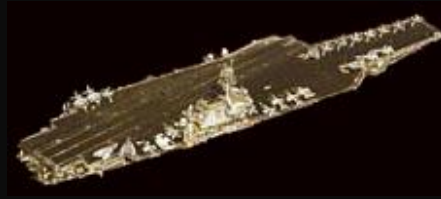


THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

Volume 30 - Number 6

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 John Troan



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IMAGES - Title Banner

Wright Flyer from NASA/Ames PAO photo archive; *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk* (USN CV-63) from navicp.navy.mil; *Constitution* class cruiser from gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk.

IMAGE - Featured Front Page

Astronaut John Herrington carried a bit of Native American History into space. When Astronaut John Herrington made his voyage to space aboard Space Shuttle *Endeavour's* STS-113, he made history as the first Native American in space.
<https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/astronaut-john-herrington-carried-a-piece-of-native-american-history-to-space>

The Center Seat

By John Troan

WOW! Thirty Years!

December 17 marks a whopping thirty years since the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk* launched as a shuttlecraft – a chapter-in-training. This issue of *The Wright Stuff* also completes thirty full years of our newsletter. (For those who haven't seen it yet, [the entire history of the newsletter is archived on our web site.](#))

No 'Hawk anniversaries would be possible without the efforts of J.R. and Jane Fisher, who "survived" the crash of the prior Raleigh chapter of STARFLEET and gathered some Triangle *Trek* fans to get us launched.... so a big (ongoing) "Thank You!" to you both!

Looking Back...

... at 2019, we made some great strides as we —

- Volunteered at [UNC-TV](#), [Artsposure](#), [One Giant Leap](#), and the [Peak City Int'l Film Festival](#).
- Donated from the treasury to the Food Bank. We also received a [very nice "Thank You" note from the Food Bank](#).
- Welcomed several new members!
- Made our [third appearance at GalaxyCon](#) (or Supercon) and – with many thanks to J.R. – expanded our presence with the Klingon banner.
- Hosted/met three *Trek* stars (with many thanks to those who made it possible): [Jayne Brook](#), a returning [Garrett Wang](#), and [Robert O'Reilly](#).
- Started early work on the [Kitty Hawk handbook](#).
- Launched a [commissary](#) that has a variety of *Kitty Hawk* merchandise for sale.

Looking Ahead...

... to 2020 (and beyond), we have a lot to look forward to as well —

- There's another 30th anniversary coming for us— October 7 marks thirty years since commissioning!
- January 19 is our anniversary dinner at Kanki. (Which Kanki we'll be at is TBD.)
- We should be returning to GalaxyCon with improvements from lessons learned in each of the first three years.
- And certainly not the least important – more opportunities for volunteering!

And a Few Other Things on the (my) To Do List...

- Find more volunteer activities for us. (I'm also very open to suggestions on this one!)

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

It's (almost) the end of the year and Comp Ops is pretty much caught up on getting [the web site](#) updated. [Final Mission](#) should stay on schedule to publish one chapter each month through the conclusion in April, along with all the comments, notes, timeline, etc., that all have too many spoilers to publish before the end.

However, one project does still remain on the To Do list -- the "LCARS III" interface, which will change the left-side navigation buttons to use rounded ends. I still have some research on how best to do it, but there's also no hurry. ☺

The [Mars 2020 rover](#) doesn't have a "real" name yet, but the build continues. It recently [stood on its own wheels and suspension system](#) and [moved into JPL's vacuum chamber for testing](#). The rover is still on schedule to launch in July 2020 and reach Mars the following February.

Not to be forgotten, the current rover on the Martian surface (*Curiosity*) has [discovered what scientists believe was once an oasis](#).

Check out Brad's [Engineering Report](#) for more current and upcoming missions!

-
- Start writing my sections of the handbook, including the long-promised updates for the Rank and Promotion System tables.
 - Award the points earned by everyone who contributed web site content.
 - Award PROMOTIONS! to the enlisted folks who have picked up the points needed (now that the non-officer promotion schedules look final). I also need to check on the officers' point totals, too.

A reminder to all that membership in STARFLEET International is encouraged – but not required to be part of the *Kitty Hawk* – as is taking OTS through STARFLEET Academy. (Do note that Academy classes are limited to active-STARFLEET only.)

Also, we welcome any and all donations to our treasury (via the PayPal link on our web site). There's a suggestion donation of twelve bucks a year – but, again, this is not required.

Here's to a great 2020 !

Alternate Treks

By Brad MacDonald

Star Trek got its start from a most peculiar source, Lucille Ball. Let me explain. She and her husband, Dezi Arnez, owned Desilu Studios, hence the name. At the time, she was starring in one of the most popular TV series, *The Lucy Show*. An annual tradition involved her renewing her contract with CBS and receiving her 'signing bonus.' The bonus was used for a variety of purposes but this particular year, she decided to fund pilots for new series. It was a surprising move as the studio hadn't done any series production work for some time. Basically, Desilu Studios was a rental unit providing lighting, cameras, and production equipment to the other studios.

