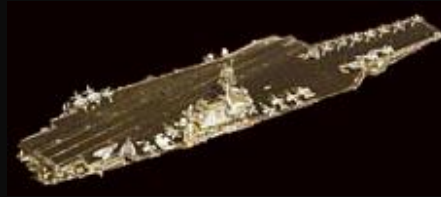


THE WRIGHT STUFF



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Sep/Oct 2019



The Center Seat

By John Troan

What a wild and busy last few weeks – and months – it's been for me, which is also why I've been behind on things for what seems like the entire summer. I hope to soon see a light at the end of the tunnel (and it's not another trainload of To Do tasks).

Two important reminders about our annual collections for the Food Bank and Toys for Tots: we'll be collecting food at the October and November meetings, and toys at those same meetings plus the December meeting. If anyone wants to contribute to the drives but cannot make a meeting, please contact Larry Cox to arrange a dropoff/pickup with him.

Speaking of the December meeting, we'll be having a potluck for that meeting. Instead of our usual meeting location, we'll be meeting at Diane & Debbie's home in Garner. (I'll post their address in the "official potluck announcement," along with where/how to RSVP.)

By now, you've probably noticed a new look for our newsletter — notably using two columns instead of three. We've also changed how the newsletter is put together, hopefully making it faster to work through the process.

This month's feature photo is a view of hurricane Dorian from the *ISS*. Dorian affected eastern North Carolina and the *Kitty Hawk* has made a donation to the Food Bank to help them assist those touched by Dorian.

This issue includes our GalaxyCon reports – including [an outstanding feature](#) from Keung Hui. My thanks to everyone who helped out at the con. I also want to extend a special "Thank You!" to JR Fisher for bringing the Klingon banner this year. We're already looking at what to do differently in 2020 to make our appearance even better!

There's also an [announcement from our QM](#) that will interest anyone and everyone interested in *Kitty Hawk* merchandise.

Just as I was going to start writing my articles for this issue, an opportunity came up to volunteer at the *Peak City International Film Festival*. A very big "Thank You!" to those

who were able to help out that evening and/or made it to our follow-on activity a couple of days later. (There are more details in [the report in this newsletter](#) and collections of photos on the web site for the events on both [Friday](#) and [Sunday](#).)

I'm still on the lookout for other community service activities, and would love to hear suggestions from any of the crew and newsletter readers. As I've mentioned before, my goal is to have about two activities each month, with small numbers at each – and I don't expect anyone to make them all once we start getting close to that many service opportunities.

Two of my summer *Kitty Hawk* projects that I still need to work on are (1) the updated Rank and Promotion schedules (which will become the first parts of the in-progress chapter handbook) and (2) checking through all of the web content to award promotion points to the contributors. Both of these will extend into the fall/winter as needed, but they haven't quite yet managed to fall off the proverbial plate.

Also clinging onto said proverbial plate is the second podcast. We need at least three more people to read parts, and more than that are welcome. (We'll just break apart the part pairings we devised to get by with an absolute minimum of cast members.) Brad and I will figure out a weekend date that we're both available, then get word out for all those interested to swing by his house. (As the custom goes, we'll likely arrange it around going out for a meal before or after. :))

A reminder to all who were active STARFLEET members on August 1 – the STARFLEET triennial election is underway. From what I've learned, an e-mail was sent to each member (as of Aug 1), using the address in the STARFLEET database.

*If you've not yet received a ballot by e-mail, please contact me and I'll check into getting one e-mailed to you ASAP. There will **not** be any ballots sent through the postal service this time.*

Esse Quam Videri

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

With this newsletter publishing, I'm coordinating another mass update of material to the *Kitty Hawk* [web site](#) – [this newsletter](#), the [next installment of Final Mission](#), and photos from [Friday evening](#) & [Sunday afternoon](#) during the Peak City International Film Festival.

With the [QM's announcement](#) that we now have a *Kitty Hawk* on-line merchandise store, I'll be adding a link to it on the web site. Given that Google has shutdown Google+, I'll replace our "g+" button with a shopping bag-type button on all pages of the web site.

At the same time, I'll add a full-size button somewhere in the left-side button panel to link to where our handbook will eventually live. At first, it'll point to a temporary landing page, but will be updated once the first pages are ready for posting – which will probably be the updated Rank and Promotion Schedules.

A few quick updates for the [Mars 2020 Rover](#) this

time... The ["bit carousel" has been installed on the rover](#), completing another step in assembly. This set of drill bits will be used by the rover for drilling, coring, and scraping operations on Mars... The rover has also [been taken out for its first "spin test"](#) to determine its center of gravity... The [contest has started to name the rover](#), with NASA inviting K-12 students to submit the proposed rover name and a short essay on why the name should be chosen. *Mars 2020* is scheduled to land on Mars in February 2021.

The [Europa Clipper mission has been approved](#) and is now able to move toward final design, build, and testing. "The mission will conduct an in-depth exploration of Jupiter's moon Europa and investigate whether the icy moon could harbor conditions suitable for life," according to the NASA press release, and is planned for launch in the 2023-2025 time frame.

Generations of *Star Trek* Fans Celebrate at GalaxyCon Raleigh

By T. Keung Hui

The bond between *Star Trek* and its fans was celebrated at this year's [GalaxyCon Raleigh](#) event that brought big stars and tens of thousands of people to North Carolina.

Around 60,000 people flooded downtown Raleigh in late July for the four days of GalaxyCon. Various fandoms were represented at the convention with *Star Trek* fans packing panels hosted by George Takei, Jonathan Frakes and Wil Wheaton. The three actors shared stories about working on the franchise and how it's affected their lives. They repeatedly thanked the fans for their 53 years of support for *Star Trek*.

"We've lasted this long not because of Gene Roddenberry," Takei said at the start of his panel. "But it's the support and devotion of the fans that have given us this longevity, and looking over I can see people I identify as the original fans. There you are. I can tell and thank you original fans. You've changed quite a bit in 53 years and that's good because we've all changed over the years, definitely.

"But the amazing thing about original fans is they have the ability to replicate themselves, procreate like Tribbles and there you all are the next generation and the generation after that. And now little infants are coming and they know how to go like this on cue," Takei said as he did a Vulcan salute.

Takei thanked the fans for giving him a public platform to speak out as a social and political activist. Takei said he feels an obligation to use that gift to make the world a better place and to work toward "building a better America, a truer American democracy." Takei has spoken out on immigration issues, citing his experiences as a child who was

held in a U.S. internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II. He's also become a prominent spokesman on LGBTQ rights.

"You've given us the gift of amplifying our voices and I feel like I have a responsibility to use that gift as responsibly as I can, and so I try to use it for positive purposes," Takei said. "So thank you very much for this wonderful gift, and I appreciate it and I will use it as responsibly as I can."

Frakes said he likes coming to conventions because of the positive energy that comes from *Star Trek* fans. He said fans have told him how the franchise helped them connect with their parents or

overcome problems such as drugs and alcohol and post-traumatic stress disorder. Others have told him how *Star Trek* inspired them to become engineers, astronauts, psychiatrists or pilots.

"They all share with me how this show has affected you and all that does is fill me with pride and joy," Frakes said. "I was just the actor. Roddenberry did

this. So thank you, Gene. Bless you."

