

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

NGC 7027: Like a Metallic Jewel Bug in the Sky

In this image, NGC 7027 resembles a Jewel Bug, an insect with a brilliantly colorful metallic shell.

<https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/ngc-7027-like-a-metallic-jewel-bug-in-the-sky>

The Center Seat

By John Troan

I hope everyone is continuing to stay safe in these times, remembering (as recommended by the U.S. CDC) to mask up when outside of the home, maintain social distancing, and wash your hands (or use hand sanitizer) frequently.

In late-breaking news—so late, in fact, that it almost missed this issue—STARFLEET is rolling out new requirements around GDPR, the EU’s data protection law. The CO and XO of every chapter are among the subset of STARFLEET members that are required to take the [Academy’s](#) STARFLEET-specific GDPR training. (It looks like anyone with responsibilities at the Regional or Fleet levels all have to take it.) Once I take it—hopefully before the August meeting—I’ll determine what the effects are for us. This could include other members needing to take it and/or changes to our on-line material.

[GalaxyCon Raleigh 2020](#) has been postponed to Dec 10-13. Since we’re (still) on the waiting list for a Cosplay Table, we may not make an appearance in 2020. Covering a “what if” situation that they contact me about a table, I had asked in the July meeting (and in the subsequent meeting notes) if anyone would be interested and able to help staff the table. I’ve heard from some people, but we (so far) don’t have enough Yes’s to do it. I do plan to ask across STARFLEET Region 1 – mainly the NC chapters – to see if there are others interested. The key is that the table(s) must be staffed during the hours in which the Exhibition Hall is open during all four days . (This is generally 10 am to 8 pm every day.)

Another logistical effect from covid is moving our monthly meetings to Zoom. I had also asked about the crew’s interest in possibly doing a socially-distanced meeting (with a Zoom “broadcast”) if we could get the private room again. Based on the (so far) lack of feedback, it looks like we won’t be doing that in the near future. (I’m ok with that, so we’ll run our meetings through Zoom.)

One possibility for October and maybe November is an outdoor meeting with social distancing, if there’s enough interest and we can identify a location to do it. There will also be a Zoom session for anyone wanting to attend in that manner. (The timing for these was based on avoiding the summer heat and the coolness of the approaching winter.) We’ll talk more about this in the August and September meetings to determine both interest and location.

A quick reminder to all that I’ve posted the list of [available Star Trek Hallmark ornaments for sale](#) to the [website](#). 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.)

I’ve also received a number of *Star Trek* items from JR that will be inventoried and put up for sale. Again, all net

profits will go to the *Kitty Hawk* treasury.

In addition to the *Trek* items, I picked up a lot of STARFLEET and *Kitty Hawk* materials to sort through and I’ll be offering these up to all interested parties. (One thing I found during the quick “What’s in this box?” were printed copies of our earliest newsletters with the original artwork.)

Our handbook is progressing along and I’ve received more feedback on the draft [Table of Contents](#) that’s been posted. Sometime around the August meeting – and hopefully beforehand – I’ll be adding (*very!*) short descriptions for what each (sub)section could contain and promotion point values for each (sub)section. After that, I’ll designate which sections I need to write (so far, just the CO’s Welcome and the promotion system) and make everything else available for interested authors.

One of the sections that’ll be up for grabs will include a reminder that we are apolitical. As mentioned in the July meeting and meeting notes, there have been several instances when we’ve ventured away from that and need to reign it in so that we don’t endanger our non-profit status. This means no political topics at all official functions (meetings, potlucks, dinners, etc) or in our publishing (newsletters, website, and social media).

However, it is still permissible to have a news report about people in the *Trek* cast and crew who get political – a number of them do and some are very much so – in a neutral way. (Think of the typical newspaper where the news division is completely separate from the editorial division.) Additionally, several of the *Trek* people our twitter account follows do get (very) political as well, but those are completely attributed to that person and not to us.

Also – and following STARFLEET’s lead – we *can* comment on *social causes* that have become part of the political scene. (The current Commander, STARFLEET, recently posted something in social media in response to one of the recent events that’s rooted in a social cause.) This will probably be a bit tricky to navigate and I personally may be over cautious in the *Kitty Hawk* environment – especially with my position as our CO.

I do encourage everyone to participate in the political cause(s) of your choice, but it must be done without representing the *Kitty Hawk*.

I’ll close with a reminder that our treasury is always open for donations. (These are *not dues* and *no money is required* to be part of the crew.) The link to our PayPal account is at the top of the left-side navigation panel on every page of the website. If you’re donating for a particular function, please be sure to either add that in as a comment or let either me or our Yeoman/CFO/Treasurer know about the earmark.)

Esse Quam Videri and Stay Safe!

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

Comp Ops has been quiet of late, allowing me to work on several back burner items and prepare for some upcoming additions to the [website](#) – primarily Brad’s [new story](#) that also [starts in this newsletter](#).

The [trailer](#) for one of the new *Trek* series has been posted on-line – and announced an August 6 release of ten weekly episodes. (CBS All Access will carry it in the U.S.) *Star Trek: Lower Decks* is the animated series developed for an adult audience, not to be confused with a separate animated series for kids. From the information posted with the trailer, the series is positioned on a different ship in Starfleet a little after TNG’s conclusion.

This now gives us three *Trek* series being actively produced; three publicly announced; and one more still in the “rumors” stage –

- *Discovery* has wrapped up two seasons, with season three to be released on October 15. There’s also the small collection of *Short Treks* that tie-in to *Discovery*.
- *Picard* has wrapped up its first season, with a second season somewhere in pre-production.
- *Lower Decks* will premiere on August 6, and I suspect there’s a second season coming.
- *Section 31* (which may not be the official title) is planned, but might not be as far along in production as I thought it was. I read something earlier that this series was going to start filming very soon after *Discovery* (season three?) to take advantage of several sets that were already built. It’s

still planned to center on Michelle Yeoh’s character from *Discovery* season two.

- *Strange New Worlds* has been announced, and is likely in very early pre-production. No word yet on a release schedule.
- *Prodigy* is the animated series for kids on cable channel Nickelodeon (owned by CBS/Paramount) and is scheduled to be released in 2021.
- Rumors have been circulating for quite a while about another series that could be something that takes place at Starfleet Academy, but I haven’t seen anything beyond that premise.

The next Mars rover, [Perseverance](#), was [launched on July 30](#), following [stacking operations](#) earlier in the month. Landing continues to be scheduled for next February.

Already on the Martian surface, [Curiosity](#) is [starting a summer road trip on the floor of Gale Crater](#) after a [very successful research visit](#) to another part of Mount Sharp. Elsewhere on the surface, the [InSight](#) lander is [continuing its research](#) into the Martian interior.

Another upcoming launch is that of the [James Webb Space Telescope](#), now [scheduled for October 2021](#). The delay is primarily due to “the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as technical challenges” that are being worked on. Progress continues on the telescope, but has slowed due to additional safety precautions and a reduction in how many people are working on-site, among other things.



