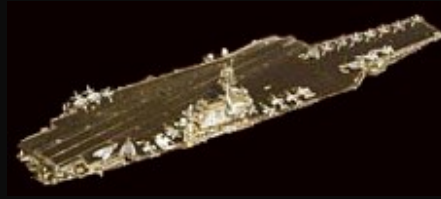


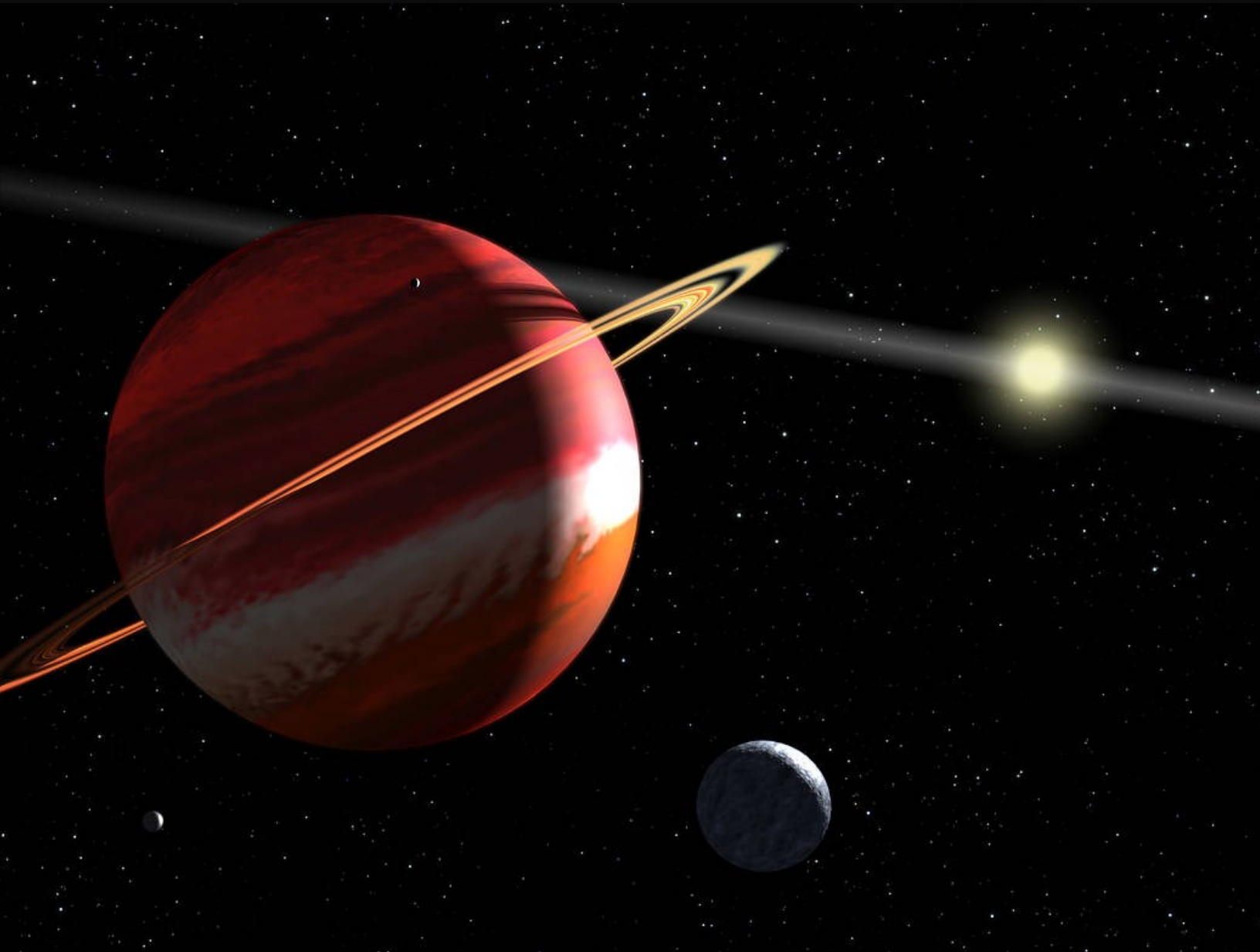
THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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Publisher J.R. Fisher
Editors Elaine Pischke
John Troan



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IMAGES - Title Banner

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

IMAGE - Featured Front Page

Nearest Exoplanet to our Solar System: This artist’s concept is of a Jupiter-mass planet orbiting the nearby star Epsilon Eridini.

<https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/nearest-exoplanet-to-our-solar-system>

The Center Seat

By John Troan

Given how incredibly late I'm writing this – it's already July! – this one is gonna be pretty short.

As much as I'd thought that I'd be turning the corner on getting my non-work hours back the last couple of months, I think there's a genuine chance to do so now – especially since my job duties are likely going to shift some after I get back to work following a two-week break to heal/recover. (But this twenty-pound limit to lift, push, or pull anything will make life a bit interesting for the next four weeks.)

