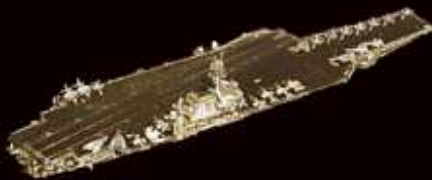


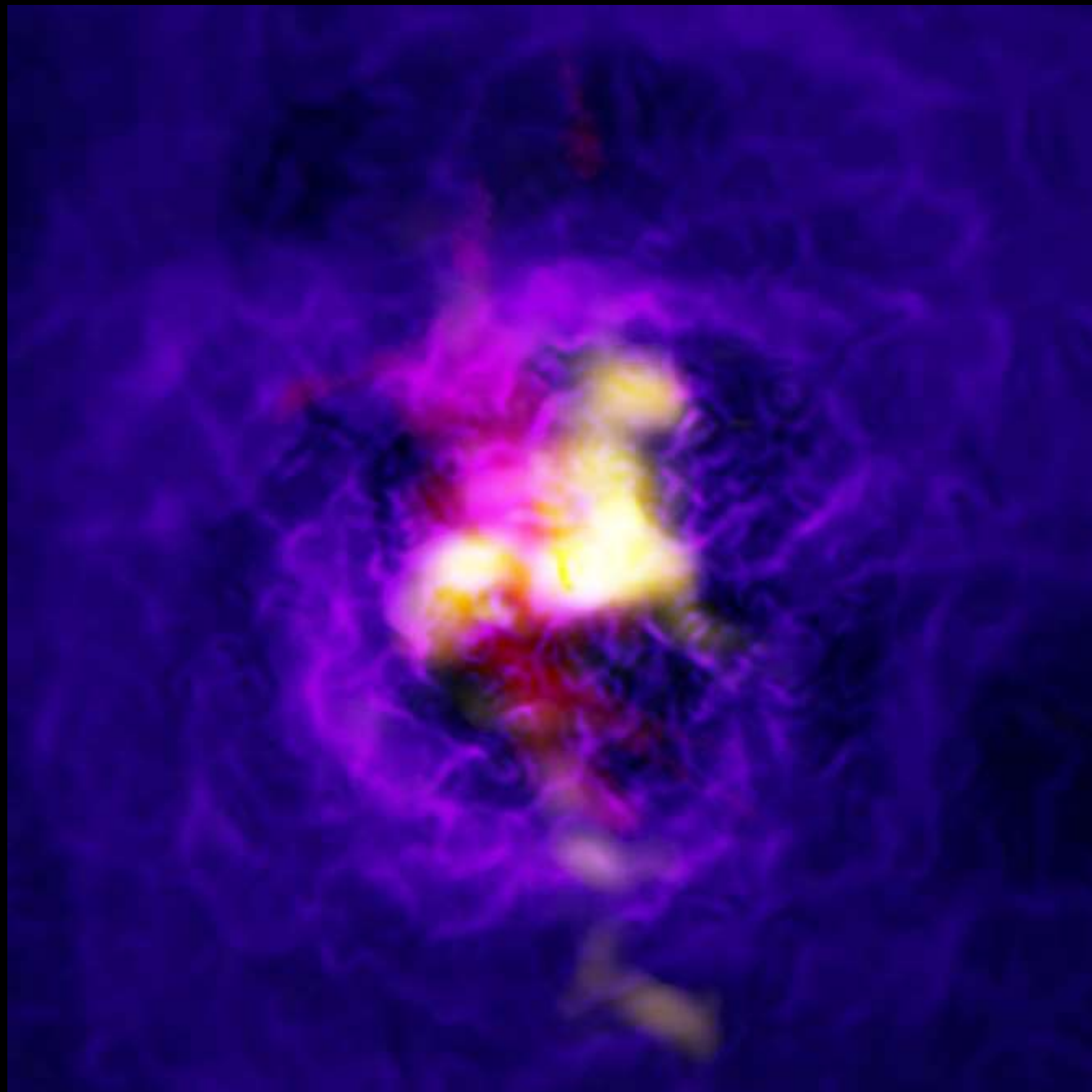
# THE WRIGHT STUFF



Vol XXX ♦ No 2

The Official Newsletter of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk ♦ NCC-1659

Mar/Apr 2019





# THE WRIGHT STUFF

Volume 31 - Number 2

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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](http://navicp.navy.mil); *Constitution* class cruiser from [gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk](http://gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk).

### IMAGE - Featured Front Page

*Giant Black Hole Powers Cosmic Fountain.* Before electricity, water fountains worked by relying on gravity to channel water from a higher elevation to a lower one. In space awesome gaseous fountains have been discovered in the centers of galaxy clusters.

<https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/giant-black-hole-powers-cosmic-fountain>

# The Center Seat

## By John Troan

I write this coming off a great week of *Kitty Hawk* events – hosting Garrett Wang and a fill-in shift at UNC-TV to help cover a last-minute gap they had for answering phones to take pledges. (A big “Thank You!” to the “additional help” that joined me as part of the ‘Hawk appearance.)

[Comp Ops reports](#) that pictures for both events are already up on [the web site](#). There’s also an update to the publishing schedule for Brad’s *Final Mission* story.

