

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

READ THIS!!!

We are sending this issue to all members of the Kitty Hawk in hopes of spurring their interest and participation in the upcoming meeting on September 6 at 4 p.m. at the Fisher's house.

We will have a special guest at this meeting in the person of David Drake. David is a local science-fiction/fantasy author who is widely acclaimed. Many of you have read his works already. For those of you who have not; Waldenbooks on Capital Boulevard is giving us a bookfair here at the meeting. You may purchase David's books and have him autograph them, or bring your own copies. If you plan to purchase them here at the meeting, please do so by check.

David will be very happy to discuss his books, style, methods or anything else with the group. He may even favor us with a reading. We hope **every** member can be here for this event.

Also, it is food-fest time once more. Please bring a dish you can share with your fellow crewpersons. We are not trying to coordinate the food so think about what you will bring; main dish, beverages, side dish, and desserts. **Please, please**, be on time for this meeting so as to make a good impression!

Since you are going to come anyway, why not bring those stamps for Larry. And, oh yes, all those aluminum cans for recycling so we can raise money for the Duke jar. It is the lowest it has ever been since we have had it.

After the meeting, we may want to watch the rerun of the premier episode of Voyager (airs Wednesday night, September 3). It is also the 31st anniversary of the first episode of the original Star Trek, so maybe we will play that tape for all the old

timers in the group.

And speaking of after; on Sunday afternoon, at two o'clock (September 7) those of you who are interested can gather at Ultrazone on Creedmoor Highway to play lasertag. We have gone the last two months and everyone has had a great time. If we can get enough of **our** people there, we can have our own teams and have an even better time. Who wants to miss taking a shot at the captain?

On the STARFLEET side of things, all of the past unpaid scholarships have been paid off! They are now raising money so that we can award them again next year. I hope **everyone** on the Kitty Hawk who is in school will apply for these next year. There is no good reason why everyone of you can not win one of these.

Along those lines, let me encourage each of you to renew your STARFLEET membership. The current administration is doing an excellent job of rebuilding the organization and they need everyone's support and help. Remember, if you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem. Also, if you have not yet joined STARFLEET, please see me after the meeting or call me at your earliest convenience. We would like to get back to an all STARFLEET membership by the end of the year.

For those of you who have still not paid your 1997 Kitty Hawk dues, this is your last newsletter. I will call you and confirm that you are no longer interested in associating with us, or that it is your intention to pay your dues: \$24.00 for full, \$12.00 for associate. If you are leaving us, we wish you well, and remind you we will be here when you wish to rejoin. If you are staying, but have not been attending, come-on-down, we are

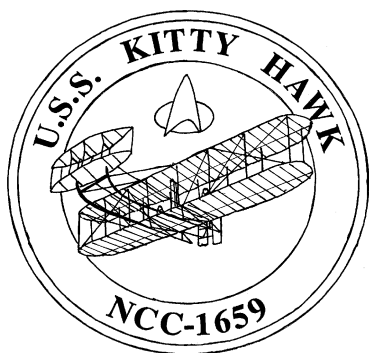
having fun!

We are doing more, and going more than we have in a long time. It is great to see and be with people with enthusiasm! Please look at the calendar and try to make as many of the events and meetings as you possibly can. We are going to try and spice up our meetings and events so **you** will have a good time. We have the Wright Stuff - do you?

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sept. 6: 4 p.m. meeting with special guest David Drake
- Sept. 7: 2 p.m. Lasertag at Ultrazone
- Sept. 26-28: Region I conference in Gatlenburg, Tennessee
- Oct. 4: 4 p.m. meeting at Fisher's
- Oct. 5: 2 p.m. Lasertag
- Oct. 10-12: Farpoint convention in Hunt Valley, MD
- or 10-12: Rising Star Con in Salem, VA.
- or 11: Steam Days at Spenser Shops
- Oct. 31: Halloween party - site to be determined
- Nov. 1: 4 p.m. meeting unless covered by party (see above)
- Nov. 2: 2 p.m. Lasertag
- Dec. 13: 4 p.m. meeting (note moved from 1st Saturday the 6th)
- Dec. 14: 2 p.m. Lasertag
- Dec. 17: 7:30 p.m. Annual holiday/ anniversary party at Ballentine's in Cameron Village. Food and prices to be determined but should approximate last year.
- Dec. 31: Kitty Hawk will man a button booth for Raleigh First Night. Very important - sign up early!



