

The Good News



The Official Newsletter of The USS Bethel

A member of Starfleet: The International
Star Trek Fan Association.



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Volume No. 1 Issue No. 1 June. 2001 - August 2001

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Upcoming Regional Events

Region Three's FIRST Summit of the Third Millennium, Summit 2MI will be held on June 22nd - 24th, 2001 in Waco, Texas at the Clarion Inn. The Summit 2MI web site is up and running and ready for your viewing. You can go for direct access to the 2MI web site. On-line registration is available at the Summit 2MI web site. *** Summit 2MI's Theme this year is The Khitomer Conference *** Come and enjoy a weekend where the members of Region Three will get to experience parts of the Khitomer Conference that were not shown in Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country. Enjoy a weekend full of ceremonies and awards, interactive social events, informative meetings, educational panels and tours of several local tourist attractions. You will even have the ability to send your enemies (or maybe a friend or two) to Rura Penthe where the 'prison' will prove to be quite interesting. You can also enjoy the Khitomer Banquet, an Alien Ambassador's Ball where you can come dressed as your favorite alien (i.e. Klingon, Romulan, Ferengi, etc.), and the ever so popular Casino Night and Charity Auction. All of this and more during Region Three's Khitomer Conference weekend at Summit 2MI. –

Adm. Brad Pense Commander, Third Fleet www.region3.com





UPCOMING EVENTS

USS Bethel

C/O: Joy Flynt

June 30th-July 1st: Sci-Fi Toy show, Bossier City, LA.

Special Guest: Kenny Baker Star Wars 1,2,4,5,6- R2-D2

Michonne Bourriague Star Wars-Aurra Sing

Mike Quinn Star Wars-Nein Numb

Peter Mayhew Star Wars-Chewbacca

Alan Rusco Star Wars-Plo Koon

Tom Wilson Back to the Future 1,2, & 3

July 12th: Elizabeth Weber's Birthday

July 14th - July 15th: Sci-Fi Toy show, Plano, TX. **Special Guests:**

Mira Firlan Babylon 5-Delin

J.G.Hertzler Star Trek-Martok

Robert O'Riely Star Trek-Gowron

Kenny Baker Star Wars 1,2,4,5,6-R2D2

Dirk Benedick Battlestar Galactica-Starbuck

Richard Hatch Battlestar Galactica-Apollo

Lorette Spang Battlestar Galactica-Cassiopeia

And a REAL Astronaut Rick Searfoss-Space Shuttle Commander

Sept. 8th - 9th: Sci-Fi Toy show, Grapevine, TX

Oct. 20th-21st: Sci-Fi Toy show, Plano, TX. **Special Guest:**

TV's Batman-Adam West

TV Batman-Robyn-Burt Ward

TV Batman-Batgirl-Yvonne Craig

TV Batman-Catwoman-Julie Newmar

TV Batman-Riddler-Frank Gorshin

Star Trek-Borg Queen-Alice Krige

Nightmare on Elm st-Alice-Lisa Wilcox

Star Wars & Leprechaun-Warwick Davis

Oct.27th - 28th: Sci-Fi Toy show, Austin, TX

Nov. 3rd-4th: Sci-Fi Toy show, Bossier City, LA. **Special Guest:** Richard Biggs Babylon 5 - Dr. Franklin

Nov 22nd: Thanksgiving Day

December 25th: Christmas Day



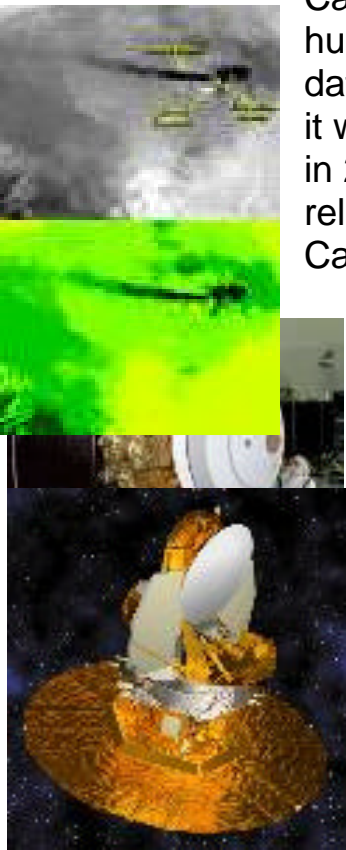


These **Hubble** Space Telescope images of Saturn, shown in this recent handout composite photo, captured from 1996 to 2000, show the planet in different stages of its 29-year journey around the sun. Astronomers are studying this set of images to investigate the detailed variations in the color and brightness of the rings and hope to learn more about the rings' composition, how they were formed, and how long they last. (AP Photo/NASA, The **Hubble** Heritage Team)