Curiosity Rover at “Glen Etive” October 11, 2019. (NASA/JPL)

Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

For this report, I promise to minimize references of the pandemic as I think we've all had enough. Instead, I'll start with a discovery I made by accident. While 'cruising' the internet, I found [a great interview that Wil Wheaton conducted with Patrick Stewart](#). Titled "Star Trek: Picard – The Ready Room - Away Mission Special," the conversation is very informative and the 45 minute special includes a behind the scenes look at the design of the *La Sirena* and its sets. Also, there is a conversation with make-up artist Vincent Van Dyke regarding the 'design and construction' of aliens.

Back to the interview itself, Patrick Stewart was very open and gracious and praised the use of Zoom for keeping in touch with his friends and family. Stewart went on to talk about the first season of *Picard* and spoke of what he considered the two best moments. The first concerned a conversation with Data; the second was his reunion with Riker and Troi. Since I haven't seen the show, I wasn't sure what he was talking about, but he seemed quite moved. He went on to say that the world needed *Star Trek* now more than ever as its optimistic look at the future was essential given today's headlines. He also stated that CBS was completely committed to his series but it's currently on hold.

That brings up the next topic of my report. Both SAG and AFTRA, the leading unions of television and movie production, have issued a 'do not work' notice to protect its members. This will put all new productions on hold until details regarding safe work standards can be worked out with the various studios. That will include the current *Star Trek* productions.

Just before I submitted this report, I received my Cinefex magazine, which is a behind the scenes look and explanation of movie special effects. The issue included a notice to suspend publication temporarily until movie and television productions resume. However, they did manage to complete the current issue with streaming channel series. The nice thing about it is that one of the features is *Picard*.

The University of British Columbia has been studying the data accumulated from *Kepler* over the years. They have revised the estimated number of Earth-like planets. Using complicated mathematics, they published a study indicating there may be as many as six billion Earth-like planets in our galaxy alone! The equation projects one Earth-like planet for every five sun-like stars. Hello Vulcan, Andor, Tellar, etc.

There's a new type of cosmic explosion called a fast blue optical transit or FBOT. Originally identified in

2018, it's similar to a supernova or a gamma ray burst, but after becoming very brilliant it fades quickly in just a few days. The report was published in the *Astrophysical Journal* and has more details about the unique phenomenon.

Scientists have identified four billion-year old organic material from a meteorite (ALH84001) known to have originated from Mars. It contains nitrogen and carbonate materials indicating organic origins. The only unknown factor is whether the material originated on Mars or was the result of previous impacts of other celestial bodies. Perhaps, those impacts provided the origins of life on Mars!

A milestone of sorts will be reached sometime in 2023 when the Boeing 747 will end production. The aircraft company has recently announced it will shut down the 747 assembly line as soon as all current orders are complete. Boeing now builds six 747's a year; that's very low compared to 168 787's. The first 747 was produced in 1968 and dominated the jumbo jet transportation market. While the A-380 Airbus is somewhat bigger, its sales were nowhere near the 747. Only 240 A-380's have been built compared to 1550 747's of all types. Most 747's now in service are cargo versions used by UPS and other carriers. The last 747's to be built will all be 748-8F cargo units as well, except for a few very special units for the military.

While we're on the subject, Boeing has just completed trial flights to have the 737 Max recertified for service. As of the time I wrote this, there was no word regarding the status of the recertification.

In really BIG engineering news, the Panama Canal has opened its new and improved sections. The improvements include two new lock systems, widening and deepening of existing channels and new navigation and ship transiting systems which eliminates the need for electric locomotives. Another major achievement allows recycling the water used to raise and lower levels in the locks. This will save up to 60% of all water use in the canal and the other improvements will allow ships of all sizes to use the canal.

The original Panama Canal opened August 15, 1914, and, at the time, was considered the greatest engineering achievement in history. However, as ships began to increase in size, they were unable to use the canal due to the outdated configuration of the original locks. In fact, up to the mid-twentieth century, all U.S. Navy ship designs followed strict design restrictions of length and width so they could use the canal and continue to support the two-ocean operation policy of the U.S.

Despite all the headlines, there is some good medical news. U.S. cancer rates have dropped 30% since the 90's. Most of this is due to new drugs which are used in conjunction with the body's natural immune system. I don't mean to take anything away from our Chief Medical Officer, but it's a subject close to me. After all, I lost my father and wife to cancer and my sister, brother-in-law and I are survivors.

On a personal note, I'm adjusting to retirement. It's a wonderful place where every day is Saturday. I'm getting several projects done, including a family heritage scrapbook. This involves spending a number of hours searching Ancestry.Com. I have been very surprised by what I and my sisters have found. So far we have ninety pages worth. It's a real adventure and quite revealing. An example of that is the discovery of a previously unknown aunt. My father had a sister who only lived a short time and died long before he was born. A few years after his birth, he became an orphan

and so he never knew about his sister, Iva M. MacDonald. We're still looking for more details regarding Iva and hope to have a completed family history before too long.

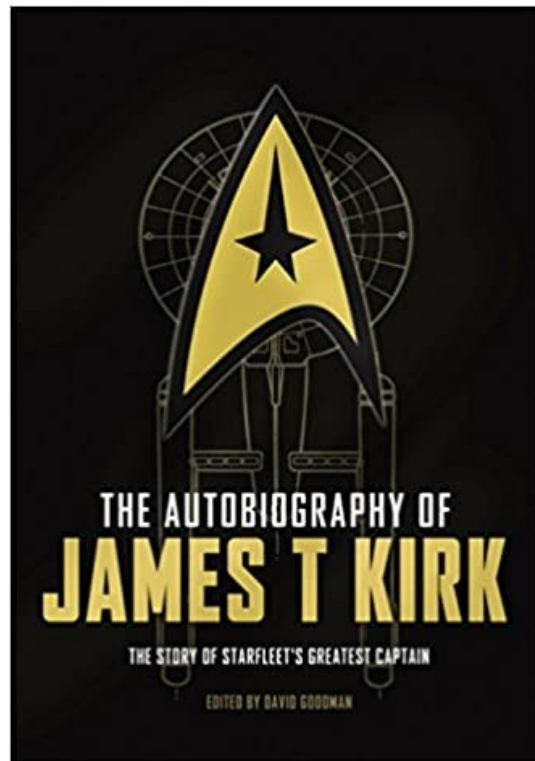
With travel and visitation restrictions still in place, there is still no word yet on the services for my uncle. He is scheduled to be buried at Arlington as soon as the current crisis passes. Originally that was to happen May 15. However, it was canceled by the Navy when Arlington was closed to visitors. Additionally, all forms of services were cancelled by the National Parks Service. The Navy said they would contact me as soon as the restrictions were lifted. Our family has been waiting since December 7, 1941, so a few more months or even a year won't be a problem.

That's about it for now. Please stay safe and hope to see you all very soon. Live long and prosper!

***The Autobiography of James T. Kirk: The Story of Starfleet's Greatest Captain* Edited by David A. Goodman**

Reviewed By Elaine Pischke

This book was an entertaining read. While there are not a lot of surprises for most *Star Trek* fans, it was interesting to see familiar events told from a unique perspective. The first part of the book, which focuses on Kirk's childhood, is likely to have more information that is new to the reader. It gives us insight into his family and his motivations for seeking a career in Starfleet. The Starfleet Academy years are shown somewhat briefly, mostly touching on some relationships begun there that will come back in later years in significant ways. Then the book moves into Kirk's early years in Starfleet, and finally, the second half of the book delves into much more familiar territory as Kirk takes over the captaincy of the *Enterprise*. Although many of these events are well known to all of us, they are told from a unique point of view and offer insights into the character that may surprise some, and even if they don't, the book is worth the read. If nothing else, it is fun to revisit the original series in condensed form.



