

THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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IMAGES - Title Banner

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

IMAGE - Featured Front Page

Kepler-1649c: Earth-Size, Habitable Zone Planet Hides in Plain Sight

This artist's illustration shows what Kepler-1649c could look like from its surface.

<https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/kepler-1649c-earth-size-habitable-zone-planet-hides-in-plain-sight>

The Center Seat

By John Troan

I lead off this month with sad news. As was mentioned in the May meeting, Jane Fisher has passed away. She is the wife of our first/founding CO (JR Fisher); was our first newsletter editor; and was a very core member of the crew as the *Kitty Hawk* launched and commissioned, staying on top of everything before the internet made things easier. Our condolences to JR on his loss.

Because of the social distancing environment that we're under right now, the memorial services to celebrate Jane's life have been postponed until conditions permit them to be held in both Raleigh and Washington, NC.

In keeping with the family's wishes, in lieu of flowers, the *Kitty Hawk* will be making a donation in her name to the Wake SPCA.

The *Kitty Hawk* will also be making a donation to the Food Bank to help them during these times when they're seeing an increased demand for assistance.

Anyone wishing to add to either of our donations may do so by sending into our PayPal treasury before June 10, with a note indicating that it's for a particular donation. Also PLEASE note that when sending via PayPal, be sure to use the "Friends and Family" option (if it's available) to minimize or eliminate PayPal's cut.

Our first meeting via Zoom (the May meeting) went well and I was happy to see everyone on camera. (For those without a camera or video-enabled laptop, there's also a phone number to connect into just the voice part of the meeting.) I'll be deciding on a monthly basis – usually a couple of weeks beforehand – if we'll be on Zoom again. Given that our regular meeting spot (the Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville) is temporarily closed and (as of going to press) North Carolina guidance is limiting the size of

gatherings, it might be a while before we can return to in-person meetings.

(Also with the current social-distancing requirements, I feel there won't be a [GalaxyCon Raleigh](#) this year. *I have not yet seen or heard anything official*, so it could still happen as scheduled on July 30 to August 2.)

When we are able to get together again, game nights (yes, plural!) will resume – arrangements are still TBD, either after meeting or a separate night elsewhere (my house maybe?). As I mentioned in the May meeting, we'll have a couple of options to decide between ahead of time. One option is the board games (including Scenelt! – and I promise I won't play it any more). The second option is the old FASA-produced Role Playing-themed Starship Combat. (I've recently pulled *all* of my FASA stuff from "storage" and have joined a couple of on-line groups.)

In STARFLEET business, we will have a new Regional Coordinator (RC) on June 1. This follows a close election in which Jason Williams edged out (incumbent) Ruth Lane. We stayed neutral since I was a list admin and moderator for the election mailing list.

The RC serves two functions. The first is the person I (as chapter CO) "report to" within the STARFLEET chain of command. The second is to represent all of the given region which they're in – we're in Region One – as a member of the STARFLEET corporate board of directors.

A quick reminder to all that I've posted the list of [available Star Trek Hallmark ornaments for sale](#) to the [web site](#). Prices are somewhat negotiable and I intend to donate all net profits to our treasury. (There are also some additional items that I have yet to inventory and find market values for.)

Esse Quam Videri

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

The last final chapter of [Final Mission](#) has been published to [the web site](#) – including all of the supplemental material that has a lot of spoilers in it (which is why it wasn't released earlier ☺).

There are a couple more stories in the pipeline, too. The next one (a two-parter) is scheduled to start with a teaser in the July/August newsletter.

The *Kitty Hawk* handbook will be starting soon, with a phone call to build a draft table of contents. If anyone is interested in joining the conversation, please let me know and I'll turn it into a Zoom meeting (with video!). Do note that this will only be a draft "toc" and I consider changes to be inevitable once we all have something to work with. (I've found it's always more challenging to start from scratch than to modify what's already there.)