This recent artist's conception of the Cassini orbiter shows the Huygens probe, left, separating to enter the atmosphere of Titan, a moon of the planet Saturn, shown in the distance. Scientists

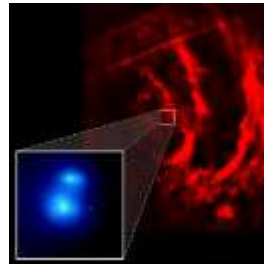
said Tuesday, June 19, 2001, they will redesign the Cassini mission as the spacecraft hurtles toward Saturn to prevent losing data collected from the Huygens probe it will drop onto the planet's moon Titan in 2005. Mission planners will delay releasing the Huygens probe from Cassini until February 2005, during the spacecraft's third orbit of Saturn. . (AP Photo/**NASA**, Jet Propulsion Laboratories)



The Genesis spacecraft is displayed for the media at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida June 13, 2001. The **NASA** spacecraft, scheduled for launch July 30 aboard a Delta II rocket, is expected to fly one million miles from the earth to gather and

return samples of solar wind. REUTERS/Joe Skipper

A spacecraft that looks a bit like a foil-covered umbrella aims to take the "ultimate baby picture" of remnants of the theoretical Big Bang that gave birth to the universe, astronomers said June 12, 2001. **NASA's** \$145 million MAP craft -- short for Microwave Anisotropy Probe -- is set for launch from Cape Canaveral on June 30, 2001.



This composite image shows the first halo of X-ray emission detected around a young cluster of stars, known as the Arches cluster. The Chandra X-Ray Observatory data is seen as the diffuse blue emission in the inset box and represent the 60-million-degree gas that envelopes the multitude of young stars in the cluster. The Chandra data overlay a **Hubble** Space

Telescope infrared image of the same region, in which some of the individual stars in the cluster can be seen as point-like sources. Both the X-ray and infrared observations are then shown in context of the filamentary structures that appear in radio wavelengths displayed in red. REUTERS/Nasa-Handout

The Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) captured this thermal image of the erupting Shiveluch volcano on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, June 4, 2001. Shiveluch rises to an altitude of 2,447 meters (8,028 feet). The active lava dome complex is seen as a bright (hot) area on the summit of the volcano. To the southwest, a second hot area is either a debris avalanche or hot ash deposit. Trailing to the west is a 25-kilometer (15-mile) ash plume, seen as a cold "cloud" streaming from the summit. The lower image is the same as the upper, except it has been color-coded: red is hot, light greens to dark green are progressively colder, and gray/black are the coldest areas.





Wannabe Dogs and Cats?

Some pets become so lovable that even wild animals fall for them. Bob and his wife have a cabin on some land in the country. They sometimes take their little white poodle Minnie out there with them.

One day when Bob went out there he found a mother skunk with her litter of kits at the cabin. He had some chores to outside, and Mama skunk, though she wasn't in much of a hurry about it, began leading her family away. But one of the kits stayed behind, hanging out with Bob. This wasn't unusual. Developing a rapport with wild animals has always come naturally to him. He eventually named the skunk - Skunky P.U.

Skunky P.U. really took a liking to Minnie. She didn't do anything to encourage the relationship, but over several visits to the cabin, the skunk became more and more attached. As he matured, it became clear he began to consider Minnie his "girlfriend." In fact, Skunky has become so bold that he now not only comes into the cabin if he gets a chance; when he gets in he makes a beeline, past humans or other pets, straight for Minnie, and tries to mount her, right there in the living room, in front of her "parents."

There's another good reason for ending this relationship. Skunks can carry rabies and not show symptoms. They can even be born with it. There is no rabies vaccine approved for use in skunks and it is against the law to keep them as pets.

Tammy was raised on a ranch. She told me one year when they gathered cattle, a young cow elk fell in with the herd. She came all the way down the canyon and into the corral with them. She even bawled back and forth with a particular cow, as though she were "mothered-up" with her. They managed to evict her from the corral but she stayed around outside the fence for two or three days until they loaded the cows into trucks and hauled them away to summer pasture in the mountains.

