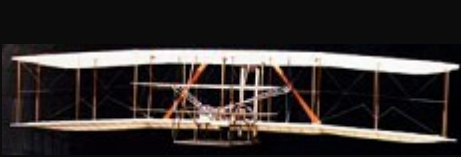


# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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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](http://navicp.navy.mil); *Constitution* class cruiser from [gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk](http://gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk).

### IMAGE - Featured Front Page

Partial solar eclipse is seen as the sun rises behind the U.S. Capitol Building, June 10, 2021.

<https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/partial-solar-eclipse-over-the-us-capitol/>

# The Center Seat

## By John Troan

Hmmmm..... it's almost September as I write this..... looks like another late issue. ☹️ I'm working to get everything back on schedule, but it's slow going at this point. (Maybe the Sep/Oct issue? nah... still gonna be a little late, but hopefully less late than this one.)

**First, a note to all active STARFLEET members.** SFI has issued the Order of P'Jem to all active members "for continued dedication of service and perseverance in the face of the Global Covid-19 Pandemic." The SFI database was updated on Aug 22 (I got cc'd on everyone's notice), but the electronic certificate that was mentioned in the e-mails will come from me. (COs were given the certificate template to make the certificates for their respective crewmembers.)

The August meeting was a hybrid arrangement – some of us were at the restaurant, but I also hopped onto my laptop (with a headset) to simulcast the business part of the meeting over Zoom. *September will be the same arrangement* and we'll likely keep doing hybrid meetings for a while due to covid delta. There's also a chance that we may have a Zoom-only meeting if the situation dictates it. In light of this, the schedule for our gaming night is very much up in the air right now.

A quick reminder of my request to everyone who went to GalaxyCon to please e-mail me full-resolution photos you took that can be shared in the newsletter and/or website. (The same request goes for other Cons you've been to so that we can add some new content showing us (carefully) out and about once again.)

... and speaking of [GalaxyCon](#).... yes, we did take a pass on 2021 – largely because I was going to still be recovering from surgery and I didn't have enough firm commitments to keep the space staffed for the full four-day run... *We will be back for GalaxyCon 2022!*

My post-op recovery is going well, and there was a related agenda item during the August meeting that I didn't put in the meeting notes. I'll have more on this once I finish putting together how I want to handle the distribution of this update. (If you're curious in the meantime, just ask me! ☺️)

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.

I'm looking for a volunteer to become our new Awards Officer. This person will need to become familiar with the R1 and SFI awards programs, and nominate active-SFI members of the crew for the appropriate award(s). The only requirement is to

maintain an active SFDPP certification – so, yeah, that means you do have to maintain an active SFI membership as well – because you'll get access to some of the "personnel records" (namely the promotion points spreadsheet) to assess award nominations.

For all who have taken the SFDDP 101 & 102 exams, we're now in the midst of the annual renewal exam – "SFDPP 2021" for this year. I took mine in mid-August, and it was about the same as the original two exams. If you haven't taken 101/102 yet (and I've contacted you previously to please consider taking it), the 2021 update is also needed.

One other recert that's probably coming is OTS and OCC for at least the CO, and possibly the XO, potentially every year. (This came up at the R1 Annual Summit in July, which I attended as both a chapter CO and a member of the R1 staff.) The reason is to keep the material fresh *and current* in the minds of the people who can answer their crewmembers' questions about the organization. It's not official yet, but some version of this requirement is likely coming later this year.

A few reminders to close out this month's column –

- The Quartermaster has T-shirts available. They're front-and-back with full-color logos. There's also a shopping cart icon on every page of our [website](#) that links to our on-line "store" to get lots of other merchandise with our logo. (T-shirts can be had there, too, but I kinda prefer the two-sides tees the QM gets from a different vendor.)
- I have [a bunch of Trek ornaments still available for purchase](#), with proceeds going to the *Kitty Hawk's* treasury. Please contact me directly if you're interested in buying one (or more!).
- On a related note, we're always willing to accept voluntary donations to the treasury. There's a PayPal link on every page of the [website](#) that provides an easy way to donate. (If you wish to earmark the donation for something specific, please put it in the notes.)
- On the outgoing side of the treasury, we have a specific procedure outlined in a previous issue of the newsletter (and will be in the upcoming [chapter handbook](#)). The short version is that *anyone* can submit a disbursement request to me. I'll then send out the voting ballots to all active-SFI members in the chapter, with votes coming back to me, the XO, and the CFO/Yeoman. A simple majority (50%+1) of the votes cast determines a Yes or No on the disbursement.

*Esse Quam Videri and Stay Safe!*

# Computer Operations Report

## By John Troan

I've pretty much caught up on all the [website](#) content updates – just in time to [start](#) our [next on-line narrative](#), which is positioned chronologically in the *Trekverse* after *ST VI: The Undiscovered Country*..... which reminds me that it's time to go watch that one again..... ☺

I gave an update about the *Trek* TV schedules at the August meeting, but there's been some new information since then (and updated again following CBS' announcements on *Star Trek Day*) –

- *Lower Decks* (S2 / season two) is on now, running into October.
- *Discovery* (S4) will start in November, and there's already talk about a fifth season!
- *Picard* (S2) has finished principle photography and will be out in February 2022. S3 started filming shortly afterwards, while everyone's still in Toronto. (On a side note from S2, John de Lancie is in several of the episodes and he's hinted in social media that there's a connection to *TNG*'s "All Good Things...." I'm intrigued!)
- *Strange New Worlds* (S1) has wrapped principal photography, and is probably done by now with all the second unit photography as well. Last I saw, it'll be streaming sometime in 2022.
- *Prodigy* (S1) will be out in October (on Nickelodeon). I've seen various announcements leading up to the series premiere – including news from *STLV* that Chakotay will appear in this season.
- I know it's not *Trek*, but *The Orville* (S3) has also finished principal photography. (Someone shared a tweet from Seth MacFarlane about their third season wrap.) Best guess for release is 2022, but it'll be on Hulu this time – and there's potential for more seasons, but no definitive word at this time.

