

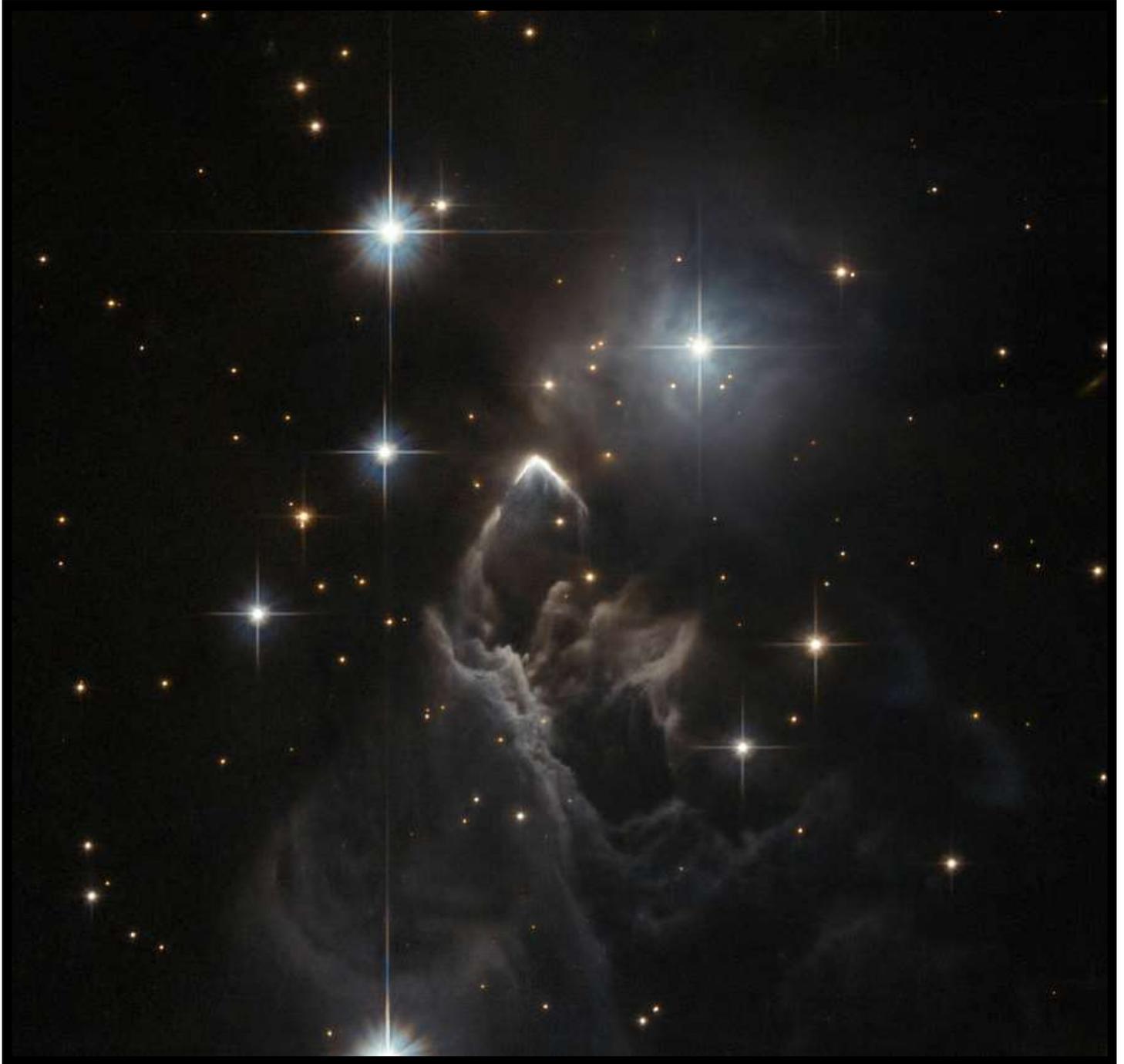
THE WRIGHT STUFF



Vol XXIX ♦ No 6

The Official Newsletter of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk ♦ NCC-1659

Nov/Dec 2018





THE WRIGHT STUFF

Volume 29 - Number 6

is a publication of the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*, the Raleigh, N.C., chapter of STARFLEET, an international *STAR TREK* fan organization. This publication is provided to all chapter members in good standing. Please address all correspondence to CATBIRD Publications, 5017 Glen Forest Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27612. This publication is a non-profit enterprise and is not meant to infringe upon any copyright or trademark held by Paramount Pictures, Gulf & Western, or any other holder of *STAR TREK* copyrights or trademarks. Unless otherwise noted, ENTIRE CONTENTS ARE COPYRIGHT © 2018 CATBIRD Publications, THE WRIGHT STUFF. Nothing in whole or in part may be used without the written permission of the publisher. *THE WRIGHT STUFF* assumes all material submitted for publication is gratis. The publisher and editors reserve the right to edit all submissions.