Fran has several cats and also feeds the neighborhood feline panhandlers. When she had rabbits in hutches, neighborhood dogs began terrorizing the rabbit hutches. They made repeated nighttime raids. The dogs eventually got into the hutches and killed all the rabbits. Or so they thought. A week ago they noticed one of the rabbits hanging around the house. Pretty soon it began coming up on the steps in the morning, lining up with the stray cats looking for a handout. One morning Fran looked out the window and saw one of the cats attacking the rabbit. Or so she thought. Before she could intervene and "save the rabbit's life" the rabbit got the upper hand, chased the cat a few feet, and then wrestled the cat to the ground. The two of them were playing!

And finally, Quacker is a white Leghorn chicken. She was raised with ducks and now her cackles are more like quacks. She speaks chicken with a duck accent. She also has learned to use the cat door. She comes in daily, lays an egg on the recliner and roosts on the bedroom TV set. They say she's even pretty much house trained.



Like it or not, the new Texas White House will be in Crawford, Texas and soon will be drawing a number of people to the state, including many who are not used to Texas ways. They might find the following advice useful.

- 1) Don't expect to find filet mignon or pasta primavera at the local restaurant. It's a cafe. They serve hamburgers and chicken fried steak. Let them cook something they know. If you confuse them, they'll kick your behind.
- 2) Don't laugh at the names (Merleen, Bodie, Bubba, Bobby Ray, Curley, Tammy Lynn, Billy Joe, Sissy, Clovis, etc.). Or we will HAVE to kick your behind.
- 3) Don't order a bottle of pop or a can of soda. In Texas it's called a coke. Nobody gives a damn whether it's Pepsi, RC, Dr. Pepper, 7-Up or whatever - it's still a coke. Accept it. Doing otherwise can lead to an behind kicking.
- 4) We know our heritage. Most of us are more literate than you (read some J. Frank Dobie). We are also better educated and generally a lot nicer than you. Don't refer to us as a bunch of cowboy hicks, or we'll kick your behind.
- 5) We have plenty of business sense (e.g., Howard Hughes, H. Ross Perot, Southwest Airlines, Dell computers). Naturally, sometimes we have small lapses in judgment (e.g., Phil Gramm). However, we are not dumb enough to let someone move to our state just so they can run for the US Senate. If anyone tried to do that they would get a serious behind kickin.
- 6) Don't laugh at our Civil War monuments. If Lee had listened to Gen. Hood you'd be paying taxes to Richmond instead of Washington. If you visit the Alamo, take your hat off and be properly humble, or we'll kick your behind.
- 7) We are fully aware of how hot it gets and high the humidity is, so shut up about it. If you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen, or we'll kick your behind.

8) Do not attempt to eat tamales without first removing their corn husk casing. Everyone will instantly know that you're a Yankee. DO NOT, under any circumstances, complain that the chili is TOO hot or contains no kidney beans, this will get your behind kicked into next week.

9) Don't talk about how much better things are at home because we know they are not. Many of us have visited Northern hell-holes like Detroit, Chicago, and DC, and we have the scars to prove it. If you don't like it here, Delta is ready when you are. Move your behind on home -before we kick it.

10) Yes, we know how to speak proper English. We talk this way because we don't want to sound like you. We don't care if you don't understand what we are saying. All other Texans understand what we are saying and that's all that matters. Now, go away, or we'll kick your behind.

11) Don't complain that certain areas of this state "smell" of oil. If your livelihood depended on those wells you'd soon learn to love the aroma.

Besides, None of OUR lakes or rivers have caught fire recently. If you whine about OUR scenic beauty, we'll kick your behind all the way back to Pittsburgh, PA.

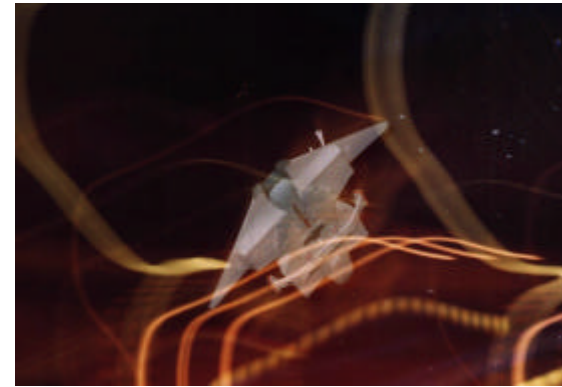
12) Don't ridicule our Texas manners. We say sir and ma'am. We hold doors open for others. We offer our seats to old folks. Such things are expected of civilized people. Behave yourselves around our sweet little gray-haired grandmothers, or they'll kick your behinds -- just like they did ours.

