

THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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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

Saying Goodnight - Astronaut Mark Vande Hei took this image of the eastern U.S. and Canada at night, writing, “Good night from @Space_station. DC, NY, Toronto, Cleveland and surrounding areas!”
<https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/iotd.html>

The Center Seat

By John Troan

Happy New Year (and then some)!

There are two promotion announcements to open with – Larry Cox to Lieutenant and Babs Freeman to SFMC Captain. Congratulations!

This issue starts two new stories from Brad – [another script](#) and [a teaser](#) for the [second narrative](#), which will also be posted exclusively on [the web site](#) periodically through 2018. Looking ahead, another script is already lined up to finish out 2018. Looking farther ahead, another narrative is nearly ready for 2019 and there are more scripts in the pipeline for 2019 and beyond. We've also been looking in the crystal ball at publishing options for 2020.

Our 2018 calendar is starting to fill up as we look at various volunteer events, cons, etc.

I haven't heard anything yet from UNC-TV, but will definitely pass along information when I do hear from them.

On March 10 (at 7:30 pm), we will be hosting Garrett Wang (Ensign Harry Kim from *ST: Voyager*) for a talk and Q&A. We've been able to use the event space at [Pendo](#) in downtown Raleigh. The event is free and open to the public, but we are processing reservation requests through our [web site comment form](#). (*Kitty Hawk* crew interested in going should also submit a reservation request so that I can keep an eye on attendance numbers vs. capacity.)

A little after that are a couple of volunteer events that Larry Cox covers in this month's [Yeoman / Quartermaster Report](#). Both are in May and I'd like for us to go to at least one of them. (Both would be great, but might be understandably too much for our personal schedules.)

And then there's July – with Raleigh Supercon on the weekend of 27-29. As I write this, payment has just been submitted for our space. We'll be getting two tables in the Cosplay Alley of the exhibition hall. I think we'll be in the same general area we were in last year, but we won't know specifically where until much closer to the event. I did

request that we be eligible to buy a power drop again, which will eventually be done through the Convention Center itself.

Four of us have purchased Exhibitor badges, which will let us get in early every morning for setting up our space.

Everyone else who is interested in helping during the three-day event will need to buy tickets through the [Raleigh Supercon web site](#). (There's a 15% promo code currently available, but I don't know how long it'll last.) Once you know which day(s) you're able to help out, please let me know.

Sometime in late June, they should have their programming finalized and posted on-line. At that point, everyone going should look at what sessions they want to go to and let me know so that I can make sure we have enough people at the table. (I'm probably not going to any sessions, but will take an occasional break and see what else is around this year.) If last year is any indication, everyone should be able to get to all of their sessions of choice. ☺

In the fall, we have another appearance at Crystal Coast Con. The date hasn't been posted yet, but I have asked when they anticipate having it. I plan to go, and would like to hear from anyone else who's thinking of going.

Esse Quam Videri

Comp Ops Report

By John Troan

Coinciding with this issue being published, there's an update getting posted to [the web site](#). It includes [2017's final newsletter](#) and [this one](#), along with the [full first installment of Brad's second narrative](#).

January marked the 60th anniversary of [Explorer 1](#). More than just the first successful American launch, it contained several instruments that were used to discover Earth's radiation belts, the Van Allen Belts. While the probe burned up as it reentered the

atmosphere in 1970, the data gathered is still being used today.

Another milestone reached in January is the sixteen-year mark of when the [Opportunity rover](#) landed on the Martian surface. (Its twin, *Spirit*, landed three weeks earlier on the other side of the planet.) Both rovers vastly outlasted the planned ninety-sol (Martian day) mission and, while *Spirit* stopped functioning in 2010, *Opportunity* is still actively exploring Mars. (Check out the Wikipedia pages for [Spirit](#) and [Opportunity](#) – then scroll down a little to see the mission patches for each of them.)

The next Mars lander, [Insight](#), is undergoing final testing in preparation for its launch in November. One of the recent additions to the hardware is a microchip inscribed with over a million names submitted by the public, adding to the over 800,000 names on another chip added in 2015. (My name is somewhere in that collection.)

On Feb 6, SpaceX made the first test launch of its [Falcon Heavy](#) – from Pad 39A at the [Kennedy Space Center](#), which was previously used for Apollo and shuttle launches. (SpaceX is leasing the pad from NASA, who is using only Pad 39B for their next generation of big rockets, the [Space Launch System](#).)

According to the SpaceX web site, the Falcon Heavy will be able to “lift more than twice the payload of the next closest operational rocket ... at one-third the cost” and “[o]nly the Saturn V moon rocket ... delivered more payload to orbit.” What they don't mention is NASA's SLS will be able to lift a heavier payload than the Falcon Heavy, but SpaceX may be including only rockets available for commercial customers. (“Payload” refers to the amount of weight a rocket can move from the earth's surface to orbit. Launches to lower orbits are able to support higher amounts of weight than higher orbits – and entirely leaving Earth limits the maximum weight even more.)

