



DaVinci Pilot

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

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JANUARY 2000

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season! This year, the Captain had to get all the decorations and trimmings down from the attic and find a tree to decorate.. Last year we spent Christmas away from home and so a tree with all the trimmings was not necessary. Nor were all the other inside decorations. ARRGGH! Sure wish we were going somewhere else this year as well! Oh well, it is all part of the season!

The DaVinci held its annual Christmas dinner and get together at my house. Although sparsely attended, we did have a good time. The food was plentiful and the companionship warm. The gamers had lots of fun. There were heated rounds of Great Dalmuti, hearts, euchre, poker, and the ubiquitous Chinese checkers.

Time to get serious. Although the DaVinci is not going to fold anytime soon, we do seem to be losing more members than we are gaining. As you know, Mike Walker and his family recently moved to Utah. Not only did we lose our Science Officer and good friend, but five Starfleet memberships as well. Enclosed with this month's newsletter is a Starfleet membership form. If you are not a member of Starfleet, I hope you would give some consideration on joining. Not only is Starfleet the oldest and largest of the fan associations, it is also the best! I joined Starfleet in 1993 and have never regretted that decision. In addition to the bi-monthly publication, *Communique*, there are numerous events you can attend every year. Georgia is part of Region 2, which also includes Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. Each year Region 2 holds the Sunny Summit, which is a chance for all the ships in the region to get together. In March, the Sunny Summit will be held in

Birmingham, AL. On the global level, Starfleet holds its annual International Conference, usually in the late Summer. In 2000 the IC will be held in Burlington, VT. In addition to these conferences, individual ships hold other events in which the Region as a whole is usually invited. Anniversary parties are one such event. In addition to the fun you can have, your membership in the DaVinci is cut in half when you join Starfleet. So, what can be better than being a Starfleet member in the best ship in the Fleet! If you have any questions concerning Starfleet membership, please feel free to talk to its best representatives – its members!

FCPT Freddy Heller

SECOND THOUGHTS

The new DaVinci web page is now up. The URL is <http://joseph-perry.tripod.com/DaVinci.html>. With the exception of the new address, the only change is the loss of the two movie URL. There is plenty of room if the departments want to put a page or Pages. All you have to do is send me the files, or a written description of what you want on the page(s).

There are some very interesting things happening at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center over the next few months. There will be a lecture entitled 'Star Formation, Active Galaxies and Black Holes' given by noted astronomer, Dr. Donna Weistrop from University of Las Vegas, Nevada (I wonder if they mean UNLV) on Jan 15 at 8:00 p.m.

On Jan. 20, the Mead Observatory will be used to view a total lunar eclipse. This will begin at 8:30 p.m. and continue until the eclipse is over, Please dress appropriately, as it may be cold during the session.

On Jan 26, Phillip Reader will present a monologue as Albert Einstein. It will begin at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a Star ID program on Jan 29 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

All of these programs will be at the Space Science Center. They are open to the public and are free.

Astronaut Guy Bluford will speak at the Fine Arts Hall on the CSU campus on Feb 3 at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Bluford is an Aerospace Engineer and has spent 688 hours in space during three flights. Mr. Bluford is the countries first African-American astronaut and will be speaking as part of Black History month.

CPT Joseph Perry

MISSION REPORT

So far the Shadow Hawk has maintained good relations with Star Fleet. We are still are having a little trouble recruiting people but hopefully things will change.

We have though, been improving our newsletter. We are trying new things and adding pictures. We have even started including a column written by people from around the fleet. Last month's issue of the Comm Channel featured an article and picture from our very own region 2 coordinator, Pete Mohney. That issue also contained an article from the USS Bradbury in region 12 with a review on the Star Trek experience in Las Vegas.

And in this month's issue we had pictures from the DaVinci's Thanksgiving party. Let me tell you, if you missed that, you missed some great food! I am sorry that I missed out on the Dalmuti tournament. I hear there's a red haired Bajoran running around claiming my title as the Great Dalmuti. I might just have to see about that at the next Christmas party. Bajoran Beware! [Editor's Note: Let it be known that the Shadow Hawk commander put the cadet in his place.]

Anyway, we here on board the Shadow Hawk would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Hope to see you all at the Christmas party.

CMDR Joshua Ainsworth
Shuttle Shadow Hawk

FOOD REPLICATOR

The following selected recipe is straight from the Talaxian kitchen, er, the "Star Trek Cookbook", by Ethan Philips and William J. Birnes.

Alexander Siddig's "Bashir's Spam-and-Beans Bolognese" (Serves four)

Ingredients:

- 1 16-ounce can Italian Plum Tomatoes
- 1 can Spam, cut into cubes
- 1 8-ounce can baked(not barbecued)beans
- 1 16 ounce package #8 spaghetti
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 pinch each oregano, parsley, and basil
- Garlic salt and ground pepper to taste

Preparation:

Bring water to a boil, add spaghetti, and reduce to a slow boil. Cook al dente. Drain in a strainer, mix with a little oil, and set aside.

