

# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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# The Center Seat

## By John Troan

I open with two thoughts competing for top billing:

- A hearty “Welcome!” to all of the new readers we have following Raleigh Supercon.
- We survived Supercon! ... but some of us – me! -- not as well as everyone else.

All-in-all, Raleigh Supercon was a blast. We’ve got Con reports from [Brad](#), [Elaine](#), and [Keung](#) in this issue, plus our [web site](#) has a [collection of Con pics](#).

I hope everyone had fun and followed my instructions – prioritize your time to go do what you want to do at the Con, then spend time at the tables as your schedule permits. We always had plenty of people there, and I hope no one felt any pressure to miss the events that they wanted to see.

I’ve already heard back from the *U.S.S. Charon* and they enjoyed hanging out and working with us during the Con. Even before we were finished with 2018, we started a little brainstorming for our combined appearance in 2019. *Late-breaking news while this issue was being assembled, Raleigh Supercon will be July 25-28, 2019 – FOUR DAYS!* ☺

For our new members and newsletter readers.... you’re very welcome to join us at our meetings. Our web site has [the details of our meeting location](#), plus a note is added for the handful of times we do a potluck or cookout at someone’s home. If you wish to join the *Kitty Hawk* crew, coming to a meeting is a great way to introduce yourself and meet the group.

There’s also an option – not a requirement – to join [STARFLEET International](#) and pick “U.S.S. Kitty Hawk” as your chapter. I check over our roster in the STARFLEET database at least a couple of times each month, looking for new members and checking all current members’ expiration dates (so that I can send them a quick reminder about it).

You can be as active or inactive as your non-*Kitty Hawk* activities

allow, and this can change over time as the other activities change.

If you’re unable to come to all of the meetings and other events, concentrate on the other events since I always put together a set of meeting notes and e-mail them out to the crew.

Looking at the calendar for the rest of the year, we have our annual food and toy drives – see the [Yeoman/QM article](#) for details – and a potential UNC-TV appearance in December.

*If anyone has an idea for other community service activities we can do, please let me know.* Our mission is community service and we’re now getting large enough that no one has to hit every service we do, but we should easily be able to have a few people (including at least one senior officer) attend every event.

We also have a group project to work on – the creation of our membership handbook. I envision this to cover most of what everyone would need to know about being a member of the *Kitty Hawk* and provide some guidance for anyone who has questions. (Do note that anyone can ask me questions – I see that as part of the C.O.’s responsibilities – and I’ll find the answer if I don’t already know it.)

I’d like to hear from everyone as to what they think should be included in our handbook. I’ve already got some ideas based on my past *Center Seat* articles. I do expect this to evolve over time, so there’s absolutely no need to try to get it perfect in the first edition. ☺

*Esse Quam Videri*

## Comp Ops Report

### By John Troan

Following the [web site](#) revamp earlier this summer, updates to the web site are going much faster now.

The [current web-only narrative](#) has one last posting coming up soon, which will finish that story. There’s another narrative ready to go, plus Brad is working through a long narrative that we’ll start running in 2019 or early in 2020.

The [collection of photos from Raleigh Supercon](#) have also been posted up. My thanks to everyone who sent in pics to be included.

A couple questions came up at the August meeting about the availability of the [For Sale section](#) of our web site. The pieces are now in place and I just need to put together the steps for how to submit items to be posted. One already-known key is that I’ll need to receive high-quality pictures of each item. (I’ll take care of creating the thumbnail version of each pic that will be shown in the summary listing of all items for sale.)

To that end, JR Fisher (our founding CO) is selling his entire stock of AMT ship models and Playmate ships and figures – and the collection is so large it can’t be listed in the newsletter. Anyone interested in buying anything from his stock can contact him (e-mail me to get his cell number) with the manufacturer and item number(s) of what you’re interested in buying.

As a result of the growing size of the distribution lists for the *Kitty Hawk*, I’ll be creating a new list server capability on the servers that host our website. The basic idea is for a select few of us (the “who” can change over time) be able to send mass-mailers out to the entire crew, with no one having to deal with that long “To” list as I’ve been doing. (The way the newsletter has been sent is a little different, but also not a good long term solution and will be moved to another new list on the server.) Just as I manually do now with all e-mail to the crew, the “KITTY HAWK” tag in the subject will continue.

One big piece of NASA news this past week – the [announcement of NASA crew assignments](#) for the first test flights and missions that will use the commercial spacecraft that have been built by Boeing and SpaceX. Additional crew assignments to these flights will be announced in the future by NASA’s international partners.