Later in 2018, SpaceX is expecting to launch its first [crewed capsule](#). The crew capsule is based extensively on the existing [Dragon cargo module](#) that's been ferrying supplies to the space station since late 2012.

Engineering Report by Brad McDonald

Hope everyone is doing well. A month has passed into the new year, but it still feels a lot like last year.

Good news at work. The Tonbo, our new downtown restaurant, is ready to open and hopefully will be by the time you read this. The special 'sneak preview' for employees will happen the first weekend of the month, which is why I will miss the February *Kitty Hawk* meeting. As well as celebrating the opening, I will be celebrating two years cancer free with my sister who is eight years cancer free.

People who are excited about self-driving cars (and I am not), received a set back with the discovery that it is difficult for self-drivers to 'see' darker colored cars. Solution? All cars will need to be silver or white. I don't think that is going to happen, nor do a lot of other people, so there is an effort to make darker colors more reflective, regardless of color. There was a solution long before the problem existed, called metal flake paint. Regardless, it still does not address the problem of how they will see the millions of darker cars already on the road.

In a somewhat related topic, Apple's Steve Wozniak says Mr. Musk is making promises he can't keep and doesn't keep, regarding Tesla auto. Wozniak owns two model S cars (one for himself and the other for his wife) but they spend more time in their Chevy Volt EV! Musk has yet to answer Wozniak's criticisms of technology failures, preferring to say that he doesn't think Wozniak is a 'real Silicon Valley boy', whatever that means. It is not a valid response to real issues and concerns. I

think Mr. Musk is getting spread a bit thin.

Between space projects, cars, trucks, mass transit and now even flame throwers of all things, there seems to be a real danger of him not being able to bring all these projects to a satisfactory conclusion. To add to his problems, he had to deal with a \$546 million debt and has delivered very few cars even though many people have preordered theirs with a cash deposit.

I say all that to make a point. I am concerned about the future of his space program. It holds so much promise. NASA seems to be moving at a snail's pace and they are counting on private industry to take up the slack. However, all of Mr. Musk's other projects and the issues that go along with them, have the potential to undo or minimize his ability to carry out his plans concerning the space program. I sincerely hope I am proved wrong, but China, Japan, India and others are making great progress while the U.S. seems to be sitting on its collective hands. I hope that situation will change, soon.

Employing a very low tech solution to a technology problem, the French Air Force is using birds of prey, (golden eagles to be precise), to intercept suspicious drones. The birds are protected by Kevlar 'mittens' and the system is very successful. The French are now adding more birds to their new 'air armada'.

Lastly, I saw an article about a fellow who found two cars in a condemned garage, worth 4 million dollars. Why is it all I can find in my garage is termites!

Yeoman/Quartermaster Report By Larry Cox

TIME TO PLAN

Here are a couple of local volunteer opportunities I wanted to bring to the group's attention. I think they'd be fun to participate in as well as giving us an opportunity to provide some community service.

Artsplosure – The Raleigh Arts Festival 2018

This year's event is scheduled for Downtown Raleigh – May 19-20, 2018. I think it would be fun to have a group volunteer for a shift; I usually go on the Sunday afternoon as a "booth-sitter" but am open to changing that to try and get a group presence there.

<http://artsplosure.org/call-artist-entries-artsplosure-raleigh-arts-festival-2018/>



2018 Freedom Balloon Fest

I haven't been able to find the dates for this year's event; in the past it's been on Memorial Day weekend in Fuquay and I think it will be the same this year. I've sent emails out to try and find out definitely. I've not volunteered for this, but do think it could be fun since it's a large event covering a large area and I'm sure requiring lots of volunteers. I'll follow-up on this and try to get dates as soon as possible to begin planning.

Anyone interested in either of these events please let me know. And family and friends are welcome to join.

Science Report by Diane Ripollone

MARS 2020

In a recent article in *Earth Magazine*, the future Missions to Mars were discussed. The article talked about the missions scheduled for 2020. Supposedly there might be five to six missions that launch in July or early August 2020. Launches are usually completed every 26 months due to the positions of Earth and Mars which align for the shortest possible route from Earth. Also in early 2021, there will be more favorable environmental conditions for the spacecraft. The group of missions proposed for 2020 includes a diverse interest in the planet. The major goal, however, is to eventually bring some of the planet back to Earth. And of course to eventually send humans to the planet.