My April meeting notes will have some information about options for our volunteer activities for late May. We might try to help at every event, but with only smaller groups at each one instead of everyone descending on a single event.

July is coming up soon, which will keep us busy on back-to-back weekends. We’re still talking with the N.C. Museum of History about how we can help them with their July 20th celebration. I do expect us to “show the flag” in some form or fashion.

The following weekend (July 25-28) is [Raleigh Supercon](#) (or GalaxyCon). Our double-table has been secured (but I don’t know the exact location yet), so everyone should start looking at your schedules and buy the convention pass that fits your needs (and wants!) It looks like there’s still a discount on passes, but not quite as good as the one that just expired.

**As a reminder:** since everyone is paying their own way into the convention, your priority is to do the panels, photos, autographs, etc., that you want to do... then come down to the *Kitty Hawk* / SFI tables as your con schedule permits. (I’ve been going

only for the *Kitty Hawk* the last couple of years, but even I might wander off more this year.)

On a side note, the rights to the “Supercon” name just recently got sold to another company, so we’ll start seeing the new “GalaxyCon” name as time goes on. It’s the same group behind the con, but just a different name.

A few *Trek* notes:

- *Star Trek Discovery* was renewed for a third season.
- The new Picard series doesn’t have a title yet, or at least not that I’ve seen at this time, but it’s scheduled to premiere later in 2019 while *Discovery* is on hiatus.
- The fourth movie in the reboot (*Kelvin* timeline) has been officially canceled, largely due to financial problems.
- An adult animated series (*Star Trek: Lower Decks*) was previously announced last fall, but I’ve now seen reported that it was a two season commitment from CBS All Access.
- A kids’ animated *Trek* series is in the works for airing on Nickelodeon.
- And another new series is being developed (for CBS All Access) that will be “a drama centered on [Michelle] Yeoh’s *Discovery* character and her work for the mysterious Section 31,” according to the article in *Variety*.

Time will tell if all of these various series succeed, but I’m hoping they all do. (I don’t remember where I read it, but there was some comment made about how All Access wants to have new *Trek* material being released all year round once all the series are up and running.) For anyone who’s been following the

progress of the *DS9* documentary “What we Left Behind,” I recently saw news that a studio has now picked up ownership of the work. One possible impact mentioned is that it could mean a bigger launch for the documentary when it’s released – which could, in turn, potentially lead to a full HD remastering of the entire series. (I contributed to the funding campaign and will be receiving a copy of the documentary when it does get released – and the *DS9* scenes in it will have been remastered to HD.)

Wrapping up this month, I ask everyone to consider writing an occasional piece for the newsletter. It doesn’t have to be long and I’m not asking for something from every person for each issue – just a little something to add more flavors to what we already have. (I repeat my offer of help to anyone who has an idea, but needs a little assistance in getting rolling – or even just a little editing help. ☺)

*Esse Quam Videri*

## Computer Operations Report

### By John Troan

The [web site](#)’s LCARS II makeover is done and completely rolled out across every web page. I’ve gotten a few comments about the characters being difficult to read for some. If you’re finding you have the same problem with the text, please let me know and I’ll look at options to help. One thought that came up early in the discussion is that *TNG*’s LCARS is

all uppercase letters and our web site is mixed case (uppercase and lowercase letters), which might be contributing... so one possibility for the web site is to change the text to all uppercase. What do you think?

Content-wise, [Final Mission Chapter 2](#) was posted and [Chapter 3](#) will (probably) have been posted before this issue of the newsletter is published. I've also posted pictures from [hosting Garrett Wang](#) and from [our evening at UNC-TV](#).

For *Final Mission*, we've changed the schedule (again) and will now do one chapter each month. Given that there are fifteen chapters and (I hope) a monthly publishing schedule, the conclusion will be posted in April 2020. (That last posting will not only be Chapter 15 and the Epilogue, but also all of the extra notes and comments that can't be posted without massively spoiling the story's plot.)

Continuing to follow NASA's [InSight](#), the Mars lander [has placed another instrument](#). This time, it's a temperature probe that will burrow deeper into the Martian surface than any other surface mission has – up to sixteen feet. The landing site was chosen in the hopes that the subsurface has few, if any, rocks large enough to stop the probe before its hopeful ten-foot minimum.

Another set of sensors has allowed *InSight* to [start producing daily weather reports](#), recording current weather conditions around *InSight* every second – it is cold there!

Testing has started on the [Mars 2020 Rover](#), including [a full system test to simulate launch, cruise, and Martian atmospheric entry](#). Several of the tests were performed multiple times, including "a few in-flight off-nominal

situations" (also known as when things just aren't quite right).

I'll close on a final note from Mars, with the official declaration that the Opportunity rover (half of the [Mars Exploration Rovers](#)) mission [has been ended](#). Opportunity likely dropped below minimum power levels when a planet-wide dust storm got to its location in mid-2018 and it could no longer get enough sunlight to keep its battery charged. Opportunity [now has the records](#) for longest duration (fourteen-plus Earth years) and distance traveled (just over twenty-eight miles). [A recent NASA/JPL news release shows Opportunity's final image](#) – a 360-degree panorama from its location in Perseverance Valley

## Garrett Wang Returns By Brad McDonald

On Sunday afternoon, March 10, a number of *Kitty Hawk* members and guests from Starfleet's Region 1, gathered to meet and greet our favorite ensign. Due once again to the efforts of Mohamed Noor, Garrett Wang, known in the *Star Trek* universe as Harry Kim, was kind enough to spend some time with us.