There is a very interesting story about how *Star Trek* and its sister production, *Mission Impossible*, came about, especially considering they are both still in production in one form or another and two very successful franchises. However, the most striking thing was Lucy's comment regarding '*Star Trek*'. When asked what the new show was about she wasn't quite sure but speculated that it involved various celebrities on a U.S.O. tour or something like that. Hence, a 'star' trek! I got quite a laugh out of that, but Lucy got the last laugh. With *Star Trek* and *Mission Impossible* doing well, Desilu studios was sold to Paramount for a nice profit.

Lucy's comment did cause me to pause and think, what other forms of *Trek* could there be? So armed with a pencil, a piece of paper and my imagination, I came up with the following list. Please excuse my indulgence... after all, it's all just for fun.

Sack Trek – the ultimate three legged races
Sag Trek – face lifts all over the world
Sail Trek – traveling by wind power
Sale Trek – ultimate coupons and bargains
Salt Trek – a trip 'peppered' with seasoning
Salon Trek – checking every beauty parlor
Sand Trek – sculpting at the beaches
Sap Trek – tapping trees for syrup
Saw Trek – real 'cutting' adventures
Sax Trek – playing the instrument wherever you can
Scam Trek – uncovering bogus businesses everywhere
Scar Trek – the adventures of a surgeon or "A Scar is Born"
Scare Trek – looking for ghosts, goblins and monsters or an endless Halloween
Scarf Trek – the ultimate in accessories
Scent Trek – the search for the perfect fragrance
School Trek – visiting campuses all over the galaxy
Scoop Trek – tasting all the ice cream flavors
Scotch Trek – looking for the best whiskey
Scrub Trek – getting things really clean
Scrap Trek – on a quest to recycle bits and pieces
Seam Trek – a seamstress on the go
Seed Trek – playing Johnny Appleseed
Seize Trek – taking whatever, wherever you find it
Sell Trek – the adventures of a traveling salesman
Shag Trek – beach music and dance along the coast
Shark Trek – looking for fins in all the right places
Shear Trek – a 'cutting edge' adventure
Sheep Trek – on the lam

Shell Trek – collecting on all the beaches
Shift Trek – grinding gears in many cars
Shine Trek – polishing the universe
Shirt Trek – finding the perfect fit
Shoe Trek – Imelda Marcos will be the captain
Shop Trek – 'till you drop!
Shout Trek – a collection of hog calling contests
Show Trek – taking Broadway everywhere, the showboat is updated
Shrek Trek – a fairy tale
Shrub Trek – planting and trimming bushes
Sick Trek – a doctor's adventures
Sign Trek – looking for the best signage or a Burma Shave update
Silk Trek – the new silk road adventures
Sing Trek – finding the best vocalists
Skate Trek – on blades and wheels
Ski Trek – looking for the perfect slope and powder
Skin Trek – (better not go there)
Skirt Trek – maxi, midi and mini adventures
Skunk Trek – Pepe Le Pew has to be the captain
Sleep Trek – catching Z's everywhere
Slide Trek – the best playground adventures
Slim Trek – the ultimate weight loss adventure
Sloth Trek – a very slow-action show
Smile Trek – a quest to find happy people
Snack Trek – munchies across the universe
Snake Trek – the adventures of a herpetologist
Snow Trek – fun in the mountains or at the poles
Song Trek – space is alive with the sound of music
Soar Trek – hang gliding around the world
Sole Trek – the adventures of a traveling cobbler
Sore Trek – fixing boo-boo's around the country
Sort Trek – arranging everything in groups
Soul Trek – getting down and getting funky all over the universe
Sound Trek – following a recording engineer or foley artist
Soup Trek – finding the perfect bowl full
Speech Trek – oratory wherever you can find it
Spell Trek – looking for spelling bees
Spice Trek – a well-flavored adventure
Splash Trek – diving into adventure head first
Stab Trek – making an attempt even if not successful
Stack Trek – there's no such thing as too many pancakes
Staff Trek – planning officers on a pleasure cruise
Stagg Trek – where the deer and the antelope play
Stain Trek – looking for the perfect color match
Stair Trek – running the steps
Stake Trek – traveling to raise money for a poker game
Stale Trek – old plots and stories
Stall Trek – cleaning out horse barns
Stamp Trek – for the philatelists everywhere
Stand Trek – checking out small businesses everywhere
Stance Trek – making a stand wherever needed
Starch Trek – laundry adventures
Stark Trek – a bare bones journey
Start Trek – it's got to begin somewhere
Starve Trek – a bad diet cruise