Most of the missions include some form of lander, however there are three orbiters in the works. Again,

this will depend on the individual agencies and their ability to complete the build of their vehicles. NASA is in the process of building the next 2020 Rover (<https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/mission/rover/>). While there is collaboration between the ESA and Russian Space Agency to complete a lander called the *ExoMars*, part of this mission includes the Trace Gas Orbiter that was successfully delivered in 2016. Other countries proposing missions are the United Arab Emirates (the first Arab-led mission), China, Japan and India.

According to Scientist's Vago from ESA's *ExoMars* project, "All space-faring nations regard Mars as a very interesting target." The search for life is one of the main motivations for the NASA and *ExoMars* missions. Both the NASA's 2020 Rover and *ExoMars 2020* are being designed to look for past life on the planet. Where will they

look? The answer to this question has not been decided. NASA is looking at three candidate sites and the *ExoMars* team is looking at two northern hemisphere sites. It's vital that both sites not only offer a place for exploration, but both sites have the topography, altitude and climate needed for a successful landing. Whichever site they choose, the future missions to this planet will discover more and prepare the way for humans.

There is still so much to discuss about these missions and Mars specifically. The topic is filled with some interesting information. The exploration of Mars has become quite a topic and remains one of the main objectives for NASA.

Recent and Upcoming Mars Missions by Launch Window

| Launch Date | Mission Name (Agency) | Probe Type | Mission End | Notes |
|----------------|---|------------------------|---|---|
| Dec. 11, 1998 | Mars Climate Orbiter (NASA) | Orbiter | Sept. 23, 1999 | Lost on arrival at Mars |
| Jan. 3, 1999 | Mars Polar Lander & Deep Space 2 (NASA) | Lander, impact probes | Dec. 3, 1999 | Lost on arrival at Mars |
| April 7, 2001 | Mars Odyssey (NASA) | Orbiter | Ongoing | Planned mission duration was 3 years |
| June 2, 2003 | Mars Express (ESA) & Beagle 2 (National Space Center, UK) | Orbiter, lander | Ongoing (orbiter) Dec. 25, 2003 (lander) | Planned Mars Express mission duration was 3.75 years, Beagle 2 lost on arrival at Mars |
| June 10, 2003 | Mars Exploration Rover-A/Spirit (NASA) | Rover | March 22, 2010 | Planned mission duration was 3 months |
| July 7, 2003 | Mars Exploration Rover-B/Opportunity (NASA) | Rover | Ongoing | Planned mission duration was 3 months |
| Aug. 12, 2005 | Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (NASA) | Orbiter | Ongoing | Planned mission duration was 2 years |
| Aug. 4, 2007 | Phoenix (NASA) | Lander | Nov. 10, 2008 | Planned mission duration was 3 months |
| Nov. 8, 2011 | Fobos-Grunt (Roscosmos) | Lander (on Phobos) | Nov. 8, 2011 | Fobos-Grunt and Yinghuo-1 were separate missions launched aboard the same rocket that failed to leave Earth's orbit |
| Nov. 26, 2011 | Mars Science Laboratory/Curiosity (NASA) | Rover | Ongoing | Planned mission duration was 2 years |
| Nov. 5, 2013 | Mars Orbiter Mission/Mangalyaan (ISRO) | Orbiter | Ongoing | Planned mission duration was 6 months |
| Nov. 18, 2013 | MAVEN (NASA) | Orbiter | Ongoing | Planned mission duration was 1 year |
| March 14, 2016 | ExoMars 2016/Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) & Schiaparelli (ESA/Roscosmos) | Orbiter, lander | Ongoing (orbiter) Oct. 19, 2016 (lander) | TGO planned science communications mission duration is 6 years; Schiaparelli lander lost on arrival |
| May 5, 2018 | InSight (NASA) | Lander | -- | Planned mission duration is 2 years |
| | Mars Cube One (NASA) | Flyby | -- | Relay telemetry from InSight; technology demonstration |
| July 25, 2020 | ExoMars 2020 (ESA/Roscosmos) | Rover, lander | -- | Planned mission durations are ~6 months (rover) and 1 year (lander) |
| July-Aug. 2020 | Mars 2020 Rover (NASA) | Rover | -- | Planned mission duration is 2 years |
| July-Aug. 2020 | Hope (JAX Space Agency) | Orbiter | -- | Planned mission duration is 2 years |
| July-Aug. 2020 | MOM-2/Mangalyaan 2 (ISRO) | Orbiter, lander, rover | -- | |
| July-Aug. 2020 | Unnamed Chinese mission | Orbiter, lander, rover | -- | |
| July-Aug. 2020 | Red Dragon (SpaceX) | Lander | -- | |

- No missions launched in the 2009 window
- Planned mission durations are post-arrival
- Launch dates for upcoming missions are tentative

***ST:TOS* - "Hero's Death"** **by Brad McDonald**

Not long ago, the *Kitty Hawk* published my short story titled "[Friends and Enemies](#)." At that time I hinted at another story which dealt with how Star Fleet dealt with the loss of crew members. I now offer that story in several parts, the same format we used to present "[Friends and Enemies](#)."

