

# THE WRIGHT STUFF

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S.S. KITTY HAWK NCC 1659

## A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT

By J.R. Fisher

### EARTHDATE 9306.30

"All ahead, warp factor two! Engage!" Summer is here and the activities on the Kitty Hawk are definitely at light speed and more! Wow! Have we been busy or what?

To the following members who dedicated their time and considerable energy to Artsplasure, a special "thank you" and personal D.S.A. from Region One: Teresa Tuel, Diana Waldier, Liz Read, Cynthia Sokol, Beth Abrams (and guest John), Jeff Habrych, Larry Pischke, Elaine Pischke, Donna Hansma, Bob Enters, Celeste Toombs, Raymond McAlister, and your beloved captain. Jeff and Maria Cohn, and Benjamin, hosted a Memorial Day dinner at their home in Wake Forest where lots of good food was consumed by the crew in attendance. Surprise, surprise.

The 26 individuals who manned the phones for the P.B.S. Telethon also are receiving D.S.A.'s from Region One upon my recommendation. They are as follows: Diana Waldier, Ray McAlister, Celeste Toombs, Pat Heinske, Tara Weaver, Peter Hansma, Phillip Hansma, Donna Hansma, Lynn Stone, Audra Taylor, Bob Enters, Cynthia Sokol, Shari Hamm, Dave Forvendel, Debbie Herndon, Suzanne Miller, John Miller, John Troan, Larry Pischke, Elaine Pischke, Stephanie Fleck, Jeff Habrych, Robert Yates, Brian Jones, and once more your captain.

The U.S.S. Kitty Hawk also received a unit citation, D.S.A., for raising \$250.00 for the Duke Children's Hospital.

Highway cleanups are now every other month with the next one in August. Please see note on inside. The May cleanup was undermanned but the June effort was good and the time to do the work considerably less.

By the way, the Artsplasure

event resulted in a donation of \$100.00 by the committee to our treasury. Any time you are in contact with any of these people, please be sure and tell them who you are and thank them for allowing us to participate in their events. First Night will be here before you know it.

Audra Taylor is the assistant manager at the Six Forks theaters and she has arranged with her manager for the Kitty Hawk crew to go to their theater on the third Friday night at 9 p.m. to see the movie of our choice for the children's fare. Hope we see you there and please be sure to thank Audra.

Meanwhile, back at planet Earth; fourteen of our crew ventured to Duke on June 5th to help with their telethon. We came early and stayed late. These people are learning to count on us. Thank Teresa for setting this up even if she could not be with us this time. Several of our crew were "interviewed" by the T.V. hosts and did us proud. Right, Libby and Tara? Anyway, the following persons are recommended for Region One D.S.A.'s for the extra time and effort they put forth at the telethon: William Barry, Suzanne Miller, Beth Abrams (and guest John), Libby West, Tara Weaver, Larry Pischke, Elaine Pischke, Liz Read, Margaret Lamb, Diana Waldier, Jeff Habrych, Pat Horton, Brian Jones, and, of course, yours truly.

As it turns out, about ten of our people made it over to Carowinds on June 26th to view the Star Trek display that Paramount brought in. There were a number of park personnel in costume and plenty of photo opportunities with them; but on the whole, I was disappointed by the items in the show. Glad I saw it, but not happy to have spent seven hours on the

road to see it. However, the rest of the park made up for the disappointment and it was an opportunity to see old friends like Scott Gibson and his Bonaventure crew, and former Kitty Hawk member and Operations Officer, Jack Hopkins and his lovely new wife. Nice going, Jack!

And speaking of "nice going", our ship and crew has received our fifth "Certificate of Appreciation" from those people at the N.C. Department of Transportation for the fine effort we give in keeping our section of highway clean. At our current rate of receiving awards and plaques, I may have to remodel my downstairs den so we will have a place to hang all of them.

We would like to make our donation to the N.C. Food Bank in July, so if you can, please bring any can goods, etc. by my house by the third weekend in July. We have been a little slack on this project and this would be a good time to catch up.

Our trivia/puzzle book is almost finished and should be available at Shore Leave. Be sure and get your copy of the first edition.

We hit a snag in the printing of Kitty Hawk T-shirts, but will be back on track when we return from Shore Leave and they should be ready for the August meeting. Likewise, the set is on hold until our return from Hunt Valley.

We have done a lot recently and will be doing even more in the coming months. Congratulations! Thanks! A small group of people with the Wright Stuff can make a difference.

ESSE QUAM VIDERI





# THE WRIGHT STUFF

VOLUME 4 NO. 3

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# THE WRIGHT STUFF

VOLUME 4

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# FIRST OFFICER'S LOG

By Teresa Tuel

Hi gang. The lazy days of summer are just around the bend. True to form, the Kitty Hawk will be busy with planned activities and the summer conventions. The recent Communiqué had a very long list of conventions with guest stars from all three series.

I would like to thank everyone for their assistance and contributions to the Duke Children's

Telethon held June 5 and 6. We sent a landing party to the city of medicine to help man phones. The hospital has recently extended programs for children, especially in the area of cancer. It is really nice to think we are part of an effort to make the world a little bit better place for children.

For the Star Wars collectors on the ship, Hamilton Collections is

releasing a 15th anniversary Star Wars Plate. It is the first of three and costs \$40.18 per plate.

The shuttle port has just announced the last boarding call for Vulcan. Hope to see everyone at our upcoming events. It is logical to share good times with friends and family.