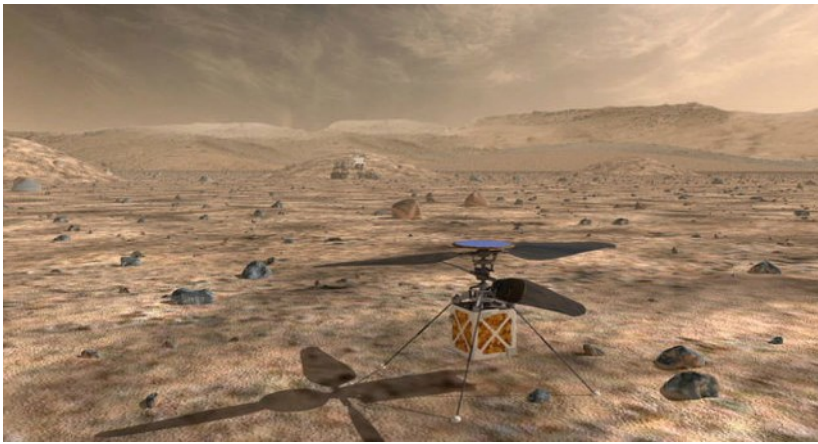
Another big project from CompOps is the second podcast – DS9 "Ghosts." With the requirements for social distancing, we'll be postponing the next (and hopefully last) recording session until we're able to get together for it.

Just as this issue of the newsletter was going through editing, there was [BIG news about a new Star Trek](#)

[series](#) — *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* — with Christopher Pike, Number One, and Spock (and all three cast members reprising their roles from *DISCO*).

[Perseverance](#), the next Mars rover, is getting closer to launch day. It had its helicopter – yes, "helicopter" – [installed in mid-April](#). If successful on Mars, it would be the first attempt at "power-controlled flight on another planet." About a week later, [the rover was balanced for its flight](#) from Florida to the Martian surface and recently [got packed for the trip](#). *Perseverance* is currently scheduled for launch in the second half of July 2020 and land at Mars' Jezero Crater on Feb 18, 2021.

NASA's [Artemis program](#), which is planning for a return to the moon in 2024, has [announced three companies to provide lunar human landers](#): Blue Origin, Dynetics, and SpaceX. "These lunar landers are the final piece of the transportation chain" to return humans to the moon for exploration. (Other parts of the "chain" include the [SLS rocket](#) and [Orion spacecraft](#).) NASA has also [placed an order for additional engines](#) for the SLS, which are the same engines used in the [space shuttles](#).



The Mars Helicopter, a small, autonomous rotorcraft, will travel with NASA's Mars *Perseverance* rover, currently scheduled to launch in July 2020.

Engineering Report By Brad McDonald

I have a mixed bag of news items this month, so let's get started.

After extended studies, scientists have discovered that the planet [Uranus](#) is shooting vast amounts of gas into space, [a phenomenon which is called plasmoids](#). They are fairly common, but Uranus is unusual due to its unique magnetic field which made the phenomenon difficult to detect until just recently.

Drones have a new use. In the United Kingdom, they are being used to deliver much-needed medicine and other important supplies to remote hospitals. The drones also provide humanitarian aid. It's not a replacement for existing delivery systems, just supplemental. The drone in question is specifically built for the purpose and is considered to be an airborne pickup truck.

There's a 'new kid on the block,' so to speak. The universe now has x-shaped galaxies. [PKS 2014-55](#) has a black hole at its center, which is not unusual. However, this black hole throws out twin jets of gas which are turned back by intergalactic gas pressure, which in turn forms the unusual x-shape galaxy.

Scientists have identified a near-Earth which is so far the closest, to our own planet's conditions. Known as [Kepler-1649c](#), it's only 1.06 times the size of Earth and receives about 75% of the sunlight that Earth does. Its year is much shorter due to a closer orbit to a red dwarf star, but it is in the all-important 'Goldilocks' zone.

Previously I noted that reduced use of cars, trucks and planes had resulted in lower pollution rates everywhere. However, as some countries resume activity, it is expected that pollution rates will return — but maybe at lower rates. This may happen since many

people and businesses have discovered they can get a lot done at home without traveling as much. Of course, time will tell.

Russia's benevolent act of sending the United States a number of ventilators to help with the corona virus has a catch; they start fires! The Avent-M units have been linked to two deadly fires. Accordingly, the units sent to the U.S. have not been used and the states that received them (N.Y. & N.J.) returned them to FEMA. No word on what their ultimate fate will be. Maybe they can be sent back for a refund!

On a personal note, I was recently asked about the progress regarding my uncle who died at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Our family finally received a definitive answer. Two Navy officers made an official presentation of the evidence and I accepted the identification as the representative of the family.

