

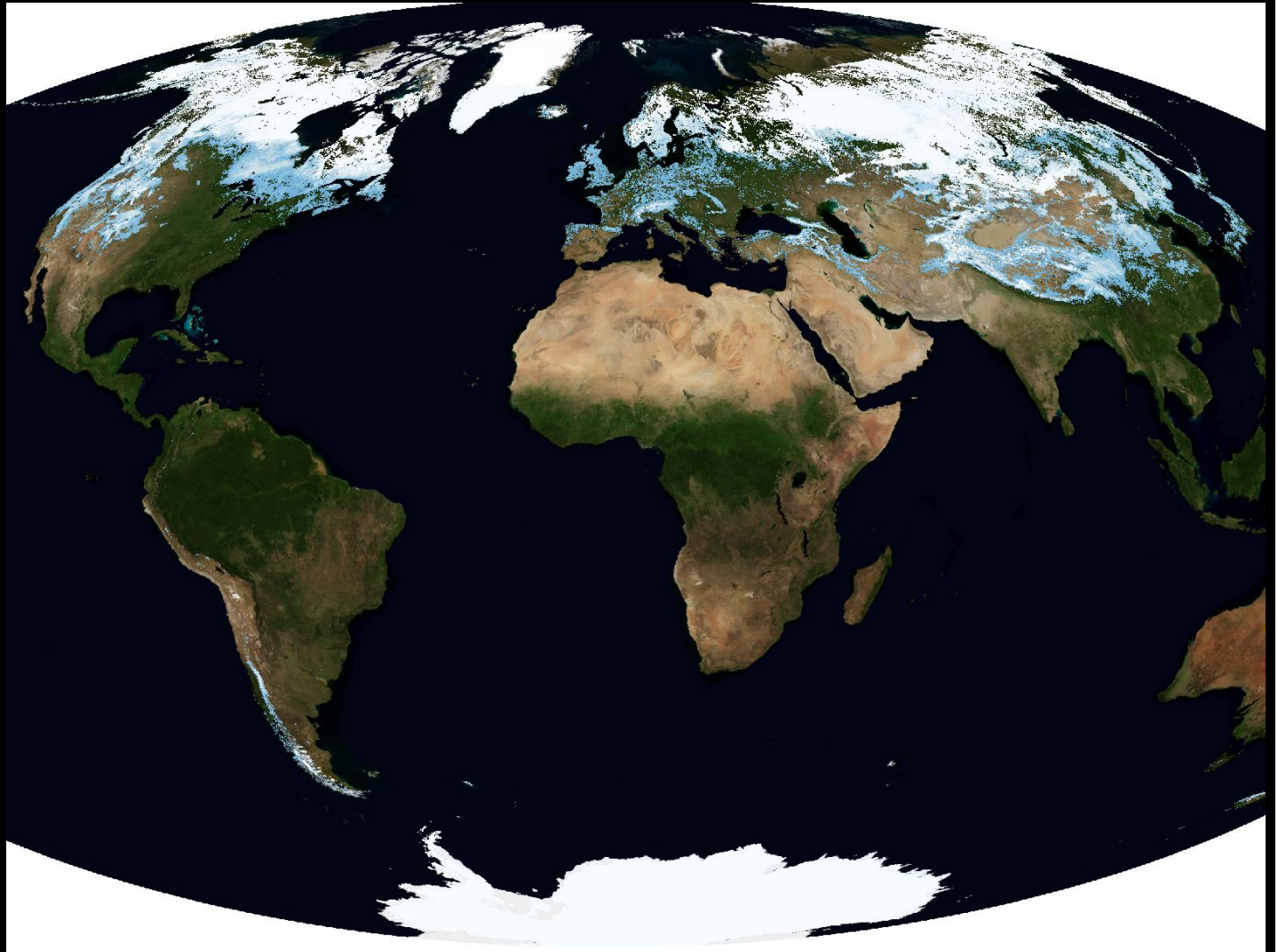
THE WRIGHT STUFF



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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

Snow cover in Nov 2009, as seen by NASA's Terra satellites. These three sats, celebrating their tenth anniversary of operations, regularly monitor Earth's surface for changes and look for links between different areas.

A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



A happy holiday to all! The season is upon us and I hope that every one of you has completed your shopping, decorating and meal planning. Ho-Ho-Ho! We do know better.

As a group we are trying to finish our to-do lists as well. At the last meeting on the 5th of December, we voted to spend a portion of our treasury to finish the shopping for our class of needy children. The teacher and I will go out in the coming days and buy the necessary coats and winter clothing for the most needy of her class that have not yet been helped. We

hope to have a report to the crew early next year.