The SpaceX capsule is mainly the existing Dragon cargo capsule that's already been going to the space station, but now outfitted with seats for the crew. The Crew Dragon will launch from pad 39A in Kennedy Space Center. (This pad was formerly used for Apollo and shuttle launches and is now leased for exclusive use by SpaceX.)

Boeing's CST-100 Starliner is a brand new vehicle and will launch from complex 41 of the Cape Canaveral Air Station (immediately next to Kennedy Space Center along the coast).

After each craft's test flight, NASA grants a final flight certification before execution of the mission flights. Both companies are under contract for six flights to the station, with up to four crew members on each flight.

## Engineering Report By Brad McDonald



## Yeoman/ Quartermaster Report By Larry Cox

The only disbursement from the treasury was on June 25th for our banner. Contributions can still be made through PayPal at [khsfippacct@gmail.com](mailto:khsfippacct@gmail.com).

### Inventory

- Travel mug - 1 \$24.00
- Tee shirts:
  - Monochrome- 1 XL silver on black \$17.00
  - Full Color-short sleeve \$20.00 each
    - 1 L white
    - 2 L black
    - 1 XL red
    - 2 XL black

Let me know if you want a tee shirt.

As we did last year, we will again collect packaged non-perishable food and new, unwrapped toys for the Food Bank of NC and Toys for Tots, respectively. The final collection for the Food Bank will be at the November meeting for Thanksgiving delivery and the December meeting for final toy collections.

As part of the *Kitty Hawk* presence at the Supercon, I helped with set-up Friday and take-down Sunday and was present all three days with just a little time off for good behavior. (Plus required bathroom breaks and dining.)

I'll let others comment about the various programs and vendors. What I'd like to do is talk about the actual facility and set-up. Since I'm a building manager and maintenance person, it's my job and so I have a tendency to look closer at those aspects of a facility.

Last year I spoke about the elevator situation. It is still a bit of a hassle. The public-use elevators are zoned so the only way to go from convention floor to main level requires changing elevators to get to the upper floors. The labeling is very confusing as to what goes where and many people found themselves getting out on the wrong floors. Anyway, that's the way the

facility was built and you can't redo it. They need better signage or floor maps to make it clear.

However, my biggest concerns are tied to the layouts on the dealer's floor.

First, last year there were many dining tables for a place to sit and eat. This year, there were very few. I actually saw a few 'discussions' regarding ownership of seats or who was first and so on. There were plenty of tables on the upper levels, but since most of the food vendors were on the dealer's floor, it didn't make much sense. I think the reduced number of tables was due to an increase in dealers and autograph booths. This brings us to the next issues.

There was poor planning on the layout and scheduling of the autograph sessions. If you bought advanced tickets for autographs, you might have been okay. For

those of us that didn't do that, there was no way to determine who would be where and when they would be there. No scheduling was posted and the booklet they gave out when you entered had nothing about it either. The booklet only listed the Q&A, professional photo sessions, meet-and-greet star sessions and so on.

It made it very confusing for those of us trying to find out anything regarding autographs. Asking Con personnel didn't help any either. All I got was, "We don't know" or "I just work here," not very helpful.

Even more troubling were the physical locations and layouts of the autograph booths. They really should have spread them throughout the entire convention center and not all on the dealer's floor. It was crowded, confusing and frankly, made it nearly impossible to get to some of the dealers and, worse yet, the bathrooms. Please keep things that will have long lines away from the bathrooms!

The organization lines for autographs were pitiful at best. Taped out zig-zags on the floor with space enough only for anorexic adults or toddlers, it was impossible to line up as the many employees kept insisting on. Yes. I'm a big person, but even little children were having a hard time staying between the lines as directed.

If you were a special needs person or in a wheel chair, you were out of luck in that regard. Fortunately the fans were astute enough to realize this and gracefully moved (out of the lines) to allow those people to pass.

That brings up still another issue: the fans. As I mentioned,

most were great. There were several, however, that seemed to be totally unaware of their environment. In a very crowded area with limited room to move or maneuver, there were people with oversized costumes or accessories what were real threats to safety. I had a few close encounters with over-the-shoulder carried weapons. When the person turned, they came close to poking me in the eye. Please, size doesn't matter, but safety does!

The real problems centered on the 'It's all about me' people consulting their phones, having meetings in the main walkways or spontaneous photo ops. Please step to one side and let others pass. The escalator riders were another problem. They ride to the top, or bottom, then stop to get oriented, make a call, check data and whatever. The escalator is still moving. Just because you're done with it doesn't mean the ride is over for everyone else. Now people are stacking up and it gets really inconvenient, especially if it's a group that doesn't move on. And that's another problem, people moving in groups, really? How about single file in crowded aisles?