Originally the burial services were to take place at Arlington on May 15. However, due to the current situation, all such ceremonies have been postponed indefinitely. I'll keep everyone posted as soon as I know anything new. It's a big step for our family. After 79 years, we finally have an answer and closure. Just wish my mother and grandmother could have witnessed it

Also of note, if you haven't noticed yet, my story [Final Mission](#) has been concluded. John posted it along with author's notes and other supplemental material. If you haven't read it, please do so. I'd like to know what you think about it. Next in line is a much shorter story called *Friendly Conversation*, which is also set in *The Original Series* timeframe, but it's not the usual action/adventure story.

That's all for now, take care and stay safe! See you at the next on-line meeting! (If I can figure out how the damn thing works!)

The Chancellor's Declarations

By William Simkiss

Klingon Language 101 Classes

In 2014, I went to my first-ever SciFi Convention, the [Crystal Coast Con](#) in Cape Carteret, NC. This one was priced so low that I thought I should go, and so I dragged along a dear friend, Paul, who's a big *Star Wars* fan. There was no genre war in the car as we drove. I thoroughly enjoyed the convention – the fans, the costumes, the tables full of SciFi fan groups, the panels and guest stars. I then realized, if I were at a Convention, I'd love more hands-on activities. I would have enjoyed something like a Batleth workout, but Paul said "No, no! Light Sabres". And I quickly hit on an idea: provide a hands-on course myself. And thus, I got in free! A prime motivation. ☺

As a result, [the next year](#), we arranged to have me teach a "Klingon Language 101" course there. A basic Introduction to the language was the concept, with how it came about, how I happened to learn it, and just how to pronounce it! That last is a lot of work! I've taught every year since at the Crystal Coast Con, and gone on to teach at the Raleigh Supercon, now GalaxyCon. First, at [Supercon](#), it was a different course for each of two days, and then, they [expanded to four days](#), so I arranged to teach a different class each of those days as well! At the end of four days of classes, yes, my voice was raw. Very husky, very abused. This is NOT a human-throat-friendly language!

What I offered was a class that was completely participatory, and if you wished, a good start for more learning. I used a white board, or a large portable writing display stand, and lots of handouts. Now we're offered a screen and projector for files and images right off the computer. The handouts were often up to 4 pages per class. The same information was then available as a download from me via e-mail or a website. The idea was that you could walk away having some idea of how to pronounce the funny words and funnier spellings. And to have a great time together in doing so.

The different classes all focused on basic pronunciation, but had different topics. I tried also to consciously include phrases from the movies and TV shows. I covered:

(1) Klingon Language 101, which covered the languages origins and the very basics of pronunciation, how to read the terms and say them. Another ...

(2) Klingon Defense Force was all about Military Terms, so you know how to communicate with fellow warriors, fighting side by side in defense of the Homeworld! Then came ...

(3) Konversational Klingon, where we discussed Family terms and Body Parts - always a very traditional set of terms that don't change much even over thousands of years in any language or culture. And ...

(4) Klingon Kulture - Curse Warfare, and added in some Ritual Food Fights (they wouldn't let us throw food-shaped Nerf's around – for Insurance reasons) and Klingon Holidays and traditional holiday phrases.

Pronunciation was the key to all the classes, as well as the origins, but I gave more of it out in the "101" class.

I found that if the classes were smaller, you got a lot more personal questions in, and could help individuals – I'm a private Music teacher, so I revel in that! But it made them more timid about joining in the Klingon spirit of the language – be bold, be brave! Take your stand! When I began at SuperCon, suddenly I had 120 people attending on the Saturday, and when they joined in, it was like a military academy at a sporting event! They really got into the mood, were roaring back the words to me in unison like a War Chant, and in the anonymity of huge numbers, loving every second of being Klingon! That was truly an amazing sound!

What I found surprising was how almost no one knew any of the background of how the language began. I always ask for people to tell what they know – why teach someone something they are already familiar with? But few knew anything at all. And that despite the wonderful Special Feature on the Collector's Edition of *Star Trek III: The Search For Spock*, where the language creator himself, Mr. Mark Okrand, gives an extensive overview of the topic. This video is also [available on YouTube](#) now. There's a couple of wonderful stories there!