PublisherJ.R. Fisher
Editors.....Elaine Pischke
John Troan



CONTENTS

THE CENTER SEAT3
John Troan

COMPUTER OPERATIONS REPORT4
John Troan

TESTING FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE5
Mohamed Noor

ENGINEERING REPORT5
Brad McDonald

ST:TNG – “TROUBLE WITH THE E’S”6
Brad McDonald

ST:TOS – “HADES”7
Brad McDonald

UPCOMING EVENTS11

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 little-known nebula IRAS 05437+2502 billows out among the bright stars and dark dust clouds that surround it in this striking image from the *Hubble Space Telescope*. (ESA/Hubble, R.Sahai and NASA)

<https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/goddard/2018/hubbles-lucky-observation-of-an-enigmatic-cloud>

The Center Seat

By John Troan

I start with a “Congratulations!” to Mohamed Noor for his promotion to Lieutenant, junior grade!

November was our final collection for our Food Bank drive and December is our final collection for our Toys for Tots drive. My thanks to all who donated something, and a “Thank You!” to Larry Cox for leading both of these efforts again this year.

Our December meeting will be combined with a Christmas party and potluck hosted by Diane & Debbie. Please RSVP to Larry Pischke with how many people and what food item(s) you’re planning to bring. (The address is listed in the [Upcoming Events](#) at the end of the newsletter.) *Remember that friends and family are more than welcome to join us!*

Another social gathering to put on your calendar is our anniversary dinner. It’s on Jan 20, 2019, at 6pm in the Kanki at Crabtree mall. Family and friends are welcome to join us for this event, too. (While Dec 17 is our actual anniversary of launching as a shuttle, we usually move the dinner to January to reduce scheduling problems for the crew and Kanki during December.)

During the last weekend of December, we plan to (finally) have the (hopefully) last recording session for our second podcast. Please contact me with what dates (12/29 or 12/30) and timeframes (morning or afternoon) works best for your schedule. Brad and I will schedule whichever day has the most takers. (We’ll do both morning and afternoon sessions on the chosen day, meeting at Brad’s house in Cary.) There are several parts available and nothing is overly long at this point, making

it easier for everyone new to the experience.

Once the recordings are completed, Comp Ops will (eventually) start editing it all together. (If you haven’t done so already, check out [our first podcast](#).)

While the [Comp Ops report](#) has a summary of what’s coming up in that department, I do want to highlight that we’ve got a new (short) narrative [starting in this issue](#) and [on the web site](#). I’d also like to remind everyone to think about any plot holes you’ve seen in *TOS*, *TNG*, *DS9*, *VOY*, or *ENT* (TV or movies), then let Brad know what you’ve found and he’ll put together another installment in our “Plot Plugs” series in the newsletter.

I’ll be putting together an order for our Raleigh Supercon tables and Exhibitor badges in January. Please be thinking about if you want an Exhibitor badge and also if you’d like to contribute something toward our table. I’m checking on the 2019 pricing, which is sure to have gone up with it now being a four-day event. (Because I will be charging the cost to my personal credit card, any contributions and Exhibitor badge payments should be made directly to me instead of through the *Kitty Hawk*.)

It’s gotten delayed a little, but I’d like to start creating the *Kitty Hawk’s* membership handbook over the next few months. JR – Thank You! -- has passed along another chapter’s handbook that can help with brainstorming some ideas on layout and content for our handbook.

One thing that will absolutely be included in our handbook is the “definitive guide” to our rank and

promotion system, especially the list of how many promotion points are earned for each event. This also means I’ll have to (finally) put something together for how to handle the enlisted ranks. (I *have* been tracking points for everyone since becoming CO, so a complete record of points earned *does* exist for non-officers. If it turns out anyone is overdue for an enlisted promotion, the paperwork will be backdated to when it was earned.)

I encourage all of the active STARFLEET members to take OTS through the [Academy web site](#). While certainly not required, it does make you an officer upon completion – but the real benefit is understanding how all the pieces of STARFLEET are supposed to fit and function together: the individual member, the chapter, and the upper levels of STARFLEET.

For anyone not currently a member, please consider joining (or renewing with) STARFLEET through [SFI.org](#). The membership is now only five bucks a year, with discounts for additional family members. (If you previously had a membership and want to renew, please contact me for your SCC# to make renewal easier.)