13) Don't think we're quaint or losers because most of us live in small towns. We do this because we have enough sense to not live in crime-infested cesspools like Baltimore. Make fun of our small towns and we'll kick your behind.

14) DO NOT DARE to tell us how to cook barbecue. =A0 This will get your behind shot (right after it is kicked). Criticize the barbecue and you may go home in a pine box -- minus your behind.

15) Remember, the only reason you are lucky enough to be here in the first place is because we have not pulled the Border Patrol off the Rio Grande and put them on the Red River (where they really belong) to keep your behind out.

16) Enjoy your visit.



From:"Phillip Jackson" <pejackson@earthlink.net>
Subject:NEW TIME TRAVEL BOOK/TEXAS AUTHOR

I am a new Texas author (I live in Plano), and I came across your email while looking at some websites. If appropriate, I'd like to recommend my book to you and your club members. If you find it interesting, I'm available to meet at one of your future discussion groups. [Note: the book is also available at Amazon.com, but it's less expensive from the publisher].

Regards,

Phillip Ellis Jackson, Ph.D.

pejackson@earthlink.net

AmErica House is pleased to announce the release of Phillip Ellis Jackson's new novel *Timeshift*, available at www.publishamerica.com (go to "browse the bookstore: SciFi").

Timeshift is a 25th century murder mystery that takes place among a swirl of political intrigue. Someone has discovered how to manipulate images from the past, and make things appear that never were. An excerpt from the novel below sets the stage for the story:

For all of man's hopes for a bountiful future, fueled by spectacular, almost-unimaginable leaps in technology, the world still reeled under the heavy threat of the killing ash.

Centuries earlier a world-wide thermonuclear war wreaked havoc on an already divided society segmented into two cooperative but separate nations, the East and West United States.

With the conflagration came a rapidly-multiplying mysterious new life form, the deadly ash, that forced the surviving population beneath the earth's surface in a desperate attempt to stave off its lethal touch.

Turning to technology, man began a long, slow, fight for survival. Washington D.C., now "The District", was the focal point of this effort, where the discovery of Beta Light had inspired the people with a new hope for a better life. Scientists discovered that after leaving the sun Alpha Light—the spectrum ranging from infrared to ultraviolet—split off and continued on into space while a new, hitherto unknown companion particle, Beta Light, was trapped in a sediment-like swirl by the earth's magnetic field.

Because of its unique properties, Beta Light acted like a recording film capturing the images of the past exactly as they happened—sights, sounds, everything just as it was. Man could view the past, but not interact with it. Still, it was enough to replay the 3-D holographic images they retrieved, allowing the people of the present to share in a life that once was, and might never again be.

Massive resources from the public and private sectors were poured into exploiting Beta Light's properties for the benefit of all mankind. But viewing Beta light images was more than a source of amusement and entertainment. The new technology was also a tool in mankind's liberation. With the wonders of this discovery came a glimmer of hope that they might uncover the true origin of the deadly and enigmatic ash and, ultimately, find a way to eliminate it.

Time viewing was unbelievably expensive, each year commanding a greater share of society's limited resources, but it gave people hope on many different levels. And hope was what the last of mankind needed. Man would fight to survive, and his weapon would be the past.

Timeshift is the first book of a time-travel trilogy. The second book, *Between Two Worlds*, will be released in February 2002.

A brief look at "Between Two Worlds"

In a society where images of the past can be viewed exactly as they happen, one man tests a radical theory that the past can be entered and changed, bringing two worlds into collision that threaten to destroy the fabric of space and time.

In this sequel to "Timeshift", Tobias Raikhel succeeds in opening a window in time that brings two civil war soldiers from 1863 five hundred years into the future, with potentially disastrous consequences for both worlds.

Synopsis:

Paul Thorndyke, age 45, now controls the time viewing process. His life-long friend Quentin Cottle persuades him to test the radical theory that the past can be entered and changed.

