

DaVinci Pilot

Newsletter of the U.S.S. DaVinci
Columbus, Georgia

Volume 4 Number 12

JUNE 1999

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

I am getting frustrated and do not know what to do. I have tried my best over the last four years to get the crew of the DaVinci more active in ship functions. In this I have failed miserably. To give you a few examples, during the well-attended 3rd birthday bash, at least 10 adult members volunteered for the Earthday cleanup of our north expressway interchange. When the time came, only three showed up, too small a group to handle the work by themselves. Nothing was done, and my promise to the Keep Columbus Beautiful commission was broken. This makes the DaVinci look bad. This was not the first time an insufficient number of individuals has shown up at one of our scheduled clean-ups. The disturbing fact is that in the past 2 years, our section has only been cleaned three times even though at least eight clean-ups were scheduled. I finally made the decision to cancel our sponsorship of the adopt-a-highway program.

The most recent case in point is the May membership meeting. For months I have been espousing the importance of attending the meeting because it was time for the nominations for Captain and First Officer. I thought I would have a good turnout. Excluding Connie and myself, four people attended. Four! All the activities I had planned for the meeting were for naught. In fact, the last two meetings had less than 10 members combined! Because of the poor turnout there were insufficient members present for nominations which means the election scheduled for the June meeting will have to be postponed. I came very very close to calling it quits and writing my letter of resignation. Let someone else go through what I have been going through and see if they like it, was my first thought.

I could not do that for several reasons. Most importantly, I have not worked this hard in the last 4 years building up the DaVinci, just to shake up its foundation. Second, if I resigned, I might have to bury my First Officer! Joe did not really want the job of Exec' let alone Captain! I love Joe like a brother and know he would make a fine Captain, but I must respect his wishes too. I guess I will just have to stick it out until booted out in the next election. But.....

Please! I need help and participation by those in the club. I do understand, however, that not everyone can attend meetings or activities because of work or other commitments. I know there are members who do have the time and it is you that need to become more active in ship activities. Think of it this way. We really only get together twice a month, once at the meeting and the other at the night out (which by the way for the past few months has been well attended, proving that besides dilithium, a healthy craving for various foods powers the ship!). Maybe once every few months is some other activity planned.

Come on DaVinci! Let us make our ship the best in the Region, the best in Fleet! There is no reason why this cannot be accomplished. Sure it will take some effort, but the rewards will make it well worth the effort.

FCPT Freddy Heller

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
ON THURSDAY JUNE 17th AT 7 P.M.
AT THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSE.
COME ONE COME ALL!**

USS DaVINCI ELECTIONS

This is a repeat of last month's article. I do this to stress the importance of the election process. My position is not an autocratic one (though the thought of having such power does excite me).

Yes, it is that time again! Nominations for Captain and First Officer will be held at the June meeting with the election at the July meeting. Okay, as you might know there are some qualifications necessary for you to be Captain or Exec' of the DaVinci. First, you must be a member of Starfleet in good standing (membership up to date); second, you must have taken Officer's Training School (OTS) and Officer's Command College (OCC); finally, you must have been a member of the DaVinci for at least 6 months. For your benefit, those who qualify are:

FCPT Freddy Heller
CPT Joe Perry
CMDR Connie Heller
LTJG Michael Walker

The list is short because of the loss of other qualified crew members to the Shadow Hawk, but each of the above would make an outstanding Captain or First Officer. It is up to each of them if they wish to have their name placed in nomination. The elected officers will take command at the August meeting. The term of office is 2 years.

An election committee will be formed to oversee the voting process. The election committee will consist of three crew personnel appointed by the Senior Staff. Voting will be done by secret ballot at the June meeting. To vote, you must have been a member of the USS DaVinci for at least 3 months prior to the election. If you cannot make it to the June meeting, you may vote by absentee ballot, but you must notify someone on the election committee in person prior to the meeting. Each crewmember may vote only once and must sign an election roster when the ballot is turned in. The ballots will be counted and the results announced during the July meeting and published in the August newsletter.

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MOURNING PARTY

If you were not contacted, the DaVinci is hosting a "Mourning Party" for the end of Deep Space Nine. The final episode will be broadcast on June 6th from 10-12 PM. I have made arrangements with Hunter's inside the Hilton for us to hold our party there. I had arranged with Area 51 but a fire in their kitchen has temporarily closed the establishment. The festivities will begin at 8:30 PM when you can order dinner off Hunter's very reasonably priced menu. After dinner there will be a few administrative items and then at 10 o'clock begins the end of the-best-Trek-show-that-ever-was-or-ever-will-be (the hotel will not supply the kleenex, you must bring your own). NOTE: Because of the mourning party, the night out scheduled for the next day is cancelled.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

This year's Grand Slam was another bittersweet con. Last year everyone was wishing a tearful farewell to Terry Farrell (Jadzia Dax). This year, of course, is the last season of DS9, and although none of the cast would give out hints, they were all subdued because the sets had been torn down just that week.

