



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

This newsletter is not the one that we had hoped to put out as our final issue of the year. But financial circumstances compel us to curtail our costs and not do the large color issue originally planned. Not enough (30) people signed up for the anniversary banquet, so the ship is having to make up the difference. We would have had to pay even if we cancelled or moved to another site.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH PRESTONWOOD

At 6 p.m. appetizers will be served. The main meal will begin at 7 p.m. The dress is semiformal (at least a coat and tie, gents). This is a party to celebrate the holidays, our sixth anniversary, and the family of fans known as Kitty Hawk. There will be little in the way of ceremony and no roasting of the crew (sorry Pat, no award this year). We are gathering to have a good time and to enjoy our friends.

If you have not sent your check to Jeff, in the amount of \$28.00 per person, and find you wish to come, please bring the funds with you to the banquet. If you have had a change of plans and can now come, do the same and call Jeff or J.R. to let us know you are indeed coming. All crew and guests are welcome.

JANUARY 6, 1996 JEFF'S CLUBHOUSE 5 P.M.

The January meeting is moving to Jeff's clubhouse so that we will have more room for the ceremonies. This is a meeting where uniforms, Kitty Hawk shirts or Starfleet shirts are expected. If you wish to be promoted through the Kitty Hawk point system, you need to get me your point sheet as soon as possible. We agreed several months ago to provide pips for promotion, but you are expected to provide the pips for your current rank. If you have only a Kitty Hawk or Starfleet shirt, we will provide you with "nail heads" for the collar. If you are going from an open pip to a solid pip, we would ask that you donate the retiring open pip to the "pip kitty". We would like to be a little more formal (military) at this ceremony so be prepared.

We are asking that you bring side dishes, snacks and drinks for after the meeting. The club will provide ham, turkey, etc. as the main course. If you wish to bring another entrée, feel free to do so.

Now to the other main item: First Night. **Please**, sell these buttons! Buy some and give them as gifts to family and friends. It is going to be a great celebration this year. But this is also how we make up some of the lost revenues, by selling these buttons now and netting \$2.00 per button.

We very much want to do a lot more on the Kitty Hawk next year in the way of providing you with information, manuals, calendars, shirts and projects. Everything costs money. Earning the money in fun ways as a group keeps us from having to dig deeper into our own pockets. Sell a button.

As always, please remember to bring stamps, aluminum and canned food to the meeting. Also, please let me know if you want one of the new blue or black Kitty Hawk T-shirts and the size(s). We don't know the price yet as that is usually dependent on the quantity ordered. But probably in the 8 - 9 dollar range with XX and XXX shirts being more.

If you have duplicate Star Trek books, toys, or ornaments that you would like to donate to the club, we will be glad to auction them at the January meeting with the proceeds going to the Duke jar.

This coming year will be the seventh for the Kitty Hawk. It is our intention to make it the best year yet. With your help we will. Without your help, we will be condemned to mediocrity. It is time to step forward and show me you have the Wright Stuff.

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VOLUME 6 NO. 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 free of charge, to all chapter members in good standing. Subscriptions for non-members are \$12.00 per year (six issues). 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 1995 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.



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TOOL BOX: Trigem Pentium/75; Hewlett Packard Laserjet III; Microsoft Publisher; Logitech Scanman Plus; Word for Windows; Logitech Ansel Image Editing Software.

SCIENCE REPORT

By Elaine Pischke

By the time you read this, the holidays will be over, we'll all be 5 lbs. heavier, and looking at another new year. The Big Question is, what will we do with it? Suggestions are welcome. Here are a few, just off the top of my head: Trip to USS North Carolina; beach trip; a day at Falls Lake; participate in the Raleigh Christmas Parade; participate in Earth Day celebration; play volleyball; feed the hungry; collect stamps for Stampede; plan a

convention; attend conventions; recruit new members; ride horses; go bowling; play putt putt; build a bridge set; make uniforms; have a booth at the flea market one weekend; attend a shuttle launch; play Star Trek games; elect a woman president; insert your suggestions here. All (o.k., most) of these are things we have already done or talked about in the past. The question is, where do we want to go, as a ship, in the future? Do we want

to wander aimlessly, lost in space, or go boldly where no one has gone before? Personally, I joined Starfleet to seek out new friends, share my love of Trek with other Trekkers, and to work with others to make a better future for everyone. I would like to encourage all of you to think about why you joined the Kitty Hawk and what you would like to get out of your membership, and how we can make 1996 the best of all possible years.

OPERATIONS REPORT

By Larry Pischke

A new year is finally upon us. Time to reflect on our actions in the past, and to make resolutions for the future. Everyone of us go through it. Anyone who believes that they have nothing to change is either delusional or an idiot. Maybe both.

