

THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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Publisher J.R. Fisher
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Wright Flyer from NASA/Ames PAO photo archive; *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk* (USN CV-63) from navicp.navy.mil; *Constitution* class cruiser from gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk.

IMAGE - Featured Front Page
Shuttle *Discovery* is being loaded onto the transporter for the short trip from the OPF to the VAB.

A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



I had originally planned to write a rather long missive on the current situations in STARFLEET and Region 1; but I have decided not to do so, partly in response to the ever changing situation in the Region 1 issues.

I hope that everyone received a copy of the Fleet Admiral's letter and read it carefully. For those of you not present at the April meeting, we who were, discussed it at great length and have decided that we support Sal and his efforts. We are disgusted with what has gone on in SFI and wish it to stop and believe that he has the solutions; provided that the vast majority of the membership of SFI will back him up. It is not a blank check that we are proposing; if a solution is not reached by the end of this year, we as a ship and individuals will revisit the situation and reconsider our options at that time.

If any of you have questions or concerns or just want to talk more about this, please, please give me a call.

On the regional question, the situation remains in flux with a great deal of support being shown for Bill, our RC. While he did resign, he has expressed interest in resuming his position. The rules require that we have a new election for

the post of Regional Coordinator of Region One and several others have announced their candidacy.

The situation leading to Bill's resignation is tied to some of the issues covered in Sal's letter. Without going into a very long discourse, suffice it to say that people who use the internet to bully, attack, or threaten others, have had a devastating effect on our membership, their families and the organization itself. Our constitution and by-laws must be updated to address these issues and have clear cut punishments for those who engage this type of behavior.

Again, the feelings of those present for the April meeting, support those opposing this distasteful behavior and are working to make our organization a fun place to be. I encourage each of you to contact me, to express your personal feeling and discuss the situation.

U.S.S. Kitty Hawk is a family. No matter what happens in the region or in the international arena, we will continue to meet, have fun and contribute to our community. With your prayers and support and participation, we will continue.

As I have several weeks to cogitate on these matters, I have come to believe that there are really only two possible scenarios:

All this turmoil could lead to the disintegration of our organization, which suggest the words of Hemingway: "ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee."

Or it could be the wakeup call to the membership, suggesting Yammamoto's prediction following his attack on Pearl Harbor: "I fear that all we have done awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible rage."

Personally, I am filled with rage that people, who preach peace, love and brotherhood can perpetrate such vial behavior towards members of their own organization. We are quickly coming to a crossroads in this world, not just SFI, where we must choose to restrain our words and actions and begin to work in harmony with all of our brothers and sisters, without regard to race, creed or nationality; or we will extinguish ourselves and leave this small blue planet for another species of caretakers. We really do not have much time or many choices. Everyone must have the Wright Stuff.

Esse Quam Videri

Former Member Earns Top Ranking in Competition

By Lynn Stone

Former Star Trek Member Earns Top Ranking in Ladies Machine Gun Shoot

Twenty year old Samantha Sawyer is known as "The Machine Gun Princess" to the competitors and spectators at the machine gun shoot in Knob Creek, Kentucky. This started for her when she was only eleven years old. Accompanying her Dad to watch him compete in the three day event was a memorable experience for Samantha and was the start of her own desire to compete.

Apparently, the ladies' first place trophy was substantially larger than the men's. When Samantha saw this she decided that she wanted to win that trophy and asked her Dad to teach her how to shoot a machine gun. The legend began. The next year she took first place in her first ever competition and has taken First Lady in every Knob Creek Range



event that she has entered. Sam shoots an M11 Open Bolt/Optic Sight machine gun. Fortunately, her Dad is a reloader so that helps cut down on the cost of bullets.