There were too many clueless people in a crowded environment. Unfortunately, when you point out items like these to them, (in a friendly manner of course), they seem to have no idea what you're talking about.

Overall, it was a good experience. I think with a little tweaking of the physical layout and other details next year should be even better. If you didn't make it this year...

## Communications Report By Elaine Pischke

Raleigh Supercon has been covered pretty extensively in other reports here, so I won't add too much. But for those who couldn't make it, I'll just touch on a few of the events not previously mentioned. Raleigh Supercon had something for everyone. Although there was lots of *Star Trek*, other franchises represented were *Star Wars*, *Game of Thrones*, *Steven Universe*, an assortment of comics, even *Spongebob Squarepants*. I especially enjoyed listening to Catherine Tate (Donna Noble from *Doctor Who*), who was very entertaining, even inviting fans to join her on stage to ask questions. I also very much enjoyed Henry Winkler's talk. He also was very friendly and shook the hand of every person who came forward to ask a question. He spoke about his difficult childhood, when he was considered stupid (due to undiagnosed dyslexia), and how he defied expectations by being successful in various areas. He seems like a very kind person. If you haven't seen his show with Shatner, George Forman and Terry Bradshaw (*Better Late Than Never*), it's a fun show.



# Celebrating the Legacy of *Star Trek* at Raleigh Supercon

By T. Keung Hui



Raleigh Supercon offered a look at the rise, fall and rebirth of the 52-year-old “Star Trek” franchise, helping to show why it’s still relevant in 2018.

Thousands of fans came to the Raleigh Convention Center in late July to celebrate a diverse range of television shows, films, video games and comics. But four *Star Trek*-related guests helped highlight both the franchise’s storied history and how it still has a promising future. William Shatner and Walter Koenig relived the glory of *Star Trek: The Original Series* and how they helped turn the franchise into a pop culture success. Michael Dorn talked about keeping the success going with *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Star Trek: Deep Space 9* while also looking at the present and future of the franchise. Mohamed Noor, an author, award-

winning biology professor at Duke University and a member of the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk* fan group, blended the science fiction and science fact of *Star Trek*.

## “The brother I never had”

William Shatner alternated between being bombastic and sentimental as he talked with fans about playing the legendary Captain James T. Kirk.

Shatner played on his persona from the infamous “Get A Life” skit from *Saturday Night Live* that mocked the obsessive behavior of some *Star Trek* fans. Trekkers embraced the image as well at Supercon, with one man asking Shatner to “do me the honor of telling me to get a life.” Shatner obliged, drawing laughter and applause. Another person did his own impression of a fan from the SNL skit by asking Shatner if he knew what happened to the dialogue that he recorded from 1990s *Star Trek* games that were never released.

“I haven’t the foggiest notion of what you’re talking about,” Shatner, 87, said as the crowd laughed. “I hear the words, but it’s either my senile brain or you’re making no sense at all.

“What do you want to know? What can I help you with? I’d love to relieve you of your pressure.”

Shatner was self-deprecatory, too, mentioning how he told the producers of *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* that going back in time to rescue humpback whales to bring them to the future was “illogical.” Shatner said the concept went against the grandfather paradox, in which you travel back in time to alter the conditions at the earlier time so that it makes the current conditions impossible. Shatner said that the producers told him “you don’t know what you’re talking about.”

“They made the movie and it was like one of the terrific movies so that shows you how little I know,” Shatner continued.

Shatner’s softer side came out as he talked about an emotional encounter with a former U.S. military pilot who was held in the infamous Hanoi Hilton during the Vietnam War. Shatner said he was being driven to a charity event when the chauffeur suddenly pulled the car over. The chauffeur said that he had to tell Shatner about the “Star Trek Game” that the POWs played after they were tortured and held in cages in the water.

“We all knew the episodes of *Star Trek*,” Shatner recalled the man saying. “We all knew the dialogue and



each day one of us would play the Captain, or Spock, or the Doctor. We played the different roles and the only way we kept sane was to play the 'Star Trek Game,' and I want to thank you."

By the end of the conversation, Shatner said he and the chauffeur were both crying as the actor realized how much of an impact the show had on the man's life.

Shatner also got emotional talking about the late Leonard Nimoy, who he called "his dear friend for 50 years." Shatner attributed their close relationship to how they continued to work with each other for so many years after the series ended. Shatner said that even when cast members become friends on long-running shows they typically grow apart after it's over. Shatner cited how he loved James Spader, one of his co-stars on *Boston Legal*, but that he hasn't seen him since the show ended in 2008. But in the case of Nimoy, due to conventions and the movies, they "were thrown into each other's company all the time."