Wheaton has had at times a rocky relationship with *Star Trek* fans due to how his character of Wesley Crusher was written. But his time on the show helped give him a platform to speak out about his love of gaming. It also helped lead to him being a recurring character on *The Big Bang Theory*. Wheaton is now regarded as a geek icon by some fans.

"I think everybody hopes to be successful in that we get to make art and we get to make a living doing that," Wheaton said. "If you go into any creative industry with the goal of being famous you're going to be disappointed because you give up the journey because you're so focused on the destination and I wouldn't want that to happen."



From *Next Generation* to *Picard*

GalaxyCon fans wanted the actors to share their favorite moments from working on *Star Trek*. They also wanted to know about what they're doing now. Frakes satisfied both with anecdotes about *Star Trek: The Next Generation* as well as providing hints about his upcoming work on *Star Trek: Picard*.

Frakes talked about his culinary *Next Generation* adventures. In the episode "Matter of Honor," he ate Kimchi sprayed with silicone to represent the Klingon "delicacy" of gagh. In the episode "Conspiracy," he was given live grub worms while the other actors had bits of whole-wheat macaroni to represent the grubs. Frakes said the director told him to dig his hands into the plate and hold the grub worms above his mouth.

"So I got a handful of grub worms and enviously looked at everyone else's whole-wheat macaroni and they slip out of my fingers and into my mouth," Frakes said. "I chew them up and swallow them. Dedication."

Frakes also had other physical discomforts playing the character of William Riker. In the episode "Skin of Evil," he was put into a pit filled with Metamucil and black printer's ink. "Nobody else would do it but me," he added.

In the episode "Qpid," the fighting got a little too real for Frakes when he took on the role of one of Robin Hood's Merry Men. During a half-speed rehearsal, Frakes used a hard staff and his opponent had an iron sword. But when it came time to film, Frakes switched to a balsa wood staff while the castle guard was supposed to use a rubber sword. But the iron sword remained in play and it broke through the staff, cutting one of Frakes' eyes. He was taken off set to get medical treatment.

"I'm lying on the gurney in the urgent care in West Hollywood on a Friday night about midnight waiting for my turn," Frakes said. "So I'm looking up

and this woman is coming at me with a hook and needle to stitch up my eye and I look down and see my little pointy shoes and nobody said a word to me. Another normal day in West Hollywood. Go figure."

Frakes shared his favorite and least-favorite *Next Generation* episodes. He said "Best of Both Worlds" was his favorite, but he has a soft spot for "Offspring" because it's the first one he directed. His favorite Riker episode is "Frame of Mind." He dumped on "Shades of Grey," the clip show that ended season two and "Code of Honor" from season one.

"That was a stinker wasn't it," Riker said of "Shades of Grey." "It wasn't as bad as that racist episode that we did in season one, 'Code of Honor.' What were they thinking. Oh my God."

Frakes received some of his loudest cheers at the panel when he talked about his work on the new *Picard* show. He'll both be directing two episodes and reprising his role of Riker. He said playing Riker on camera for the first time in 18 years was a magical experience. He recalled the conversation he had with Patrick Stewart after filming their scenes.

"It was just the two of us and we walked off the dock and back through the woods and he (Stewart) said, 'Jonathan is there anything better than spending a day with people you like making a film?'" Frakes said. "It got very sentimental. It was spectacular."

Frakes contrasted the skepticism that hardcore *Original Series* fans showed in 1987 when *Next Generation* debuted with the buzz about the *Picard* show. Frakes said the difference is that people are excited to see Stewart bring Jean-Luc Picard back on screen. Frakes said the new show "will not disappoint."

"He's on fire in this show," Frakes said of Stewart. "He's so into it and he's such a powerful actor anyway. He's 79. He's carrying the show on his shoulders, and it's smart and it's fascinating and it's kind of mysterious and it's sexy. There's a lot of cool things going on in the show."



Loving What *Star Trek* Stands For

George Takei regaled fans with what it was like playing Sulu in the original series and in the feature films. He said a continuing strength of the franchise is the hopeful future that Gene Roddenberry portrayed in *Star Trek*. As the show debuted in 1966 during a time of national strife, Takei said *Star Trek* showed a future where people united in their diversity to accomplish spectacular achievements.

“We loved the show and what it stands for,” Takei said. “I think Gene Roddenberry created an amazing show and one of the things that attracted me and the cast as well as the audience, I think, is the view that Gene Roddenberry had of what the future of this world might be.”

Takei said it was a “nip and tuck schedule” during the *Original Series* when they only had six days to film an episode. Filming of some episodes went past midnight. He recalled one director who was very nervous and anxiety ridden as they went into overtime.

“During one of the shots when they were setting it up, I left the sound stage to go to the trailer and I saw him (the director) outside the sound stage peeing in between the trailers,” Takei said. “He was so nervous that he held it and he apparently couldn’t make it to the men’s room. I can’t tell you what episode that was or who that director was, but it was an excruciating episode to work on.”

Unfortunately for *Star Trek*, Takei said NBC programming executives were more destructive than the Klingons ever were and canceled the show after only three seasons. He thanked the fans first for boosting the show’s popularity during syndication in the 1970s and later for turning out for *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*. He said the fan support was crucial because studio executives who

had initially backed the movie had very low expectations by the time it showed up in theaters. He said the movie was a success because of the devotion and absolute refusal of fans to stop showing up at the box office.

“The fans saved *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*,” Takei said. “You went and saw it and saw it again and again and again. It’s the same movie, but you came to see it over and over again and it exploded at the box office and that’s what made it a success.”

“Thank you very much, and it’s because of that it became a series of feature motion pictures and that’s why we’re here 53 years after *Star Trek* began and 40 years after *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* was done.”

Takei said Roddenberry gave him two mementos: his leather cape from *Star Trek: The Search For Spock* and his captain’s uniform from *Star Trek: The Undiscovered Country*. He donated the cape to the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures being constructed in Los Angeles. Takei donated the captain’s uniform to the Japanese-American National Museum in Los Angeles, where it’s on display in the post-World War II internment camp gallery. He said the uniform is there “to show that someone who was incarcerated in the American barbed wire prison camp could eventually become the captain

of the starship *Excelsior*.”

Takei is a trustee of the Japanese-American National Museum so he drops in periodically. Takei said the docents ask him why so many visitors greet them with the Vulcan salute.

“They’re all young people,” Takei said the docents tell him. “I think they’re your fans. How come we’re getting an influx of these people?” I say, “Oh, it’s because of the costume on display in the upstairs gallery.”



From *Star Trek* To *Big Bang Theory*

Wil Wheaton's time on *Star Trek* wasn't as long as Takei's, but he also has fond memories of the experience. Wheaton said he used his imagination as a sci-fi nerd to make the sets of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* feel real to him. Back in the late 1980s, Wheaton said all the *USS Enterprise* control panels were lights behind Plexiglass as opposed to the interactive graphics used on sets nowadays.

"It was really important to me that I maintained the reality of that world, so if I had a scene in engineering I would go in before rehearsal and I would look at the panel that I was going to work on and I would figure out what I was supposed to do and I would justify why I moved different things," Wheaton said. "I would go up to

the art department and talk to the designers. 'Why did you design these things this way, what do they do?'

"I probably have an understanding of the LCARS interface that is second to only Michael Okuda. If you watch me send the ship into warp drive, if you watch me put the ship into orbit, you will notice that it's the same series of commands every time because that was important to me."