Quartermaster/Yeoman Report

By Larry Cox

State Trek – visiting all 50!
Stave Trek – looking for the perfect walking stick
Stay Trek – the adventures of not going anywhere
Steak Trek – looking for the perfect t-bone
Steal Trek – thieves throughout the world
Stealth Trek – no one can see you traveling
Steam Trek – a real steampunk show
Steed Trek – hi yo Silver, away!
Steel Trek – a tale of a Pittsburgh worker
Steep Trek – mountain climbing adventures
Stern Trek – a very serious voyage
Stew Trek – cooking adventures or finding the perfect Mulligan's
Stick Trek – throwing them and dogs fetching them
Stiff Trek – lots of dead bodies on board
Still Trek – looking for a better moonshine
Sting Trek – hornets, wasps and bees, oh my!
Stilt Trek – walking above the crowds
Stir Trek – mixing things up wherever you go
Stock Trek – nothing new ever happens, it's all old footage
Stoke Trek – keeping the fires burning
Stone Trek – a geologist on the road
Stooge Trek – Larry, Moe and Curly on a voyage
Store Trek – a retail adventure
Stork Trek – delivering babies one at a time
Storm Trek – chasing tornadoes and hurricanes.
Stout Trek – checking pubs for a good beer
Stove Trek – looking at cooking
Straight Trek – no turns on this trip
Strand Trek – leaving people along the way
Strap Trek – checking how things are held up
Stray Trek – looking for lost animals
Strange Trek – bizarre behavior explored
Straw Trek – making hay
Streak Trek – running nude!
Stream Trek – a kayaking journey
Street Trek – touring the neighborhoods
Stress Trek – going where the pressure is on
Stretch Trek – a short trip to work out the kinks
Strict Trek – traveling under tough rules
Stride Trek – walking everywhere
Strife Trek – a very contentious voyage
Strike Trek – checking labor problems or perfect bowling
Strive Trek – trying to make a good journey
String Trek – making the ultimate ball
Strobe Trek – a disco adventure
Stroke Trek – a golfing journey, one swing at a time
Stroll Trek – an easy walk
Strong Trek – a very powerful voyage
Strum Trek – playing all string instruments
Strut Trek – walking with style
Stub Trek – the search for torn tickets
Stud Trek – looking for the perfect framing lumber
Stuff Trek – a taxidermists voyage
Stump Trek – traveling with campaigning politicians
Stun Trek – leaving them speechless
Stunt Trek – traveling movie backlots
Sty Trek – checking out homes for pigs
Style Trek – designers all over the universe
Sue Trek – lawyers doing what they do best
Sum Trek – the action adventures of accountants

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Food Bank drive. Thanks to your generosity, we collected 153 lbs. of food which they determine will provide 128 meals! Nicely done!

Please remember your new, unwrapped toy donation at the Christmas party for our Toys for Tots drive. And thanks again to Debbie and Diane for hosting our party again this year.

Our [commissary website](#) is up and running, so be sure to check out our "exclusive" *Kitty Hawk* merchandise; mugs, cups, buttons and lots more.

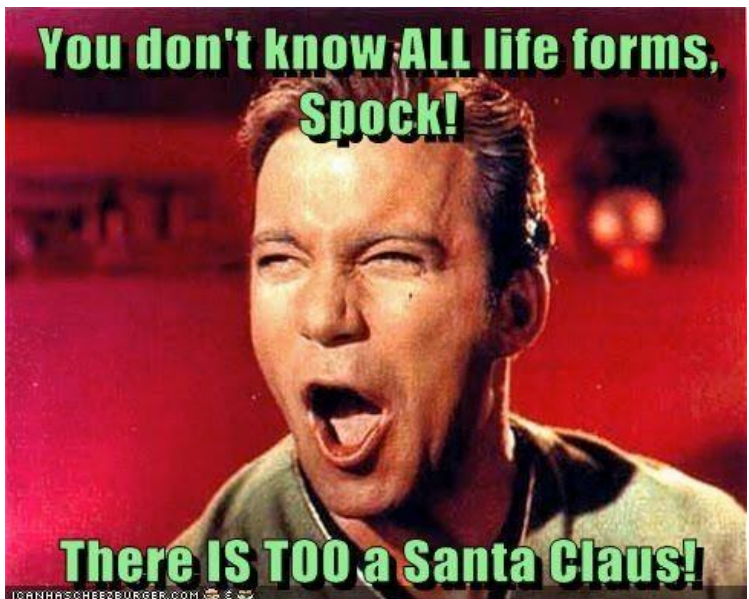
I still have tees for sale:

- 1 L white full color \$20
- 2 XL red and black full color \$20 and
- 1 XL black, monochrome \$17

Although I'd like to deplete current inventory first, if there's enough interest in a new order I'm happy to see what I can do.

As always, thanks to everybody for their generous monthly contributions to the general treasury. Because of your generosity, we're able to continue to contribute to worthy area causes that can benefit from our assistance.

And thanks for the continued support from all of you; it's gratifying to see the number of members attending the monthly meeting. All are always welcome.



Sun Trek – locating the best place to get a tan
Surf Trek – looking for the perfect wave
Swamp Trek – exploring the lowlands everywhere
Sweet Trek – boldly going to candy stores everywhere
Swift Trek – fast cars, boats, planes and so on
Swim Trek – to boldly stroke...
Sword Trek – ongoing saga of a samurai master

Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

I've got a lot to talk about, so we better move at warp speed.

To start with, I have a brief summary of what NASA is up to and what they have planned for the near future including satellite and probe names. Dates for missions are given when available.

[Parker Solar Probe](#): already in progress, the probe is scheduled to make the closest passes to the sun ever achieved. Also of note, with its highly elliptical orbit, it reaches a record speed of 213,200 mph!

[New Horizons](#): done with the study of Pluto, it's now looking at objects in the Kuiper Belt.

[Insight Lander](#): on Mars, its mission is to detect quakes to determine the internal structure of Mars.

[Mars 2020 rover](#): expected to land in February of 2021. Collect samples and wait for another probe to pick them up and return to Earth!