"He was my brother," Shatner said. "He was the brother I never had, and it was as the result of the continuing work that brought us together."

### "Eternally grateful" for *Star Trek*

Walter Koenig made Pavel Chekov one of the most beloved characters in *Star Trek* history, but the actor offered a different perspective than Shatner on being part of the franchise.

Koenig told the audience that he's "eternally grateful" for the opportunity that *Star Trek* gave him because it shaped his career. But he said that it wasn't as artistically challenging as his later role as Bester in *Babylon 5*. Koenig attributed it to how the cast on *Babylon 5* was treated on more of an equal basis than on *Star Trek*.

"It always bothered me somewhat that although nobody purposefully set out to offend us supporting characters, there was a distinction between the three main characters and the four supporting characters," Koenig said. "It was just an

unconscious feeling that was always present, that was always felt."

Koenig said that, especially when the show was originally on, the supporting characters were expected to bite their tongue and "genuflect to the lead." In Shatner, Koenig quipped that "we had a lead that luxuriated in that kind of a role." It was one of several shots that Koenig took at Shatner, who's known for his less-



than-stellar relationship with the surviving members of the *Original Series*. For instance, Koenig said that he loved the movie *Galaxy Quest*, which parodied *Star Trek* and Shatner's fractured relationship with the rest of the cast. Actor Tim Allen borrowed a page from Shatner's playbook as he ran around shirtless during a scene in *Galaxy Quest*.

"They did have the guy run around without his shirt on and we have to acknowledge that," Koenig said.

Koenig has been attending conventions for more than 40 years. But he admitted feeling very self-conscious about attending the events in the 1970s. Koenig said he questioned appearing when he had so little to do on the television show compared to the three main stars.

"It made me yearn for more to do on the show to prove myself, to make it worthwhile, to give the audience a

real reason to applaud and not simply as grabbing on to someone's coattails and going along for the ride," Koenig said. "I had to deal with that for several years until they started making the movies. So I made the movies and I felt I was contributing a little bit more and I could bask in the applause."

Koenig's favorite movies were *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* and *Star Trek IV* because of the active part Chekov played in both films. This leads to the *Star Trek II* question of how Khan could say that he recognized Chekov when Koenig wasn't on the show when "Space Seed" aired. Koenig said that Harve Bennett, who produced *Wrath of Khan*, wasn't really familiar with *Star Trek*. Koenig said he faced a dilemma when he first saw the infamous line by Khan in an early version of the script. Koenig quipped he was worried that if he pointed out the error the part would be given to someone else, like George Takei.

"Faced with my professional integrity, I said screw it," Koenig said. "I didn't tell anybody and then I started getting the question."

There are many reasons Koenig said he liked *Star Trek IV*, aside from his increased role. The idea of saving endangered humpback whales said something about the environment that, according to Koenig, is still an issue more than 30 years later. This led Koenig, a frequent critic of President Donald Trump, to get political at Supercon.

"I know that I'm going to offend some people and I know I'm not here to talk about politics," Koenig said. "That's not what you paid for. But I've got to tell you that I'm going to live at least long enough to see another administration because I can't go with this one."

By the time *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* was released, Koenig was unhappy. That should have been the movie, Koenig said, where everyone from the *Original Series* had a final moment for the curtain. The lingering bad feelings were still around when he and James Doohan were asked to appear in *Star*

*Trek: Generations* after DeForest Kelley and Leonard Nimoy declined roles. Koenig said that Paramount only wanted him and Doohan to appear to exploit their characters. Based on the script he was given, Koenig said *Generations* was an “ellipsis on their adventures” and didn’t give any sense of satisfying fulfillment to the *Original Series*.

Despite being offered “good money,” Koenig said he kept turning down Paramount’s offer to appear in *Generations*. Koenig said he only agreed to join the cast when they added a short scene of him and Doohan mourning the apparent death of Kirk when he’s blown off the ship. Koenig said that the scene was something that he wanted to give back to the fans even though it was a “challenge acting wise but one I felt I was up to.” Koenig said that the scene was extremely well done and left people crying on the set. So he was angered later to see that it was cut from the film. The scene can be found online.

“My feeling is being such a cynic that was what they intended all along to give me my moment and then for the sake of their reasons cut it out,” Koenig said.

