



# 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

Happy Holidays to all of the crew of the Kitty Hawk! We hope each of you had a marvelous holiday and that this new year meets all of your expectations! To report on the closing days of 1996, we would have to say they were crammed full of work and play.

Hopefully, everyone has seen the new ST:TNG movie First Contact. It certainly was better, in all aspects, than the last show. As you know, there was none of the usual fanfare associated with the opening and our participation was limited to setting up a table and display at the Carmike Theater at Six Forks Road. We had good participation by the crew and contacted more than 20 prospective members. We also collected almost \$50.00 in the Duke jar for the trading cards. We will contact these prospects during January and hopefully increase the crew size.

Our annual holiday/anniversary party held at Balentine's in Cameron Village was a great success with wonderful food and good companionship. Not to mention that those attending were treated to service by the ship's captain. Hopefully, next year the stewards will be better trained. Twenty eight of you showed up for this event and everyone looked nice and festive. We hope that by moving the event to a less expensive location more of you will participate in the years to come.

Now to the work part of the closing hours of the year; First Night Raleigh. A sincere "Well Done" to Tara Weaver and her crew of volunteers working the button tent near the civic center the afternoon and evening of December 31st! Her help included: Bill Barry, Stephanie Fleck, Diana Waldier, Elaine Pischke, Jeff Cohn, G-Lee Bridges, Janet, Nick, and Alex Williams, Janice Campbell, Meg Hale, Libby West, and Ray McAlister. These people sold more buttons than any

other group working First Night. In past years we have come in behind the Girl Scouts since they always have the cushy job in the civic center with a captive market. Kitty Hawk people sold almost 900 buttons and raised over \$400 for the ship! Congratulations, crew!

At the same event, your captain was in charge of the merchandising. With help from Elaine, Stephanie, and all day from Diana, we outsold all previous events and exceeded our proposed revenue by more than 50%! Those at Artslosure who ever doubted our potential are now true believers!

Which brings us to the new year. With all that has gone on in STARFLEET and the general malice which has existed on the ship for over a year now, it is time we started believing in ourselves again. We have stopped collecting food for the Food Bank and given up our Adopt-A-Highway program. We have only about \$50.00 towards our donation to the Duke Children's Hospital.

We hope that at the January meeting and over the next month we can redefine our mission and make concrete plans as to how best to accomplish these goals. To do this, we will need your honest input and ideas. Further, we will need your contribution of your time to these projects and programs. Please participate in this process. We are at a crossroads as a group. I choose to go forward as a civic organization dedicated to helping our community and furthering the ideals of Star Trek and STARFLEET. Please join us and let us continue the voyage. We have the Wright Stuff.

We wish to remind you that there will be a Star Trek/Babylon-5 convention in Durham the weekend of February 15, 1997. We have been asked to work security for the three day event so if you are interested please start making your plans and contact me or Tara. We don't have

any more definite information at this time but we need to start scheduling people as soon as possible in case we have to go beyond the ship's crew for personnel. We would like for all persons working security to have either a uniform or a Kitty Hawk shirt for identification.

Finally, it is that time of the year when I present the "crewperson of the year" award. As with almost every year we have a truly difficult time deciding who has done the most outstanding job over the past year. We consider many things when we make this decision: how does a person contribute to their department, the ship, and the community; are they consistent; are they motivated; are they leaders; are they an asset to the Kitty Hawk, and a person that we would want to represent us to the world.

We would like to recognize the following crewmembers for exemplary service: Cmdr. Elaine Pischke, Cmdr. Tara Weaver, and acting Ensign Brad McDonald. Well done.

Our crewperson of the year for 1996 is Lt. Cmdr. Diana Waldier. Congratulations and Well Done! Diana is promoted to Commander.

Other promotions:

Amie Becton to PO/1  
 Patty Blackwell to CPO  
 Samuel Blackwell to PO/1  
 G-Lee Bridges to Senior CPO  
 Janice Campbell to PO/2  
 Benjamin Cohn to PO/1  
 Elizabeth DeJongh to PO/2  
 Glenn DeJongh to CPO  
 Robin Dinnes to PO/1  
 Bob Enters to Senior CPO  
 Julie Cooley Harper to PO/2  
 Irene Kan to Senior CPO  
 Margaret Lamb to Master CPO  
 Raymond McAlister to Master CPO  
 Graham Pischke to PO/1  
 Galen Pischke to PO/2

(Continued on page 4)



# THE WRIGHT STUFF

VOLUME 7 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 1996 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.



# THE WRIGHT STUFF

VOLUME 7

CONTENTS

NUMBER 6

A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT..... 1

SCIENCE REPORT ..... 3

ENGINEERING REPORT ..... 3

A STARSHIP CHRISTMAS ..... 4

SECURITY REPORT ..... 4

### CREDITS

PUBLISHER.....	J.R. FISHER
EDITOR .....	JANE FISHER
ASSISTANTS AND CONTRIBUTORS	J.R. FISHER
	BRAD MCDONALD
	ELAINE PISCHKE
	TARA WEAVER



