



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

It is our fervent hope that each of you had the best holidays ever and that the new year will be the most prosperous yet!

The past year was a good one for the Kitty Hawk and her crew. We have successfully blended our love of food and parties with sincere commitment to our community service. Many of our efforts have endured for the full four years of our existence. The Food Bank has been the recipient of our efforts from the day of our launching and our contributions have increased both in frequency and quantity. The State of N.C. has been the beneficiary of our highway cleanup efforts which began in those first few months of our history. While we have not always had great turnouts for the cleanups, we have always got the job done.

Helping man the phones for the P.B.S. telethon is one of the best, if not the best attended function we have all year. Again it is time to step forward and volunteer for this event. Again it seems we will have a Saturday afternoon/evening to work the phones. I don't have a date or confirmation yet, but probably the second Saturday in March. Come on out and help, it is always fun! Remember the food!

And while we are on telethons, remember the Duke Children's Hospital Telethon in May. We don't know the date for this one yet either, but make a note on your calendars so we can have as many people there as possible.

How about some work mixed with fun? I don't have enough space to mention all the cons coming up this winter and spring so check your communiqués and pay attention at the meetings when different members bring their favorites to our attention.

Which brings us to the immediate future. We have a Creation Con at the Civic Center in

Raleigh on Sunday, January 23rd, at which we will be doing security and recruiting. While the team is already selected, I would hope that as many of us as possible will come down and help out. We really need to do some serious recruiting again. Our membership hovers around 70 with active participation being about 25 of the 50 dues-paying members. If we are going to go forward with the plans we have talked about in the past, we will need greater participation in the future and that will require new people.

Speaking of conventions also brings us to the Creature Feature on April 22 - 25 at which we will have a contingent of at least six. We hope to meet with these people very soon and find out what specific duties they have in mind for us and if the mission is indeed one we can handle.

Another convention we will be involved in is StellarCon 18, March 4-6 in High Point, N.C. This is our Region 1 conference leftover from last year and we need to have a good showing since it is virtually in our back yard. We will have details at the January meeting and again at the February meeting.

Last month we started a new tradition on the Kitty Hawk of celebrating the birthdays of those crewmembers having one that month with ice cream and cake. Last month Diana Waldier, Tara Weaver, Bob Enters, and yours truly, J.R. Fisher, were the guests of honor. In January, we recognize Maria Cohn and Celeste Toombs. Happy Birthday!

Also, last month was our first party of a different nature to celebrate our anniversary. It is a tradition which will be very popular and plans for next year are already being laid. This was the occasion for promotions and William Barry was promoted to Lt.jg. Jane Fisher was promoted to the rank of full

commander (long overdue) as she is the one who really makes the Kitty Hawk run as smoothly as it does. The main event is always the Captain's selection of "Crewperson of the Year". This year, as every year, the recipient represents the finest of the fine with the qualities which not only makes that person an outstanding member of the Kitty Hawk, but a distinct asset to the community. This year's "Crewperson of the Year": Jeff Habrych. Congratulations Jeff. Jeff is our senior N.C.O. and will not accept a commission at this time, but should he ever decide to join the officer ranks, he will receive an immediate promotion.

Finally, I commend those very hardy members of the Kitty Hawk who braved bitter cold weather to man our information and merchandise tent at First Night in downtown Raleigh New Year's Eve. Once more our organization lead the way in sales, enthusiasm, and good will. While we did not have lights and little heat (what we had was due to the generosity of Diana), we stayed there and did an exceptional job. We have not received the final figures for the evening, but we will have raised over three hundred dollars. I hope next year we will have an even better turnout. It has been suggested that perhaps the Kitty Hawk could man two tents next year.

This is a short newsletter this time, but then the holidays always seem to take our time. The new year is here and we already have a full calendar of events to consider. I wish each and every one of you the very best in this new year. We are a family and we do have the Wright Stuff.

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VOLUME 4

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BOOK REVIEWS DARK MIRROR

By Diane Duane

Reviewed By Elaine Pischke

This book is a continuation of the mirror universe theme, a view through the mirror in Next Gen time, deliberately instigated this time by the alternate universe's Starfleet. If you can ignore some of the faulty logic inherent in the whole concept (i.e., any universe this different from our own would most surely be more different. It is extremely unlikely that the same people would even be born, let alone wind up in the same positions, more or less, in each universe. For example, without that attack on Kittomer, how does Worf wind up in Starfleet?) However, if you accept the illogic in the premise, then the story is quite compelling. Diane Duane's books are often overburdened with detail. This one suffers less from that problem than the other's of hers that I have read. A few tidbits: on the alternate universe Enterprise, the one person everyone fears is "Counselor" Troi, Chief of Security. And I know some of you (Sickos) will be pleased to see Wesley Crusher subjected to the Agony Booth. In conclusion, this is a well written story, and I recommend it highly.