Cottle wants to go back in time and destroy the deadly ash that plagues humanity before it has a chance to spread. When Cottle is accidentally lost in the past, all memory of him in the future instantly vanishes.

Thorndyke feels a great loss, but cannot understand why. As memory of Cottle changes, so too does the history that involved him.

Relations between the Subterranean and the surface world—already strained in Cottle's reality—are worse in the new timeline. There is a legitimate threat of civil war that Thorndyke must find a way to stop. Tobias Raikhel also believes the past can be entered and changed. In an unauthorized jump he decides to test his theory by bringing an 1863 Civil War soldier who is about to die into the future. The experiment goes terribly wrong, and several soldiers are brought into the 25th century through a rip in time. As Thorndyke struggles to keep tensions in the Subterranean from exploding, he must also deal with the emerging crisis caused by Raikhel's unauthorized experiment. The cascading effect of an unintended rip in time threatens to destroy the domed city of Washington D.C.



Texan Expressions

The White House is not just getting a new team, but a whole new language. George W. Bush will be bringing with him many friends from Texas, and for anyone not born in the Lone Star State, the Texan accent and the cowboy colloquialisms can seem a bit strange.

Here is a guide to a few of the more colorful expressions they might encounter:

1. The engine's runnin' but ain't nobody driving =
Not overly-intelligent.
2. As welcome as a skunk at a lawn party. (self-explanatory).
3. Tighter than bark on a tree = Not very generous.
4. All hat, no cattle = All talk and no action.
5. We've howdied but we ain't shook yet =
We've made a brief acquaintance, but not been formally introduced.
6. He thinks the sun come up just to hear him crow =
He has a pretty high opinion of himself.
7. She's got tongue enough for 10 rows of teeth =
That woman can talk.
8. It's so dry the trees are bribin' the dogs =
We really could use a little rain around here.
9. Just because a chicken has wings doesn't mean it can fly =
Appearances can be deceptive.
10. This ain't my first rodeo = I've been around awhile.
11. He looks like the dog's been keepin' him under the porch =
Not the most handsome of men.
12. They ate supper before they said grace = Living in sin.
13. Time to paint your butt white and run with the antelope =
Stop arguing and do as you're told.
14. As full of wind as a corn-eating horse =
Rather prone to boasting.
15. You can put your boots in the oven, but that doesn't make them biscuits =
You can say whatever you want about something, but that doesn't change what it is.



Our Mission... Make you laugh

Why indeed?

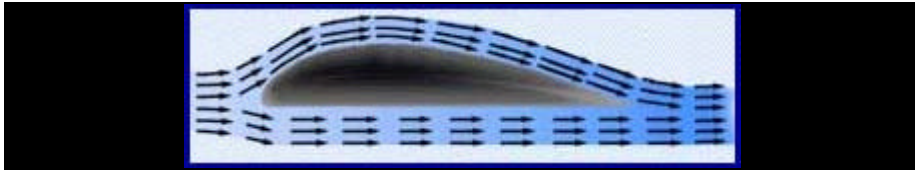
1. Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
 2. Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
 3. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
 4. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
 5. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
 6. Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
 7. Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
 8. Why do "tug" boats push their barges?
 9. Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?
 10. Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?
 11. Why is it call "after dark" when it really is "after light"?
 12. Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?
 13. Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?
 14. Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?
 15. Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
 16. If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?
 17. If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
 18. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
 19. If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?
 20. Why is bra singular and panties plural?
 21. Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?
 22. Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?
 23. How come abbreviated is such a long word?
 24. Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?
 25. Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
 26. Why do they call it a TV set when you only have one?
- Christmas is weird. What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

How does an airplane fly?

Most of us have probably seen or felt wind blowing things like flags or kites around. But how is it possible that heavy airplanes (some weighing almost half a million pounds, or more than 200,000 kilograms) are able to be supported by air high above the ground?

The answer may sound strange at first, but it's actually the *air* that is pushing the airplane's wings and the rest of it up. The air *under* the wings pushes *up* more than the air on *top* of the wings pushes *down*. This "pushing" by the air is called air *pressure*. We can think of air pressure as air "press"-ing down or up against something else. On a windy day, you can actually feel the air pressure push against your body. The wings of an airplane "feel" a similar pushing, but there happens to be a *bigger pressure under the wings* and a *smaller pressure on the top*.