This is another story which came from entering the open submission format for the *Strange New Worlds* series of Pocket Books. As I mentioned previously, no matter how many times I wrote and rewrote the story, it was always too long. So I stopped trying to make it shorter and put all the edited material back in and left it as a 'longer' short story.

This story was originally an outline intended for a *Next Generation* script. I actually started the script, but before I completed it, I found out the *Next Generation* producers were no longer accepting stories. So I put it in a folder with many other incomplete and unused stories. In the *Next Generation* setting, Worf was the featured crew member and the story focused on how he reacted to a young hero and how that hero reacted to Worf's hero worship. To finish the story for the contest, I wanted to show how the whole crew would react and I featured the hero more, including how she dealt with all the attention. Eventually, I changed the setting of the story to the original series time frame as it's my favorite of all the series and I'm more comfortable with 1701's crew. I also featured a few of the secondary characters from that time frame.

While doing this, I took a look at the *Enterprise* crew, with the hero acting as an outside influence on the *Enterprise* crew and how the crew reacts to that influence. It isn't the whole story as they are also dealing with other issues. This basic story type was used before with outsiders like Charlie X, Dr. Daystrom, Khan and others. However, this time the person is a Star Fleet officer, one of them, so I hoped it comes across as somewhat different.

I think this would have made a good one hour TV show, but expensive due to the space battle sequences. Anyway, I had fun writing it... and rewriting it... and rewriting... well, you get the idea. Hope you enjoy it.

"Captain's log, Star Date: 5989.6. We have received an S.O.S. call from the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*. They are being attacked by unknown forces at the fringes of Federation space. *Enterprise* is now traveling at maximum speed to render assistance. We're at red alert and anticipating a rendezvous shortly. I am motivated by the knowledge that every moment counts and may make the difference between survival or not."

Kirk drummed his fingers absently on the arm of his command chair. Impatient, he stood and moved towards Uhura, "Any more from the *Kitty Hawk*, Lieutenant?"

Shaking her head in frustration, she sounded

disappointed, "No, sir, nothing, not even static."

Turning to the science station, Kirk queried, "Spock?"

Intently studying his viewer, the Vulcan made a few adjustments before speaking. "Coming into extreme scanning range now, Captain." After a brief moment, he added, "Ship is motionless and no energy readings."

"Life signs?" Kirk asked hopefully.

Again, the Science Officer made a few adjustments, "None discernable at this range."

Now Kirk addressed his other concern, "Mr. Sulu, any other ships in the area?"

Studying his console viewer intently, the young officer turned to face his captain and mentor. "No, sir, all scans are clear at this time."

Without waiting to be asked, Chekov announced, "E.T.A. now twenty-one minutes at current speed, sir."

Still impatient and somewhat frustrated, Kirk stood, "Any chance of increasing speed?"

Shaking his head slowly, the Russian apologized. "Sorry, sir. Mr. Scott says we're ten per cent above maximum now."

Leaning on the upper level railing, Kirk slapped it in frustration. "What happened? Who attacked them and why?"

To Be Continued
on the [U.S.S. Kitty Hawk web site](#)

ST: TOS – “Ensigns of Enterprise” by Brad McDonald

I always wanted to feature Chekov in a story, but never could figure out how to do it. In the original series, Chekov was generally used for comic relief or to emphasize that he was a Russian and show him as a know it all. I figured it was time to give him some respect, yet leave in a bit of the other aspects to keep in with the overall flavor of the original series. Also, there was an attempt to show a part of *Enterprise* crew life not seen before, the arrival of new crew members.

Generally speaking, Chekov was rarely featured except in small scenes, although some of those were the introduction scene in “Trouble with Tribbles” or the priceless bar scene in that episode. He had a bit of a feature in “Way to Eden” with a romantic interest in Irini Galliulin and became the focus of McCoy’s medical investigation in the “Deadly Years”, a humorous romantic encounter in “The Gamesters of Triskelion”, but he missed the entire first season and was only in 33 of the entire 79 episodes of the original series. Chekov was seen here and there in “Spectre of the Gun” and other episodes, but was featured more in the movies than the TV series. In “Ensigns of Enterprise,” Chekov is the feature player and given a chance to shine, but with a twist.

Special Note: As far as the directions and where people go and how they get there, I cheated. I used the “General Plans of the Constitution Class, U.S.S. *Enterprise*” by Franz Joseph Designs, from 1974.

----- *Ensigns of Enterprise*

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND
S.S. BUFFALO

Enterprise is moving slowly, parallel
to S.S. Buffalo.