# COLLECTOR'S CORNER

By Carey Muse

Last month I hit the major highlights in this column. Let me highlight some new things that are coming. There will be a lot of things coming out in June and July. There is really too much to cover in this column; if you want to know about anything in particular or have any questions, please feel free

to contact me. Here are some of the new things coming out: 6 movies on tape at a sale price of \$14.95 each, the beginning of the repackage of the Classic Trek episodes are on tape as well as new batch of ST:TNG. This summer and early fall there will be three new Star Trek monthly calendars released.

I'll let you guys figure out what the three calendars are. There will also be new Next Generation gadgets, a tricorder, a transporter, a Klingon ship, a Romulan ship, as well as other items. Final note - as of this writing, the first issue of Walter Koenig's Raver is out.

# CHIEF ENGINEER'S LOG

By Pat Heinske

Not a whole lot going on lately with the Engineering Department, because I've been out of town more than once this past month - first, a week in San Diego, California (thanks to my real job) and then a week in Florida. But, I'm back at my post (for better or worse).

We are still talking about the bridge set but work has not yet begun due to schedule differences, but I feel sure that we'll have it done by the turn of the century. Landing Party '93 was a blast (see article), Shore Leave is going to be great, and summer's just started! What a life!

# STS MISSION BRIEFING

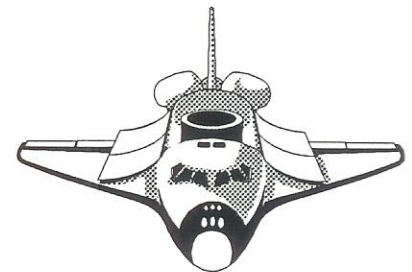
By John Miller

**SD: 9305.21:** KSC workers are continuing with efforts to prepare Endeavour for mission STS-57, its fourth launch in just over a year. Mission managers for STS-57 were scheduled to meet May 21 at KSC to set a firm launch date in June. The date is currently targeted for June 3 at 6:14 p.m. Endeavour will carry into space the SPACEHAB module, a pressurized compartment situated in the payload bay of the Orbiter. SPACEHAB, similar in function but different in design to SPACELAB, will roughly double the size of the six astronauts' working space, supplying them with an additional 1,100 cubic feet. The extra lockers in SPACEHAB will house material science, life science and space station experiments. This also marks the first SPACEHAB mission.

During this planned eight-day

mission, veteran Shuttle Commander Ron Grabe will maneuver the Orbiter into position to retrieve the free-flying European Retrieval Carrier (EURECA).

Astronaut David Low will operate the Remote Manipulator Arm (RMS), grapple the EURECA and tuck it inside the payload bay for its journey back to Earth. This reusable platform was deployed into Earth orbit from Atlantis on mission STS-46 in August, 1992.





# BOOK REVIEWS

## GROUNDING BY DAVID BISCHOFF Reviewed By Elaine Pischke

The story line of this book was interesting. The Enterprise has been contaminated beyond help and is scheduled for destruction. The story tells how this came to be and how, of course, the crew will rescue her from this fate. However, from the very beginning, I found the writing style of this book very annoying. It is too wordy, and the dialogue is stiff. The most annoying part is that the author has not captured the essence of any of the characters. They are all out of character and one dimensional. At least, toward the end of the book, the story was interesting enough so that the writing style was somewhat less distracting. I wouldn't say not to read the book, but I can't help but wonder what happened to some of the really good authors, like Jean LORRAH? Some of these new ones just don't quite make the grade.

## THE SIEGE BY PETER DAVID Reviewed By Liz Read

Let me warn you right now: this is not an unbiased review. ST:DSN has captured my heart and Peter David has written some of the best ST novels. With his newest novel, "The Siege", he moves into the DSN universe as though he created it. This first original DSN novel ("The Emissary" by J. M. Dillard was an adaptation of the series premiere) is so well-crafted; the characterizations are perfect - Sisko, Kira, O'Brien, and Odo, not to mention Quark! - just as real in the pages of this book as they are on screen.

The story is great; not only is it a ST adventure but it's also a mystery. The suspense lasts 'til the end - at least, I didn't figure out whodunit. If you do, let me know.

Here's to Peter David - may he never run out of pencils or ideas. Get the book and read it - you won't be sorry.

## THE DEVIL'S HEART BY CARMEN CARTER Reviewed By Elaine Pischke

The Devil's Heart is definitely worth reading. Another of the hard back offerings, it is well written with an intriguing story about an ancient artifact that has played an important role in every civilization in the Galaxy, from the Klingons to the Vulcans to the Iconians and the Romulans. The heart has brought both power and tragedy to anyone who has held it. When it winds up in Picard's hands, will he have the strength to do what it seems only a few before have been able to do? He must get rid of it before it destroys him.

*"It is a good day to fight.  
It is a good day to die.*

*Brave hearts, strong hearts to the front.  
Weak hearts and towards to the rear."*

Crazy Horse: 25 June 1876 (The morning of the Battle of the Little Bighorn)

The above quotation is submitted as evidence that Klingons visited Sector 001 during the time period referred to by historians as the "Ancient West". Further evidence will be forwarded as it is discovered.

Liz Read

**Reminder!**  
Please bring  
**CANNED GOODS**  
to all ST events  
and meetings!

## NAVY? NO! By Michael Glenn

Many of you assume that Starfleet is a futuristic navy. I would like to dispute that by pointing out the many parallels between the missions of Starfleet, as I have perceived them over the course of watching a certain TV show, and the missions of the present-day U.S. Coast Guard.