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ENGINEERING REPORT

By Brad McDonald

First, a personal note. Sorry I missed the last meeting. It's all the fault of my never ending construction project. I am getting closer to a finish, but on the day of the meeting, I had a small crew making real progress and if I had left, they would have too. Sacrifices must be made, so see you next time. One more item, my arm is healing and my strength is returning. Range of motion and manual are coming along, but maximum range is to be determined.

I'm sure by now most of you know that our plan to make a video of the contents of Silver Hill has been nixed by Air and Space people. While I'm disappointed, I still intend to go back and see the mostly unseen treasures. J.R. is still in touch with our tour guide and the possibility exists that we see even more displays than before. We'll keep you posted. Please do yourself a favor and plan to join us, it's an unforgettable piece of history and technology.

On the T.V. front, It's official that Kes will be leaving Voyager

within four episodes of the next season. Citing a lack of scripts that focus on her and compounded by writer's explanation that her part was difficult to write for, she will be replaced by another female character. Introduced last season, the new character is a 'reconverted' Borg. She should provide an interesting addition, but I wonder who they will play the doctor off of and how they will deal with the lack of 'innocence'. The latter may be shifted more to Kim, but I will miss her sweetness and genuine interest in everyone aboard. Also, her education as a nurse provided a nice angle as she was becoming the Doctor's legs. However, now that he has his new freedom, maybe she felt that there wouldn't be much to do. It's a shame and I wonder if she will be allowed to just walk away or be killed in a dramatic moment, I.E. ratings. In any case, they have been careful to distance her from Neelix and make her more of a free spirit.

On the modeling front, the newest release is the Cardassian warship, a real strange looking vessel. The kit is fairly good, with

only minor problems. The Maquis torpedo is the only other recent model and not very remarkable. If you have seen the cutaway Enterprise, NCC-1701, please be forewarned, it's a bear. Most modelers build it as a complete ship rather than the cutaway version. I've been out of the modeling picture due to my injury, but as soon as I recover I'll get back into the picture and keep you informed as to the kits and their quality.

On the literary front, Shatner has just signed another multi book deal, centering on the further exploits of Captain Kirk. Of course, the real writing will be done by others, but Kirk lives on. Also, there are so many Star Trek books coming out, it's really curious that they would start another series. This one centers on a new group of characters and ship. Unfortunately, I've reached my personal limit. In fact, I'm cutting back to just the hardcovers and specials, my shelves runneth over. Oh yes, a new tell all book is due out from my favorite authors, Herb Solow and Bob Justman, it's a continuation of their Inside Trek book and promises to be real good.

(Continued on page 5)

SCIENCE REPORT

By Elaine Pischke

It's been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon.. I mean, it's been a quiet month in the Science Department. A small troop of us engaged in target practice with some civilians at Ultrazone. Our performance was not quite up to Starfleet standards. I suggest more frequent practice sessions if we hope to hold our own against enemies of the Federation. And we need more personnel involvement... only seven of us showed up. It was suggested we try to find a time when more people can make it, and have interdepartmental battles. For those of you who have never tried it, laser tag is lots of fun.

Other than that, not much is happening in Sciences. At least on the Kitty Hawk, summer is a slow time. In real life, however, there is no such thing as a slow time. But for those of us who still believe that Fall is when Real Life gears up again, I think we should start thinking about what we want to do as a group this coming year. Please come to the next meeting prepared to offer at least one suggestion. That's all, folks

OPERATION'S REPORT

Here I am again to report that there is nothing much going on in the world of OPS. That is, nothing that I know about. Mind you, being the most active member in this neck of the woods, it *should* be kind of hard to put one past me. That doesn't mean that it's impossible, though. There are some things that I do that even I don't know about.

For those of you that missed it, the first foray of the year to Ultrazone was a good time. See, we don't need you to have fun. I heard that the second round was pretty cool, too (they don't need me, either). The general consensus is that we should pony up and rent the place for ourselves. That way, we don't have to deal with the mundanes, especially the underage, annoying ones. So, start saving those credits.

THE 1997 CHARLOTTE BON ODORI FESTIVAL: A TASTE OF JAPANESE SUMMER IN N.C.

By William Barry

On the morning of July 26, 1997, I fired up my personal runabout in preparation for a journey into unexplored territory (unexplored by me, that is). I was going further from home than I had ever gone alone. My destination: the city of Charlotte, and the 1997 *Bon Odori* Festival therein.