Her success was somewhat of a shock for the other lady competitors. One woman, dressed in combat fatigues told Sam that she would now have to go home and tell her husband and children that she got beat by a girl in a Pooh Bear shirt. Sam was instantly propelled to notoriety and dubbed "The Machine Gun Princess". So... before she was to accept her trophy, she and her Dad made a quick trip to Wal-Mart to purchase a tiara.

At the range she is frequently asked for her autograph as crowds surround her.

She has been featured in an OLN documentary on machine gun shooting at Knob Creek which ran on Country Music Television and was recently featured in an article in Small Arms Review. All this attention hasn't gone to her head as she remains as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside.

As the ladies' event is no longer a challenge Sam is planning on competing against the men for the next shoot. Unfortunately, the Spring event was canceled just this week because the gun range in Kentucky is under water. Oh well, this just leaves more time to practice for the Fall event. Watch out guys, she's coming after YOU! And this includes her Dad, who took first place in the men's division in the last competition. It should be quite an interesting event. I'll keep you posted.

Sam currently resides in Vail, Colorado and travels back to Carrboro, North Carolina about a week before each event in order to practice for the competition.



DEEP SPACE NINE - "A Second Opinion"

By Brad McDonald

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes)

INT. KLINGON KIOSK

Continuous action from the Teaser. There is a lot of backslapping and handshaking going on. It is obvious that the two are very close and haven't seen each other in a long time. Garek looks on with interest.

BASHIR

(smiling broadly)

I can't believe you're here!
Why did you --

Garek clears his throat as a means of reminding Bashir of his presence. Bashir realizes his error and corrects the oversight, somewhat embarrassed.

BASHIR

Excuse me. Father, this is Garek, an old friend and dining partner.

Albert moves closer to shake Garek's hand, smiling.

ALBERT

(smiling, pleasant)

Nice to meet you, Garek. I've heard a lot about you.

Garek is surprised by the comment but pleased.

GAREK

Well, I'm afraid you have me at a distinct disadvantage. I don't believe Julian has talked much about his family.

(beat)

Nice to meet you. Would you care to join us?

Albert accepts, graciously and takes a seat.

THREE SHOT - ALBERT, BASHIR AND GAREK

There's an awkward moment of silence, then Albert talks.

ALBERT

(tentative)

I hope I'm not disturbing your lunch...

GAREK

Not at all. Would you care to join us? We were just discussing one of our favorite subjects, Cardassian literature.

Both Julian and Albert smile at Garek's suggestion.

ALBERT

I'll pass on the Klingon food. As for the subject matter, which era were you talking about, ancient or modern? It makes a difference.

Garek is surprised by the comment, Julian is enjoying the conversation, but staying out of it.

GAREK

Modern, of course.

ON ALBERT

Albert is obviously disappointed and shakes his head.

ALBERT

That's too bad. The modern works can't hold a candle to the ancient ones. Before the state began to influence Cardassian literature, there were some genuine masters who rivaled Earth's Homer, Shakespeare and others. Cardassia should mourn the loss of their greats, like Tagget, Lon, Vegrik and others...

THREE SHOT - AS BEFORE

Garek is about to argue when Bashir cuts him off.

BASHIR

Don't bother, Garek. He's a full Professor of literature at Oxford. There's no way you can debate him, successfully.

Garek concedes, reluctantly but with a smile. Sensing that the two need to be alone, he excuses himself.

GAREK

(rising)

Well. I must get back to the shop.

(to Albert)

Nice to meet you, Professor. I look forward to our next meeting.

Bashir and his father watch as Garek walks off quickly.

ALBERT

I half expected you to be in the company of a lovely young lady...

BASHIR

(embarrassed)

Well, my lunch with Garek is a tradition. I think I'm the only real friend he has...

Albert understands and is proud of his son's position.

ALBERT

Cardassians still aren't very... popular, are they? I'm glad Garek has you for a friend.

Bashir is embarrassed again, he changes the subject.

BASHIR

Why have you come so far? Why didn't you call first?