On an even sadder note, Brent Spiner had to substitute at the last minute for an ailing De Kelley, and from comments made by Spiner, and guests William Shatner and Jonathan Frakes, I fear that Mr. Kelley's illness is much more serious than they're giving out. Let's all wish our favorite "Doc" the best.

High points of the show included the DS9 Ferengi Family on stage at the same time: Armin Shimerman, Cecily Adams (Moogie), Max Grodenchik, Aron Eisenberg, and Chase Masterson (well, she's an in-law!). Another great group was six Voyager crew: Robert Picardo, Robert Duncan McNeill, Garrett Wang, Roxann Dawson, Tim Russ, and Jeri Ryan. On that day Ariana was wearing her "Point Seven of Nine" outfit, and as the Voyager guests left the stage, Ms. Ryan held back and said "I want to see that baby." While her dad was beaming, Miss Heller was not overly impressed. (Ariana did win prizes in the costume contest the next day, dressed in her Bajoran uniform.)

Other guests included Grace Lee Whitney from TOS; Gary Graham, Eric Pierpoint, and Michelle Scarabelli from Alien Nation; Richard Hatch from Battlestar Galactica; June Lockhart from Lost in Space; Gil Gerard and Erin Gray from Buck Rogers; Jonathan Del Arco, Jennifer Hetrick, and Patti Yasutake from Next Generation; Alice Krige from First Contact; and many others, some who just showed up to autograph and chat with fans.

You really do see a lot of stars at the Grand Slam, but the Motorola hand-held radios that we took this year helped us keep up with each other and fast-breaking news a lot better. The communication range let us talk from our hotel room to the auditorium, if necessary.

We attended two extra events this year, a charity breakfast sponsored by "The Fifth House" (Majel Barrett Roddenberry's fan club), with guests Max Grodenchik, Aron Eisenberg, and Chase Masterson, and a Cabaret with music from SPOCK, a Swedish 80's retro band, Neal Norman and his Cosmic Orchestra, as well as various Star Trek stars, especially those from Voyager. Memorable scenes included Robert Picardo and Roxann Dawson doing a Sonny and Cher take-off, and a 50-person conga line led by Klingons in full regalia!

To sum up: I can hardly wait for next year!

CMDR Connie Heller

PASSAGES

Richard Kiley, who played the scientist Seyetik on the DS9 episode "Second Sight," died in early March.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Welcome aboard to the following crew personnel who have recently come aboard or renewed their membership in the DaVinci (D) or Starfleet (S):

Emma Certo (S)

Alan Certo (S)

**NEXT DaVINCI NIGHT SCHEDULED
FOR CAPTAIN TOM'S ON JUNE 7th
IS CANCELED BECAUSE OF THE DS9
MOURNING PARTY**

TREK BUZZ

Kate (Janeway) Mulgrew married former Cleveland politician Tim Hagen at the end of April. Our best wishes for tons of happiness to the new couple!

Vidiot.com has alleged that UPN is cutting 2 minutes out of Voyager episodes, to make more room for commercials. UPN has responded that they are running episodes as they receive them, but Vidiot.com noted that in various repeat episodes, the repeat is suddenly 2 minutes shorter than when it originally aired.

You should know by now that Star Trek Insurrection is available for rental on VHS tape and for sale in DVD format.

It hit Nana Visitor like a photon torpedo. "I was taking a walk around the Promenade set as they were disassembling it, and I realized that Deep Space Nine was really ending, possibly forever," said Visitor, who has played Col. Kira Nerys for all of the Star Trek spin-offs 7-year run and even married one of her co-stars, Alexander Siddig. "I'd never before allowed myself to feel so profoundly sad about something," she said.

Ron Moore has signed on for a two-year tour of duty aboard the Starship Voyager and is currently writing his first script for the show. No word as to what it might be about.

William Shatner once contemplated suicide because of an extreme case of tinnitus (ringing in the ear) that he may have developed on the Star Trek movie set. The noise which began about 10 years ago began as a "whisper, like a wave going out from the beach, and then it became a kind of hiss, like an open radio station that never went away."

Thanks to Dateline: Starfleet for the information.

NEWS FROM THE FLEET

There is good news for those of you who are Starfleet members. The Fleet Admiral, Mike Smith, has recently received word that Starfleet's application to mail the Communiqué (CQ) under the Periodical Class mailing rules has been approved! What this means to you is the following:

1. Faster and more uniform delivery of the CQ.
2. Limited forwarding of the CQ when a member moves.
3. Additional cost savings in mailing the CQ.