Reviewed By William Barry

On an unspecified stardate, four officers of the starship U.S.S. Enterprise: NCC-1701 became the victims of a freak mishap which took them across a dimensional barrier... and into a universe which could only be described as a perverse parody of our own. In place of a peaceful, democratically-oriented Federation, a savage, brutal Empire dominated much of the know Galaxy by force and fear. The transposed officers felt like a quartet of Dr. Jekylls in a world full of Mr. Hydes. Through an engineering miracle, the foursome were able to escape that mirror universe, but just barely. Though unable to forget their experiences there, they comforted themselves with the knowledge that such an incident would not happen again.

So they believed.

Now, nearly a century later, the twisted science of that Empire has opened a gateway into our universe. The Enterprise-D of that universe has come through that gate, its crew intent upon infiltrating the Federation... and shattering it from within. Can the crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise compete in this

deadly game of subterfuge, especially when the enemy is... themselves?

In 1813, Oliver Perry, upon the occasion of his victory over a British fleet on Lake Erie, uttered these words: "We have met the enemy, and they are ours." In the late 1960's, the long-running comic strip "Pogo" coined its own unique spin on Perry's quote: "We have met the enemy, and it is us!" In the case of this novel, the quote should be "We have met the enemy, and it is us... or is it?"

Once again, Ireland's foremost STAR TREK authoress has outdone herself, using her unique combination of astronomical fact and science fiction to capture the spirit and soul of STAR TREK as no one else can. Danger lurks at every turn as her words bring the decadent and oppressive atmosphere of Jerome Bixby's Empire to life with a chill clarity of image that evokes a sense of "you are there". She does herself proud with her detailed and insightful focus on the interplay and relationships among the Enterprise officers and crew, as well as their counterparts aboard the I.S.S. Enterprise. Captain Picard's counterpart, in particular, is revealed to be twice the monster that Kirk's counterpart ever was.

All in all, *Dark Mirror* is a masterpiece, crafted with the liquid gift of language and meticulous attention to detail which is Diane Duane's signature. It also keeps you reading right to the last page, another of her signatures.

Erin go brag! And kudos to STAR TREK's Bard of Ireland!

LAST FIRST NIGHT By Michael Glenn

In this computerized world, we have all become button-pushers, but the crew of the Kitty Hawk became "button pushers" of a different stripe last First Night. For twelve hours on New Year's Eve, a landing party set up, staffed and took down a button/information booth at First Night Raleigh, but the commitment went well beyond that time.

Captain Fisher, Science Officer Glenn and Navigator Lamb attended a planning meeting with the Artspllosure staff about how to push buttons on an unsuspecting public. The Navigator was directly responsible for the success of this away team mission as the Captain and Science Officer were stymied by a locked

door and debated the merits of abandoning the quest in favor of seeking sustenance. Without benefit of a tricorder, she located an ancient, low-tech, signaling device called a "doorbell", which summons assistance.

Once inside the fortress, the team split up so as to more effectively secure the conference room and monitor the various interests represented. Captain Fisher, as befits his rank and vast experience, was asked by the Artspllosure staff for input frequently. The breadth and depth of the basic and contingency planning was very impressive and led to thoughts of "no stone unturned" and "proper, prior planning prevents p!ss-poor

performance", lessons we should all keep in mind when undertaking any undertaking.

As the ordinary representatives of ordinary groups departed, our away team issued a command directly related to one of the Kitty Hawk's important priorities, "Take us to your t-shirts". The First Night Shirt Shop has a collection of t's and sweats from all three years, most discounted to move the stuff out. (Have your credit card handy and call 1-800-1ST-NITE to order yours! Or write to Artspllosure Suite 200 112 S. Blount St. Raleigh, NC 27601.)

ANSWERS TO MATCH THE MOON WITH THE PLANET By Liz Read

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|--------------|
| 1. E | 3. B | 5. H | 7. I | 9. F |
| 2. D | 4. G | 6. E | 8. C | (A not used) |

COLLECTOR'S REPORT

By Larry Pischke

As the end of the year approaches, we finally have some new releases, as well as some news on some upcoming model kits.

The long-awaited **Deep Space Nine Runabout** finally showed up. It was originally due out in August, but didn't arrive until late November. The kit actually has a scale on it, which is unusual for a "non-real item". It is listed as 1/72 scale, and measures in at over 12" long. It includes a detachable "Deep Space Sensor Array", a sort of module that attaches above the rear hull. I haven't seen it in the show, but I'm not all that current in my episodes yet. There are decals for the Rio Grande, the Yangtze Kiang, and the Ganges, but no markings for the Oronoco. The retail price is \$18.50.