(*CULTURAL NOTE*: In Japan, the summertime is highlighted by at least half a dozen national and regional festivals and holidays between late June and early September. Traditional music and *Bon Odori* folk dances are present at all of these occasions, as well as in American cities with sizeable Japanese communities, Charlotte being one such location.)

Leaving Raleigh and the all-too-familiar orbit of its beltline behind, I set my course for Charlotte. I had been out this way once before, but that trip was six years ago and someone else was driving. However, the route to my destination was easier to follow than I thought, and the entire round trip was made without incident.

Locating the festival site in a city I didn't know my way around was another matter altogether. Even with road directions, I ended up criss-crossing a goodly chunk of Charlotte before getting my bearings. In the end, the route to the festival site, like the route to Charlotte, proved quite easy to follow.

After docking at a public parking garage, it was only a minute's walk through the city's Uptown district to the festival site, the Atrium at Charlotte's First Union Plaza. I had some spare time for lunch and a chance to take in all that the various participants had to offer before the festival's scheduled events began. Among the food court's features were *sushi*, *ramen*, *soba* (a popular Japanese noodle dish), and *an-pan* (a type of filled cake made from rice flour). Also on

hand were authentic Japanese drinks and treats provided by local Oriental markets. In the culture and crafts corner were side-by-side exhibits of calligraphy, professional *origami* works, and *bonsai* trees. At a cluster of tables close by, half a dozen games of *Go* were well underway. Copies of the American edition of *Yomiuri*, a Japanese newspaper, were offered for sale next to a collage of children's artwork from Charlotte's Japanese school. And at the central booth, specially made T-shirts, hand fans, *happi* (festival jackets), and decorative *hachimaki* (Japanese headbands) were passed out to eager festival-goers by the dozen... for a modest fee, of course.

What surprised me most was the number of people in attendance; easily two thousand, maybe 2,500. And the party hadn't officially started yet. But then again, Charlotte has been hosting this little shindig for twelve years running already, and by all the signs, it's a much-anticipated event.

The festival officially began at 1:00 p.m., and with it the events that everyone present had been waiting for: the music, the folk dances, and the demos. The music was provided by a *taiko* drum troupe from southern California; eight male and female performers, with six different sizes of drums and various other percussion instruments. The folk dances were several national and regional favorites of Japan; the *Tankobushi*, or "Coal Miner's Dance", the *Tokyo-Ondo*, or "Tokyo Dance", and the lively, comical *Ichi Tasu Ichi-Ondo*, the "One Plus One Dance". All *Bon Odori* dances are as easy to learn as any American country line dance, except that the dancers move around a platform in concentric circles rather than in straight rows. Three dance sessions were held throughout the afternoon, with prizes awarded to the best dancers (On a personal note, yours

truly was one of those winners!). During the dance sessions, the *taiko* troupe brought several of their instruments to the platform and used them to enhance the recorded music.

Between the music and dance sessions, members of a local *aikido* academy laid out mats and demonstrated their proficiency with the holds, sweeps, and throws of the world's most purely defensive martial art. In a quiet reception area off the atrium, surrounded by displays of kimonos and Japanese dolls, several kimono-clad men and women engaged in equally quiet demonstrations of their own; one woman displayed her prowess with the *koto*, a Japanese floor harp and one of the most difficult stringed instruments in the world. The rest held their audience spellbound with the ritualistic arts of *ikebana* (flower arranging) and the uniquely Japanese art of *cha-no-yu*, the tea ceremony.

Door prize drawings were announced and prizes were awarded twice during the afternoon, with gift certificates to local Japanese and Chinese restaurants predominating. The grand prizes were round-trip airline tickets to Japan, courtesy of Japan Air Lines, Northwest Air Lines, and All Nippon Airways. At 5:00 p.m., following the second round of drawings, the *taiko* troupe gave their closing performance of the day, and the festival officially ended for another year.

In closing this report, I must say that such an experience as this is, in its own way, as entertaining and enlightening as Raleigh's International Festival or any other similar event. If you've got the right weekend free for it next year, and you're willing to make the journey, by all means do so. The good time waiting for you at the journey's end will be well worth it... and you just might learn a few things, too! (I certainly did!)