After leaving the *Next Generation*, Wheaton would become known for his support of hobby gaming. He hosted the web series *TableTop*, where he played tabletop games with guests. That would become crucial when the writers of *The Big Bang Theory* needed an actor to play a game against the character of Sheldon. Wheaton's reputation as a gamer coupled with how he lived in Pasadena and was a big fan of the show led to him

being invited to appear. Show co-creator Bill Prady pitched to Wheaton about playing himself. Wheaton said he really wasn't interested until Prady told him he'd "be playing a delightfully evil version of yourself."

"And I was like then I'm all in," Wheaton recalled saying to Prady. "That's great. A version of myself is just a character with the same name. That's easy and that was 10 incredible seasons for me."

Wheaton said he grew to love appearing on *Big Bang Theory*, with the cast becoming his family. He said the 2-3 weeks before he'd appear on set to film a new episode were the "longest 2-3 weeks of my life."

"My favorite bit that I ever got to do on the show was walking into the premiere of *Star Wars* in

a *Star Trek* uniform and getting to say 'Live long and suck it,'" Wheaton said. "That was cool. I loved that. That might be my favorite line of dialogue I've ever said."

With *Big Bang Theory* ending this year, Wheaton got two things from the set. One was a mug from The Comic Center of Pasadena, a comic book store that was on the show. The other memento was the Apartment

4A nameplate where the main characters lived. Wheaton said he was heartbroken when the series ended and cried while watching the finale.

"I think it's great to be sad when something's over," Wheaton said. "Everything ends and there's nothing better than being sad that something ends because it means that it was wonderful when it was happening."



Richard Dean Anderson Tells GalaxyCon Raleigh Fans About *MacGyver* and *Stargate SG-1*

By T. Keung Hui

Richard Dean Anderson played two of the most interesting yet totally different television characters in the past 30 years in Angus MacGyver and Jack O'Neill.

Anderson thrilled audiences in *MacGyver* as the genius secret agent with a mullet who hated guns and improvised his way out of problems. Anderson would later endear himself to another set of fans playing the flippant and gun-wielding Jack O'Neill in the *Stargate* franchise. He shared stories of his time on both series to a packed audience at GalaxyCon Raleigh in July.

MacGyver became famous for getting out of almost any problem with his Swiss Army Knife, some duct tape and any objects he found lying around. MeTV ranked *MacGyver's* use of jumper cables, a generator and two quarters to make an arc welder as his coolest contraption in the show's history. He became so famous for them that the Oxford English Dictionary defines "MacGyver" as a verb that means "make or repair an object in an improvised or inventive way, making use of whatever items are at hand". A high school science teacher asked Anderson about the science behind the "MacGyverisms."

"Come on, let's be honest," Anderson answered. "We stretched the credibility a little bit. But it was fun. We tried to make sure that anything we attempted on *MacGyver* was doable."

Anderson said that they tried to be responsible on *MacGyver* by leaving out at least one ingredient so people couldn't build their own explosives. He recalled the time the show got a letter from a lawyer in Germany who was representing a mother whose son had blown up a shed. The son and his friends had blamed *MacGyver* for showing them what to do.

"Nobody was buying it," Anderson said. "Granted, we may have given them the confidence to do it. But we tried to be responsible."

While the *MacGyverisms* were fun, Anderson said what he especially liked about the show were all the physical activities he was paid to do. Anderson said he did his own skiing, and drove race cars, motorcycles and off-road bikes. In retrospect, Anderson said he wished he hadn't done all those things considering that 30 years later he has a terrible back and has had "knee surgeries up the wazoo."

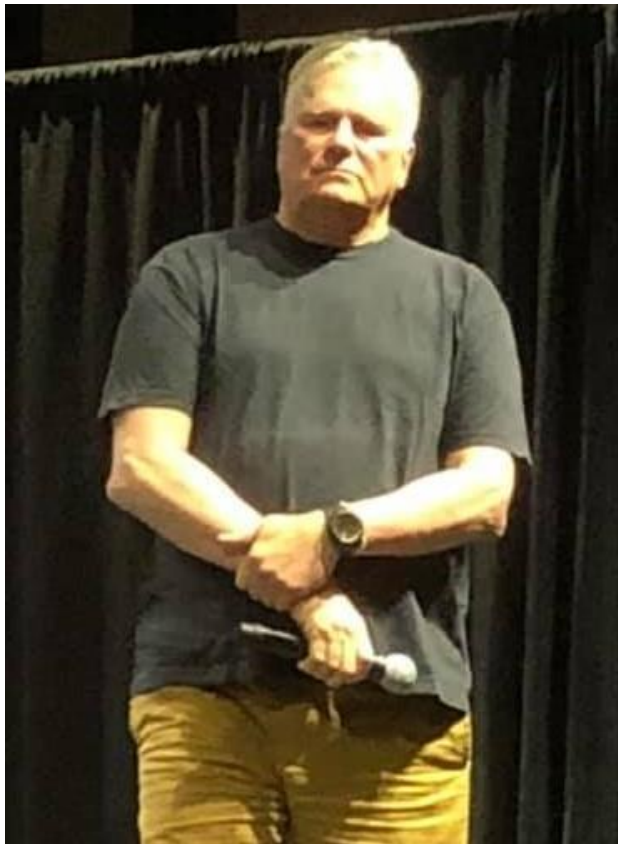
"It was like playland for an aging teenager with a mullet," Anderson said.

A few years after *MacGyver* went off the air, Anderson was recruited by John Symes, president of MGM Worldwide Television, to play the lead role in the new *Stargate SG-1* series. Symes wanted to adapt the hit *Stargate* movie for television with Anderson playing U.S. Air Force Col. Jack O'Neill. Anderson watched the film and

agreed to join the project. The series expanded on the movie universe by using the idea of a network of stargates to explore planets throughout the galaxy.

"I saw the potential for it to be a real viable extended series because of the stargate itself," Anderson said. "That on-screen prompt was literally our gateway to endless stories."

Stargate SG-1 worked closely with the U.S. Air Force. Generals Michael Ryan and John Jumper both played themselves in cameos on the show when they were the Air Force Chief of Staff. Anderson was given the Air Force Association Award and made an honorary brigadier general for the show's positive portrayal of the Air Force.



"We had a great relationship with the Air Force," Anderson said. "We used them as consultants so we wouldn't do anything really stupid and embarrass ourselves with the military. We sent them every script ahead of time to see if there were any checks and balances they wanted to put in."

Kurt Russell had made the character of Jack O'Neil come to life in the movie as a "by-the-book" military officer with a bleach-blonde crew cut. Anderson wanted to play the character differently in the series, adding the extra "l" in the last name to emphasize the difference. Anderson played him as a wise-cracking officer with a casual disregard for military protocol. When Jumper appeared on the show, Anderson said he asked the general for his opinion about his portrayal of O'Neill.

"I cornered him and asked him if he would give me any notes like was I doing ok, was I embarrassing the Air Force, was anything I was doing as a colonel too much?" Anderson said. "He stopped me in mid-sentence and said, 'Richard, for god sake, I've got colonels that are worse than you.'"

Kurt Russell would show up one day on the set of *Stargate SG-1* while he was on break from shooting the movie *3000 Miles To Graceland*." Anderson said Russell told him that, "you're really doing a great thing with this show," and that "you're having a lot more fun than I did."