First, let me state what I perceive to be the mission of the U.S. Navy: to be prepared to engage in warfare when called upon by competent authority. What does the Navy do in peacetime? Prepare for when it's not peaceful.

The Coast Guard, on the other hand, has three primary missions: defense readiness, maritime safety and maritime law enforcement. Two of these are full-time, peacetime jobs. It is also responsible for the additional duties of ice breaking and polar operations, recreational boating safety and marine science operations. There is, in the Coast Guard, a job specialty called "Marine Science Technician", is there in the Navy?

Do the missions mentioned in the preceding paragraph suggest to you a certain fleet of ships boldly going where no one has gone before? Even "fleet" is a misnomer since both Coast Guard and Starfleet ships tend to operate singly,

eschewing the fleet, flotilla, squadron or convoy movements often engaged in by naval vessels. Substitute "interstellar" or "galactic" for "maritime" and "marine" in the above paragraph and you may see my point.

Like most veterans, I am proud of my service and the valuable experience that I gained from it. Many of our readers, veterans of more militaristic organizations, will therefore take exception to these thoughts. When I first began watching Star Trek, however, I felt that I was already very familiar with the purposes and organization of Starfleet, having lived in such a similar environment (and, having sampled some Navy life, I could see the dissimilarities).

The emphasis on the peacetime, peaceful missions of the present-day Coast Guard and its counterpart on the tube, the crew members dedicated to scientific exploration and the emphasis on the saving of life rather than the taking of it, except in self-defense, leads me to this rather inescapable conclusion, which should be "intuitively obvious to even the most casual observer".



# THE ADVENTURES OF MYSTERY AND SPOT

## EPISODE TWELVE

### WHERE NO CAT HAS GONE BEFORE?

By Elaine Royal Pischke



No way could Spot sleep. He lay under the bunk with his legs hunched under him, set to spring at the slightest provocation. His eyes stayed wide open, staring at the women in the front of the shuttlecraft, or past them to the stars. He listened to their voices as they occasionally conversed softly. After a while he relaxed a little, but not enough to sleep.

It seemed like days before the shuttlecraft made its landing on Danis IV, but actually it was only a few hours. The craft landed gently, with only the slightest bump. The door opened and Dr. Selar leapt out. The pilot made a few final instrument checks, then followed. Mystery joined Spot beneath the cot.

"We'd better stay here, for now," Mystery suggested.

"What's out there?" Spot's curiosity had gotten the better of his fear.

"I have no idea. We'll see later."

Spot was becoming very impatient, but he understood when suddenly the lights came on in the cabin and Dr. Selar and the pilot returned and began unloading the boxes and crates. It wasn't long before the craft was emptied, dark and quiet again.

Finally, Mystery stirred. "We can go now." Again, she stood in front of the door, and without visibly doing anything, made the door open for them.

Spot peeked out from under the cot, and was totally amazed by what he saw.

"It's incredible!" Spot thought.

Even Mystery seemed impressed. She'd never seen anything like this, never imagined, even in her wildest dreams, which

were often quite imaginative, even for a cat of her intelligence.

The landscape before them was beautiful, full of lush trees. Gold and violet flowers bloomed everywhere. They were in a small spaceport, but the forest was all around them. There were a few small buildings, mostly made of wood and almost hidden by the trees. An intense sunset was bathing the entire scene in a layer of soft gold.

But it was not the beauty of the planet that caught the felines' attention. It was the people, if you could call them that. Several Danisians were loading the medical supplies on a land vehicle. Dr. Selar was talking to one just a few meters from the craft. Mystery realized they stood a good chance of getting caught, but she was mesmerized.

These people were more cat-like than human. But they walked upright on their hind legs and spoke in the language of the humans, although their voices were strangely cat-like all the same. They had fur instead of clothing, and they had long tails.

Spot looked at Mystery for a clue as to what to do next. He was at a loss.

Finally she moved, jumping down from the opening and closing the door behind them.

"I admit even I was stunned... for a moment," Mystery said to Spot, now that she had gotten over the initial shock.

Just then the feline talking to Selar pricked up his ears and turned in their direction. The two little cats froze in their tracks.

"What is this?" the large feline said aloud.

Dr. Selar turned to see what

he was looking at. One eyebrow lifted slightly, but otherwise she did not seem surprised.

"That would be Mystery and Spot. They are two cats from the Enterprise. They are creatures often kept as pets by humans. It seems they have stowed away aboard the shuttle."

"They are like children, but different." The large feline was intrigued, and approached the cats curiously. "Are they intelligent?"

"They possess an intelligence of sorts, but not like your race, or mine," Selar responded.

"Hmm," the man-cat said. "Still, I thought I sensed something from them. As if they were trying to speak to me."

"Telepathically?"

"I suppose so. But it was just for a moment, and very weak. My ancestors used to communicate telepathically, before our vocal chords developed. We have since lost the ability." The man-cat seemed regretful.

"Perhaps you should try to re-develop the talent. If it was there once, it could possibly be revived," Selar suggested.

"Perhaps," he agreed. "But right now we should get these supplies to the Medical Center. Time is running short." He paused. "What about them?"

Selar pondered the problem for a moment. "Restraining them is probably pointless. I have an idea." She opened the hatch and jumped into the craft. In a moment she returned and quickly attached a small metal tag to each cat's collar. "Let them explore. I'll know exactly where they are when it is time to leave."

*See Mystery, page 11*



# COLLECTOR'S REPORT

By Larry Pischke

Attention all you Star Wars fans out there. I have recently received a catalog (in a shipment for Pat) from Screamin' Models. This shows new figures for 1993, including some Star Wars personalities.

