



DaVinci Pilot

Newsletter of the U.S.S. DaVinci
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FROM THE CENTER SEAT

August has been one fun-filled month. It began with Starfleet's International Conference (IC) in Charlotte, NC. Joe Perry and I attended the IC from the USS DaVinci and Steve Gordon represented the Shuttle Shadow Hawk. The IC was one of the best in the last several years. Well-organized and aptly run it said much for its organizers - Region One. It was also well attended. I do not know the exact number but I would estimate that nearly 300 attended during the weekend. I have no desire to infringe further into Steve's article so I had better go on to other topics. Oh, the "Hull Breach Award" given to Steve following the Region Two Summit was well deserved! In fact, he may get another!

The weekend following the IC was the highway clean up. I was not quite sure whether I should have scheduled a clean up considering that the last four were so poorly attended. Although I was hoping for more, six crewmembers did show up and for the next couple of hours we picked up trash. A BIG Bajoran thanks to Mike Walker, Alan Certo, Josh Ainsworth, and Randy Dunn who joined Travis and me thereby saving the highway for at least one more time.

There is no better way to end the summer than by having a pool party! About 10 crew personnel descended on Joe Perry's house for a relaxing afternoon swimming and lounging by the pool. Beginning at noon and ending around 4 o'clock, DaVinci personnel enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere, cold pop, and Papa John's Pizza! Joe, who does not like the water, spent the afternoon making sure everyone had what they needed. A BIG Bajoran thanks to Joe for inviting us to his home.

Well, Halloween is just around the corner. I was wondering if there is any interest in having a Halloween party this year. We had one last year and it was quite a lot of fun, especially for the cadets! We need some volunteers to help organize and run the festivities. If you feel like volunteering, please call either me or the Exec' Joe Perry.

FCPT Freddy Heller

SCIENCE STATION

Science Station reporting in...

Nevada tourism honchos are planning a science and technology center near Area 51. The plan calls for a museum that will look like a space-ship, and that will house a discovery center where visitors can "explore Nevada's air space, land space, and outer space." Promoters hope that two things will bring people to the museum: tourists heading for Death Valley, and the "X-Files"- type mystery surrounding the region. They didn't say what effect the nearby brothel will have on attendance.

In a page right out of "For the World is Hollow and I have Touched the Sky," scientists report the possibility of Earth-like planets floating through the galaxy. The ideas are that during their solar systems' formation, life-supporting planets could have been ejected and are now rogue. These planets could have hydrogen atmospheres and might retain enough heat to permit the formation of surface liquid water oceans.

For those of you with access to the web, I have found a couple of interesting sites that you might want to explore. First is <http://raingod.com/angus/Gallery/Photos/SouthAmerica/Peru/IncaTrail/> which provides a virtual trek into the Andes

Mountains. The second is <http://physics.nist.gov/GenInt/Time/time.html> which offers a "walk through time," and shows ancient calendars and early clocks.

Thanks to ExoScience, Science News, and The Las Vegas Review-Journal for information.

Science Station Out,

LTJG Mike Walker

SICK BAY

This month we have a guest article from Steve Gordon of the Shuttle Shadow Hawk!

"Alpha, Beta, Gamma Knife"

For most people with cancer, several treatments are and have been available for the treatment of tumors (malignant and benign), such as chemo or radiation treatment. However in the last few years there has been an increase in the treatment of cancer by use of an instrument called the "gamma knife". Simply put, the gamma knife is, in fact, a steady stream of gamma particles that are aimed very precisely at the area of the body affected with a cancerous tumor; the "knife" kills, or at least immobilizes, the tumor, so that it is no longer a threat to the body.

This is again "Star Trek" technology at work; it is very effective, virtually painless, and leaves no scar tissue (sort of like a dermal regenerator, only it works in reverse). However, a major drawback is that it is still an experimental technology; preliminary studies are inconclusive as to the side effects, and it is a very cost-prohibitive treatment. Still, it is a technique that shows to be a promising tool to treat cancer in the future.

The nearest facility that uses the gamma knife is in Atlanta. I hope never to have to use or be treated by this instrument, but if I do, it would certainly be interesting to see how it really works.

