

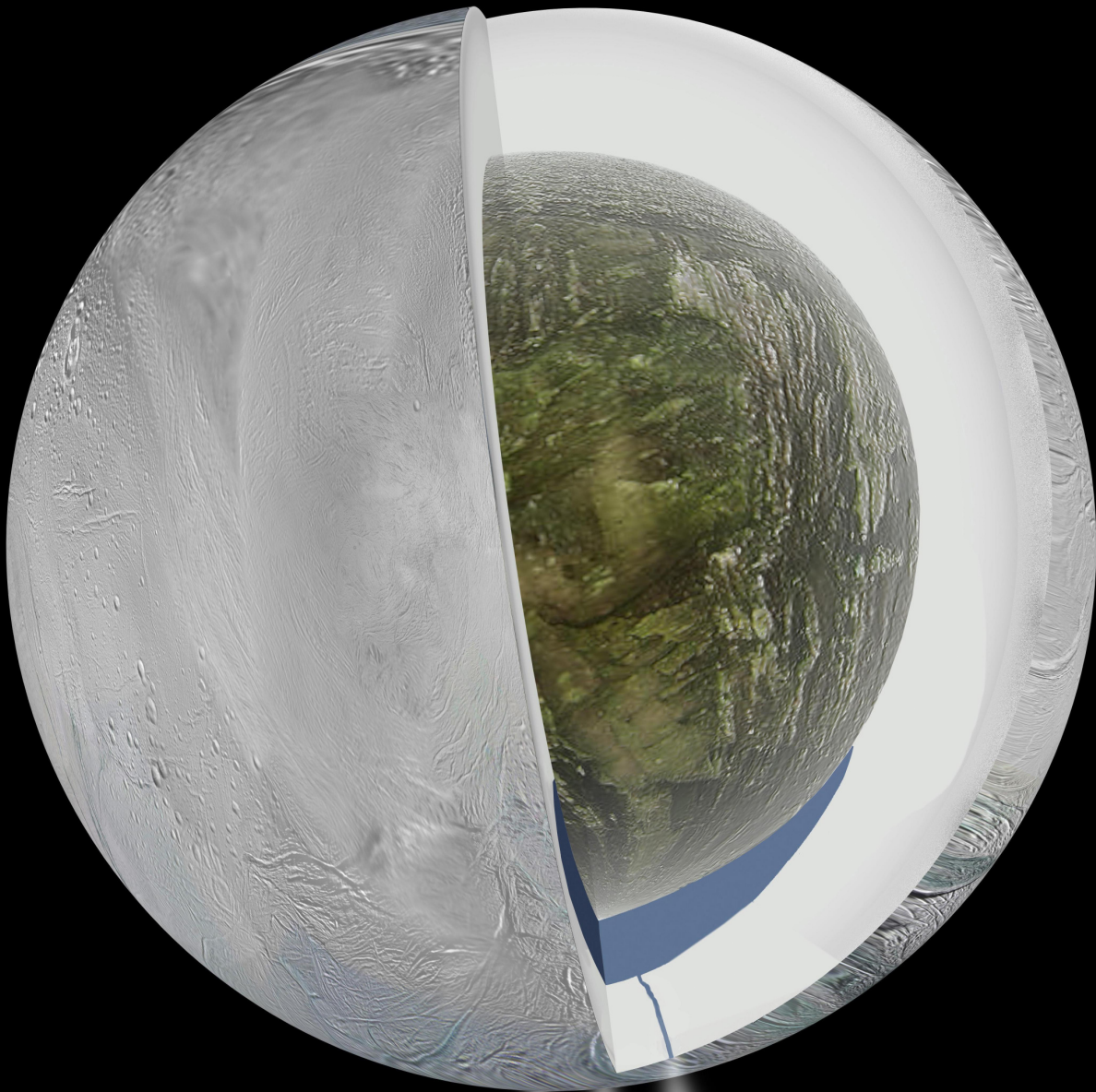
THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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Publisher J.R. Fisher
Editor John Troan



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TOOL BOX: Dell E6530; Lotus WordPro; Adobe Acrobat.

