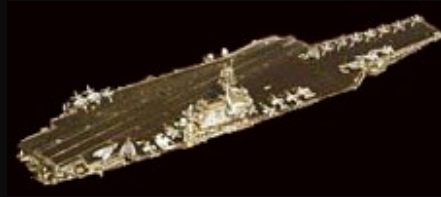


# THE WRIGHT STUFF



Vol XXXII ♦ No 1

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

Jan / Feb 2021





# THE WRIGHT STUFF

## Volume 32 - Number 1

is a publication of the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*, the Raleigh, N.C., chapter of STARFLEET, an international *STAR TREK* fan organization. This publication is provided to all chapter members in good standing. Please address all correspondence to CATBIRD Publications, 5017 Glen Forest Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27612. This publication is a non-profit enterprise and is not meant to infringe upon any copyright or trademark held by Paramount Pictures, Gulf & Western, or any other holder of *STAR TREK* copyrights or trademarks. Unless otherwise noted, ENTIRE CONTENTS ARE COPYRIGHT © 2021 CATBIRD Publications, THE WRIGHT STUFF. Nothing in whole or in part may be used without the written permission of the publisher. *THE WRIGHT STUFF* assumes all material submitted for publication is gratis. The publisher and editors reserve the right to edit all submissions.

Publisher ..... J.R. Fisher  
Editors ..... Elaine Pischke  
John Troan



## CONTENTS

THE CENTER SEAT .....	3
John Troan	
COMPUTER OPERATIONS REPORT .....	3
John Troan	
ENGINEERING REPORT .....	4
Brad McDonald	
FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S DESK: THE CHANCELLOR'S DECLARATIONS ...	6
William Simkiss	
BOOK REVIEW — <i>DYSON SPHERE</i> .....	7
William Simkiss	
<i>ST:VOY</i> – “TOM AND TOM AGAIN”.....	8
Brad McDonald	
<i>ST:TOS</i> – “ONLY THE GOOD”.....	10
Brad McDonald	
UPCOMING EVENTS.....	14

### IMAGES - Title Banner

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

### IMAGE - Featured Front Page

#### Quasars Rip Across Galaxies Like Tsunamis

Using the unique capabilities of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, a team of astronomers has discovered the most energetic outflows ever witnessed in the universe.

<https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/quasars-rip-across-galaxies-like-tsunamis>

# The Center Seat

## By John Troan

Happy New Year! Let's all hope that 2021 goes (much) better than 2020.

The new year brings a [new narrative](#) on [the Kitty Hawk website](#). In working through the list of stories in the queue, we're now lined up with material (for the website and newsletters) through the end of this year – and very quickly approaching mid-2022. (Brad has been a very busy beaver. For anyone who hasn't yet taken the time to read his works, please take a look at the [narratives](#) and [scripts](#) in the [media archives](#) – it'll be well worth your time.)

In the continuing “saga” of the [chapter handbook](#), writing will (hopefully!) begin during February or March. Since it looks like I'll be writing the vast majority of the handbook, when work starts and completes will depend on how many other things encroach on my time.

Since part of the handbook will be the Rank and Promotion System, I'll (finally!) be able to put down on (electronic) paper how the enlisted promotions will be handled. From looking at my spreadsheet, it looks like *there will be enlisted promotions coming* and -- as I've

mentioned before – (all) promotions are based on when the points are earned, so these enlisted promotions are going to be back-dated.

In STARFLEET news, the Region 1 Regional Coordinator special election has concluded and Phillip Cox has now had “Acting” removed from his “R1RC” title. He'll be finishing out the current two-year term that ends in mid-2022. As part of the change in R1RC, the Region 1 website will be on the move again. Once the website is built (and the URL made public), I'll update the *Kitty Hawk* website's link to R1.

On a final note for the new year, I ask that everyone (particularly department heads) consider writing an article – just about any topic is fine, so not just what your shipboard position covers – once or twice a year for the newsletter. Our best issues have a nice variety of topics and authors. ☺

*Esse Quam Videri and Stay Safe!*

# Computer Operations Report

## By John Troan

Comp Ops has been publicly quiet, but there's been lots of planning going on behind the scene.....

A [new narrative](#) is starting to be published on [the website](#), [beginning in this issue](#) and continuing on-line. I also worked with Brad to look at the publishing schedule for the rest of this year and into next year – plus several more stories in the works that would take us into 2023 once everything is ready.

The [Kitty Hawk website](#) will be on the move sometime in 2021. While the URL will (very intentionally) remain the same, the public will eventually start being directed to a new hosting home – once I get my other websites (NFL stats archive and *Trek* gaming) built on the new hosting platform.

\* \* \* \* \*

On Mars, NASA's [Curiosity](#) rover has [now reached 3,000 \(Martian\) days of activity on the surface](#). (That translates to almost seven and a half Earth years.) *Curiosity* continues to roll up Mount Sharp, its exploration target since 2014.

Elsewhere on Mars, the [InSight](#) lander has had

mixed news of late – [a few things learned](#), but also [the end of the “Mole” part of the mission](#) after it wasn't able to burrow deep enough into the Martian soil.

The next rover heading to Mars, [Perseverance](#), is scheduled to land on February 18. NASA has put together a [collection of landing resources](#) — including the schedule for TV coverage of the landing process. The [core mission summary](#) has recently been posted, but one key thing not on *this* list is [Ingenuity](#), the first helicopter to fly outside of Earth's atmosphere.

Moving one planet outward, the [Juno](#) mission (in orbit around Jupiter) [has been extended](#) to the end of the probe's operational life in 2025. The extension includes multiple flybys of Ganymede, Europa, and Io, along with more study of the ring system.