I close with inviting everyone to think about writing something for the newsletter and/or web site. I know coming up with a topic isn’t easy. It doesn’t have to be long and it doesn’t have to be an every-issue topic. Feel free to contact me if you have an idea, but aren’t sure how to flesh it out into something that’s ready for publishing through either platform.

Esse Quam Videri

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

As mentioned at the November meeting, I'm *completely*(!) caught up with posting stuff out to [the web site](#).

Coinciding with this issue of the newsletter, [another narrative gets underway online](#) – starting with [the teaser printed in this issue](#). It's scheduled to conclude in late December, clearing the way for that BIG story we showed off at the October (or was it September?) meeting. Brad and I have worked out the publishing schedule – all *monthly*(!) installments – that start with the Jan/Feb 2019 newsletter.

Our mailing lists are both fully functional now, one for the newsletter distribution and one for general chapter information. I plan to add one more list for just the active STARFLEET members in the chapter, with an eye towards being able to distribute *Communique* issues and any treasury disbursements proposals we have.

Sometime during my Christmas break, I'll be looking at another design change to the web site's LCARS look. Where we currently have the single set of bars that goes right-to-left-then-down, the full LCARS has another set of bars that goes right-to-left-then-up. I also want to explore using the proper font to resemble LCARS as close as possible. Once I get everything right, I'll update all 100+ pages on the web site. (The new content management system makes it fairly easy to update everything in fairly short order.)

Transitioning to NASA news, they've started [a new podcast series](#) that takes people “along for the ride” as NASA's *InSight* mission travels to and [lands on Mars on Nov 26](#). Unlike the locations of past Mars surface missions, [InSight has a relatively plain target location](#). According to Bruce Banerdt, the mission's principal investigator, “If it were

an ice cream, it would be vanilla.” But this is exactly what's needed because *InSight* will be using a set of seismometers to study the sound waves the travel through the planet.

Looking ahead to NASA's *next* Mars lander (currently called *Mars 2020*), [NASA-JPL recently conducted testing](#) of the parachute system to be used for that mission's re-entry and touchdown on the Martian surface. The key was to deploy the parachute during testing at a speed and atmospheric density that simulates what the *Mars 2020* mission will encounter as it enters the Martian atmosphere.

Just off the coast near San Diego, testing has concluded of [the recovery tools and procedures](#) for the Orion capsule – and they had an opportunity to get [a very sweet late-day photo](#). NASA also [invited the media to see the tools and test capsule](#).

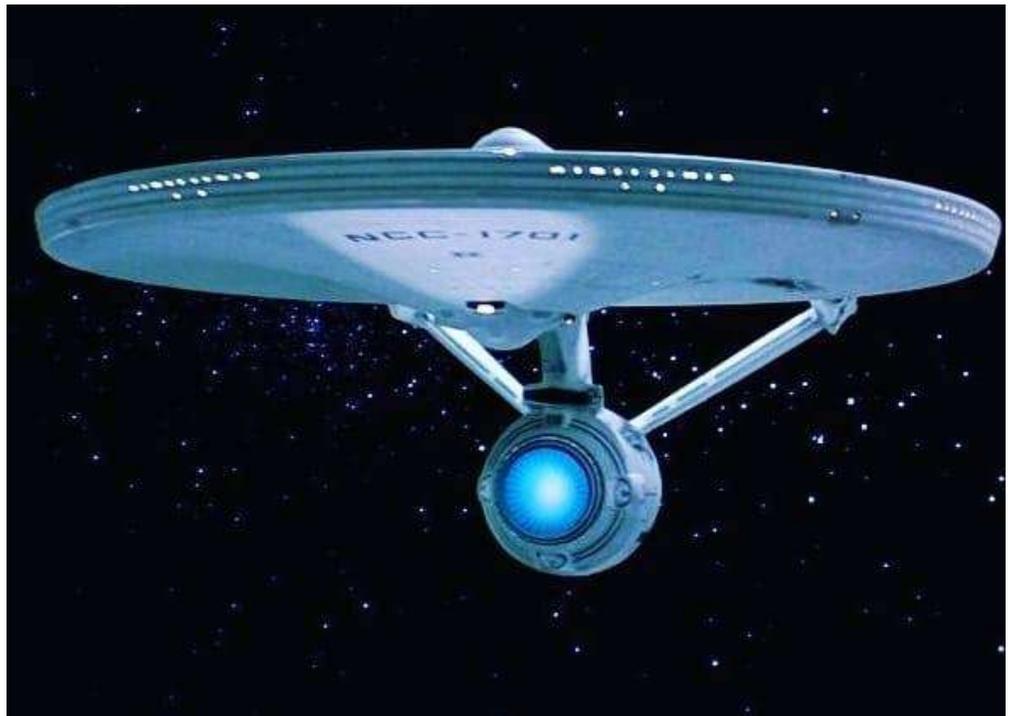
[The first Orion service module has arrived at Kennedy Space Center](#). This one will be used for the upcoming [EM-1 test mission](#), which

will take a test Orion capsule past the moon and simulate a return from (relatively) deep space.