Screamin' Models recently released another of their **Star Wars** vinyl kits. This time it's a Stormtrooper in 1/4 scale. As I haven't seen one yet, I'll read you the release blurb. "As the seventh release in their popular Science Fiction Series, Screamin's Stormtrooper model kit captures the detailing of these hitmen of the evil Galactic Empire. Clad in a white

armored spacesuit with blaster rifle ready, the assembled figure stands over 18" tall." The retail price on this meany is \$67.95.

Two new figures have come out from Geometrics. Now offered in 12" vinyl are Lieutenant Commander Geordi La Forge and Counselor Deanna Troi. No other particulars (such as uniform style) are available. The price is supposed to be \$60.00 each. These two continue Geometrics NG line, which already includes Captain Jean-Luc Picard, Lieutenant Commander Data, and Lieutenant Worf.

There are several new **Star Trek** models supposedly coming out in 1994 from AMT/Ertl (we all know how release schedules work, so I won't guarantee any of these actually arriving until I have one in my hot little hands). They are (in no particular order):

- **Fiber Optic USS Enterprise** - This is a model of the NCC1701D that is supposedly in scale with the Enterprise model kits, but don't quote me on that. The unique feature of this is that it will allegedly come with all the lights and fiber

optics to illuminate the engines and "hundreds of windows". It is also supposed to come with a battery powered drill to drill the holes in the hull for the fiber optics. The price on this is to be \$48.75.

- **USS Excelsior** - They are finally coming out with everybody's favorite space guppy. There is no word on the scale, only that it is in proportion with the model used in the show. The price is supposed to be \$19.00.
- **Deep Space Nine Station** - A model of the actual station. It should be about 18" in diameter when finished. Retail should be \$18.75.
- **Figures** - 12" tall vinyl figures of Capt. James T. Kirk, Dr. McCoy, and Mr. Scott come complete with choices of limbs for varied poses. They will come with transporter pad bases. It is unclear what uniform these figures will be wearing, although the catalog has stills of the crew members from the original series. They are each supposed to cost \$29.50.

CHECK LIST FOR TRANSPORT VEHICLES

By Kurt Davenport

I. WARP DRIVE SYSTEM

- INSPECT WARP DRIVE COOLANT CONDITION, AND LEVEL IN THE COOLANT HEAT TRANSFER CHAMBER: [RADIATOR] AND FILL AS NECESSARY. IF SYSTEM HASN'T BEEN SERVICED WITHIN THE PAST TOUR OF DUTY [12 MONTHS] HIGHLY SUGGESTED TO HAVE SYSTEM INSPECTED, CLEANED, AND PURGED: NEW COOLANT INSTALLED INTO WARP DRIVE SYSTEM. [INSPECT HEAT EXCHANGE THERMOSTAT, AND REPLACE IF NOT OPERATING PROPERLY.]
- INSPECT WARP DRIVE INTERNAL LUBRICANT CONDITION, AND LEVEL. IF INTERNAL LUBRICANT [WARP OIL] IS LOW OBSERVE CONDITION AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION: ADD AS NECESSARY, OR CHANGE WITH NEW LUBRICANT.
- OBSERVE REMAINING IMPORTANT FLUID LEVELS:
 - NAVIGATION FLUID LEVEL. [STEERING POWER]
 - TRANSPORT DRIVE TRANSMISSION FLUID. [ATF FL. LEVEL] [SHOULD BE BRIGHT RED IN COLOR - NOT BROWN]
 - TRANSPORT HYD. BRAKE SYSTEM FLUID LEVEL.
 - INSPECT DRIVE BELTS, AND HOSES FOR FATIGUE. [REPLACE AS NECESSARY]

II. TRANSPORT VISUAL INSPECTION:

- INSPECT LANDING GEAR, AND FRICTION DEVICES FOR PROPER PRESSURES, BRAKING, BALANCE, AND ALIGNMENT.
- INSPECT LANDING LAMPS AND ASSOCIATED SAFETY EQUIPMENT.
- INSPECT COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT IF INSTALLED: TELECOMMUNICATION VIA: CELL-TELL OR OTHER FEDERATION CHANNELS.
- INSPECT IN-CABIN SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR PROPER FUNCTION. [IF NOT PROPERLY WORKING SEE ENGINEERING]

TO ALL CREW MEMBERS OF THE KITTY HAWK

TAKE CARE OF YOUR TRANSPORT, AND IT WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!!!

AROUND THE WORLD IN THREE DAYS

By William Barry

On Stardates 9310.01 through 9310.03, I went on a brief journey aboard my personal shuttle to participate in what can be best described as a "cultural anthropology survey" in International Festival of Raleigh.