The first in the series is Darth Vader. Actually, two Darth Vader figures are being presented. The first one is already out (retail price is \$64.99). This features an early movies Darth in a light saber dueling pose. The kit comes with a light saber, but it is just a white tube. Pat and I have discussed lighting this 1/4 scale figure, if we can come up with the money.

The second Darth Vader seems to be from **Return of the Jedi**. His pose is more of a "waiting for Luke to get his butt off of the ground" stance. He also comes with a light saber. The main differences between the two kits (aside from the pose) seem to be in the painting. This 1/6 scale Vader has the silver inserts on his shoulder cowl. Also, his cape chain is silver instead of black, and his chest respirator seems a bit more elaborate.

The third kit is of that ever-lovin' green guy Yoda. Although he is also 1/4 scale, he stands only 7 inches tall, as compared to Darth Vader's 18" and 14" respectively. Imagine that. The figure looks very "Yoda-like", complete with white

hairs. He also has his staff and three pet snakes. The only reason I can see for these is to justify the cost of the kit. He is available at this time (call 1-800...Uh, never mind).

Also scheduled for release in 1993 is a Han Solo figure. The catalog doesn't have any picture other than a close-up of his face, but this looks very good. His arm seems to be raised as if to shoot something or someone. The description says than Han will come with a blaster and rocket pod, whatever that is. This figure is also 1/4 scale, measuring in at over 19 inches tall. This is taller than the 1/4 scale Darth Vader, but Vader is in a crouched fighting stance.

The last Star Wars figure that is not in the catalog, but that I got a release notice on is C-3PO. The flyer says "Capturing the bumbling yet lovable C-3PO in a quirky pose, this vinyl model kit consists of 4 vinyl parts as well as 9 injection molded parts for incredible accuracy. Officially licensed through LucasArts Entertainment." His cost is \$64.95.

There are two other figures that I may as well tell you about while I've got your attention. These two come from Horizon Models. They are from **Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade**. These are way behind schedule (just ask Pat), and from the pictures, they really don't

look like who they're supposed to. The first is good ole' Indy himself. This pose seems more from **The Temple of Doom** than any other movie. He's not wearing his jacket, but he has his hat on. He is also wielding his whip in an impressive pose. His shirt is open to reveal his manly chest, and he has a bandoleer (probably a bag strap, but I can't tell from the picture) running across it. He also has a holster with no gun, just like the real Indy doesn't have. This 1/6 scale, 13" tall figure will cost \$35.00.

The other Last Crusade figure is Indiana's father, Dr. Henry Jones. He will also be a 1/6 scale, 13" tall, \$35.00 figure. He carries his briefcase with his umbrella strapped to it. He is holding his hat to his head and looking up for some reason. A three-piece tweed (if painted correctly) suit, bow tie, and glasses round out his stunning ensemble. These may be all right IF THEY EVER COME OUT, but I'll bide my time. Until then, check out the other kits.

**UPDATE:** On 5/10/93, the Han Solo figure became available. I still have not seen it, and I'm not planning to get any in, unless somebody orders one. The retail price on this figure is \$64.99; any Kitty Hawk people wishing to order this will get their customary 15% discount from me.

## DOIN' THE CON THING AGAIN

By Pat Heinske

**LANDING PARTY '93** - May 14, 15, 16 - Subtitled "Hey, where were you guys?" My scout shuttle docked at Penn 4-H Camp right on time, only to find that we were obviously early, because no other ships were in orbit or in the bays - "Oh, well, they'll be along shortly..." After a few hours, we looked around and noticed that the only ones that showed up at all were from the Kitty Hawk!

We unpacked and got comfortable (I even remembered my Horgon this year!). Then I decided

to take a walk around the lake. When I got back, people were already turning in, so I did the same.

We got up the next morning, had a light breakfast (very light!) and got ready for the games... First up - volleyball! It was incredible! We won!... Well, okay, it was by default, but we won. Next up - the tug-of-war! We did it again! Much, much easier than last year! I guess it's because we've all been working out.

Finally - laser tag! Wow! You

guys sure know the art of camouflage! But, ha! I never got hit once! In fact, the whole Kitty Hawk team won without a single shot being scored against us! Damn, we're good!

Well, the rest of the weekend is kind of a blur, but I'm sure you'll be able to read more about L.P. '93 in other submissions in this newsletter, so maybe that will fill in some of the blank spots.

Well, see you in Reidsville next year at Landing Party '94!



# KITTY HAWK CHRONICLES

## TARA'S ADVENTURE

### PART III

By Audra Taylor

Malar looked through the glass at the young woman he'd just brought in. It gave him a bad feeling, a very bad feeling. True she was worth a hell of a lot and Malar wasn't exactly sure why. One thing Malar did know was that he did not like Lyitax. He was more than corrupted. Lyitax was evil and he existed with an agenda all his own.

Malar's thoughts were interrupted by the abrupt sound of Lyitax's laughter.

"This is a good day for me. In fact, it is the best that I can ever remember. You should be quite proud of yourself, Malar. I have hunted the galaxy for many years in search of someone like our friend here. I was beginning to think my wish would never be fulfilled."

"Wish? I'm not sure I understand. I know that Ferengis have an appetite for the females of any race, but that is an expensive plaything." Malar continued to look through the glass.