INT. ENTERPRISE – WIDE ANGLE
- MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOM

KYLE is at the controls, CHEKOV is
standing close by with a clipboard in
hand.

KYLE

Transporting now!

Kyle activates controls and we see
the transporter effect which reveals
DORCET, HETRICK, PERES, KIM
and JONES, all Star Fleet Ensigns.

NEW ANGLE

Chekov starts to move closer to the
new arrivals as Kyle speaks quietly,
mocking Chekov’s duty, smiling.

KYLE

(continuing)

Better you than me, Pavel.
Good luck.

Chekov stops and looks dismayed
as Kyle exits room quickly, shaking
his head.

ON CHEKOV

He recovers quickly, checks his
clipboard, puts on a cheerful face,
and continues forward, becoming
over confident, brash and a bit full of
himself.

CHEKOV

(moving)

Welcome. I am Ensign
Pavel Chekov, navigator on
the Enterprise. I will be your
personal escort for the next
few days. During that time I
will give you your room
assignments, a personal
tour of the ship and a basic
orientation. Later you’ll meet
your department heads and
the captain.

NEW ANGLE – ON CHEKOV AND
GROUP

Chekov consults the clipboard
again, smiles broadly, then
confidently:

CHEKOV

(continuing)

First, Ensign Kim.
Communications specialist.
From China, correct?

Kim steps forward, offering his
hand.

KIM

(apologetic)

Actually, I’m from Korea.

Chekov shakes hand, Kim steps
aside. Chekov is confused by his
error but recovers with a slightly
smaller smile.

CHEKOV

Next, Ensign Claire Dorcet,
medical technician. No
doubt from France.

Dorcet smiles, steps forward and
nods.

DORCET

Uh, sorry, Switzerland.

Chekov’s smile fades further, his
confidence reduced even more as
Dorcet steps to one side.

CHEKOV

(weak smile)

And Johann Hetrick,
engineer;

(tentative)

From Germany?

Hetrick steps forward, shakes
Chekov’s hand.

HETRICK

Austria, not Germany.

Chekov is even more quiet and
subdued, smile gone.

CHEKOV

Oh... uh, Pedro Peres, security specialist. Uh, from Spain?

Peres steps forward and shakes Chekov's hand.

PERES

Portugal, Mr. Chekov.

Chekov is almost totally defeated. He's about to give up when Peres and Hetrick move to one side, they reveal Jones. Chekov is caught up in her beauty. Regaining some of his confidence, he wants to impress her.

TWO SHOT – CHEKOV AND JONES

CHEKOV

And this must be Miss Jones.

She smiles, very eager, innocent and impressionable.

JONES

Yes, sir, I mean, Ensign Chekov.

CHEKOV

And judging by your accent, you must be from America.

Jones tries to let him down easily and friendly.

JONES

Well... almost, Canada.

ON CHEKOV

He's exasperated and hasn't made a good impression, so he changes the subject.

CHEKOV

Well, let's get started. First, your quarters. All your personal items were transported aboard by our cargo master and should be waiting for you. Once we get you settled, we'll begin the tour.

Chekov indicates the exit.

ANGLE ON EXIT

The group moves to the door.

CHEKOV

(continuing)

Through the door and turn left; turbolift is on the left before the end of the corridor. I'm right behind you.

CLOSE ON CHEKOV

The group files out obediently. Chekov is last out and looks at the clipboard again.

CHEKOV

(continuing; to self)

How could I have been so wrong?

He shrugs his shoulders and sighs.

CHEKOV

(continuing; to self)

This is going to be a long day.

He follows the group, exiting the transporter room.

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND FIELD OF STARS

Enterprise is moving at warp speed.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

SPOCK, SULU, UHURA and N.D. CREW are at stations. KIRK is walking slowly, checking out the bridge, stopping to speak to bridge crew.

KIRK'S VOICE

Captain's personal log. We are on our way to a previously unexplored sector for charting duty. Meanwhile Mr. Chekov has taken charge of a group of recent

Academy graduates, which has proven most... interesting.

Kirk makes his way to Uhura's station.

KIRK

Miss Uhura, any word on Mr. Chekov's whereabouts?

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND UHURA

She's smiling and her conversation is animated.

UHURA

Well, sir, he's been to sickbay, engineering, hanger deck, science labs, security, crew's lounge... just about everywhere.

KIRK

Logical to assume we're next, right?

UHURA

I'd say so, sir.

ON KIRK

KIRK

(smiling)

We've survived magnetic storms, Klingons, Romulans, hortas, Harry Mudd and even tribbles. I suppose we'll survive Mr. Chekov's tour as well.

NEW ANGLE

SPOCK

Captain, if I may interrupt, I have a few items of interest to discuss.

Kirk gets serious and moves towards Spock.

KIRK

(moving)

Yes, Mr. Spock, what is it?

