

# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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# The Center Seat

## By John Troan

I start this month with both a "Thank You!" and a "Welcome!"

The "Thank You!" goes to everyone who contributed time during (and pics! from) our appearance at Raleigh Supercon in July. I've already gotten the dates for next year's Supercon – Aug 17-19, 2018, and have started preliminary discussions with the Supercon folks about our space for next year. I'll let everyone know how this develops.

The "Welcome!" goes to our new members who are receiving this as their first newsletter in their e-mail. If you haven't done so already, do check out our [Newsletter Archive](#) on [our web site](#). We've got every issue posted, going all the way back to January 1990. Also, be sure to browse through the rest of the web site and see what else is on there – and let me know if there's anything you'd like to see added.

Speaking of the web site, check out the [Comp Ops report](#) for an update on the web site itself.

Another report to check is the [Yeoman / Treasurer / Quartermaster report](#) – T-shirts (and potentially other items) are on the way!

This leads into the ongoing discussion on reestablishing dues and a treasury. I've split out the [current version of the proposal](#) into its own article, followed by [a rebuttal](#) from one of the crew on why we shouldn't do it. After we've all had time to digest the proposal and rebuttal, I will be soliciting feedback from everyone on whether we should move forward or discontinue the effort. I may be the *Kitty Hawk* CO, but as I said in [my first Center Seat article](#) about matters that arise, "more feedback will be gathered from the rest of the crew... so that the crew's opinions can help shape the matter as it goes forward." The dues/treasury proposal is definitely a matter where the crew needs to be largely in agreement before we move forward. (The number of revisions I've written based on crew input is a testament to this philosophy.)

Quoting from my first *Center Seat* article got me to reading the whole thing again, with several things standing out:

- All of the personnel announcements need to be updated and consolidated into a single list:
  - **John Troan** – CO and Chief of Computer Operations / Web Master.
  - **Larry Pischke** – XO/First Officer and Chief of Operations
  - **Brad McDonald** – Second Officer and Chief Engineer
  - **Larry Cox** – CFO / Yeoman / Treasurer, Quartermaster, and Social Media Contributor
  - **Morgan Hahn** – Chief Medical Officer
  - **Kate McDonald** – Recruiting Officer
  - **Elaine Pischke** – Communications Officer and Newsletter Editor & Typesetting
  - **Diane Ripollone** – Science Officer and Social Media Chief
- I need to update my spreadsheet where I'm tracking everyone's promotion points – *and* add our new crew members.
- As I've mentioned a few times over the last couple of years, we need to start looking into other charity and volunteer activities for the *Kitty Hawk*. A key requirement is that they probably need to be on the weekend due to most of the crew's work schedules. [Larry Cox has suggested a couple of possibilities](#).
- Another occasional reminder – I'm collecting those personal-sized bottles of shampoo, etc., (commonly found in hotel rooms) to donate to my parents' church, who will then donate them to local charities, including a women's shelter.

A quick note from STARFLEET – the annual dues structure has changed. An individual membership is now \$5 (down from \$10) and family memberships have also been reduced.

A special note to our new crew members... please consider taking

the OTS (Officer Training School) exam through the [STARFLEET Academy web site](#) within the next couple of months or so. The material covered is from the STARFLEET Membership Handbook, which will give you a basic understanding of STARFLEET and how things (are supposed to) work in the local chapter. As a side benefit of completing OTS, your *Kitty Hawk* promotion points will accumulate on the Officer Track instead of the Enlisted Track.

As a reminder to all, here's the current list of point-earning activities.

Points	Description
<b>Ship Functions</b>	
1 / mo	STARFLEET membership
1	Attend monthly meeting and/or dinner or other KH away mission
3	Host a KH meeting/event
2	Attend anniversary dinner
3 / mo	Major chapter role <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ XO</li> <li>➢ Second Officer</li> <li>➢ CFO</li> <li>➢ Social Media Officer</li> <li>➢ Others as they're identified and filled</li> </ul>
<b>Newsletter / Media</b>	
6	Edit / assemble an issue
2	Department report
2	First non-dept report
1	Second non-dept report
0	Additional articles
3?	Podcast voice
3?	Podcast production
<b>Charity</b>	
10	Kitty Hawk Function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ UNC-TV</li> <li>➢ First Night</li> </ul>
5	Non-KH charity event ... still need to work on details on awarding these
<b>Conventions</b>	
5	Staff the KH booth/table
3	Providing Con content (panel, Q&A, etc)

- This list is still a work-in-progress, but it's what I've been using in the promotion points spreadsheet.
- Assuming we go forward with the voluntary chapter dues, I'm not yet sure how they'll be worked into this.

And here is the table of points needed for officer promotions. (I still don't have the enlisted version put together, but I am tracking the points.)

Points	Rank	SF	SFM
OTS	O1	Ens	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt
60	O2	Lt, j.g.	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt
120	O3	Lt	Capt
240	O4	Lt Cdr	Maj
480 +OCC	O5	Cdr	Lt Col
960	O6	Capt	Col

- STARFLEET requires OCC to become an O5 or higher.
- Once you graduate from OTS, your accumulated points become zero as you're promoted to Ensign – so the earlier you do OTS, the better. ☺

**One last important note:** the September meeting will be another potluck at my house. Information about RSVPs, (new) directions, etc., will be sent to the crew by e-mail.

*Esse Quam Videri*

**Treasury / Dues Proposal  
by John Troan**

First, the answer to the question of, "Why are we setting up a treasury?"

Back in the years when we had an account with a bank, there was an instance where a friend of the chapter was undergoing medical treatment that was slowly draining their personal assets just to pay for the treatments. The senior crew at the time agreed to write them a somewhat sizeable check to help with their needs. This gift made a huge difference in their life. (There was also some advice given for trying to reduce their out of pocket medical expenses, too.)

More recently, we've had a couple of times when a friend of the chapter was in need. We did pass the hat, but we didn't do as well as we would've liked to have been able to. As someone has pointed out, there is a pit-in-your-stomach feeling of helplessness when we can't help someone in need as much as we'd like to.

Additionally, there are some chapter operating costs that could be

covered by the treasury. These costs would be subject to the same voting process outlined below, keeping all of our finances as transparent as possible.

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I'm proposing that we establish a PayPal Business standard account and get our one free credit card reader. Please reference the PayPal information Larry Cox put together in the Treasurer's Report in the [Nov/Dec 2016 newsletter](#).

This will allow us to start building a treasury. There is an expectation that we would probably have to file taxes each year -- *Taxable Income = (Dues Paid + Other Revenue) less (Documented Expenditures)*.

The PayPal account will be directly accessible by the CO, XO, and Yeoman (CFO/Treasurer). PayPal only gives one login ID per account, so any of the three would be able to access the account to release funds. (I like the idea someone suggested of having multiple approvers, such as we had when requiring two signatures on our paper checks, but it's not possible here.) As a risk management approach, granting access to just these three people would limit our risk while still allowing each person to review the account activity.

PayPal accepts only electronic transfers -- the primary ones being credit cards and transfer to/from other PayPal accounts. This means we could be paying our dues largely by credit card; issuing a transfer from our personal PayPal account; or issuing a transfer from our personal checking account. (We'd have to work on the particulars of this last one if anyone does choose this option.)