Heat some more oil in the spaghetti pot, where you will first cube then brown the Spam but not burn it. Set aside.

Next, in the same pot, simmer the tomatoes in their juice, with oregano, parsley, basil, & garlic salt to taste.

When mixture is fully heated & seasoned, add the browned Spam and stir. Next, add the beans, stir through, and re-season to taste.

Pour over the spaghetti, top with your favorite cheese, bung on a life, and gather round the TV for the latest episode of Deep Space Nine.

"Top Ten Reasons the Crew Hates Neelix's Cooking"

- 10: Two words: Kazon saliva
- 9: Kidney is not a breakfast food
- 8: A little confused by the soup fork
- 7: Can't take any more "cream of yesterday"
- 6: Swill du jour
- 5: Square meals means diced carrots
- 4: Tuesday is fungus night!
- 3: The fruitcake leaks
- 2: Pleeka rind

And the Number One reason the crew hates Neelix's cooking: Jelly a la Neelix

CMDR Steve Gordon
Shuttle Shadow Hawk

TREK BUZZ

Since January 1998, over one million fans of the internationally phenomenal Star Trek franchise have flocked to visit Star Trek: The Experience, a 65,000 square-foot attraction at the Las Vegas Hilton. This incredible location is home to the Deep Space Nine Promenade, a completely interactive environment that immerses the guest into the universe of Star Trek. Along with the History of the Future museum, the Voyage Through Space adventure, and Quark's Bar and Restaurant, the merchandise available in the Promenade shops has been especially popular with fans. From custom novelty items to authentic costumes and props, everyone from casual visitors to dedicated Trekkers have taken advantage of the extensive array of treasures available.

Astronomers have found evidence of six new planets orbiting distant stars, bringing to 28 the planets known to exist outside of the solar system. An international team of astronomers announced Monday that all the newly discovered planets are about the size of Jupiter or larger and they all orbit stars 65 to 192 light years from Earth. At least five of them, given their distance from their stars, could have liquid water, a fundamental requirement for life, the researchers said.

Need to find that certain program and what time it comes on? Make a journey to <http://www.sftv.org> to find out about your favorite show!

**NEXT DaVINCI NIGHT WILL BE AT
THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF
PANCAKES (HARMONY PLACE) ON
JANUARY 3rd AT 7:00 PM
Y'ALL COME!**

**THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY THE
20TH OF JANUARY AT 7:00 PM AT
THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSE.
COME ONE COME ALL!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Deep Space Nine Premiers (1992)	2 nd
Aron Eisenberg (Nog)	6 th
Mark Allen Shepard (Morn)	7 th
Kirstie Alley (LT Saavik)	12 th
Voyager Premiers (1995)	16 th
CRMN Joseph Massoud	18 th
DeForest Kelley (Dr. Leonard McCoy)	20 th
David Gerrold (Author & Script Writer)	24 th
LTJG Michael Walker	25 th
CRMN Sarah Massoud	29 th

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	46.32
Deposit	5.00
Closing Balance	51.32

Please notice the low condition of the DaVinci treasury. This is one reason that the Thanksgiving and Christmas parties were held at the Captain's home instead of at the Senior Center as in previous years.

Participation in the Overseas Coupon Project is great, and the DaVinci is going to set a record, but it costs money to mail those coupons. The club is several months behind in repaying the captain for the postage, and I am holding receipts until we have "blacker" numbers in the bank. We also intend to close out the P.O. box and have mail come directly to our home to save some money.

Any donations to go directly to the coupon postage will be appreciated. As a side note, the one deposit this month was the club's "cut" from a member's participation in the Heller yard sale.

CMDR Connie Heller

NEW ADDRESS

Mike Walker has contacted us via e-mail with his new address. Drop him a line!

4125 North 3250 West

Apt. # 14-D

Lehi, Utah 84043

Phone number: 801 768-4802.

MOVIE REVIEW

I recently was able to see the Matrix, starring Keanu Reeves, on pay per view.

I really like the movie although I thought it was one of those movies that you had to follow along very carefully and couldn't miss anything or you'd be lost for the rest of the movie. I did happen to keep track of the movie and caught on to it and was able to decipher what it was all about.

It was a really cool movie with a plot that made you think. It was one of those movies that leaves you thinking, "Hmm....that could really happen one day". I also thought the special effects were very good and I hate that I missed seeing it on the big screen and in digital and THX.

I thought Keanu Reeves played a very good part as usual as did Lawrence Fishburn. Without giving too much away about the movie, it was one of those movies about computers and machines taking over the world and the humans fighting back.

All in all I would have to give this movie 3 1/2 stars.

CMDR Josh Ainsworth

GUEST MOVIE REVIEW

More ingratiating than uproarious, "Galaxy Quest" nonetheless emerges as one of the holiday movie season's more pleasant surprises.

A mischievously clever and slickly commercial sci-fi comedy with strong cross-generational appeal, pic gets impressive mileage from a one-joke premise -- stars of a "Star Trek"-type TV series are drafted into battling real extraterrestrial villains -- thanks in large measure to game efforts from a first-rate cast. Look for good-to-superior box office numbers, followed by stellar homevid biz.