Lytax's laughter roared. "I would never pay full price for just a simple concubine. She is not here for pleasure. She has a purpose. I have had a vision for many years, and now that vision will be reality. With her help I will be only what people imagine. I will be immortal."

"Great," Malar thought. "Just what the universe needs, a Ferengi with delusions of grandeur."

"So what's going to happen?" Malar asked Lyitax.

"In a short while they will move her into the room where the freezing will take place. Once that is complete, the doctors will extract the vital gene. The I will be placed in cold stasis and the gene will then be incorporated into my genes. As I am being brought out of my temporary stasis, the gene should come out of it's dormant state and be activated in my body. By tomorrow, I should be a new man. Literally."

"Well, what about..." Malar's

head pointed in the direction of Tara.

"Why?" Lyitax asked. "Are you interested in the leftovers?"

A young and unenthusiastic doctor had overheard part of the conversation and interrupted. "She will not survive the process."

"A minor inconvenience." Lyitax smirked.

"The process," the young man said, "requires the removal of her hypothalamus, a vital part of her brain and the only place the gene is present. Plus, we have to make sure we have all of the longevity cells. If the first attempt doesn't work, then we have more of the same type of genes to work with. If doesn't work, then..."

"The others are to be sold to the highest bidders." Lyitax grew even more pleased at the thought of actually making a profit off this venture. "Imagine, thousands of cells, each of them worth millions. It will take me an eternity to spend that much money."

An older man approached Lyitax from the side. "We're ready."

"Excellent. Are you going to watch the ultimate display of modern science?" The Ferengi looked up at Malar.

\*\*\*\*\*

Carey Muse meandered back to his quarters. Everything had made his brain numb. He felt frustrated at himself. He had stumbled through Admiral Pruitt's questions as if they'd come from a cadet review board. His head hurt just thinking about it. The discussion hadn't gotten them any closer to finding Tara. At least they had discovered that the bomb used aboard the Kitty Hawk was the same type used at the Outpost.

No one had even a clue as where to begin looking for Tara. She could be half way across the galaxy by now. Not to mention the fact that they were completely immobile, until the ship's hull was

repaired. It was the "patch work process" as Pat called it.

Immediately after the briefing, the Captain told Muse to get some rest.

"That's an order," the Captain said.

Muse wondered if he would be able to do anything at all besides think. Think until his mind would go numb again. Sitting on the edge of his bed, the tension that plagued his body made him sore all over. He could feel his muscles stretch beyond their limits as he laid across his bed. His body relaxed and his mind slowly drifted from consciousness.

Muse traipsed through the woods. He heard the rustling of the trees, the birds singing in the background. He came to a clearing in the woods. It was an overcast day, he thought as he looked at the darkening sky. In the center of the clearing was a large glass box. Large enough to be the size of a small room. He walked over. Inside the box there was a girl laying on a table, her pristine white gown cascaded over the edge of the table. It was Tara.

"Tara!" Carey shouted. "Wake up! Please wake up!" He began to pound on the glass. "I'll break it. I'll break the damn glass," he thought. He looked around the box. I need something heavy, but as he peered into the glass again, he noticed someone in the box with Tara. There was a man with her. He was dressed as a pirate. He scooped Tara up into his arms and as he turned, they vanished.

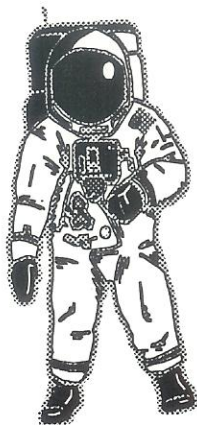
"Damn you, you'll not take her again." Muse picked up a heavy rock and threw it at the glass. It shattered, dropping to the ground into a thousand small pieces. He stepped into the box. Immediately he began to choke. There was a thick fog in the room. Beyond the fog he could hear voices, familiar

*See TARA, page 11*



# POTTY TRAINING

By John Miller



Well, I'm back in Florida working for NASA again. Where does the time go? This time around, I have the privilege to work with Flight Crew Systems.

We are responsible for installing and configuring the crew cabin for each flight. The astronauts' equipment, clothing, food, and middeck experiments are all our responsibility; as well as permanent hardware such as the pilot and commander's seats and controls, the mission specialist and payload specialist seats, and yes, even the \$30,000,000 toilet affectionately known as the Waste Management System (WMS). The following is an excerpt from an article written by Beth Dickey for *Flights & Fancy* magazine on just how the astronauts are introduced to potty training in space:

*How do you go to the bathroom in space? The question strikes fear in the hearts of bashful astronauts. Everybody asks. In fact, it's the title of the "everything you ever wanted to know about space" book by Skylab astronaut Bill Pogue.*

*Apollo astronauts, who wore diapers and defecated into plastic bags, ran a risk of bacterial infection due to a rudimentary disposal method. Shuttle crews are lucky, I guess, to have a sophisticated latrine. But the technology is far from perfected, and plumbing breakdowns are a major concern. "If the toilet stops today, you come home tomorrow," says veteran astronaut Bonnie Dunbar.*

*As a reporter, I had trusted astronauts who said using the shuttle potty was like going to the bathroom in a Winnebago. But*

*curiosity got the best of me when auditors recently accused NASA of flushing money down the drain of a new, improved toilet. According to the General Accounting Office, the space john that first flew last January cost \$30 million -- nine times the original estimate. What was there about this privy, I wondered, that could possibly cost so much?*