The biggest news (for this issue) is that, beginning in August, we'll resume in-person meetings at the usual locale (Texas Steakhouse on Airport Blvd in Morrisville), but we'll also have a Zoom meeting broadcast from there. However, once the business part of the meeting is over, the Zoom session ends and everyone there can eat without staring into a camera. ☺

[GalaxyCon Raleigh](#) 2021 is on! ... but we won't be there this year. Between the short notice (which they readily admit to) and what I felt were insufficient staffing commitments (including my not being able to be there at all) for the offered

space, I turned down the appearance rather than risk no one being there and being banned. (This is an understandable part of their policy to ensure con-goers see the groups and guests that were announced to be there.) I *did* mention that we're looking forward to 2022, which they seemed to take as an early request for a spot next year.

This year is the 35th anniversary of *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* and some theaters have special showings on August 19 and 22. In Raleigh, two places are showing it – Briar Creek and North Hills. Tickets can be purchased on-line to reserve your seats.

For any and all interested in helping out, the Queen City Con is Oct 8-10 in Charlotte. Greensboro's *USS Serenity* has a STARFLEET table there and would love to have crew from other chapters join in. (Same as with GalaxyCon, a pass needs to be purchased to get in and prices go up a little after mid-September.) If you're interested, I can put you in touch with the *Serenity's* CO.

Esse Quam Videri and Stay Safe!

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

As part of my swamped-busy May and June, the final installment of [our current on-line story](#) has been delayed a bit, but did eventually get posted.

Also coming up with the not-as-badly-delayed July/August issue is the start of another on-line story that will run through the rest of the year.

Another part of my STARFLEET on-line presence is

the [Region 1 website](#). I've posted a very basic first pass just to get something (finally!) available, but will be spending time – after I'm caught up on *Kitty Hawk* items – to flesh it out more. If the design looks very familiar, it's not an accident. After trying one idea and having it completely fail, I cloned the system I use for our [website](#) and made some adjustments before building that basic skeleton.

Quartermaster/Yeoman Report

By Larry Cox

What a boon the Zoom technology has turned out to be. Fourteen months ago how many people knew it existed, much less had used it. I know I hadn't. I'm grateful that we have it but I sure miss the face-to-face meetings; it's just not the same.

Things seem to be starting to drift back to a more pre-pandemic world, which I hope means a resumption of in-person gatherings may not be far off.

From the QM position there's not a lot of new information. My continued thanks to all who have contributed to the treasury; our coffers are well-stocked.

I came across an interesting series of fan made *Star Trek* shorts on YouTube, produced by Aaron Vanderkley as *Star Trek Fan Productions*. They're not special effects driven but more character and conflict,

most with a cast of only three or four speaking parts, but very engaging and interesting stories. Most run from around 9 to 20 minutes. Check 'em out.

I've seen that *Lower Decks* is scheduled to begin it's second season in August. Nothing at all like the original *Animated Series*, I'm looking forward to its return; the show was fresh, inventive and fun, to me anyway. Not sure about the other series, *Discovery*, *Picard*, *Strange New Worlds* (this one I can hardly wait to see if rumors hold true; more like *TOS* episodic, "alien-of-the-week" format) or *Prodigy* starring captain Kathryn Janeway. Until COVID changed everything, it was turning into a good time to be a *Trekkie* or *Trekker*, whichever label you like. And now maybe it's getting that way again.

Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

In big space news, China has announced it will launch its own *Hubble*-type telescope in 2024. Supposedly, it will have a field of view 300x that of *Hubble*. The *Xuntian Space Telescope* will be the first part of a Chinese space station. Their space program is moving forward rapidly. They also have an intention to land the *Chang'E 6* lunar lander sometime in 2024 near the moon's south pole. But what's most astonishing is their plan for an asteroid protection system! So far, details of that project have not been made public. Meanwhile, their Mars rover, called *Zhu Rong* (a fire god), is on the way aboard the *Tianwen-1* probe.

There are a few new chapters in SpaceX's Starlink system. Concern is being raised regarding the number of satellites in orbit and their altitudes. Previously, Starlink had put 1584 satellites into orbit at an altitude of 550km. Now Starlink wants to alter their plan to put another 2824 into orbit, not at the originally agreed upon 1,000km but also at 550km. There is a genuine fear that this could lead to collisions. The FCC is currently reviewing the request. Also of interest is a business insider who did a check-up on the Starlink computer systems and found mixed results. Some customers had no complaints while others gave up on the install and canceled their order. The initial test of the system has been described as, "Better than nothing." Not exactly spectacular ratings. Setup is described as easy, but getting a connection with the satellite, not so much. There is also a problem with location restrictions. The satellite dish and power supply can not be more than 100 feet apart, which means that some people don't have a clear path for the dish within the 100 feet due to trees and other obstructions. Customers running into such a problem must send the unit back at their own expense, \$130! Not exactly user friendly. Others have complained of delays in customer support emails.

Also, SpaceX has filed for a flight test concerning its next Starship launch. That will be different, though, as the first and second stage will separate and Starship itself will do one orbit, landing in the Pacific Ocean near Kauai, Hawaii.