Cash and paper checks would have to be handled through the CFO/Treasurer for transfer into the *Kitty Hawk* account -- and a receipt for received funds would be given as documentation for both sides (*giving member* and *Treasurer receiving*).

Almost every transaction that PayPal processes for us will incur a fee, as noted in [Larry Cox's summary](#). This fee would come out of the *Kitty Hawk* side, resulting in the proposed \$12 of annual dues being reduced to \$11-something going into our account.

Each issue of the newsletter will include a Yeoman/Treasurer report listing a financial summary for the previous two months. The summary will include a list of incoming and outgoing transactions, giving full transparency for everyone to know where the money is going. (Incoming dues payments will be only a lump sum for the report. We will keep a separate record of who is paying dues for voting purposes, with access granted only to the CO, XO, Yeoman, and very likely the rest of any future LLC's board of directors.)

Guidelines can be considered to allow for audits of the financial records to verify that the information reported in the newsletter is in line with actual records. The audit could potentially be called for in the monthly meeting and requiring simple-majority approval by the membership at large and/or the board of directors. (This will be a work in progress at first, but would need to be quickly resolved after the treasury is established.)

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Dues are being proposed at \$12 per year (easily prorated to \$1/month for members that join mid-year), to be paid in January. Additionally, family memberships would be available -- proposing that for each full-dues member, there can be one half-dues member.

I'm asking for consideration that dues be retroactive to the beginning of 2017, with any members joining us during the year be prorated based on when they joined the *Kitty Hawk*.

*Dues would be completely voluntary for everyone. However, you must also be a member of STARFLEET to have a vote.* This part has had the most discussion and this seems to be the best middle ground. I don't want all STARFLEET members to be forced into paying *Kitty Hawk* dues (which gets away from the whole "voluntary" concept of the dues). On the flip side, we are a chapter of STARFLEET and it's been pointed out that non-STARFLEET members can't be given rights/powers over STARFLEET members.

For non-STARFLEET members who would like to donate into the treasury, we'll quickly look at a good



way to handle this. (This may speed up the creation and ratification of a "U.S.S. Kitty Hawk Member Handbook" so that we can address this and other topics.) **As an initial proposal, I believe we can accept these donations with a clear understanding that the person giving the donation cannot vote on spending of funds. As noted in the next section, non-STARFLEET members will be very welcome to propose an expenditure.**

As when we had dues before, our own personal taxes don't have to account for our dues into the *Kitty Hawk*. (Someone asked me about this and I wanted the answer to be known to all.)

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**All Kitty Hawk** members (including non-dues members) can make a proposal for an expenditure. This is one part where I absolutely want **every** member to have a voice.

For each proposed expense, all dues-paying members will be able to vote by e-mail ballot that lasts seven calendar days. The CO will send out a ballot for each proposed expense. Replies should be set up to return to the CO, XO, and Treasurer so that more than one person will have complete voting results for accuracy -- another check-and-balance.

The reason for the e-mail vote is that I don't want it publicly known who has or has not volunteered to pay dues. Additionally, taking a vote during any meeting will likely not include all dues-paying members and I do want every eligible voter to be counted.

A final result will be announced by e-mail and published in the next available issue of the newsletter. The result will include the total number of "Yes" and "No" votes received.

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*NOTE: I am withdrawing the LLC part of the proposal, but leaving it here for possible future reference. The reason for skipping the LLC is that the amount of paperwork required as an LLC could be more than we can handle at this time. If we got buried and decided to dissolve the LLC, it would cost us the same amount to file as it did to create the LLC. (The amount is*

*currently around \$250 for each "create" or "dissolve" filing.)*

If we have to in the future, we could file paperwork with the NC Sec. of State office to become a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC). The LLC should become the official owner of our PayPal account and allow us to request a business Tax ID from the IRS (an EIN, I think.... it's been so long since I looked at this one).

We will probably not seek to become a non-profit in the eyes of the IRS because of the many potential traps we could find ourselves in if we mess up something.

For the LLC, I propose a board of directors that consists of:

- CO as President
- XO as Vice President
- Yeoman as CFO / Treasurer
- Second Officer as another board member

A fifth member TBD.... I've heard one proposal about making this a rotating seat, with a different *Kitty Hawk* crew member coming in each Jan 1. This isn't set in stone, but I do like the idea.

## Another View by J.R. Fisher

First, let us congratulate the membership on keeping the concept of community service alive. "Let me help" is the motto of STARFLEET, and is the basis for the very existence of *Kitty Hawk*.

When we started this chapter, we established a bank account (banks had special services for clubs and civic organizations back then), a post office box, a treasurer and bookkeeper. We initially needed funds for printing and mailing of newsletters. We also thought at the time that we might one day accumulate enough money to put on a convention of our own.

We were fortunate enough to get connected with Raleigh First Night and the Spring Jazz and Arts Festival through Artsposure which provided us with two revenue events per year totaling approximately \$1000.00 per year. We started printing our newsletter on our own printers and our costs declined. Ultimately, we

accumulated a sizable treasury. In the meantime, we eliminated our treasurer position and our P.O. box.

Eventually, as we became more familiar with the costs of putting on our own convention, we decided that with rising costs of events and venues and guests, we would not be able to do our own con. We also endured some individual members whose behavior cost us our association with Artsposure, Duke Children's Hospital Radio-thon and other events.

It was then that we decided that we would spend our treasury on charities, both individual and organizational. Also, STARFLEET was having difficulties with the IRS and was not sure how chapters would be covered by their status. As a result, I paid to attend a class conducted by the IRS to help non-profits, CPA's and lawyers to deal with all the problems everyone was encountering. This was one of the wisest things I have ever done.

We decided that it was in the best interests of the group that we not incorporate, spend off the money in our treasury and disappear from the IRS's radar. This we did.

When we had donated and spent the balance of the *Kitty Hawk's* funds, Jane and I continued to make donations to various charities, both individually and organizationally, in the *Kitty Hawk's* name. This enabled the group to continue to have high visibility in the public eye as well as meeting the needs of deserving groups and individuals.

We had hoped that when circumstances dictated that we step back from active participation with the ship that other individual members with the income and resources would step up and continue this benevolence. Apparently this has not happened.

To offset this lack of funds, we suggest that rather than having "voluntary dues", which is a misnomer, we simply ask for donations on a regular basis. Individuals can give what they can afford. Have a box or can at each meeting and members can insert their gift at that time. If you simply save your daily change, you will be surprised by how much you have each month.

The ship can approach Artspllosure again and see if they have room for another group or if they would like to have us back. Right now, you can say that you are a chapter of a “not-for-profit” organization and qualify to be one of the groups that work their events. (I imagine it would be the same for other groups you approach.) If you incorporate as an LLC, then you will not be eligible to participate. It might be time for another group yard sale if someone wants to volunteer their yard or garage.

There are ways to make money, but if you start making something or selling things aside from conventions, you may have to register with the N.C. Department of Revenue and file quarterly or monthly reports. Maybe the ship could put together another puzzle book or recipe book of *STAR TREK* favorites. Get imaginative! Think!