Mission 2027 (unnamed): to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids, asteroids that follow Jupiter's orbit. It is hoped they may contain material left from the formation of the solar system.

[Europa Clipper](#): scheduled for the mid 2020's, will fly within 16 miles of Europa to sample water vapor plumes.

[Unnamed and no date](#): using data from the *Clipper*, land on Europa and drill into ice to collect samples.

[Dragonfly 2034](#): go to Titan to test for life. Satellite will be plutonium-powered since solar panels are useless as only 1% of the sunlight we get reaches Titan.

[Psyche Probe](#): will visit an asteroid made mostly of metal, could be the core of a dead planet.

[Cubesats](#): only 4" x 4", these nanotechnology satellites will work on 176 missions in a variety of missions, such as ice on the moon, asteroid field exploration and so on. Several are already in space.

[Euclid Telescope 2022](#): will look for dark matter and dark energy.

[James Webb Space Scope 2021](#): it's a replacement for *Hubble* and will continue the search for exoplanets capable of supporting life.

[WFIRST 2025 \(Wide Field InfraRed Survey Telescope\)](#): will combine missions of searching for exoplanets, dark matter and dark energy.

NEO 2025 (Near Earth Object): looking for threats to Earth such as comets and asteroids.

[Artemis Moon Mission 2024](#): NASA received a boost to their regular budget specifically for this project. Contracts have already been awarded for the next generation of space capsules. Lockheed Martin will be building the Orion spacecraft in groups of three to maximize assembly line efficiency. The reusable

capsule program contract currently calls for a minimum number of six and a maximum of twelve capsules. The first two are already being built. Also in the works is a totally new space suit. Intended for the moon missions, it's called xEMU. They will also be used for Mars missions scheduled for 2035!

It's a great time to be a 'space nut' as NASA is now in a renaissance of sorts, a reminder of how it was in the 60's.

In the seventh season episode of *Next Generation* titled "Force of Nature," aliens warned Picard that warp drive ships were responsible for damaging the fabric of space. Eventually, the *Enterprise* crew found evidence of this, which left them wondering how much damage had been done over the many years since the first warp drive system had been used. In response, they instituted a speed limit of sorts. I thought it was an interesting story, but assumed that it couldn't be applied to current events. Of course our cars were obvious examples here on Earth, but what about space travel in the 20th and 21st Centuries?

We now have an answer and it's not very encouraging. A recent article by Alex Stuckey at the *Houston Chronicle*, addressed that issue in ways I've never heard of before. What exactly is the impact of our space program on Earth and space? It turns out the effects are far greater than we could imagine.

The many space launches over the last 60 years or so have used liquid- and solid-fueled rockets which generate a lot of waste products. Evidence of this was the post-launch fish kills in the lagoons surrounding the launch site. Anywhere from 100 to over 1,000 fish died after each launch due to a cloud of acidic dust which spreads over five miles and left deposits on plants and buildings and the lagoons.

Starting in 1981, the [shuttle program](#) eventually consisted of 135 launches and this had the greatest impact as solid fuel boosters deposited hydrochloric acid, aluminum, iron, zinc, potassium and sodium, which have been discovered in the soil.

A 2014 study showed this; however. so far, NASA does not do environmental impact studies. In addition, little is known about the effects of various chemicals and elements resulting from the launches including alumina, chlorine and black carbon. Over the 30 years of the shuttle program, NASA did an evaluation of sorts and found an acid rain which led to skin irritation, plant damage, fish kills and even put metals into the air as the engine blasts stripped flakes of zinc and iron off surfaces of the launch platforms. The evaluation then concluded there were, "No long term macro-scale negative responses."

The question here is how could it not have a

long-term effect? Did the evaluation address systems used by the private sector or take into account the planned increase in the number of launches for the future?

Unfortunately, it only examined the immediate launch area and not space itself. Alumina and black carbon are known to be harmful to the ozone layer as both are accumulative and have a long life.

A United Nations study discovered that launches do have an impact on the ozone, but little is known about the various factors concerning rocket design, size, launch locations and such. Currently, NASA does not have a mission for studying any of these factors and their effects.

The 2014 study also failed to address another issue, NASA's use of the ocean as a dump for expendable rockets and spacecraft parts. Just recently, the [July test of the emergency abort system](#) deposited both the booster and capsule in the ocean. NASA has not tracked or kept records of these items over its 60-year history. Also, there is no study being done to determine the effects of rocket and hardware deterioration on the ocean's environment. While NASA must obtain permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Marine Fisheries Service to leave something in the ocean, what about the commercial agencies? Even if permits are obtained, what are the long term effects of space trash in the oceans? More importantly, does anybody really know what's inside those items?

It's a real mystery and doesn't appear that much is being done to resolve the issues, but it should be addressed. With NASA, ESA, China, Japan, India and even Israel launching space vehicles, the situation can only get worse. Launch schedules are being accelerated by all agencies and the private sector. Larger units will soon be used which will further add to the problem.

Hopefully, someone will realize that these issues need to be looked into.

Boeing and Porsche are working together on a new project, a flying car. It will be a VTOL, Vertical Take Off and Landing vehicle. It will complete with two other similar projects from Airbus and Kitty Hawk; no, not us.