Earlier this month, [JPL announced a new virtual tour of the facility](#) is now available. The many stops on the tour include visits to mission control, spacecraft assembly, and the Visitor Center/Museum – but I didn't see a listing for the gift shop to pick up some souvenirs on the way out. ☺



# Engineering Report

## By Brad McDonald

Here's hoping the New Year will be better than the last one. I have a lot to cover, some of which may be a bit dated by the time it makes it to our newsletter, but bear with me. Anyway, here we go!

GM recalled 50,932 Chevrolet Bolt EV's due to battery fires. The fires occur even if the car is not running or even plugged in to charge. Once again, lithium-ion batteries are the source of the problems. GM has told owners not to drive them and to park them, away from houses as one car fire spread to a house.

Tesla auto is back under investigation by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Forty-three complaints have been received regarding failures of the suspension fore links involving up to 115,000 vehicles. The complaints and subsequent investigation covers Model S sedans made from 2015 to 2017 and Model X SUV's made in 2016 & 2017.

One more automotive related item involves a hacker in California. He attempted to outsmart the DMV with a special vanity license plate which read NULL. He reasoned that the plate name (meaning no value) would confuse the DMV computers and he wouldn't receive any more parking tickets. It worked, sort of, as the computer assigned every outstanding ticket with incomplete data (which was entered as NULL) so the hacker wound up with \$12,000 worth of bills for unpaid tickets!

Meanwhile, out in space, a new discovery had been made. Elagast, AKA BDR J750+3809, a brown dwarf, was located by LOFAR. The [Low Frequency Array in the Netherlands](#) uses radio wave lengths of low light to locate planets and stars. Despite the dimness of brown dwarf stars, LOFAR may be able to locate even more of them using the new method.

[Sentinel-6](#), a joint US-European satellite was launched Saturday, 11/21/2020, at 9:17 US PT. The satellite is designed to monitor rising sea levels. NASA worked with NOAA, ESA and the European Organization for Exploration Meteorological Satellites. A second satellite, similar to the first, will launch in 2025. The unusual appearance of the satellite earned it the name 'dog kennel.'

A group of astronomers want to put a 330 foot liquid mirror telescope on the moon! The University of Texas at Austin made the proposal but it originated with folks at the University of Arizona in 2008. No word on just exactly how the project will be done or the technology needed to accomplish the project, but I suspect there are a lot of issues to work out and that it will be a very long term project!

Speaking of the moon, the [Artemis missions](#) are due to start next year and NASA plans to land on the moon sometime in 2024. Then, they want to have a permanent moon base by the end of the decade. A new company called Icon says the base can be built by using the existing moon dust and 3-D printing. The company hopes to soon perfect the system it has named project Olympus and plans to use it on Earth as well.

The [Hayabusa-2](#) space probe successfully delivered its asteroid samples back to Earth 12/5/2020. Originally launched 12/3/2014, the first sample was collected in June of

2018 and it left for its return voyage home November 2019. Now the real work begins as the samples are analyzed and studied.

Probably the biggest news regarding space exploration involves the [Arecibo Telescope](#) in Puerto Rico. There's a lot of news and most of it seems to be bad. The telescope suffered a catastrophic failure as all three support cable systems snapped, which caused the 900-ton instrument platform to fall on the main dish. The falling support cables also damaged the learning center extensively. The collapse happened just after a decision was made to do a controlled demolition. The original damage occurred in August; however, another cable broke in early November. An investigation showed that further damage was possible but the latest failure was a major blow to plans for projected repairs.

Owned by U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), the Arecibo array is 57 years old and is a big part of Puerto Rico's economy, education system, science and, therefore, the locals insist that the facility needs to be rebuilt. That may be difficult, and there is little love lost between NSF and the people of Puerto Rico. Before the original cable problem, the agency had laid off staff and voiced a preference to build new telescopes elsewhere. Many in Puerto Rico feel the facility was 'ignored' and fell into disrepair which led to the collapse. There is a pride throughout the island regarding Arecibo. It is an icon of Puerto Rico and the rest of the world knows of it even if they don't know anything about Puerto Rico itself. Over 100,000 tourists and students visit the facility yearly. In addition, local businesses depend on the facility. Puerto Rico has a 43% poverty rate and the loss of Aricebo will not help that situation any.

More importantly, the facility has been responsible for many accomplishments including discovering the first binary pulsar; supporting the NASA [Viking](#) missions; producing the first radar maps of Venus; and was in the process of cataloging the spin, rotation and shape of asteroids just before the collapse occurred. The facility is the dominant educational institution on the island and prompted funding of many special programs on the island. Every student in Puerto Rico takes field trips to Arecibo as part of an outreach program to encourage them to consider science as an area of study and even careers. What exactly is next is anybody's guess. Funding to repair the facility after the first incident was approved and new cables were ordered. Now a replacement for everything is needed. There has been talk that an Arecibo 2.0 could be possible, but with the Covid-19 crisis, funding is needed elsewhere. Since Puerto Rico is a territory and not a state, many on the island feel as if they are a lower priority and do not have representation in Washington D.C. to vocalize their predicament. Personally, I believe Arecibo should be rebuilt, but I am not optimistic.

[SpaceX](#) had a setback with the [Starship](#) spacecraft in a test launch/landing. Elon Musk seems unaffected and still believes he can send people to the moon and Mars with the Starship system. The entire flight lasted only 6 minutes, 42 seconds while achieving an altitude of 41,000 feet, after which it failed during landing. Not to worry, it's just part of the

learning curve. A data download of the mission showed where the problems were and corrections will be made prior to the next launch. Remember, the early launches for [Project Mercury](#) were even more discouraging.