To make my point, you don't need to incorporate as anything. It will only bring you problems in the long run. **KISS** – keep it simple, ....! If you have all these officers and boards and keep records and publish them and generally act like a corporation, then guess what? Somebody is going to treat you like one. If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it probably is a duck.

Don't spend money on Pay-Pal or anything else. One, you don't have the money; two, they are going to get their cut; three, it creates a record and; four, who is going to use it to make donations?

Get a cigar box or a Twinkie box and put the money in it. DO NOT publish what the balance is in the newsletter! You don't publish what your checkbook balance is, do you? Lots of people read the newsletter that don't belong to our organization. If a member (*STARFLEET/Kitty Hawk*) wants to know what we have, they can come to a meeting or call Captain John or the appointed treasurer.

Speaking of the newsletter, we probably need to stop sending it to people who are no longer active *STARFLEET* members. If they can't afford *STARFLEET* membership, they certainly don't want to pay *Kitty Hawk* dues. It is probably on the website and

if they want to read it, they can go there.

This is a small and intimate group. We don't think transparency is a concern. If you think you can't trust someone in our group, you probably need to belong to some other group.

The dues that are being proposed are going to be more than double *STARFLEET*'s. Forget the dues, guys. Forget incorporating. Keep it loose, keep it fun, keep it simple, ....!

## Computer Operations Report by John Troan

The story of [the web site](#) updates has two parts this month: content and structure.

The content is easy – just create a few web pages and link them into the existing content. As this issue of the newsletter was published (via the e-mail distribution), a simultaneous mass update of web site content took place. This includes pics from our [March UNC-TV appearance](#) and [July's Raleigh Supercon](#); the [last three newsletters](#); and [Brad's first narrative story](#).

The other half of the web site updates – the underlying structure – is still in the proverbial dry dock. Life being life (plus a visit from ol' Mr Murphy), I haven't yet started into the structural changes I have planned for the web site. Most of the changes will still be invisible – and the overall look-and-feel won't change.

My original idea was to manually update every web page to add links to our social media platforms, and move some pages to new locations to better handle content additions in the long term.

My plans changed when I decided to instead use a database to maintain the content and push out the new web pages from the database onto the web servers. The advantage is that I'll be able to more easily manage those buttons on the left side – especially when adding one to every web page on the site. The simple version of what's required for this change is at least one new server and lots of programming to glue everything together. This requires

time that hasn't exactly been in abundance so far this summer.

I've also gotten sidetracked with adding SSL to the web server and making a few other changes on my internal network. Once I get all the kinks worked out, I'll try to put the entire site on HTTPS instead of HTTP. (A third-party test on my HTTPS security now has me at an “A” – a far cry from the “F” I originally had.)

This transition is starting to occur on web sites all over the 'net as a way to make surfing the web more secure. Critical web sites – especially anything using sensitive information (*i.e.*, e-mail, financial, medical, anything with a social security number) – already use HTTPS to encrypt data between the web server and the client's web browser so that anyone looking at the data in between can't read (or steal) that sensitive information.

One other thing still on the Comp Ops To Do List is getting the last of the vocal recorded for the second podcast. Several parts are still available, and anyone – including our new crew! – is welcome to participate. (We've got only small parts left for this one, but it'll be a good experience for everyone wanting to get their feet wet for the third podcast.)

## Communications Report by Elaine Pischke

On August 21, 2017, we will be treated (weather permitting) to a solar eclipse. The last time a solar eclipse traversed the United States was in 1918. The next time it will happen will be 2045, at which time it will follow a slightly more southern path. Therefore, this will be the closest we will be to a total eclipse in our lifetime. Prepare now. Get your eclipse viewing glasses and hope the weather cooperates! I just ordered ours. Amazon has them at a very inexpensive price.

## Treasurer / Quartermaster Report by Larry Cox

I'm in the process of putting together a new tee-shirt order; limited quantities to test the quality of the vendor, a "shake-down" order, you might say. I've found a local vendor, NCTees, and for an initial order of a mix of black and red large and extra large shirts with the StarFleet logo on the front breast and the full size *Kitty Hawk* logo on the back, both in gray, they're running around \$20.00 each. The next price point would require 24 items and I'm not ready to commit to that many at this time. Should the initial supply be depleted, there be a demand for larger numbers and we're pleased with the quality of the order, we can order more in a larger quantity. And more can always be ordered at the lower quantity. Once received this order will be available on a first-come basis.

I'm also considering a possible order with the *Kitty Hawk* logo in full color; however, due to the expense of multi-color screen-printing, this will possibly be on a pre-paid basis but more on this to come....

Should there be sufficient interest in different types of "branded" merchandise it looks like we can find vendors to produce those for us; hoodies, polos, mugs, pens, magnets, patches, etc. As with the tees, the more we order the cheaper they are per unit and some items may require a minimum order to start.

### HOLIDAY TOY AND FOOD COLLECTION

One of the pervading philosophies of Gene Roddenberry through his vision of *Star Trek* is the betterment of all those we come in contact with regardless of race, home world or species. In keeping with this philosophy, beginning with the October meeting, I will coordinate a collection of food and/or toy donations for the Food Bank and Toys for Tots, respectively, for the *Kitty Hawk*. Since the Marine Corp Reserve sponsors Toys for Tots, Babs will be helping with the collection

of toys for this worthy cause. Collection containers will be available at the October, November and December meetings, or if you are unavailable during this quarter and would like to participate, contact me for alternate arrangements. After the December meeting, the donations will be dropped off at the respective charities for our chapter. No contribution is too small or too large. Give once, give twice, give all three months if you are able. Food donations should be non-perishable and toys new and unwrapped.

## Engineering Report by Brad McDonald

This should be a relatively short report. This month is really turning into a major workout for me, at both the home front and my nine-to-five. (Well actually, it's a six-to-three, but you get the picture.)

I'll skip the nine-to-five job as there are too many items to list. At home, it's almost as bad. I'm finally getting a new roof. After putting it off for almost three years, it's time. My daughter Kiersten's wedding has started to affect our daily life. I got a shock when the bridal shower was moved to my house on a relatively short notice. So it's been clean, purge, trash-out, give away and reorganize for three weeks. I'm just about ready, but there are still a few details to take care of. The shower is scheduled during our August meeting, that way, daddy is out of the way. (You think they planned it that way?)

Years ago, I was an avid movie fan and went to see about two a month or more, with the wife, family, friends and even by myself. Lately though, not so much. It's a combination of time, budget, work load and, frankly, a lack of anything interesting to see. I had high hopes for a particular summer release,

*Dunkirk*. It's a historically-based drama that received good reviews from critics. So while the Mustang was getting its inspection, I walked to the nearby theater and saw the movie by myself. I mean that literally. I was the only one in the place. Of course, 12:00 noon on a Saturday probably isn't the most popular viewing time, but nobody else? I found out why, after the viewing. Visually stunning and detailed, the movie focuses on three people; a pilot, a soldier and a civilian who uses his boat to help evacuate the trapped British soldiers. SPOILER ALERT!!! Not a bad idea, it's been done before, except this movie shows the same scenario three times from the perspective of the three main characters. I think someone has been watching *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. An episode called 'A Matter of Perspective' did the same thing. There were a few scenes that weren't part of this, but far too few. With all that happened at *Dunkirk*, it seems like a real waste of budget, manpower and effort. Now I have another reason not to go to movies. For a better version of the *Dunkirk* ordeal, I'd recommend the 1958 version of *Dunkirk*, with John Mills, Richard Attenborough, Bernard Lee, Robert Urquhart, Lionel Jeffries and more.