[Last year](#), we met in downtown Raleigh for dinner and an evening with Garrett. This time, though, we used our regular monthly meeting spot, the Texas Steakhouse. John and I arrived early to check on arrangements, set up a spot for Garrett, hang the *Kitty Hawk* banner and put out a sign to direct visitors to the right place. Setup went quickly and soon Mohamed arrived with our guests: Garrett; his significant

other, Megan; and her daughter, Kealy.

As people began to trickle in, they immediately lined up for a moment with Garrett. He was his usual, fan friendly and outgoing self. As I watched, I was taken by the fact that he took a special interest in each person and treated everyone with a generous dose of kindness and respect. He admitted later in the evening that he's a sci-fi fan and understands completely.

Eventually, everyone found a seat and Garrett began his lecture. Actually, it was more like a friendly conversation with an old acquaintance. As part of his presentation, he included a question and answer session and even took requests for anything from impressions to the retelling of a few favorite stories we had heard last year.

Garrett's conversation covered some familiar territory and a number of new items as well. Most interesting to me was his observations regarding Asian actors in the United States film and television industry. One particular point struck me as he related how it was okay for Asian women to be seen in important roles, but not Asian men. He reasoned that this situation may have come from the fact that the three biggest wars of the 20th Century in U.S. history involved an Asian enemy: Japan in World War II; North Korea and China in the Korean War; and North Vietnam and Viet Cong in the Viet Nam War.

He also pointed out that George Takei, as Lt. Sulu in the original *Trek*, opened doors and created opportunities for Asian actors. During the late 60's, which was the height of the Viet Nam War, George portrayed an Asian 'good guy' on the *Enterprise*. This was especially significant when you realize that the only other



## Engineering Report By Brad McDonald

Asian actor, who appeared on a regular TV series at the same time, was Hop Sing, the house keeper and cook on Bonanza. However, Hop Sing spoke 'pigeon English' and was generally a background character. Sulu, though, was prominently featured.

Garrett went on to suggest, and I agree, that his role as Ensign Kim helped to open doors for other Asian actors in a way similar to George. Ensign Kim's position on the bridge proved pivotal in a number of episodes. Even though he couldn't get a promotion, he was still an important member of the crew.



In the interest of diversity, he suggested tongue in cheek, that the next incarnation of Dr. Who should be Asian. However, it would be Dr. Hu, with sonic chopsticks and a small pagoda instead of a call box. Actually, it sounded pretty good the way he presented it and even Karl Urban said he'd be interested in such a project.

After a few more stories, questions and answers, we presented Garrett with a few

tokens of thanks from the Kitty Hawk. I gave him three of my '8th Season' scripts and a Kanki bag. However, John topped the night by giving him something Harry Kim could never get from his prior captain, Janeway... a promotion! As CO of the *Kitty Hawk*, John is allowed to give (field) promotions and, since it's from Starfleet, it's official!

As part of that presentation, Susan Baylies also received her promotion to Lieutenant, J.G.. Later, she had the newly minted Lieutenant (JG) Kim endorse her promotion. That was his first official act using his new rank!

Finally, we allowed Garrett to sit and eat. Dinner was great as usual and I think that, with nearly 40 people attending, the entire menu was represented on the tables in one form or another. Conversation continued during dinner and, afterwards, Garrett resumed his one-on-one with the attendees with several people making repeated visits.

Throughout the evening, Garrett remained gracious, engaging and very understanding of the fans' need to connect.

Overall, a good time was had by all who attended.

I wish to extend a personal thanks to Mohamed and Garrett for fitting us into their busy schedule. Also, to the staff at the Texas Steakhouse and especially the mangers: the main general manger, Jeri; the on-duty general manager, Teresa; and the closing manager, Anna.

If Garrett does make another appearance in the future, I hope you can be there. It's well worth the effort!

Some startling developments have surfaced about NASA's new manned spacecraft. NASA has notified both SpaceX and Boeing about numerous safety concerns. Chief among these were the heat shield of [Boeing's Starliner](#) capsule and the 'load and go system' of the [Crew Dragon](#) unit built by SpaceX. (That system calls for fueling the launch vehicle after the crew is boarded.)

In addition, there are 30-35 other outstanding 'technical concerns,' but both systems have been cited for 'questionable parachute performance.' These items must be addressed fairly soon as the Starliner is set for a test flight in April and a manned mission in August. The Crew Dragon has [already completed its unmanned test flight to ISS](#) and a manned flight is planned as early as April.

In other space related news, China landed a robotic spacecraft on the moon's dark side. The [Chang'e 4](#) spacecraft also deployed the *Yutu 2* rover and sent back pictures of the moon.