IMAGES - Title Banner

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

NASA illustration showing a possible interior of Saturn's moon, Enceladus, with a liquid ocean under an ice shell. Also shown are jets of water vapor and ice gushing at the moon's south pole. From NASA/JPL.

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

JR sends his thanks to all who have sent cards or flowers, or who attended his mom's funeral service.

With JR taking care of much more important matters for a little while, I'm pinch hitting in his spot in the *Wright Stuff* lineup this time around. Thanks to all who were able to join us at the UNC-TV studios last month. While there were ten of us there, let's try to crack the twenty mark next year.

Comp Ops has been busy with working through all of the system upgrades. All three physical servers now have all of their new hardware installed and I can turn my attention to creating & configuring all of the virtual machines. (The intent is to have primary & secondary web/database servers and a full set of test servers that is an exact copy of the production servers.) After that starts the work of rebuilding the *Kitty Hawk* site (and my football site) to function on the new servers. Our dropbox for comments (and my home e-mail) will still run from the old servers for a long while, saving me the

immediate hassles of rebuilding those functions on the new servers.

In *Trek* news, Larry (Cox) sent me a link to StarTrek.com news about [the original \(TOS\) Enterprise being moved to a new home inside the Air and Space Museum](#). I got another link from the StarTrek.com newsletter that had to be one of the best -- a (little?) girl [asked Wil Wheaton about being called a nerd while growing up](#). Wil's answer to her was terrific and drew a lot of applause.

Brad passed along a web site he'd gotten from someone about a new *Star Trek* production getting started, with a cast that includes some from the "official" series -- including Tuvok and Chekov -- and a few *Trek* cast members in new roles. Check out the [Star Trek: Renegades web site](#) for all the details.

This appears to be largely the same group who did the three-part *Star Trek: Of Gods and Men* (now available in its entirety [on the web](#)), featuring a lot of TOS time frame characters and some other *Trek* cast members, again in new roles.

Turning to NASA news, SpaceX has been fairly visible in the press releases this week. The obvious event was the [launch of their third cargo run](#) to the space station. The surprise news was them [signing a lease to maintain & operate launch pad 39A](#) at Kennedy Space Center. NASA will still own the pad and nothing was mentioned about SpaceX being able to use the VAB.

NASA ran a [prolonged full-power test series of their own Orion capsule](#). This prepares it for its first (unmanned) test flight late this year -- and for the eventual manned flights to follow.

Another big announcement from NASA this week is the *Kepler* telescope [discovering the first earth-sized planet in its star's habitable zone](#) (where water will stay liquid).

In slightly-less recent news was the *Cassini* probe [finding evidence for a liquid ocean under the icy crust of Enceladus](#), one of Saturn's moon. The image on the front cover of this issue shows a NASA illustration of what this could look like.

J.O.urnal

By Babs Freeman



Back to School 101

Indeed, I am back in school, now taking a Statistics course (yuck) and a Criminal Law course (cool). I didn't originally go to college as a youth. I went after I retired from the military at the age of 39, now about 18 years ago. I attended East Carolina University and due to my retirement income and what we might as well call part of the G.I. Bill, was able to be a full time non-working student. I did work some summers and during a couple of my graduate semesters but nothing like what I'm doing now.

Now I am a full time employee for the state and taking two courses. I am now old enough to be the grandparent of some of these students and have come to appreciate our youth in new ways. Some are struggling as I am with Statistics and some find it a breeze. All of us in the Criminal Law class are enjoying it and seem to be doing okay. It sure makes for interesting class chats!

But what I want to mention is how now, just like before, I see why college is often paid for by the parents so the

students can be nothing more than students. The amount of time I need to do the work, notably in the Statistics course, is rough. When I was at ECU, it was a breeze as I didn't have to work so I could focus all my time on my classes as rule. Sure, taking care of my apartment, dog, and car were important but again, as I didn't have to work, I had plenty of time to take care of all these. It is much tougher as a full time worker, a member of various organizations, and part-time student to fit everything in. I have made the wise choice to not take any classes over the summers just so I can enjoy a break from it all.