Writers David Howard and Robert Gordon persuasively depict a parallel universe where a cheesy primetime space opera called "Galaxy Quest" continues to inspire a cult following almost 20 years after its cancellation. Die-hard fans known as Questerians flock to conventions where stars of the beloved series sign autographs -- for a price -- while enduring scads of questions about ridiculously arcane trivia.

Jason Nesmith (Tim Allen), the "Quest" equivalent of William Shatner, is an overbearing and unreliable egotist who clearly enjoys the

adulation he receives at the conventions.

And with good reason: Since his heyday as Cmdr. Peter Quincy Taggart, a heroic National Space Exploration Agency officer in charge of the starship Protector, Nesmith's career has been in almost total eclipse. It's only at the conventions -- and, better still, during solo promotional appearances unknown to other "Galaxy Quest" alumni -- that Nesmith gets a chance to jump-start his faded stardom.

But the conventions are painfully mixed blessings for Nesmith's overshadowed co-stars, who haven't done much since the series either: Gwen DeMarco (a becomingly blond Sigourney Weaver), who did little more than serve as a bosomy babe on the TV series; Alexander Dane (Alan Rickman), a cynical Shakespearean actor who permanently typecast himself by playing the half-human, half-reptilian Dr. Lazarus; Fred Kwan (Tony Shalhoub), a conspicuously non-Asian fellow who nevertheless played Tech Sgt. Chen; and Tommy Webber (Daryl Mitchell), who was a child actor back when he played the 10-year-old navigator of the Protector.

Guy Fleegman (Sam Rockwell), a frequent convention host, has an even more dubious claim to fame: In an early "Galaxy Quest" episode, he played a semi-anonymous crewman who was killed before the first commercial.

After an amusing prologue at a typical "Galaxy Quest" convention, the real fun begins when Nesmith is approached by a group of what he assumes to be odder-than-usual fans. The worshipful strangers -- who move stiffly, smile sweetly and sound more than a little like Coneheads -- turn out to be extraterrestrials in human guise. Mathesar (Enrico Colantoni) is leader of the Thermians, naive creatures who assume the TV programs they've picked up from Earth are documentaries, not dramas. They believe that "those poor people" on "Gilligan's Island" really were shipwrecked. And, more important, they believe Cmdr. Taggart and his crew are true-blue heroes who can help the Thermians defend themselves against the intergalactic marauders led by the dreaded Sarris (Robin Sachs).

Even though the Thermians have built a fully functioning version of the Protector, meticulously copied from the TV series, Nesmith and his co-stars (including Fleegman) are singularly ill-prepared for offscreen heroics. And Sarris and his warriors are far less credulous -- and much more media-savvy --

than the innocent Thermians.

You don't have to be an ardent Trekkie to fully appreciate "Galaxy Quest." But your enjoyment of the comedy will increase in direct proportion to your familiarity with the cliches and conventions that the screenwriters affectionately spoof. In addition to the running gags about the high mortality rate among bit players cast as unnamed crew members, there are cheeky jokes about pinch-penny set designs, absurdly booby-trapped tunnels and air ducts, and distant planets where human visitors conveniently find all the oxygen they need to breathe. Attention is also paid to the notoriously active libidos of Starship commanders.

Under the fleet and playful direction of Dean Parisot ("Home Fries"), the well-cast actors are exceptionally deft at playing thespians who aren't always quite so comfortable in their roles. Allen might have been even funnier if Nesmith were written -- and played -- with more of an edge. Still, Allen's quite good at charting the character's predictable evolution from self-absorbed ham to empathetic hero.

No stranger to outer space after her "Alien" misadventures, Weaver makes the most of an all-too-rare opportunity to demonstrate her talents for graceful pratfalls and spirited self-mockery. (In the grand wink-wink, nudge-nudge tradition of coed space adventures, "Galaxy Quest" contrives for Weaver to flash increasingly generous swaths of cleavage as the plot progresses.) Rickman smoothly underplays while delivering Dane's snooty and acerbic wisecracks, while Rockwell, Shalhoub and Mitchell earn laughs as their characters acknowledge (and work against) the limitations of the TV series roles.

In sharp contrast to what we see of the cult-fave TV series, "Galaxy Quest" is decked out with all the flashy production values and f/x wizardry you would expect in an age when "Star Wars," not "Star Trek," sets the standard. Some of the trickery has a welcome touch of spoofery. The Sarris character looks like a cross between the Borg of "Star Trek" and the evil grasshopper of "A Bug's Life." And when he tries to drive the Protector out of its intergalactic parking space, Mitchell's Tommy Webber demonstrates just how hard it is to maneuver something that big without causing a little friction.

While trying to maintain a brisk pace during the slam-bang climax, Parisot occasionally sacrifices transitional detail for warp speed. On the plus side, "Galaxy Quest" remains light and bright as it races along, and never turns nasty or mean-spirited as it satirizes the cliches and cults of "Star Trek."

Joe Leydon

Thanks to Timber Wolf for forwarding this.

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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.