Additionally, Japan's [Hayabusa 2](#) probe, launched December 3, 2014, arrived at the asteroid Ryugu. The probe fired a 'bullet' into Ryugu to loosen material which was then collected by the probe. Afterwards, the probe landed on Ryugu. Several more samples will be collected before the probe leaves Ryugu in December of 2019 and returns to Earth at the end of 2020.

Not to be overshadowed by these efforts, Israel has put a lunar lander in space by way of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. If successful, Israel will become the 4th country to land on the moon,

following the U.S., Russia, and the recent landing by China. The lander, called [Beresheet](#), Hebrew for "Genesis," is expected to land April 11. Once there, it will take pictures and measure the moon's magnetic field. As I was putting this report together, there was news that the lander's on board computer had reset itself for no apparent reason. Hopefully, they can get the problem resolved and continue its mission.

Meanwhile, [Mars Express](#) has discovered evidence that Mars once had ground water and that it may still be there. *Express* has marked possible locations for ground water which could be used to direct the next mission to Mars. Also related, the *Opportunity* rover mission is officially declared ended on February 13. The rover was designed for a three-month mission, but lasted 15 years!

The most remote planet in our system was recently discovered by Dr. Scott Sheppard. This planet is 13 billion miles from Earth. Sheppard is the person who is trying to locate planet #9, no not Pluto, but the one that is supposed to be about ten times the size of Earth. Along the way, he found the new planet and called it... [FarFarOut](#). No kidding, that's the name. At least it's easy to remember.

The next generation telescope, which will take the place of [Kepler](#), is the [WFIRST](#) or *Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope*. In the search for new planets and extraterrestrial life, it will use a much wider field of view and higher resolution. So far, 700 solar systems and 4,000 planets have been discovered. Mathematically, scientists believe there is at least one exoplanet for each star which translates to one trillion planets in the Milky Way alone. *WFIRST* is still in the

planning stage but has been approved and fully funded.

In a more down to Earth technological development, all electric vehicles will be required to emit warning sounds (usually an artificial internal combustion engine sound) when traveling at less than 18.6 miles an hour. The sound must be audible by pedestrians regardless of background noises. Compliance must be 100% by September of 2020, but 50% by September of this year.

In other automotive news, *Consumer Reports* posted its list of the worst cars in each class, based on reliability, performance, comfort, ride, economy, and other issues. Detroit did quite well as none of the GM or Ford vehicles made the list. (Since Chrysler Corporation is now owned by Fiat, and some of their cars are made in Italy, they are being counted as non-Detroit.) The list follows:

- Compact SUV: Jeep Compass
- 3-Row SUV: Dodge Journey
- 2-Row SUV: Jeep Wrangler
- Luxury SUV: Land Rover Discovery
- Minivan: Honda Odyssey
- Hybrid and Midsize Sedan: Honda Clarity
- Compact Car: Fiat 500L
- Compact Luxury: Jaguar XE
- Compact Pickup: Toyota Tacoma
- Full sized Pickup: Nissan Titan XD

Also auto related is the start of a legal battle brewing, concerning Lyft and Uber. In fact, advertisements are already being aired for lawsuits against both Lyft and Uber drivers accused of assault and other crimes against their passengers. This is not a good development for the new ride services and confirms what conventional cab drivers have complained about all along. They

maintain that Uber and Lyft drivers are not properly screened nor subject to the same regulations as cabs are which is both unfair and unsafe, as recent headlines indicate. There is a story circulating, which goes something like this: An Uber/Lyft driver greets a passenger who asks if the driver is safe. The driver tries to be funny by saying he could be a serial killer. The passenger says that it will be interesting to have two serial killers in the same car. Maybe there's a reason for the barrier between the driver and the passenger in a cab.

A surprise bit of history came in the form of an announcement that the *U.S.S. Hornet*, a WWII aircraft carrier, had been located 77 years after sinking. It was lost during a battle with 140 crew members, so its exact location will be kept a secret to protect it, as it is considered a grave site and memorial.

Lastly, I include a sad piece of news for the *Star Trek* universe. Actor Morgan Woodward died February 22 at the age of 93. A World War II and Korean War pilot, he's best known for his many appearances in westerns, both in movies and on TV. However, he's also one of the few guest stars in the original *Star Trek* series to make more than one appearance. His original appearance was in the first season episode "Dagger of the Mind." This was a memorable episode since Morgan, as Dr. Simon Van Gelder, became the first person to receive a mind meld from Spock, a real milestone in *Trek* history. His next appearance was in the second season episode "Omega Glory," where, he portrayed Captain Ron Tracey of the starship *Exeter*.

That's it for now. Hope you are reading and enjoying [Final Mission](#).

## Plot Plugs #2 — *The Wrath of Khan* By Brad McDonald

*Star Trek II* remains one of my favorite stories in the Trek universe, but it is not without its faults. A recent conversation at one of our meetings reminded me of that and I thought I'd attempt to correct some of those faults with a 'Plot Plug Adventure.'

The opening sequences in the training simulator and Kirk's apartment are fine, but once we get to *Reliant*, things go terribly wrong. First, the crew doesn't know the difference between Ceti Alpha V and VI. Shouldn't that be a bit obvious? Are their instruments that bad? Counting out from the star: I, II, III, IV, V and... where is VI? Khan says that it exploded. Okay, it's gone, that still doesn't explain why *Reliant's* crew doesn't know the difference between V and VI.