"I told him I said, you know I really respect what you did with it as well, but I just couldn't do what you did because my hair won't do what you did," Anderson recalled.

While Anderson couldn't single out his favorite *MacGyver* episode, he had no problems thinking of his favorite one from *Stargate*. He said it had to be "Window of Opportunity" because "It was the one where I got to kiss Amanda Tapping." An audience member asked how many takes it took.

"It wasn't the takes," Anderson said. "It was the rehearsals. She was a happily married woman at the time."

Anderson's *MacGyver* days were long behind him on *Stargate*, but his fellow cast members still had some fun with it. In the episode "Solitudes," Anderson and Tapping find themselves trapped in an icy cave with him saying he doesn't know how to get them out. Tapping threw Anderson for a loop when she told him "you spent seven years on *MacGyver* and you can't figure this one out." She goes on to call him "Mr. MacUseless." The outtake can be found online.

"That was a totally ad-libbed line by her, the whole *MacGyver* reference," Anderson said. "I thought 'oh hah hah what a funny. Come on, time is money, I'm an executive producer, no fooling around.' It was cute. What can I say."

Quartermaster/Yeoman Report

By Larry Cox

First off, I'd like to thank all of our members and friends who have made generous contributions to our treasury. Thank You! Our coffers remain healthy and we were able to contribute \$200 to the Region One Space Camp scholarship fund. Again, thanks to all who were/are able to contribute.

With the assistance of the *USS Sea Tiger*, the *Kitty Hawk* has now launched our own on-line commissary: <https://shop.spreadshirt.com/kittyhawkcommisary>.

I personally purchased a bag and mug and am impressed with the quality, clarity and sharpness of the graphics. One suggestion: the tees offered on the commissary have only the *Kitty Hawk* logo, and not the STARFLEET International logo. They're also more expensive than the tees

I've been getting from our current vendor, so please keep this in mind if you're considering a *Hawk* tee (which I hope you are).

Current ship's store inventory includes:

Tees:

- Full-color, \$20.00 each
 - 1 XL black
 - 1 XL red
- Monochrome \$17.00
 - 1 XL black

Let me know if you have an interest in a different size/color. I should be able to purchase more of the travel mugs but will not hold them in inventory, and I'm always open to new orders.

David Tennant and Catherine Tate Talk About *Doctor Who* at GalaxyCon

By T. Keung Hui

Doctor Who fans who attended this year's GalaxyCon Raleigh event got their money's worth from the comedically entertaining duo of David Tennant and Catherine Tate.

Tennant's portrayal of the charismatic and heroic Tenth Doctor has made him one of the most popular Doctors in the show's long history. Tate's time as "super temp" Donna Noble has made her

equally beloved by fans. They charmed the GalaxyCon fans with a surprise joint appearance at one panel and Tate's solo talk the following day.

"It's a real privilege to have a job that can tell stories that mean so much to people," Tennant told a packed room of fans. "I'm just forever grateful."

The partnership between Tennant and Tate helped make series four one of the best, if not the best, seasons of new *Who*. The pair said their reunion scene in the episode "Partners in Crime" was their favorite scene working together. The scene has them unexpectedly run into each other at opposite sides of a window with the Doctor mouthing questions and Donna miming her answers.

"It genuinely was unrehearsed, unscripted," Tate said. "It was three o'clock in the morning, a night shoot. I went to the director James Strong and said, 'What's the plan for this because the script just says Doctor sees Donna for the first time. They mime.' That was it."

Tate quipped to the fans that she was both the "first female Doctor" and the "first ginger Doctor" after her character was accidentally infused with the Doctor's DNA. Series Four ended with Donna saving the universe but the Doctor having to wipe her memories to save her life. Tate said that she loved how Russell T. Davies, the show's executive



producer, wrote the sad ending for Donna.

"It was the epitome of Russell's genius as a writer and a storyteller that he would take a character, have given her such incredible journeys, such an incredible period of growth and transition and cut it dead like that," Tate said. "That's a tragedy, but he's brilliant and so clever and so

fearless that he wasn't frightened of doing that."

The pair sidestepped answering which was their favorite episode of *Doctor Who*. Tennant said it feels wrong to choose, like being asked who is your favorite child. Tennant said he loved every story because they were so different, to which Tate quickly agreed.

"It's not like any other show where you sort of go to work everyday and you're on the same set and it's sort of a bit of the same," Tennant said. "It was like a different play."

Tate was more forthcoming, though, on her oddest moment from working in *Doctor Who*. She replied that any answer usually involves John Barrowman's bare backside. Barrowman, who appeared at the 2018 convention in Raleigh, is known for mooning people. Tate said it's strange that when you stand in a room full of people and mention Barrowman's butt that "everyone knows exactly what you mean." Tate praised Barrowman, whose portrayal of Captain Jack Harkness has made him a fan favorite.

"John is enormous fun, he really is," Tate said. "He's a great bringer together of people. He's just an enormous laugh. He's got a great heart and he just always makes being on the set brilliant fun. I've got very fond memories of everything I did with John."

Rumors have circulated about a possible *Doctor Who* or *Torchwood* reunion movie involving Barrowman, Tennant and Billie Piper. With fan interest bubbling, Tennant and Tate said they haven't been asked about participating in any project.

"It doesn't mean it's not true," Tennant said. "John might just be doing it for himself, running up and down Cardiff docks."

One of the questions that Tennant is most often asked about at conventions is what the Doctor was going to say to Rose Tyler before their conversation was cut off at the end of the episode "Doomsday." Tennant joked he would have said "Rose Tyler, I've got a wedgie." Tennant called the fan who asked the question "a softie" when she said she had thought the Doctor was going to tell Rose that he loved her.

The bond between *Doctor Who* fans and the show's stars echoed throughout both panels. A 21-year-old woman talked about watching the show as a child and wanting to grow up to be a companion. Tate said she didn't realize the impact she had until she appeared at her first convention two years ago. She had previously feared that no one would remember her time on the show.

"It is incredibly leveling and incredibly humbling

and incredibly touching when people tell you what *Doctor Who* means to them," Tate said. "It's a very, very sort of privileged position to be in that people feel like you've walked alongside them in their sort of times of trouble and need. That will always be an incredible thing to hear and receive."

It's an experience that Tennant said he could relate to as a fan who grew up watching *Doctor Who*. He recalled how surreal it was to film the episode "School Reunion" with Elisabeth Sladen, who was reprising her role as Sarah Jane Smith. Tennant said he became obsessed with *Doctor Who* as a child during the period that Sladen was a companion.

"It was very weird that on my first read-through being on the show that I watched as a kid that Sarah Jane was there and that she was calling me Doctor," Tennant said. "It was really weird."

Both at their joint and solo panels, they ended the time by doing a lightning round of answers to fan questions. During their joint panel, a fan told Tennant that he was her second-favorite Doctor and that Tate was her second-favorite companion.

"I'd keep that to yourself," Tate joked the next day. "if I was you luv, just lie, just lie. I love that moment."

A Special Evening By Brad McDonald

[Editor's note: please check out the web site for photos from the [Friday evening](#) and [Sunday events](#).]