The Boeing 737 MAX is back in service, as of 12/2/2020, following a test flight by American Airlines. Recertification by the FAA includes additional training time by all pilots on a revised flight simulator and major re-coding of software for the flight control system. In a very unusual step, FAA Administrator Steve Dickson, an ex-military pilot, flew the 737 himself before authorizing the recertification.

AMC Theatres, which is the nation's largest movie theatre chain, is in talks with Warner Brothers. The studio stated it will put all of its new releases in theatres and HBO Max at the same time! AMC wants to renegotiate terms and doubts that Warner Brothers will attain the same level of profits by using the dual-release method. Other movie studios have a contract that allows for direct/on-demand release three weeks after theatre-only release. The Warner Brothers news hurt AMC as the theatre chain stock took a 16% drop off. Other theatre chains are also 'feeling the pain' and not sure what is next. With the Covid-19 situation, the movie industry is attempting to 'rethink' the business and it will be some time before permanent, long-term solutions are found. Some believe that movie theaters could become a thing of the past!

Disney+ is taking a cue from Paramount/CBS/Viacom. In a special four-hour event, they made announcements regarding movie projects and multiple new series for the Marvel Universe and *Star Wars* with as many as ten series for either of the two franchises. Disney+ now has over 86 million subscribers and is still growing. The Marvel group will get *The Falcon, Winter Soldier*, and *Wanda Vision*. *Star Wars* will see a new Obi Wan Kenobi series starring Ewan McGregor with appearances by Hayden Christenson as Darth Vader. Also proposed are *Rogue One*, *Rangers of the New Republic*, *Ahsoka*, *Lando Star Wars: Visions*, *Andor*, and *The Bad Batch*. Of course *The Mandalorian* will continue and is responsible for spin-offs such as *Ahsoka* and *Rangers of the New Republic*. Much of this is a result of not being able to put new products into theatres and the failure, or lower returns, on some of their feature movies.

Not to be left behind, *Alien* is getting its own TV series and will star Diane Lane. It's titled *Y: The Last Man* and is based on a comic book. Curiously, it is set on Earth rather than in space. The series is set to be exclusive on Hulu.

News Flash! CBS is in talks regarding the release of *Picard*, *Discovery*, *Lower Decks*, and *Short Treks* to Netflix! Ratings on CBS All Access and the CBS Network have been less than spectacular, hence the change. Since other *Trek* shows are already on Netflix, the audience is in place. CBS has previously done deals with Netflix, so a working relationship exists and is evidence that CBS will release other programs rather than keeping them exclusive to All Access.

If that's not enough to get your interest, there is talk of a *Star Trek: Picard The Motion Picture* and a crossover special using *Picard* and *Discovery*. No word on details of either project, but it sounds interesting. Keep your eye on the entertainment news for further developments.

Viacom/CBS is selling Simon & Schuster publishing to Penguin Random House (PRH) for \$2 Billion. This makes me

wonder who will publish *Star Trek* novels and such. Perhaps the deal includes publishing rights with PRH. By the way, that leaves only four publishers left in the U.S. This causes concern amongst writers as the larger publishers tend to print only proven authors and not new ones. That means it will be very difficult for first-time authors to get a chance at being published. It's a real shame; guess I'll never get published!

There's some very wonderful local news to report in the world of science. The N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences is adding a new section called the SECU Dinolab. It will house a very special display being called "Dueling Dinosaurs." Over 67 million years ago, it is believed a Tyrannosaurus Rex and a Triceratops Horridus were in a fight and were somehow buried together. Originally found in 2006, the two skeletons were intertwined and required much work to separate. The T-rex is the only 100% complete skeleton known to exist. Both skeletons are completely articulated which is also very rare. The new display will be open sometime in 2022 and will remain on view for five years. The Dinolab will feature ongoing work and the scientists will answer questions from visitors.

An engineering project of monumental proportions is underway and, to quote a well-known Vulcan, "It's fascinating." As you know, the Notre Dame Cathedral suffered severe damage from a very intense and extensive fire. The origin is still under investigation and undetermined at the time of my writing this. However, the rebuilding and restoration is underway. First order of business was determining the extent of the damage, which proved to be quite startling. The more they looked, the more they found, starting with the limestone blocks which make up most of the building's structure. The extreme heat of the fire 'crystallized' much of the stonework which puts the restoration work in jeopardy as the limestone is weakened. The rebuilding process can't be done with the damaged blocks in place. That's problem number one; removing the damaged limestone will take time and require additional support. Second, clean-up work will include an even more difficult task, removal of the roof. It was made out of lead and melted, falling into the main sanctuary of the cathedral. It's very hazardous and requires special methods and techniques to handle and dispose of. Next, the main timbers which formed the basic framework and structural skeleton of the church were also heavily damaged, including the section which supports the massive bronze bells. Replacing any of the wood beams will be difficult from a standpoint of structure but also due to the fact that large, old-growth trees don't exist in Europe any more, particularly not the type that are needed. Those timbers will be very difficult to replace! Those are just a few of the discoveries and there are many more. One encouraging note is the decision to rebuild as it was with no modern additions, modifications and revisions. Once completed, the cathedral will look as it did before the fire. Many had suggested altering the appearance with items such as a crystal spire instead of the original wooden one.