This brings me to the second problem. If VI exploded, wouldn't there be a lot of rubble in the system that wasn't there before? Where did the new asteroid field come from? If Chekov was there before (more on that later) then why didn't he notice the difference, or for that matter, Kyle?

Third, *Reliant's* scanners fail to pick up Khan, his people and the cargo containers. Why not? Yes, they speak of a difficulty getting accurate readings, but even when Chekov and Terrell are on the planet, the tricorder seems useless. Are Starfleet's instruments that unreliable?

Fourth, let's go back to Chekov. He wasn't present during the episode "Space

Seed," so how did Khan know him? At a recent convention, Walter Koenig explained that he realized the mistake after reading the script, but given the fact that he was being given such a wonderful part, he 'overlooked' it. His explanation was, "I was in the bathroom when Khan was aboard." I think that was a long time to be in the bathroom. (Please see the postscript, "Chekov's Absence.")

There may be several ways to explain all the problems that I have listed, but what follows is my version. In order to do this, I had to insert several small scenes between existing ones. It may work best if you watch the video, pause it where indicated, read the insert I have written, then continue. I trust this won't be too confusing. I hope you agree with my solutions, but, at the very least, I hope you enjoy reading Plot Plug(s) #2.

*NOTE: This follows immediately after the scene with Kirk and McCoy in Kirk's apartment.*

*Reliant* transited easily from warp speed to sublight as it entered the Ceti Alpha system. Right away the crew realized something was wrong. Just as the long range scanners had indicated prior to their arrival, there was an asteroid field present where none had been before.

Immediately, Chekov began taking readings at the science station. Intent on his work, he failed to notice Commander Beach hovering nearby.

"What is it, Pavel?" Beach was as curious as everyone else on the bridge.

Not taking his eyes off of the readouts, the Russian explained,

"It appears that Ceti Alpha V has been destroyed... an unstable core explosion... hit by an asteroid... something. Anyway, it's now a large collection of rubble and some of it will be in our way."

"Can we maneuver safely around it, Commander?" Captain Terrell sounded concerned.

Chekov turned to face the captain and smiled confidently. "Aye, sir; I will relay the route to the navigator."

Immediately, the navigator nodded as his board lit up. "I have the course, Captain; standard orbit?"

"Yes, navigator, that will be fine. When we've finished with our mission, I want to run a full analysis of what happened here." Terrell consulted the readout on the command chair and spoke to himself. "Ceti Alpha V was quarantined. I wonder why?"

Kyle turned from his comm board and spoke quietly to Chekov. "Do you tell him or do I?"

"How's that Mr. Kyle?" Terrell was confused.

Chekov interceded on his friend's behalf. "It's a long story, sir, but evidently not important now. The reason for the quarantine has disappeared with the planet."

Terrell shrugged, then: "Very well, when we finish, you and Mr. Kyle owe me a 'tall tale.' Right now, let's see what we can do for Dr. Marcus, okay?"

"While Mr. Chekov looks into the mystery of the missing planet, I'll concentrate on our intended assignment and take readings on Ceti Alpha VI." Beach settled into another station and began his scans in earnest.



*NOTE: This follows the scene with Kyle and Beach.*

"Let's give them a little more time," Beach said. "Meanwhile, I'm going to continue my work at the science station, maybe I can get a jump on the mystery of Ceti Alpha V."

He sat back in the chair and adjusted the console. After a few moments, his brow became furrowed. "This isn't right... what's going on here? Computer, use data from this console, Mr. Chekov's scans and historical records, to compile a simulation of events leading to the formation of the asteroid field."

"Simulation being prepared," the computer responded obediently.

Kyle was now becoming interested in Beach's work. "What's wrong, Thomas?"

Still working feverishly at his console, Beach explained, "A few things don't add up. If you enter the readings from the scans done by Enterprise years ago and those Chekov and I have compiled on the asteroid field and Ceti Alpha VI's orbit... it just doesn't make sense."

"Are you sure of your readings?" Kyle was just playing devil's advocate but Beach took it to heart and checked his console.

"Well I'll be... you have a point, Reggie. Looks like that asteroid field has a lot more radiation than we initially realized. It's even affecting our instruments." He worked a bit longer, then sighed. "It also accounts for our difficulty in getting accurate readings on Ceti Alpha VI. No doubt, the captain and Mr. Chekov will also have problems."

"That could that account for our troublesome communications." Kyle was now concerned. After all, Chekov was an old friend and he had a reason to be worried.

Nodding in agreement, Beach was deep in thought. "A distinct possibility."

*NOTE: This follows the scene with Khan, Terrell and Chekov on Ceti Alpha V.*

"Simulation ready to display," the computer announced.

Beach turned to Kyle, "Care to see this?"

"Would I? You Bet!" Kyle felt nearly brain dead from listening to static for so long. He took the few steps to the science station and stood next to Beach.

"Computer, begin simulation." Beach sat back to give Kyle a better view and folded his arms across his chest, studying the console screen intently.