ALBERT

I wanted the visit to be a surprise. Besides, subspace communications are too impersonal, sometimes it's better, face to face, agreed?

He smiles at his father's reasoning and nods in agreement.

CUT TO:

OPS - WIDE ANGLE

Sisko is watching the daily routine when Odo enters and approaches.

ODO

(moving)

Captain, I have something for you.

SISKO

Constable? I take it by your manner it's not good news.

ODO

Unfortunately, you're right.

TWO SHOT - SISKO AND ODO

ODO

(continuing)

Fernal Redik has just arrived on the station.

It's obvious that Sisko recognizes the name, but he's still lost.

SISKO

The name's familiar, but...

ODO

He's supposed to be a professional ore dealer and prospector, but his trade could best be described as a 'professional trouble maker'.

SISKO

(realizing)

Isn't he the one you told me about? Several fights, assaults and such.

ON ODO

ODO

(exasperated)

The same. I wanted to put him away but could never get anyone to press charges. It's the same way elsewhere. Most authorities are happy just to see him go.

(beat, distant)

I believe he was involved in the death of a Bajoran citizen. But it was during the occupation and they didn't care about the death of a Bajoran. In fact, the Cardassians wanted him to check out Bajor for potential mineral resources.

ON SISKO

Sisko nods in understanding.

SISKO

They turned a blind eye to further their own interests.

(beat, thoughtfully)

Is there any reason he should stay on the station?

ODO (V.O.)

(o.c.)

The Bajorans want him to conduct a survey on their natural satellites.

SISKO

Then let's make sure he gets there at the earliest opportunity. When it leaves, put him back on the ship and give him a warning not to come back.

(beat, smiling)

Is that what you had in mind?

TWO SHOT - SISKO AND ODO

The changeling seems happy with the recommendation.

ODO

That's why I like working with you, Captain. We think so much alike. He will be gone as soon as possible.

Odo hurries off and Kira makes an appearance.

KIRA

(happily)

Did you hear about our visitor?

SISKO

Sure did. Odo is getting ready to throw him off the station.

Kira is very surprised.

KIRA

He's going to do what?

Sisko is surprised by her reaction.

SISKO

(matter-of-factly)

Odo is going to have him removed from the station, why?

KIRA

As a joke or don't you like family members to visit the station?

Now Sisko is confused.

SISKO

Fernal Redik has family members on this station?

KIRA

(confused)

Redik, the troublemaker? What's he got to do with it? I was talking about Julian's father.

OPS - WIDE ANGLE

Just as the two sort out the misunderstanding, Bashir walks in with his father. Bashir seeks out Sisko and hurries over to see him.

BASHIR

(smiling)

Captain, I'd like you to meet my father, Albert.

Sisko and Kira exchange looks and Sisko makes the connection.

SISKO

(smiling)

Happy to meet you, Albert. May I introduce my First Officer, Major Kira Nerys.

Albert is very friendly and greets Kira with enthusiasm

ALBERT

Very nice to meet you, Major.

(beat)

Somehow it doesn't seem right to address such a pretty lady by a military rank.

Kira is a bit uncomfortable with the statement, but Albert isn't finished and he redeems himself in her eyes.

ALBERT

Still, from what Julian tells me, you're one of the most capable officers in the Bajoran military.

Kira gives Bashir an eye. Bashir is now embarrassed. Dax, O'Brien and Worf have moved closer to the group, interested by the informal gathering. Sisko sees them and begins introductions.

SISKO

Allow me to introduce the rest of my senior officers. Dax, our science officer.

Dax nods to the older Bashir and smiles.

DAX

Pleased to meet you. Now we know where Julian gets his good looks.

Julian is again embarrassed by the comment. Albert sees this and makes a comeback.

ALBERT
(smiling)

Perhaps, but fortunately he got his mother's intelligence.

The group shares a laugh, then Sisko continues

SISKO

This is Miles O'Brien, chief of operations.