In that same vein, I want to thank those who helped at Suncoast on November 21st to raise awareness as well as promote STARFLEET, the *Kitty Hawk* and push the sale of the DVD of the new movie. While we have not yet seen any tangible results of recruiting, we have high hopes that we may see some new faces on our ship.

The collection of school supplies lagged behind the clothing effort, but we did get four large bags of materials for the kids. It was surprising how much notebooks and such cost! No wonder there are shortfalls in our school system.

We have had a very good year and I hope that next year will be even better. Festival will be coming up real soon and I hope we can get a really large crowd again this year. There are a number of good cons to go to and I would like to see the ship have some away trips with a larger contingent of the crew in attendance.

Please have a safe and happy holiday and come back in January renewed in your enthusiasm for *Star Trek*, the *Kitty Hawk*, and in helping your fellow man. One man or woman can make a difference.

Esse Quam Videri

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

The news coming out of Copenhagen does not bode well for the planet. Not surprisingly, the nations in attendance are unable to come to any meaningful agreement about how to deal with global warming. As usual, short term national and economic issues have taken precedence over longer term, planet-wide concerns. But the problem is no longer in the 'someday' category. Droughts in Africa are already causing dispersal of refugees from the worst hit areas. Fires in the forests of California are due to draught. The disappearance of ice from the Tibetan plateau, which is a major source of water

for much of China and India, is already causing food shortages. As to the future, without significant reductions in greenhouse gases, we can expect major changes by the end of this century. The island nation of the Maldives is expected to completely disappear long before then. The government is already looking for a place to relocate its people. Closer to home, most of New Orleans will be underwater, this time permanently. And even closer to home, in North Carolina, expect Dare, Tyrell and Hyde Counties to be pretty much gone. Bye, bye Kitty Hawk.

On the bright side, the lack of action by politicians has not kept

the scientific community from coming up with some creative ideas for dealing with the problem. Some ideas being considered are artificial 'trees' that generate electricity, huge solar panels that can be located in space (no worries about cloudy days there!), an energy island that uses the difference between warmer surface air and colder deep water to generate power, with desalinated water as a byproduct, and more artificial 'trees', this time created to scrub CO2 from the air. Some farmers are already 'recycling' methane produced by dairy cows to produce energy to power their farms.

Security Report

By Spring Brooks

Holiday Travel Safety Tips

With the holidays approaching, it's important to remember that safety should be a number one concern, right up along with Black Friday deals and getting the mistletoe positioned just right. Along with home security and the risk of intrusion while you're out of town, one of the most dangerous aspects of this special time of year is the increased risk of motor vehicle accidents. Here are some tips to help you arrive at your destination safely.

Give Yourself Enough Time: Try to holiday traffic into your estimate for travel time. That way, you won't feel compelled to speed or drive dangerously if you get behind schedule. Remember that the

holidays are a time for enjoying your family; there's no need to become angry when you hit a patch of traffic.

Be Aware of Changing Weather Patterns: Advances in meteorology have transformed what was once a guessing game into a much more exact science. Check the forecast a couple of days ahead of time, and make adjustments to your travel plans accordingly. If things look dicey, it pays to wait.

Never Drive When Tired: We've all been there before — home is only a hundred miles down the interstate, you've been away for days, and all you want to do is switch off your alarm system, open the door and get into bed. Still, if you're yawning and feeling groggy behind the wheel, don't risk driving. Find a reasonably

priced hotel or motel and complete the journey the next day.

Practice defensive driving: Unfortunately, some people use the holidays as a time to indulge past their limits. If you see a driver ahead of you on the highway swerving over the lanes, hold back. There's no need to attempt a dangerous pass. Instead, put a call into the state troopers on your cell phone and let them handle the situation. You may need to pull over in order to use your cell phone. Your first priority should be getting home safely.

The holiday season is a time for celebration. Be aware of the increased travel risk during this time, and you can proactively avoid dangerous situations.

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

(With apologies to Clement Clarke Moore.....)

'Tis the day before Christmas and all through the house

Not a creature is stirring 'cause, let's face it, cats don't stir much.

The nephews' presents are perched by the chimney with care,

Waiting to be wrapped in paper that will be shredded only a few hours later.

Out on the phone line there arose such a clatter,

As I make one last round of work calls to close out the year.

Next year's projects are lined up and on hold,

So that I can enjoy a much-needed (and too-short) vacation.