Star Trek: The Next Generation Actors Press Fans to Fight For Change

By T. Keung Hui

Star Trek has been both socially relevant and entertaining since the franchise debuted in 1966.

Amid the national discussion about confronting systemic racism, several *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actors say the franchise's theme of a brighter future is as important as ever. During a June 13 online chat hosted by GalaxyCon, actors Denise Crosby, John de Lancie and Jonathan Frakes told fans they can help move society to that better future by voting in the U.S. general elections on Nov. 3.

A future with no racism in *Star Trek*

"It's hard not to feel that the political landscape needs to be changed really dramatically on so many different fronts," de Lancie said. "So not only does one snap do it, but it would have to be a bunch of snaps that would change it."

Frakes said a conversation with *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry keeps coming to mind now as the U.S. confronts the important issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement.



"There are so many things to be fixed right now and the first one is how things are fixed in November," de Lancie said on the chat. "That's the first obvious easy step that everybody has to do on Nov. 3rd. Everybody has to do that."

Crosby said that if she had a holodeck she'd go to a new "peaceful, verdant, hopeful United States." But since that can't happen, she said people need to vote in November to help the planet.

If de Lancie had the power of the Q character he played on *Star Trek*, he'd be snapping his fingers right now like he did on screen to deal with problems.

"Roddenberry said in the future there will be no racism," Frakes recalled. "He said there will be no sexism. There will be no hunger and there will be no greed and that all of the children will know how to read. As poetic as it sounds, it was prophetic as well."

"Code of Honor" is widely regarded as one of the worst *Trek* episodes ever made. But its negative, stereotyped portrayal of black people stands out even more now. Frakes said the episode was "the embarrassment heaped upon us in season one."

"Can you imagine us playing that right now in this climate?" Crosby added during the chat.

Remembering “Encounter At Farpoint”

The three actors also shared memories about their favorite and most unusual *Star Trek* memories.

The making of the “Encounter at Farpoint” pilot episode is something the actors won’t forget. Crosby recalled being sprayed with hot wax to simulate Q freezing her character of Tasha Yar in the courtroom scene.

“I thought, ‘what in the hell have I signed up for?’” Crosby remembered.

During Q’s grand arrival in the courtroom scene, de Lancie recalled, his throne was wobbly, maneuvered into place by a crane. Frakes said that wouldn’t be allowed now for safety reasons.

“It was pretty rocky coming in,” de Lancie recalled. “I remembered when I first saw the pilot, I went ‘aye yai yai guys. The all-powerful with kind of a rocky sort of entrance.’”

Creating Sela and the trombone playing Riker

Fans wanted to know if the actors had ever come up with their own story ideas. After filming the “Yesterday’s Enterprise” episode, Crosby approached executive producer Rick Berman with the idea that Yar had been pregnant with Lt. Richard Castillo’s son when the Romulans captured the *Enterprise-C*. In her pitch, the Romulans raised the child to use as a negotiating chip with the Federation.

A few months later, Berman told Crosby they were going to make an episode based on her idea. But they planned to make the child half-Romulan by having her born as a result of Yar becoming pregnant while in captivity. Berman sweetened the deal by asking Crosby if she was willing to return to play that child, who’d go on to be named Commander Sela.

“I really was hoping that Sela was going to be featured in more stories actually, a much more fleshed out character because I think it was such a dynamic thing to play,” Crosby told fans.

Frakes unexpectedly helped shape the character of Commander William Riker during a lunch with showrunner Maurice Hurley. Frakes said Hurley wanted to know about his hobbies and what music he liked. Frakes’ love of jazz and trombone-playing skills would soon surface in the season one

episode “11001001.”

But overall, Frakes said the main thing he tried to adjust with the writers was his “character flaw.” Riker started as someone out to become a starship captain, yet he kept turning down promotions that would have caused him to leave the *Enterprise*. Frakes said he felt that was a real disconnect for the character.

By the time he played Riker in *Star Trek: Picard*, Frakes said his character was in a good place.

“I was grateful to find out I didn’t have to appear in my spacesuit and I was in fact living on a planet where I made pizza for my family,” Frakes said. “That seemed like a comfortable place for Riker to be. I’m happy to continue to make pizza on Nepenthe.”

Fun on the *Star Trek* set

The working conditions on *Next Generation* were hard, with work days stretching 13 or more hours. Frakes said Patrick Stewart set a high bar of professionalism that caused the actors to come on set already knowing their lines. Frakes said this preparation allowed the cast to drive the directors crazy with their antics between takes.

“You had to show up really fully loaded to go to work, and because of that, between takes people weren’t frantically trying to learn their lines,” Frakes said. “They knew their lines and they knew their intentions so it gave us time to dance and to wrestle.”

Frakes, Cosby and de Lancie said the camaraderie that developed among the *TNG* actors is real. This friendship extends to actors from other *Trek* shows. Pizza and canelés at de Lancie’s place are on the schedule when COVID-19 social distancing rules are lifted.

“Bob Picardo and I have been talking about when we’re going to open up the pizza oven again,” de Lancie said.

Star Trek: Enterprise Paved the Way for New *Star Trek* Shows

By T. Keung Hui

Star Trek: Enterprise didn't get love from some fans when it aired in the early 2000s, but some of the show's actors say they're feeling vindicated years later.

Enterprise actors John Billingsley, Dominic Keating and Connor Trinneer talked about some of the highlights and less enjoyable parts of working on the show during a June 14 online chat hosted by GalaxyCon. The actors say the underrated show was a bridge that helped make *Star Trek* more relevant for 21st century viewers.

"I'm really quite elated to see that *Star Trek* has attempted, particularly of late, to grapple with the darkness of our culture and the darkness of our world while still honoring what the original intent and mission of [creator Gene] Roddenberry was," Billingsley said on the chat.

"I think if anything, maybe one of the things I look back on at our show and I kind of think that was the beginnings of a movement towards asking those questions," Billingsley continued. "We didn't go as far as we could have. 9/11 kind of maybe skewed the experiment a bit."

***Enterprise* tries to find its place as a prequel**

Enterprise debuted on Sept. 26, 2001 -- just 15 days after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The show also debuted only four months after the series finale of *Star Trek: Voyager*. The UPN Network wanted to make sure they had another *Star Trek* show ready for the new television season.

Billingsley said a year's delay in airing *Enterprise* would have helped deal with *Star Trek* fan fatigue as well as give creators more time to flesh out the series. The show bible needed more work and the writers had a hard time finding the right tone to strike in season one, according to Billingsley. The writers were trying to develop a show set a century before the events of Captain Kirk when Earth and Starfleet were still getting used to interstellar space travel.