But I do enjoy learning and for those of you who want to know, I am trying to pursue a second bachelor's degree in general political science. I find myself interested in law, government, politics, and such. And yes, it may even be an inspiration towards a new career path.

The criminal law class required court room observations and I found these quite interesting. As I've never received anything worse than a speeding ticket (several), I've never had to go to court. I discovered this town has no shortage of

both people getting misdemeanors and no shortage of lawyers. Judges come with different personalities and different styles to some degree. Had the one who used a movie tidbit quoted *Star Trek*, I would have felt obliged to do the Vulcan hand display.

What may interest all of you is one thing I am discussing in a required paper. The difference between innocent, guilty, and not guilty. For some, innocent seems synonymous with not guilty but this isn't true. The term innocent is self-explanatory but not guilty is a legal definition that says the suspect has not been proven beyond any reasonable doubt of committing the crime. There is a big difference here. And guilty simple means the court has found enough evidence to punish the accused.

The other thing I want to mention is the movies, television shows, and judge shows. Movies and television make it look a lot easier than it is and they are not totally accurate (can you say "fiction"?). Judge Judy and Judge Brown are closer but still not the real deal. Court cases are not as clear cut as I would have believed so I guess I am learning something.

Original Series - *Star Light, Star Bright*

By Brad McDonald

(continuing Act I from Jan/Feb)

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

Kirk is studying the main viewer intently and hands Spock a tricorder.

KIRK

The S.O.S. is from a freighter.

SPOCK

They are in need of assistance?

ON KIRK

KIRK

Not exactly. Look at the last part of the transmission.

(to Chekov)

Pavel, lay in a course for the Romulan neutral zone, sector four.

(to Sulu)

Ahead warp factor six, helmsman, as soon as you're ready.

SULU/CHEKOV

Aye sir!

Kirk tabs the intercom button.

KIRK

Captain to engineering, Mister Scott?

ENGINEERING – WIDE ANGLE

SCOTT is at the engineering control board. There is much activity around him. He moves to intercom and calls.

ON SCOTT

He's out of breath, but cheerful.

SCOTT

Scott here, Captain. I'll have warp six for you in a jiffy.

KIRK (v.o.)

Any chance you can give us a bit more?

SCOTT

Aye, but for how long?

KIRK (v.o.)

As long as you can. Trouble at the neutral zone, Mister Scott.

Scott gets serious.

SCOTT

Tell Mr. Sulu he can have warp 6.7 until further notice.

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

KIRK

Thanks, Scotty. Bridge out.

(beat)

Hear that, Mr. Sulu? Warp 6.7.

SULU

Warp 6.7, aye sir.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

SPOCK

(quietly)

A Romulan ship in Federation space.

Apparently a drifting derelict.

KIRK

Exactly, and we've been assigned to find out why.

SPOCK

And?

Kirk looks at Spock; surprised.

KIRK

It shows?

SPOCK

Merely a supposition, Captain.

ON KIRK

KIRK

We've been ordered by Star Fleet to see that the Romulans don't get that ship back before we do.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Any ship could respond to an S.O.S. Since we are not exactly 'in the neighborhood', I assumed a starship would make a strong point in case of... escalating circumstances.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

Kirk nods in understanding.

KIRK

Astute evaluation of the facts as usual Spock. Anything else to add?

SPOCK

We should proceed with caution, Sir. This could be a Romulan trap, a Trojan Horse of sorts.

KIRK

Already crossed my mind, Spock. Let's get there before the Romulans. Best possible speed.

EXT. SPACE – WIDE ANGLE – ENTERPRISE AND ROMULAN SHIP

Enterprise is orbiting the Romulan ship at a distance.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

Senior staff is at their posts.

KIRK

Okay people, let's get a complete picture of what

we're dealing with. Reports please.

UHURA

No communications at all sir. No response on any channel, not even emergency frequencies. No automatic beacons, distress calls or even an open comm line to Romulan space.

SULU

No weapons activated, no shields and no screens.