Warp drive could be a little closer to reality! Two papers have recently posed solutions for the idea of faster than light travel. However, the solutions are only theoretical mathematical models that will need extensive testing and experiments which will provide positive proof.

The Crab Nebula, 6,500 light years from Earth, has begun releasing huge amounts of energy. At six light years in size, it's not little, but wasn't seen on Earth until 1054 by Chinese and Japanese astronomers. The increase in energy surges was discovered by the *NICER Telescope*, (Neutron Star Interior Composition Explorer.) which is currently on the International Space Station. Compared to any of the 2800 other pulsars, the one in the Crab Nebula emits pulses hundreds to thousands of times brighter than the others!

Amaze Lab ran a report on 3/15/21 regarding the

ongoing story of Planet Nine. The orbit may be even more elliptical than originally speculated, which may account for the previous inaccuracies in calculations used in locating the planet. However, even knowing that, the chances of locating it are considered, if you'll pardon the expression, astronomical.

The explosion of the SpaceX Starship 11 had been a mystery, but it has been solved. According to Elon Musk, the explosion was due to a small leak which caused a fire in the engine which destroyed part of the avionics. At that point, the ship tried to hard start the engine and... bang! Other ships suffered a similar fate: 8, 9, 10. Numbers 12, 13, and 14 have been skipped and 15 was next as it was modified to avoid similar problems. Thankfully, it was successful, launching and landing on 5/5/21. By the way, Musk described the end result of the launch failure, not as an explosion but as a RUD, or a Rapid Unplanned Disassembly.

A nova is currently visible if you live in the northern hemisphere. You can look for V1405LAS, which was first spotted by an amateur Japanese astronomer.

Call Guinness Book! We have a new record. Comet 153P/Ikeya-Zhang has the longest tail at 621 million miles!

Space junk is a real problem and it's getting worse. I've talked about this before, but all space junk carries another problem, that of a factor of reflectivity which interferes with telescopes on earth and in space. There is already 6,000 tons of space junk and more effective methods to remove it are being studied. Apart from 3300 satellites, objects as small as 1mm are making it difficult to search space. This includes the search for errant asteroids and other space bodies that threaten Earth. That has many people concerned and rightly so, hence the search for methods to clean up space.

That situation was made very evident by a Chinese Long March 5B rocket, which is now a pile of space junk. It was launched April 29 and became uncontrolled. At 21 tons and traveling at 18,000 mph, it's exact splashdown point was unknown. Most of the rocket was expected to burn up on re-entry but a previous rocket of the same type rained debris on two villages in Africa's Ivory Coast. Most experts agree that allowing space debris over 10 tons to re-enter uncontrolled is "...unacceptable." A 'debris watch' was set up on CNN and, fortunately, the remains landed harmlessly in the ocean.

The GAO (Government Accountability Office) has put a hold on the SpaceX moon lander project until it can review a complaint made by Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin and Dynetics. This will no doubt push back the projected 2024 landing somewhat, but exact details are not clear at this time.

In late July, *DART* (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) will try out a new planetary defense system. It will intentionally crash into an asteroid's moon to determine if it can change the orbit.

On October 31, the *James Webb Space Telescope* will launch. It's the official successor to *Hubble*, but it won't orbit the Earth. Instead, it will orbit the sun approximately one million miles from Earth.

Jared Isaacman has chosen the final two passengers for the three-day flight planned to circle earth. Isaacman is a 33 year old billionaire who bought ride tickets for four lucky people. The last two passengers are Sian Proctor, 51, from Tempe, Arizona, and is a community college instructor; also Christopher Sembroski, 41, an engineer who works for Lockheed Martin in Everett, Washington. The mission will launch as early as September 15. Previously, Isaacson announced the other two: Haley Arceneau and Doctor Proctor. (See previous reports.)

Exosonic is a new aircraft company that is working on a supersonic aircraft with low or no environmental impact. Its intended speed is Mach 1.8 and is designed to be a 70-passenger plane, but they are already working on an Air Force One variant with the cooperation and approval of the Presidential and Executive Aircraft Directive and the US Air Force. Currently, the plane has a designed 5000 nautical mile range at 1381 mph. There's another company called Hermeus Corporation working on a hypersonic (Mach 5) aircraft, also with the USAF, NASA and the Presidential and Executive Aircraft Directive. The airplane will be capable of making a New York to London trip in 90 minutes! The engine has already been tested successfully.

Boeing finally received some good news. Southwest Airlines placed an order for 100 737 Max airplanes. It's a major vindication for the troubled 737 Max and a major victory for Boeing as Southwest Airlines chose the 737 over the Airbus A220.

The Navy revealed its plans for a NGAD (Next Generation Air Dominance) fighter. The proposed F-27 will be a crewed aircraft set to debut in the 2030's. The artist's rendering looks amazing! It will eventually replace the aging F-18 Super Hornet. The new airplane is different from the Air Force NGAD which was tested, but remains a secret. In the future, the Navy hopes to have a total of 40% unmanned and 60% crewed planes. Many of the current Air Force F-15's are 40+ years old, so the new F-15EX is badly needed. By the way, the Air Force has officially named the F-15EX, the Eagle II. While not very original, it does distinguish the newer aircraft from the original F-15 Eagle which first appeared in the 70's.