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

SPOCK

As you requested, I have been reviewing the computer records regarding this sector.

KIRK
(curious)

Find anything of note?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Limited information and no specifics. Details are sketchy at best. However, there are a number of unusual items.

(beat)

Vague references to ghosts, ship's disappearing and other unexplainable occurrences. While I do not subscribe to the existence of ghosts, prudence may be advisable.

ON KIRK

He's deep in thought and serious.

KIRK

Agreed; superstitions generally have a basis in fact. Perhaps a few drills would be in order. Also, let's start scanning at maximum range and intensity. Maybe we'll be able to detect any 'ghosts' before they become a problem, right?

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

SPOCK

Understood, I shall reset ship's sensors to the new parameters immediately. As far as the drills... would 1400 hours be acceptable?

Kirk is only half serious.

KIRK

Let's start tomorrow. We don't want to interrupt Chekov's tour.

Spock is about to respond when Chekov enters with the new crewmembers in B.G. and Kirk turns.

NEW ANGLE – ON TURBOLIFT
DOORS

CHEKOV

... and this is the bridge.

He indicates with a sweeping motion; Kirk approaches.

WIDE ANGLE

KIRK

(to Chekov)

Saving the best for last?

(to new crew)

I'm Captain Kirk. I will meet with each of you individually later. Meanwhile, allow me to take over the tour.

In B.G. Kirk moves station to station with group as Chekov goes to Sulu's side.

TWO SHOT – SULU AND CHEKOV

SULU

Pavel, you enjoying yourself?

CHEKOV

Only partially...

Sulu smiles knowingly.

SULU

Dorcet or Jones?

Chekov gets a sheepish grin, looks guilty.

CHEKOV

Jones, she's... wonderful!

In B.G. Kirk gets closer, Chekov and Sulu get quiet.

ON COMMAND SECTION

Kirk stops in front of command chair and turns toward helm and navigation stations.

KIRK

Mr. Chekov, you ready to return to your station?

Chekov glances at Jones.

CHEKOV

Uh, just a few more items to take care of, sir... if that's okay with you.

ON KIRK

Kirk eyes Chekov suspiciously.

KIRK

Of course, Ensign. Just be back on duty for your shift tomorrow. We'll be conducting readiness drills, understood?

CHEKOV

Yes, sir!

Kirk looks at Jones and then:

KIRK

Carry on, Ensign.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Chekov steps up and heads to turbolift, new crewmembers follow and exit; Uhura smiles broadly.

UHURA

Pavel looks like a mother hen with all her chicks.

Kirk smiles at the image.

KIRK

I believe Mr. Chekov feels a bit more 'motherly' to one of the 'chicks'.

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND
STAR FIELD

Enterprise is at warp speed.

OFFICER'S MESS – WIDE ANGLE

Chekov is seated with Jones; other new crewpersons are at different tables. Several N.D. crew are in B.G. Jones is enthusiastic and fascinated by Chekov.

JONES

You were wonderful, Pavel. The tour was great. I think I know the Enterprise better than the Academy campus.

ON CHEKOV

Chekov is now 'full of himself', makes his move on Jones and gets closer and quiet.

CHEKOV
Well, actually you didn't get the 'complete' tour...

JONES (O.C.)
Really?

CHEKOV
I know of many places not on the official tour and they are quite interesting and could be very important to your career.

ON JONES

She's wide eyed and very interested.

JONES
Could you show me? I'd be forever grateful.

CHEKOV (O.C.)
Well... I don't know... my shift is over...

JONES
But if it's really important, don't you think you could make an exception.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Chekov 'reluctantly' concedes.

CHEKOV
Oh, why not. I'll start with the ship's main computer. Let's meet there in one hour, okay?

JONES
(excited)
Oh, yes!

Chekov rises and heads for the exit with a big smile and a bounce in his step.

CUT TO:

CORRIDOR – LONG SHOT

Sulu is walking when he spots Chekov exiting quarters Chekov is dressed up and happy.

SULU
Pavel, where are you going? I was just coming to see you.

Chekov is nervous and distracted.

CHEKOV
Uh, I'm on my way... to an appointment.

SULU
Maybe later.

Chekov rushes off, leaving a bewildered Sulu behind.

CUT TO:

ON TURBOLIFT DOORS

Chekov exits turbolift and turns corner; stops cold.

CHEKOV'S P.O.V.
All five ensigns are in casual dress, are waiting eagerly.

NEW ANGLE

Chekov is visibly disappointed as Jones approaches, enthusiastic and smiling.

JONES
I figured if it was so important, maybe we should all get the 'Special' tour.

CHEKOV
I had hoped... I mean...I suppose so.

Reluctantly he leads them to a doorway, it opens and the group enters.