August 19, 2021, marked the one hundredth birthday of the Great Bird of the Galaxy, Gene Roddenberry, the creator of *Star Trek*. To mark the day, [NASA broadcast a special program](#), *Celebrating Gene Roddenberry: Star Trek's Bridge and NASA* – a panel discussion aired on NASA TV and several other NASA on-line platforms. The moderator was Gene's son, Rod, and featured George Takei and several NASA employees (including an active astronaut), plus opening remarks from NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. After a quick search on-line, I found [the video available on YouTube](#). I can't wait to watch this one.

On Mars, [Perseverance](#) is deep into its first science mission, but [Ingenuity](#) is also joining the research – along with an occasional game of "Where's *Perseverance*?" in [some of the helicopter's aerial photography](#).

Not to be forgotten, [Curiosity](#) is still going strong after nine (earth) years on the Martian surface. It's [currently in an area between two different regions](#) of the surface – one that's primarily clay minerals and another that has more sulfates (salty minerals).

Another multi-year space veteran is [Juno](#), in orbit around Jupiter and recently [celebrated its tenth anniversary of launch \(and five years in orbit\) with a new infrared view of Ganymede](#), one of the Galilean moons around Jupiter. Not long before this photo was captured, [Juno made \(very\) close flybys of both Ganymede and Jupiter](#), from which NASA has created a video from a "starship captain" point of view as someone streaks just above each sphere.

The next NASA mission to Jupiter, [Europa Clipper](#), is progressing as [various components are being built](#). This mission, targeted for launch in 2024, will focus on Jupiter's moon Europa, which contains a liquid ocean beneath its icy crust.

## Spot the *Trek* Star

### By Brad McDonald

I wish to propose, and present, a new future occasional feature of the *Kitty Hawk* newsletter. Movie reviewers have often referred to epic motion pictures, which include many featured actors, as 'spot the stars' films. It's a humorous but somewhat accurate description.

What I'm proposing is spot the *Trek* star in non-*Trek* TV series and movies. This is a feature that everyone can participate in, regardless of their writing skills or whether or not they have a column or department report. To begin this feature, I'd like to offer a unique start. I'll call this the three-for-one spot the *Trek* star.

While watching the cold war drama *Ice Station Zebra*, I discovered three original series *Trek* stars, all in one

room! At approximately one hour and fifty minutes into the movie, survivors of *Zebra* are discovered. In the room of survivors and rescue team are: Jim Goodwin, (Lt. Farrell in several episodes); William O'Connell, (Thelev, the spy in "Journey to Babel"); and Joseph Bernard, (Tark from "Wolf in the Fold" and Dr. Sanchez "That Which Survives.") By the way, Bernard was playing a doctor again in the movie as part of the rescue team; I guess typecasting is real after all.

Okay, so there you have it. Spot the *Trek* star can be enjoyed by everyone and it requires very little effort, just watch TV and movies! Perhaps we can keep a log of our 'discoveries' and even invite other Starfleet chapters to join in!



# Engineering Report

## By Brad McDonald

It's been a while and there's a lot to report, so here we go!

NASA plans to land three vehicles on the dark side of the moon. First of all is the *Farside Seismic Suite*, which is a JPL mission. It's designed to collect data regarding seismic activity with the new equipment. It will also be able to detect meteorite impacts and their effects. The second unit will study electronic fields and internal temperatures. The third unit will be the *Lunar Vertex*, which will investigate the lunar magnetic fields. It will be comprised of a lander and a rover. The ultimate goal for launching the three missions is 2024.

NASA has advanced a proposal for *Neo Surveyor*, a satellite that will be capable of tracking 90% of asteroids which pose a threat to Earth. Engineers have been given the green light to begin designing and building systems for the unit. This will put the mission on track for a 2026 launch. No more end-of-the-Earth scenarios for sci-fi movies as the new system will give us an advanced warning of any threat.

NASA has also announced that it is keeping a close eye on the 'billionaire astronauts.' In the words of administrator Bill Nelson, "Space will not be 'the wild west' for billionaires." He states that all astronauts will need to meet physical and psychological standards. This is especially true for those visiting the space station. "We want the crew that's already up there on the space station to be safe when they have visitors." The notice was aimed at Bezos, Musk and Branson, who plan to put civilians or amateur astronauts in space using their new launch and space vehicles.

Impact on the environment from commercial space flight is now being looked into. Each flight produces about the same contaminants as a commercial airplane, but since only a few people are riding, the impact rate for each passenger is much higher. In comparison to an equivalent airline voyage, a commercial space flight creates 100 times the carbon footprint. Given the fact that Virgin Galactic plans over 400 flights a year, that's a lot of pollutants to deal with. Also, the rockets produce a large amount of soot which impacts the ozone layer and the stratosphere. A 2010 study showed that 100 commercial space flights and the resulting soot could raise the Antarctic temperatures by one degree centigrade. Other concerns focus on just who is in charge of regulating the flights. Currently, the FAA is handling the work, but Congress has not given the agency a specific authorization or appropriation to do this. Congress may need to get involved with both issues, pollution and flight regulations. By the way, the FAA does award a license for companies to carry people, but it doesn't guarantee their safety. Because of that, there aren't a lot of insurance policies available and you have to

sign a waiver to fly.