I have a quick note regarding a special evening. With a somewhat short notice, *Kitty Hawk* was asked to provide assistance with a film festival in Apex. While maybe not one of our usual activities, there were a few incentives which guaranteed our more-than-eager participation. First, the special guest was an old *Star Trek* friend, Robert O'Reilly, better known to fans as Klingon Chancellor Gowron. Added to that was free admission to the event and free food, so we were in! We also received an added bonus; more on that later.

John and I arrived early Friday afternoon, September 20, in casual clothes to help with set up and getting things ready for the event. Soon Larry Cox and Susan Baylies arrived and lent a hand. After completing our assigned tasks, we changed into formal dress and uniforms. Then the festivities began.

Officially, the celebration was titled *The Peak City International Film Festival*. The main event took place in the Halle Cultural Arts Center on North Salem Street. Prior to that, though, a formal reception was held at the city's Chamber of Commerce building, a restored train station. While there, we all enjoyed some great food. Then the crowd moved across the street to the award ceremony.

The reason for Mr. O'Reilly's presence was to receive the festival's lifetime achievement award named for Charlie Gaddy. During the presentation we were told of Mr. Reilly's

many credits as an actor in TV, film and stage plus also as a director of stage. It was very impressive. As the rest of the awards were announced, Susan became part of the evening's event, presenting the awards as the M.C. announced them. By the way, the M.C. was John Demers, a former member of *Kitty Hawk*!

After that, there was a dessert station set up by the *Kitty Hawk* crew and everyone took a break, including us! While there, I met a World War II veteran and had a long conversation. You never know who you will meet at one of those events!

Following dessert, the guests returned to the theater and the *Kitty Hawk* crew finished up some additional duties then headed home for the evening.

But it was all worth it. The previously mentioned bonus occurred on Sunday afternoon, at the Home Video Studio, also on North Salem Street. The *Kitty Hawk* crew was given a "thank you" celebration with food and special guest, Robert O'Reilly! We had exclusive access to "Gowron" for over two hours, complete with autographs and pictures at no cost! Mr. O'Reilly was great, very easy going and we heard a number of very good behind-the-scenes stories of *Trek* and the world of TV, movies and stage in general.

All-in-all, both days were great and the *Kitty Hawk* crew made a very good impression on all those we encountered. So much so that we were told there may be more adventures in the future!

Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

I've got a lot to cover this time, so let's get started.

NASA has called for submissions to address a growing concern, space trash. It's now to the point where the trash threatens satellites and the space station. In an open submission format, engineers can send in ideas about how to deal with the problem and if the idea has merit, the person is given \$2500. Eventually, NASA will choose a finalist, or even two, to combat the space trash problem. The NASA program is titled 'Recycling in Space Challenge.'

The [2020 NASA Mars mission](#) will have company! A joint mission venture by ESA and Russia's Roscosmos will be landing on Mars one month after NASA's spacecraft. The joint venture craft is said to be targeting a search for extraterrestrial life with a special camera and other instruments.

Also related to Mars is an idea proposed by Elon Musk to 'nuke' Mars. He maintains that setting off nuclear explosions at the north and south poles of Mars would create a greenhouse effect and warm the planet. No word on what the side effects of radiation would be. By the way, the car Musk put into space just completed one full orbit around the sun.

Space Hopper, SpaceX's smaller *Starship*, passed an unmanned test launch and landing on August 27th. Its engine is methane- and liquid oxygen-fueled and this system will eventually replace the current Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, Cargo and crew capsule systems. Musk says he's still on track to launch a Mars cargo mission in 2022 and a Mars manned mission in 2024.

ESA's Aeolus had to move to avoid a collision with SpaceX's Starlink 44. When notified of the impending collision, SpaceX did not respond, so ESA fired rockets to alter the orbit. SpaceX later blamed a communication fault for not responding.

SpaceX has yet another project in the works. It's a space based internet system designed to service the U.S. and eventually the Caribbean islands. It will require 24 launch missions which will carry multiple satellites, then build ground based stations. Musk says it can be done by the end of 2021. Now all he needs is permission from the FCC.

Devon Island is the largest uninhabited island on Earth. Located in the Canadian Arctic, it's frozen over most of the year and nearly devoid of life. However, every summer, for a period of about two months, it becomes a training and proving ground for Mars missions. Devon is used to test vehicles, space suits, tools and all types of equipment.



K10 Black conducting ground-penetrating radar survey at Houghton Crater, Devon Island, Canada

[Chandrayaan-2](#) spacecraft, a moon probe from India, failed. The ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) says it should have landed on September 7, but only 1.3 miles from the surface, the craft left its planned flight path and all signals were lost. No word yet on the cause but the ISRO is looking at it as an opportunity to learn from their mistakes.

In other space news (well, sort of), a warrant has been issued for Luke Skywalker. This is the Tennessee petty thief's second problem with the law. Mark Hammill called it, "The sequel that no one asked for and no one wants to see." He also commented, "The real crime here is Mr. and Mrs. Walker saddling this poor guy with that name in the first place." Obi Wan has taught Mark well indeed.

Another *Star Wars*-related item appeared in the news. A 500-year-old fossil of a crab measuring about 12" long, was named after the Millennium Falcon. Its new official name is *Cambroraster Falcatus*.

A Russian Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft, loaded with a humanoid robot called FODOR (Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research) was to spend ten days on the I.S.S. but the craft failed to dock. Normally, the Soyuz capsules are manned but the mission was intended to test the emergency rescue auto docking system. Eventually, the capsule docked and now FODOR is 'assisting' the astronauts. No word on what the problem was or how the failure was resolved. Maybe we will learn more later on.

A number of scientists are more convinced than ever that there is life elsewhere. There are hundreds of exoplanets in the 'Goldilocks zone' and more are being discovered all the time. Also, the existence of extremophiles enforces this belief. Extremophiles are life forms that can exist in any environment including extreme heat and cold, or even a complete vacuum and they can live without oxygen.

Recently, an announcement supports the 'life elsewhere' supposition, the discovery of the exoplanet known as K218B. It has water, an atmosphere and is in the 'Goldilocks Zone'. It orbits a red dwarf sun about 100 light years away. K218B is called a 'Super Earth,' since it's about twice the size of our own world.

Word is out to avoid using public wi-fi locations such as coffee shops and such. Hackers are now using sophisticated sound receivers in their phones to detect key strokes and can effectively hack your computer up to 40% of the time!

The *R.M.S. Titanic* is back in the news. A recent detailed survey shows the wreck is deteriorating at an accelerated rate. This is due to three main factors. First, and the most obvious, is the effect of salt water corrosion; second, extremely strong currents; last, a metal eating bacteria appropriately named *Halomontas Titanicae*. The BBC reported the ship could start to completely disappear within a few decades, which is way ahead of previous predictions.

Spiderman will no longer be part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Sony owns the rights to the character and Disney owns Marvel Studios. Sony has stated they will discontinue 'loaning' Spiderman to appear in Marvel features due to profit and licensing issues. This sounds a lot like CBS and Paramount with *Star Trek*. For now, the only solution is if Disney buys Sony and that's not very likely.

Speaking of CBS and Paramount, they've finally kissed and made up! The news was so important that it made the cover of the Wall Street Journal. According to the Journal, it's a win, win, win situation for all involved. The 're-merger' puts Viacom, which includes Paramount, in the number two position in subscriber cable fees. Only Disney/20th Century Fox is bigger. That will go a long way in the fight for new products on-line. CBS All Access will now have Paramount's vast library to add to their service and that can't hurt either.