"Live Long and Prosper"

LTCMDR Steve Gordon
Shuttle Shadow Hawk

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16th AT
7 P.M. AT THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSE.
COME ONE COME ALL!**

TREK BUZZ

Star Trek received Emmy nominations in these categories:

*Outstanding Art Direction for a Series (DS9, "Prodigal Daughter")

*Outstanding Hairstyling for a Series (DS9, "Badda-Bing, Badda-Bang")

*Outstanding Makeup for a Series (DS9, "Dogs of War")

*Outstanding Visual Effects for a Series (DS9, "What You Leave Behind," VOY, "Dark Frontier," "Thirty Days," and "Timeless"). The Emmys are September 12th.

Paramount confirmed press rumors that another Star Trek TV series is in development. Rick Berman and Brannon Braga are working on the project. Braga, however, specifically denied that the theme of the show would revolve around Starfleet Academy. Paramount does not expect a pilot for the new show before 2002.

The final episode of DS9 was the number one SF syndicated show of the week. It earned a 5.4 rating.

The Official Jeri Ryan Web Page has reported that Jeri (Seven of Nine) has signed a contract extension taking her through Voyager's seventh season.

According to a recent issue of Variety, Voyager is the show with the highest ratings in a key demographic sub-group: adults 18-49 living in homes with the head of household having completed four or more years of college. Voyager is awarded a score of 140 based on criteria set by Nielsen Media, which beats out the closest contender: ABC's "The Practice" and Fox's "Ally McBeal," both of which have a score of 136. So while Voyager's overall ratings may be far below other networks' shows, it is apparently managing to key into better demographics harmony than its competitors.

Terry Farrell was named one of the sixteen sexiest people on television in a recent TV Guide article.

In the October issue of Sci-Fi Entertainment, Star Trek toughest fans rates the ten best (and worst) episodes of Star Trek Deep Space Nine. For the full list go to <http://www.scifi.com/pulp/sfcurrent/ds9.html>.

Thanks to Dateline: Starfleet and TrekWeb for the information.

NEWS FROM THE FLEET

Well, I have attended my very first STARFLEET International Conference, held this past August 6-8 in Charlotte, NC. This is my review of my experience.

After a 7 hour drive (overnight), I arrived in Charlotte bright and early Friday morning about 8 a.m. I hung around the lobby for a while as fellow Fleeters arrived. It was about 2:00 p.m. when Captain Joe Perry and the good Fleet Captain Freddy Heller arrived and checked in. I was busy greeting my friends in Fleet when they arrived. We checked in and moved our belongings to our room. We settled in and later took a small road trip to a local Toys R Us and to a local drug store for some needed supplies. Later that afternoon I participated in the Fleet's "Blood Feud", a blood drive hosted by the local chapter and SFMC; I was able to donate a pint, and received a t-shirt for my efforts.

Later that evening we attended welcoming ceremonies. I went to find some, well, refreshing beverages (insert Romulan Ale here) as Freddy got a Great Dalmuti mini-tourney going in the hotel lobby. Of course our usual suspects, the Potts' (Danny, Denby) as well as R2 Coordinator, former USS Hephaestus CPT Pete Mohny were there to enjoy the festivities. After a lengthy trip, we were all tired and retired for the night.

Saturday morning we arose at 7 a.m. and went to breakfast. Opening ceremonies began promptly at 9:30 (scheduled time:9 AM.-as always, on time!). I participated in the opening ceremonies as a color guard, being a SFMC member. After that we went our separate ways to attend panels. I attended the Marine panel, as well as picking up some Klingon Warrior Academy materials for a certain Klingon commander of a certain ship in Smiths (know him?). That afternoon I was able to purchase some souvenirs and items in the Dealer's room. I also assisted fellow Fleeters with a game similar to "Match Game"--in fact that is what it was called; I provided the music as "panelists" were asked questions, and the "contestants"--in this case, Dennis "Stone Cold" Rayburn versus Gordon "Steve Goldberg" Goldberg (yes that was his REAL name)--tried to match their answers; you had to be there to believe it (if you want to ask Dennis about it-- <stoncold@wk.net> . Later that evening, the fabulous banquet was held, but not without some

excitement--a FIRE DRILL (?) in the middle of dinner. Everyone got a kick out of the excitement, but all were well behaved and conducted themselves in the way STARFLEET members should--as ladies and gentlemen. After the excitement died down, we returned to our banquet, after which we had the awards presentation.