CHEKOV

All power levels are dead; no warp, impulse or even thrusters.

ON SPOCK – AT SCIENCE STATION

He's studying readouts though the viewer hood.

SPOCK

(off viewer)

No life signs at all captain. Not even minimal indications.

Spock stands up and moves towards Kirk.

SPOCK

(continued)

A complete derelict in every sense. Based on current drift rate, point of origin was, of course, inside Romulan space. Approximately 100,000 kilometers from its current position.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

KIRK

Approximately?

SPOCK

Difficult to ascertain due to the influence of a nearby asteroid field.

KIRK

Understood.

Kirk seems preoccupied, studying the main viewer.

KIRK

(continued)

Very well, let's proceed. Uhura, contact Star Fleet and confirm the Romulan ship location and condition.

UHURA (v.o.)

Aye sir.

CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

Kirk rises from command chair and steps up level to face Spock while Uhura speaks in B.G.

KIRK

(moving)

Spock, let's assume we do have a Trojan horse. Any ideas about what a Romulan plan would be like?

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

Spock sighs heavily.

SPOCK

A starship or even a crew would make a great prize for the Praetor.

KIRK

Get us aboard then bring the ship back to Romulan space?

SPOCK

Correct. It could also precipitate a war or at least a reason to accuse the Federation of trying to start one.

KIRK

Agreed. A captured Federation crew could force Star Fleet to enter the neutral zone.

SPOCK

It may even go farther than that. If the Romulans knew Enterprise was a logical choice to investigate. After all, the Romulans do have a

history with the Enterprise and you.

Kirk is surprised by Spock's statement.

KIRK

Yes, of course. We beam over and the ship's self-destruct is initiated.

SPOCK

As soon as humans or life forms other than Romulans are detected. Also, even if the Romulan's engines are inactive, the resulting explosion could take out the Enterprise as well.

Kirk shifts his stance and gets closer to Spock.

KIRK

Spock, I'd like to ask a favor —

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

(interrupting)

Unnecessary captain. Since Vulcans and Romulans read much the same, I will be the first to transport over.

ON KIRK

He's relieved and appreciative.

KIRK

Thanks for... understanding.

EXT. SPACE - ROMULAN SHIP

Ship is motionless and no lighting is visible.

INT. ROMULAN SHIP – BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

Transporter effect reveals Spock. When transport is complete, Spock scans with his tricorder for a few beats then activates his communicator.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Spock here. Transport complete. Initial readings confirm our scans.

KIRK (v.o.)

Crew?

SPOCK

All dead sir. I'm checking the bridge controls and readouts now.

KIRK (v.o.)

Understood; standing by. Kirk out.

NEW ANGLE

Spock moves from console to console, working quickly. After a few moments he runs his tricorder over several panels, then reactivates his communicator.

SPOCK

Spock here, sir. I can not detect any booby traps. King to king's level two.

INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

KIRK

Mr. Chekov, Mr. Sulu, pick up Dr. McCoy on the way to the transporter. Mr. Scott and the rest of the boarding party will join you there.

Chekov and Sulu jump up and head for turbolift. N.D. Crew persons take their places. Uhura stands and looks at Kirk.

UHURA

And you sir?

Kirk turns to address her.

KIRK

I'm remaining on board and so are you. This could still be a trap. Take the science station and call Palmer to take the comm board. I want you to monitor the Romulan ship for changes

in energy outputs or anything else of interest.

INT. ROMULAN SHIP - BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

Scott, Sulu, Chekov, McCoy, CONNER and two N.D. Security transport in. Spock moves to greet them, security team pull phasers and begin checking immediate area.

SPOCK

Doctor, I need an evaluation on the Romulan crew as soon as possible.

McCoy begins scanning crew members immediately.

SPOCK

(continued)

Mr. Scott, you and Mr. Conner please conduct an assessment of the ship's engines, power systems and controls.

SCOTT

Aye. C'mon Conner, let's get to it.

Scott and Conner exit the bridge with N.D. security.