If you didn't make it to the Raleigh Supercon, [check out the reports](#). It was good, with a few minor reservations, noted in my convention report. Meanwhile, the Crystal Coast Con is coming up. I haven't seen the guest list yet, but it's a more intimate and a less frantic convention. I had lots of time with Tim Russ at one of the previous Cons there. Even he remarked on the 'laid back' feel and enjoyed the extra time with the fans.

I just got finished with all my annual physicals and check-ups. Looks like you'll have to put up with



me for a while longer. I got an A+ from my G.P., cardiologist and urologist (cancer follow up). At least I get to see Kiersten's wedding. After all the work, planning and fuss, I'd hate to miss it.

NASA is starting a program to reboot the supersonic transport. Using modified F-18's, the first job is to reduce or eliminate the sonic boom, which almost killed the Concorde program before it began and severely limited its operations.

An article in the *Wall Street Journal* (August 3<sup>rd</sup>), made me laugh. It seems the millennials, for all their technical savvy, were unaware that you can get 'free TV' by using a set of 'rabbit ears' or standard antenna. Evidently 29% of Americans, mostly the younger ones, don't know that local TV is available free of charge through over the air broadcasts. Some millennials even question if it's legal to own an antenna. When satellite and cable companies stopped broadcasting network signals during fee negotiations, most people did not know they could use an antenna, including our leaders in Washington, D.C.; oh brother!

Finally, this month will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Voyager I*. *Voyager II* celebrates its own 40<sup>th</sup> next month. Ironically, the only people who can communicate with it are older folks like me, who can still speak the (computer) language of the 70's. Officially, the mission will end in 2030 when it is turned off. However, it will continue, endlessly... Unless the Klingons destroy the probes or they get intercepted by intelligent machines...



## Activity Ideas By Larry Cox



I've thought of a couple of activities I thought might be interesting and fun to look at joining as a group. This year is too late as they both occur in May, but maybe we can keep them in mind and organize something for next year.

### WRAL Freedom Balloon Fest

<http://www.freedomballoonfest.com/>

I've never attended this but it looks like it would be nice to get involved with. It takes place Memorial Day weekend in Fuquay. As it is an all-volunteer event we should be able to find some way to help out. The event is produced by Project Uplift, 'dedicated to honoring the concept of "service above self" embodied by our nation's military and their family members.

### Artsposure

<http://artsposure.org/>

This is the "Raleigh Arts Festival" held in mid-May on Fayetteville Street and Moore Square. I've been volunteering many years for this, as a "Booth Sitter", providing relief for vendors to grab refreshment, use the necessary, etc.; one of several volunteer positions available. 2017 was the 38<sup>th</sup> year of this event. Artists, vendors and entertainers from all over

set up booths for the weekend, selling original works of art, food and beverages. Shifts are usually 2-3 hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and it's a chance to get out, meet people and show *Kitty Hawk* pride.

I think both of these events offer an opportunity to give back to the community, be involved, have fun and get the *Kitty Hawk* some public exposure. Should the group, as a whole or individually, be interested in involvement in either or both of these events, I'd gladly try to organize the effort.





# Raleigh Supercon 2017

By Brad McDonald and T. Keung Hui



**From Brad...** Supercon was somewhat of a mixed blessing. Overall it was good, there was something for everyone, but could have been better.

Some of the problems were not the fault of the convention people, but the facility itself and I'll start with that. I hadn't noticed it before, because it was never a problem, but the convention center seems to have only three elevators. (I looked at the floor plans and saw others, but those looked to be for accessing the lower floor.) Two of these are service type, for moving furniture, equipment, supplies, food and such and the remaining elevator is for passengers. This is primarily for people who can't use the stairs or escalators. Therefore, those in wheelchairs, folks using walkers, canes, strollers and so on, are left stranded. During the convention, the passenger elevator broke down, leaving a number of attendees with few options. One young lady in a wheelchair become quite upset because of this. I led several special needs folks to the service elevator and found that the convention center staff was 'converting' one of the service elevators into a passenger

elevator, complete with an attendant to run the car. Well done convention center! I must commend the convention staff for their willingness to do 'whatever it takes' to make things work. Whether it was the elevator, bathroom issues or other items, they made it right. Having said that, I still think that a facility that large, with multiple levels, should have more than one public elevator. If there are more, better signage and directions would be very helpful. (Our office building is considerably smaller yet, still has three passenger elevators.)

As far as the convention itself, my chief complaint was the failure to get things started on time. It was late all three days and that created a major headache on Saturday. Also, before the opening of the convention on Friday, there were speeches and such. This further delayed the start of events. If actually necessary, the speeches could have been made while everyone was already waiting to get in.

The real problem centered on the autograph/meet and greet/pictures with the star features. The format and layout

was a bit confusing. Multiple lanes for each celebrity didn't help either. Standard got mixed up with V.I.P. and so it went. The tape on the floor didn't help much when crowds are standing on it. A better solution would be to divide this feature into two separate or multiple areas and schedule sessions in each area with staggered times. The lines became very confusing and intermixed, not to mention, overcrowded. At one point, I could not get to the person I wanted to see, due to lines for other guests. Also, several times I heard people say they had waited in long lines, just to find out they were in the wrong line!

I did greatly appreciate the map which showed where vendors were located. It saved me a lot of legwork when I tried to find specific products. It was essential on Saturday, when movement was difficult at best.

Due to budget and time limitations (I was working *Kanki* and *Kitty Hawk*) I wasn't able to attend any of the panels, lectures or viewings. However, I did meet some really interesting people. That alone made the long day worthwhile. I do believe *Kitty Hawk* was well represented, even if we

were in the 'cheap seats'. The *Kitty Hawk* tables (top right) were well staffed at all times, usually by three or more members. I even did some recruiting while working at the Kanki space, handing out new business cards and talking with prospects (when time permitted) to anyone in a *Star Trek* uniform, t-shirt, or costume. I also did some proactive recruiting while walking through the crowds! Hopefully we'll have a few new members as a result.

Again, overall the convention was good, but some fine tuning would be welcomed for the next time. By the way, that was confirmed while we were there. More on that at our next meeting.

**From Keung...** Nearly 20,000 sci-fi, comics, anime, gaming and wrestling fans packed into the Raleigh Convention Center for three days in July for the first-ever Raleigh Supercon.

The convention had plenty of things for people to do, including gaming, panels, spending money on vendors and a chance to wear a costume. But it was the big-name guests that helped pack the Convention Center's ballrooms and lead to long lines for autographs and photo opportunities. Large crowds waited to hear from celebrities such as LeVar Burton, Alex Kingston, Lee Majors, Michael Rooker and Brent Spiner. Here's a look back at some of what made Raleigh Supercon so successful and will lead to a return in 2018.