"In terms of an arc for the first season, I think the Suliban maybe wasn't quite as thought through ultimately as it maybe needed to be," Billingsley said. "I think there was probably a little more work needed on what the tonal balance was between the darkness of 'we're the first f---ing ship and we don't know what the f--- we're doing' and the nature of what *Star Trek* is

supposed to be, that optimistic spirit."

As an example, Billingsley cited script changes for the season one episode "Strange New World." He said the first draft of the script really showed how unproven transporters were by beaming up a crewman with his head "where his ass is supposed to be." But by the time it was filmed, it was changed to the crewman having some twigs stuck in his body.

"That kind of crystallized to me the timidity of the network actually f---ed us," Billingsley said. "To me there was another level of of scariness that the show began to want to move towards, and I felt like the powers that be said, 'But, But, But.'"

9/11 shapes writing of *Enterprise*

Both Trinneer and Billingsley said you can't forget the influence 9/11 had on the show.

"They were trying to, as everybody was, come to terms with what happened in regards to storytelling and involve that into our show," Trinneer said. "Things weren't quite fleshed out because they needed to address it in some fashion."

Billingsley said he doesn't want to call *Enterprise* pre-modern. But he said it was a *Star Trek* show that was on the cusp of the pre- and post-9/11 world.

"9/11 being a significant core in our modern world that has forced us to recalibrate Roddenberry's message," Billingsley continued.

Narratively, Billingsley said the show benefited when Manny Coto was brought in to write some episodes in the third season and became executive producer in the final season. Billingsley said Coto brought a sense of joy of being a longtime *Star Trek* fan now getting to write for the show.

"He's a lover, an appreciator of the first series," Billingsley said. "The Mirror Universe and how do the Klingons get their new face, a lot of those love letter episodes in the third and fourth seasons came about because Manny really was deeply enamored of *Star Trek*."

The two-part "In A Mirror, Darkly" episodes set in the Mirror Universe are some of the most popular *Enterprise* episodes. Keating, whose participation in the chat was limited due to connectivity issues, said the episodes were "good fun." But the other two actors were not as enthusiastic.

“The fans dug the Mirror Universe stories more than I did,” Billingsley said. “I thought it was all kind of like all effects and no point. They said if the show had continued they would have gone back to that world and would have been developed more, but I found it to be sort of banal to be honest with you.”

Trinneer said he felt “In A Mirror, Darkly” was pandering, but he didn’t elaborate during the chat. He recalled wearing the “Captain Pike appliance” on his face from the *TOS* episode “The Menagerie” to simulate the effects of radiation scarring. Trinneer said the director didn’t feel he was playing his Mirror Universe counterpart appropriately enough until he started acting like a pirate.

Oddest *Enterprise* memories

The fans on the chat wanted the actors to talk about some of their most unusual show memories. The stars were happy to oblige, such as the time Billingsley won first prize in a show Halloween costume contest.

A member of the film crew named Melissa came in dressed as a dominatrix. But Billingsley said Melissa’s partner, who was supposed to dress as a submissive, chickened out.

With the help of the wardrobe department, Billingsley donned a black leather girdle and red ball gag to go along with his Dr. Phlox facial makeup. Melissa put a dog collar around Billingsley and paraded him around the bridge before lashing him to the captain’s chair.

“They then banned, I believe, a variety of things from the costume contest,” Billingsley recalled. “It was unfortunate I thought. You weren’t allowed to wear fetish wear while you were in makeup.

“Bootleg pictures that nobody has seen are of Dr. Phlox in bondage, which I have in a brown paper envelope at certain conventions,” he continued.

Billingsley joked he’d be willing to share the pictures for a copy of a bootleg tape the sound department made of Keating using “choice four-letter words.” Keating had been expressing his displeasure



about being stuck in a spacesuit for an extended period of filming. The previously secret recording was played as they were about to film a scene around the ship’s mess hall set.

“There were a lot of guest stars on that show I remember,” Keating said. “I’d

been on my best behavior and all of a sudden it was like ‘Ooh, steer clear of him.’”

Trinneer’s most memorable scene was one where he and Scott Bakula were suspended in a mixture of KY jelly and the material used to thicken McDonald’s milkshakes. They were suspended so long that they lost feeling in their legs and they were shivering from the lack of circulation.

They were relieved to be let down, Trinneer said, until they were told a hair had been found in the camera lens. So they had to hoist them back up to film the scene again.

“I’m convinced that we shut down the porn industry for a good 2-3 days with all the KY,” Trinneer said. “We were covered in it. It was in our ears, in our hair.”

Living out the message of *Star Trek*

Amid the levity was an appreciation of how much the trio have enjoyed being part of the *Star Trek* family.

“It’s been 20 years of our lives now, what an extraordinary thing,” Keating said. “I often say to Connor, those years on that show somewhat defined our lives in this town and gave us a certain position and a place here that makes you feel like you were relevant in some way.”

All three men say they’ve particularly enjoyed getting to meet *Star Trek* fans. Trinneer said he’s heartened by the reappreciation *Enterprise* has gotten from fans and how so many have told him it influenced them to become doctors, engineers and members of the military.

“*Star Trek* has always meant finding the best in ourselves and acting on it,” Trinneer said. “The people who I’ve encountered and been fans of *Star Trek* have

really shown that. I really believe that the message of *Star Trek* is an important one, especially now.

“Go out and make contact and build relationships and be good, or try as best you can because you’re gonna fail,” Trinneer continued. “But that doesn’t mean the effort isn’t important.”

One way you can help make a difference is to donate to the Hollywood Food Coalition. Billingsley,

who is president of the group’s board, said they serve a five-course meal every night to 300-350 people living on the streets of Hollywood. They also share thousands of pounds of food a week with 28 other non-profits, such as alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers and battered women’s shelters. For more information, go to <https://hofoco.org>.

***Deep Space Nine* Still Teaching Fans How to Live With One Another** By T. Keung Hui

Some of the actors who helped make *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* into a beloved part of the franchise say their show still offers important lessons in 2020.

Deep Space Nine upended the *Star Trek* formula with its multi-episode arcs and gritty stories long before they became staples of the franchise’s newer shows. *DS9* actors Andy Robinson, Armin Shimerman and Nana Visitor said in a June 27 online chat hosted by GalaxyCon that their stories about different species living on a space station are just as important now as when the show aired from 1993 to 1999.

Unlike other *Star Trek* shows focused on exploring planets, Shimerman said *Deep Space Nine* was “about boldly living with each other and with people that you didn’t necessarily see eye to eye with.

“We were quarantined together on the station and we had to learn how to figure that out,” Shimerman told fans on the chat. “If we didn’t like someone, we still had to figure out how to deal with them, and that’s what we would be talking about today. How do we live with people that aren’t familiar because we must do?”

Who is the alien?

Robinson said the way *Deep Space Nine* characters interacted with one another also pushed viewers to think about what it means to be human or alien.

“I’m a human being so what is an alien and how do I relate to the alien that is within me?” Robinson said. “And what alienates me from the rest of society? *Deep Space Nine* was never, never unattached to those questions. It was always probing.”

Deep Space Nine also pushed new ground when it cast Avery Brooks to play Benjamin Sisko, the commander of the station. He was the first black actor to be the lead character on a *Star Trek* show.