As I get the year's final Wright Stuff sent on its way,

I wish, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"

From the Kitchen

By Lynn Stone

Chinese Creole Okra

The Chef aboard Archer's *Enterprise* thought it would be fun to turn the tables on the crew. He set up an irresistible challenge. Find a particular food that most people hate and come up with a recipe that changes everyone's mind about it. Okra was voted the all-time most disliked vegetable and the crew set about creating various ways to fix it. The winner was Hoshi Sato and her recipe follows.

Main Ingredients

- A bowl full of okra cut into sections about 1/2 inch long, discarding caps
- Cut a sweet red pepper into pieces about the same size
- Cut a purple onion into pieces about the same size
- Cut the kernels off an ear of sweet corn
- A pint of cherry tomatoes, rinsed and dried

Sauce Ingredients

- 2 TBSP. soy sauce
- 2 TBSP. rice vinegar
- 2 TBSP. sherry
- 1 TBSP. Chinese bean paste
- hot pepper flakes to taste
- coarsely chopped cilantro (hold this aside)

Directions

Chop the vegetables, mix the sauce ingredients, then:

Put a couple of tablespoons of peanut oil in the bottom of a wok or large frying pan and bring to high heat. Throw in the okra and stir continuously until all the pieces start to get brown. Remove.

Add a little more oil to the wok or pan, then stir fry the sweet red peppers. As they get about half cooked (4 minutes), throw in the onions. Just as the peppers and onions are almost cooked (another 2 minutes) throw in the corn. After about one minute, add the cherry tomatoes and the cooked okra.

Immediately add the sauce and stir everything together for about 20 seconds. Turn off the heat. Cilantro is added on top as the dish is served.

VOYAGER - "Dealer's Choice"

By Brad McDonald

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND BORG PLANET (OPTICAL)

The ship remains in orbit.

INT. VOYAGER - TRANSPORTER ROOM

Action is continuous from Act 4, Janeway and Torres are running to exit the transporter room.

JANEWAY
(moving)

Understood Paris, recall the pickets and the landing parties... Belay that last part! Estimated arrival time!

PARIS' VOICE
Four hours, fifty-one minutes, Sir.

JANEWAY
I'm on my way.

BRIDGE

Janeway enters at a trot and heads for Paris.

JANEWAY
Status Mister Paris!

PARIS
All pickets report en route.

She taps her comm badge.

JANEWAY
Commander Chakotay, report please.

CHAKOTAY'S VOICE
Making slow progress, Captain. We only have a few playback units here and the tricorders aren't much help.

JANEWAY
We've got a complication. An unidentified guest.

INT. BORG PLANET - DATA ARCHIVES ROOM

Chakotay is reacting to the news with concern, in the B.G. we can see the others have stopped their work.

CHAKOTAY
We're ready to beam up.

JANEWAY'S VOICE
No rush, they're four hours out. Any chance your team might find a few answers in the next hour or so?

CHAKOTAY
Impossible to say, but with the number of discs to search, I'd say the chances were slim.

JANEWAY'S VOICE
Do the best you can, I'll bring you up in two hours, regardless.

CHAKOTAY
Understood. Chakotay out.
(to team)
Let's get busy, this effort will have to be brief and efficient!

INT. VOYAGER - ENGINEERING

The area is very busy with activity. Torres is working at a control board, deep in thought. An N.D. ENGINEER approaches with a data padd and hands it to her.

TORRES
(off padd)
It's worse than I thought. We'll be out of reserves in a matter of hours, minutes if we have to fight.

She nods to the N.D. engineer who exits, then taps her comm badge with a grim and determined look.

TORRES
Engineering to bridge, Captain? We have a

problem, our marginal energy reserves are disappearing fast. A combination of having weapons on standby, use of the transporters, shields, screens; you name it.

There's a brief silence and Torres is about to repeat her call when Janeway answers.

JANEWAY'S VOICE
Any chance of a reprieve?

TORRES
I've used up my bag of tricks. All that's left is shutting down entire decks. We've already started.

BRIDGE

JANEWAY
Very well, Lieutenant. Prepare to get under way, we'll leave shortly.

She turns to Paris.

JANEWAY
(continuing)
Have the pickets returned?

PARIS
I show two still out, do you want an E.T.A.?

Janeway is hatching a plan as she taps her comm badge.

JANEWAY
Commander? What's the prognosis?

CHAKOTAY'S VOICE
Not good. Some of the data discs are damaged or deteriorated...