### LeVar Burton's Legacy

LeVar Burton (bottom right) has worn many distinguished hats in his professional career, including being Kunta Kinta in *Roots*, Geordi La Forge in *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and the host of *Reading Rainbow*. All



three fandoms were present at Supercon as a panel attendee asked Burton which one of the three shows did he want to be most remembered for. After a joking response of "that's a totally unfair question," Burton said the answer was the iconic children's show *Reading Rainbow*. On the issue of his favorite *Reading Rainbow* episodes, Burton said he had some "great experiences." He said it was "pretty outrageous" standing on Mount Kilauea in Hawaii during an

eruption for "Hill of Fire." He learned to scuba dive for "Dive To the Coral Reefs," went up in a hot-air balloon for "Hot Air Henry" and flew a plane for "Ruth Law Thrills A Nation."

But Burton also received more than a few questions about his time as both an actor and a director on *Star Trek*. For instance, his secret for speaking technobabble as chief engineer of the *U.S.S. Enterprise* was to "spit it out as fast as I possibly can, giving the impression that I knew what I was talking about."

You'll never think about "Identity Crisis" the same way again after Burton talked about how difficult it was for him to film that *Next Generation* episode. La Forge was turned into a lizard so it led to 24-hour days due to how long it took to put on and remove the make-up. He had to wear a rubber diaper, making urinating "a very difficult process."

A recurring topic during the panel was how Burton dealt with the difficulty of having his sight limited by the visor meant to give Geordi sight. Burton said it took him until the end of the first season to figure out how to navigate without being able to see his feet. That was important,





Burton said, because he wanted Geordi to be very self-assured (as least professionally). As a result, he said it was important for him as an actor to not hesitate and to not fumble around. Burton said it was important for Geordi to know where he was going at all times so it became important to use markers around the set as points of reference.

Burton understands the love *Star Trek* fans have for the show's characters. He's not so sure though about the fan fiction stories that have La Forge being in a romantic relationship with Data. "That's not one I'm certain I understand completely," Burton said of the "shipping" stories.

Burton directed two episodes of *Next Generation* and numerous episodes of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Star Trek: Voyager* and *Star Trek: Enterprise*. But Burton said he loved directing DS9 because "I loved to give Michael Dorn s--t." Burton said they had a running thing when Dorn began losing his hair. Dorn had been looking at Burton's head one day and commented that his hair grew overnight. In response, Burton asked the make-up department to dig up an Afro wig.

"One day for the first shot after lunch, he (Dorn) walked on to the stage and here I was sitting in the director's chair in a full Afro wig," Burton said. "It was a great moment. It was a great moment for me."

### **Next Generation Friends**

Brent Spiner's (above) panel turned into an unexpected but welcomed double act when actress Emma Caulfield showed up as his

guest. Caulfield went "geek girl" talking about how much she loved Spiner and how *Star Trek: The Next Generation* was her all-time favorite show. That prompted Spiner to quip "Can you blame her?" Spiner tossed questions at Caulfield about her time on *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*, including who was the most horrible to work with and who were her favorites. The former vengeance demon diplomatically dodged the first question while listing the various male cast members for the latter



question. Both actors also went gaga over Joss Whedon, the creator of *Buffy* and the director of several movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Many things helped improve *Next Generation* after its rocky first season, Spiner said, including getting better writers. But Spiner said Whoopi Goldberg's introduction to the show as Guinan can't be underestimated. Goldberg appeared during the second through sixth seasons. She was at

the peak of her movie stardom then, Spiner said, juggling her TV duties with winning an Oscar for her movie work.

"That's when people started to take us seriously because she was a big movie star," Spiner said. "All of a sudden they went 'What? Whoopi Goldberg is on a syndicated show, a space show? Okay, we'll watch that.'"

The friendship of the *Next Gen* crew was something that Spiner said made everyone want to come to work each day. Spiner noted he was the best man at both Burton's wedding and Patrick Stewart's second wedding and the godfather of Gates McFadden's son. He said they couldn't wait to see what combination of actors would be in scenes each day. He said things got crazy because of working on a windowless set for 15-hour days.

"The best time, by far, was always on the bridge when we were all there because we laughed all day long," Spiner said.

Their friendship was so strong that Spiner said he could riff on Stewart. The ballroom erupted in laughter when Spiner broke out his impression of Stewart's response to a director complaining the cast was being too rowdy while filming.

"This is appalling," Spiner said as Stewart. "I am appalled. You know the Royal Shakespeare Company. We are so much more restrained. We are professionals and you people are embarrassing me."

Spiner also shared his appreciation for the cast of the classic series of *Star Trek*, particularly the late DeForest Kelley, who made a cameo in the



pilot for *Next Gen*. Spiner said he loves all the Classic Series cast members. But Spiner said all those Classic Series stars would join him in saying that Kelley "was the best of all of them, the best person." Spiner said Kelley was a "great, great guy" who made all the *Next Gen* cast feel comfortable, which wasn't easy considering all the comparisons being made at the time between the two shows.

### Alex "Cradle Snatcher" Kingston

Alex Kingston was a last-minute guest to Supercon, but fans wanted to hear all about her career that's included memorable roles in television shows such as *Doctor Who*, *ER* and most recently *Arrow*. But the event that arguably drew the most attention at Supercon was the video of Kingston reacting to the breaking news that Jodie Whittaker was cast as the 13th Doctor, making her the first female lead in the classic British TV show. The video has been seen tens of thousands of times online.

When the crowd shouted out Whittaker's name, a surprised Kingston said "Oh my goodness. God I'm always the damn cradle snatcher. Oh that's lovely, she's a really great actress, she's fantastic." She also said Whittaker's casting as The Doctor was "so exciting" and "fabulous."

Kingston's character River Song is the wife of some incarnations of the time-traveling Doctor. Whittaker is 19 years younger than Kingston, an age gap similar to when Matt Smith played the Eleventh Doctor. Kingston drew cheers when she made kissing sounds into the microphone. After the event, fans across the Internet were calling for the show's writers to bring River Song back to meet the new Doctor.

Before the Whittaker announcement, Kingston said that

current showrunner Steven Moffat may have laid the groundwork for a female Doctor as early as "The Husbands of River Song" Christmas special. There's a line when River Song, who doesn't yet recognize Peter Capaldi as being The Doctor, says "You remind me of one of my wives." Kingston said Moffat has a reason for every line of dialogue he writes so she thought "he's certainly thrown a little something something into the mix, so I'm like now, 'Bring it on'."

The end of Peter Capaldi's tenure as The Doctor with the upcoming Christmas special is making people look back at his time on *Doctor Who*. Kingston admitted she was a little nervous at working with Capaldi because of her great respect for him as an actor. But she said "The Husbands of River Song" helped provide some needed slapstick comedy to what had been a thematically dark season of *Doctor Who*. Kingston said she "just enjoyed getting on the TARDIS and not only showing the Doctor, but showing Peter, that I knew how to fly the TARDIS."

Kingston also dealt with other Doctor Who topics such as what it's like to kiss Matt Smith and what other character from the TV show she would like to play. She said Smith is "Okay" on the first question. Instead of saying The Doctor on the second question, something some fans have lobbied for, Kingston said it would be fun to play a Dalek.