“We had a phenomenal actor who was very much concerned with Black Lives Matter, our Captain Avery Brooks,” Shimerman said. “I think one of the legacies of the show is his performance and what they wrote for him

to demonstrate the problems of being a black man in basically a white and orange society.”

Brooks also set the tone on set, leading to a serious atmosphere that Visitor said resembled a college classroom. It’s in sharp contrast to how wild Jonathan Frakes said it got on the set of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

“We were going through all this angst and I think maybe that contributed,” Visitor recalled. “Or we’re just not funny. We’re no fun. We’re not Jonathan Frakes.”

Developing three popular characters

The work hours were long for Robinson, Shimerman and Visitor because they spent so much time in the makeup trailer being turned into alien characters. Robinson said he sometimes had to come in as early as 2 a.m for the makeup work—but it did come with overtime pay.

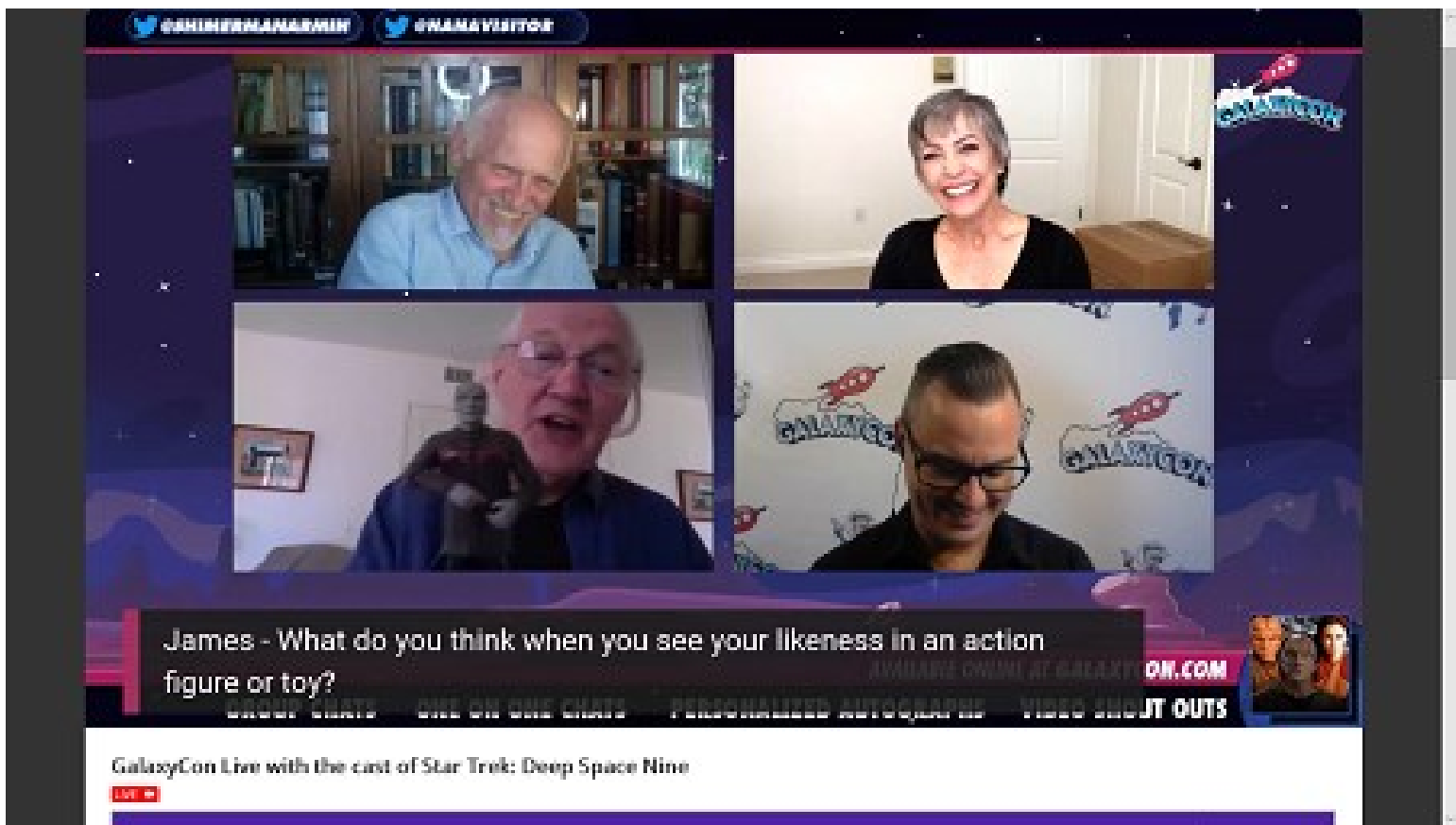
“Everything behind me, my entire house was paid for by the overtime I got from coming in early,” Shimerman said as he chatted from his home.

All three actors saw their characters evolve over the course of the series. Visitor said she loved what the writers did with her character of Kira Nerys, the station’s Bajoran first officer. Visitor said she started as a character suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder due to her experiences as a resistance fighter during the Cardassian occupation of Bajor.

“I got such an arc to who she was,” Visitor said. “It really went the seven years, so much so that I could have seen going on with it for a few more.”

Shimerman said he wasn’t always pleased with how the writers portrayed his character of Quark, the Ferengi bartender and owner of Quark’s Bar. Shimerman recalled taking the writers out to lunch on several occasions. He had one question for them to answer.

“Just tell me what my character’s IQ is, because if you can tell me that then I’ll know how to play this character,” Shimerman recalled saying at those lunch meetings. “Because if I’m really devious then my IQ



would be a lot higher than some of the episodes that you have me in.”

But Shimerman said things started to get better toward the end of the second season when the writers realized Quark could do the honorable thing every now and then. By the series finale, Shimerman said he could see the great learning curve Quark had undergone.

Never tell the same lie twice

Robinson had agreed to play Garak, a former Cardassian intelligence agent turned tailor on the station, thinking he'd only appear on one episode. But he became a recurring character due to Garak's popularity. Robinson quipped that "I'm still not sure how good a tailor he was." Garak became famous for lines such as "never tell the same lie twice."

"If I'm going to give any advice to the fans out there, if you're a liar you're gonna fail if you just repeat your lies," Robinson said. "Change them up."

The trio were popular enough to get action figures made of their characters. Action figures were regularly sent to their homes. Visitor said it was "bizarre" seeing her kids play with the Kira action figures.

"It's definitely weird to see yourself as an action figure," Visitor recalled. "It was particularly weird because my boys were little and liked action figures."

"I look at my action figure and go 'Who the hell are you?'" Shimerman added.

Robinson showed the fans one of his Garak action figures. Robinson said the action figure sits on his desk as a "dear memento."

"I love this guy," Robinson said. "I think he's really cute. I talk to him. He talks back to me. We have great conversations."

Remembering the late Rene Auberjonois

The chat ended on an emotional note as they recalled their favorite memories of actor Rene Auberjonois, who died in December. Auberjonois played the character of Odo, the station's head of security.

Shimerman said his favorite moments with Auberjonois were the times they spent talking with each in the makeup trailer before going on set. Shimerman recalled the scene in the series finale, "What You Leave Behind," where Quark says goodbye to Odo.