The first step of reconstruction involved installing many temporary support structures to keep what's left from collapsing. This was a genuine concern as the roof originally placed an outward force on the outer walls. To counter this force, very ornate flying buttresses were installed. Without a roof, the same buttresses were pushing in, exerting a counterforce that isn't needed. Fear of the outer wall collapsing was a genuine concern and therefore the

temporary supports were installed. Another concern regarding unusual stress was the scaffolding which had been installed for the original restoration work which was in progress when the fire broke out. Made of an interconnecting steel network, the system melted, sagged and was mostly unsupported. Again, the concern was about the scaffolding collapsing and causing even more damage. Starting in June, it was cut away and removed section by section. The very delicate and difficult work was only recently completed. Of course, the worst part is, without the roof most of the church is wide open to weather, wildlife and wind.

There are so many problems associated with the restoration process, I can't begin to list them all, but there are two which will be very difficult to deal with; money and time. Estimates for time of completion range from a few years to twenty years. The president of France wants the work done by 2024 to coincide with the start of the Olympics in Paris. Most say that's virtually impossible and experts maintain it will take up to twenty years. Many skills required to do the work will mean that large numbers of tradespeople will have to be trained to a certain level of expertise before the work can even begin. If that's not bad enough, the budget will really impress you. An engineer working on similar restoration projects in England stated the budget will be in the neighborhood of \$7 billion! So far, the fund for restoration has about \$1.5 billion. Most of that came from private donations. The question is, where will the rest come from? I'm not sure of ownership or ultimate responsibility for the Notre Dame Cathedral. Is it the property of France, Paris, or does the Catholic Church hold the deed? I'm going to keep an eye on this as it is a very remarkable project and, yes, it is fascinating.

What follows is a list of what is considered the top scientific discoveries of 2020:

1. Material from the Murchison meteorite was discovered to be older than Earth! Recent dating found it to be somewhere between 4.6 and 7 billion years old.
2. Tyrannosaur embryos were discovered, which indicate the animal was probably no larger than a Chihuahua, much smaller than originally expected.
3. Mars is humming a constant but quiet drone at a high pitch and not typical of those found on Earth. (Of course, we all know why it hums — it doesn't know the words.)
4. Betelgeuse dimmed but it was attributed to the star

'burping.' The resulting cloud obscured the star, making it appear that it had dimmed.

5. The stomach contents of a recently discovered dinosaur revealed the animal's last meal. Perfectly preserved in the stomach of a nodosaur were an assortment of fossilized ferns.
6. The second largest ebola outbreak, known as Kivu, was stopped by early detection and quick action by the World Health Organization. 3,480 people were infected but it spread no further and ultimately less than 2,300 people died in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
7. A *Homo Erectus* skull was found near Johannesburg, South Africa, dating almost 2 million years old, making it the oldest so far.
8. Scientists may have located biological structures that could hold DNA in a dinosaur. Confirmation of actual DNA has not been achieved, but it is encouraging as to how fine the details of a dinosaur fossil can be.
9. The Chiquihuite Cave in Mexico was found to have objects which indicate humans may have migrated to the Americas 30,000 years ago, which predates original estimates of 13,500 years. The discovery is still being reviewed and hotly debated.
10. Not far from the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, a discovery was made of a coral 'skyscraper' nearly 1640 feet tall! Already several new fish species have been identified inhabiting the unusual feature.

Last of all, I wanted to note the passing of a real American hero and space pioneer, Chuck Yeager. Born in Myra, West Virginia, February 13, 1923, he was a pioneer in every sense having broken the sound barrier twice; initially on October 14, 1947, exceeding mach one, but few know that he repeated that distinction by surpassing mach two in 1953! Another first involved being one of the first pilots to shoot down a jet aircraft. As a World War II fighter pilot, he became an ace with 11.5 victories including a Me-262 German jet. He died at the age of 97, having seen many of his accomplishments in test flights with various X craft evolve into the space program. As a boy, I admired his accomplishments and was delighted to see him portrayed in the movie *The Right Stuff*. I think he exemplified that in all respects.

## From the Chancellor's Desk: The Chancellor's Declarations

By William Simkiss

### Reading — and Pronouncing! — Klingon

"OK, I'd like to know something about the Klingon language, without having to be serious about it. What's fun and enjoyable — and brief?"

You may have noticed that when Klingon is written out, there is a curious combination of lowercase and then uppercase letters. Well, here's the trick: Mark Okrand had to make the words alien sounding, but still pronounceable by human actors. So what he did was this — he simply left most letters alone if they had the same basic sound. And if they were to be pronounced

differently, he capitalized them. Clever! That way, the things that stick out to you are the ones to pay attention to! As a favorite Old Testament teacher would say of the text, "If it's weird, it's important!"

- What do you want? (greeting)  
**nuqneH** (pronounced nook-NEKH)
- Beam me aboard! **Hijol** (pronounced khi-JOL)

Another feature is the apostrophe. In Klingon, it's rather like a glottal stop. If you say, "Uh-oh", the apostrophe in Klingon would be the sound between "Uh" and "oh" — the "dash", as it were. (Perhaps written as



“Uh’oh”) It is always vocalized like a hard stop and makes the end of the preceding syllable short, clipped. But move right along; don’t linger there. It is the briefest of stops.