SHIP'S MAIN COMPUTER ROOM

We see rows and rows of computer banks with flashing lights, circuits, etc. The group enters, with Chekov in the lead.

CHEKOV
(quietly)
This is the ship's main computer. All ship's operations are controlled from here; life support, turbolifts, navigation –

Jones interrupts, enthusiastic, wanting to show Chekov she is knowledgeable.

JONES
(interrupting)
... communications, engineering, food processors... everything, right?

CHEKOV
Uh yes... and we can monitor systems, modify processes and alter actions and even change the course of the ship.

KIM
Yes, and even more!

DORCET
Monitor sickbay and the labs...

PERES
... and security...

Chekov is about to speak when alarms sound.

COMPUTER VOICE
Intruder alert! Intruder alert!

Everyone tenses except Chekov.

CHEKOV
Relax, it's a drill. The captain told me about it when we were on the bridge, remember?

The others are only slightly reassured.

HETRICK
Shouldn't we report to our duty stations?

Jones reacts to an alarm in cabinet next to her.

JONES
What's that?

Chekov moves to look and is surprised.

ON CHEKOV

CHEKOV
That's strange, anesthetic gas is being released.
(confused)
That shouldn't happen during a drill.

Realization hits Chekov.

CHEKOV
(continuing)

It must be the real thing!

Off his reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

NOTE: ACTION IS CONTINUOUS
FROM ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. SHIP'S MAIN COMPUTER
ROOM - WIDE ANGLE

Chekov stops alarm then gathers
group in center of room.

CHEKOV

I've cancelled the gas to this
location. Right now, we
need to find out where the
intruders are and make a
plan to get the ship back.

KIM

Like you said, we can do
everything from here.

NEW ANGLE

Kim springs into action and Chekov
assists. The others gather and
watch as Kim activates a console.

CHEKOV

First, where did the orders
for the gas originate?

Kim works the console quickly.

KIM
(working)

Coming up!

(beat)

Here we go... auxiliary
control.

CHEKOV
(puzzled)

Not the bridge?

(thoughtfully)

Location of intruder alert...
where did they come
aboard?

Kim works the console for a few
beats, then:

KIM
Auxiliary control!

ON CHEKOV

He's deep in thought for a moment,
then:

CHEKOV

Someone knows the
systems and used them to
take control of the ship.

(beat)

Let's get a visual of who
we're dealing with.

Kim works the console again.

ANGLE ON THE VIEWER

Viewer shimmers into focus. We
see several figures in masks in
auxiliary control. One removes his
mask to reveal an N.D. ORION.

CHEKOV (O.C.)

Orion pirates, damn!

NEW ANGLE – ON GROUP

They are focused on Chekov,
nervous.

CHEKOV
(continuing)

The rest of the crew is
counting on us.

The group looks nervous and
confused.

ON CHEKOV

CHEKOV
(continuing)

We need to determine how
many pirates there are and
where they are. Also, the
condition and location of our
crew, especially the senior
officers.

Chekov looks around the room and
points.

CHEKOV
(continuing)

Peres, use a console and
bring up security cameras

anywhere you can, chiefly
the bridge. Find the captain
and Mr. Spock. Kim, begin
setting up a computer block-
out so they can't access
systems!

WIDE ANGLE

Peres locates console and begins
working in B.G.

CHEKOV
(continuing)

Hetrick, see if you can
secure the door, just in case
they realize we're in here. It
may buy us time to render
the ship useless.

NEW ANGLE

Hetrick moves to door, removes an
access panel and adjusts controls
inside, then nods to Chekov.

CHEKOV
(continuing)

Now, how did they get
aboard?

DORCET

Transporter, but wouldn't
their ship have been
detected long before getting
into range?

HETRICK

Not if they were cloaked.
They could have run parallel
with Enterprise, then
beamed over.

JONES

Can you transport from a
cloaked ship? I thought their
cloak and shields were tied
together. Wouldn't they
become visible?

CHEKOV

Should have, but more
importantly they knew about
the intruder
countermeasures and
activated the gas while
wearing masks.

KIM

(confused)

But transporting at warp speed? Is that possible?

CHEKOV

Not that I've ever heard of.

JONES

(confused)

How do we take the ship back? Can't we just reactivate the gas?

CHEKOV

Even if they haven't deactivated the circuit, the gas is probably depleted by now.

DORCET

(hopeful)

If I can get to sickbay, I can create a counter to the gas and revive the crew.

HETRICK

Sounds like a plan.

PERES (O.C.)

Not unless we can neutralize the Orions, first.

NEW ANGLE

Peres approaches the group, grim.

PERES

(continuing)

The pirates are all over the ship, checking the crew to be sure they are out of action and securing critical areas. Looks like fifteen or so, but it's difficult to get a fix as they keep moving about.