Virgin Galactic has received approval from the FAA to start space flights, but they will launch three more before beginning a regular schedule. The certification flight was accomplished with the V.S.S. *Unity* and astronauts C.J. Sturckow and Dave Mackay. The ship was taken to an altitude of 55.45 miles. New Mexico is now the third state to put people into space. Virgin Galactic already has reservations for 600 people who want to take a ride.

In early 2021, the FAA had actually criticized SpaceX for procedures "... inconsistent with a strong safety culture." That was in conjunction with the unauthorized launch of the SN8 prototype last December. In addition, SpaceX is in trouble with authorities in Texas over their illegal and unauthorized practices of using private police for closing public roads and beaches to carry out launches near Bola Chica Beach. Also, 'explosive accidents' have littered beaches, roads and private property with shrapnel. A Texas DA, Luis Saenz, has warned SpaceX that it, and its employees, could be subject to prosecution and arrest.

The Starship system may have a new use. Using a trip to Shanghai, China, as an example, a Starship could leave New York City at 7:00 am and arrive in China at 7:39 NYC time! The system would not compete with airlines for a variety of reasons, but it is interesting. The U.S. Air Force is looking into the idea as a cargo transport system. The new cargo setup could deliver badly needed supplies anywhere on Earth in one hour or less! This would be extremely helpful when providing assistance following natural disasters, such as the tsunamis in Indonesia and Japan.

Speaking of the Air Force, they announced a new countermeasure for drones, even hundreds at a time, thereby eliminating the threat of 'swarms.' Called THOR, or Tactical High-power Optical Responder, it employs high-energy microwaves and can disable drones at long range in one second! THOR is fairly compact and a self-contained system is easily stored in a standard shipping container. The Air Force will begin mass deployments of the unit in 2024.

Two Venus missions have been picked from four concepts proposed in 2020. Actual launch dates for *DaVinci* and *Veritas* will take place somewhere between 2028 and 2030. Each will cost about \$500 million and will be the first sent to Venus by NASA since 1978. *DaVinci* will study the Venusian atmosphere and sample gases in an attempt to determine why the planet has a runaway 'hot house' atmosphere. In addition, it will also take the first high resolution pictures. The project will be managed by the Goddard Space Flight Center. *Veritas* will use special imaging to create a 3D map of the surface of Venus. Also,

it will attempt to determine the presence of tectonics and volcanism. Infrared monitors will try to determine rock types and the presence of volcanic gas emissions. JPL will manage the project and assistance will be provided by the space agencies of France, Germany and Italy.

The Russians may be making plans to withdraw from the ISS Program. It's been hinted at several times but the current agreement ends by contract in 2024. Russia is 'upset' by current sanctions and has stated it will build a station of its own. The U.S. is concerned as Russia controls many vital systems on the station. If they pull out their support, the space station's lifespan could be shortened severely.

In a recent proposal, it has been suggested that the center of the Milky Way is not a black hole after all, but dark matter. The idea was published in the *MURAS Letters* and combined the efforts of Italian, Argentine and Colombian scientists. The theory has to be proved and tested, but it's a new way of looking at our 'home' galaxy.

Nuclear powered space flights may become a thing of the future. In 2019, laws were changed regarding this and work has started designing new rockets that use nuclear power in one form or another. It's been 40 years since such a system was used, and then only eight units in NASA's history used it. The reason for going back to the system is simple; time and space. Other than trips to the Moon and Mars, space voyages in general will take far longer. That means more exposure to harmful radiation. Shielding can be used, but it adds weight, which means more fuel is needed to get the space vehicle off the ground. Regardless, time, and therefore speed, will be the deciding factor. Traditionally, most rockets use a fuel that is not particularly efficient or dense. Electrical power isn't much better and counting on solar power is impractical for great distances from the sun. Nuclear power uses energy dense fuel which is four million times more potent than liquid fuels. Also, it's much easier to put a small lump of uranium into space than a million gallons of conventional fuels. Therefore two different nuclear systems are being considered and both are currently in development.

[Perseverance](#) has begun using its AUTONAV technology and is now driving itself. This negates the need for human drivers. The new technology allows for faster speeds as well, six times faster than [Curiosity](#). The new abilities extend to 3D mapping so [Perseverance](#) can plan routes around hazards.

SST aviation is making a comeback in a major way. United Airlines has placed a pre-order for 15 SST's from Boom Aviation. The new airplane is called the Overture and will be ready by the end of the decade. The new SST will be able to fly from Tokyo to San Francisco in just six hours. However, air travel may not recover as quickly as hoped. The coronavirus dropped passenger totals from more than 2 million daily to less than 100,000 and the airlines are having continued difficulties in finding new passengers and air crews.

The times, they are a changin' for sure. Ford announced that its all-electric Mustang, the Mach-E, is outselling the gas powered models. 27,816 electric units have been sold versus 26,089 standard Mustangs. Never

thought I'd see the day! Looks like I'll be keeping mine for a long time.

Model S and X Teslas are reporting degraded battery range and increased charging times after receiving software updates. A class action case is in progress in the U.S. However, Norway has already acted on it and Tesla has been ordered to pay owners. In addition to the charging and battery issues, the advertised 691 horsepower rating is not being reached. Additionally, Teslas being sold in China (285,000) have been earmarked and will require a recall. The recall will also include 211,256 Model 3's made in China and 38,599 Model Y's also made there. Some software changes will be made remotely and they concern the autopilot system which can activate on its own. Tesla is already under fire from customers in China, which was highlighted by a protest at the Shanghai Auto Show in April.