At age 81 and no longer acting regularly, Koenig said he appreciates going to conventions to talk with fans who want to know more about his life. He said conventions give him positive reinforcement. Koenig regaled fans with a story about the time he and Doohan went to Charlotte, N.C., to appear at the opening of a new video game store. They were dressed in their Starfleet uniforms as they waited in a swanky hotel lobby for their limousine to pick them up.

“We’re waiting in the lobby in uniform when a young woman checks in and sees us and comes over and says, ‘Y’all take my bags to the room now,’” Koenig recalled as the crowd roared with laughter. “Quite as humbling as that.”

### The model Klingon

When many *Star Trek* fans think of the Klingons, the image that comes to mind is Michael Dorn’s portrayal of

Worf. Dorn said that when he was hired for *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, he felt like his character was a real afterthought because the part was cast very quickly and after the other actors were hired. But Dorn said Worf was always meant to be a regular so early on he asked *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry how to play the role. Dorn said Roddenberry told him to make the character his own so the inspiration came after he snuck on set to watch the other actors. Dorn said the other actors were being so nice to each other that he made an artistic decision to do the opposite with Worf.

“I made him pissed off at everybody,” Dorn said. “If somebody



would ask him to pick up a pen and he would go ‘Pick it up yourself!’”

Dorn said that the writers and the producers picked up his portrayal of Worf and ran with it for *TNG*. The show hit the portrayal on the head in the episode “Justice,” Dorn said, when a female, blonde alien hugged Worf and he responded with the words “nice planet.” Dorn quipped that the show was run by guys from the 1960s who thought that only blondes populated idyllic planets. Dorn said Worf blossomed when Denise Crosby left the show and Worf became the ship’s new head of security.

“When they killed her off, I’m sure they were writing the thing and they were like going, ‘Oh, man. What are we going to do about security?’” Dorn said. “‘Tasha was kind of this really ballsy and strong. We’ve got to find somebody strong.’ And I’m sure they went, ‘Holy shit, what about Worf? Oh my God.’ I’m sure that’s the way it happened.”

Worf was a major figure in many important story arcs on both *TNG* and *DS9*. But his favorite one might surprise people. Dorn said it was “pretty brilliant” how both shows showed the evolution of Worf’s strained relationship with his son Alexander. The writers in general had a tendency to write happy endings, Dorn said, but Worf was a “terrible father and made some just huge mistakes.”

“He went from a terrible father to kind of working it out, or at least not being terrible,” Dorn said. “I thought that was a great arc.”

*Deep Space 9* was great for his character, in part Dorn said, due to his insistence that if they were going to make him endure hours of makeup time then they had better have Worf do more than just say a few lines in a scene. But Dorn said his favorite show to work on was *TNG*. He attributed that in part to people saying they couldn’t take the place of the original *Star Trek* crew.

“There was a lot of resistance inside and outside of the business,” Dorn said. “We went through that together. When you go through that type of thing together you get very close. And we had a lot of fun.”

Dorn said that he was a *Star Trek* fan before he joined *TNG* so *Wrath of Khan* was his favorite movie in the franchise until *Star Trek: First Contact*. Whenever either movie comes on, regardless of how many times he’s seen it, he’ll sit through the showing. Dorn said the way they utilized all the actors in *First Contact* helped make it a great movie. But Dorn can’t say the same thing about *Star Trek: Nemesis*.

“After *First Contact*, it was a real tough road for them because they really wanted to expand and there was a lot things going on with the



show and the *Star Trek* universe,” Dorn said. “I thought it (*Nemesis*) wasn’t a *First Contact* and I wish they had utilized the other actors a lot more than what they did.”

Based on how badly things went with *Nemesis*, Dorn said Paramount was done with *Star Trek*. He said it felt like they were being cut out of the will. He credits J.J. Abrams with helping revitalize the franchise with the reboot movies. Now Dorn can point to *Star Trek: Discovery* and how Alex Kurtzman has signed a 5-year deal with CBS to expand the *Star Trek* franchise. Dorn said it is mind boggling to him how long *Star Trek* has been on and how many people it’s affected. He recalled how *TNG* actors would roll their eyes when they first went to conventions and saw fans telling *Original Series* actors that their father had seen the show.

“Now people are coming up to us and ‘my father loved you when he was 8-years-old,’” Dorn said. “It’s just amazing how it’s gone on and how it’s become bigger than anything else in the world in terms of the entertainment, the shows that have been on and the range of things that are happening.”

### Making the franchise “work” scientifically

*Star Trek* has created such a well-defined universe that one of the questions that’s emerged is why there are so many humanoid species. That’s a subject that Mohamed Noor tackled in his session on evolution in *Star Trek*. Noor said that *Star Trek* creators realized that humanoids in the franchise look very similar so they introduced three different hypotheses to explain why.