CHEKOV

Recommendations and suggestions.

PERES

We need weapons. We can get those from the armory in security or from the Orions.

He smiles knowingly.

JONES

We need help, let's revive more of the crew, like Dorcet said.

KIM

Meanwhile, make their takeover as difficult as possible.

HETRICK

More importantly, we need to be sure they can't succeed, no matter what the cost. Chekov, you know what that means, right?

ON CHEKOV

He's grim and nods in understanding.

CHEKOV

A failsafe, if we can't retake the ship, it must be destroyed.

JONES (O.C.)

No! Why?

ON HETRICK

HETRICK

If the pirates take this ship, they can learn every secret the Federation has, not to mention the Enterprise itself would make an incredible addition to the pirate fleet.

ON PERES

PERES

Or any other fleet! He's right! Inside our computer is the total knowledge of Star Fleet. It could alter the balance of power and threaten the Federation. The Orions could sell critical information to the Klingons or Romulans or both!

WIDE ANGLE

The group is stunned, Chekov is thinking then springs into action.

CHEKOV

We start now. I don't think we can activate the auto destruct, not enough senior officers... Mr. Hetrick?

HETRICK

(confident)

If I can get to engineering, I can set the matter/antimatter controls to fail and the ship will go up like a supernova.

DORCET

Wait! That's it? We don't try anything else?

CHEKOV

It's a last resort, just in case.

KIM

Whatever we do, we need to move quickly. It's just a matter of time before they look here.

ON CHEKOV

He moves to a nearby console and begins to work.

CHEKOV

(working)

First, let's be sure they can't access any sensitive information. I'll sabotage the computers –

ON KIM

KIM

(interrupting)

Wait! If we start that, they may come here to find out what or who is blocking them. Our locked door won't keep them out forever.

ON JONES

JONES

Why not have the computer do it? Then we can control who gets access.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Kim and Chekov exchange look of disbelief, Kim shrugs, then:

KIM

Out of the mouths of babes...

Jones looks offended.

JONES

Who's a babe?

CHEKOV

Computer, recognize Chekov, Pavel A., Ensign, Navigator, U.S.S. Enterprise.

COMPUTER VOICE

Working... identity confirmed.

CHEKOV

Computer, lock out all computer functions except those authorized by code...

Chekov is at a loss for words, then smiles.

CHEKOV

(continuing)

... 'Ensigns of Enterprise'.

COMPUTER VOICE

Cannot comply without proper authorization –

CHEKOV

(interrupting)

Computer, this is a class one emergency. Recognize intruder alert and code zero, zero, zero.

COMPUTER VOICE

Working... new lockouts and codes accepted.

Chekov thinks for a moment, then:

CHEKOV

Computer, initiate self-destruct, class one emergency.

COMPUTER VOICE

Unable to comply, requires at least two senior officers.

CHEKOV

(disappointed)

I had to try.

He thinks again, then brightens.

CHEKOV

Computer, begin a random shutdown of non-critical systems ship-wide for the next three hours. Authorization, 'Ensigns of Enterprise'.

COMPUTER VOICE

Affirmative, shutdowns to commence in sixty seconds.

Chekov turns to face the others.

CHEKOV

That should keep the pirates busy for some time. Peres?

PERES

Yes, sir?

CHEKOV

Let's see if we can get some weapons.

(to Jones)

Remember the tour? Quickest route to security?

JONES

Ummm, out to main corridor, left and right again at turbolift—

HETRICK

(interrupting)

No turbolifts. The pirates might notice their use. Also, we don't want to be in one if the computer decides it's non-essential.

CHEKOV

(smiling)

I think I know a few ways to get around without being seen.

JONES

(enthusiastic)

You mean those secret places you were telling me about?

CHEKOV

(embarrassed)

Uh... yes.

DORCET

Just get me to sickbay, maybe Dr. McCoy will be there and he can help.

KIM

I can't believe the pirates intended to take over the ship with so few people.

PERES

Maybe this is just an advanced boarding party, with more to follow. Standard procedure in many cultures.

JONES

(hinting)

All the more reason to get started, right?

KIM

Wait, let's check security!

Kim moves to console and works for a moment, then studies the viewer intently.

ON VIEWER

Two armed N.D. Orions are standing guard, weapons ready in hand.

ON CHEKOV

Chekov moves over and looks at viewer then turns to the others.

CHEKOV

So much for plan A.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

THE END

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|------------|-----------|--|
| Mar | 3 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville |
| | 10 | 7:30 p.m. <i>An Evening with Garrett Wang</i> Pendo, Raleigh 150 Fayetteville Street (4th floor) |
| | 17 | Articles due for Mar/Apr <i>Wright Stuff</i> |
| Apr | 7 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville |
| May | 5 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville |

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

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