CAPTAIN'S HOLIDAY

The second week of May FCPT Freddy, CMDR Connie, and Cadets Malik, Travis, and Ariana checked out southern Risa (Orlando).

At the Magic Kingdom they explored Space Mountain, braved the ExtraTERRORestrial Alien Adventure, viewed the Timekeeper show, and made the universe safe for toys (Freddy: "Action Figures!") at Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin.

At Epcot Spaceship Earth was traversed, time was reversed in the Universe of Energy, and matter was changed in Honey I Shrunk the Audience.

Disney-MGM Studios allowed the crew to fly through a battle with Imperial forces in Star Tours and have lunch at the Sci-Fi Café, and Disney's Animal Kingdom provided another time travel adventure with Countdown to Extinction.

They helped E.T. go home at Universal Studios, came out sweating after seeing Terminator 2-3D, saw King Kong destroy New York, and had yet another time travel thrill with Back to the Future.

Then, alas, it was "Back to the Real World", back to work, and back to school. Ah, holidays are never long enough.

CMDR Connie Heller

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to the following DaVinci personnel and Star Trek celebrities and events who are celebrating birthdays in June!

Star Trek III Premieres (1984)	1 st
Rene Auberjonois (Odo)	1 st
CRMN Casey Hawkins	1 st
Sally Kellerman (Dr. Elizabeth Dehner)	2 nd
Star Trek II Premieres (1982)	4 th
Jeri Taylor (Executive Producer)	6 th
Star Trek V Premieres (1989)	9 th
CADET David Green	9 th
Malcolm McDowell (Dr. Soran)	13 th
CRMN Scott Jones	17 th
Mariette Hartley (Zarabeth)	21 st
CRMN George Ferris	21 st
Tim Russ (LT Tuvok)	22 nd
CRMN Roger Stephens	27 th
CRMN Harry Camp	30 th

STAR WARS UPDATE

Well, unless you are dead or just lost your mind, you must know that Episode I: The Phantom Menace is now showing at your local theater. If anyone on the ship has seen the film and would like to review it for the July newsletter, please feel free to do so. Anyway, in the spirit of the whole Star Wars universe, I give you the following:

You might be a Redneck Jedi if....

You ever heard the phrase, "May the force be with y'all."

Your Jedi robe is camouflage.

You have ever used your light saber to open a bottle of Bud Light.

At least one wing of your X-Wing fighter is primer colored.

You can easily describe the taste of an Ewok.

You have ever had a land-speeder up on blocks in your yard.

The worst part of spending time on Dagobah is the dadgum skeeters.

Wookies are offended by your B.O.

You have ever used the force to get yourself another beer so you didn't have to wait for a commercial.

You have ever used the force in conjunction with fishing or bowling.

Your father has ever said to you, "Shoot, son come on over to the dark side...it'll be a hoot."

You have ever had your R-2 unit use its self-defense electro-shock thingy to get the barbecue grill to light up.

You have a confederate flag painted on the hood of your land-speeder.

You ever fantasized about Princess Leia wearing Daisy Duke shorts.

You have the doors of your X-wing welded shut and you have to get in through the window.

Although you had to kill him, you kinda thought that Jabba the Hutt had a pretty good handle on how to treat his women.

You have a cousin who bears a strong resemblance to Chewbacca.

You suggested that they outfit the Millennium Falcon with redwood deck.

You were the only person drinking Jack Daniels during the cantina scene.

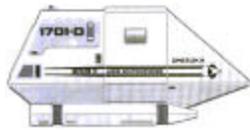
FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	181.19
Closing Balance	181.19

CMDR Connie Heller

SPACE: THE GAME

The pieces for this month's newsletter are CAPTAINS Koloth and SHIPS Shuttlepod Onizuka.



PROGRAM SCHEDULES

All listings are tentative and based on the Paramount schedule. Check local listing.

Deep Space Nine: Reruns, Reruns, Reruns!

Voyager: Who cares? Still mourning the end of DS9

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DaVINCI STAFF ROSTER

Commanding Officer	Freddy Heller	562-TREK
Executive Officer	Joe Perry	327-5888
Finance	Connie Heller	562-8735
Community Service	VACANT	
Publications	Freddy Heller	562-8735
Science Officer	Michael Walker	214-5179
Counselor	JoAnne Vazquez	563-9185
Holodeck	VACANT	
Medical	VACANT	
Engineering Officer	Deniece Dunn	291-0150
Communications	Karen Baker	323-4217
Quartermaster	Randy Dunn	291-0150
Security	Zach Farley	682-0140
Cadet Corps CMDR	VACANT	