Rules for flying drones have been changed by the FAA. Now drones will be allowed to fly at night and over people. Unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) will check security issues with a new regulation that requires remote identification technology that allows checking the ownership for operation. Prior to this, drones were restricted to flying over the drone operator unless they had an FAA approval to do otherwise. This is just the first step towards the possible use of drones being used for deliveries and other services.

Toyota is entering a car as part of the ORC Racing Group. It features a new engine that uses hydrogen as a fuel. However, it won't operate as a fuel cell which combines hydrogen with oxygen. Instead, the new system

will essentially substitute gasoline with hydrogen and still use basic internal combustion engine features. The difference is hydrogen burns quicker and cleaner. The modified Corolla will participate in the Super Taikyu 24-hour race May 21-23.

An unusual occurrence involves a Mustang Mach-E owner who posted a story extolling the virtues of the car vs. the Tesla. He owned one of each and took the Mustang on a coast to coast trip to prove it was possible to do so in an electric vehicle. While comparing the two cars, he noted a few shortcomings of the Tesla. For his trouble, he has received multiple death threats and was accused of being paid by Ford. He felt the comparison was fair and was very surprised by the attacks.

The black box of the ship that blocked the Suez Canal is being analyzed at this time. Losses by Egypt and the Suez Canal Authority are at \$1 billion and that doesn't include losses by individual ship owners and operators or the losses of persons and agencies with cargo on the ships.

Last summer, I related a story regarding the *U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard*, which caught on fire. Now the Navy has officially decided to scrap it. The \$2.5 billion price tag to rebuild it was considered too much, considering the ship's age. The ship was subjected to a fire that raged for four days, gutting the amphibious assault ship. Its last operation provided humanitarian assistance in East Timor.

A net energy-producing fusion reactor has finally been built and tested. The unit only managed to generate 200 megawatts, but it's a start. Up to now, most fusion reactors used lots of power to start and run, but don't produce any energy. Workers at General Atomics DIII-D National Fusion Facility used a Tokamak reactor, but this time added pressurized plasma.

Verizon is recalling 2.5 million Ellipsis Jetpack Mobile Hotspots due to fire outbreaks. The problem was lithium ion batteries were igniting, resulting in six fires and two burn incidents. The devices were sold in Verizon stores and online but many were provided to school districts all over the U.S. If you have one of those, call Verizon at 1-855-205-2627, 8am to 10pm EST daily.

Speaking of lithium, mining the metal is essential to electric cars, computers, phones and other devices, but the process is now under close scrutiny in Nevada. Right now, most of the lithium used in the U.S. comes from outside the country. The northern Nevada area of Thacker Pass will soon be the site of an open pit mine which has locals worried. The proposed mine was pushed through without too much discussion and was limited to on-line methods, which is not used by many locals. They worry about damage to the water sources in the area. Mining will leave behind such byproducts as sulfur, arsenic and antimony. Locals fear that 'green washing' is misleading many people. That idea is to accept dangerous mining operations in place of reliance on oil and coal. However, many feel one is as bad as the other and the local Native American tribe, McDermitt Paiute Shoshone, is now allying itself with the farmers and ranchers and a real fight is shaping up.

Indy is back! *Indiana Jones 5* (no title yet) is

scheduled for a July 2022 release. Yes, Harrison Ford will be back at 78, but Spielberg will not be directing, instead he will produce with Kathleen Kennedy, Frank Marshall and Simon Emanuel. The new director will be James Mangold who directed *Ford vs. Ferrari*. Also starring in the new adventure will be Mads Mikkelsen and Phoebe Waller-Bridge.

I hope you're sitting down for this! Amazon Studio is remaking *Lord of the Rings* as a miniseries. That's bad enough, but the price tag is \$650 million (N.Z.) or \$465 million (U.S.) for one season! The show will last for five seasons and then be followed by a spinoff series. Compared to the Game of Thrones cost of \$100 million U.S., that's a significant cost! New Zealand is assisting in the finances, which could be a huge burden for the taxpayers of that country! In fact, the N.Z. treasury director has stated the idea is a... "significant fiscal risk." Including the rights, production costs, marketing and advertising could put the total cost at \$1 billion! I didn't recognize any of the featured actors or directors, but the real question is, why bother? I thought the trilogy was just fine. Spend the money on something original. Haven't we had enough remakes and reboots? I know I have.

Speaking of movies, a number of releases were held back or rescheduled and now that the nation seems to be returning to normal, or at least trying to, the Marvel Universe has posted its new schedule. Below is the list, as of the first week in May.

The month of May was a good one for *Star Wars* fans. Disney announced the cast and shooting schedule for the Obi-Wan Kenobi series. That was followed by a trailer for the animated series, *The Bad Batch*. It's a spinoff of the *Clone Wars* series. It focuses on Clone Force 99, the advanced clones introduced in the last season of *Clone Wars*. The timeline is supposed to pick up at the end of the *Clone Wars*.