To promote the sale of cars, Tesla promised free charging for life starting in 2012 until 2017 when they changed the policy. Now, if someone remains at charging stations longer than what Tesla considers necessary, they get a bill. If the bill isn't paid, the consumer is blocked from using the fast charger, a feature customers paid extra for when they bought their car. Those initiating the suit call it a simple case of bait and switch.

Self-driving cars have a few new problems to resolve. In a rather humorous development, Tesla's system was found to be a little inadequate in regards to traffic lights. It confused the moon with a yellow traffic signal! John Troan was with me when I found the report on MSN and we both shared a laugh. The report went on to state that all sensing systems have a problem with traffic lights as they are not placed in standard locations and can be too high, too low and too close to each other. Some intersections have multiple, clustered signals which add to the problem. Otherwise, cracked windshields can be a problem as many sensors are mounted in a manner to look through the glass. Also, sensors in the car's bumpers will require replacement of the vinyl bumper covers on a regular basis. Of course, if you have a bumper tap, the sensors will be inoperative or at least, not reliable and that will cause problems as well. Windshield replacements will be much more difficult (read expensive) as well. Consider BMW's requirement to use special electromagnetic compatible screws to do the job so they will not interfere with their car's automated systems. All of these issues point to a system that's being criticized by many people, even Musk's own engineers. In a recently published book titled *Power Play: Tesla, Elon Musk and the Bet of the Century*, author Tim Higgins outlines complaints made by Musk's own engineers. They stated that Musk's claims regarding the self-driving capabilities of the Tesla were exaggerated from the onset. In addition, other people in the legal and publicity divisions of the company also expressed concerns regarding the autopilot system. Musk claimed that his cars would be capable of self-piloting coast to coast by 2018 and it was proved unreachable. To this day no autopilot car has done so.

Meanwhile, cars may be getting another new feature called tweels. A cross between tires and wheels, they are airless. They have been tested by the U.S. Army and are incapable of going flat while lasting three times longer than a conventional tire. Side benefits include no longer needing a spare or a jack! Michelin has been developing the new system for over ten years and GM has been working with a similar system as well called the UPTIS, which stands for Unique Punctureproof Tire System.

Last year I reported about a fire aboard the *U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard*. The ship has since been scheduled for scrapping as it was considered too expensive to repair. Now it has been revealed that the fire of July of 2020 was intentionally set. Surprisingly, it was set by a sailor, Ryan Sawyer Mays. He was a seal team dropout

and had expressed his hatred of the Navy. He's been arrested and charged with arson and the hazarding of a vessel. No word yet on whether the ship will be replaced.

One final personal note. Just before I sent this to be published I found out that I am going to be a grandfather! I actually knew that it was a possibility beforehand, but it wasn't official until Sunday night, August 8. I had planned a big reveal for the *Kitty Hawk* meeting the day before, but I hadn't been given the official 'go ahead' from my daughter, and mother-to-be, Kiersten. She had even provided me with a reveal shirt which reads, "I'm too young to be a grandfather." No word yet on whether it's a boy or girl.

That's all for now! Hope you enjoyed this and 'see you' in the next issue.

## ***ST:TOS* - "Old Friends"**

### **By Brad McDonald**

This story was intended to be a script for *The Original Series*. I had planned it for a fifth season, which would have represented the last year of the five-year mission -- if only the series had lasted that long! The episode would have assembled a number of foes from the earlier seasons. In that setting, old scores would have been settled or resolved.

At that point, the story was only a detailed outline and it sat for years in that form. I was reminded of it after seeing *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*. At that time I thought of a similar storyline. At one point, I had two distinctly different stories on my personal list, #5 & #92, which covered similar subjects. I wondered how I could resolve the two stories which had had such similar scenarios. Because of this, I combined them into a single story.

What follows, then, is that combined storyline. However, instead of a script, I did it as a narrative since a script would have been too long, perhaps the length of two movies!

With this story, I made an effort to follow-up the events in *Star Trek VI* and take a look at what the future might hold for some of the main characters. I also introduce a new person, a security chief. In most episodes, security people didn't last long even if they had names. You know the old saying, 'red shirt; dead shirt.'

Lastly, there are a few hints regarding my story, Final Mission. I just couldn't resist 'laying some easter eggs.'

As usual, I used the same sources as references and will include those along with my personal notes at the conclusion of the story.

I also wish to thank John Troan for assisting me as a proofreader.

In the meantime, please read and I hope you will enjoy it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Despite the attempts to block or interfere with it, the Khitomer Conference was a great success. The Federation and the Klingon Empire were now on the road to ceasing hostilities with the possibility of becoming allies. There would be many details to work out and, no doubt, there were individuals on both sides who would not take well to the idea. Many still regarded the alliance as an ill-conceived arrangement and the events at Khitomer had illustrated that particular issue in a frightening example. However, it was progress and there was hope on both sides regarding the new agreement. Over time, attitudes and old ways of thinking might just change for the better.

Now, almost a month after that historic event, it all seemed like a dream. Soon *Enterprise-A* would be heading for home, or at least that's what the crew was hoping for. It was expected that the 'Grand Old Lady' would either be assigned a new crew or retired once and for all. Regardless, an *Enterprise-B* was rumored to be in the planning stage and might be rushed to completion and service.

Accelerating the building schedule for the 1701-B was due to the excessive pounding the *Enterprise-A* had taken by the rogue Klingon *Bird of Prey*. Due to its age, and projected replacement, it was felt that major repairs to the starship would not be necessary. Therefore, rather than undergoing a complete refit, Scotty was tasked with getting 'his bairn' back into service as best as possible. In his words, he had just got everything working when it took a savage beating and he had to do it all over again, one more time. It sounded familiar to everyone aboard the ship and raised a smile as well.