In sad news from NASA, the *Dawn* and *Kepler* missions have both ended, as each craft ran out of fuel.

[Dawn](#) was one of the first probes to use an ion engine for propulsion. It first visited Vesta before moving on to Ceres, [where it will remain in orbit for decades](#).

[Kepler](#) was NASA's first planet-hunting mission, using “cutting-edge techniques in measuring stellar brightness with the largest digital camera outfitted for outer space observations at that time.” After four years, mechanical problems brought the primary mission to an end – but a fix was devised that allowed for an extended mission *and* an expanded field of view by changing directions every three months. [Kepler will be kept in its current orbit, safely away from Earth](#). (*TESS*, *Kepler's* successor, launched this past April and will continue the hunt for exoplanets.)



Testing For Extraterrestrial Life

By Mohamed Noor

In the *TNG* episode "Quality of Life," Lt. Cmdr. Data and Dr. Crusher discuss what it means for something to be "alive." While textbook definitions of life exist, they are necessarily focused on life "as we know it," namely life found on Earth. But if we observe some unusual, non-carbon, non-water-based form on another planet or moon, how might we know if it is alive or if it came from something alive?

Some scientists are exploring this idea now, both the "principle" of seeing if a form stems from biology and the "practical" of testing this using a remote probe. On the principle, Regius Chair of Chemistry Leroy Cronin from the University of Glasgow and others have stressed that life leads to a complexity that's greater than what non-biological processes produce. His group proposed a statistical approach to see if particular forms are likely to be associated with biology or not. Meanwhile, in a scientific publication this year, exobiology Prof. Sarah Johnson of Georgetown University proposed a practical way of binding DNA to foreign materials which may allow remote probes to assess complexity without having to bring the extraterrestrial materials back to Earth. Testing for biosignatures of life remotely is critical because of the complications of bringing extraterrestrial materials intact back to Earth.

Overall, a lot of scientific progress has been made on studying alien "life" in the 26 years since "Quality of Life" aired, with much of it within just the past year. Here is where you can learn more --

Recent review by Leroy Cronin
<https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/ast.2017.1738>

Sarah Johnson laboratory website
<http://www.johnsonbiosignatureslab.com/>

Engineer's Report

By Brad McDonald

A recent on-line report listed the top 100 movies of the 21st Century. I had to read that headline twice, the top 100 of the 21st Century? I didn't know there were 100 good movies made in the last 17 years!

Curious, I went through the list and found I had seen only ten of them and they were mostly animated: *Wall-E*, *Inside Out*, *Finding Nemo*, *The Incredibles*, *Toy Story 3*, *Ratatouille*. The only live action movies were *Gravity* (a space movie, of course), *Dunkirk* (a history movie) and the last two thirds of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

I hadn't even heard of most of the supposedly top 100 and laughed at the idea. The top 100 of the 20th Century, okay, but this century? You need to wait another 50 years or so. Naming the top 100 of this century now is like naming the top ten movies of the year in the middle of February!

There's [another chapter posted](#) about the outgoing mess with *Star Trek*. It gets worse, a lot worse. By the numbers, the ratings of the people watching *Discovery* is the lowest of all *Treks* ever! Also, the release of four short subjects in an attempt to generate more interest and revenue was a total failure. CBS had to reduce the asking price from 40 million to 15 million and Netflix still said no. A smaller service picked them up but they didn't do well at all.

To salvage *Discovery*, they are now planning to have an encounter with the *Enterprise* and we will get to meet (still another) Spock and Pike. This is due to a poor performance by *Discovery's* second season preview audience. Scenes were reshot and the story changed. Now the series is

way over budget which means less money or fewer episodes in the future.

There is also a new person in charge of the series (not sure how many that makes), but his experience is less than stellar as he helmed the failed reboot of the *Mummy* franchise and the equally dismal *Spiderman 2*. He's another Bad Robot employee and I don't see a bright or optimistic future for *Discovery*.

Meanwhile, the animated *Trek* series has been announced as a comedy! It's titled "Lower Decks" and although not much else is known, it sounds awful! Anyway, keep your fingers crossed for the 'Picard' series, maybe there is still hope.