- That is unfortunate. **Do’Ha’** (pronounced do-KHA)
- I don’t understand. **jlyajbe’** (pronounced ji-YAJ-be)

Names:

- **B’Etor** (pronounced B-Eh-tor)
- **B’Elanna** (pronounced B-Eh-lah-na)
- **Ba’el** (pronounced Bah-ehl)

And most famously, there is no “K” in Klingon ... But! But! Yes, it’s actually “thlingon”. The famous

“tlh” sound. For me, the best explanation is by an example from Welsh. When they have double letters like “dd”, they get a very different sound – it becomes a “th”. “Gwynedd,” a county in Wales, becomes to us “Gwyneth”. Here, the “ll” in “Llewelyn” is very helpful for our Klingon language. To pronounce it properly – yes, I have Welsh cousins and have visited there – start the sound of the “L” with the tip of your tongue behind your front teeth, at the top. And as you say the “L”, blow air out around your tongue on both sides. That is the “Ll” sound of “Llewelyn”, and nearly identical shaping for “thlingon”. If you get a bit of a percussive “k” sound as well, that’s not bad. It’s all very close.

## Book Review: *Dyson Sphere* by Charles Pellegrino and George Zebrowski (Published April 1999) By William Simkiss

There are many, many, MANY *Star Trek* books. Some are wonderful! Some are truly terrible. And most are just ... OK. The curious thing is, we all disagree as to which is which! All you have to do on Antisocial Media is to state an opinion, and interstellar war breaks out everywhere.

Some background to my review and recommendation: a little of how I got from there to here. In a *Star Trek* group on Facebook, a woman said that the next *Star Trek* TV series to be developed should be a sequel to the *TNG* episode “Relics”. That’s where (**Spoiler Alert!**) James Doohan reprises the role of Scotty, and they encounter a derelict Dyson Sphere. It is a truly excellent episode. And when this woman made her suggestion, my brain exploded! It fired up every ounce of my creative juices, and made me want to read that, see that, write that, be in it. It truly enthused me like few things have for years. Within a day, I had written an opening scene to a group writing project trying to tempt folks from my old writing group to go explore this Dyson Sphere with me. Everyone loved the idea. No one volunteered to go with me, or write the next scene. Sigh. And I already had three really good characters! One to be played by Harrison Ford.

One of them did say, “You know, there actually was a book sequel...” !!! So I looked it up, ordered the book, and began reading. After a couple of chapters, I went ahead and checked online reviews, just to see which above category this book was listed as. The reviews were terrible. Almost all of them. And with distinct, good reasons as to why. But a very few said, “If you get why they’re writing the way they are, you’ll

love this book.” Hmmm. Well, I was going to finish it anyway. And I agree with the few, which is why I am writing, and recommending this book.

The two authors are scientists. And *Star Trek* fans. They explored the science of a Dyson Sphere in very satisfying ways, weaving in some nice mysteries that can’t be solved in the time of one novel. They put a natural disaster time limit on the story, to round off the plot, rather as the TV episode did. A very nicely done touch in the book, I must say. The characterizations of the *Enterprise* crew are very thin – a common complaint of the reviewers – and I found out perhaps why later. But the vastness of the sphere, and a geology so enormous, dwarfed other concerns, and moved me.

I was impressed enough to then look up Charles Pellegrino, and even saw he had a page on Facebook. So I sent him a small note, and ended up a few days later in a text conversation. What a gracious gesture! In that process, he said that the book was originally much longer, and the night before going to press, the editor, who was ill at the time, cut 25% off the book. So you can imagine what might have gotten lost in the process. Dr. Pellegrino and I both expressed the wish for the publisher to re-release the book at its original length, and see if it would satisfy better.

I would love to see a book or TV series where the various science disciplines would have a chance to explore a new-to-them planet, a truly ancient world and culture, a world of infinite possibilities, maybe a sequel to the sequel of “Relics.” Meanwhile, give this book a read. Maybe hedge your bets by borrowing my copy.

# ST:VOY - "Tom and Tom Again"

## By Brad McDonald

The *Voyager* series took some warming up to. I thought the first season didn't do too well. It seemed as if it took forever for *Voyager* to get out of Kazon territory. For a group of people who were in a hurry to get home, they seemed to be moving awfully slow. However, it wasn't all bad. After all, *Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine* had a similar problem and they did quite well. However, there was a genuine problem with the ending. After seven years of some great stories, the series ended with an abrupt thud.

"Hi, mom and dad, we're home from summer camp!" That's what it felt like. There were so many loose ends and unfinished story lines, it seemed anticlimactic. *Deep Space Nine* did a marvelous job of closing out many of the smaller arcs and the last season was a real joy to watch.

With *Voyager*, this was not so. Just to name a few: How does Seven deal with returning home and meeting her family? Does Janeway accept an office job like Kirk did? Does Chakotay finally come to terms with his heritage and family? What about Janeway and Chakotay or Chakotay and Seven? Does the Doctor get his wish to be declared a sentient being? The list goes on and on, perhaps another full season worth of storylines!

To give the series a more satisfactory ending, all of these issues could have been addressed in a more relative final season or even compacted into a two-parter. Looking at those issues, I was most curious as to the fate of the *Voyager* 'outcasts.' They include Tom, who was 'on loan' from the penal system; the Maquis; and, of course, the *Equinox* crewpersons. How did they fare with Starfleet and what were their ultimate fates?

Because of those very questions, I wrote, *Tom and Tom Again*. It touches on a few of those loose ends, but deals primarily with the issues regarding the outcasts.

Originally I thought about covering all the incomplete story lines but I probably would have wound up with a 400+ page 'short story.'

For that reason, I concentrated on a story regarding the outcasts and brushed lightly on a few others. As usual, the story will be presented in several parts and once it's completed, I'll add a few notes on how I arrived at various storylines and the sources of my information. If you have any questions or comments, please wait until that is posted.

Thanks for reading and I hope you enjoy it!