"I've been watching that near to tears because we're saying goodbye, and unfortunately in life we had to say goodbye as well," Shimerman said.

Visitor, who broke into tears recalling her friend, said her favorite memory is appearing with Auberjonois at conventions. She said Auberjonois would be grumpy until it was time to go on stage and see the fans.

"The minute we'd walk backstage, you could see like his veins were just filled with light," Visitor said. "He loved performance; he loved the stage. He loved everything about the communication and the storytelling. He loved it and I loved watching him light up like that."

Captain Kirk's Advice on Life and Surviving the COVID-19 Pandemic

By T. Keung Hui

William Shatner has some advice for *Star Trek* fans stuck at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During a May 21 online chat hosted by GalaxyCon, Shatner told his fans that he's listening to two to three lectures a day from the Great Courses series. It's one of the many ways Shatner said people can productively use their time during the lockdown.

"I'm saying to you who are required to be locked in, work on yourself," he said. "There's an infinite number of things you can do for yourself. Make yourself better. Learn something."

During the pandemic, Shatner regularly goes horseback riding. It's a skill Shatner put to use when he last played Captain Kirk in 1994 for the movie *Star Trek Generations*.

Shatner recalled how he gave some tips to Patrick Stewart before filming their horse-riding scene. Shatner told the GalaxyCon participants that he had suggested that Stewart wear silk stockings to protect his feet from being rubbed raw and bleeding into his boots. Before the next scene, Stewart emerged from his trailer with the stockings on the outside of his uniform.

"I thought, no, no, no. Patrick, that will never do," Shatner said.

Gracefully aging as Captain Kirk

Shatner said he brought everything of himself into his role as James T. Kirk. But the man who played Kirk for nearly 30 years is not the same man in 2020.

"My body has completely changed and I've learned a great deal, hopefully, in that time," Shatner said. "So I'm completely different. But if I were to play Captain Kirk now, I'd play him the way I am now because I have no choice and he'd be the same, yet different."

But Shatner isn't looking to emulate Stewart in bringing back his character for a new *Star Trek* show. Shatner said he's too busy with other ventures, including recording albums and hosting the History Channel show *The UnXplained*.

"I love Patrick making his choices," Shatner said. "I've got all kinds of things I'm doing myself and I don't really want to do *Star Trek* again. I don't want to do an

hour-long series anymore."

His long career has allowed Shatner to make a meaningful impact on the lives of fans. An incident that still sticks out for Shatner is the time a family with a special-needs child came up to speak with him at an event. Shatner said the boy was so shy that he didn't talk despite his efforts to soothe him.

"But an hour later, the boy came back and the boy was smiling and he came into my aura and he stood there and I said, 'How brave of you to do this,'" Shatner recalled. "He was all smiling and he was there, this kid having come into consciousness. I was so moved by being able to reach him that it's remained with me for a long time."

A life with no regrets

Now at age 89, Shatner said he's grateful that he's in good health physically and mentally. The actor said he looks back with astonishment that he's been employed for so many years. Shatner said he realizes he has the best of everything and that it would be callow of him to say he wished he had done things differently.

"Whatever happens is the story of my life," Shatner said. "That's my book and I'm in the last chapters of my book and I'm happy. So when my book says 'The End,' I don't want to regret anything so I avoid regret as much as possible."

Shatner is at the point, though, where he's looking at the legacy he'll leave. That's why Shatner said he didn't cancel out on speaking at a Red Cross charity event in 2015 even though it meant he missed Leonard Nimoy's funeral. He told the people at the Red Cross fundraiser that while celebrities fade from view after death, what doesn't disappear is the good deeds they've done.

"A good deed reverberates until the end of time because that good deed requires another good deed and so on," Shatner said. "It's the butterfly wing effect. My legacy is whatever good work I've done to help other people, not some superficial acting role or some piece of entertainment I've done. What I've done for other people is the only thing I'm happy with."



Klingon

By Asya Pereltsvaig via William Simkiss

[Editor's note – this article was [previously published in January 2012 and July 2014](#). It has been reprinted here with the author's explicit permission.]

While the alter-worlds of the sci-fi literature and film may not always be geographically accurate, if not “positively simple-minded,” as Martin Lewis puts it, they do a little bit better linguistically-speaking. While in older series everyone on all planets spoke idiomatic English (and American English at that!), the field has moved in the direction of creating made-up sci-fi languages. Probably, the best known example of such a language is Klingon, the language that was designed for the *Star Trek* series. The original attempt at creating Klingon was made by James Doohan, the actor who portrayed Montgomery Scott, but later the task of creating a full-fledged artificial language was given to Marc Okrand, a linguist who wrote on the grammar of Mutsun, a dialect of Ohlone (an extinct Utian language formerly spoken in the north central Californian coastal areas) and was instrumental in developing the first



closed-captioning system for hearing-impaired TV viewers. Based on the words made up by Doohan, Okrand proceeded to create a working language, with a more extensive vocabulary and complex grammar.

The reason that artificial languages like Klingon are interesting for linguists – who are mostly concerned with natural, human languages – is that, despite being depicted as alien languages, these made-up idioms have all the trappings of a human language. They are always a product of a human mind. Since making their on-screen debut, artificial languages are often picked up and further developed by other humans. What makes that possible is that artificial languages like Klingon are designed to emulate human languages.

In fact, the biggest problem in creating Klingon was to make it sound alien enough without being too difficult for human (and English-speaking!) actors to pronounce or to use. The way that Marc Okrand approached this problem

was two-fold: first, he broke some of the rules that are universal for human languages, and second, he incorporated some of the rarest sounds and grammatical patterns that are found in only a few natural languages. For example, unlike all known human languages, Klingon does not have the [a] sound, the most vowel-like sound of all. Instead, it has the exotic *tlh* sound, in a phoneticist's lingo a “voiceless alveolar affricate with lateral release” (you may want to memorize this phrase and use it to scare away an especially annoying interlocutor at a cocktail party). This *tlh* sound is unusual to English speakers, but common in North and Central American indigenous languages; for example, it is the sound at the end of the word *Nahuatl*, pronounced in the authentic way.

Moreover, Okrand applied the same principles to the grammar of Klingon. For instance, he chose the rarest pattern of word order, the Object-Verb-Subject pattern: instead of saying “I boarded the *Enterprise*,” the Klingon construction is translated as “The *Enterprise* boarded I.” This pattern is found in about a dozen languages, most of them in the Amazonian jungle (see map in the [on-line posting](#)): Hixkaryana, Apalaí, and Asuriní (northern Brazil), Kuikúro (central Brazil), Tiriyo (southern Suriname and northern Brazil), Arekuna (Venezuela, Guyana, and Brazil), Panare (Venezuela), Bacairí (southern Brazil), Cubeo (Colombia), Urarina (Peru), Selknam (southern Argentina), Tuvaluan (Tuvalu), Mangarayi and Ungarinjin (Australia). No more than 35,000 people in the world speak a language with the Object-Verb-Subject pattern, and I doubt you have a great chance of running into anyone of them in your lifetime. Naturally, that makes Klingon sound rather “alien” to us.