Finally (aren't you glad), I'm slowly but surely entering the 21st century. I'm leaving my satellite TV and 'converting' to Roku. It was introduced to me by my eldest and encouraged by our own Captain, John Troan. The two spent several hours getting my house set up and I have begun 'binge watching' just like everyone else. One of these was the Pixar behind the scenes specials. The first one I watched centered on a writer who worked on *Soul*, Kemp Powers. It turns out, he wrote for *Star Trek: Discovery*, a story titled "Choose Your Pain." Anyway, the Pixar series was very interesting and I think I might get used to this whole streaming thing... eventually. Anyway, I discovered a new channel, which is probably not new to many of you. It's the Heroes and Icons channel and, aside from Baywatch, Nash Bridges, and other such shows, the line up includes a large block of *Trek*! Starting at 8:00 TOS, 9:00 TNG; 10:00 DS9; 11:00 VOY; 12:00 ENT! There is a *Star Trek* Channel and it's not Paramount+!

That's all folks!

<u>New Date</u>	<u>Movie</u>	<u>Previous Reschedule(s)</u>
7/9/2021	<i>Black Widow</i>	May 2020; 11/6/2020; 5/7/2021
9/3/2021	<i>Shang-Chi & Legend of Ten Rings</i>	2/12/2021; 5/7/2021; 7/9/2021
11/5/2021	<i>The Eternals</i>	11/6/2020; 2/12/2021
12/17/2021	<i>Spiderman: No Way Home</i>	7/16/2021; 11/5/2021
3/25/2022	<i>Dr. Strange in the Multiverse of Madness</i>	5/7/2021; 11/5/2021
5/6/2022	<i>Thor; Love and Thunder</i>	11/5/2021; 2/11/2022
7/8/2022	<i>Black Panther: Wakanda Forever</i>	5/6/2022
2022	A new <i>Blade</i> movie, untitled	
11/11/2022	<i>The Marvels</i>	7/8/2022
2/17/2023	<i>Ant Man & The Wasp: Quantumania</i>	
5/5/2023	<i>Guardians of the Galaxy (Vol. 3)</i>	
no date	<i>Fantastic Four</i> (reboot)	

ST:VOY - "A Fair Price"

By Brad McDonald

This story goes back to when *Voyager* was in its fourth year, shortly after Seven joined the crew. However, I originally wrote it in 1995, during *Voyager's* first season, and registered it, just in case it was selected by Paramount. About this time my original device for writing started having problems. It was a 264 laptop and I was using a DOS-based software called Multimate by Ashton Tate. The system had become obsolete fairly quickly, both hardware and software. Unfortunately, the switchover wasn't direct and I had trouble with the 'translation' to Word. (Obviously someone else did it for me.) Shortly thereafter, I discovered my script format did not meet television production standards. I did a major rewrite and included Seven, who had recently joined the crew. Unfortunately, Paramount didn't want my story, so I pretty much forgot about it. Very recently, John and I were reviewing my list of completed stories and I 'rediscovered' it.

What gave me the idea for the story to begin with was the many battles *Voyager* had been in and how the crew always managed to 'patch things up' and keep going. Somehow the ship looked the same, no worse for wear, as if nothing happened. It made me wonder what would happen if *Voyager* was really 'banged up.' How would the crew deal with it? This situation was somewhat visited later in the series with episodes like "Year of Hell." However, I think my story still covers new territory.

In the process of writing the story, I needed a reliable source for the number of *Voyager's* shuttlecraft and other such vessels. Unfortunately, I found the number was vague, at best. There was even a running joke that *Voyager* had more shuttles than Starfleet. It seemed that every other week, a shuttle was destroyed but *Voyager* never ran out. In fact, the crew even designed and built one of their own, the *Delta Flyer*, and in record time. That made me wonder where all the manufacturing took place. For a ship with 'limited resources,' they sure got a lot done.

Anyway, during my most recent rewrite, I finally got a definitive number of shuttles, courtesy of research done by John. The source was "*Star Trek: Voyager* Technical Guide, Version 1.0, The First Season Edition," published in September 1994 by Rick Sternbach and Mike Okuda. In the guide, it states that *Voyager* was equipped with the following: 2 shuttles, 4 shuttle pods and 4 workpods. This information was necessary as you will see in Act One of my story.

I had to rework the story one more time as I changed computers and software one more time. I had a few problems and, once again, our captain, John

Troan, came to my rescue. I wish to thank him for all his help. Although he didn't help write it, I couldn't have written it without his help.

[Editor's note - Since this is one of Brad's original scripts, it contains a list of all the sets, characters, and pronunciations. For completeness, I included it here.]