While waiting for the inevitable recall notice, *Enterprise* was performing normal patrol duties. It was boring work, but it afforded Scotty a chance to put the ship back into a reasonable semblance of a fully functional starship. It kept the chief engineer busy which was more than Captain Kirk could say for himself.

Right now, the ship's commanding officer was 'bored to tears.' Almost thirty days of nothing following all the excitement at Khitomer, Kirk was pacing the bridge aimlessly, causing a few smiles amongst the crew. Before anybody had a chance to actually comment on his atypical wanderings, he decided to leave the bridge and put command in Spock's capable hands.

Taking a walk through the ship, the captain finally wound up in sickbay. Once there, he visited the few remaining casualties who were still under the doctor's care. The more serious cases had been transferred to Starbase Sixty-Seven, but McCoy had insisted on retaining a few just to 'keep his hand in medical practice.'

After a few friendly conversations with the injured crew persons, Kirk noticed McCoy watching, arms folded across his chest, waiting patiently. Excusing himself from the injured crew persons, Kirk moved from the main sickbay to the doctor's side. Speaking quietly, he inquired about the casualties. Nodding toward the patients, he asked, "How are they doing?"

Now smiling, the doctor reassured his friend. "Just fine, Jim. Actually, all but one will be back on duty by tomorrow."

"And the other?"

"Ensign Hope Taylor, she needs a few more days. I want to keep an eye on her burns. Don't worry though, she'll be fine." McCoy finished on a cheerful note and a reassuring smile. "Maybe by then we'll be home."

Kirk sighed, "I hope so. I know Spock is anxious to start work as a diplomat, perhaps join his father. Scotty's ready to retire, Uhura has several options open and Chekov is in line for a command of his own. Frankly, I'm bored. Starfleet put us on patrols along the Neutral Zone, thinking the Romulans might try something following the Khitomer accords."

"And you?" McCoy became serious. "I know you have a few options of your own, anything sound good to you?"

"I haven't decided yet, but maybe... an Academy posting."

Now McCoy smiled and patted his friend on the back, "Perfect! You'll be very happy there."

"I'm not so sure, Bones. The idea of working in one place... no deck under my feet..."

Serious, the doctor admonished his friend. "You could wind up behind a desk again. Don't forget your short stint as the Chief of Starfleet Operations."

Now smiling at the thought, Kirk gave in, "Touché!"

The intercom whistled and Uhura's voice interrupted McCoy's response. "Captain, I have new orders from Admiral Pearson."

Taking a few steps to the intercom, Kirk tabbed the control, "Go ahead, Uhura."

"We're to report to Starbase Sixty-Seven, ASAP. Shall I respond, sir?"

"Tell the admiral we will be there and have Mister Spock provide an ETA; Kirk out!" He tabbed the intercom off and turned to face McCoy with a smile of satisfaction. "Looks like I need to make a decision, quick. This is probably our official recall notice." After a moment's thought he studied his friend closely. "What about you? What are your plans?"

Somewhat indignant, McCoy explained, "Well, if you will recall, I had retired once before to be a country doctor back in Georgia. However, somebody, we won't mention any names, interrupted those plans by having me drafted and joining some damned fool mission to find something called *V'Ger*, remember?"

A very sheepish Kirk apologized quietly. "Guilty as charged, Bones and I am very sorry about that."

"And what about everything after that?"

Kirk looked defeated, "Sorry about that as well, but only to a point."

Just as McCoy was about to protest, loudly, Kirk explained, "I couldn't have done it without you."

After a moment, McCoy smiled back, "And touché to you, too."

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With Scotty's help, *Enterprise* set a new record getting to Starbase Sixty-Seven. Kirk granted everyone a twenty-four hour pass to enjoy the facility but reminded them to be ready for another recall notice. He left the details to Spock and rushed to meet with Admiral Pearson.

Not wanting to take any more time than necessary, he transported directly to Pearson's office. No sense in delaying the good news!

Upon appearing in the admiral's office, he found the man waiting for him, grim-faced. It was not what Kirk was expecting. Extending a hand, the elderly officer stepped forward. "Glad you could get here so quickly, Kirk."

Accepting the handshake, Kirk commented dryly, "My chief engineer 'poured on the coals,' sir."

Pearson moved around his desk, sitting hard and indicating a chair for Kirk. "Please, Jim, we've got a lot to discuss."

Following directions and just a bit confused, Kirk sat. He was uncomfortable with the admiral's attitude and the situation. After all, it shouldn't take a lot of time to give orders to go home. "What's the emergency, sir?"

Staring at Kirk, he adopted an apologetic tone. "You're in trouble, Captain, and it's partially the fault of Starfleet."

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



# After Action Report: Raleigh GalaxyCon 2021

## By Christopher Bandy

It has been two years, but we finally had a convention event in the Raleigh area. GalaxyCon returned for the first time since the summer of 2019. It was a long 2020 with no conventions or events, thanks to COVID. I was not able to go on any vacations or trips last year, and unfortunately found myself out of work for much of 2020. GalaxyCon 2021 was a welcome return to some form of normalcy.