\*\*\*\*\*

*Voyager's* homecoming officially lasted a full week. Once the ship made orbit around Earth, the celebration or, rather, celebrations began, starting at Starfleet Headquarters. They eventually moved to the Academy and hometowns, with families, friends, neighbors and more. Along with the celebrations came dinners, drinks, awards, honors, medals and much more. It was almost incomprehensible and generally overwhelming.

Then came the debriefings, after action reports, downloading data and logs, both official and personal. Afterwards, there were conversations with what

seemed like every department in the Federation and Starfleet: the Diplomatic Corps, cartography, xenobiology, councilors, engineering and on and on.

After many weeks of this, Tom Paris felt drained, but he was also puzzled. Other than the initial welcome home by his father, there was little contact – make that none. The admiral was conspicuously absent from view, no matter where Tom went. Of course, it was a two-way street, so to speak. Tom was so busy with all the meetings and his new daughter that there was little time for any socializing. Also, even though Admiral Paris seemed glad to see his son return, there was something not said in the initial welcome home moment. Tom wasn't exactly sure what it was, but there was definitely a problem.

At first Tom thought little of it; after all, his father knew, better than most actually, what the *Voyager* crew was being subjected to. He had initiated several of the meetings and had many reports to review as part of his normal duties associated with his status at command.

Tom finally decided it had something to do with his official status and the other crewmembers who had been members of the Maquis. Technically, Tom was still a parolee under Janeway's custody and supervision.

Also of interest was the status of Seven. Command paid special attention to her. After all, she was a true rarity, a 'converted Borg' or a 'reconverted human,' depending on your point of view. In any case, every engineer and doctor in Starfleet wanted to examine, question and test her. If Tom was overwhelmed, then Seven must have felt as if the entire planet was resting on her shoulders.

Fortunately, Janeway, now a newly-appointed admiral, became Seven's advocate and, with the new rank, was able to circumvent a large portion of the interviews and tests. Seven eventually adopted the use of her original family name and was welcomed by her aunt. The two became close very quickly and more than a few tears were shed by all who were present during their first meeting.

Undoubtedly, the happiest group of people to see *Voyager's* return, other than families and friends of the crew, were Starfleet's engineers. Between the modifications made to *Voyager's* systems using variously acquired technologies, the *Delta Flyer*, data downloads on alien technologies, not to mention Seven, they would be kept busy for years to come. Most interesting for most, though, was the mobile emitter for the EMH; he was fast becoming a celebrity.

All these meetings and events occurred with many smiles, handshakes and pleasant conversations. However, it was finally interrupted with an announcement from the JAG Office. It was now the day or, more accurately, days of reconciliation. The fate of Tom and the others would be decided, one way or the other.

Assembled into one large room were all the *Voyager* crewmembers who had been working with the Maquis. Chakotay was elected to be the spokesperson, but Janeway was present from the first minute and throughout all the proceedings, presumably unofficially, but later as amicus



curiae or friend of the court.

It was a strange setting as there were both civilian and Starfleet authorities present. Also, the former Maquis members were in civilian clothing and not the uniforms and rank they wore on *Voyager*. Another unusual aspect of the proceedings was the fact that Tom Paris was isolated from the Maquis group. Into this room, another group entered and was seated by themselves, the surviving members of the *Equinox* crew. All was strangely quiet and most of the faces were either hard to read or grim.

The arrangement was confusing, the result of conflicting interests of authorities as to who had jurisdiction over the various groups. Evidently while the debriefings and meetings were going on, the legal issues were being debated throughout Starfleet's JAG Office, Federation Legal Council, The Federation Penal Authority, Starfleet Command, Starfleet Personnel Office, various Terran law offices and many more agencies. It seems everybody wanted in on the legal aspect regarding the fate of *Voyager's* 'special' crewmembers.

Surprisingly, in short order, several motions were made by the various representatives of authorities, who seemed to number in the hundreds. The most important of these, though, were the ones from Janeway. She made a few suggestions, primarily to separate the three distinct groups as their situations were notably different.

Just after they were all seated, the gathered authorities made their decision. The first group would be the former Maquis members, group two would consist of the surviving *Equinox* crew and the last aspect would be Tom Paris.

Unbelievably, there were few objections, mostly due to the Vulcan advocate representing the diplomatic corps who called Janeway's suggestion flawlessly logical. Evidently, no one wanted to appear as illogical and the few objections, for whatever reason, were quickly dismissed.

Curiously, and much to Tom's relief, his case was actually to be presented first. It was probably a matter of taking the simplest and easiest case first, then working up to the more complicated, meaning more defendants, later. Meanwhile, the JAG office would be 'feeling out' proper protocol and procedure.

In any case, Lieutenant Tom Paris was glad to get it over, but felt sorry for B'Elanna. She would have to wait to find out what her future held. In the interim, Seven and her aunt would care for her infant, Miral, while attending Tom's hearing.

The moment of turning over care to Seven and Irene Hansen was quite amusing and heart-warming as Aunt Irene was an 'old hand,' as she put it, regarding child care. Seven, on the other hand seemed a bit uncomfortable but determined

to help her friends B'Elanna and Tom. Aunt Irene assured Seven that she would do just fine and the exposure to the infant would encourage Seven to start a family of her own. The resulting look from Seven caused B'Elanna and Tom to laugh all the way to the hearing, their only amusement during this timeframe.

In just two days, Tom found himself in a mostly civilian court with Starfleet personnel in attendance in surprising abundance. He was greatly relieved to see Janeway present, but disappointed, to an equal measure, by the glaring absence of his father.