STAR TREK: VOYAGER
"A Fair Price"
REGISTERED WGA No. 629653
Written by
Brad McDonald

SETS

INTERIORS

USS VOYAGER
MAIN BRIDGE
ENGINEERING
SICK BAY
GUEST QUARTERS
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
CONFERENCE ROOM

MALORAN HOME WORLD
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TALAN'S QUARTERS
SPACE DOCK WORK AREA
COURT ROOM
AURELIA'S QUARTERS

EXTERIOR

USS VOYAGER
ALIEN SHIPS
VOYAGER'S SHUTTLES
SPACE DOCK FACILITY
MALORAN HOME WORLD
CAPITOL CITY

CAST

JANEWAY	AURALIA
CHAKOTAY	BENEL
TUVOK	DOCK MASTER
KIM	JUDGE #1
TORRES	DAMAR
SEVEN	
NEELIX	
DOC	
GREY	
PETERSON	
Non-Speaking	
N.D. CREW PERSONS	
N.D. SPACE DOCK WORKERS	
N.D. COUNCIL MEMBERS	

N.D. ATTENDANTS
N.D. AIDES
TALAN
LELNA
JUDGE #2
JUDGE #3
EXECUTIONER

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

AURELIA awe-REEL-yuh
TALAN ta-LAN
BENEL ben-EL
MALORAN ma-LORE-un
BELENAR BELL-uh-nar
PALAM PAM-um

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. VOYAGER - CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE ENGINEERING

CHAKOTAY is walking with PETERSON, a young human female.

CHAKOTAY

When you finish your tour in engineering, you'll move on to weapons. Soon everyone will have practical skills in all areas, we don't have enough personnel to specialize.

ENGINEERING – WIDE ANGLE – FAVORING ENTRY

TORRES is at the main control panel when Chakotay and Peterson enter.

CHAKOTAY
(moving)

B'Elanna? Here's your newest trainee, Ensign Dawn Peterson.

TORRES
Ensign, what's your specialty?

PETERSON
(moving)
Communications, sir, but I learn very quickly.

CHAKOTAY
(to Peterson)
I'll leave you in B'Elanna's capable hands.

PETERSON
(to Chakotay)
Thanks, Commander. I've been looking forward to this assignment.

Chakotay exits engineering.

TWO SHOT – TORRES AND PETERSON

TORRES
Looking forward to engineering? I thought this place was even more unpopular than mess duty.

PETERSON
No, sir. I've admired the way you have kept the ship running.

Torres isn't sure what to make of her.

TORRES
Trying to butter up your instructor?

PETERSON
(embarrassed)
Oh, no, sir! Not at all!

TORRES
Well, it's a team effort. I don't do it alone. What's your strongest area in engineering?

PETERSON
Matter/antimatter reaction controls. I got a C+ on my final at the Academy.

TORRES
(exasperated)
A C+, and that's your specialty? We better start with the basics.

Peterson is about to respond when the ship's klaxon sounds.

TUVOK'S VOICE
Red alert! All hands to battle stations!

TORRES
So much for the training session! Follow me!

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(Note: Episode credits fall over opening scenes.)

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND ALIEN SHIPS

Voyager is engaged in a running battle with four alien ships who seem to have the upper hand.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

At battle stations are JANEWAY, TUVOK, KIM, PARIS, CHAKOTAY and N.D. CREW PERSONS. Damage is evident but not overwhelming.

KIM
No response to our hails since the original demand for us to vacate their territory!

JANEWAY
Followed by an immediate attack and no chance for us to leave quietly.

CHAKOTAY
It's almost as if they wanted to pick a fight.

ENGINEERING – CONTROL CONSOLE – ON TORRES, PETERSON AND GREY

More damage is evident as ship is rocked by a weapons impact. A control console shorts out and GREY is knocked to the floor. Peterson goes to assist him.

PETERSON
(taps comm badge)
Sickbay! Mister Grey has been injured in main engineering! Please send assistance!

TORRES
(to Peterson)

Go to Jeffries Tube One and redirect the backup control circuits. Once you finish, remain there and monitor the change. It should hold, but be prepared to reestablish it if it doesn't.

Peterson does not respond immediately.

TORRES
Peterson! Did you hear me? I need you in Jeffries tube one!

Peterson hesitates and looks confused.

PETERSON
But I barely know the—

TORRES
Take a tricorder and keep your comm badge open to engineering! Go, now!

Peterson grabs a tricorder and exits engineering.

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

JANEWAY
Mister Tuvok, where are those photon torpedoes I ordered?

Tuvok is preoccupied and does not look up.

TUVOK
Launchers are out of action, but repairs are underway. Phasers are now at fifty-two percent capacity. Shields have now dropped to less than thirty percent. It would appear that our options are limited.

KIM
They're making another pass, all ships at once! Port side, aft!

JANEWAY
Come about Tom, to one-oh-one, mark five. Show them our starboard side! Tuvok, lock phasers on the lead ship!

PARIS
One-oh-one, mark five, aye!

TUVOK
Locking phasers now!

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND ALIEN SHIPS

Voyager's phasers bounce off the alien's shields as the aliens fire all at once.