Science teachers now have a new ditty for their students. Long ago there were nine planets so the ditty was My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas. Of course, the first letter of each word was the first letter of the planets in their correct order. With Pluto out of the running, there is a new one. My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nachos.

As I was finishing up on this report, it was announced that Douglas Rain had died. If the name doesn't ring a bell, he was the voice of the HAL-9000 computer from *2001: A Space Odyssey* and the sequel *2010: The Year We Make Contact*.

Also noted was the passing of a legend in the Sci-Fi/Fantasy world, Stan Lee. Creator and co-creator of many of Marvel's superheroes, he was present at many of the Comicons and made regular appearances in the Marvel movies.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is [a preview of the latest narrative](#) I wrote. I hope you enjoy it. Once it's done [the really big story](#) starts!

ST:TNG – “Trouble with the E’s”

By Brad McDonald

This story comes from the question (complaint?) of why don't you write *Next Gen* stories? Actually, I have, but I 'converted' them to the original series simply because it's my favorite. Also, I wasn't particularly impressed by *Next Gen*, especially during its first season. To me, it was difficult to accept a number of things: children on a first contact/exploratory ship; 'we don't work for pay, just self-improvement' (how do you improve yourself by taking out the trash or doing laundry?); the Ferengi as 'bad guys'; a ship that looked 'awkward' and so on. It took a while for me to get used to, but I was still never completely satisfied with the format.

As I have stated previously, I wrote several scripts for *Next Gen*, but found out Paramount had closed down the open submission policy before I could send them in, including "A Hero's Death" and "Star Light – Star Bright." Therefore, I rewrote them for *T.O.S.*, simply because I'm more comfortable with that series.

Trouble with the E's is a *Next Gen* story I recently completed, which picks up after the events of *Star Trek: Nemesis*. I wrote some notes and thoughts after seeing the movie and when I heard it would be the last one, I finished a rough draft of the story.

Recently, I dusted it off (literally) and finished it. It takes a look at a different aspect of Starfleet. In one scene, you'll notice I ignored the 'we don't work for money' part of *Next Gen*. I hope you don't mind, but it makes sense given the situation.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy it regardless of which *Trek* is your favorite.

PS: I have a *Voyager* story in the works... but first will be *Final Mission*. [Editor's note: the *Final Mission* story will start with the Jan/Feb issue of *The Wright Stuff* and continue with monthly(!) installments on [our web site](#).]

Admiral Erin Colleen O'Conner was an uncommon lady in many respects. What some would call petite, at barely five feet tall, she could hold her own regardless of anyone's size, status, or rank. In addition, she wasn't what some people would picture as typically Irish. Put simply, she did not have a fair complexion, pale skin, red hair and blue eyes. Instead, she was what was referred to as 'Black Irish,' having dark eyes, hair and skin. The Irish family tree was shown to have some 'foreign' blood, either from a survivor of the ill-fated Spanish Armada or one of the Spanish mercenaries working for Irish chieftains in the same era. Regardless, the family had a definite Hispanic influence.

Long, long ago, the term Black Irish had implications of a slur or was of a demeaning nature. Now, though, it was worn with pride, a unique heritage and rich with Irish history as much as any other person from that country.

She was also proud of her size. Affectionately called a Leprechaun by her grandfather, she was complemented by her mother as being living proof that good things do indeed come in small packages.

At the Academy, she was given only a 50/50 chance of graduating, but not because of the academics, as her scholastic record was enviable. The physical training, however, was suspect as there were many requirements involving self-defense, survival and other tests that made her a very doubtful candidate for success. But she was ready, having learned all the Academy requirements in advance; she prepared herself before beginning classes. In many respects, she was better qualified than many of the other cadets and gained a well-deserved respect in the process.

Now, many years later, she was an admiral and while she had no desire to return to the Academy, she looked on those years with a certain fondness. A pride in achieving what

few thought she was capable of. That reputation stayed with her and no one underestimated her anymore. In fact, they usually counted on her ability to 'get it done' whatever the assignment or task at hand. Her current job fell into that category, to say the least.

To get things started, she was up early and about to enter Starfleet Headquarters Building. As far as anyone at Starfleet Command was concerned, it was oh three hundred thirty in the morning. Of course, in her work, time was definitely relative. She was Chief of Starfleet Yards. That meant she was responsible for all the work done on every ship in Starfleet. That also meant she was in charge of arranging all the work schedules. That particular aspect of her job was the most frustrating, unpredictable and nerve wracking. Getting a ship built or repaired was nothing compared to getting it done in time or finding somewhere to do it in the first place.