More than fifty nations were represented at this year's festival, the largest attendance to date. Each year, the focus of the festival is on a different theme common to all nations represented; this year's theme was "Holidays Around the World", national, regional, and religious. In true festival spirit, I decided to attend wearing appropriate garb. Being a member of the Triangle Japan Club, I decided to show up clad in a bright red **happi**, the short belted jacket worn at festivals in that country, and a complementary-colored **hachi-maki**, the decorative headband.

I wasn't particularly worried about drawing undue attention. Most of the festival's attendees wore the traditional dress of their native lands, and there were

even a few who, like me, wore the costumes of nations other than their own. I clearly recall seeing an Asian man clad in German **leiderhosen** and a fair-haired Caucasian woman in an Indian **sari**!

As for the Japanese attendees and staff at the festival, they were very impressed at my appearance. At least a dozen of them asked me how and where I had obtained my outfit. They went so far as to extend an invite to take part in their segment of the dance program, which I gladly accepted. Afterwards, we got together for a group photo.

The cultural exhibits drew a big crowd. Among the more elaborate ones were Germany's **Oktoberfest**, England's **Guy Fawkes' Day**, Mexico's **Dia de los Tres Reyes**, Korea's **Kite Festival**, Brazil's **Carnival**, and China's **New Year Parade**.

Two lively and interesting groups, **Chuck Davis and the African American Dance Ensemble**, and a reggae band named **Mickey Mills and**

Steel, made their debuts this year. Old festival standbys such as the **Carron games**, mini language lessons by **Berlitz**, and **Raleigh's own Little German Band** made their appearances as well.

The various ethnic foods were probably the biggest hit. Irish truffles, French crepes, Polish **kielbasa**, Greek gyros, Italian pastas, Palestinian **falafel**, and a host of other exotics drew in long-time admirers and curious **bon vivants** alike. Filipino barbecued pork is probably the most popular menu item, and has been for four years.

In conclusion, the International Festival is an enjoyable experience all around. The one big lesson that all are likely to learn here is that people around the world are more alike than they think, more so than they can imagine. If you're curious about the rest of the world, if you enjoy a good learning experience, or if you simply want to have a uniquely good time, come on down! It just gets better with every passing year!

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

OPERATIONS

BY Larry Pischke

I'm slowly getting back into the swing of things, although more scarce times loom on the horizon, including a change of residence (finally!) and an addition. My department didn't seem to suffer all that much from my prolonged absence (must be my superior organization).

As this year winds down, my thoughts inevitably turn to both the past and to the future. We did not do too badly in 1993. Some things didn't work out as I would have liked, and some things didn't work out at all. I have big hopes (not necessarily *plans* yet) for OPS in '94, as well as for the rest of the Kitty Hawk. I hope that we continue to build and grow on what we have done in the past, and make this the best darn ship in the fleet (if there is a fleet left).

I hope that everyone has a happy and safe holiday season, and an excellent New Year!

SCIENCE

By Michael Glenn

"Science Dept. Education"

On 9311.14, the Science Department

"Working Environment" training session was held at the Morehead Planetarium. Sparse attendance may be ascribed to the Science Officer's failure to communicate with the Communications Department and the C.O. about the date chosen for the session. The "Basic Science" training session will take place at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham in February 1994.

After the November general meeting, after a frantic scramble to get something to eat and after the week's episodes of **ST:TNG** and **DS9**, the C.O. screened "The Day the Earth Stood Still". This was a very educational movie. For instance, even with my background of years in the sciences and after earning a grueling PhD from the Vulcan Academy of Science, I did not realize the proper protocol to stop a robot from destroying the planet.

First, you are given the correct instructions ("Clatu Verada Nikto", meaning, of course, "Clatu says, 'Stop'". This is the pan-galactic version of "Simon Says".) Then you approach the robot. When it starts to move toward you, you could relay the magic words, but decide to have some fun first. You back into a corner, preferably with the back of your hand to your mouth. A good scream here will work wonders in increasing the robot's comprehension of the message that you'll get around to eventually. Then you

crumple yourself and some folding chairs onto the ground and wait until the robot is about to zap you with its ray. Then you shout, "Clatu Verada Nikto!", hope that you've timed it BEFORE the ray disrupts your every molecule, save the world and cue the credits.

All-in-all, though, seeing some of the old sci-fi movies on the C.O.'s big screen promises to be another enjoyable Kitty Hawk "educational" activity. In a juxtaposition of the Ace-Number-One priority of the Kitty Hawk crew (food) and the "sine qua non" of movie screenings, popcorn is provided.

SECURITY

BY Carey Muse

The Security Department hopes everyone had a happy holiday season and a safe and happy New Year.

The Security Department is looking forward to a busy '94. We will be beginning the new year with the Creation Convention in January.