*Sharon Jones, who teaches potty procedure to the astronauts, agreed to show me. The waste collection system, as NASA calls it, sits in the Johnson Space Center's Building 5, along with most of the other shuttle simulators. Jones leads me down a long, narrow hallway. Suddenly we seem to be backstage at a theater, surrounded by brown drapes and a clutter of props. The bathroom is about 10 feet by 10 feet, but the toilet stall is the size of a broom closet. Jones is showing me the eight plastic urine funnels when I notice my reflection in a Mylar square on the wall. "This is our rear-view mirror," she deadpans, then explains that this allows you to check for a "good seal" between your equipment and theirs.*

*The toilet itself is a tank with a white seat, a baby blue urine hose, and thigh and foot restraints. Jones turns on a switch and the toilet whines like a jet engine. The noise comes from a fan system that draws a vacuum inside the tank and separates the urine from the air by centrifugal force. She clips a urine funnel to the hose and sucks on her hand with it. "If they've got good air flow, they do their business, clean their urinal cup, stow it, and turn the WCS off," Jones says.*

*A bowel movement takes a good bit longer. You sit down, strap your heels into stirrups, and swivel a padded bar over each thigh. Once the toilet hits a steady high pitch, you push a lever that opens a door beneath the seat. High pressure blasts of frigid air take the place of water and gravity to carry solid waste into the bowl. It's like sticking your derriere in the*

*refrigerator.*

*An astronaut's first exposure to the shuttle potty is a "positional trainer", which sits beside the working mockup and faces a TV screen. A sign on the wall gives instructions. "Sit down on the trainer and spread buttocks," it begins.*

*"There's a light down there," I observe as I peer into the six inch hole. Actually, there's a whole video camera. "Hit picture control," Jones says, "and at this point in time you would be able to see where your correct body positioning is." What you see on the TV screen is, well, what you see. "It's a unique perspective," Jones allows.*

*The seat, with its exaggerated contouring, is uncomfortable. I sit cockeyed, sloped forward with my knees higher than normal. Jones says she doesn't really care if I'm comfortable as long as I can see that I've taken proper aim and can remember what my position feels like. "The better you aim, the less you have to clean up," she says. She pulls out "what we call a contingency scraper tool [a space pooper scooper?]." It looks like the 79 cent plastic spatula in my kitchen drawer, except I bet NASA paid plenty more to get one with an aluminum handle. The spatula is used for scraping feces away from the six inch hole, which NASA calls a transport tube.*

*People who haven't been to space take certain things for granted. Extraterrestrial toilets have to compensate for the lack of gravity when the body performs its most down to Earth function. So if anything on the Shuttle has to be 900% over budget, it might as well be the toilet. You can't just flush and forget it.*

*Yes, ladies and gentlemen, for the next flight of Endeavour, I personally got to oversee the installation of the toilet paper and moist towelettes the astronauts will use in space. GOD, what an adventure!*



# SAVE THE HOME PLANET

By Michael Glenn

Perhaps not literally. Unless you can single-handedly defeat the Borg, you may be wondering, "Is there anything that I can do?" The answer is an emphatic, "Yes!"

Our home planet is threatened by litter. Though not terribly toxic, we would all be better off if it were taken care of. Some of the litter is actually valuable as recyclables. Much better to have an aluminum

can be another aluminum can than to leach into the soil over the years. (Have you ever seen plants with Alzheimer's? It's not a pretty sight!)

Kitty Hawk is responsible for one, 2.2 mile x 50 yard section of the home planet. Reliable sources say that she won't be showing up for the next Adopt-A-Highway clean-up, so we'll have to and can

have the whole thing done in an enjoyable hour or less.

Meet at the Pincrest Pointe Shopping Plaza on Leesville Rd. at 0800 on 9308.7 (August 7th at 8 in the morning).

As the lecturer said during the power failure, "Everyone raise your hands. Many hands make light work!"

# SPACE SHUTTLE APRIL 1993 MANIFEST

By John Miller

The following is a listing of upcoming Space Shuttle flights scheduled as of May 14, 1993.

<u>Mission</u>	<u>Orbiter</u>	<u>Primary Payload, Comments</u>	<u>Launch</u>
STS-57	Endeavour	SPACEHAB-01, EURECA Retrieval	06/18/93
STS-51	Discovery	ACTS (satellite communications experiment)	07/15/93
STS-58	Columbia	SLS-02 (EDO: Extended Duration Orbiter Mission)	09/09/93
STS-60	Discovery	SPACEHAB-02	11/10/93
STS-61	Endeavour	HST-Rev.1 (Hubble Service Mission 1)	12/02/93
STS-62	Columbia	USMP-02 (U.S. Microgravity Pallet 2) (EDO Mission)	02/08/94
STS-59	Endeavour	SRL-01	03/31/94
STS-63	Discovery	SPACEHAB-03	05/05/94
STS-65	Columbia	IML-2 (International Microgravity Lab 2) (EDO Mission)	06/23/94
STS-66	Endeavour	ATLAS-3 (Atmospheric Lab for Application in Space 3)	08/18/94
STS-64	Discovery	LITE-1	09/15/94
STS-67	Columbia	ASTRO-02 (EDO Mission)	11/03/94
STS-68	Atlantis	SRL-2 (First flight after refit)	12/01/94

## SHUTTLE ENGINEERING REPORT By John Miller

**SD: 9305.25** - Shuttle Engineering operations aboard the Kitty Hawk have been proceeding without much trouble lately. Checkout and certification of our 4 main shuttlecraft has been completed, and only one anomaly was encountered. During flight testing of the shuttle Wright (NCC-1659/2) an intermittent power glitch was noticed on the starboard nacelle. While it kept the shuttle from performing properly, it did provide me with some interesting maneuvers that I wasn't sure a shuttle could do! A 314 degree per

second spin at 0.7c will curl anybody's hair! However, after the CMO gave me some nausea medication, and I recalibrated the inertial damper, I was able to localize the problem as a small rodent-like vermin nesting between the EPS power taps in the nacelle. Undoubtedly, the creature found its new home on the shuttle's last flight planetside. [Where's Mystery and Spot when you need them?] Since the rodent was more nauseated than I was, removing it was a simple matter. It has since been handed over to life-sciences for care and eventual return to its native habitat.