This particular morning, her problem concerned both; reworking schedules and, locating an empty berth for a badly damaged starship, namely *Enterprise*. The call she received just moments ago indicated the ship was to have the highest priority and although it would be some time before it actually arrived, she would need every minute available to shuffle work schedules and create a hole in the current schedule to make room for *Enterprise*.

This *Enterprise* was NCC-1701-E, damaged during an engagement with the Romulans. What the exact details were, she didn't know at this point. That would come in the follow-up reports with lists of specific damage and repair requests. Right now it was a simply a matter of finding an appropriate place to put the 'wounded warrior.'

Yard crews worked an eight- to ten-hour shift and maintained a continuous twenty-four hour schedule. Again, time was fairly unimportant to people working in space. Most yards

operated on the standard time synchronized with Starfleet Command Headquarters. It was more convenient having all facilities on one clock and since Command was making the rules, the clock was their own, logical since the convenience was theirs.

High above Earth, the various facilities were oblivious to the various time zones below. The same was true for the huge Utopia Planetia complex at Mars or the ancillary yards at Venus and any one of dozens of Starfleet yards all over the Federation. They were all her responsibility, at least the ones operated directly by Starfleet. There were hundreds more, but they were privately owned and while some of these did perform work for Starfleet, they were beyond her control. That fact was a particular annoyance, but there was little to be done about it. Besides, she had a full plate as it was.

Arriving at Starfleet Command Headquarters building, Erin gained access quickly from the security guards. They were used to seeing her at all hours, day and night. Using her various security cards, retina scans and other such procedures, she finally entered her own office.

"Computer, lighting, normal levels and activate all yard status boards."

The lights came up quickly as did the status boards. "Status boards on display. Progress updated at twenty-four hundred hours," the computer announced proudly.

The status boards were almost unnecessary as she already knew what was going to be displayed. She stared at the wall-sized displays every day for hours at a time, shuffling and reshuffling work crews, repair parties, supplies, parts, equipment and even dining breaks on occasion. Still, updates occurred regularly and there were surprises now and then.

Right now, it was a matter of shifting ships, not an easy task. Moving ships was both a complicated and time-consuming task. So the trick was to minimize what was needed to be done. After all, to create a vacancy, you had to stop work on a ship currently under repair, getting a refit or being built. That meant the

supplies, parts and systems that had been delivered would no longer be needed and would require retuning them to the quartermaster's warehouses. The supply personnel loved that! Many 'battles' had been fought getting things on time to keep work on schedule and after 'pulling teeth' to get them, now she would be asking for them to be picked-up and returned. She was already imagining the fights necessary to get it done. Then, she'd need to get the materials and systems necessary for the Enterprise repairs and those she wasn't completely sure of. It was not going to be easy or fun, but that is why she had the job and why she liked it... the challenge!

First order of business was a proper location for 1701-E. It would have to be a dock that was big enough to handle the new *Sovereign* class starship. That alone would be a limiting factor and she knew by rechecking the board, it was not going to be easy.

All the facilities were equipped with Class A docks, those large enough to handle anything Starfleet had. However, they were all occupied. Also, several of those projects were considered priority or at a critical point and could not be put on hold.

Her thoughts were interrupted by her comm board, which chirped, indicating an incoming message. She took a few steps to check it. It was a 'red flag' communication, therefore she could not ignore it. It would not be a yard crew complaining about an incorrect color on a chair or a work shuttle out of service. This was a genuine problem.

"Computer, display message."

"Message on console viewer, from Captain Picard, *U.S.S. Enterprise*."

Erin's ears perked up upon hearing the source. "Here it comes!" she said to herself.

[Continued on the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk web site....](#)

***ST:TOS* – "Hades"** **By Brad McDonald**

PART I - ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. OLIN – EARLY MORNING –
WIDE ANGLE – ON GROUP

Coloradas is striking a smaller stone with a larger one in a skilled manner, the others are working in the B.G. on various projects. Team is starting to look a bit dirty.

COLORADAS
(working)

Should have our first Clovis point shortly.

LINGARI

Great, I can use it to make hats with the leaves and reeds.

ZANA

Skip the eyeshades, I found some dark soil, which we can mix with water and create an eye block.

NEW ANGLE

We can see team members are working with small pond, trees and reeds in B.G.

MONTALVA

Too bad we can't carry any water with us. No telling how long it will be until we find more.

UDVAL

We can filter silty water with cloth. Drink all you can comfortably hold. Your body is the best container, right Mr. Spock?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Correct. Please continue work, but Montalva and Udval rest. I will stand watch with Mr. Zana. We will need to be relieved at four-hour intervals.

NEW ANGLE

In B.G. we see Coloradas and Lingari work. Montlava and Udval are setting up resting places.