I did find that people were very curious to know how I learned it all. Now, I'm just a simple carrier of someone else's cleverness, and have a knack for explaining things. We all enjoy the Klingons and their language, and so let's have fun together! But people have treated me like a professor, taken me to lunch, everything but asked for my autograph! Very surprising. I finally asked somebody why people had

done this, and they said, "Well, you did reference four other languages for us as ways to understand how to pronounce these words". Ah. Yes. I do pick up spoken languages easily, I guess. Believe me, I find someone else's ability to fix my car or computer a much more valuable skill. And I don't ask my mechanic for his autograph. He actually asks for mine – at the bottom of my check for the repairs. Where is Scotty when you need him?

To me, what was best about the conventions, and the classes, was the people. The smiles, the joy, the fun, the really insightful uproarious jokes only available to insiders. The fabulous costumes. The shared delight in a common fandom. Yes, I enjoyed the panels with major stars, or meeting them personally, one on one. But the friendships, even temporary ones, with like-minded people was wonderful. Just took a little Klingon to bring us all together.



ST:TOS — “Andromeda’s Fate”

By Brad McDonald

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – STARBASE TWENTY FOUR – ON HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

INT. HEADQUARTERS BUILDING – CONFERENCE ROOM – ON CONFERENCE TABLE

Harrison enters with N.D. aide and takes seat at head of long table. Present are Kirk, Spock, Scott, and McCoy. They all start to rise as Harrison enters. He motions them to remain seated.

HARRISON
(moving)

At ease, please, and while we’re at it, let’s keep this meeting as informal as possible. I’m looking for answers, not protocol.

Harrison sits with Kirk on one side and the aide on the other. Kirk produces four data tapes, one each of blue, red, yellow and green.

ON KIRK

KIRK

Admiral, these are the detailed final reports on the Andromeda. Red is engineering, blue is medical, green is computer and ship’s logs, yellow is a summary of our findings.

(beat)

I think you will find the reports are very complete and accurate.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND HARRISON

Kirk hands the data tapes to the admiral, who accepts them and hands them to N.D. aide.

HARRISON

Thank you, Captain, I’m sure you and your crew did an outstanding job, but I have a few questions.

KIRK

Of course, we expected that.

HARRISON
(tentative)

First of all, can Andromeda be salvaged?

Kirk turns to Scott.

KIRK

Mister Scott?

ON SCOTT

He’s remorseful and quiet.

SCOTT

Maybe, sir, but it will take a great deal of work. I’d estimate a minimum of a year at a major facility.

ON HARRISON

He’s discouraged, but tries to be upbeat.

HARRISON

Well, a new ship would take nearly twice as long to build, so I suppose we’re ahead in that respect. However, that decision will be up to command. I am curious though, why so much time, Commander?

AS BEFORE – ON SCOTT

He relaxes a bit and forges ahead.

SCOTT

It’s not so much the engines and hull breaches as a question of structural damage: warped bulkheads, turbo shafts misaligned, buckled plating and more.

AS BEFORE – ON HARRISON

Harrison is sobered by Scott’s words.

HARRISON

I’ve known many a ship to survive ion storms, but not with that much damage and a total loss of the crew.

AS BEFORE – ON SCOTT

He’s deep in thought with a furrowed brow.

SCOTT

I’d say that the Andromeda experienced forces far beyond any known ion storm, just bad luck I suppose.

NEW ANGLE

KIRK

The captain of the Odyssey said it was an unusually large, powerful and violent storm, “One for the record books,” was the exact quote.

SPOCK

Analysis of Andromeda’s logs revealed a storm strength that surpassed the Pratt/Valerian scale.

HARRISON

I’ve never heard of that before. I always thought the PV Scale had a theoretical maximum of ten, but isn’t that impossible?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

If I may explain, Admiral, the storm's strength is consistent with Mr. Scott's reports, my analysis of the damage to the ship's computer systems and other issues.

ON HARRISON

HARRISON

Incredible!

(beat)

So the crew died instantly.

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

Not exactly, Admiral. The bodies we recovered were given complete exams by me and my staff. Some of the crew lasted an hour or so. Eventually, they were overcome by extreme cold, lack of oxygen or decompression of the ship.