O'Brien shakes hands with the elder Bashir and smiles.

O'BRIEN

Pleasure to meet you, sir. If you'd like it, I could arrange a tour of the station...

ALBERT
(enthusiastic)

I'd like that. Maybe after Julian and I catch up on things...

As Albert's voice trails off, Sisko finishes.

SISKO

And this is Lieutenant Commander Worf.

Albert studies Worf for just a moment then speaks.

ALBERT
(in Klingon)

Greetings, honorable warrior.

WORF
(in Klingon)

Welcome, honorable elder.

Worf seems pleased with Albert's use of Klingonese and as the others wonder what has been said, Bashir speaks.

BASHIR

Well, you're all invited to an informal get together, tonight.

KIRA
(excited)

Where will it be?

BASHIR

I'm still working on the details, but I'll let you know.

DAX
(smiling)

I can't wait. At last we will get the inside story on Julian. I often wondered what he was like as a child.

ON ALBERT

Sensing an opportunity to relate a story about his son, he launches into a tale.

ALBERT

You mean like the time I forced him to take tennis lessons?

(beat)

He was terribly undisciplined back then, I thought the lessons would force him to focus on his goals.

(beat)

I told him, he couldn't quit until he could beat me.

AS BEFORE - WIDE ANGLE

Dax is watching Bashir closely. Rather than looking embarrassed, he seems proud of his father.

KIRA
(interested)

So, did he ever beat you?

ALBERT
(smiling, proud)

I'll say! After only a year of lessons, he was unbeatable.

(beat)

By then he was totally involved in the game, very competitive!

SISKO
(smiling)

And that was your idea of a punishment?

ALBERT

No, not really. But it sure did work. I could hardly separate him from his racquet afterwards.

O'BRIEN

So why didn't he pursue a professional career. I can't get a straight answer from him.

Albert sighs heavily and stares off into space.

ALBERT

Neither can I.

CUT TO:

MAIN PROMENADE - GENERAL MERCHANDISE KIOSK

Odo is searching for someone and finds him in the small kiosk, full of general merchandise. It's Redik, and seems to be engaged in business. Odo goes directly to him for a confrontation, the owner remains in the B.G.

ODO

Redik! I've been looking for you.

Redik is startled by Odo's presence. He looks nervous and guilty. He tries to cover.

REDIK
(mocking)

Why Odo, two visits in one day. You must really care.

Odo is not amused

ODO
(stern)

I suppose you didn't know I have been looking for you for the past hour.

REDIK
(sarcastic)

I had some shopping to do.

Odo looks around the small shop and notices the closest item is a child's toy and points to it.

ODO
(sarcastic)

Aren't you just a little old?

REDIK

For my, 'niece'

Odo doesn't believe it for a minute and it shows.

ODO

Since you've finished shopping... Be prepared to

take your original ship off this station. The Blue Horizon will be leaving tomorrow. You will be on it.

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

Redik starts to protest, but Odo cuts him off.

REDIK

But I'm not finished --

ODO

You will be finished on this station, tomorrow. Captain Sisko's orders. If not, I can arrange permanent quarters, in my brig.

Redik is defensive and regards Odo with contempt, but he knows better to argue the point.

REDIK

(resigned)

All right. When does the Blue Horizon leave?

ODO

Sixteen hundred. You be there or I'll come looking for you again, and this time I won't be 'nice'.

Odo's expression shows he means business.

Off Odo's expression...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

THE END

Global warming is a fact. The average temperature of the Earth has risen 1 degree Fahrenheit in the past 100 years. Whether this is the result of human activity or part of a natural cycle is debatable, but most scientists are confident that people are responsible for some, if not most, of the change in climate. It is almost certain that, if we do not halt the trend, we are in for some rather unpleasant consequences in the coming decades.