### "Squashed" Lee Majors

Lee Majors (*right*) started acting in 1964, long before many of the people at his Supercon panel were even born. The 78-year-old actor has done work that has appealed to many generations, from being in

*The Big Valley* in the 1960s, *The Six Million Dollar Man* in the 1970s and *Fall Guy* in the 1980s. Current fans know him as the father of Ash Williams in *Ash Vs. Evil Dead*. Majors said one thing he's carried with him throughout his career is what he learned from acting legend Barbara Stanwyck. Her advice was "Be on time. Know your lines. Stay on your mark and keep your mouth shut."

Another thing Majors said he learned as a young actor was to be nice to his fellow actors and film crew. That wasn't always the case with some actors, including Pernell Roberts, who is arguably best known for quitting the popular TV show *Bonanza* in the 1960s. In 1980, Roberts and Majors both appeared in the TV movie *High Noon, Part II: The Return of Will Kane*. The climactic scene has Majors, who played Gary Cooper's character from the classic 1952 movie, killing Roberts' character in a shootout. On the day of the filming, the crew left a note for Majors saying he should use a real bullet. Majors said he's able to tell



the story now that Roberts has passed away.

Majors excited the crowd with the news that he had recently finished filming a TV movie with *The Six Million Dollar Man* co-star Lindsay Wagner. Majors said he thinks the Hallmark Channel will air the movie called *Countdown To Love*. Majors said he told the 68-year-old Wagner that "if we ever worked together again, it would be in an old-age home."

It's pretty much a guarantee that Majors will be asked about acting alongside Andre The Giant, who was the original Bigfoot on *The Six Million Dollar Man*. Majors recalled an outdoor fight scene where Andre threw him to ground further than he expected. As Majors laid on the ground, he waited for the 7-foot-4, 529 pound wrestler to jump on him.

"It's like death is coming down on me and I'm going to get squashed at any minute," Majors said. "He did not touch me. I've got to give respect to those wrestlers. They really know how to do that stuff to make it look like he squashed me down."

Majors told about a practical joke the crew played on Andre, who would drink a six-pack of beer between breaks. But Majors said he never saw Andre go to the bathroom all day. So the next day, members of the crew placed a Lasix water pill in his beer. But Andre still didn't go to the bathroom all day.

"I don't know if I'd want to be that wardrobe person to clean that suit that night," Majors said.

In recent years, being squashed has again become part of Majors' acting life. He's been a

recurring character on *Ash Vs. Evil Dead*. Three episodes in, Majors said his character "got run over and squashed my head on a car and I was there on the pavement." They found a way to bring his character back, but after a few more episodes "they drowned me in a bathtub, I was gone." Majors thought he was finally dead to the show but is now back playing a ghost.

"Now I can come back anytime," Majors said. "As a ghost, I do my stuff and disappear."



### Having Fun Learning Klingon

There were plenty other panels to attend, including the two Klingon language classes taught by William Simkiss (above), a member of the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*. As Simkiss told the attendees, he's a Klingon language enthusiast who is among the 3,000 people in the world who are conversant in Klingonese. Simkiss ran the two classes through the very physical task of speaking Klingon, telling them that "if it hurts, it's probably correct."

"The idea of Klingon language class is try to pronounce the things and just have fun with the language," Simkiss said. "It's hard to memorize a lot of stuff. But if you use it some you want to have some

fun with it. You just want to celebrate the *Star Trek* genre and atmosphere."

### Evaluating Counselor Troi

The "Why Did Star Trek Include A Counselor On the Crew" panel also drew fans of the TV franchise. Kelsey Klatka, a licensed professional counselor, said Deanna Troi was vital to the success of the *Enterprise*. She said Troi had five functions: counseling and evaluation, be present during first contact procedures, help the crew and family members adjust to the long voyage, serve as morale officer and be an advisor. Klatka said Troi helped protect the welfare of the crew while also not being judgmental.

With her professional eye, Klatka admitted there were some things Troi did that made her cringe. One was the less-than-professional uniform Troi wore during part of the series. Another area, Klatka said, was Troi's relationship on the *Enterprise* with William Riker. Klatka said that once Troi began to counsel Riker that it wasn't appropriate for them to develop a romantic relationship.

"She does overstep her boundaries some times," Klatka said.

### The Three Faces of Marvel

Marvel fans were well-represented at multiple panels dealing with the comics, television shows and motion pictures. "The Three Faces of Marvel" attempted to explain the convoluted nature of what's in and out of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The financial collapse of Marvel in the 1990s led to a fire sale of the movie rights for many of its different properties, an



action that still has ramifications today. Patty Hawkins, the panel moderator, said the financial success of the Marvel movies means 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox and Universal will only sell back rights to properties such as Fantastic Four, X-Men and Hulk at prices Marvel won't pay. Hawkins said the Spider-Man deal between Sony and Marvel is an exception rather than the rule. The relationship between Universal and Marvel is

even more complicated, Hawkins said, because Disney owns Marvel. He said their theme park wars are another reason why you'll never see a stand-alone Hulk movie.

Kathleen O'Shea, the wife of Peter Allen David, stopped by the panel to share her husband's experiences with the Hulk. David, who wrote the "Incredible Hulk" comics for 12 years, was tasked with writing the novelization of the 2003 "Hulk" movie. The movie

script was a mess so O'Shea said it took her husband two weeks just to make sense out of how to write the Hulk's fight scene with the monster dogs. By the time *The Avengers* movie came out in 2012, O'Shea said her husband had low expectations for how Hulk would be portrayed. They came away pleasantly surprised.

"The Hulk didn't suck," David said after *The Avengers* ended, according to O'Shea.



*A group shot of Star Trek fans in uniform, including some from the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk. (Note the "dead" red shirt in front – the parents have taught their child well. ☺)*



# ST:TOS — “Friends and Enemies”

By Brad McDonald

This presentation is a departure from my usual script format. Instead of a four- or five-act TV story, *Friends and Enemies* is in a standard narrative form. I actually prefer writing in the script style as it's much easier and forces me to keep within a 60 page limit, unless I do a two-part story. With a script, more words go to dialog and fewer on descriptions.

However, this time I had to meet the rules of a writing contest. I actually had two ideas, but one was a bit too long and would not qualify. So *Friends and Enemies* became my official entry in the rebooted *Strange New Worlds* short-story book series. These are all written exclusively by amateurs and are generally quite good. I actually preferred them to the regular *Star Trek* novels as those tended to be written by the same people over and over. The format of a short story also makes it easy to pick up and read a 'quick adventure' during lunch or just before bedtime.

Of course, it goes without saying, my story was rejected. It's my destiny never to be published or produced (other than our [newsletters](#) and [podcasts](#)) but that's okay, as I write for the fun of it.

The idea for *Friends and Enemies* came from reading the *Star Trek* (original series) FAQ book. There I discovered the identity of the only female red shirt (affectionately called red skirt) casualty. I hadn't thought about the episode, "By Any Other Name" or the character, Yeoman Leslie Thompson very much, but

the mention in the book made me think. She was only on screen for a few minutes and I wondered, who was she? How could that episode play out if it were two hours instead of just one? What happened afterwards? How does the crew of the *Enterprise* and Starfleet deal with the loss of a crewperson? Because of these and other questions, I actually came up with two stories. The first one is presented here. This story touches on how the Kelvin and Federation first work together and the aftermath of losing Yeoman Thompson. Sometime later we'll present the other story, which goes deeper into the protocol and tradition of dealing with crew loss.