Another peculiar feature of the Klingon grammar is the lack of adjectives; there is no word for ‘greedy,’ but there is a verb, *qur*, which means ‘to be greedy.’ This is also uncommon (but not impossible) in natural human languages. For example, Mohawk (spoken in southwestern Quebec and southern Ontario in Canada, as well as in St. Regis Reservation in Franklin County, New York) appears to not have adjectives, so instead of saying ‘Sak used to be big,’ a Mohawk speaker would produce a literal counterpart of ‘Sak bigged’ (or actually, ‘Bigged Sak,’ as Mohawk is a verb-initial language). Curiously, some languages do it both ways: they may have *bona fide* adjectives alongside verbs with adjectival meaning. For example, in Èdó (spoken by a million or so people in Nigeria) the adjective *mòsèmòsè* ‘beautiful’ co-exists with the verb *mòsé* meaning ‘be beautiful’ (the accent marks over the vowels represent tones: *é* is pronounced with a higher pitch than *è*).

Also, unlike natural human languages, Klingon has

a very small vocabulary of about 2,000 words. In particular, it would be hard to discuss art or choose paint colors in Klingon, as it has just one word for 'blue,' 'green' and 'yellow.' Only two human languages are known to lump 'blue,' 'green' and 'yellow' under the same umbrella term: Javaé (spoken in Brazil) and Lele (spoken in Chad).

But despite all these shortcomings and unusual patterns, Klingon achieved great popularity among *Star Trek* fans and others. They bought 250,000 copies of *The Klingon Dictionary* published by Marc Okrand in 1985; founded the Klingon Language Institute, which publishes multiple

magazines in the language; and published Klingon translations of *Hamlet* and the Bible. One needs to learn the language in order to advance in the video game *Star Trek: Klingon*. According to the 2006 edition of *Guinness World Records*, Klingon is the most widely spoken artificial language by number of speakers; it is also one of many language interfaces in the Google search engine. But despite the popularity, only about a dozen people are actually fluent in Klingon; neither Marc Okrand himself, nor the actors who played in the movie can speak Klingon fluently.

***ST:TOS* — “A Friendly Conversation”** **By Brad McDonald**

Not every episode of the original *Star Trek* series involved a space battle, first contact or rescuing a damsel in distress. A few episodes were even humorous. While defeating a villain of some type such as Klingons, Romulans or even a super computer was always a favorite, it wasn't always necessary. Remember, one of the most popular movies, *ST IV: The Voyage Home*, had no villain and no antagonist. The mission was simply to save the whales.

For that and other reasons, I came up with a simple conversation between two friends. I wasn't sure if it would have filled an hour episode, but rather than try, I decided on a narrative instead. It's not a critical time, no disasters and not even any pressing issues, just an attempt to learn a little more about Kirk and McCoy; specifically, why they decided to join Starfleet.

Another motivation for writing this particular story was to counter what was presented in the movie of the rebooted franchise. It just didn't sit well with me and others as well. I hope you'll understand my reason for writing this and I also hope you'll enjoy my particular point of view regarding Kirk and McCoy's motivations.

By anyone's standards, Starbase Twenty-Nine was enormous. Apart from housing a large administration complex and Starfleet's local command center for the sector, there were a number of civilian businesses, settlements, entertainment and recreation facilities and trading posts. However, most important to the fleet's many ships was the major repair facility. Space docks filled the area surrounding the planetoid Omala that was home to the starbase and its many warehouses, fabrication shops, engineering facilities and specialists. Service and auxiliary vessels were at work twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. It was one of the busiest places in the sector and, for that matter, many of the adjacent sectors as well.

Currently, one of the larger space docks was occupied by the *U.S.S. Enterprise*. Long overdue for an overhaul, the starship was finally receiving the much needed attention it so richly deserved.

With most of the ship's systems turned off, or being worked on, the crew had been assigned temporary quarters in the space station's housing. Only a skeleton crew

remained aboard to supervise or assist with the various repairs, upgrades, refits and modifications. The entire crew rotated duty shifts on the skeleton crew. That way everyone was able to enjoy the many facilities at the starbase and Captain Kirk was no exception.

Currently, though, Kirk was monitoring the status of various work parties and trying to complete his progress reports for Starfleet Command. He was concentrating so much that when his door chime sounded, it startled him. "Come!"

A very haggard looking Doctor McCoy walked in, "Hello, Jim, any updates from Spock?"

Kirk turned his console off and leaned back in his chair. "Actually, yes. The computer system upgrades are about 75% complete. Also, Scotty says the work on the engines is coming along nicely and should be done on schedule, but we always expect that from him, right?"

Studying his friend closely, Kirk commented on the man's appearance. "Bones, you're not on any work detail. Why do you look like you've been 'rode hard and put up wet?'"

A guilty look came over the face of the ship's surgeon, "Well, actually, I was up all night... at The Comet's Tail Casino and Bar."

Shaking his head in mild disapproval, Kirk admonished the doctor. "Really, of all people, you should know better." He finished the statement with a look that emphasized the barb.

"Okay, okay, I know I'm not twenty-one anymore, but... I couldn't help myself."

Smiling knowingly, Kirk asked the obvious question. "What's her name?"

Looking trapped, McCoy gave in easily, "Olivia."

The captain immediately lost his smile and looked as if he'd seen a ghost.

Concerned, McCoy posed a question, almost apologetically. "Did I say something wrong?"

Waving off his friend, the ship's captain explained, "That was the name of a... very special lady in my life."

[*Continued on-line.....*](#)

ST:TOS — “Andromeda’s Fate” By Brad McDonald

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND ION STORM

Enterprise is caught in the very large and violent storm.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – ON COMMAND SECTION

Ship is shaken periodically and the crew holds on. All are busy and intent on their consoles.

CHEKOV

Recommend course, oh nine oh, mark five, sir.

KIRK

Try to ride the storm wave? Agreed. Helm, increase speed and get us out of this mess!

SULU

Aye, sir, increasing to warp two, now!

ON SPOCK

He’s studying his console closely, astonished.

SPOCK

Readings off the Pratt/Valerian scale. I would estimate that we are in the same type of storm that Andromeda encountered.

The ship shakes hard again and everyone holds on.

ON SCOTT

SCOTT

(to Kirk)

Stabilizers are getting a real workout, sir, as are the shields. We’re starting to see some minor damage as well.

He works his console and turns back to Kirk.

SCOTT

(continuing)

Increasing power to ship’s shields.

NEW ANGLE

Kirk rises from the command chair and moves to Spock, but remains focused on the main viewer. He has to grab the railing to keep on his feet as the ship is shaking.

KIRK

(moving)

Any precedence for this type and size of storm, Spock?

Kirk arrives at science station and Spock turns to face Kirk.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

SPOCK

Absolutely none, sir. Most disturbingly,

though, it seems to be... following us. As we change course, so does the storm.

Spock’s eyebrow arches and Kirk has a thought.

KIRK

Could something or someone be directing the storm?

SPOCK

A distinct possibility, sir but it would be... unprecedented.

Kirk grabs the railing again as the ship receives another shaking.

KIRK

How about a way out, Spock?

SPOCK

Difficult to do when the storm follows us. It could be why the Andromeda was overcome.

(beat)

However, we could plot a course inward.