Two of my technicians, who shall remain nameless [and fictional], were put on report last week when it was discovered they had been organizing "Work-bee Races" in the hanger deck on second and third shift. When I made a surprise inspection of the hanger

deck, I observed the two techs in question racing the work-bees across the deck. When they noticed my presence, unfortunately, they lost control and ran into one another. No damage to the ship was sustained; however, both work-bees will be out of commission for approximately 2 weeks for repairs. This should not pose a threat to maintenance scheduling, as we have enough work-bees currently operational to take up the slack.

Also, this is notice to all interested crewpersons. Shuttle Pilot certification/recertification will be scheduled during our next overlay at Deep Space 3. All pilots needing recertification and those who have completed their training and wish to be certified, should contact me to schedule a proficiency exam. Current pilots will have scheduling priority over new pilots.



# DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

## ENGINEERING

By Pat Heinske

Things are kind of at a standstill right now - I guess we've fixed everything perfectly! (Actually, we all lost our combadges a few weeks ago and the computer won't let us out of holodeck 5, but I've definitely been in worse places.) So, could someone please come and open the door? Our imaginations are running out of holodeck scenarios! Help!

## MEDICAL

By Liz Read

FROM THE CMO...

Summer's here! I'm enjoying the warm weather and hope you are, too. Here are some reminders so it's all fun and no trips to the E.R.

1. Use sunscreen - all the time. Remember that children under 6 months should NOT be exposed to the sun at all.

2. Drink extra water or juice in hot weather and when exercising or playing sports. Sodas will actually increase dehydration - avoid them.

3. Watch out for unfriendly indigenous life forms, i.e., snakes, spiders, etc. Don't stick hands or anything else in drainpipes during highway cleanup, for example. Wear proper footwear.

4. Wear appropriate safety equipment. Helmets when biking, life vests when boating or water-skiing, and so on.

5. When having a picnic or barbecue, cook foods thoroughly. Wash hands and tools after they have touched raw meat. Don't let foods sit out and don't eat anything that looks or tastes funny.

6. Don't include alcohol in any activity that requires a clear head and good judgment.

7. Have a good and safe summer. Hope to see you at Shore Leave in July.

## OPERATIONS

BY Larry Pischke

Things are really starting to pick up around here, most notably in the personnel area. In addition to myself and Margaret, we now have two more OPS people!! WOW! Look out, Engineering!! I would like to welcome Phillip Hansma to the department. Returning after a tour of the Science department is Suzanne Miller; welcome back.

Another increase of 100 percent. I can hardly believe it. If we keep doubling in size, we'll be able to dominate the world!! AHAHAHAHAHA!!!!

Sorry about that, I got carried away. At least now we have enough people for a decent card game. I will hopefully be getting in touch with everyone in my department soon to find out what they would like to do as a whole (I LOVE the way that sounds!! "as a whole"!! Marvelous!) Anyway, I will disclose more information as it becomes available.

As a final note, I would also like to offer my condolences - or rather congratulations - to Jeff/John Cohn, our new Recreations Officer. With Debbie stepping down, SOMEBODY had to take over. I started in that position (and what a painful position it was!), so I know some of what is ahead for Jeff/John. All that I can say now is good luck!!

## SCIENCE

By Michael Glenn

The Science Department wishes to notify the crew that they can positively impact the longevity of the embellishment on recently-acquired items of apparel by facing them with a non-interactive medium and applying moderate caloric input over those portions of the surface having been embellished.

In English: The printing on a new T-shirt will last longer if you "set" the design by putting a clean piece of paper over it and ironing with the medium, dry (not steam) setting. Printed materials, of

course, may leave undesired, backward results. Newsprint, even if blank, is not a good choice, either. The blank side of an impact computer print-out is fine. Using a laser print-out will show you on the bottom of your iron why a laser printer is hot.

## SECURITY

BY Carey Muse

The Security Department reminds everyone that summer is here and that means hotter weather. If you work outside during the summer months, please be careful. Drink plenty of water and other drinks to cool down. Also there will be a couple of holidays plus the conventions and summer vacations activities, so be careful this summer. I know it has been said many times, but please DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE and remember to use those seat belts so that you will be around all summer and in the fall.

## ANSWERS TO NAME THE ORIGINAL STARFLEET INSIGNIA DECEMBER, 1992

*(Answers are from left to right and top to bottom.)*

Recruit, Enlisted 2nd Class, Enlisted 1st Class, 5 cm, Petty Officer 2nd Class, Petty Officer 1st Class, Chief Petty Officer, 1 cm, silver, Senior Chief Petty Officer, Master Chief Petty Officer, Warrent Officer, Chief Warrant Officer, Ensign, Lt. Jg., 6 cm, 2 cm, gold, Lt., Lt. Commander, Commander, Captain, Commodore, Admiral, Cadet, Midshipman, gold, wide.



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**MYSTERY***Continued from page 5*

"Very good. Now, let's get moving."