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After escorting the *Suez* out of the area, the *Enterprise* began sensor sweeps. Sulu and Chekov executed a perfect search pattern and Kirk was satisfied with the progress, even though he knew it would be a slow process. He had reason to be worried; missing and damaged ships were always a major concern. Standing up from the command chair, he took the steps up to the upper level and walked about to burn off his nervous energy.

Stopping at Uhura's position, he asked, "Any signals, Lieutenant?"

Uhura turned and smiled. "No, sir, nothing at all. Considering the number of mining colonies in this area, if nothing else, we should be picking up commercial traffic."

Kirk smiled at her. "No news isn't always good, right?"

"Something like that, sir."

Kirk stood by a moment, and then speculated, "Any evidence of jamming?"

"No, sir, just nothing to listen to, not even carrier wave static or background noise. I think it's due to the binary star. It's putting out a lot of energy." Uhura sounded defeated.

"It's okay, Uhura, keep trying. We'll be moving away from the stars in short order." Kirk then moved over to Spock's station when Chekov spoke.

"Actually, that's now. We're moving to next area, sir, away from the stars, Captain." The Russian's hand tapped the controls as the *Enterprise* made a barely perceptible turn to port.

"Leaving section twelve for section thirteen, Captain." Sulu added, "Still at warp one."

Nodding as he walked, Kirk spoke in his command voice. "Steady as she goes then. Continue the search."

Now standing next to Spock, Kirk hovered for a moment, not wishing to disturb the Vulcan until he turned. "Nothing to report, sir; however I am reasonably sure we should..."

Spock words were interrupted by Sulu's shout. "Weapons fire, sir, coming from the general direction of the *Suez*; they're being attacked again!"

*The [story continues](#) on [the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk web site](#).*

# ***ST:TOS* – “Iowa”**

**By Brad McDonald**

After writing tales of action, adventure and a few morality stories, I decided to tackle James Tiberius Kirk. Well, not actually, but you know what I mean. I just wanted to pull back the curtain a bit on Kirk and see what was there. I did the basic outline for the story long ago and it gathered dust until I heard about an upcoming book, which was to be a James Kirk biography. I thought I'd finish my story before the book came out and started to work. However, life being what it is, I missed my deadline. I was given the book as a gift and promised myself not to read it until my story was completed and did just that.

The title gives a small hint of the possible story line, which focuses on Kirk's return home, to Riverside, Iowa. There he deals with a number of issues, not as a ship's captain but as an ordinary man. It's my attempt to explain a few questions I have had about Kirk and his family.

While the story will never be accepted as canon in the *Star Trek* universe, I hope you will enjoy it never-the less. So much of *Star Trek* is not canon and much of it is implied or assumed. And with the rebooted movie franchise, there are two universes. So what then, is authentic? Gene Roddenberry is no longer able to give his approval as to what is acceptable or not, so I will just hope that my story will be acceptable to the fans. In any case, I enjoyed writing it.

-----  
**TEASER**

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE

INT. BRIDGE – ON UHURA

She's working her console when the board sounds, then adjusts her earpiece and controls.

UHURA

Incoming, Mr. Spock, Star Fleet.

She turns toward Spock.

SPOCK (O.C.)

Decode and relay to the Captain. He's in the gym.

She nods in understanding and reworks her board for a moment. Her face registers shock then sadness.

UHURA

Mr. Spock?

ON SPOCK

He's busy, a bit annoyed and turns to Uhura.

SPOCK

Are you unable to decode?

UHURA (O.C.)

It's not that, sir...

Curious, Spock moves to her position.

TWO SHOT – SPOCK AND UHURA

She removes her earpiece and hands it to Spock, who places it in his ear. Uhura adjusts console as Spock listens, he raises an eyebrow, then becomes stoic.

CUT TO:

GYMNASIUM – WIDE ANGLE

KIRK is working out with an N.D. CREWPERSON when Spock and MCCOY appear at entry. Kirk sees them, dismisses the crewperson, picks up a towel and walks to his friends. As he approaches, he senses bad news.

KIRK  
(moving)

What is it, gentlemen?

THREE SHOT – KIRK, SPOCK AND MCCOY

MCCOY

Jim, I'm sorry, it's your mother. She's... passed away.

Kirk looks stunned.

SPOCK

I wish to convey my deepest sympathy, Captain, as do all the crewmembers.

ON KIRK

Kirk takes a moment to collect himself, then:

KIRK  
(quietly)

I didn't know... she was ill.

ON MCCOY

He's sympathetic and stands close to Kirk.

MCCOY

Maybe it was unexpected, Jim. I'll get a report through the Surgeon's General's Office.

ON KIRK

He seems lost in thought.

KIRK

I suppose I could send --

SPOCK (O.C.)  
(interrupting)

Yourself, sir.

THREE SHOT – KIRK, SPOCK AND MCCOY

Kirk looks surprised at Spock's statement.

KIRK

We're in the middle of a --

SPOCK

(interrupting)

Routine cartographic and survey mission, Captain.

KIRK

But what if --

ON MCCOY

He's subdued but firm in a friendly way.

MCCOY

Jim, if you don't go, you may never achieve closure and you'll regret it later.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

I agree, Captain. Our current assignment provides an excellent opportunity. Now is a good time.

AS BEFORE -- ON MCCOY

He puts his hand on Kirk's shoulder; sympathetically.

MCCOY

When was the last time you were home, Jim?

(beat)

Now would be a good time.

ON KIRK

He's subdued and nods slowly in agreement.

Off his reaction...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE -- EARTH

EXT. RIVERSIDE IOWA -- EARLY AFTERNOON -- WIDE ANGLE

A typical small town with minor 23rd century aspects.

ON KIRK -- MEDIUM SHOT

Kirk is walking slowly in civilian clothes across grass Covered area.

NEW ANGLE -- CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

We see now he's in a cemetery, looking at headstones as he walks, then stops suddenly.

KIRK'S P.O.V.

Headstone reads: Samuel George Kirk; Born 8/27/2149; Died 9/30/2221; Star Fleet Commander; Beloved Husband and Father.

CLOSE ON KIRK

He's pensive and remains still for a several beats, then changes focus.

AS BEFORE -- KIRK'S P.O.V.

We see a freshly dug grave, empty, ready for a coffin. There are chairs set up and a small tent covers the area.

AS BEFORE -- CLOSE ON KIRK

He hesitates for a moment, then turns to leave, slowly.

NEW ANGLE

In B.G. we see an elderly lady, LOCKHEART, watching Kirk closely. In a few beats, she comes into view of Kirk.

TWO SHOT -- KIRK AND LOCKHEART

Lockheart steps next to Kirk and he stops, surprised. She smiles and speaks as if he's a long, lost friend.

LOCKHEART

Jimmy, Jimmy Kirk, where's your uniform? How come you didn't beam in?

Kirk's confused; he's not sure who she is or how she knows him.

KIRK

I'm not here on official business so the uniform isn't really... appropriate. Also,

after a long trip, I needed some exercise.

She eyes him knowingly and smiles warmly.

LOCKHEART

No doubt to see how much Riverside has changed or not, right Jimmy?