Post-banquet was even more fun as yours truly cut loose on the dance floor. The band, "Angry Red Planet" from St. Louis was fantastic! I had fun dancing with three very nice young ladies from the USS Cydonia, St. Louis (same as the band) and (EAT YOUR HEART OUT JOSH!!!), I danced with Jo Banister (aka "Sunnie" from the USS Okatoma (she's a PRETTY redheaded Klingon who ADORES chocolate--but don't let anyone else find out about it if you give her chocolate; you'll be reprimanded by her shipmates!). See Freddy for the incriminating evidence, er, pictures (if he has any).

After that I went to the Fleet Admiral's suite for a mixer (I TRIED to get some Romulan Ale, but someone confiscated it--had to settle for some Jack Daniel's "Lynchburg Lemonade"). It was great, and I even received accolades from a blonde girl who, I think was also from the Cydonia (man, are they COOL!--<cydonia@inlink.com>)--she gave me a kiss, and all was well with this buzzin' doc! (I think I finally found the bed about 4:30 a.m.(???)

Sunday was the last day; time to say our goodbyes, check out and head for home. It was a great trip, and I certainly plan on attending future ICs, starting with next year's in Burlington, VT.

I shall never be afraid to say that I am proud to be in Starfleet. With such a wonderful association of fine people, I am happy to call these fine folks my friends and my family! Thanks, FADM Mike Smith and everyone else, down to my fellow crewmembers, Josh, Freddy, Joe, and all of the Davinci/Shadowhawk crew and personnel for making my Starfleet experience truly fascinating.

LTCMDR (SFMC Major) Steve Gordon
Shuttle Shadow Hawk

**NEXT DaVINCI NIGHT OUT WILL BE
AT THE PIZZA HUT (MANCHESTER
EXPRESSWAY) ON SEPTEMBER 6th
AT 7:00 PM Y'ALL COME!**

ACCOLADES

Congratulations to Mike Walker who recently completed the following Starfleet Academy courses: The Configuration and Leadership portions of Flag Officer's School (honor graduate) and has also earned a Master's in Archaeology from the Vulcan Science Academy. Way to go Mike!!!

MOVIE REVIEW

AUSTIN POWERS: FROM GOOD TO BAD.

Mike Myers is Evil! And I am not referring to his character Dr. Evil. Myers took a very clever movie (Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery) and ruined the celluloid world it created with a very witless sequel. Sure, the title of the follow-up (The Spy Who Shagged Me) is cute and I laughed a bit while watching the show. Upon leaving the theater, however, I felt cheated and used!

In Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery, I found a rare gem. I grew up watching the spy movies of the '60s, and the whole genre still appeals to me. I am also fascinated by that era: we had true heroes (astronauts and civil rights leaders), hope in the future (e.g., Star Trek), and Nehru Jackets. Who could want more?

So when a story comes along about a spy frozen in 1967 and reanimated in 1997, I could see the possibilities. There was sure to be a villain who attempts to take over the world in some unbelievable way, a hero/spy who sets out to stop him, beautiful women, maniacal and loyal sidekicks, technology, exotic locations, etc. Myers' creation had all this plus the humor of two relics from other-time (Austin Powers and Dr. Evil) dealing with modern life. An example of this is Dr. Evil and his son Scott portrayed as a '90s style dysfunctional family attending a group therapy session.

Much of the strength of International Man of Mystery is based on Austin Powers' adjusting to the 1990s. He was a swinger in the '60s, "having promiscuous sex with many anonymous partners without protection, while at the same time experimenting with mind-expanding drugs in a consequence-free environment." But now in the '90s, he must deal with a "just say no" world, and to a girlfriend (Vanessa) that wants him to be a "one

woman man." Myers puts Austin in many humorous situations while attempting to adjust to his new life, but in the end he grows into a responsible adult.

None of this is present in The Spy Who Shagged Me. In fact, Austin reverts back to his old, irresponsible self as soon as Vanessa is gone. I realize that part of the fun is seeing him be a swinging '60s cat, but there is no character development in The Spy Who Shagged Me.

Another strength of International Man of Mystery was Myers' subtle sense of humor. Examples are when Dr. Evil actually calls his underground lair his "underground lair," and the warm liquid goo phase of the reanimation process is identified as "the warm liquid goo phase." I find these references very funny (but maybe I am alone in this). Other examples are Dr. Evil's evil henchwoman being from "the militant wing of the Salvation Army," and "God Save the Queen" playing on the radio when Vanessa calls her mother in England.