It seems to me that a great many of us need to reevaluate what exactly we want to do with our spare time. Obviously, family comes first. For some, religion is desirable. Somewhere in this scheme of things, there should be time for the Kitty Hawk and Starfleet. It was important at one time, at least; you are receiving this newsletter and reading these words (at least, I hope that somebody reads this column).

It is with alarm that I see fewer and fewer people showing up at

meetings and other functions. It seems that the only way to increase attendance is to provide food and refreshments; even then, only a few more people show up. Worse yet, people say that they are going to show up for something, then don't; some don't even bother to contact anyone to let them know. This is especially disastrous when we need a certain amount of people, like at the Christmas party. As I am writing this before that party, I don't know the outcome of this yet, but at this time whether or not the party even happens is in doubt.

Maybe we aren't doing what people want to do. We put in a survey to find out what your feelings are. As of this writing, I have not gotten a single survey back.

Maybe people just don't care anymore. This is the time of the year that each of us need to decide whether or not to continue in the Kitty Hawk family; it is time to pay our yearly dues. Sit down and think carefully. If you decide that you no longer enjoy what we are doing, then don't rejoin; if this is the case, it's been nice to know you. If, however, you have had fun and enjoyed the activities and the people, please stick around.

We also need your help. The Kitty Hawk is what you make it. If you want to do something, bring it up a meeting, talk to your department head. If you don't like something, bring that up, too. If you don't help, you can't complain.



ENGINEERING REPORT

By John Miller

SD: 9512.02 - Not much has been going on lately. The material for the Engineering Manual has been expanded slightly. More equipment has been secured for its production. It is unlikely that the manual will be ready for our Anniversary Party, but I am hopeful it will be finished early in 1996.

On to more mundane reporting. At our last stopover at Earth Station Kennedy, the Kitty Hawk received her 12 month refit inspection a little early. Everything is operating normally, with no major problems. A slight imbalance in the port warp nacelle was attributed to a slightly offcenter warp coil used in the refit of the warp engines. While this only caused a drop in efficiency, it will

be replaced during this layover since drydock facilities are required for its replacement. During this time, the warp core will be deactivated so the inspection crews may conduct more in depth study of the break-in progress of the new intermix chamber. This is expected to take about three days. The replacement warp core should arrive from Utopia Planitia early next week, and it's installation should be complete by the end of next week. After that, the warp engines will go through a recalibration and readiness testing. The good news here is that this should allow most of our staff to take Shore Leave over the Holidays while the work is being completed.

THE ESCAPE

By Dean Wesley Smith and Kristine Kathryn Rusch
Reviewed by Elaine Pischke

This book is the first in a series of original Voyager novels. While rummaging for spare parts to make repairs, Torres, Kim and Neelix are accidentally transported back in time 300,000 years. They find that their very existence is this time is a capital offense, and they face the bureaucracy from Hell in trying to extricate themselves from their situation. They try to escape, but how do you succeed when every time you devise a plan, all your captors have to do is jump back in time to just before you made the attempt?

The story line was interesting although not without problems. For example, there was no explanation for why the Voyager crew could not remember events which happened during "back-timing", yet apparently the native population could. Tuvok apparently understood it, but didn't bother to explain to anyone else.

Also, Tuvok and Paris beamed down to this very cold, windy, sand-blown planet three times before it occurred to them to put on severe weather gear. And surely they could have devised some sort of filter to keep the sand and dust out of their noses and eyes!

The writing in this novel is straight forward and simple. A little more depth would have been welcome. The ending was particularly unsatisfying. It happened quickly, but I understand why they did it that way. Trying to lead us through all the events as they happened would have caused some problems. Still, I wish they could have done it differently. It felt like some of the episodes where, after spending 90% of the episode creating a problem, someone pulls a solution out of the air in the last 2 minutes. It leaves you feeling

cheated.

Despite this book's problems, I enjoyed reading it. The alien character, Drickel, was an interesting fellow. It would have been nice to know a little more about him. It would also have been nice to know a little more about this time and dimension shifting culture. For example, it seems that, although these people are living in times separated by millions of years, there is little change either technologically or culturally from one age to another. Does the fact that people travel easily across millennia mean their world has become homogenized across all time? Imagine if the earth were stuck in the late 20th century throughout all time - from beginning to end. Only the faces change. There is no comment on this at all in the book. I give it a B-.

WORLD WIDE WEB HOTSPOTS

By John Miller

Here is an overview of some of the sites I have found interesting on the World Wide Web lately:

- <http://www.vnet.net/rocoages/homepage.html> - The ROC of AGEs Homepage. Here you can find information about the upcoming ROC of AGEs convention being held Mother's Day weekend, 96. Rumor has it that Jimmy Doohan will be a party judge at the con.
- <http://rampages.onramp.net/~brummett/b5.htm> - The Agamemnon Babylon 5 Site. You can find and download numerous sound clips from all three seasons of Babylon 5 from this site. It also

includes links to other B5 sites.