As far as their share of primetime viewership goes, it is number two again, behind only Comcast. However, overall they're way behind in total assets. AT&T has \$254.7 billion, Disney has \$246.8 billion, Comcast has \$197.5 billion, Netflix has \$136.7 billion while CBS and Viacom has a total of only \$30.2 billion. That means financing new projects could be a challenge, especially given Paramount's recent poor performance record including *Star Trek*.

The new Viacom package includes: Showtime, Smithsonian Channel, CBS Television, CBS Network, CBS Sports, Simon & Schuster Publishing, Paramount Pictures, MTV, BET, Comedy Central and Nickelodeon. Hopefully, this will mean good things for the *Star Trek* franchise. Keep your fingers crossed.

Electronics can be very useful and beneficial, but sometimes, not so much. Forbes recently listed 23 items called 'Features That Need to Go' on cars that were unnecessary, aggravating and even hazardous. Of those 23, only four were non-computer related: visibility issues, stupid owner manuals and two semi-electronic issues, car alarms and oversized key fobs. After that, the list

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

By Elaine Pischke

ranged from bad navigation systems to auto-stop/start features, to lane departure warning and intervention operations. Basically, it's a reminder of one of Scotty's quotes, and my personal favorite, "The more they overthink the plumbing the easier it is to stop up the drain." Amen to that, Scotty!

Related to that issue is a warning to people who have keyless car entry systems. The wireless feature makes it possible for someone to electronically duplicate your code when you use it. It's the reason that car thefts are up by over 30%. You can have the feature deactivated and there are other countermeasures, but again, it's another case of over complication.

Computer issues are also the source of trouble with Boeing. The grounding of the 737 MAX has meant that the company has lost a number of sales to Airbus. Because of this, Boeing has hit an eleven year low in deliveries. To make matters worse, the fix for the various computer software problems may take until next year to resolve. And the sales figures for Boeing are down another 50 planes last month alone.

Jim Bridenstine, the current NASA chief administrator, says he believes Pluto is a planet. It's a personal opinion and he doesn't think it will have any influence on having Pluto's status as a planet reinstated. However, it is indicative of a growing movement along that line, me included.

Jupiter now has five more named moons: Pandia, Ersa, Eirene, Philophrosyne and Eupheme.

NASA astronaut Anne McClain was the leading candidate to be the first woman to walk on the moon. Now that may be lost. She used I.S.S. computers to access the bank account of her partner after a messy divorce. This has initiated the first space legal case and created a bit of a scandal which may hurt McClain's future with NASA.

Not long ago I mentioned the development of hypersonic engines by both U.S. and Russia. Russia used the technology to produce an advanced weapon. Now, it seems they had a major problem with it. Their hypersonic cruise missile used an atomic engine which exploded during a test. This forced the evacuation of the Russian town, Nyonoska. As usual, the Russians were not entirely forthcoming with details and, given their history at Chernobyl, it's anybody's guess how bad

In the process of reassembling our entire house (and, no, I'm not finished), I ran across some old copies of *The Wright Stuff*. I was struck by how many different crew persons contributed to each of those issues. This is a great, big issue, but it's the same few people contributing all the time lately. It would be great to see some articles by other crew members!

the situation really is. In the meantime, the local inhabitants are buying up iodine which helps to protect the thyroid gland against some forms of radiation. By the way, the U.S. experimented with atomic engines in the 50's and 60's but abandoned the work due to safety concerns.

Another incident in Russia has many people worried and wondering what the consequences will be. An explosion and large fire at the Vector Institute in Koltsovo could have disastrous consequences as the facility houses such killer viruses as smallpox and ebola. So far no problems have surfaced, but again, Russia is not known for providing honest and immediate information on such matters. Recently, one of their ebola research scientists accidentally pricked herself with a contaminated needle and the World Health Organization wasn't notified until weeks later, after it was too late to help, and she died.

The Washington Post recently ran a feature on a system called Automatic Content Recognition. The reporter, Geoffrey Fowler, reported that your TV is spying on everything you watch. It also extends to your phone, laptop and IPAD. Each of these devices uses the ACR system that have time codes, IP address and a device ID. The ACR uses these in combination to track what you watch. Federal law prohibits this, but most people fail to notice that you give permission to track your viewing habits, usually hidden in the fine print of setups and such. You can opt out but it requires a lot of work reading all the fine print.

That's all for now; hope to see you at the next meeting.

ST: TOS - "A Friend Indeed"

By Brad McDonald

This time around, I'm focusing on Uhura and giving her a background story. I always liked Uhura and, after speaking with Nichelle Nichols about playing the part, I gained new respect for her as well. Although our conversation was brief, she was very gracious and commented that her only regret in playing Uhura was not having more to do or say. So here it is.

In order to make the story as authentic as possible, I did a fair amount of research on names for some of the characters that we meet from Uhura's home.

This story focuses on personal choices and, for better or worse, the consequences of those choices. My mother once said, "Sometimes things happen for a reason." I thought this story might help illustrate that saying.

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE, S.S. HURON AND STARFIELD

The two ships are motionless.

INT. ENTERPRISE – MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOM – WIDE ANGLE

KIRK, SPOCK and MCCOY are waiting for guests. SCOTT is at transporter control console.

SCOTT
(to Kirk)

Huron reports ready, sir.

KIRK

Very well, Mr. Scott, transport!

ON TRANSPORTER PAD

We see a tall, distinguished, middle-aged African, MBITHI and his aides, KAMAU and OMANDI, in native dress, appear in the transporter effect. Once complete, Mbithi smiles broadly and steps down to greet Kirk.

NEW ANGLE

Kirk steps forward, friendly and offers his hand and Mbithi accepts, shaking vigorously.

MBITHI

I am Commissioner Mbithi and these are my aides, Kamau...

He indicates Kamau.

MBITHI
(continuing)

... and Omandi.

He indicates Omandi. The aides nod but stay back reserved and quiet.

ANOTHER ANGLE

KIRK

And I am Captain Kirk. Glad to have you aboard, Commissioner.

Kirk turns to indicate Spock and McCoy in turn.

KIRK
(continuing)

My senior officers: Mr. Spock, first officer, and Dr. McCoy, ship's surgeon.

Kirk turns and points across room.

KIRK
(continuing)

And that is Mr. Scott, our chief engineer.

Mbithi nods to each one in acknowledgement.

MBITHI

Mr. Spock, Doctor and Chief Scott, thank you for an uneventful trip. I'm afraid I'm a bit of a 'pain' when it comes to using transporters.

SPOCK

Dr. McCoy is also somewhat 'difficult' in that regard.

MCCOY
(harrumphs)

Still don't trust the thing.

MBITHI
(to McCoy)

Then you and I have something in common, Doctor.

In B.G. door opens and distracts Mbithi; he brightens considerably.

MBITHI'S P.O.V.

We see Uhura enter with clipboard in hand. She recognizes Mbithi and smiles.

UHURA
(moving)

Captain, Admiral Carstairs needs an update from you... and this...

She stops next to Kirk and hands him the clipboard and stylus.

ON KIRK

He scans clipboard signs with stylus and hands both back to Uhura. Kirk remembers his protocol after he's through.

KIRK

Excuse me Commissioner, this is our communications officer —

NEW ANGLE

MBITHI
(interrupting)

Nyota! So good to see you again!

Kirk, Spock and McCoy are surprised.