KIRK

Is the center calm, like a hurricane?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Not entirely, but certainly less violent than where we are now. My readings are... sporadic and weak, but there is a discernible difference. It could give us time to formulate a plan to exit the storm at a more opportune moment.

ON KIRK

KIRK

(speculating)

Andromeda probably used the same methods we have been trying to evade the storm, so... we’ll do something different!

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

Ship is rocked again and everyone braces.

KIRK

Navigator, alter course to storm center! Helm, increase speed to warp four!

CHEKOV/SULU

Aye, sir!

UHURA

Captain, damage reports coming in, minor so far, but growing in numbers exponentially. Dr. McCoy reports minor casualties, so far.

KIRK

Understood, Lieutenant.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

(off console)

Captain, computer analysis from Andromeda's tricorder reveals data was from a probe. It shows something at the center of the storm!

KIRK (O.C.)

How could a probe operate in a storm like this?

SPOCK

Probe had returned to Andromeda and someone downloaded it into the tricorder, but the probe was failing in a manner similar to the main computers. It also explains why the analysis took so long.

Ship is rocked again and Spock turns to console and makes a few adjustments.

SPOCK

(continuing)

If we are to survive, we must increase power to the shields to one hundred ten percent.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Kirk turns to Scott.

SCOTT

If we do, then something else has to be reduced...

The ship receives a large hit and the crew barely recovers.

KIRK

Take it from all non-essential sources: labs, transporters, food processors... go!

SCOTT

Aye, sir, transferring power now!

Scott activates controls on console in rapid succession. Lights blink and ship shudders from a massive hit.

SULU

(off console)

Good timing; that one would have caused major damage.

SPOCK

Captain, I'm detecting intermittent readings from the storm's center.

Kirk hovers at Spock's station, keenly interested.

KIRK

What type of readings?

Spock makes several adjustments, then:

SPOCK

(off console)

Could be... a ship. Also, the readings correspond to those we recovered from the tricorder located on the Andromeda.

ON KIRK

He's thinking and becomes hopeful.

KIRK

Spock, could that ship... be generating the storm?

ON SPOCK

He's astonished, then realization hits.

SPOCK

That would be extraordinary. It would, of course, require enormous amounts of energy.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

KIRK

How close is the ship?

SPOCK

(off console)

Coming up quick, sir. Recommend reducing speed.

KIRK

Sulu! Disengage warp drive. Impulse engines; half speed!

SULU (O.C.)

Aye, sir, impulse, half speed!

KIRK

Try to clear the viewer. Maximum magnification!

SPOCK

(working)

Aye, sir, coming up now!

ON MAIN VIEWER

Screen is full of static and a distorted image of a Klingon ship is barely visible.

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

Everyone is focused on the image as ship is rocked.

CHEKOV

Klingons! We should have known!

SPOCK

Hardly surprising as we are near their space.

Scott becomes nervous.

SCOTT

Sir, stress is building up again!

KIRK

Spock, is the storm less violent ahead?

Spock checks instruments briefly, then:

SPOCK

Unquestionably, particularly adjacent to the Klingon ship.

KIRK

Plot a course for that ship!

Chekov concentrates intensely on his console as the ship is rocked violently again.

CHEKOV
(working)

Aye, sir, recommend reducing speed to one eighth impulse.

KIRK

Agreed! Sulu!

Kirk is studying main viewer as he moves back to the command chair while keeping a hand on rails as ship shakes again, but less violently.

KIRK
(continuing; moving)

Any sign that they have detected us?

SULU
(off console; surprised)

None, sir. Their sensors are not active. Evidently they aren't worried about that possibility.

ON MAIN VIEWER

The Klingon ship is putting out waves of energy from both ends as Enterprise moves in slowly. Shaking subsides even further.

KIRK (O.C.)

Spock can we stop this... storm?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

If we focus a phaser strike on the Klingon's fore and aft energy emitters, it should have the desired effect.

ON KIRK

KIRK
(sitting)

We'll disable them, then escort them out of Federation space!

(beat)

Sulu, target the emitters with main phasers and fire!

SULU
(working)

Firing phasers, sir!

ON MAIN VIEWER

Static is clearing but still not perfect, reveals Klingon ship hit. There is a visible energy surge, then ship explodes.

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

Ship is rocked violently and bridge is filled with bright light from viewer.

SCOTT

Shields holding, it's a good thing they were one hundred ten percent.

KIRK

Status?

SPOCK
(off console)

Klingon ship completely destroyed and storm rapidly dissipating.

Kirk jumps up and moves to Scott's position.

KIRK
(moving)

Damage, Engineer?

ON SCOTT

Scott is working console and turns to Kirk, smiling.

SCOTT

Minimal, sir. We'll be fine with a few days' work.

ON COMMAND SECTION

Kirk relaxes and moves back to command section.

KIRK

Any other ships in the area?

Sulu checks console and is relieved.

SULU

All clear, sir.

KIRK

Mister Chekov, lay in a course for Starbase Twenty-Four.

CHEKOV
(relieved)

Gladly... sorry, I mean, affirmative, sir.

KIRK

Apology unnecessary, Ensign. We all share your sentiments.

(beat)

Comments, Mr. Spock.

SPOCK

It would have been interesting to have had time to collect more data...

KIRK

But given the circumstances...

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Understood, sir.

(beat)

It appears the Klingon ship was designed solely for the purpose of storm generation, as a weapon.

KIRK (O.C.)

Even to the point of taking power from all other systems?

SPOCK

Or having no other systems such as shields, sensors, screens... most difficult to understand.

ON COMMAND SECTION

SULU

It was an all or nothing gamble.

KIRK

At least we can finalize the Andromeda report.

AS BEFORE – ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Regrettable that the Andromeda crew was lost, but their findings made it possible for us to survive the encounter and to prevent any further such incidents.

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

CHEKOV

And to defeat the Klingon's plan to weaponize ion storms.

UHURA

Not a very practical weapon as it left the user completely defenseless.

SPOCK

An astute observation, Miss Uhura; illogical at best.

UHURA

Shall I cancel red alert, sir?

Kirk is relaxed and nods, smiling back at Uhura.

KIRK

Affirmative, Uhura, and contact Starbase Twenty-Four; apprise them of the situation.

UHURA

Aye, sir.

Lighting changes to show normal condition.

KIRK

Mister Scott, are we ready to leave?

SCOTT

Aye, sir; that we are!

KIRK

Mr. Sulu, warp factor four. And here's hoping we have clear sailing.

UHURA

I'll second that, sir. Starbase Twenty-Four sends compliments and states that Andromeda's fate has been decided. It will be rebuilt.

CLOSE ON KIRK

He nods in appreciation.

KIRK

A tribute to her crew. Right, Mister Spock?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Unquestionably, Captain.

WIDE ANGLE

Crew is smiling in satisfaction.

Off their reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END



WeKnowMemes

Upcoming Events

Aug	1	4 p.m. Ship Meeting On-line
Sep	5	4 p.m. Ship Meeting On-line
	18	Articles for newsletter due
Oct	3	4 p.m. Ship Meeting On-line or possibly open space plus on-line

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

THE WRIGHT STUFF
U.S.S. KITTY HAWK
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