The event ended up drawing approximately 25,000 people, and did fairly well, despite having limited admission and COVID regulations to follow. Aside from the limited admission, the exhibition hall seemed sparse compared to previous years, which allowed for greater aisle gaps and at least an attempt at social distancing. A couple of the celebrity guests ended up canceling their appearance altogether, but not due to COVID concerns, so far as I am aware. The only *Star Trek* guest to make an appearance this year was William Shatner, making what I believe was his second Raleigh appearance for GalaxyCon if my memory serves correctly. Yet again, I unfortunately was not able to meet my favorite Starfleet officer, as my volunteer hours for the convention conflicted with his particular schedule (however, I was able to meet Tyler Hoechlin and Stephen Amell, so there is that!). Despite my volunteer hours, I was able to talk with several *Star Trek* fans about STARFLEET International, as most of my shifts and hours were in the Registration area (so I got to see just about everyone that came in the door; if I saw a Starfleet uniform I made sure to talk to them), and I tried to make sure to hand them one of the many *Kitty Hawk* business cards I had brought with me. We did not have a table this year, so I figured I would try and recruit somehow!

Masks were not necessarily required but were recommended. People who had been vaccinated did not have to wear one, but those who had not should (whether or not they actually did is a different story). Volunteers and staff were required to wear a mask at all times. Depending on the celebrity, different requirements were in place as well. For some photo ops, some celebrity guests had requested a plexiglass barrier between themselves and patrons. William Shatner and Kevin Conroy were two such guests (no doubt due to their... increased age), as well as Bitsie Tulloch, as she had just had a child within the past several months. Others also had plexiglass shields at their tables as well, such as Ashley Eckstein and those that were just mentioned. The photo ops also had a policy of “no touching the guests”, meaning asking for hugs and the like for your photo op was a no-go. Despite this, some celebrities did not seem to mind these policies as much. Giancarlo Esposito, for example, had no problem shaking people’s hands and taking table selfies with them. Tyler Hoechlin did not mind putting his arm on the back of your shoulder, and was plenty friendly, but did not really want people to try to shake his hand or anything of that nature. Stephen Amell did not really want to touch or be

touched, but (despite a “no props” rule) had no problem taking my Oneida Kestrel bow (which is the same one he used for *Arrow* from seasons 2-5, and was also done up exactly the same way as it was on set) and commenting that he was impressed with it before drawing the bow and then posing with it for our photo op. I suppose that gives me bragging rights: Green Arrow used my *Green Arrow* bow!

All in all, the first major convention in the Raleigh area was a large success, and hopefully bodes well for the event coming back even stronger next year. I also hope that William Shatner plans to return, as he seems to do very well for himself at this event, and it is not far to travel from his horse farm in Kentucky. Who knows, maybe next year will finally be my year to meet him!



*Myself dressed as “Fleischer” Superman with Stephen Amell holding my set/screen-accurate Green Arrow bow!*

You will notice that while I did represent STARFLEET when possible, I did put together a 1940’s Max Fleischer-style Superman suit for this event. This was because I knew I was going to be able to meet Tyler Hoechlin, and he is the only live-action Superman actor to date to wear this suit. He, Bitsie Tulloch (Lois Lane), and Stephen Amell were all very impressed with my suit. Bitsie said she loved it and that I made a great Superman, while Tyler was impressed with it in general, as was Stephen. I even showed it to the guy who made it for the show, and even he was impressed! This suit got me stopped about every 20 feet for pictures, but as you can see, I have no pockets, so I was unable to take a lot of my own photos. However, hopefully next year my crew will be able to join me, and we will be able to explore 2022’s con frontier together!

# ***ST:VOY - "A Fair Price"***

**By Brad McDonald**

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - SHUTTLES AND VOYAGER IN TOW

Voyager is still moving slowly through space.

INT. VOYAGER – BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

Repair teams are busy at several consoles with bridge crewmembers assisting and directing the work. Over this scene we hear Janeway.

JANEWAY (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 52144.2. We continue with basic repairs. So far, all we have to show for our efforts are restored communications and a few minor systems. Meanwhile, our emergency power runs low and, after almost nine hours, the hull repairs are beginning to show signs of stress. With power running out and no sign of a safe haven, I fear we may have to transmit a distress call and hope the hostile aliens don't pick it up.

NEW ANGLE

JANEWAY  
(to Kim)

Anything at all?

Kim is busy with his work and continues while answering.

KIM  
(off console)

Nothing specific, Captain. All I'm getting are general signals and background traffic. With our reduced sensors, there's no way of telling who it's from or where.

JANEWAY

Mister Paris, just how reliable is our information about this sector?

Paris does not project confidence.

PARIS

The Malorans were mentioned by the hostiles as their enemy, somewhere in this general direction.

TWO SHOT – JANEWAY AND CHAKOTAY

JANEWAY

It's time to start a more active search for the Malorans.

CHAKOTAY  
(to Janeway)

Worried?

JANEWAY

Frankly, yes. B'Elanna gives us another five hours, maximum. I don't want to wait too long. Maybe we could try a narrow beam focused on the presumed location of the Belenar system.

CHAKOTAY

Problem is, if it's too narrow or if our information is off too much, we could miss them all together.

ANOTHER ANGLE

KIM

Captain? We could boost power within our original search parameters. We may increase our chances of being heard by the Malorans and not by the hostile aliens.

JANEWAY

Very well, Mister Kim. Commander, let's stay on our toes, just in case the hostiles do listen in.

CHAKOTAY

Mister Tuvok, yellow alert.

TUVOK

Yellow alert, aye.

KIM  
(excited)

Captain! I have a signal. It's an inquiry from the Malorans! They're requesting details on our condition.

There's a small cheer from all present, except Tuvok. Seven enters, confused by the celebration.