Hypothesis No. 1 is a variant of the concept of panspermia, the theory that life on the Earth originated from microorganisms or chemical precursors of life present in outer space and able to initiate life on reaching a suitable environment. This hypothesis was shown in the *TNG* episode “The Chase,” in which an alien humanoid said her people seeded various planets with their DNA billions of years ago because there was no other humanoid-based life

around. The result, according to the show, is that races such as humans, Klingons, Romulans and Cardassians have a common origin. The part of the hypothesis that’s not crazy, Noor said, is that the raw materials for life came from outer space. But then the problems kick in.

The issues of convergence and how the alien “seed code” persisted pose problems for hypothesis 1, according to Noor. On the issue of convergence, Noor said that you’d have to assume random events on all those planets played little or no role in how life formed. Either that, Noor quipped, or those aliens sent a lot of asteroids crashing into different planets like the one that wiped out the dinosaurs on Earth. The aliens said that their “seed codes” directed evolution toward a physical form resembling their own. But Noor said random mutations would disrupt those seed codes. He said the probability that any one DNA element would not change over those billions of years is 1 in 3 million, or half the probability that any member of the audience would be hit by a meteor as they left the room.

Hypothesis 2 involves ancient alien astronauts, such as shown in the *Original Series* episode “Return to Tomorrow.” Sargon speculates to the *U.S.S. Enterprise* crew that humans may be the descendants of his people, who colonized the galaxy 600,000 years ago. Sargon says that Adam and Eve might have been two of their travelers. Noor said there’s no way to test if Earth was visited by alien forms so that’s possible. It’s also possible that these visitors were humanoids who arrived 600,000 years ago as it coincides with the time of *homo erectus* on Earth, Noor said.

But hypothesis 2 falls apart, according to Noor, because of the premise that modern humans descended from these spacefarers. For humans to be descended from

these ancient astronauts, Noor said, human can’t be related to chimps, gorillas or any other life on Earth. Noor said that the hypothesis has to be rejected because there’s too much DNA evidence and very good fossil records showing humans are related to life on this planet.

Hypothesis 3, which Noor said is the most reasonable of the three options, is that Earth organisms went into space to create so many humanoid species. Noor showed a clip from the *Original Series* episode “The Paradise Syndrome,” which talks about how the Preservers resettled various endangered humanoid populations on other planets in order to ensure their survival. Noor said the idea of some life on Earth going to other planets is already happening in the form of spores on human space probes and also potentially from



meteorites hitting the Earth and being ejected back into space.

The timing could be reasonable for this hypothesis, Noor said. You have to skip the idea from the episode that it was Native Americans who were relocated. But Noor said the time period referenced coincides with that of ancient hominids on Earth. In addition to relocating the hominids, Noor said you’d also have to move other things that can help sustain life, such as plants and microbes, from the Earth.

The third element for whether the hypothesis can hold up is if it’s possible that modern aliens descended from ancient Earth hominids. Noor said that could be

# ST: TOS – “HADES”

By Brad McDonald

## PART I - ACT TWO

determined very easily by testing to see if these different humanoids are more genetically similar to each other than to chimpanzees. If yes, then it would imply that these aliens came from Earth. Noor said this idea was shown in the *Star Trek: Voyager* episode “Distant Origin,” where genetic evidence strongly suggested that the Voth evolved from dinosaurs who escaped the mass extinction on Earth.

“The big answer to the overarching question is could we see life as we know it elsewhere? And how?” Noor said. “The answer is yes, if it came from Earth. That’s the easiest answer.”

The *Star Trek* universe is famous for all the interbreeding that occurs among the different humanoids, with Spock and Deanna Troi being among the best examples. Noor said that interbreeding is possible, if all life on these worlds came from Earth within the last 100,000 years. He cited how interbreeding has already happened among humanoids on Earth within the past 100,000 years as modern humans have genes from ancient Neanderthals and Denisovans.

Noor’s Raleigh Supercon presentation is an example of how he uses science fiction to reach people in their different interest areas. He does it with his students at Duke University and in his upcoming book [Live Long And Evolve: What Star Trek Can Teach Us About Evolution, Genetics, and Life on Other Worlds](#). Noor said he likes to challenge people to not just throw stones at science fiction ideas and to not just say that they’re “scientifically stupid.”

“Try and find a way that maybe it could work,” Noor said. “Maybe improbable but still.”

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE  
AND PLANET OLIN

The ship is in orbit around the planet.

INT. ENTERPRISE – WIDE  
ANGLE – MCCOY’S DUTY  
OFFICE

McCoy is working and doesn’t notice Kirk enter.