- <http://www.hyperion.com/lurk/> - The Lurker's Guide to Babylon 5. This site contains any information you may need to stay current on B5. Some things you can find here are plot synopsis and unanswered questions from each episode. Input from JMS himself on what it was like to write and film the episodes is also available for past episodes. This is a must visit for anyone trying to keep up with the story if they have missed any episodes.

SECURITY REPORT

By Tara Weaver

Happy holidays to you all. I hope everyone is doing well as this year draws to a close. Having been tied up with Advanced Tactical Training at Starfleet Command and meetings with the Chief of Starfleet Security, I have been unable to attend several of the ship's activities. Hopefully, this will change soon.

Having very little to report this time around, I feel an obligation to remind you all to be safe this holiday season. There will be icy roads eventually, and the holidays also tend to attract drunk drivers. Drive carefully and enjoy! I hope to see you all at the banquet. For now, All's Clear.



MEDICAL REPORT

By Diana Waldier

As this year comes to a close, we are planning medical activities for next year. We will do another CPR certification/recertification class and plan a visit to a children's hospital ward. You will be contacted about both in the next few months. Hope to see you there.

FROM "THE WRIGHT STUFF" ARCHIVES A POETIC CHIEF ENGINEER'S LOG

By Pat Heinske

(This is a reprint from the December, 1991 newsletter)

Silent flight, faster than light,
All is calm in Engineering tonight.
The dilithium's in its magnetic bed
As nightmares of pakleds dance in my head.
When up on the bridge there arose such a clatter
That I deck-to-deck beamed to see what was the matter.
The Captain was there in his jolly red suit
With his four shiny pips and his shiny black boots.
Up on the viewer, Q had appeared;
"Hello, Captain Fisher," the "Great" being sneered.
"Get out of here, Q!" the Captain demanded
"For unlike Picard, I'm quite heavy-handed
When dealing with beings annoying as you!"
To this, in reply, "Be nice," said the Q.
"I just want to play chess with your crew as my pawns,
For Kirk's is too old; and Picard's - Paragons!
Your crew is much closer to that which I need
For my mind is just full of new evil deeds!"
At this, Fisher turned to his Chief Engineer,
And loudly said, "I want Q out of here!"
"Do what you must, but allow no delay,
For I, as the Captain, want him blown away!"
"Aye, aye," I replied as I walked to the 'lift,
"Right away, it's okay, it won't take me one shift!"
As I rode the lift down to deck number five,
I knew what to do to keep us all alive.
I had made recent repairs to the food slot, you see,
Of our Rec Officer, one Larry Pischke.
His Twinkie dispenser had all but imploded
And now with spare warp drive coils it was loaded.
I asked the computer to transport it to

The coordinates now occupied by the Q,
Then I raced back to the bridge, not a moment to waste,
And I told the computer, "Twinkie one, activate!"
Q knew at once he had made a mistake
When he suddenly turned into golden sponge cake,
The kind Hostess makes with cream filling inside,
And he knew right away he had better go hide,
'Cause here comes Larry in an environment suit
With a fork and a knife, and a napkin to boot!
Q didn't like this turn of events,
And so with a bright flash, away the Q went,
But not before saying, much out of spite,
"I'm not done, Captain Fisher! We'll continue this fight!"
Then he was gone, and Fisher came near,
Shook my hand and said, "Thanks, my Chief Engineer!
You've just saved the day, and the ship just as well,
But here comes Mr. Pischke, and he's madder than hell!"
It seems he was hungry for sponge cake that day,
And Q disappeared and just took it away.
So I gave him a Ho-Ho and told him, "Try this!"
And he took a bite and exclaimed, "Oh! what bliss!
Devil's food cake with cream filling between!
Hey, Chief Engineer, can you build a machine..."
But on that subject I was one step ahead
And we went to his cabin and next to his bed
Was the "Ho-Ho-A-Matic" I had just invented,
From my mind, sneaky, twisted, and somewhat demented.
So everyone's happy once more on the ship,
So I went back to my bed, and 'twixt the covers did slip.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC. 17 - Anniversary Party
(see map on back of
newsletter)

DEC. 31 - First Night

JAN. 6 - 5:00 P.M. -Kitty
Hawk Meeting & Promotion
Ceremony at Jeff Habrych's
Clubhouse

NEW ADDRESSES

Glenn and Amy DeJongh - 108 Stanway Dr., Knightdale, N.C. 27545, 266-7315

NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth DeJongh - Born November 1, 1995.

Congratulations Glenn and Amy!