ON JANEWAY

JANEWAY

It's about time we had a bit of good luck. Send our greetings and appreciation, Harry. Then give them our exact location and request a tow. Commander, better finalize our list of needs, and prioritize them, just in case their ability to help us is limited. Mister Paris, recall the shuttles. I don't want to risk damaging them now.

ANOTHER ANGLE

TUVOK

Maloran signals emanating from a heading of two nine two, mark four. Two degrees inside Mister Paris' recommended parameters.

JANEWAY

Well done, Tom.

PARIS

Captain? I have a question for you. How are we going to pay for the services and materials? We can't use Federation credits and I doubt they'll accept an I.O.U.

CHAKOTAY

I suppose we could use the same method as my people did in ancient times. Before we had currency, we traded almost anything: food, tools, horses, clothing, even wives.

He finishes the statement with a devilish smile and we're not sure if he's serious about the last point.

TUVOK

I suspect Neelix has been using a similar system during his travels.

SEVEN

Captain, I know we can't trade our technology, but perhaps we can offer ourselves.

JANEWAY

(amused)

I believe most societies frown on that type of behavior. In any case, I'm not sure I'm up to it.

Seven reacts with realization.

SEVEN

I didn't mean... what I really meant to say was, we could trade labor. They work on our ship, we help them fix something in return.

NEELIX

Maybe I can exchange some of our food items and my recipes.

JANEWAY

Good thinking. Maybe they'll accept the idea. If not, we may have another problem.

EXT. MALORAN WORLD, SPACE DOCK AND VOYAGER

Voyager is in the Maloran space dock with the home world in BG.

INT. VOYAGER - TORRES' QUARTERS - ON TORRES

Torres is lying on her bed, wide awake.

TORRES

Computer, tie into the ships' engineering records, specifically the control circuits.

COMPUTER

Engineering tie-in ready.

TORRES

Computer, if backup control circuits for warp drive are routed through the transporter circuits, what are the chances of an operational failure?

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Temporary or permanent configuration?

TORRES

Temporary.

COMPUTER

On a temporary basis, chances for an operational failure would be less than fifteen percent.

TORRES

Computer, review repair records for stardate 52141.8. Was the previously discussed repair configured correctly?

COMPUTER

Affirmative, the configuration was optimal for a temporary repair.

Torres sits up quickly.

TORRES

Then why did the repairs fail after only three hours? Did Peterson do something wrong?

COMPUTER

Cause of failure unknown. Current damage of ship's systems prevents complete analysis at this time.

TORRES

Then it's time to get the ship repaired and find out! I've had enough rest!

Torres jumps up and exits her quarters in a hurry.

BRIDGE - ON JANEWAY AND VIP'S - CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

Janeway is conducting a VIP tour with the Maloran Chancellor BENEL and his aides LELNA and DAMAR.

JANEWAY

(moving)

And finally, our bridge, Chancellor.

The officers on the bridge turn to see the visitors, anxious to know if they will receive help.

JANEWAY

(moving; continuing)

Chancellor Benel, I'd like to introduce my other senior officers.

The group steps in the center of the bridge. Janeway indicates each of her bridge officers in turn.

TWO SHOT – JANEWAY AND BENEL

JANEWAY

Commander Chakotay, my first officer. Lieutenant Tuvok, chief of security. Lieutenant Paris, ship's pilot and Ensign Kim, our operations officer.

Benel is a bit stiff, nodding only slightly.

BENEL

And I present my aides: Lelna and Damar.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The two aides nod slightly, mimicking the Chancellor.

JANEWAY

As you have seen, Chancellor, our need is real. I'd like to begin work as soon as possible.

BENEL

Captain, I do perceive a genuine need for assistance. However, there is a matter of... delicacy, which needs to be resolved. While your ship has many advances, we on the other hand —

CLOSE ON JANEWAY

She knows where he's going and cuts him off, politely.

JANEWAY

Chancellor, although we need assistance from your people, I must tell you that our laws prevent us from sharing certain technology. We have no reason to believe that your people would use our advances to take advantage of others in this quadrant, but it's possible that the technology could fall into the wrong hands by accident. Whatever the means, we cannot allow it to happen. I'm sure you, as a person of great responsibility and importance, will understand and respect this policy.

BENEL (O.C.)

Very well, what do you propose?

JANEWAY

Since we do not have any currency or valuables to pay for our services, we propose to trade labor. You help us fix our ship, we will assist you and your people in a project of equal value and scope.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Janeway finishes with a hopeful look and a smile. Benel contemplates her offer for a moment.

BENEL

Your offer has merit. However, it is beyond my authority to accept. I will have to discuss it with Talan. He is the Great Unifier, the leader of our people. It's up to him to decide.

The bridge crew is visibly disappointed.

JANEWAY

Chancellor, would it help if I personally stated our case to the Great Unifier? I could answer any question he might have and explain our policy --

BENEL

(interrupting)

Unfortunately, that is not possible. He has been ill for some time and we wait for his recovery.

Now the crew is really disappointed. Janeway remains hopeful and tries to keep a friendly atmosphere.

JANEWAY

While we wait for the Great Unifier to recover, would it be possible for my people to visit your world? Also, while we continue our basic repairs, would it be possible for your yard workers to begin a needs assessment of our ship?

BENEL

I see no reason to deny such requests. However, be advised that you may find some of our customs a bit unusual.

JANEWAY

Not to worry, Chancellor. My crew is well versed on the differences of various cultures and we pride ourselves on our respect for those civilizations and their uniqueness.

BENEL

Very well, I will allow it, in the name of The Great Unifier.



## NEW ANGLE

The Chancellor heads for the turbo lift, followed by his aides. Janeway shrugs her shoulders to the others and rushes off to catch up, also exiting.