SHORE LEAVE 19

By Elaine Pischke

My very first "real" convention was Shore Leave 13 in 1991, and it's hard to believe it has been 6 years already. I hadn't been back to Shore Leave in several years, so it was a little like going home. The people who organize this fan-run convention have been at this for a lot of years now and know what they are doing. With one exception - they tried doing the autograph line by badge numbers, which is a good idea. However, they neglected to let people know what was going on so when it came time for autographs, it was mass confusion. A lot of trouble could have been avoided if they had just made a few announcements and/or put up some notices explaining to everyone how the autographs would be done. Other than that, everything seemed to go smoothly. The guests were Mojo, Tony Todd, Jerry Doyle and Ethan Philips. The dance was a vast improvement over the last few I have been to. The DJ was very good, and actually played music you could dance to, rather than the head-banger stuff that seemed to predominate over the past few years. The costume contest, as usual, had many entries, some of them quite outstanding. The big winners were the green army men from Toy Story, whose costumes were extremely well done. I also very much enjoyed the Boogie Knights, who are a regular Shore Leave attraction. For those of you who have never been, the Boogie Knights are a group of folksingers who dress up in medieval garb and sing parodies of familiar songs (and some originals), such as "Xena" to the tune of "Venus", or "Jousting" to the tune of the Kinks' "Come Dancing". I have also come to appreciate the Hunt Valley Inn as an excellent place for conventions, not just for the facilities, but for the friendliness and cooperation of the hotel staff. Not all hotels know how to treat the fans. I had a fun, relaxing weekend. For anyone who has not been to a big convention, I would recommend Shore Leave as an example of how a Star Trek convention should be run.

HIGH SPEED SHUTTLE UPDATE

By Larry Pischke

The trials and tribulations continue for this verdammt project. The prototype is operational, but barely. It's all these blasted gremlins. They go off on a lark, then get bored, and start on something else. Firstly, the reactor efficiency is terrible. When that was nailed down, the power transfer became erratic. There would be a surge, then a stutter. There was no discernible pattern to the problem. Several attempts were made to correct the malady, all with no discernible effect. Then, one day, the problems stopped, all on their own. With that problem out of the way for a couple of weeks, the reaction control thrusters developed an annoying whine. No problem going straight and level, but as soon as any course corrections were attempted, the sound would begin. It didn't matter the speed; the whine could be heard over the loudest burn of the engine. The problem was finally traced to a low level of control fluid. This is all well and good, except that the fluid level was checked previously and to be within operating parameters. The most recent problem began just two days ago. There is a definite delay between engaging the engines and achieving any sort of momentum. The lag disappears when operating temperature is reached, but then reappears randomly later. Tech are still looking into this problem, and a full report will be forthcoming. I'd blame nanites, except I don't believe in them.

SECURITY REPORT

By Tara Weaver

Well, after a summer taken up primarily by a fast paced Special Ops course and a brief shore leave, it's time to get back to normal ship operations. I hope everyone is enjoying the summer as it draws to a close. As always, be safe. The ship has some fun activities planned for the last few months of the year, and I hope to see a good crew turn-out for them. As there is nothing else for me to report, I'll close with the usual, "All Clear!"

(Continued from page 3)

If any of you haven't seen Contact yet, do so. There are already rumors of Academy Awards and such, but the science and story are first rate. Coming soon is the film adaptation of Starship Troopers, I

saw the preview this week and it looks real good. Can't wait for it and the release of the Star Wars enhanced videos due this month in both regular and wide screen versions.

Well, time is up again, see you at the next meeting!

MEDICAL REPORT

By E.M.H.

I have been activated by the Captain because there doesn't seem to be anyone in medlab anymore. Upon reviewing all crew medical records, an interesting pattern can be observed among the crew.

It seems that the new members of the Kitty Hawk have unbridled enthusiasm for the ship and its mission, but those older, senior members of the crew have been infected with some sort of malaise and are ignoring their orders and duties.

The Captain insists on an immediate cure or he threatens to space those who are derelict in their duties and erase me from computer's memory.

FIRST OFFICER'S LOG

By 2nd Officer

The executive officer has been recalled to STARFLEET Headquarters to face a review board. This is not uncommon for those of the rank of captain when being offered a ship of their own.

The discipline review board will convene following the lastertag event in the holodeck on Stardate 9709.07 to consider punishment for those crewpersons found guilty of "borrowing" the Captain's barge after a wild party in ten-forward.

SCIENCE FICTION
AND
FANTASY AUTHOR
**DAVID
DRAKE**
WILL BE OUR GUEST
AT THE
SEPTEMBER
KITTY HAWK MEETING!

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