INT. VOYAGER – BRIDGE – ON COMMAND SECTION

The ship is rocked by the weapons' impact and several panels throw sparks from damaged circuits. The bridge crew recovers quickly, but Janeway is frustrated and notices a preoccupied Chakotay.

JANEWAY
We can't last against their massed attacks. Suggestions, Commander?

CHAKOTAY

Maybe we can turn their tactics to our benefit. If they continue to 'put all their eggs in one basket,' we should plan our counterattack to take advantage of it.

JANEWAY
A concentrated counter attack?

Janeway taps her comm badge.

JANEWAY
Engineering!? Torres, I need you to prepare a surprise for our attackers.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND ALIENS

The alien ships make another pass and fire weapons.

INT. VOYAGER – BRIDGE – ON KIM

The ship is shaken by another attack. This time the bridge suffers more severely and it takes longer for the ship and crew to recover.

KIM
(off console)

Damage on all decks now, Captain. Power levels dropping to minimum in life support. Breaches on decks six and seven. Emergency force fields are in place.

ANOTHER ANGLE

TUVOK
Shields are now at less than twelve percent. We cannot survive an additional attack.

Janeway nods to acknowledge the information.

CHAKOTAY
Hopefully, we won't have to.

Chakotay taps his comm badge.

CHAKOTAY
(continuing)
B'Elanna? Are we ready?

TORRES (V.O.)
All set!

JANEWAY
Launch shuttlecraft!

CHAKOTAY
Mister Paris, you may begin your maneuvers. Make it appear we've lost control.

PARIS
That won't be as hard as you think.

JANEWAY
Tuvok, engage the aliens with the phasers. Keep them occupied. Kim, send out a distress call, at low power levels. Are they beginning another mass attack?

TUVOK

Affirmative. They are commencing their attack now. Full power to forward shields; I am using all remaining reserves.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND ALIEN SHIPS

Two shuttlecraft, four shuttle pods and four work pods exit and proceed on different headings. The alien ships are closing for the kill and ignore the fleeing shuttlecraft. As the aliens close, one shuttle pod turns into the midst of the attack force and explodes.

INT. VOYAGER – BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

The ship is rocked by the explosion and even more damage results from the event.

JANEWAY

Report!

TUVOK

Attacking ships either destroyed or heavily damaged by the matter-antimatter explosion.

KIM

Our power levels are at a minimum and communications are out.

PARIS

Warp drive off line, we're at one half impulse.

Janeway's comm badge sounds and she taps it to respond.

JANEWAY

Janeway here.

ENGINEERING – WIDE ANGLE

Much damage is evident and Torres looks weary.

TORRES

Bad news, Captain. Warp drive is out and impulse power is barely holding together. All our power reserves are at minimal levels. Unless we find a major repair facility soon, we'll lose life support.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER

Voyager is motionless in space. There is evidence of extensive damage.

INT. VOYAGER – ENGINEERING – ON JANEWAY - CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

Janeway is moving slowly through the area, taking in damages and watching the repair parties. She sees Torres working at the main console.

JANEWAY

(moving)

B'Elaana? Just how bad is it?

Torres continues at the console, absorbed in her work.

TORRES

I'm trying to redirect all available power to critical areas of the ship.

TWO SHOT – TORRES AND JANEWAY

Torres moves to another panel and continues her work and explanation. Janeway follows.

TORRES

(moving)

Right now, we have no means of propulsion other than thrusters and our power is from emergency back-ups only.

JANEWAY

(moving)

What happened to impulse power?

They stop at the next control panel.

TORRES

I was using other circuits to operate the impulse engines. It was very unstable, but it was all I had. When we went into the last round of maneuvers, my wonderful piece of improvisation just blew up.

JANEWAY

You did what you had to, to get us through the crisis and we did survive. What is your estimate on our power reserves?

TORRES

If we shut down all non-essentials, we might have twenty hours, maximum.

Janeway contemplates what she's heard for a moment.

JANEWAY

Do what you can to maximize our reserves, then be prepared for a staff meeting in an hour.

Janeway is about to exit when she pauses.

JANEWAY

I'm sorry about Peterson. Do you need a replacement?

TORRES

We can manage, for now.

Janeway moves to exit, along the way she checks various repair parties.

CONFERENCE ROOM

Present are Janeway, Tuvok, Chakotay, Kim, Paris, Torres, and SEVEN are seated around the table.

ON CHAKOTAY

CHAKOTAY

We sustained heavy damage in nearly every section of the ship. We have essentially shut

down half of the decks and every system not essential to life. Temporary repairs to the hull exterior are in progress and will be completed within the next two hours. Our pressing need is to find a place to make permanent repairs and to replenish our basic raw materials.

ON TUVOK

TUVOK

Phasers are recharging, but the photon launchers are still out. We can make the repairs, but it will take considerably longer without the necessary power and resources. I estimate four hours.

ON JANEWAY

JANEWAY

Do it in half that time. We are still in 'unfriendly' space.

KIM (O.C.)

Communications are now minimal, as are sensors.

JANEWAY

Our ship is damaged and we need help. Question is, from whom and where? What do long range scans show?