JANEWAY
How long would it take to load the discs into the shuttles and bring them back to Voyager?

INT. BORG PLANET - DATA ARCHIVES ROOM

Chakotay and the others stare at the discs in disbelief.

KIM

A real long time, there's just too many of them. Why not just beam them up?

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Low energy reserves. I'm holding what's left to bring you back and get out of here.

KIM

Captain? We could use the shuttle transporters.

CHAKOTAY

We're forgetting a larger problem. Where had you planned on storing all of these discs? In the food lockers? Our cargo bays are full of the raw materials we've been collecting, or were you going to jettison all of it?

KIM

We could come back after we --

JANEWAY'S VOICE

We're not coming back, and there won't be anything to come back to.

CHAKOTAY

You're going to carry out Starfleet orders after all?

JANEWAY

If we can find Seven. I'm not giving up on her.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

JANEWAY
(continuing)

I don't know who is approaching us, but they won't be getting any Borg technology. We don't have enough power to engage them, so we're taking the only alternative step we

have. We may cut off our noses to spite our faces...

CHAKOTAY'S VOICE

Recommend we bring a random sampling of the data discs along for analysis.

JANEWAY

Agreed, select a group and transport to the shuttles in forty-five minutes. Janeway out.

PARIS

Captain, the ship must have picked us up on sensors, they've changed their heading, straight towards us.

JANEWAY

E.T.A.?

PARIS

Two hours and twenty-one minutes.

Janeway then taps her comm badge again.

JANEWAY

Engineer, I need you to prepare that special package --

She is interrupted by her comm badge.

TUVOK'S VOICE

Captain, we've located Seven, but she is reluctant to return with us.

JANEWAY

Tuvok. I'll join you shortly.

TUVOK'S VOICE

Understood. Tuvok out.

Janeway retaps her comm badge.

JANEWAY

B'Elanna? Did you hear me?

TORRES' VOICE

Already working on it, Captain. It will be ready in fifteen minutes.

Janeway jumps from her chair and heads for the turbolift.

JANEWAY

Tom, you have the Conn. If Chakotay returns, tell him I've gone to get Seven. Meanwhile, recall all shore parties other than Chakotay's team. Have them use the shuttle transporters.

EXT. BORG WORLD - BUILDING #3 (OPTICAL)

Tuvok and two security persons are standing outside the building and wave to Janeway as she arrives. She moves closer to the team.

TUVOK

Captain. She is in a lower chamber located in this building. It is shielded so transporters are not possible. She is armed and seems reticent about leaving. In her current state, I was uncertain of what method of extraction to employ.

Janeway is now standing next to Tuvok.

JANEWAY

Take your team and return to the ship. A shuttle is standing by. I'll handle this. Torres has a device that needs your attention. I'll trust your judgment on its placement and detonation timing.

Tuvok nods in agreement and moves off. Janeway enters the building.

INT. BUILDING #3

The room is dark and Seven is barely visible. She has begun to revert back to Borg. Her skin coloring is darker and her manner is very Borg. Janeway is cautious and moves slowly.

JANEWAY
Seven? Are you all right?

SEVEN
You will be assimilated. You are an inferior species --

JANEWAY
(interrupting)
That's the old Seven talking. Have you forgotten what the Borg did to you and your family?

Seven looks a bit confused. Janeway can now see her better. The room she is in is an operating room, with an assortment of Borg instruments displayed all about.

SEVEN
My family? Killed. I became Borg. I am a superior being.

JANEWAY
It was the Borg who killed your family. They took you against your will, remember?

Seven is very dazed and confused and seems not to recognize Janeway.

SEVEN
They gave me a better life, here.

She indicates the operating table and instruments.

JANEWAY
No! They took a better life! What about that little girl whose favorite color is red? What does she remember?

Remembering seems to cause pain for Seven.

SEVEN
I don't know. I need the others to help me. I can sense them and I feel them, but they don't answer.

Janeway moves slowly, closer.

JANEWAY
They will not answer, they're dead. That part of your life is dead too. I'm

part of your new life, so is Voyager.

Janeway's comm badge sounds and she seems annoyed at the interruption, but taps it. There is heavy static.

JANEWAY
Yes?

CHAKOTAY'S VOICE
We need to leave, now Captain. If you don't want that other ship to acquire Borg technology... we need a bit of distance between us and the planet. B'Elanna has power enough to transport you and Seven.

JANEWAY
Understood, Commander. Have transporters lock on my comm badge as soon as I exit the building.

Janeway moves closer and Seven raises her phaser.