Northrup Grumman carried out a successful launch of its [Pegasus XL](#) rocket on October 11. This will mark the 44th use which puts smaller satellites in orbit. The system uses an air launch system, carried out at elevations greater than 30,000 feet. This reduces the need for heavy booster rockets. On this occasion the satellite was ICON, or the Ionospheric Connection Explorer.

An all-female EVA took place to replace a broken battery charger on the space station. U.S. astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir worked over five hours on the repairs while a livestream

narration was done by another female astronaut, Tracey Caldwell Dyson.

NASA announced its new female launch director for the Artemis moon mission: Charlie Blackwell-Thompson. By the way, the reason for choosing the Artemis name was simple. In Greek mythology, Artemis is the moon goddess and twin sister of Apollo!

From 1962 to 1970, Grumman Aircraft had a contract to build 15 [moon landers](#) for \$150 million. Ten went to space; of those, four were practice (1, 3, 4 & 7); six landed on the moon (5, 6, 8, 10, 11 & 12); three wound up in museums (2, 9 & 13); number 15 was scrapped during production when Apollo 20 was cancelled; but what happened to 14?

After an investigation, a document was found that indicated 14 was actually issued a stop work order on August 15, 1969, when only 3% of work was done. Mystery solved! Evidently the official NASA document entry lacked that input and so a mystery evolved. Anyway, 50 years later, it's solved.

Tesla's problems continue. Its supplier of batteries, Panasonic, can't keep up with the production needs. Add to that, Musk asked for Panasonic to reduce the price of the batteries so he could make his cars more profitable. Now Panasonic has bigger problems as their profits are down 50% compared to last year and may be in trouble.

Musk's problems don't end there. Tesla has been hit with a major lawsuit concerning the death of a Broward County anesthesiologist, Omar Awan. During an accident, Mr. Awan suffered no broken bones or internal injuries but police were unable to open the doors as the car handles retract into the doors for a flush finish. They are supposed to pop out if an air bag deploys. But it wasn't clear if the bags deployed. Even so, it's not a very good system, what if a bag doesn't deploy? The rapid spread of a fire prevented getting tools in time to break glass and the cars batteries fueled an intense fire which burned for several hours and reignited multiple times!

A new invention by a remarkable young lady debuted recently. Fourteen-year-old Alaina Gassler was awarded \$25,000 for a solution to eliminate blind spots in cars. The system uses a camera to project an image onto a pillar which shows what's normally not visible! She said she came up with the system because her older brother was starting to drive and she wanted to be sure of his safety.

Another young lady, Caroline Crouchley, has invented a new type of train. The 13-year-old's system uses pneumatic tubes next to existing rail lines. It's less expensive, more efficient and safer than Musk's Hyperloop system. It uses 100% renewable energy and eliminates the use of diesel engines or electric motors, which makes it lighter. It's not as fast as the Hyperloop but still travels twice as fast as existing trains.

That's all for now and that's enough, right?

Thank You Letter From the Food Bank



2018-2019
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foodbankcenc.org

No One Goes Hungry in Central & Eastern North Carolina

Raleigh (Main Office): 1924 Capital Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27604 Phone: 919.875.0707 Fax: 919.875.0801

November 4, 2019

USS Kitty Hawk/Starfleet

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$200.00 that we received on 10/15/2019.

Generosity like yours makes a profound difference for families, children, and seniors in our region who feel the hopelessness of hunger.

More people than you can imagine have gotten to the place they've feared most — a place of hunger, of desperation, of tears. For many, it can be a sudden job loss. For others it may be a separation or divorce, a critical illness, or emergency room visit.

One thing is consistent no matter the cause . . . you.

You make sure the places they turn for help have enough resources to meet the immediate need and to help them through the hard times.

Because of people like you, the Food Bank can help provide food to a service network of more than 900 community partners throughout central and eastern North Carolina.

That means our neighbors have somewhere to turn in an emergency. They don't have to walk away empty handed. They can have renewed hope that things can get better. Thank you for caring!

Sincerely,

Peter Werbicki
President/CEO

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization,
Federal Tax ID# 56-1283426.

No goods or services were received in consideration of this gift.

Durham Branch
2700 Angier Avenue
Durham, NC 27703
Phone: 919.956.2513
Fax: 919.956.7083

Greensboro Branch
1712 Union Street
Greensboro, NC 27834
Phone: 252.752.4996
Fax: 252.752.1821

New Bern Branch
205 S. Glenburnie Road
New Bern, NC 28560
Phone: 252.577.1912
Fax: 252.577.1915

Seaside Branch
195 Sandy Avenue
Southern Pines, NC 28387
Phone: 910.692.5959
Fax: 910.692.5910

Wilmington Branch
1314 Weststar Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
Phone: 910.251.1495
Fax: 910.251.3591



ST: TOS - "A Friend Indeed"

By Brad McDonald

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. ENTERPRISE – BOTANICAL GARDENS – WIDE ANGLE

We see Mbithi, Kamau, Omandi, Sulu and Kirk touring the garden. Mbithi stops and kneels, with difficulty, to look at a bonsai plant.

MBITHI

This looks interesting.

Sulu smiles, moves forward and kneels next to Mbithi.

SULU

(moving)

That's one of mine, Commissioner, by way of my father.