What's really amazing is **why** this happens. The special shape of an airplane's wing makes the air moving around it behave in a certain way. If we look at an airplane's wing from the side, we can see that the wing is a special shape called an *airfoil*.



An airfoil is curved on the top and flat on the bottom, causing some of the air to go over the top and the rest of the air to go along the bottom. This shape looks simple, but it is the main reason airplanes can fly at all. Because of the airfoil's curved shape, the air moving under the airfoil moves at a *slower* speed than the air going over the top.



A scientist named Daniel Bernoulli (Ber-NEW-lee), who lived more than 200 years ago, did work that proves *slow-moving air causes a high pressure and fast-moving air causes a low pressure*. Because there is a higher pressure "pushing" on the underside of the wing than on the top, the bottom pressure wins out overall and the wings (and the airplane attached to it) are pushed up, making the entire thing fly! You can actually see this for yourself. If you take a strip of paper and blow over the top of it as shown in the picture below, the paper will rise.



What happened? You lowered the pressure that was pushing down on the top of the paper, causing the pressure on the bottom side of the paper to push the paper strip up. The same thing happens when air pushes on the bottom side of an airplane's wing. The pressure that is pushing the airplane up creates a force called *lift* in the upwards direction.

What is Aeronautics?

Aeronautics is the science of flight. Scientists and engineers who study aeronautics learn about how and why airplanes fly. Using what they learn, they can design better, safer, and cheaper-to-build airplanes. To understand how NASA scientists and engineers begin this big job, we need to first learn [how an airplane flies](#). Then we can answer a few other questions including:

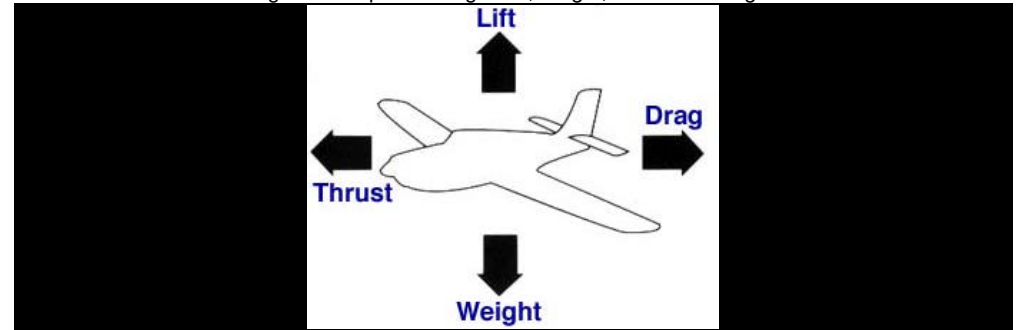
- [What forces act on an airplane?](#)
- [Can I see any of this myself when I'm flying on an airplane?](#)
- [What are the different types of airplanes?](#)
- [By the way, do birds fly the same way airplanes do?](#)
- [Why does NASA study aeronautics?](#)
- [Where else on the Internet can I learn about aeronautics?](#)

- [An Aeronautics Glossary](#)

When we are done here, we can jump into learning [what tools are used to design an airplane](#).

What forces act on an airplane?

There are four forces acting on an airplane in flight: *lift, weight, thrust* and *drag*.



We already know that lift comes from the wings. What about the other forces?

Weight is a force caused by *gravity*. You've felt gravity every time you jump. Gravity is what pulls you and everything else back down to the ground. This "pulling down" by gravity is what causes you to have a "weight" that you measure when you step on a bathroom scale. An airplane's weight also pulls downward on it - directly opposite to the lift force that is pulling the airplane up. It's like the lift and weight forces are playing a game of tug-of-war. One pulls in one direction and the other pulls in the opposite direction. For level flight, lift and weight must balance each other out.

Thrust, caused by the airplane's engines, is the force that moves the airplane forward. If an airplane did not keep moving, air would stop moving over and under the wings. Without this movement of air, the wings could not create lift, and the airplane would start to fall back to the ground!

Drag is the force that tries to slow down a moving object.

To lessen the drag that an airplane feels, most airplanes are made more aerodynamic, or streamlined, to reduce the amount of drag they feel. A streamlined airplane has smooth surfaces and no bumpy sections, causing as little resistance to the air as possible. Just like lift and weight are opposite forces, thrust and drag are opposites to each other too. For an airplane to keep flying, its thrust must be bigger than its drag.