In The Spy Who Shagged Me, Myers' went straight for the gross-out and the obvious: the big and gross evil henchman comes to mind. Furthermore, The Spy Who Shagged Me is made up of recycled jokes from International Man of Mystery. For example: In Mystery, Dr. Evil's chair rolls away from the table at inappropriate times. In Shagged, Dr. Evil's remote-control chair goes out of control.

Mystery: After a henchman lost his head to an "angry sea bass," Austin said that he was "not headstrong" and "did not have a head for business." Shagged: Austin made lame remarks after a henchman fell into a pit of molten rock.

Mystery: Dr. Evil cleverly and humorously "shushed" his son Scott. Shagged: Dr. Evil made a weak and unfunny attempt to have Scott "zip it."

These were funny the first time, but not the second (especially when the second-time-around jokes are bland).

Finally, the greatest strength of International Man of Mystery is the dedication to the spirit of the spy movie genre. Through the cast of characters and storyline we can see that Myers, too, was an avid fan of the 1960's spy shows. From Number Two, Frau Farbisma, Random Task, Mufasa, and Allota, to Mrs. Kensington and Basil Exposition, we see recognizable characters. We also see a fantastically evil plan to hold the world for ransom. In The Spy

Who Shagged Me, we get Fat #\$\$%, and a disjointed plot to steal Austin's "mojo" that ends up with everyone on the moon.

All in all, I found The Spy Who Shagged Me a terrible follow-up to International Man of Mystery. In fact, I wish Mike Myers never made the second show, but the pull of sequel profits proved too strong. If he had only listened to himself (as Austin) when he criticized "uptight squares" interested in material wealth and "taking over the world."

LTJG Mike Walker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Star Trek Premiers (1966)	8 th
Star Trek Animated Series Premiers (1973)	8 th
Roxann Biggs-Dawson (Lt B'Elanna Torres)	11 th
Walter Koenig (ENS Pavel Chekov)	14 th
Bruce Hyde (LT Kevin O'Riley)	14 th
CADET Kalan Vazquez	22 nd
Rosalind Chao (Keiko O'Brien)	23 rd
CADET Rebecca Dunn	25 th
The Next Generation Premiers (1987)	28 th
ENS Karen Ferris	30 th

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Freddy Heller (S)
Connie Heller (S)
Travis Heller (S)
Ariana Heller (S)

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AT THE PIZZA HUT (MANCHESTER
EXPRESSWAY) ON SEPTEMBER 6th
AT 7:00 PM Y'ALL COME!**

PASSAGES

The wife of ``Star Trek" actor William Shatner was found dead in the swimming pool of their home, an apparent drowning that authorities said they were treating as an accident. The distraught Shatner said she ``meant everything to me."

Nerine Shatner, 40, was pronounced dead at the scene. Shatner arrived home at about 10:15 p.m. and found her at the bottom of the pool, police Lt. Adam Bercovici said. Shatner dialed 911, pulled his wife out of the pool and administered CPR, but his efforts to revive her and similar efforts by emergency personnel were unsuccessful.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	309.54
Charlie Duke book (donated to Starfleet)	25.00
Postage	41.60
Donation: Caring for Babies with AIDS	100.00
Closing Balance	142.94

CMDR Connie Heller

SPACE: THE GAME

The pieces for this month's newsletter are SHIPS Enterprise 1701-A and SHIPS Devoras.



DaVINCI STAFF ROSTER

Commanding Officer Freddy Heller 562-TREK

Executive Officer Joe Perry 327-5888
Finance Connie Heller 562-8735
Community Service Teri Massoud 568-9943
Publications Freddy Heller 562-8735

Science Officer Michael Walker 214-5179
Counselor JoAnne Vazquez 563-9185
Recreation **VACANT**
Medical Emma Certo 582-3442

Engineering Officer Deniece Dunn 291-0150
Communications Karen Baker 323-4217
Quartermaster Randy Dunn 291-0150
Security Zach Farley 682-0140

Cadet Corps Commander **VACANT**

Master Chief Petty Officer **VACANT**

CARGO BAY 1 - THE CREW

WANTED: Star Trek fan material. In need of trading cards that came in pre-recorded videos of original series episodes. Call Freddy at 562-TREK.

FOR SALE: Cards, action figures, and a whole lot more! Both Star Trek and Star Wars! Call Freddy at 562-TREK.