ON UHURA

She's embarrassed.

UHURA
Akida, it's been... a long time.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND STARFIELD

Enterprise is at warp speed.

INT. ENTERPRISE – CORRIDOR – KIRK AND UHURA –
CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

Kirk and Uhura are leaving transporter room and enter
corridor, walking side by side. We see several N.D.
crewmembers along the way.

KIRK
(moving)
I'm surprised you didn't stay with the
Commissioner. I got the impression you two
were 'old friends.'

Uhura is uncomfortable with Kirk's assumption.

UHURA
(moving)
We were from the same village. I worked for
him prior to joining Starfleet.

Kirk picks up on Uhura's uneasiness.

KIRK
(moving)
I take it something went wrong and you left.

They stop at turbolift, doors open and they enter.

INT. TURBOLIFT – ON KIRK

KIRK
Bridge!

Turbolift moves and we hear mechanism.

ON UHURU

She is uncomfortable and tries to explain, staring blankly at
turbolift doors.

UHURA
Actually, it was the other way around, sir. My
leaving was the problem. He wanted me to
stay... and get married.

ON KIRK

He understands and nods.

KIRK
Very well, would you prefer not to be involved
with the Commissioner's activities?

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND UHURA

She smiles, grateful and turns to face Kirk.

UHURA
That would be... wonderful, sir.

He becomes superficially formal.

KIRK
I believe your department's performance
reviews are due next month. Why don't you
get an early start?

Uhura is now completely relaxed and happy.

UHURA
Sounds like a good idea, sir. I'll get started
right away.

(beat)
... but first, your reply to Command.

Doors open and they exit turbolift into bridge.

BRIDGE – TWO SHOT – KIRK AND UHURA

Kirk and Uhura enter bridge, Uhura relieves N.D. crew at
comm. CHEKOV is at science, SULU is in command chair
and KYLE at nav. Other stations occupied by N.D. crew. Kirk
gets close to Uhura and whispers.

KIRK
You may want to keep me posted on your
activities. I'd hate to disturb 'your work' while
giving the Commissioner a tour of the ship.

He smiles and she smiles back in understanding.

UHURA
Yes, sir. Shall I contact Command?

NEW ANGLE – ON COMMAND SECTION

Kirk steps down to command chair and Sulu rises, relieves
N.D. person at helm.

KIRK
(moving)
Affirmative, Lieutenant.

Kirk sits in the command chair.

KIRK
(continuing)
Status, Mr. Sulu.

SULU
On course to Egara Five. E.T.A. in six hours,
twelve minutes at warp six, sir.

KIRK
Excellent, mister.

UHURA
Sir, Command ready, on visual.

KIRK

Very well, Uhura.

ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER

We see Admiral Carstairs, no-nonsense and formal.

CARSTAIRS

Kirk, do you have Commissioner Mbithi?

KIRK

(cordial)

Not to worry, sir. He's safe aboard and we should arrive at Egara Five on schedule.

CLOSE ON MAIN VIEWER

Carstairs is annoyed at Kirk.

CARSTAIRS

Actually, there's plenty to worry about, Captain. I trust you received the briefing concerning the Klingons in your sector.

ON KIRK

He loses his smile, but remains friendly.

KIRK

Reported by a civilian source and unconfirmed, sir. However, we will maintain due diligence. The Commissioner will be safe, you have my word.

AS BEFORE – CLOSE ON MAIN VIEWER

CARSTAIRS

I hope so, Captain. It's the reason he was transferred to the Enterprise. Federation Council will have plenty to say if he isn't safe and I don't want Starfleet to come up short, clear?

AS BEFORE - ON KIRK

He's now annoyed by Carstairs.

KIRK

Understood, Sir.

CARSTAIRS (O.C.)

Command, out!

KIRK

(to self)

And a good day to you too, sir.

ON COMMAND SECTION

SULU

Bad day, sir?

Kirk smiles at the comment and relaxes.

KIRK

Not entirely, we have a special dinner this evening to welcome the Commissioner. All senior officers are invited.

Uhura clears her throat modestly. As Kirk turns, she gives him a 'look.'

KIRK

(continuing)

Except for Lt. Uhura, she'll be 'holding down the fort.'

She smiles and mouths a silent 'thank you.'

A NEW ANGLE

CHEKOV

(off console)

Sir, I have a ship, dead ahead, At extreme range, motionless.

KIRK

Details, Ensign.

CHEKOV

(off console)

It reads as a small freighter, 250,000 kilometers. Bearing one oh five, mark nine, relative.

KIRK

Uhura, try hailing them. Ask if they require assistance.

UHURA

Yes, sir.

She works her console as Kirk stands and moves closer to Chekov.

KIRK

(to Chekov)

Keep an eye on them, Ensign.

CHEKOV

Yes, Captain.

UHURA

Sir, I have the captain of the S.S. Parthenon. Audio only.

Kirk moves back to command chair, tabs control.

ON KIRK

KIRK

This is Captain Kirk of the U.S.S. Enterprise. Can we be of assistance?

HOLLIWELL (V.O.)

(desperate)

Yes! This is Captain Holliwell. Our intermix control has failed.

KIRK

We're on the way! Kirk out!

(beat)

Navigator, plot a course, helm maximum speed.

KYLE/SULU

Aye, sir!

GUEST QUARTERS – ON ENTRY

Spock Enters, followed by Mbithi, Kamau, Omandi. N.D. crewpersons enter with travel bags, set them down and exit quickly as Mbithi surveys the room.

MBITHI

Very nice, Mr. Spock and considerably better than what we had on the Huron.

He looks around as if confused, Spock moves closer.

SPOCK

Not to worry, sir. Your aides will have adjoining rooms on either side of yours.

TWO SHOT – SPOCK AND MBITHI

Mbithi studies Spock closely, with humor:

MBITHI

I was not aware that Vulcans were clairvoyant.

SPOCK

They are not. I was merely anticipating your needs, sir.

Spock becomes distracted.

MBITHI

Is something wrong?

SPOCK

The ship has increased speed. I must return to my duties as my presence may be necessary. Use the ship's intercom if you require anything.

Mbithi smiles knowingly.

MBITHI

I did know about Vulcan hearing.

(beat)

Understandable, I will be fine. Thank you for your hospitality and assistance.

Spock nods and exits quickly.

DISSOLVES TO:

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

As Spock enters, Kirk turns to face him.

KIRK

Get the Commissioner settled in, Mr. Spock?

SPOCK

Affirmative, Captain, however I detected an increase in speed...

Kirk looks back at the main viewer.

KIRK

We're going to assist a freighter in distress.

CHEKOV

S.S. Parthenon on main viewer.

NEW ANGLE – ON MAIN VIEWER

Ship is small and motionless.

KIRK

Uhura, open a channel, please.

She works the board for a moment, then:

UHURA

Captain Holliwell on visual.

Image shifts to reveal a middle-aged man.

HOLLIWELL

Good to see you. We were feeling a bit... vulnerable.

KIRK

(confused)

Why? This is friendly space.

HOLLIWELL

Just before you called, I spotted a Klingon ship!

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

Kirk looks worried and Spock eyebrow arches up.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND STARFIELD.

Enterprise is at warp speed.

INT. ENTERPRISE – CORRIDOR – CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION - KIRK, SPOCK AND MCCOY

They are in dress uniforms, walking side by side.