SPOCK

Mr. Sulu, helm, navigation and flight records. Ensign, check weapons and defense systems for prior use and status. I wish to determine if their demise was related to an attack.

Everyone begins to work immediately.

ON MCCOY

He's busy moving from body to body taking many readings.

MCCOY

Spock, whatever killed this crew did it fast and efficiently.

SPOCK (o.c.)

Specifics?

MCCOY

Still working on it. Looks like a virus. I recommend minimum exposure; no more teams. Also, decontamination when we return to Enterprise. I'm taking some samples for evaluation.

WIDE ANGLE

SPOCK

Noted Doctor.

CHEKOV

All weapons off line; no recent use. Screens and shields are down due to power loss, no damage to either one.

SULU

Last helm and navigation is from three days ago.

ON SPOCK

He studies the surroundings for a moment.

SPOCK

Mr. Sulu; Mr. Chekov, check as many sections of the ship as possible in the next fifteen minutes. I'll be with Mr. Scott in engineering. Doctor McCoy? Status.

ON MCCOY

He's examining a body.

MCCOY

(working)

Go ahead. Your fifteen minute limit is just about right. I'll be transporting back to the Enterprise as soon as I get these samples ready for safe transport.

McCoy rises to face Spock.

TWO SHOT - MCCOY AND SPOCK

MCCOY

This is a nasty bug Spock.
The crew died a horrible
death. I've never seen
anything like it.

McCoy looks terrified.

Off his look...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE
AND ROMULAN SHIP ARE
CLOSE IN SPACE

INT. ROMULAN SHIP –
ENGINEERING – WIDE ANGLE

Scott and Conner are working at
separate control panels when
Spock enters.

SPOCK

Mr. Scott, what is your
status?

Scott continues working.

SCOTT

(off console)

Well, I think I can have all
the systems back on line in
an hour.

TWO SHOT – SPOCK AND
SCOTT

Spock is surprised by Scott's
statement.

SPOCK

All systems operational;
that is most impressive
engineer.

Scott stops his work and turns to
Spock, smiling.

SCOTT

Aye, most of the systems
were just... neglected.

SPOCK

Unfortunately you may not
be able to complete your
work.

SCOTT

How's that?

SPOCK

The doctor is concerned for
our safety. Can you set the
ship's systems on standby
until we are able to return?

SCOTT

Aye, that's easy enough.
The engines should keep
for now.

NEW ANGLE

Conner leaves his position and
stands by Scott.

SPOCK

(to Scott)

Report back to Enterprise
within ten minutes. We are
temporarily abandoning this
ship.

(to Conner)

Continue your investigation
until Mr. Scott is ready to
leave.

Conner moves off and Spock
opens his communicator.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

(continued)

Spock to Enterprise.

KIRK (V.O.)

You're ahead of schedule,
something wrong Spock?

SPOCK

Indeed Captain. Doctor
McCoy is concerned for our
safety. It seems the
Romulan crew died from a
virus. We will be returning
in less than ten minutes.
Have Mister Kyle monitor
the decontamination
process upon our return.

KIRK (V.O.)

Anything else?

SPOCK

The Romulan ship is
completely serviceable and
fully operational.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE –
ON KIRK

KIRK

Could she be taken as a
prize?

SPOCK (V.O.)

Affirmative Captain, after
proper decontamination
procedures.

KIRK

Very well, let's follow
doctor's orders. I'll need a
full debriefing upon your
return. Kirk out.

INT. ROMULAN SHIP – BIOLOGY
LAB – WIDE ANGLE

Sulu is checking the lab records as
Chekov enters from behind,
unseen.

CHEKOV

Didn't you get Spock's
recall? We're transporting
back, Doctor McCoy says
the ship needs to be decon-
taminated because of a
virus.

Sulu reacts visibly and becomes
excited.

SULU

(off console)

Look at this! It's a
biological research project.

To be continued.....

Upcoming Events

May	3	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet
	23	Articles due for Mar/Apr 2014 <i>Wright Stuff</i>
Jun	TBD	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet (Date to be discussed at May meeting)

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

THE WRIGHT STUFF
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