TWO SHOT – SULU AND MBITHI

MBITHI

It shows a skilled hand and attention to detail.

Sulu is surprised by the comment.

SULU

Then you're familiar with the Bonsai tradition?

Mbithi continues to study the plant closely.

MBITHI

Very, I have several of my own back home.

In B.G. we see McCoy enter with medical bag and tricorder.

MBITHI

(continued)

I'm worried about my bonsai collection and my other plants. I've been away a long time...

He looks tired, distant and lost in thought.

NEW ANGLE

McCoy arrives and stands next to a surprised Kirk.

KIRK

Doctor, are you here to join the tour?

MCCOY

I was summoned.

Kirk is confused and looks around.

KIRK

Everyone looks healthy...

MCCOY

Looks can be --

AS BEFORE – SULU AND MBITHI

Mbithi tries to rise, but can't and Sulu helps.

SULU

(concerned)

Commissioner! Let me help you.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Kamau and Omandi rush forward to help, pushing Sulu aside. McCoy removes scanner from bag and examines Mbithi.

CLOSE ON MCCOY

He's concentrating on readings, pulls tricorder and scans again, then turns to Kirk.

MCCOY

This man needs to be in sickbay, now!

CUT TO:

SICKBAY – DIAGNOSTIC BED – ON MBITHI

He's unconscious and readings on bed are very low.

ANOTHER ANGLE

McCoy is standing across the room watching Mbithi as Kirk and Spock enter, speaking quietly.

KIRK

(moving)

How is he, Doctor?

MCCOY

Stabilized, for now.

KIRK

I need to update Command, anything else?

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

Sorry, Jim, this man is very sick. He shouldn't even be here!

KIRK (O.C.)

(confused)

On Enterprise?

MCCOY
(irritated)

Anywhere out here! I can't understand why Federation Council or Starfleet would allow him to work!

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Undoubtedly due to his unique abilities. This area of space falls under the Organian Peace Treaty. If the Federation can develop it properly, first, then the Klingons must withdraw.

AS BEFORE – ON MCCOY

MCCOY
(angry)

Even if it means killing the Commissioner? This is outrageous, Jim!

MBITHI (O.C.)

It's okay, Doctor.

McCoy is surprised and turns to face Mbithi, moving closer with Kirk and Spock close behind.

MCCOY'S P.O.V.

Mbithi is smiling but still weak.

MBITHI
(continuing)

It was my choice, Doctor.

MCCOY (O.C.)

But... why?

CLOSE ON MBITHI

He's struggling, but determined to speak.

MBITHI

I knew my... time was limited, but I wanted to... make a difference, one more time.

KIRK (O.C.)

You knew?

MBITHI
(smiling)

It's why I chose my aides... where are they?

MCCOY (O.C.)
(annoyed)

More like bodyguards! They were in the way.

MBITHI

Nurses, Doctor, with the ability to render physical assistance when needed. It was

Kamau who called. He suspected a relapse.

ON KIRK

He's still confused and confronts Mbithi.

KIRK

Relapse of what, sir? I don't understand. Are you... contagious?

ON MBITHI

MBITHI

No, Captain, your crew is safe. It's left over from an earlier accident.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

The one that resulted in your wife's death?

MBITHI (O.C.)

You know?

SPOCK

Simply deductive reasoning, sir. Although your injury is not part of your official biography, I suspect that was intentional to avoid a prejudice as to your abilities to accomplish your work.

ON KIRK

He's still confused and becoming impatient.

KIRK

Will someone please tell me what this is all about?

CLOSE ON MBITHI

He's still weak but gaining strength and determined to speak.

MBITHI

I was inspecting an experimental fertilization process on a class K planet, with pressure domes. The fertilizer plant exploded which damaged the dome.

He pauses to catch his breath, McCoy moves to assist, but Mbithi holds up a hand.

MBITHI
(continuing)

I'm okay, Doctor. Your treatment is working.

(beat)

Anyway, the dome began to lose atmosphere, rapidly. We evacuated quickly, but not quick enough. My wife

was closest to the actual rupture and died, but I survived.

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

But not unscathed. You have extensive scarring in your lungs and your cardiovascular system was affected as well.

TWO SHOT – MCCOY AND MBITHI

MBITHI

Correct, Doctor. I had hoped to finish this inspection, before returning --

MCCOY
(interrupting)

As of now, sir, your inspections are all through!

McCoy turns to leave.

MBITHI

Wait, Doctor, please!

Reluctantly, McCoy turns back to face Mbithi.

MCCOY

Why?

ON MBITHI

He tries to rise, pleading with McCoy, desperate.

MBITHI

Allow me to complete my work. By the time we get to Station Viceroy, I'll be able to perform my duties. I've been through this before...

TWO SHOT - MCCOY AND MBITHI

MCCOY

You must be joking! I can't allow it! It could kill you!

MBITHI

Doctor, I'm already dying. At least I'll be able to finish my work. I can help the Federation and end my career on a positive note and not simply... fade away.

McCoy is unconvinced and turns back to leave.

NEW ANGLE

KIRK

Wait, Doctor. Doesn't he have a right to decide what he wants?

McCoy stops and confronts Kirk.

MCCOY

I will not be a party to what would be assisting in his death.