All eyes were on this, as *Voyager's* crewmembers were celebrities. Their treatment had to be fair, actually more than fair. However, Starfleet and Federation penal systems had standards to maintain and so rather than a trial, a tribunal was decided upon, to the mutual agreement of all parties concerned.

Three magistrates were chosen to represent the three major players: Federation Council was represented by the Chief Advocate, Tul; Starfleet by the Assistant JAG, Admiral Peterson; and the Assistant Chief of the Federation Penal Systems, Robert Markham covered the final aspect. Confusing, awkward and downright cumbersome, the newly-formed court began their work.

Opening statements were read by the tribunal's choice, the Assistant Chief of the Federation Penal System. He would explain Tom's unique situation and the unusual arrangements made with Starfleet in general and Janeway in particular.

Paris was struck by the detailed arrangement and the lengthy process Janeway took to obtain permission for his release. He had no idea how much trouble it had been or that Janeway had come under pressure from Starfleet Command for her choice to put a 'less than reliable' person aboard their newest ship. Some even questioned her posting as the captain.

As more and more details were revealed, Paris became uncomfortable. All of this was just preliminary and already a lot about him was being made public, including details that did not come out in the original hearing that landed him in the New Zealand penal colony.

At this point he remembered the incident with the Moneans and was reminded how doing things his own way had got him into trouble more than once. Janeway had bailed him out and given him another chance. His thanks to her was ignoring her orders and, just as before, repeating his mistakes. He was feeling very foolish indeed.

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

# *ST:TOS* - "Only the Good" By Brad McDonald

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: ACTION IS CONTINUOUS FROM ACT TWO.)

INT. BARAT'S HOUSE – DINING ROOM – WIDE ANGLE

Armed aliens are taking Barat and others into custody.

LEADER

You are all under arrest!

Kirk motions the Enterprise crew to one side.

CLOSE ON KIRK'S HAND

We see him use the emergency signal on communicator.

INT. ENTERPRISE – MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOM – ON PLATFORM

The Enterprise team forms in the transporter effect. Kirk looks at Kyle, smiling.

KIRK

Nice work, Mr. Kyle! The failsafe plan worked perfectly.

Kirk and the others step off the platform.

WIDE ANGLE

Kyle is beaming, deeply satisfied.

KYLE

Thank you, sir!

Team gathers near the control console.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Kirk is frustrated and thinking out loud.

KIRK

Now what? Our best chance of establishing diplomatic relations just got arrested.

CHEKOV

Can we rescue Barat and his people?

MCCOY

(annoyed)

If we go in unarmed, no.

SULU

If we arm ourselves, we give them another reason to doubt our peaceful intentions.

KYLE

Why not bring them here?

ON KIRK

He smiles and moves behind the control console.

KIRK  
(moving)

Kyle, do you still have a fix on the room we were in?

NEW ANGLE

Yes, sir.

He points to the console readout.

KYLE

KIRK

Can you pick out Barat and his people from the others?

Kyle studies the console closely, makes adjustments, then, apologetically:

KYLE

Sorry, sir, they all read alike.

Kirk looks disappointed and Bingham steps forward.

BINGHAM

Not exactly, Barat and his people are unarmed. Bring up the unarmed aliens!

Kirk becomes focused and determined.

KIRK

Kyle?!

ON KYLE

Kyle is already working the controls.

KYLE  
(off console)

They've moved outside the house.

(beat)

But I still have them!

KIRK (O.C.)

Energize!

Kyle works controls, then looks up at platform.

KYLE'S P.O.V.

We see Barat, Maz, Tell and Midor appear in the transporter effect.

ON KIRK

He's alarmed and looks at control board looking for a problem.

KIRK

Kyle! You missed one. Where is Para?

NEW ANGLE

KYLE  
(confused)

These are the only unarmed persons, sir.

Barat, Maz, Tell and Midor step off the platform, confused, and move toward Kirk, grateful.

MIDOR  
(moving)

It's true, Captain.

MAZ  
(moving)

Para tipped off the others about the meeting.

The aliens have now gathered around Kirk.

TELL

We were... betrayed.

BARAT

Why did you bring us here, Captain?

ON KIRK

KIRK

To keep you out of jail... or worse.

Kirk gets closer to Barat and explains, quietly.

KIRK  
(continuing)

Starfleet protects their friends even if we don't have treaties... or weapons.

He finishes on a friendly smile.

ON ALIEN GROUP

They are all smiling, nodding with approval.

AS BEFORE – ON KIRK

KIRK

Come, let me show you the ship. Then we can plan our next move.

WIDE ANGLE

Everyone exits transporter room except Kyle.

ON KYLE

KYLE  
(to self)

Not a bad day's work!

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND DELTA OMICRON V

Enterprise is in orbit around planet.

INT. ENTERPRISE – MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

Seated are Kirk, McCoy, Spock, Bingham, Sulu, Barat, Tell, Maz and Midor.

KIRK  
(to Barat)

My main concern is your safety, then we need an opportunity to speak to your people.

BARAT  
(thoughtfully)

It will be difficult. I thought Para was sympathetic... who can I trust?

SPOCK

Would your ruling council be open to a presentation by us?

MIDOR  
(to Kirk)

I'm sure of it, but how can we do that without endangering you and your people again?

KIRK

We need to expose the source of disinformation.

MCCOY

Easy, it's the Klingons.

SULU

But we haven't seen any.

BINGHAM

Yes we have. Didn't anyone notice the weapons?

Kirk snaps his fingers.

KIRK

She's right! They were Klingon disrupters!