MONTALVA

Remember, never rest directly on hot sand or rocks.

Smiling, Montalva produces some reeds for bedding and gives them to Udval.

UDVAL
(smiling)

These may not be real comfortable but they will insulate, thanks. As they say, better to have a bed and no roof than a roof and no bed.

AS BEFORE – ON SPOCK

SPOCK

We have found water, but food is a major concern. We must concentrate our efforts in that regard. Our natural body fat reserves will only last a limited time. Check the local plants for edible seeds, buds or even insects.

NEW ANGLE

LINGARI

Hunting and trapping can be a hit or miss proposition, sir.

ZANA

It may use what little energy we have, Mr. Spock.

UDVAL

It may also expose us to unnecessary risk, illness and injury. But animal tracks may lead to a water source.

AS BEFORE – ON SPOCK

SPOCK

All quite true, however we must take the risk if we are to survive, far less succeed with the challenge. Continue with your work.

WIDE ANGLE

All the team members nod in understanding, then break into smaller groups. Zana remains with Spock

and they move to study the plants around the pond.

SPOCK
(off plants;
continuing)

It would appear that a number of persons have used these plants as a source of raw materials for numerous challenges.

ZANA

Probably fast growing, so they continue to be a viable resource.

SPOCK

Unquestionably. They provide us with a number of essential items. We will concentrate on fabricating bows and arrows.

Zana is surprised, but begins helping Spock.

ON LINGARI – CLOSE ON WORK

She is creating hats from the leaves of a nearby tree with much skill.

TWO SHOT – LINGARI AND UDVAL

Udval is watching and admires her work.

UDVAL

You have a gift. Is that work a particular skill of your people?

ON LINGARI

LINGARI
(embarrassed)

Not really, just something I picked up as a child, from an old lady in our village. I also learned a few other crafts and helped to support our family.

AS BEFORE – TWO SHOT

Udval picks up one of the finished hats and tries it on. It's a bit big and the two share a laugh.

UDVAL
(smiling)

Make mine about two sizes smaller.

LINGARI

Will do. How are the hunting tools coming along?

ON UDVAL

UDVAL

Coloradas has made two knives and using a few branches we will also have spears. Sorry, Mr. Spock, we may have to eat meat. I'm not sure what we will hunt. Though, I haven't seen many animal tracks yet.

NEW ANGLE

Zana enters with supplies and admires Lingari's work.

ZANA

(indicates hats)

Very nice work and they should give us excellent protection.

UDVAL (O.C.)

What is Mr. Spock working on?

ZANA

Bow and arrow, he says he and Captain Kirk made some before and they were quite useful.

TWO SHOT – LINGARI AND ZANA

LINGARI

Shouldn't Coloradas be involved with that? After all, it was his people who specialized in the bow and arrow.

ZANA

He already tried to 'correct' Mr. Spock's technique.

UDVAL O.C.)

And... ?

ZANA

(smiling)

Mr. Spock is still doing it his way.

They all have a laugh.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE – OLIN AND ENTERPRISE

Ship is in standard orbit.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

Kirk is pacing nervously, looking over the shoulder of various crewpersons. He is being a bit of a nuisance and stops behind Uhura.

UHURA

Still having a difficulty with waiting, sir?

She turns to face him, smiling.

ON KIRK

KIRK

In a word, Lieutenant.
(thoughtful)

Let's see what we can find out from the Domai. Open a channel to council leader Benel. Maybe we can get an official update.

ON UHURA

She works her console for a moment then looks up.

UHURA

Council Leader Benel, sir, audio only.

NEW ANGLE

Kirk leans down to Uhura's board and tabs a control.

KIRK

Council Leader Benel, I was wondering if I could get an update on my team's progress.

BENEL (V.O.)

Why? You're monitoring them with your scanning devices.

Kirk looks a bit guilty.

KIRK

Our scans are routine, but I wanted your... perspective.

BENEL (V.O.)

All who try do well for the first few days. The real test comes later.

(beat)

You may continue your scans, but if there is any attempt to transport them or send anything to them...

Kirk nods in understanding of the implied outcome.

KIRK

We will observe your conditions. That is how Starfleet and the Federation works. Kirk out.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND UHURA

Uhura terminates the communication and looks up at Kirk.

UHURA

Not very informative, was he?

KIRK

In a word, Uhura.

Kirk surveys the bridge and looks tired.

KIRK

(continuing)

Sulu, you have the conn. I'm going to sickbay. All this waiting has given me a headache. Inform me of any changes.

SULU

Aye, sir.

NEW ANGLE

Kirk reaches the turbolift in a few steps and enters. As the doors close, Sulu takes the command chair and N.D. crewperson takes the helm.