The display revealed a view of the innermost planets of the Ceti Alpha system. The outermost gas giants were not in the picture and the scene looked calm until a rather large asteroid streaked into view and struck Ceti Alpha VI nearly dead center. The resulting explosion sent out shock waves in all directions. However, Ceti Alpha V received the brunt of the impact and it was forced out of its orbit and pushed across the former path of the now-destroyed neighboring planet. When the 'dust settled,' Ceti Alpha V was now outside Ceti Alpha VI's orbit, or at least, what was left of Ceti Alpha VI, which was now a ring of asteroids, dust and radiation. Ceti Alpha V's atmosphere was devastated and the once lush

planet was now a nearly intolerable wasteland.

Turning to study Kyle's reaction, Beach noticed the man had been stunned to silence. Realization then hit the English officer. The quarantine was still in effect! Worse than that, Terrell and Chekov were already on the planet!

At this point, the ship's intercom crackled loudly. "Bridge! This is the transporter chief! I'm getting an emergency signal from Captain Terrell, transporting now!"

Kyle flew to his comm board and slapped the control. "Belay the transport! Acknowledge! Chief, acknowledge! Belay the transport!"

*POSTSCRIPT: "Chekov's Absence" Read before watching "Space Seed" as an introduction.*

Kirk stepped into sickbay almost too quickly, startling his friend in the process. "What's wrong, Bones? You getting jumpy in your old age?"

Exasperated, the ship's surgeon pointed to his computer console. "No, I was just concentrating on my research."

Now interested in McCoy's work, Kirk forgot about the attempt at humor. "Is that what you called about?"

"Well, sort of. You know that new academy graduate that arrived yesterday?"

Nodding, the captain acknowledged, "Yes... ummm... Chekov, right?"

"Yup, that's him. Well, he's been on board for less than four hours and I've had to confine him to the isolation ward, at least for the time being."



Now very serious, Kirk stepped closer to the doctor. "Is it... bad?"

"It's not good. Somehow he missed one of his inoculations at the academy. He arrived feeling a bit dizzy. Scotty dismissed it as 'space sickness,' but I gave him the once over to be sure and I discovered that, somewhere along the way here, he picked up a case of Rigellian fever."

"Is the rest of the crew... okay?"

"Just fine, Jim. I was checking the ship's roster against the shot records when you came in. Everyone seems to be up to date. However, I'd like you to send a very nasty note to the Academy and inform them that their screening, records and medical care methods need... improving!" McCoy finished with a firmly set jaw and a no-nonsense look on his face.

"I'll see what I can do—"

"If you don't, I will and I know you'll be a lot more diplomatic than I will! In any case, I will have to file a report with the Surgeon General's Office." McCoy was now a bit calmer, but still not 'happy.'

"Okay, okay, you win. I'll do it. Meanwhile, how's our ensign doing?"

Now relaxed and focused on his patient, McCoy stood up from his duty desk and led Kirk into the isolation ward where the smiling ensign was resting in a diagnostic bed. Two nurses hovered over him and he seemed to be enjoying the attention until he caught sight of the two senior officers.

"Umm, that will be all, nurses!" Now Chekov was all business and tried to sit at attention.

Kirk gave McCoy a light nudge in the ribs with his elbow. The doctor turned to smile with that 'I know what you mean' look.

Approaching the young man, Kirk became more 'captain-like' and spoke to him through the isolation energy screen. "I trust you are well, Ensign Chekov. "I'm sorry that your first day with us is... not what you expected."

"Or hoped for, sir. I thought I'd be working on the bridge by now."

"One step at a time, mister. First, you need a day of orientation with Yeoman Rand. Then, I'll explain what I expect from you as a bridge officer on this ship. Next, Mister Spock will check you out on the navigation console in simulation exercises. Once he's satisfied with your abilities, you will be working with Commander DeSalle on beta shift for some time.

"Starfleet gave you a set of skills to get you started. Now the crew of the *Enterprise* will hone those skills so that you can use them in practical applications. I may even recommend you for a few courses to upgrade and update your abilities or even cross train to other fields. The more you know, the more valuable you are to this ship and Starfleet."

"Meanwhile, you'll need to be certified as fit for duty, by me!" McCoy rocked on his heels and smiled with confidence. "That should take about four days."

Chekov looked depressed. "But why? I'm not sick. I feel fine!"

"So did typhoid Mary!" McCoy snapped back.

Defeated, Chekov sat back, "Will this count against me, I mean, will it go on my record?"

"All sicknesses have to be reported, Ensign," McCoy explained.

"No sir, I mean, will I be... considered in dereliction of duty... for not being at my post?"

Kirk suppressed a laugh. "Hardly, you're not at fault. As Dr. McCoy explains it, the Academy failed to give you all your shots. He's promised to get you back on your feet as soon as possible, right Doctor?"

Caught off guard by Kirk's 'prevarication,' McCoy agreed. "Well... yes... of course; maybe in just three days."

"Meanwhile, you may want to brush up on your navigation skills by using the ship's computer." Kirk pointed to the device.

A somewhat overconfident Chekov responded. "But, sir, I graduated in the top ten in my class and I scored very high in navigation skills. That is why I chose it as my specialty."

"Mr. Spock graduated first and he will be conducting the evaluation..." Kirk left the statement and implication unfinished.