SPOCK

Shouldn't that be the patient's choice? After all, there are precedents regarding the Commissioner's situation.

ON MCCOY

He looks guilty and reluctantly backpedals, becoming quiet.

MCCOY

Perhaps you're right Spock... but I can't say I agree... completely.

(to Mbithi)

If you return to Earth, you could extend your life... but out here... at your current pace...

(beat)

As it is, we may not even be able to get you home...

McCoy leaves the thought unfinished.

CLOSE ON MBITHI

He's laying back down and pleads with McCoy, emotional.

MBITHI

Home? To what? Nya and I had no children. It's an empty house, full of honors and awards, but little else. Out here, I'm doing what I want to do, one more time, awards or not!

ON MCCOY

He's conflicted and still reluctant.

MCCOY

Okay, I understand, but I will file a report with the Surgeon General's office, noting my objections. It's my duty to 'do no harm' or even allow it.

NEW ANGLE

McCoy exits sickbay, Spock moves to Kirk's side.

SPOCK

(moving)

Your report is overdue, Captain.

KIRK

(to Spock)

Understood.

Kirk turns to Mbithi, pleading.

KIRK
(to Mbithi)

Are you sure, Commissioner? Really sure?

TWO SHOT – MBITHI AND KIRK

MBITHI
(relieved)

Yes, if you must... consider it a last request.

Kirk smiles weakly.

KIRK

Very well, sir.

(beat)

Spock, you're with me.

NEW ANGLE

Kirk and Spock exit sickbay as Kamau and Omandi enter.

CLOSE ON MBITHI

He's smiling and seems to be at peace. In a few beats, he goes back to sleep.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND STARFIELD

Enterprise is moving at warp speed.

INT. ENTERPRISE – OFFICER'S LOUNGE/
MESSROOM – WIDE ANGLE

Three N.D. crewmembers are present, eating and speaking quietly. Uhura enters slowly, goes to a food processor, makes her selection, then takes a seat away from the others. She begins eating slowly when Mbithi enters. Uhura looks up and sees him, then looks for a way out. Too late, he turns and sees her; she's trapped. He approaches her, all smiles and good natured.

MBITHI
(moving)

Noyota, at last I get to see you.

He sits at her table. She is uncomfortable and nervous, but tries to be pleasant. She eats more quickly in an effort to get away.

TWO SHOT – UHURA AND MBITHI

UHURA
(eating)

Well, I've been busy...

He gives her a knowing look and speaks matter-of-factly.

MBITHI

... trying to avoid me.

Uhura looks guilty and continues to eat even faster.

ON MBITHI

MBITHI

It's okay, I'm not trying to re-establish a relationship. I just wanted to thank you for your decision to join Starfleet.

ON UHURA

She stops eating, confused and stares at Mbithi.

UHURA

I don't understand. Why would you want to... thank me?

AS BEFORE – ON MBITHI

He smiles warmly and speaks in a fatherly tone.

MBITHI

When you left, I was... disappointed, but later I realized you had to find your own way and my political ambitions would have interfered with that. Then I met Nya. She changed my life. In your absence, I thought how I could become... more useful and Nya helped. We were married soon afterward.

(beat)

So you see, had you stayed, not only would you have failed in your quest to 'find yourself.'

He becomes lost in thought and memories.

MBITHI

I would have never met Nya. I could not imagine all those years without her.

TWO SHOT – UHURA AND MBITHI

Uhura is relaxed and smiles weakly, nodding in understanding and appreciation.

UHURA

Thank you for sharing that with me. I feel a bit... foolish.

MBITHI

No more so than I, assuming that you wanted to marry your 'old' mentor.

He finishes on a quiet laugh.

UHURA

I had heard that you married... and I was sorry about your loss.

MBITHI
(reflective)

Yes, it was quite difficult for me. She had encouraged me to grow and change, something you actually started.

He smiles at her.

UHURA
(surprised)

Me? What did I do?

ON MBITHI

MBITHI

Your leaving to start a new life made me think about my political ambitions. My true skills were in agriculture. As the director of agriculture in our district, I bragged we could grow anything. Now it's 'we can grow anything, anywhere.' I'm really making a difference.

ANOTHER ANGLE

She's happy now and the two are reconciled. In B.G. the three N.D. crewmembers leave and Uhura notices, nodding in their direction.

UHURA

Since we have the room to ourselves, how about catching up with each other?

MBITHI
(very happy)

I'd like nothing better.

(beat)

So, how was the Academy?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND STAR FIELD

Enterprise is at warp speed.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – ON COMMAND SECTION

KIRK

E.T.A. to the G'norr Colony, Mr. Chekov.

CHEKOV
(off console)

One hour, twenty-five minutes, Captain.

KIRK

Uhura, contact the colony and --

SPOCK
(interrupting)

Captain, our shadow has returned. Bearing oh nine oh; 430,000 kilometers.

Kirk tenses a bit.

KIRK

Visual, Lieutenant.

Sulu works console, then:

SULU

On main viewer, sir.

ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER

We see a Klingon cruiser.

KIRK

Condition, Mr. Sulu?

SULU

(off console)

No shields, no screens and weapons off line, sir.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK
(off console)

They appear to be... observing our actions, nothing more. Evidently, they are adhering to the terms of the Organian Peace Treaty.