ON SCOTT

SCOTT

It was a cascading effect, as more systems failed, others were stressed to the point of failure as well. Eventually, the 'old girl' just... gave up.

HARRISON (O.C.)

And the hull breaches?

SCOTT

As I said, the storm warped many structural members. In some places this caused hull plating to weaken to the point of total failure.

ANOTHER ANGLE

KIRK

There was evidence of external damage as well... but minimal.

Harrison picks up on Kirk's possible implication.

HARRISON

Weapon's damage, Kirk?

SPOCK

Asteroids, caught up in the storm which acted as a giant hailstorm. Any areas previously weakened, finally, gave in.

HARRISON

(to Spock; hopeful)

How many computer records were recovered?

ON SPOCK

Spock steeples his fingers and speaks quietly.

SPOCK

Very little that was useful to our

investigation. Most circuits were too badly damaged. The main computers will need a total replacement.

(beat)

However, we did locate several items of interest. The storm seemed to come from nowhere and build much more rapidly than normal. The crew of Andromeda was studying the storm when it overwhelmed them. Unfortunately they were unable to finish their investigation.

HARRISON (O.C.)

(confused)

But I thought the computers were badly damaged. Where did this information come from?

SPOCK

We located a few tricorders which the crew was using as supplemental computers. They actually contained more information than the ship's computers.

WIDE ANGLE

HARRISON

I see.

(to Kirk)

So, no indications of 'outside interference?'

SPOCK

By outside interference, were you referring to the Klingons?

Harrison looks at Kirk, surprised.

HARRISON

You told him?

SPOCK

He did not. I merely checked the Andromeda's operational orders.

KIRK

(apologetic)

My people are thorough. Which reminds me, my security teams located another tricorder just prior to our arriving here. Mr. Spock will continue his analysis, but... it may not add much to our reports.

Harrison looks disappointed.

HARRISON

Very well, I'll forward your findings to Command...

KIRK

There is one more thing, sir, before you do that.

HARRISON

Yes, Kirk, what is it?

KIRK

I'd like to revisit the site of the ion storm.

HARRISON

(surprised)

Why? Odyssey conducted sensor sweeps before leaving the sector.

ON KIRK

KIRK

I did some research on sectors 40 through 50 and found reports of abnormal and unusual energy readings. Add to that, an ion storm of unusual strength. It may be nothing, but it might be worth a look, just in case. Remember, I said the Enterprise crew was thorough.

He finishes on a smile.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND HARRISON

HARRISON

Agreed. When will you leave?

KIRK

As soon as this meeting is over.

HARRISON

Very well, good luck.

The Enterprise crew rises to leave.

KIRK

(moving)

Thank you, Admiral.

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND STARFIELD

Ship is at minimum warp speed.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – ON COMMAND SECTION

Kirk is in command chair, watching main viewer.

KIRK

How much longer, Lieutenant?

SULU

We're nearly done with sector 43, Captain.

CHEKOV

Shall I maintain the search pattern into sector 44, sir?

KIRK

Affirmative.

Camera pulls back to reveal McCoy. He's standing with arms folded across chest, in a bad mood.

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

Just what are we doing here, Jim? The Odyssey did a detailed survey of the area after it found the Andromeda.

ON KIRK

KIRK

I'm not sure what I'm looking for, but maybe the Odyssey missed something. In any case, I want to be sure of our report and its accuracy.

AS BEFORE – ON MCCOY

MCCOY

(annoyed)

You expect another storm to pop up? Even I know the odds of that are... astronomical.

WIDE ANGLE

KIRK

(amused)

You want me to have Spock figure the exact odds for you?

SPOCK

Actually, now would not be a good time...

McCoy is slightly amused by Spock's comment.

MCCOY

(indignant)

What's wrong, Spock, you too busy to help me?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Yes, Doctor. I am tracking an ion storm.

He rises from his console viewer to face Kirk.

SPOCK

(continuing)

Relatively moderate in size, but growing rapidly and... headed in our direction!

CLOSE ON KIRK

KIRK

Looks like our investigation isn't over after all.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

Upcoming Events

Jun	6	4 p.m. Ship Meeting On-line (probably) or Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville
Jul	4	Meeting On-line or Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville
	18	Articles due for Jul/Aug newsletter
Aug	1	Meeting On-line or Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

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