A now less-than-cocky Chekov responded quietly, "Understood, sir."

The intercom whistled and Uhura's melodic voice called out. "Sickbay, is the captain still there?"

Taking a few steps to the intercom, Kirk tabbed the control. "Kirk here, what is it, Lieutenant?"

"Mr. Spock requests your presence on the bridge, sir. We have a motionless ship on long range scanners."

"On my way, Lieutenant!" Retabbing the control, Kirk turned to McCoy. "Duty calls

again.” Then he turned to Chekov. “Get better sooner rather than later, mister. I’m short on navigators right now.”

Still dejected, Chekov responded quietly. “Aye, sir.”

As Kirk left, McCoy spoke in a ‘fatherly’ manner. “There goes the best starship captain you’ll ever meet, Ensign. My advice is, don’t ever disappoint him.” McCoy then disappeared into the next room.

After a moment’s thought, Chekov reached out and pulled the computer viewer closer and sat upright in the bed. “Computer, access Starfleet navigation protocols for type one starships, particularly the *Constitution* class.”

“Working.”

## ST:TOS – “Hades” By Brad McDonald

### PART II - ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. OLIN – MIDDAY – TWO SHOT – SPOCK AND UDVAL

Under rock cliff, Udval is resting and Spock is watching, then turns to look for the team. As he looks back, he freezes.

SPOCK’S P.O.V.

Animal like Gila monster is running toward Udval.

ON SPOCK – CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

He moves quickly to Udval.

SPOCK  
(moving)

Mr. Udval! Wake up!

NEW ANGLE

Udval does not respond, just as animal reaches him, Spock jumps between animal and Udval. Surprised, animal bites Spock on leg and Spock falls, waking a confused Udval.

UDVAL

Mr. Spock! What is... ?

ON UDVAL

He sees animal and realizes Spock has been attacked. Udval moves slowly and uses knife to kill animal.

CLOSE ON SPOCK

He’s in pain, barely under control and struggling to stay conscious.

TWO SHOT – SPOCK AND UDVAL

Udval looks at Spock and realizes he’s in trouble.

UDVAL

Sir, what happened?

SPOCK  
(struggling)

I have been bitten... leg.

Spock points and Udval moves to examine it.

UDVAL’S P.O.V.

Udval cuts Spock’s pant leg with knife. We see bite is large, swollen, discolored and bleeding.

ON UDVAL

He reacts visibly, gasps and turns to Spock.

UDVAL

Looks bad sir, already beginning to swell.

Probably due to poison or caustic saliva.

ON SPOCK

He’s struggling to maintain control.

SPOCK

Agreed. However, do not attempt to extract poison by cutting the wound... it only creates more risk of infection.

Do not try... to suck out poison as it may kill whoever... does it.

Spock is beginning to lose control and train of thought.

SPOCK  
(continuing)

I will need... assistance... to bind the wound... and signal... the team...

Spock winces visibly.

NEW ANGLE

Udval struggles to his feet, pulls quartz-like rock and signals with reflection. After a few beats he turns to Spock.

UDVAL

Signal acknowledged, sir. We’ll have help soon.

Udval moves back to Spock’s side, tears bottom of Spock’s pants and binds wound, deftly.

UDVAL  
(working)

Can I do anything else for you, Commander?

ON SPOCK

He’s close to passing out.

SPOCK  
Not... at present...

Spock struggles to sit up and studies wound.

SPOCK  
(continuing)

Excellent work... I am in good hands...I did well to include... you as part... of the... team...

With that said, Spock passes out.

WIDE ANGLE

The others drift into camp one by one. Coloradas is first and notices Spock's wound and is shocked.

COLORADAS  
(moving)

What happened, Udval?

UDVAL

Mr. Spock was bitten by...

He turns and points to animal carcass.

UDVAL  
(moving)

... that!

COLORADAS' P.O.V.

We see animal carcass.

ON COLORADAS

He moves to animal, looks at it and examines area.

WIDE ANGLE

In B.G. we see Zana and Montalva enter camp.

ZANA  
(moving; to Coloradas)  
What's going on, what are you doing?

COLORADAS  
Spock was bitten, I'm looking for the animal's

nest. There may be more of them.

They spread out, looking. After several beats they give up. Lingari enters camp and sees Spock's injury, then goes to his side.

COLORADAS  
(continuing)

Nothing else here, not even tracks... curious.

ON ZANA

We see him, deep in thought and looking around camp.

ZANA  
(moving)

Strange, no tracks other than the recent ones. No nest and not a very likely place to find food or water.

WIDE ANGLE

MONTALVA  
Looks like a Gila monster. Hope it's not as poisonous...

She turns to look at Spock more closely.

MONTALVA'S P.O.V.

Spock is unconscious.

MONTALVA (O.C.)  
(continuing)

He's passed out, probably in shock.

ON LINGARI

She does a quick examination of Spock, then:

LINGARI  
(confident)  
No. It's part of the Vulcan self-healing

process. I heard Nurse Chapel talk about it.

(beat)

For now, leave him alone. Just be sure he's comfortable.

TWO SHOT – COLORADAS AND ZANA

COLORADAS  
(matter-of-factly)

We need to remain here until he is able to travel.