ON KIRK

KIRK
(nodding)

And by not committing an act of aggression, they can continue their claim on this sector.

CHEKOV (O.C.)

Do we intercept them, Captain?

KIRK

Negative, navigator. We don't wish to start anything, either. Continue on to the G'norr Colony.

(beat)

Uhura, contact the governor of the colony, send my compliments and our E.T.A.

UHURA (O.C.)

Aye, sir.

KIRK
(to self)

Peaceful Klingons, now I've seen everything.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. G'NORR EXPERIMENTAL FARM – MIDDAY – SUNNY – ON MBITHI

Inspection tour is almost completed, Mbithi is visibly tired and walking slowly through field of low growing

plants, speaking with local N.D. farmers and V.I.P.'s. Kamau and Omandi are 'hovering' and watching closely. Mbithi seems to be in good spirits and moving about easily. Suddenly, he drops to the ground. Aides rush to his side, Kamau opens a communicator. Locals are surprised and horrified. In a few beats, we see McCoy arrive. He scans Mbithi with medical tricorder, then uses communicator. Mbithi, McCoy and aides then disappear in transporter effect.

EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND G'NORR

Enterprise is in orbit around G,Norr.

INT. ENTERPRISE – SICKBAY – DIAGNOSTIC BED – ON MBITHI

He's resting, life levels are at minimum.

NEW ANGLE

Kirk, Spock, McCoy and Uhura are gathered across the room; Uhura is upset.

MCCOY

Sorry, Uhura, I can't do anything for him, but he knew his time was limited and so did the Federation Council.

(beat)

All V.I.P.'s are given a physical before embarking on a mission like this. It's a regulation from the Surgeon General's office, supposedly to protect Starfleet from incidences like this.

Uhura is surprised and confused.

UHURA

They sent him out here, knowing he was...dying?

ON KIRK

KIRK

The Commissioner's work is highly respected and valued. His presence was deemed essential for the development of this sector.

UHURA (O.C.)

To the point of costing his life?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Miss Uhura, it was his idea to participate and remember, he was adamant about continuing even after the relapse in the ship's gardens. It was very important to him. The presence of the Klingons monitoring his work shows he was right. I

believe they had hoped to gain insight into his methods and advance their own sciences. They must be concerned that the Federation may be given priority as outlined by Organian Treaty terms.

MCCOY (O.C.)

The random sightings?

SPOCK

Precisely, Doctor.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND MCCOY

MCCOY

What now, Jim?

Kirk is discouraged and angry.

KIRK

Contact Command and if Carstairs gives me a bad time about this, I'll remind him that he sent Mbithi on this mission or at least approved it knowing he wasn't well.

(beat)

Bones?

He leaves the obvious question unasked, looking at Mbithi.

MCCOY

(grim)

Hours, at best, Jim. His last relapse was particularly rough.

NEW ANGLE

Uhura steps forward, still emotional.

UHURA

May I stay with him, Doctor? Captain?

MCCOY

Absolutely. He may come around, so it would be good to have a friendly face nearby.

ON KIRK

He steps closer to Uhura and speaks quietly.

KIRK

With all the extra duties you've pulled the last few days, I owe you that. I'll get Palmer to cover for you.

ON UHURA

She seems comforted.

UHURA

Thank you, sir. Also, if possible, I'd like to assist with the arrangements. I know the customs of our people.

AS BEFORE – ON KIRK

KIRK
(quietly)

Certainly. No doubt, Enterprise will be given the honor of taking the Commissioner back to Earth.

(beat)

Stay with him.

(to McCoy)

Spock and I will be filing our reports on the Commissioner's mission and the theory concerning the Klingon activities in this sector.

AS BEFORE – ON UHURA

She's lost in thought, still dealing with the news of Mbithi's condition.

UHURA

I guess he meant more to me that I realized. I feel so bad about avoiding him...

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

Don't be too hard on yourself. You thought you were doing the right thing, protecting yourself and avoiding a potentially unpleasant situation, for both of you.

NEW ANGLE

Kirk, Spock and McCoy exit as Uhura takes a seat next to Mbithi's bed. Her action wakes him and she is startled.

TWO SHOT – UHURA AND MBITHI

UHURA

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to disturb you.

Mbithi smiles weakly.

MBITHI

It's okay, Nyota. I can't think of anyone I'd rather have here.

CLOSE ON UHURA

She's emotional and surprised.

UHURA

Really? Even if I wasn't a very good... friend?

MBITHI

Who says so?

UHURA

I didn't exactly keep in touch over the years.

ON MBITHI

MBITHI

Nor did I! I think it was good for both of us. We grew apart, but we did grow, right?

UHURA (O.C.)

I suppose you're right.

MBITHI

And I do consider you a friend. Your presence is just what I need. That, and completing my mission and my life's work.

ON UHURA

She's now overwhelmed and emotional, moving closer.

UHURA

Okay, I'm here for you, as long as you need.

MBITHI

A friend indeed!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

Happy Holidays to All!



Upcoming Events

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
	18	Articles Due for Jan/Feb Newsletter
	19	6 p.m. Anniversary Dinner Kanki (Location TBD)
Feb	1	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Morrisville

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

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