**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

The Science Officer has been extremely busy with Real Life, so not much is happening in the Science Department. If anyone has any ideas about things we can do to make things more interesting, I'm listening. In the meantime, science related issues have been in the news lately. The hottest item is the discovery of the possibility of life on Mars, and the renewed interest in exploring the red planet. NASA is planning on launching several missions to Mars over the next few years. These missions are possible to a great extent because the new technologies allow us to send unmanned probes at considerably less cost than had been predicted

just a few years ago. Hopefully we will learn much about our neighboring planet. Here on our home planet, the environmental news is not good, as usual. I have been reading about how we are destroying coral reefs at such a rate that they are unable to renew themselves. Coral reefs are an important habitat for countless species of marine life, comparable in many ways to the rain forests. They protect coastlines from hurricane damage and can usually recover from those kinds of natural disasters. What they cannot survive is dynamite (a somewhat unique fishing technique used in some parts of the world), chemicals which are

washed into the seas along with eroding soil from farmlands, and over-fishing of many species which are critical to the health of the coral reefs. On a brighter note, do you remember Pioneer X? The 'little space probe that could' is still chugging along after 25 years. This space ship was expected to lose contact with Earth after about three years, but is still sending back signals. Unfortunately, NASA feels that the information we are receiving from it now is not worth the costs and will be breaking contact with Pioneer at the end of March. Bye bye, Pioneer.

# ENGINEERING REPORT

By Brad McDonald

What a year! A new Trek movie, Hurricane Fran, a snowstorm, an ice storm, a new season of some old favorites on television and a number of new ones. Now, to cap it all off, I'm putting a 1200 square foot addition on the house! Lots of noise, dust, mess and half of the house is in disorder. (The other half is in boxes.) Depending on the timing, my next report may be a bit brief as I am doing much of the work myself.

As I had reported earlier, two Titanic projects were planned for this year. One has already surfaced, the miniseries on television. For a real Titanic enthusiast, this proved to be a major disappointment. With all the new information available, all this production managed to do was retell the same old story, repeat the same mistakes and myths. I'm really hoping the movie project being done by James Cameron will be much better.

On the subject of films, Star Trek: First Contact received mixed reviews from both critics (what do they know anyway) and fans. In a

very unscientific method, I polled several fans in an exit poll. The results were not very surprising, but interesting anyway. Any fan of the original series was not impressed and generally gave the new movie an average of B-. Next Generation fans generally liked it a lot and gave it an A. What interested me most was the fact that many original series' fans stayed home! Also, several Next Gen fans complained about the violence. I suppose that this has something to do with the fact that they were used to seeing a sanitized series for so long, it caught them off guard. One lady even complained about the "sex scenes" between Data and the Borg Queen. As I said, this was very unscientific, although I did try to get a cross section of fans, both old and young. The real test will be with the final tally from the box office. In the first weekend, it earned 30 million and the following week, another 25 million. Most experts expect it to reach 100 million by the end of the holiday season. If that's the case, Paramount should be very happy and Star Trek IX

should be certainty.

One of the best points of the new movie was the Enterprise E. It was designed to look more like the "A" and it does. During the movie, Picard informs Lily that the ship is almost 700 meters long. If we assume a length of 690 meters, then use the conversion of one meter per 3.28 feet, then the new ship is approximately 2260 feet long. This makes it almost double the size of Enterprise A and even longer than the 2060 feet of the "E". In an interview on the Sci Fi Network, one of the production designers explained that the Engines on the "E" are the biggest ever on a Federation Starship. Of all the new features though, the new bridge is the best. Instead of the 'auditorium' of the "D", the "E" has a compact, efficient bridge, which is once again reminiscent of the "A".

Well, it's back to the construction work and associated bedlam. See you at the Christmas Party, I know I'll be ready for a break!

# A STARSHIP CHRISTMAS

By Elaine Pischke

It's a starship Christmas, what a beautiful sight;  
Ten-Forward is decked out in holly and light.  
Guinan serves egg nog and a nice synthehol toddy  
while Riker (as Santa) sorts out the nice from the naughty.

Humans place presents under a tall tree  
while aliens silently wonder about our sanity.  
The replicators are as busy as Santa's elves  
trying to restock the supply room shelves.

It's snowing like crazy in holodeck one,  
and everyone wants to join in the fun.  
A snowball fight broke out in there for a while,  
and Deanna insists she saw Worf crack a smile.

Beverly directs another holiday show,  
a Christmas time classic that we all know.  
Data plays Cratchitt, Alexander Tiny Tim,  
and Picard plays Ebenezer Scrooge, on a whim.

Geordi waits patiently under the mistletoe  
for a pretty young lady who'll want to, well, you know.  
And, just because it's Christmas, one lovely young miss  
walks up and gives Geordi a great big kiss.

There's peace in the galaxy, at least for one night;  
Even Q doesn't feel like picking a fight.  
So from Mystery and Spot - a wish for good cheer,  
Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year.

## SECURITY REPORT

By Tara Weaver

Well folks, there's very little to report this newsletter, so I'll be brief. We still need volunteers to man the tent at First Night, so please look into volunteering, at least for a couple of hours with us. We're looking forward to a great celebration, and the more crewmembers we have to merrier.

I hope everyone has a very safe and happy holiday season. If I don't see you at First Night, I hope to see you at the next meeting. For now, "All Clear!"

*(Continued from page 1)*

Howard Posner to Senior CPO  
Andy Prescott to PO/2  
Scott Robertson to PO/2  
Rhonda Rocker to CPO  
Audra Taylor to Master CPO  
Celeste Toombs to Senior CPO  
Janet Williams to PO/2  
Alex Williams to PO/2  
Nicholas Williams to PO/2