KIRK

(moving)

Got your message...  
What’s on your mind,  
Doctor?

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND MCCOY

McCoy is surprised but recovers quickly, Kirk takes a seat opposite McCoy. McCoy leans closer, serious.

MCCOY

The health of the crew Jim.  
In this case, extreme  
fatigue and more  
important... low morale.

KIRK

(surprised)

Really? I knew they  
were... disappointed...

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

From one long, boring  
assignment to another and  
now this Hades mission.

KIRK (O.C.)

(concerned)

How serious is it?

MCCOY

Well, I suppose it’s not too  
bad. You’ve got a good

crew. They can handle it,  
it’s just that they were  
expecting some time off...

ON KIRK

Before Kirk can respond, the intercom sounds.

SPOCK’S VOICE

Sick bay, is the Captain  
there?

Kirk rises, goes to the intercom and tabs control.

KIRK

What is it, Spock?

SPOCK’S VOICE

Council chairperson Benel  
wishes to speak with you,  
sir.

Kirk brightens a bit and smiles.

KIRK

On my way, Kirk out.

Kirk re-tabs the button and turns to McCoy.

ON KIRK

KIRK

Maybe we can conclude  
this and get our much  
needed rest, okay?

Without waiting for a reply, Kirk exits quickly.

CUT TO:

BRIDGE – ANGLE ON  
TURBOLIFT DOORS

Kirk enters and heads directly to the command chair.

KIRK

(moving)

Ready, Uhura?

UHURA  
Yes, sir. It's Benel, Council  
Chairperson, on main  
viewer.

NEW ANGLE - MAIN VIEWER  
AND KIRK

Kirk is encouraged and all smiles.

BENEL  
Captain, our council has  
decided to give the  
Federation a test. If you  
pass, we will begin  
negotiations. However, if  
you fail...

KIRK  
Of course, we will be glad  
to—

ON MAIN VIEWER

BENEL  
(interrupting)  
Perhaps you should hear  
what we have in mind  
before you accept.  
(beat)  
You can accept or reject  
what we call 'The  
Challenge', to cross a  
selected part of our planet.  
Many of our people do this  
as part of their acceptance  
as a true believer... not all  
pass the test, and they are  
natives.

ON KIRK

He's sobered by the implication  
but firm.

KIRK  
Regardless, we accept.  
(beat)  
When and where do we  
start?

AS BEFORE – ON MAIN VIEWER

BENEL  
I will send coordinates as  
part of this transmission.  
The challenge begins at

sunset, local time,  
tomorrow.  
The viewer goes blank.

ON KIRK

He's mildly relieved and in  
thought.

KIRK  
It seems we've been given  
a second chance at  
completing our mission.

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE  
AND OLIN

Enterprise is in orbit around Olin.

INT. ENTERPRISE – WIDE  
ANGLE - CONFERENCE ROOM

All senior officers are present,  
conversation is in progress.

KIRK  
What it comes down to is  
this. We've been  
challenged, but I'm sure  
Starfleet's finest can  
handle it.  
(beat)  
I'll lead the team and --

SPOCK  
(interrupting)  
Excuse me, Captain, but I  
do not believe that would  
be... appropriate.

ON KIRK

Kirk is surprised by Spock's  
statement, but continues.

KIRK  
I know it's your duty to  
point out the dangers  
involved. I've led other  
missions that were much  
more hazardous than this.

SPOCK  
Quite true, sir, but by the  
very nature of this mission,  
you are... less than  
qualified.

ON KIRK

He's almost hurt but intrigued.

KIRK  
I've had appropriate  
training, just like everyone  
else here. Even Dr. McCoy  
had to endure survival  
school.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK  
Granted. However, the  
unusual circumstances on  
Olin are much more  
extreme than those of  
survival school. And while  
there you knew you only  
had to endure it for a  
limited time. On Olin we  
will be facing a totally alien  
environment, subject to  
extremes we may not be  
able to imagine.

(beat)  
You are an excellent  
starship Captain, but our  
success may hinge on  
having the best qualified  
personnel.

ON MCCOY

He's mildly amused by the  
situation.

MCCOY  
I agree with Spock, Jim.  
An Iowa farm boy isn't  
equipped to deal with...  
what was it, 110-degree  
heat?

SULU (O.C.)  
120 degrees, Doctor.

MCCOY  
Yes, Vulcan is a good  
comparison. Hotter than a  
Vulcan summer is the  
saying, right, Spock?

SPOCK (O.C.)  
Vulcan does not have  
seasons.