ON SULU

He studies the main viewer and readouts on the command chair, then sits back.

SULU

I hope he brings something back. I've got a headache too.

CUT TO:

EXT. OLIN – DESERT – EVENING – WIDE ANGLE - ON GROUP

The group is starting to walk again when Coloradas and Lingari return

from scouting, looking a bit more dirty and tired.

COLORADAS

Mr. Spock, we found footprints in the immediate area.

LINGARI

Quite recent, undisturbed by wind-blown sand. Whoever it was, tried to cover up their tracks.

COLORADAS

(smiling)

They didn't do a very good job, but someone is following us and watching us.

ON SPOCK

Spock ponders what he has heard, then:

SPOCK

That is consistent with my experiences. I have heard various noises in the night which would confirm your suppositions. However, they may be acting in an official capacity and simply observing to be sure we abide by their guidelines.

UDVAL (O.C.)

Should we look for them, sir?

SPOCK

Unnecessary, as long as they do not interfere with our journey. Besides, that would be a distraction from our primary mission and we do not have the time. Keep alert and stay in sight of each other at all times. For now, we will proceed as planned. However, why give us a tracking device if they plan to observe us?

DISOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE – OLIN AND ENTERPRISE

INT. ENTERPRISE – KIRK'S QUARTERS - ANGLE ON BED

Kirk is sleeping when the intercom sounds.

SULU'S VOICE
Bridge to Captain Kirk.

Kirk stirs slowly at first, then moves quickly to the intercom, activating it.

KIRK
Go ahead Mr. Sulu. What is it?

SULU'S VOICE
We have found something... interesting.

Kirk is now fully awake.

KIRK
On my way!

Kirk rushes out of his quarters.

BRIDGE – ANGLE ON TURBOLIFT

Kirk exits at a clip and heads straight for Sulu.

KIRK
(moving)
Report!

Kirk stands next to Sulu, anxious.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SULU

Sulu rises and heads to Chekov's station, Kirk follows.

SULU
(moving)
First of all, we're getting a number of readings, other than our team members. The Domai are not only trailing the team but leading them too.

Kirk and Sulu stop at Chekov's station. Kirk looks concerned.

KIRK
I figure they'd track the team, but why be out front? Can we confirm that? Chekov?

ON CHEKOV

He works the science station controls, then:

CHEKOV
Adjusting scans now, sir.
(off console)
Confirmed, I read three Domai behind and two ahead, about one half kilometer, either way.

Chekov makes further adjustments, then turns to Kirk.

CHEKOV
(continuing)
Also, readings are becoming difficult, sir, interference.

KIRK (O.C.)
Jammed?

CHEKOV
(off console)
No, sir, it's natural. Must be all those high energy ores they discovered.

THREE SHOT – KIRK, SULU AND CHEKOV

KIRK
(thoughtful)
The Domai said they'd be watching our team.

SULU
More for violations than safety concerns, I'd bet.

KIRK
(absently)
Probably so, Sulu.
(beat)

We're not really in a position to object. For now, let's keep a closer eye on them though, a constant twenty-four-hour watch.

Kirk looks worried and Chekov steps forward.

CHEKOV
Having second thoughts about the challenge, Captain?

KIRK
That's putting it mildly, Ensign.

DISSOLVE TO:

OLIN – NIGHT – CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION – ON ZANA

He's walking cautiously, studying ground conditions and brightens suddenly.

ZANA'S P.O.V.

We see a small pond surrounded with light vegetation.

AS BEFORE – CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

Zana runs forward and kneels to sample the water. He draws back quickly and spits out the water.

ON SPOCK – CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

He's walking at a brisk pace when Zana approaches. Spock stops and waits for Zana.

SPOCK
Were you successful?

Zana looks upset and barely under control.

ZANA
(walking)
The next water hole has been contaminated, Mr. Spock.

TWO SHOT – SPOCK AND ZANA

Zana now stands next to Spock, still angry.

SPOCK
How so?

ZANA
An animal carcass was placed in the pond. The water is beyond reclamation. After a number of hours in the Olin sun...

He leaves the statement unfinished.

CLOSE ON SPOCK

Spock is visibly affected by the comment and raises an eyebrow.

SPOCK
It would seem our efforts are being sabotaged. Question is, by whom and why?

Off his statement...

FADE OUT.

END OF PART I - ACT FOUR

END OF PART I

Upcoming Events

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
	19	Articles due for Jan/Feb Newsletter
	20	6 p.m. Anniversary Dinner Kanki @ Crabtree Valley Mall, Raleigh
Feb	2	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

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