BARAT

Of course, our people have no weapons. They are forbidden.

SPOCK

Logically, we must expose the Klingon influence, bring them out into the open.

MCCOY

How? They have no reason to come out.

BARAT  
(defeated)

Then we have failed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND DELTA OMICRON V

Enterprise is leaving orbit.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – ON COMMAND SECTION

Kirk, Spock, Uhura, Sulu, Chekov are at stations, N.D. crew fill other stations. Conversation is in progress.

UHURA

Channel open, sir. Command on visual.

ANGLE FAVORING VIEWER

CLARK

Kirk? What's happened?



KIRK

We've failed, sir. They've rejected our offers and even caused a local 'incident.' Mr. Barat is here and he agrees. I'm returning Barat and his party to a safe location, then we will leave.

Clark is visibly disappointed, but resigned.

CLARK

Well, I'm sure you did your best. We can analyze your procedures and try again later. Command out!

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND STARFIELD

Enterprise jumps into warp.

NEW ANGLE – SPACE BEYOND DELTA OMICRON V'S MOON

We see Klingon ship de-cloak and move into orbit around Delta Omicron V.

INT. KLINGON SHIP – BRIDGE – ON COMMAND SECTION

Present are CAPTAIN KLAR, Para and N.D. Klingon crew. Para is uncomfortable and nervous. They have been watching Enterprise leave orbit.

KLAR

You see Para, the 'Earthers' are easily discouraged. We can make our move and you will discover how we reward those who help the Empire.

PARA

I hope so, otherwise I may be executed by my own people.

EXT. DELTA OMICRON V – CITY – GOVERNMENT BUILDING – MID DAY

An impressive building has a large crowd gathered outside trying to see in.

INT. GOVERNMENT BUILDING – RULING COUNCIL CHAMBERS – WIDE ANGLE

Para is standing at podium in front of assembly of seated council members. Many more N.D. aliens are standing in back, listening. Others are trying to get in. Klar is in local clothing behind Para who is speaking nervously.

PARA

Even though several of our fellow council members have been taken by Federation operatives, I was spared...thanks to this man.

She indicates Klar who steps forward to stand at her side. In B.G. we see a concealed panel opening slowly in shadow.

ON PARA

PARA

This Klingon officer told us of the treachery

we could expect from Starfleet. He was right. He has pledged that the Empire will not only protect us from further attempts, they will arm us if we wish.

There are voices stirring in the chamber audience. Behind Para we see figures in Starfleet uniforms emerging from the concealed panel, still in shadow.

PARA

(continuing)

I know arms are not our way, but the Klingons have proved it may be necessary. They respect our ways and come unarmed.

Klar is now overconfident and swaggering.

KLAR

The Empire will do as she says, you have my word!

In B.G., figures jump into light, Kirk and Bingham with tricorder in Bingham's hand.

KIRK

The Klingon lies!

Several aliens move to contain Kirk and Bingham but both break free and Bingham holds up the tricorder. The chamber is noisy with protests and angry shouts.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND BINGHAM

BINGHAM

This device is harmless, but it detects liars!

Bingham points tricorder at Klar, it makes noise.

KIRK

He has a hidden weapon. If I lie to you, you may execute me according to your laws. But... if he is armed, I claim the right to be heard as my people have been falsely accused.

NEW ANGLE

.Several N.D. aliens move toward Klar and others nod in agreement. Para looks terrified. Klar's robe is ripped off and he reaches for his weapon and aims at Kirk. Kirk stands firm, Bingham looks at Kirk as if to make a move, hesitates, then tosses tricorder at Klar, knocking his weapon loose. Klar scrambles to get weapon but he is shot by Para. Scared, she tries to explain her actions.

ON PARA

PARA

I knew he was armed... I planned... all along to expose him... so I had to be armed too. It was... the only way to do it...

AS BEFORE

None of the aliens believe Para and several restrain her and take the weapon. Kirk steps forward to confront Para.

TWO SHOT - KIRK AND PARA

KIRK

You were the one who spread the stories about the Federation and Starfleet.

Para is now resigned to her fate, defeated.

PARA

Yes, it was the Klingons who attacked our ships to make Starfleet look guilty and create an emergency situation that would give the Klingons an opportunity to gain influence on our world.

KIRK

And what did they promise to you for those lies?

PARA

Council Chairman... only... permanently.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Kirk pulls communicator while council members confer with each other. He's relaxed and confident.

KIRK

Kirk to Enterprise.

SPOCK (V.O.)

Status, Captain?

KIRK

It worked, Spock. The Klingon operative is dead, shot by Para. It's a long story —

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – ON SPOCK

SPOCK

(interrupting)

The story isn't over, sir. A Klingon ship has just blocked our return to Delta Omicron V.

ON MAIN VIEWER

We see a Klingon cruiser headed straight for the Enterprise.

ON SPOCK

He tabs intercom on command chair.

SPOCK

Red alert! Red alert! All hands to battle stations!

Off Spock's statement...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE



Remembering the crew of Challenger, January 28, 1986. *Left-to-right: STS-51L crew members (front) Michael J. Smith, Francis R. "Dick" Scobee, and Ronald E. McNair; (rear) Ellison S. Onizuka, S. Christa McAuliffe, Gregory B. Jarvis, and Judith A. Resnik.*

## Upcoming Events

<b>Feb</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Meeting on Zoom</b>	<b>4 P.M.</b>
<b>Mar</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Meeting on Zoom</b>	<b>4 P.M.</b>
<b>Apr</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Meeting on Zoom</b>	<b>4 P.M.</b>

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

---

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