JANEWAY
Seven. We must leave this place!

SEVEN
This is... home.

Janeway is losing her patience and draws her phaser.

JANEWAY
If I can't convince you to leave, I can't leave any Borg technology behind, and someone else might find you here.

Janeway fires her phaser and Seven drops to the floor.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND BORG PLANET (OPTICAL)

Voyager is leaving orbit and heading out to space.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

PARIS
Leaving orbit, Captain. Course is one-seven-five, mark two, warp one.

JANEWAY
Thank you, Mister Paris. Tuvok? Specifics on that ship.

TUVOK
Matches the description of the pirate ship.

JANEWAY
Noted. Maybe we can keep them away from the Borg planet.

KIM
You may be too late Captain, they're altering course for an orbit.

TUVOK
Confirmed. Evidently they picked up on the beacon's signal. The planet's technology is a bigger prize than we are.

Janeway's confidence is replaced by concern.

JANEWAY
Time to detonation, Kim?

KIM
Two minutes, thirty seven seconds.

JANEWAY
Open a channel to that ship, now!

TUVOK
(working)
They are refusing our hails.

JANEWAY
Open a channel anyway!

Tuvok nods in readiness.

JANEWAY
Attention unidentified ship. The planet you're approaching will be destroyed shortly. Alter your course, now!

BRIDGE - NEW ANGLE

She turns to Tuvok for confirmation, but he shakes his head in the negative.

KIM
They're making orbit,
Captain.

JANEWAY
Unidentified ship, you are in
danger! Leave orbit
immediately!

TUVOK
They're refusing our hails
Captain.

CHAKOTAY
Captain, if they choose
suicide, there is little we can
do...

JANEWAY
Not suicide, greed. They
won't believe what we say.
Afraid we may be hiding
some untold riches.
Detonation time?

KIM
Ten seconds.

EXT. SPACE - BORG PLANET
AND PIRATE SHIP (OPTICAL)

There is a large explosion on the
planet surface which sends a large
shock wave outward, destroying
the pirate ship. The destruction
continues as the planet surface is
totally destroyed.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE - AS
BEFORE

The crew reacts to the scene on
the viewer o.c.

JANEWAY
Pandora's box remains
closed, at least for now.

CHAKOTAY
The Borg may have other
facilities in this quadrant.

Janeway sighs heavily, then turns
to Kim.

JANEWAY
Mister Kim? Let's find a
planet with some deuterium
and get our ship back to full
potential.

(beat)
Maybe next time I won't be
forced to make another
decision like this. Perhaps
we did some good for
someone fighting the Borg.

SICKBAY

The doctor is examining Seven,
who seems herself again.

DOCTOR

All readings are back to
normal, at least for Seven.
When the planet was
destroyed, her
'reconnection' was severed.
In the meantime, I'm going
to review my
deBorgification process and
see if I need to alter it just a
bit.

The doctor moves off and Janeway
steps closer.

SEVEN
You shot me!

JANEWAY
It was necessary.

SEVEN
Yes, I agree. I was armed. I
could have hurt you.

JANEWAY
You're more human than
you know. Your phaser
wasn't even activated. I was
just in a bit of a hurry. It was
the only way to get you out
of there in time.

Seven looks confused and
Janeway smiles.

Off their reactions...

CUT TO.

EXT. SPACE - BORG SHIP AND
HIROGEN SHIPS (OPTICAL)

There is a Borg Cube and seven
Hirogen ships engaged in battle,
when the Borg suddenly stop firing.

INT. HIROGEN SHIP - BRIDGE

Two Hirogen officers are at a loss
to understand what has happened.

ALPHA HIROGEN
Why have they stopped?
They have already
destroyed half our ships?

BETA HIROGEN
Unknown, maybe we
should attack.

Alpha Hirogen seems surprised at
the comment.

ALPHA HIROGEN
We are barely able to
sustain our own life support.
Nearly half our ships are
heavily damaged. No, we
withdraw while we can.
They may be simply
regrouping or even
preparing a more
devastating weapon.

EXT. SPACE - AS BEFORE
(OPTICAL)

The Hirogen ships all leave at warp
speed.

INT. BORG CUBE

There is no activity within the cube.
All of the Borg seem frozen in their
tracks, lost.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

Upcoming Events

Jan	9	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet
Feb	6	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet
	19	Articles due for the next <i>Wright Stuff</i>

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS
.....AND WITH THE NEW YEAR, *KITTY HAWK* DUES WILL SOON BE DUE.**

THE WRIGHT STUFF
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