It is also clear that the burning of fossil fuels and the resulting greenhouse gases appear to be a huge factor in this global warming trend. So, what can we do? Even if there were no environmental consequences, most of us should be motivated by the skyrocketing cost of gasoline to try to cut back. We all know by now that we should make our next vehicle something more gas efficient, try to consolidate our errands so we don't drive as much, keep tires properly inflated, etc. But did you know that you can actually save gas by avoiding left turns? This is something I have done for years just because of the hassle of

taking left turns. But UPS has discovered that by re-routing their trucks to avoid left turns whenever possible, they have actually saved a substantial amount on their fleet fuel consumption. The same could work for you (on a much smaller scale, of course, but these things add up). The reason, of course, is less time idling and waiting for the light or traffic to be favorable.

So, what about biofuels? Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana and Hawaii have all mandated that all fuels be blended with 10% denatured ethanol. Use of ethanol can cut emissions of cancer-causing benzene and butadiene by more than 50% (US EPA), it poses no threat to surface water or ground water, rapidly biodegrades, makes no noticeable difference in vehicle performance, reduces dependence on foreign oil, and reduces carbon monoxide emissions, so what's not to love? Well, according to Time magazine, plenty. It appears that places like Brazil cannot raise rain forests fast enough to accommodate the demand for biofuels. The diversion of food crops to biofuel production has helped to drive food prices up globally 45% in the last nine months. That's a pain in the wallet for us, but life-or-death in some parts of the world. And while biofuels burn cleaner than fossil fuels, the production is hardly a 'clean' process, and the net result may actually be more pollution in the air. So, what's my point? I'm not sure. But I don't think biofuels are the answer, despite what the president of Brazil or farmers in Iowa might want us to believe.

U.S.S. Bonaventure Anniversary Party details

This is our mother ship and it would be nice if as many of us can make could join the party. It's a covered dish & cookout. [Ed. note -- contact J.R. with any questions about the party.]

Gibson Park, shelter #2
5207 West Wendover Ave
High Point, NC 27265

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

Seeing how much space I need to fill this time around, I'm definitely glad I remembered a neat image (below) I ran across on the shuttle web site last week. Taken from on-level with the solid rocket boosters' nose cones, it shows the external tank as it's being lowered into place for the upcoming STS-124 mission. It's currently scheduled for the end of May and will carry the main part of the Japanese lab module.

Looking to the Constellation program, the first major part of the Orion abort system was tested. The system as a whole is intended to pull the capsule away from the rest of the rocket should something go wrong. The part just tested is the subsystem that would pull the abort system off once the capsule gets to a certain altitude. (At that altitude, the abort system is no longer needed.) The full

abort system is scheduled to start its testing later this year. The first full-size Ares I test, about a year from now, will use a mix of real rockets and test articles with the same size & weight as the real parts to be used on the next test.

The latest return from the space station occurred last week. The crew included station commander Peggy Whitson, who set the new U.S. record for time in space with a total of 377 days. The first of her two missions to the station was in 2002.

The landing went more awry than originally thought. The initial news was that the capsule landed almost 300 miles away from the target zone. However, recent reports over the last week indicate that the heat shield was not square-up with the flight path and the sides of the capsule got more heat than they were supposed to.

Damage included the hatch and the communications antenna. The Russian space program has started looking at what went wrong.

In unmanned news, the *Cassini* mission around Saturn has been extended another two years to mid-2010. As part of the sixty new orbits of Saturn, several of the moons are targeted for flybys -- including 26 passes of Titan. I'm looking forward to seeing what else turns up there. It's already been a great science mission and, with the probe still in exception condition, the extension is expected to give more food for thought. One question to try to answer is if Enceladus has liquid water below its surface. This small moon has given some hints by shooting geysers of water-ice a relatively significant distance from its surface. Stay tuned.....



Upcoming Events

May	3	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
Jun	7	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
	14	2-6 p.m. <i>U.S.S. Bonaventure</i> Anniversary Party, High Point (see page 8 for details)

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

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