ZANA

Agreed, but for how long? There are no resources in the immediate area and we are overdue for water. If we wait too long, we may not survive.

Off his statement...

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND OLIN

Ship is in orbit around planet.

INT. ENTERPRISE – SICKBAY – MEDICAL DUTY OFFICE – WIDE ANGLE

Kirk and McCoy are in friendly discussion.

KIRK  
How is the crew holding up?

MCCOY  
Tired, but they've been caught up in the team's progress reports and the chances for getting shore leave soon.

ON KIRK

He's mildly amused but still concerned.



KIRK

So they are temporarily distracted, right?

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

That's about it, but no one is complaining. They know how important this is, so don't worry about the health of the crew. That's my business, Jim.

He finishes on a weak smile.

NEW ANGLE

Kirk is about to respond when the intercom sounds.

SULU (V.O.)

Bridge to Captain Kirk.

Kirk stands and moves to the intercom, activating it.

KIRK

Kirk here, what is it, Lieutenant?

SULU (V.O.)

There may be a problem on Olin, sir. It's past sunset local time and the team hasn't moved.

ON KIRK

He tenses visibly.

KIRK

On my way.

He tabs off intercom and looks back to McCoy.

ANOTHER ANGLE

KIRK

(continuing)

Better finish this later, Bones.

MCCOY

Concentrate on the team. I'll keep an eye the crew, okay?

Kirk heads for the exit and speaks over his shoulder:

KIRK

(moving)

Okay, for now, but I'm running out of patience, quickly.

BRIDGE – ANGLE ON TURBOLIFT

Kirk exits and heads for the command chair. Sulu rises as Kirk approaches.

KIRK

(moving)

Report!

SULU

Information confirmed by Mr. Chekov, sir.

Kirk is in thought for a few beats.

KIRK

Chekov, I want a very intense and thorough scan of that area. See if you can find a reason for the delay. Rough terrain, sand storm, whatever it may be.

CHEKOV

Aye, sir, scanning now.

ON KIRK

KIRK

Sulu, have transporters get a fix on the team. Do not bring them back. Try to maintain a positive lock, just in case.

SULU (O.C.)

Aye, sir.

KIRK

(to self)

What's going on down there, Spock?

EST. OLIN – EARLY EVENING – ON TEAM CAMP

There is no fire but a bright moon. Team is seated around Spock who remains unconscious. Udval watches Spock closely, concerned.

UDVAL

How long has it been?

COLORADAS

About seven to eight hours by my estimate, but I may be wrong.

MONTALVA

How much longer do we wait? Without water we can't wait much longer.

LINGARI

Agreed, but we can't leave him here and if we use the device they gave us to call for help, we will lose the challenge.

UDVAL

Better that, than losing Mr. Spock.

(beat; guilty)

After all, he was injured trying to save me.

ON COLORADAS

COLORADAS

The Captain is counting on us to succeed and help with convincing Olin to join the Federation.

(beat)

We all knew the risks involved in being here and so did Mr. Spock.

NEW ANGLE

UDVAL

(angry)

So we let Spock die?

ZANA

I don't think he's saying that... right?

AS BEFORE – ON  
COLORADAS

COLORADAS

We'll be okay without water for another day or so. Let's give Spock that much time, twenty-four hours.

ON ZANA

ZANA

Right, but at that point, we use the device to call for help or we all walk out of here as a team.

ON UDVAL

UDVAL

Remember what Mr. Spock said, keep a clear head and think through your actions.

NEW ANGLE

Montalva stares at Spock, uneasy and worried.

MONTALVA

How can we be sure he doesn't need help now?

UDVAL

We don't, not really.

Coloradas becomes concerned and kneels to feel Spock's forehead.

LINGARI

Does he have a fever?

ON COLORADAS

He withdraws his hand and turns to Lingari.

COLORADAS

Difficult to say in this heat and Vulcan physiology being different, I'd say no; but I'm not a Doctor.

After a few beats, he stands.

COLORADAS

(continuing)

I'm now the senior officer and we need to do some more scouting. It will help pass the time and we may locate water or food.

He turns to the others and smiles weakly.

COLORADAS

(continuing)

Any volunteers?

WIDE ANGLE

Zana jumps up and moves to Coloradas.

ZANA

Count on me!

MONTALVA

Me, too; beats sitting here just waiting.

Coloradas turns to Lingari.

COLORADAS

Hold down the fort, Yeoman?

ON LINGARI

She's confident and bright.

LINGARI

Sure, just don't forget where you left us. I'll see if I can make dinner out of the animal that attacked Spock.

LINGARI'S P.O.V.

She watches as the others move off and disappear around a rock formation.

TWO SHOT – SPOCK AND  
LINGARI

LINGARI

(continuing, to self)

In survival school they said only 6 per cent of bites are fatal. I hope that's true.

She looks at Spock

LINGARI

(continuing, to self)

Now, what was it that Chapel said about Vulcan self-healing?

Off her statement...

FADE OUT.

END OF PART 2 - ACT TWO

## Upcoming Events

<b>Apr</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville</b>
<b>Late May</b>		<b>Community Service Activities TBA</b>

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

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***THE WRIGHT STUFF***  
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