PARIS

Great. Hurry up and wait.

CHAKOTAY

You're being ungrateful, Mister Paris. After all, we are in a safe port and they haven't actually refused to help us.

KIM

Personally, I could do with a bit of shore leave. I agree with Commander Chakotay, it could be worse.

## MALORAN HOME WORLD – CITY MARKET - MID DAY – ON NEELIX AND SEVEN – CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

Neelix and Seven are wandering through a local open air market. Seven notices a few locals who seem to be in poor health.

SEVEN

(moving)

All this food and yet the Malorans seem to be... neglected.

NEELIX

(moving)

Yes. I've noticed it too. Most unusual for a technically advanced society. Perhaps their government isn't receptive to their needs. We'd better tell the captain about this, she may want to study the matter more closely. For now, let's get back to our food gathering.

The two continue into the market. Neelix is now in his own element, examining various foods.

NEELIX

(moving)

I wonder if we could trade something for these? It would be a nice change of diet.

(beat)

Excuse me, sir?

Neelix and Seven pause. Maloran MERCHANT turns from a finished sale.

NEELIX

These melons, are they typical of what is available?

MERCHANT

Indeed, I sell only the finest and the freshest. The palam fruit is typical. Would you care to sample one? I guarantee you'll like it.

## SEVEN

Yes, we would.

He places a bowl of fruit pieces in front of them and they both take a piece. Their enjoyment is obvious.

## TWO SHOT – MERCHANT AND NEELIX

MERCHANT

You see? Now, how many do you want?

NEELIX

Well, actually, that depends on how much you charge. Presently we are a bit short on local currency.

The merchant frowns and begins to withdraw the samples.

NEELIX

However, we may be able to make a trade.

A skeptical merchant eyes Neelix and Seven.

MERCHANT

Such as?

NEELIX

Well, actually I was wondering if you would like to taste a Talaxian mountain melon?

## ENGINEERING – WIDE ANGLE

Torres is conducting a tour with the DOCK MASTER and N.D. DOCK WORKERS. They pause at a control panel, all seem dazzled by Voyager's technology and Torres' skills. They are also most eager to learn about the ship and to help in some way.

## TWO SHOT – TORRES AND DOCK MASTER

TORRES

Many of our controls are automated but require monitoring. Of course, right now they are inactive as the engines are off-line. Once we get permission to begin, we will work together.

DOCK MASTER

Will we be able to go to space in the Voyager when it's repaired?

TORRES

Perhaps that could be part of the agreement. You help us with the repairs and we take a test cruise.

DOCK MASTER

Is there anything we could do now?

Torres is careful not to violate any local law.

TORRES

Perhaps we should wait for the approval of the Great Unifier.

NEW ANGLE

In BG we can see an N.D. VOYAGER ENGINEER at work near a damaged panel. A dock worker becomes interested in the work and goes to watch. Torres is unaware of his actions and continues her explanation

TORRES

This is typical of the damage we have on board. Generally we can conduct the repairs on our own.

In BG, the N.D. engineer is preoccupied and does not see the damaged panel falling. The dock worker now jumps into action. Torres is still unaware of this activity.

TORRES

However, we are short on materials and we need your assistance —

As Torres turns, she catches sight of the dock worker. Immediately she rushes toward him and yells a warning.

TORRES  
(continuing)

Look out!

The warning is too late as the dock worker pushes the N.D. engineer out of the way. He is struck hard on the head. Torres rushes to his side and taps her comm badge.

TORRES  
(continuing)

Engineering to sick bay! I have an emergency! Prepare to —

The dock master grabs her arm and shakes his head.

DOCK MASTER

No, Torres. He will be taken care of as our laws provide. Let him be.

Before Torres can protest, the remaining Malorans carry their fallen comrade off, leaving a bewildered Torres. She taps her comm badge as the Malorans exit.

TORRES

Cancel medical emergency.

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM – ON TUVOK

Tuvok is in a discussion with Janeway.

TUVOK

Captain, if we are to have Malorans aboard, I must caution you about safeguarding our technology. They may agree to assist us, simply to gain access to our advanced technology.

JANEWAY (O.C.)

Do you want to limit their work on board?

TUVOK

If our goal is to minimize our presence in this sector, we must use their people in all areas to expedite repairs. What I propose is to have the Malorans escorted at all times.

JANEWAY (O.C.)

Are we in that much of a hurry?

TUVOK

Due to our damage, it is possible for more of the hostile aliens to track us to this world. If the Malorans offer us assistance, would it not be incumbent upon us to ensure their safety by leaving as soon as possible?

NEW ANGLE

Before Janeway can respond, her door chime sounds.

JANEWAY

Come!

Torres enters with a grim look on her face.

TORRES

We had an accident in engineering. One of the Maloran's was severely injured. I don't think he survived.

JANEWAY

What happened?

ON TORRES

TORRES

While I was giving the dock workers an orientation tour, one of them was hit by a damaged panel. He saved one of my people in the process. I tried to help the injured Maloran, but the others seemed resigned to his death. They've already returned home. I thought you should know.

ON TUVOK

TUVOK

Captain, since the incident occurred on our ship we could be held responsible. This could endanger our chances to receive assistance.

ON JANEWAY

JANEWAY

You have a gift for understatement, Mister Tuvok.

Off Janeway's statement...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

# Upcoming Events

Sep	4	Meeting at Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville and via Zoom	4 P.M.
Oct	2	Meeting at Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville and via Zoom	4 P.M.
	23	Virtual Dinner and Game Night via Zoom	6 P.M.
Nov	6	Meeting at Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville and via Zoom	4 P.M.

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

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