interrupting)
We will have any
problems? No sir. I will
contact you after the
challenge. Spock out.

We see Kirk in thought for a
moment.

WIDE ANGLE

KIRK
Mr. Chekov, assume the
science station. Give me
everything we have on Olin
and the Domai. I want a
better idea of who we're
dealing with.

Chekov moves to the science
station, an N.D. crewperson takes
the navigation position.

CHEKOV
(moving)
Aye, sir.

KIRK
Mr. Sulu, see if you can get
a fix on the landing party
and track them. Maybe the
team can't use technology,
but we're not under those
restrictions.

Sulu works his console.

SULU
(working)
Aye, sir.

KIRK
Uhura, monitor communi-
cations. Check for anything
that might be related to the
challenge.

EXT. OLIN – EARLY EVENING – ANGLE ON STONE BUILDING

Spock and team exit building
wearing native clothing. They are
examining the outfits.

SPOCK
Quite reminiscent of
clothing I wore on Vulcan
and should slow
evaporation effectively.

Coloradas is admiring his boots.

COLORADAS
And these boots are much
like Apache moccasins;
very comfortable.

UDVAL
The building is well
stocked. I found
something to fit easily.

LINGARI
Evidently they require
everyone to be dressed in
a similar manner to level
the playing field.

MONTALVA

What is our strategy, Mr. Spock?

SPOCK

Simple survival, Lieutenant.

Benel moves to the group and holds up a small device.

NEW ANGLE – SPOCK AND BENEL

BENEL

This is a quan. It sends out a continuous signal so we can track your progress. Should you decide to quit, simply destroy it. A loss of signal will indicate you wish to concede defeat.

Spock accepts and pockets it.

SPOCK

A concession to outsiders?

DENEL

Not at all. It's a standard practice. Still wish to continue?

SPOCK

Of course, nothing has changed.

DENEL

Then begin your journey.

He indicates a well-worn pathway and the team starts, Spock hesitates a moment.

SPOCK

Will you be waiting for us at the finish?

DENEL

I'll be there...

He leaves the statement unfinished and smiles, smug.

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND OLIN

Ship is orbiting planet.

INT. BRIDGE – ON COMMAND SECTION

Sulu reacts noticeably and adjusts console. Kirk notices and steps over to him.

KIRK

(to Sulu)

What is it?

SULU

(off console)

They're moving, sir, along an easterly track in the general direction of a mountain range.

KIRK

(thoughtful)

They've started the challenge.

CHEKOV (O.C.)

Captain, I found something...

NEW ANGLE

Kirk takes the steps up to the science station.

KIRK

(moving)

Report, Ensign.

Kirk stands next to Chekov.

ON CHEKOV

CHEKOV

It seems the Orions tried to force Olin to join their alliance or to use Olin as a base of operations. Over a period of several years, the Orions used many methods of persuasion, but did not succeed.

ON KIRK

KIRK

No doubt that included the deaths of many Domai. No wonder they don't like outsiders.

ON UHURA

UHURA

Sir, I'm picking up signals from Olin, just... chit-chat.

KIRK (O.C.)

'Chit-chat,' Lieutenant?

UHURA

(embarrassed)

I think they're surprised that we would attempt the challenge.

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

CHEKOV

It will give them a big surprise when our team succeeds.

SULU

And provide a common point with which to build a relationship, right, Captain?

Kirk looks pleased.

KIRK

Absolutely.

EXT. OLIN – NIGHT – DESERT - CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

The team is walking in a tight group on a pathway.

LINGARI

(moving)

General orders, sir?

SPOCK

(moving)

Without the equipment, we must now rely on our skills. Since we are still fresh, we will maintain a brisk pace. Duty will be divided as follows. Lingari and Coloradas, water; Udval and Montalava, food; Mister Zana and I will take care of navigation, shelter and fire. However, we shall all be watchful for each of those items.

(beat)
When we reach the open desert, we will spread out but remain in sight of each other.

(beat)
Now, recommendations; Mr. Udval?

UDVAL
(moving)
Other than essential conversation, keep mouth closed and breathe by nose to minimize loss of moisture.

MONTALVA
(moving)
These clothes are good but we need head gear and eye protection, as soon as possible.

COLORADAS
(moving)
If we can find the right type of rocks, I can fashion a knife or spear for defense or hunting.

ZANA
(moving)
We must limit day travel and move by night. Also, the stars will be the best means of navigating.

SPOCK
(moving)
There is an old adage: You can survive three minutes without oxygen, three hours without shelter in harsh conditions, three days without water and three weeks without food. But that is valid when remaining at rest. Since we will be moving, food will be required, but not an immediate need. Any other suggestions?

ZANA
(moving)
Overturn half-buried stones just before sun-up as their coolness causes dew to form on the surface. It's an old Bedouin trick.

UDVAL
(moving)
Avoid traveling on dunes as it wastes energy and sweat. Also, their bases can hide quicksand.

LINGARI
(moving)
But we can stay on course by observing the dunes and the directions of prevailing winds.

SPOCK
(moving)
We need to minimize exposure and, therefore, our need to locate resources.

NEW ANGLE
The group enters the open desert and stop. Spock studies the sky and looks across the desert. The team gathers around Spock pointing to the sky.

SPOCK
(continuing)
We will use the bright star, there, as a navigation beacon. For now, spread out. We will meet in four hours, understood?

The team fans out as directed.

ON SPOCK
He seems satisfied with the team.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND OLIN

INT. BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE
Kirk is drumming fingers on the command chair, shifting positions but can't get comfortable and stands. Uhura notices and tries to 'lighten things up.'

ON UHURA
UHURA
Sir, our team is the topic of discussion and the locals are betting on the outcome.

NEW ANGLE
As Uhura hoped, Kirk is distracted and curious.

KIRK
What are the stakes?
UHURA
Water rations, sir.
KIRK
(to self)
Water as money, incredible.
Kirk seems distracted.

UHURA
(understanding)
Worried, sir?
KIRK
I hate waiting for things to happen, Lieutenant.
UHURA
Not very good at fishing, sir?

ON KIRK
Kirk smiles back, relaxed.

KIRK
(to self)
As Spock said, very astute observations, Lieutenant.

FADE OUT.

END OF PART I - ACT THREE

Upcoming Events

Nov	3	4 p.m. Ship Meeting <i>Final Collection for the Food Bank</i> Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville
	10	Articles due for Nov/Dec newsletter
Dec	1	4 p.m. Ship Meeting and Christmas Party <i>Final Collection for Toys for Tots</i> 108 Sailboat Ct, Garner
Jan	5	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

THE WRIGHT STUFF
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