KIRK

(moving)

Did you do a follow-up with the S.S. Parthenon, Spock?

SPOCK

(moving)

They are underway, grateful for our assistance. And, no more Klingon sightings to report.

MCCOY

(moving)

Thanks for that news anyway.

They turn a corner and see Mbithi, Kamau and Omandi in corridor talking with N.D. crew.

MCCOY

(moving; continuing)

I swear, Mbithi's aides look more like... wrestlers than... farmers.

SPOCK

(moving)

Curious doctor, how should a farmer look?

McCoy shrugs. As they approach Mbithi and his aides, the N.D. crewmembers move off and the group enters the dining room.

DINING ROOM - WIDE ANGLE

Present are Scott, Sulu and Chekov. Kirk, Spock and McCoy enter with Mbithi, Kamau and Omandi. Room has large dining table with formal settings. Dinner is served by N.D. crew as everyone sits. As everyone begins eating, conversation begins.

KIRK

Commissioner, we're glad to have you aboard, but I imagine all these inspection tours must wear on you after a while.

ON MBITHI

MBITHI

Nonsense, Captain, visiting experimental agricultural stations all over the Federation to assess various programs, is what I like. Taking free rides courtesy of Starfleet is a benefit, not a chore.

ON KAMAU

KAMAU

We thank you, Captain. Starfleet has been most helpful providing transportation and making the accommodations most... enjoyable.

ON OMANDI

OMANDI

The commissioner's motto is 'we can grow anything, anywhere' and he enjoys his work. While on Earth, he felt... confined. Now he's free to do more, wherever he's needed.

MBITHI (O.C.)

At the Federation's expense.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Indeed, sir, but for a good reason. Your work as an administrator of note with the ability to assess projects quickly and accurately, helps fund projects of merit.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND MBITHI

He's impressed by Spock's words and knowledge. Mbithi looks distracted and Kirk notices.

KIRK

Something wrong, Commissioner? If there is a particular dish you prefer...

MBITHI

I was wondering where Nyota... I mean, Lt. Uhura is?

KIRK

On the bridge, she drew the 'short straw' for duty tonight.

ON MBITHI

He looks disappointed and sighs heavily.

MBITHI

Understood... you know, we're old friends. Came from the same village. When we met, I was in government and she was 'the girl with a destiny of greatness.'

He finishes with a flourish and smiles at his own words.

SULU (O.C.)

Weren't you a regional governor?

Mbithi is impressed by Sulu's knowledge.

MBITHI

Why yes, young man.

ANOTHER ANGLE

OMANDI

And destined to become the next President of the African States.

KAMAU

But his studies and real love was in agriculture.

ON MCCOY

He smiles in understanding.

MCCOY

So you returned to your roots, so to speak. What prompted the move out of politics?

ANOTHER ANGLE

MBITHI

I had a change of... priorities.

SCOTT

A second career, was that it, sir?

MBITHI

(embarrassed)

Something like that.

ON KIRK

Kirk senses Mbithi's discomfort and changes subject.

KIRK

I have good news for you, Commissioner. Starfleet Command has altered my mission. I'm to provide your transport for what's left of your inspection tour.

ON MBITHI

MBITHI

(delighted)

So I get to travel first class! I'm not complaining, but why the new plans?

CLOSE ON KIRK

KIRK

I don't wish to alarm you, but a Klingon ship has been sighted in this sector.

NEW ANGLE

SPOCK

Your safety is very important to the Federation, sir.

MCCOY
(smiling)

And us, too!

ON MBITHI

MBITHI

Thank you, I feel safer already.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE ENTERPRISE AND EGARA FIVE

Enterprise is in orbit around Egara Five.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – ON COMMAND SECTION

KIRK

Transporter room! Are you ready Mr. Scott?

SCOTT (V.O.)

Aye, sir. Landing party set and Egara Five signals ready.

KIRK

Transport whenever ready, Engineer.

EXT. EGARA FIVE – MID DAY – WIDE ANGLE

We see rows of crops as Mbithi, Omandi, Kamau, Sulu and two N.D. security crew appear in the transporter effect. Mbithi pats himself as if he's looking for something.

MBITHI

Well, I survived another transport.

SULU
(smiling)

Dr. McCoy has the same opinion, sir.

MBITHI

So I heard.

Mbithi studies Sulu closely.

MBITHI
(continuing)

Glad to have you along. May I call you Hikaru?

ON SULU

He admires Mbithi and is flattered.

SULU

By all means, sir. I'm happy to be here. I have a keen interest in botany and I've read a number of your papers.

NEW ANGLE

MBITHI
(smiling)

Flattery will get you everywhere!

In B.G. we see locals approaching landing party, all smiles and enthusiastic. Sulu sees them and points.

SULU

Looks like you have a few fans here too, commissioner.

MBITHI

Call me Akida, okay Hikaru?

SULU

Yes, sir, I mean, Akida.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

Kirk is walking the upper level. Spock, Uhura and Chekov are at stations, N.D. crew at remaining posts.

KIRK
(moving)

Estimated time for the commissioner's tour, Mr. Spock?

SPOCK

Given his itinerary and intentions, I would estimate no more than three hours, sir.

Kirk stops at Uhura's post and leans in, speaking quietly.

KIRK
(to Uhura)

That gives you a bit of 'breathing room' if you have anything to do...

Uhura looks up, smiling.

UHURA

Thank you, sir.

She stands and Kirk motions N.D. crew to replace her. Uhura exits bridge, Spock has noticed the conversation and approaches Kirk, speaking quietly.

SPOCK

Captain, is there a problem?

Kirk turns to face Spock, smiling.

KIRK

Not really, Mr. Spock. Anything more on our Klingon shadow?

SPOCK

Nothing since our last report, Captain.

KIRK

Maintain high intensity sweeps and keep a twenty-four watch on all scanners.

SPOCK

Aye, sir.

He hesitates and Kirk notices.

KIRK

Something else?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

I am formulating a theory on the Klingon presence. Since they have not displayed any hostile intentions and are essentially behaving themselves, I believe they are merely observing our actions.

KIRK (O.C.)
(surprised)

Observing? To what purpose?

SPOCK

Given the importance of this sector, they may be curious regarding the Commissioner's work and our methods.

ON KIRK

He's thinking, then:

KIRK
Could they duplicate our methods successfully?

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

SPOCK

Anything is possible, Captain.

KIRK
(skeptical)

I doubt they would be able to succeed. After all, they don't have Commissioner Mbithi.

CLOSE ON SPOCK

SPOCK

That would be most unfortunate. In that case they might be forced to revert to their previous methods of intimidation or threats and, if all else fails... warfare.

Kirk reacts to Spock's statement.

Off his reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO



Robert O'Reilly is present with an honorary membership to the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk in September 2019. More photos from our afternoon with O'Reilly are on [our web site](#).

Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Nov | 2 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting
Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville
<i>Final Collection for Food Bank</i> |
| | 16 | Articles Due for Nov/Dec Newsletter |
| Dec | 7 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting & Potluck
Garner
<i>Final Collection for Toys For Tots</i> |
| | 17 | 30th Anniversary of <i>U.S.S. Kitty Hawk's</i> Launch |
| Jan | 4 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting
Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville |
| | 19 | 6 p.m. Anniversary Dinner
Kanki (Location TBA) |

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

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