"Agreed."

The two-legged creatures hurried off towards the land vehicle that had been loaded with the crates from the shuttle. In a few moments they were gone.

Spot paced back and forth, agitated. "Did you hear that? The nerve of them! Intelligence, of sorts! Why, we're so much smarter than them, they just have no idea! Isn't

that right?" He looked to Mystery for confirmation.

Mystery glanced at the shuttlecraft. "I have no idea how to build one of these, or make it fly. Still, there are things that you and I understand that humans never will. They are what they are, and we are what we are."

"Does that mean they are not better than us, and we are not better than them?" Spot was a little confused, and intrigued. Mystery rarely talked that much all at once.

"I didn't say that," Mystery

replied. She said no more, but as she walked away, Spot had the feeling that she was feeling quite secure in her superiority, as always.

"Come along, now. This place is just begging to be investigated."

Spot fell in behind his leader, eager to check out this place where cats were more like people than cats. What wonders could such a world hold!

**To be continued...**

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**TARA***Continued from page 7*

voices.

He fanned the thick fog from his face and saw a young ensign beyond the edge of the box. She was standing with a tricorder in her hand.

"Commander," she said, "I'm getting some unusual readings."

Muse woke up, his eyes staring at the pale white ceiling. It had been there in front of him all this time. He reached over and tapped his com badge.

"Muse to Captain Fisher."

\*\*\*\*\*

Liz Read gave a big sigh as she looked at the screen in front of her. She'd been reviewing Tara Weaver's medical records. There was nothing out of the ordinary; in fact, Tara had been very healthy by normal standards. The only link she could find was that Tara was born on the Faulkner Outpost. There had to be more to it than that. Tara couldn't have been taken at random. If she was right, there had to be an explanation.

"Tara was human, so it would only take a few minutes to run an in-depth scan for her genetic codes," Liz thought. The briefing was in less than an hour. She should have everything complete by then.

"Computer," Liz said. "Analyze and run the in-depth genetic sequencing scan -1170."

Liz got up and walked over to the replicator. "A cup of hot chamomile tea, lightly sweetened." She sipped the tea. It was hot, sweet and perfect. It had been a long day, for everybody. She thought back to Carey and the way he looked at her after the explosion. With Tara missing and Cooper's death, the grief had really hit him hard. Even when he tried not to show any emotions. Then at the briefing, she'd thought he was going to lose control, but he didn't.

She glanced over to check the computer's progress. She noticed it had gone off on some sort of tangent.

"Computer, freeze the analysis." She was a CMO and not a genetic expert, but what was on the screen did not look familiar. "Computer, explain data."

"Data, in-depth genetic analysis -1170 on Tara Weaver. Genetic scans taken at age five. Basic human sequencing code. Unusual sequencing in hypothalamus. In-depth scan reveals extra genetic code not indigenous to humans."

"What is this? Computer continue analysis."

\*\*\*\*\*

The Chief Engineer sat back in the seat of his shuttle looking at his handy work. "Not bad," he thought to himself. "It will hold us till we get to Earth Base McKendly." He could still see some of the black scarring that went beyond the metal patch. The "patch work process" was complete.

"Commander," Pat heard over the shuttle's communication lines.

"This is Commander Heinske, what is it?"

"This is Commander Muse. How's it looking out there?"

"Fine. Not bad if I do say so myself." With a slight pause, Pat said, "How are you doing?"

"I'm better, thanks. I have a favor to ask. I need you to check for a pattern of barion particles. It should look like a bull's eye pattern, very concentrated in the middle and thinning out toward the edges. I need to find out if it continues beyond the hull of the ship."

"Sure, I'll bring the information with me at the briefing."

"Thanks, Commander."

**To be continued...**

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**ANSWERS TO NAME THE NUMBERED PARTS  
FEBRUARY, 1993**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Dorsal separates from secondary hull           | 8. Primary hull separates for dorsal               |
| 2. Primary hull rotates 180° on longitudinal axis | 9. Primary hull ascends to planetary orbit         |
| 3. Dorsal fin used as vertical stabilizer         | 10. Bridge module detaches as lifeboat             |
| 4. Main antigrav unit activated                   | 11. Landing legs (retracted - 3)                   |
| 5. Landing legs (extended - P/S)                  | 12. Descent engines (3)                            |
| 6. Planetary sensor extends as support pillar     | 13. Cross-section of primary hull at 60° starboard |
| 7. Emergency exits                                |  |



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# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 16..... 7:00 p.m., Bridge Meeting, Fisher Residence  
9:00 p.m., Movie, Six Forks Theater  
AUGUST 7..... 8:00 a.m., Highway Cleanup  
Putt-Putt Golf (after highway cleanup)  
4:00 p.m., Kitty Hawk Meeting  
AUGUST 21 ..... Gen Hunt  
SEPTEMBER 4..... Kitty Hawk Meeting  
SEPTEMBER 18 ..... Trekopolis  
OCTOBER 2 ..... Highway Cleanup  
Kitty Hawk Meeting  
OCTOBER 8-10 ..... Farpoint  
OCTOBER 16 or 23 ..... N.C. State Fair  
OCTOBER 30..... Halloween  
NOVEMBER 6..... Kitty Hawk Meeting  
NOVEMBER 20 ..... Trip  
DECEMBER 4 ..... Highway Cleanup  
Kitty Hawk Meeting  
DECEMBER 18..... Party  
DECEMBER 31..... First Night

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THE WRIGHT STUFF  
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