Kirk's still confused but appreciates her evaluation.

KIRK

Do I know you?

Hands on her hips, she scolds him, disappointed.

LOCKHEART

Forgot your favorite high school teacher?

ON KIRK

Kirk's face lights up and he snaps his fingers.

KIRK

Mrs. Lockheart. History, world civilization and xenopolitics.

Kirk is now more relaxed and forgets why he is there for the moment.

ON LOCKHEART

LOCKHEART

You better remember or I'll take back your passing grades!

KIRK (O.C.)

Just barely passing as I remember.

LOCKHEART

You knew the material, just didn't want to let anyone know you knew it. That was part of your rebellious nature, just like your name.

ON KIRK

He nods, remembering fondly, a bit embarrassed.



KIRK

James was too... formal. I wanted something more... friendly.

AS BEFORE – ON LOCKHEART

LOCKHEART

The Kirk's always named their children after historical figures. Your dad, after George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, your brother after Washington and Samuel Adams and you after James Madison and Roman Emperor Tiberius. Tiberius was your mother's idea.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND LOCKHEART

Kirk smiles at the thought.

KIRK

Really surprised the Kirk family, but she was a historian...

He leaves the thought unfinished as Lockheart moves closer and friendlier.

LOCKHEART

Yes, but she suggested more traditional names for your nephews.

KIRK

Yup, all greats... Alexander, Alfred and Peter.

(beat)

I wonder what mother would have done if Sam had a daughter?

LOCKHEART

Catherine the Great!

The two have a quiet laugh, then Kirk refocuses.

ON KIRK

KIRK

That was her... always prepared and very good at finding out.

LOCKHEART (O.C.)

Such as?

KIRK

(thoughtful)

She always seemed to know what I was up to, especially at school...

ON LOCKHEART

She has a very guilty look and smiles.

LOCKHEART

That was me.

(beat)

Your mom and I were old friends. Born in Riverside, went to school together all the way through college. We both majored in history. I became a teacher, she a researcher and writer.

AS BEFORE – ON KIRK

KIRK

Well I'll be...

(beat)

Still checking up on me?

LOCKHEART (O.C.)

No, just happy to see you came home, Jimmy.

Kirk is distracted by a thought, then:

KIRK

Any other family members here?

TWO SHOT - KIRK AND LOCKHEART

LOCKHEART

Just your nephews and a few distant cousins, residents from Riverside and the nearby area.

(beat)

Your nephews are at the house, Jimmy.

KIRK

I'm okay with James now. My rebellious past is long gone.

Lockheart eyes him suspiciously and doubtfully.

LOCKHEART

Not entirely...from what I've heard...

Kirk is a bit embarrassed.

KIRK

Touché...

(beat)

Walk with me to the house? I have a few questions about Riverside...

CUT TO:

EXT. KIRK HOUSE – LATE AFTERNOON

A traditional Victorian house, very clean looking with immaculate garden and several large shade trees.

INT. HOUSE – PARLOR – WIDE ANGLE

PETER, ALEXANDER and ALFRED are seated, looking at pictures and documents; distracted and quiet. In B.G. we hear a door close.

ALEXANDER

Is that you Robbie?

NEW ANGLE – ON ENTRANCE

Kirk appears alone and surveys the room.

KIRK

Can I help?

AS BEFORE – WIDE ANGLE

The nephews all rise and go to Kirk, one by one and shake his hand.

PETER

Glad you could make it, sir.

ALEXANDER

Likewise, sir.

ALFRED

(sarcastic)

Didn't think anything could get you away from... duty.

Kirk is taken by surprise by Alfred's comment but recovers quickly.

KIRK  
Duty takes many forms,  
including family.  
Kirk looks around the room.

KIRK  
(continued)  
What's left to do?

ALEXANDER  
Nothing really, all  
arrangements have been  
made... we're just sorting  
through some... things.

PETER  
Including the will.

ALFRED  
Everything goes to you, since  
dad is... gone.

KIRK  
We'll talk more about that  
later. Right now I'd like to  
catch up with each of you.

ALEXANDER  
First, we need to contact Mrs.  
Lockheart.

Kirk is surprised.

KIRK  
Really? Why?

ALEXANDER  
Grandma Abby's best friend.  
She made all the  
arrangements. We need to  
check on the specifics.

KIRK  
She's here... talking to  
Robbie and Emily.

Kirk turns and exits the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. KIRK HOUSE – FRONT  
PORCH

Lockheart is talking to BROWN and  
BLANCHARD as Kirk exits the  
house.

NEW ANGLE

Lockheart, Brown and Blanchard  
turn to face Kirk.

LOCKHEART  
Jimmy... I mean, James, you  
remember the house keeper,  
Emily Blanchard.  
(indicating Blanchard)  
And Robert Brown, the  
grounds keeper.  
(indicating Brown)

Kirk nods at both respectively and  
extends his hand to Brown.

KIRK  
Of course; it's Robbie, right?

The two shake hands.

BROWN  
Yes, Captain.

Kirk is embarrassed.

ON KIRK

KIRK  
No rank here, okay?  
(beat)

I want to thank you both for  
taking such good care of the  
Kirk house and more  
importantly, my mother. She  
spoke in glowing terms about  
both of you.

TWO SHOT – BLANCHARD AND  
BROWN

The two look emotional and  
embarrassed.

BROWN  
She was a lovely lady and a  
good friend.

BLANCHARD  
A pleasure to work with.  
Every day was a joy...  
James.

NEW ANGLE

KIRK  
We'll talk more later, but may  
I borrow Mrs. Lockheart for a  
moment?

Brown and Blanchard nod in  
understanding and move away,  
exiting.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND  
LOCKHEART

KIRK  
(continuing)  
Tomorrow's schedule, my  
nephews were asking about  
the services and I was  
curious about a few things...

LOCKHEART  
Such as?

ON KIRK

KIRK  
(tentative)  
Well, I was hoping to avoid  
an... event tomorrow. I  
hoped to avoid a... crowd.

ON LOCKHEART

LOCKHEART  
(knowing)  
Riverside's favorite son  
comes home, is that it?

KIRK  
(O.C.)  
Something like that.

She admonishes Kirk and points a  
finger in his face.

LOCKHERAT  
Some will no doubt wish to  
see the famous Captain Kirk.  
However, most will be there  
to pay respects to one of the  
town's favorite persons and  
longtime resident, Abigail  
Kirk!

Kirk is a bit surprised and  
embarrassed.

Off his reaction...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

## Upcoming Events

<b>Aug</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville</b>
	<b>12</b>	<b>6 p.m. UNC-TV (5 p.m. dinner at Golden Corral on NC-55)</b>
	<b>21</b>	<b>Total Solar Eclipse</b>
<b>Sep</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting and Potluck John Troan's house</b>
	<b>23</b>	<b>Crystal Coast Con MacDaddy's, Cape Carteret, NC</b>
	<b>30</b>	<b>Articles due for Sep/Oct Newsletter</b>
<b>Oct</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville</b>

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS**

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***THE WRIGHT STUFF***  
**U.S.S. KITTY HAWK**  
**5017 Glen Forest Dr.**  
**RALEIGH NC 27612**