NEW ANGLE

SEVEN

There are few systems nearby, and there's no way of knowing which is capable of helping us. Our limited range and scans show clear, for now.

JANEWAY

In our current state, I'd say any port in a storm. How far?

KIM

About point seven five light years, if my scans are correct. But...

Kim leaves the sentence unfinished.

JANEWAY

But with our engines off line, how do we get there? B'Elanna, do you still stand by your original estimates?

ON TORRES

TORRES

We're trying to improvise another set of controls for the impulse engines but it's going to take time, maybe more than we have in our reserves. Short of getting out and pushing, I don't know what we can do.

ANOTHER ANGLE

There's a moment's silence until Paris 'clears his throat' and gets Janeway's attention.

JANEWAY

You have something to contribute, Mister Paris?

PARIS

Not push, pull!

TUVOK

I do not believe we can 'get out and pull' any easier than we can 'get out and push'.

PARIS

You're right Mister Tuvok, we can't. However, the shuttles can. It's an old idea from the days of sailing.

KIM

Of course! When they hit the doldrums, all of the long boats would be put in the water and the crew would rig tow lines and row until they found a breeze.

Paris nods to Tuvok as if to say, 'so there.'

ON SEVEN

SEVEN

We can't use the main tractor beam but each shuttle could lock on the ship with its own tractor. The combined pull of all our shuttles should do the trick.

ON JANEWAY

JANEWAY

I like it. Even if we can't make it all the way to the Belenar system we might get close enough to get assistance from them. Mister Paris, since this was your idea, I'll let you coordinate the operation. Select a group of shuttle pilots and, as soon as we have a definite course, we'll begin our tow.

PARIS

(smiling)

I'll get right on it.

Everyone stands and moves to exit the room. Torres is moving a little slowly and Janeway confronts her after the others leave.

TWO SHOT - JANEWAY AND TORRES

JANEWAY

B'Elanna, You need a rest. Let Paris and Chakotay handle the tow. Your repair teams can work without you for a while.

Torres confronts Janeway face to face.

TORRES

But I still have a few jobs left, primarily the hull breaches on—

JANEWAY

It wasn't a suggestion. You need a rest. You simply can't do all of the work yourself. You'll have to delegate some of it—

Torres reacts to the statement and Janeway realizes what the real problem is. She softens her voice and speaks to Torres as a friend.

JANEWAY
(continuing)

That's what this is all about, isn't it. You're afraid to delegate as it might wind up like Peterson again.

TORRES

All right, I do feel guilty about it. She wasn't ready for duty in engineering. I was going to teach her, but she had just started. She was monitoring the control modifications in the Jeffries tube when it overloaded.

JANEWAY

Did you intend to kill her?

TORRES
(horrified)

Of course not, but there was a risk—

CLOSE ON JANEWAY

JANEWAY
(interrupting)

A risk we all share, Mister. And you should know that; any first year cadet in Starfleet knows it. It comes with the job, just like the responsibility of command. So either live with it or I'll turn engineering over to Seven, understood?

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE – FAVORING MAIN VIEWER

Each person is at their respective position, focused on the viewer.

JANEWAY

Mister Paris, it's your show. You may begin when ready.

Kim can't resist the opportunity to tease Paris.

KIM

Hope you remembered to take into account the variables of multiple vectored towing.

TUVOK

Indeed, the generation of equal thrusts from each of the shuttles presents quite a problem.

PARIS

'Oh ye have little faith,' watch and learn.

Paris taps communication control.

PARIS
(continuing)

All shuttle pilots, begin tow on my mark... engage!

KIM

Do we need to do anything?

ON PARIS

He's confident and smiling.

PARIS

All shuttle engines will accelerate in gradual increments and if there are any vector deviations, Voyager's computers will sense it and relay the necessary compensations to the shuttles automatically.

Paris leans back in his seat, hands behind his head.

PARIS
(continuing)

Once we reach maximum acceleration, the computer link will monitor the acceleration curve and adjust the engines accordingly.

ANOTHER ANGLE

CHAKOTAY

Not bad, Mister Paris.

TUVOK

I must point out, that at maximum power, the shuttles will only be able to provide motive power for ten hours maximum, before overheating their own engines.

PARIS

Not a problem, once we reach optimum speed, we coast on inertia. If necessary, we can start the process over again.

KIM

Making warp point three.

JANEWAY

Now if our luck will just hold out...

ON TUVOK

TUVOK

Unfortunately, Captain, we still have a problem. The combined shuttle tractors are placing a stress on the temporary hull repairs. Our time may be more limited than we thought.

OFF TUVOK'S STATEMENT...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

Upcoming Events

Aug	7	Meeting at Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville and via Zoom	4 P.M.
	7	Articles due for July/Aug Newsletter	
	19 + 22	ST IV: TVH Screenings	
Sep	4	Meeting at Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville and via Zoom	4 P.M.
Oct	2	Meeting at Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville (Zoom TBD)	4 P.M.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

THE WRIGHT STUFF
U.S.S. KITTY HAWK
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