McCoy is mildly annoyed but adamant.

MCCOY

Well, you get the picture; Spock is better qualified.

He finishes the statement, satisfied and smiling.

WIDE ANGLE

Kirk put up his hands in mock surrender.

KIRK

Okay, it's Spock's mission. If McCoy is agreeing with Spock, I guess I'm defeated.

McCoy smiles broadly, getting in one more thought.

MCCOY

Well, Spock has his moments.

KIRK

The data download stated a team of six.

(beat)

Do we have any volunteers?

Everyone is quiet and subdued for a few beats, Kirk knows his crew is tired and attempts to encourage them.

KIRK

(continuing)

Remember, the sooner we get done here, the sooner we get our time off.

UHURA

(tentative)

I've had some experience on the Kalahari desert.

CHEKOV

Should be easy after surviving in Siberia.

SULU

The desert isn't my favorite place, but if you need me...

ON SPOCK

He is mildly amused by the offers.

SPOCK

All commendable and I thank each of you, but I have already taken the liberty of selecting a team.

KIRK (O.C.)

Continue, Mr. Spock.

Spock activates the table top viewer.

SPOCK

The team shall consist of the following personnel.

ON VIEWER

We see the image of a dark haired girl, MONTALVA.

SPOCK (O.C.)

(continuing)

Lt. Montalva, from the Atacama Desert, driest place on Earth, no rain in 400 years. Her people are the Atacamenos, an ancient people and well suited to desert life.

The image changes to a young Asian man, UDVAL.

SPOCK (O.C.)

(continuing)

Specialist First Class Udval, a Mongol, nomadic people of the Gobi Desert and a descendant of Genghis and Kublai Khan.

Image changes again to a dark woman, LINGARI.

SPOCK (O.C.)

(continuing)

Yeoman Lingari, from the Great Sandy Desert of Australia. She is of the Anangu people with the ability to survive under the harshest of conditions.

The image shifts to young bearded man, ZANA.

SPOCK (O.C.)

(continuing)

Ensign Zana, known as 'Bedu', from the Arabian Desert. His father is Kurd and his mother is Bedouin, both desert people of considerable skills.

The image is of an American native, COLORADAS.

SPOCK (O.C.)

(continuing)

Lt. Commander Coloradas, a Chiricahua Apache. His people are known for their ability to find water anywhere and move like the wind in the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts.

ON SPOCK

Spock turns the viewer off.

SPOCK

(continuing)

I believe I have chosen the best qualified team available.

NEW ANGLE

KIRK

I agree, but the two women--

SPOCK

(interrupting)

Are imminently qualified, sir, and they volunteered.

MCCOY (O.C.)

Are you sure about their capabilities?

SPOCK

I have reviewed their history and records, then talked to each one at length to ascertain their qualifications for this mission.

KIRK

How about Dr. McCoy? You may need his expertise.

SPOCK

He will not be sipping mint julips on a stroll through a field of clover.

McCoy looks insulted but greatly relieved.

MCCOY

Again, I agree with Spock.

ON SCOTT

SCOTT

What survival gear will the team be taking? I can have everything they need in an hour.

ON KIRK

KIRK

We don't know what our team will be allowed to take, but prepare a standard desert kit, just in case.

CHEKOV (O.C.)

Do we know how long it will take?

KIRK

No details will be available until the team arrives and is briefed. At that point

they can either accept or we will be asked to leave.

(beat)

If there's nothing else...

(beat)

Dismissed.

WIDE ANGLE

Everyone leaves except McCoy and Kirk.

MCCOY

Is this challenge such a good idea? We don't even know what we're up against.

KIRK

(thoughtful)

Once the actual conditions are revealed, we can back out.

MCCOY

You sure Spock won't accept, just to protect the interests of Starfleet or his pride?

ON KIRK

KIRK

I can't believe he would do that. I have to trust his

judgment. He knows what he and the team is capable of.

MCCOY (O.C.)

We're risking some good people just to satisfy the leaders of Olin.

Kirk is considering McCoy's words and smiles.

KIRK

Does that include Spock?

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND MCCOY

McCoy looks trapped and then smiles weakly.

MCCOY

Well... yes it does. If we lost Spock --

KIRK

(interrupting, smiling)

Then you wouldn't have anyone to annoy except me.

Off Kirk's comment...

FADE OUT.

END OF PART I - ACT TWO



Star Trek group photo at Raleigh Supercon 2018 / Julie Schoonmaker, Duke Univ.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Sep</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville</b>
<b>Oct</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville</b>
<b>Nov</b>	<b>3</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**

