



# DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 8 Number 4

OCTOBER 2002

## FROM THE CENTER SEAT

Well, our very first meeting at the Ronald McDonald house was quite memorable. We presented an honorary membership to the USS DaVinci to Sandra Okamoto. Sandra is the Leisure Editor of the Ledger-Enquirer and has been very good to the DaVinci by doing several articles about our activities. The membership was quite deserved. Welcome to the DaVinci, Sandra! After the official business portion of the meeting, the trivia book was pulled out and the contest began to see who would win either the Star Wars Pillowcase or the large Starfleet cup. Five correct answers would get the winner his or her choice of the prizes. It was a hotly fought contest. Connie Heller won the cup but graciously placed it back into the prize pool. The second round was just as close with Jeffrey selecting the Star Wars pillowcase. Jeffrey came to the meeting after hearing about the DaVinci and hopefully will join our family. Anyway, that left the cup and after a third hard fought round, Russell Ruhland walked off with the prize! Congratulations to all the winners! The prizes for the October meeting will be – no, if you want to know, you have to come to the meeting! By the way, a BIG Bajoran thanks to all of you who brought needed items for the Ronald McDonald house. Remember, although it does not cost us anything to use the conference room donating items is a good way to say “thanks.”

WOW! Did we have a great turnout for the September Night Out! It had to be one of the best attended in years! The Speak Easy Pub had 17 DaVinci crew personnel munching on such goodies as Camel Riders, Veggie Riders, Grilled Chicken, Burritos, hamburgers, hotdogs, and other assorted items! The food was good but the service left much to be desired. We only had one server for our

motley crew and so getting our drinks, food, refills, and checks was pretty slow! Still, all had a good time. A BIG Bajoran thanks to all who attended!

This year as usual we will have a Halloween “party”. It is not quite a party because we will only be passing out candy to the kids and serving hot cider and cookies to the adults, but it is a party because of the fun you will have. We have been doing this for several years and the folks in my neighborhood look forward to it every year. Assuming that the city will authorize Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup> as the official “trick-or-treat” night, the activities will begin around 6:00 PM and go until approximately 8:00 PM. I will even have some horror movies running in the house if you need a break from the outside activities! So, dust off your uniform or other costume and come by my house for some fun.

The eighth annual Help the Hooch River clean up is a few weeks away! We were able to get Rigdon Park, the same location as last year’s effort. Rigdon Park is located in South Columbus about a half mile off South Lumpkin Road. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the USS DaVinci has participated. I have heard from several of you that you plan on attending. Hopefully we will have a big turnout. The work is not that hard and it does benefit the community by cleaning up along the Riverwalk. Following the clean up, there will be a get together of all the volunteers at Columbus State University. There, you will be able to feast on pop, hotdogs, chips, and Twinkies. There will also be free t-shirts for all volunteers and plenty of activities for the kids. The Help the Hooch River clean up is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM until noon. Please come and thanks!

Commodore Freddy Heller

## SCIENCE STATION

Lately our attention has been focused on the history of science and how science has contributed to human growth and evolution. For the time being we will take a short break from that and take a quick look at the development of science fiction. Science fiction writing is a phenomenon that is geared mainly to the late nineteenth century and to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond. The American electrical engineer Hugo Gernsback first coined the term science fiction. During the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were many magazines devoted to leaders of science. Later, stories were added to the science articles to further entertain or embellish the readers of such articles. One of Hugo Gernsback's greatest contributions was the creation of the magazine "Amazing Stories" of which he was the contributor of many science fiction stories. The new science fiction magazines and later on comic books were printed on newsprint paper and became known as pulp fiction both in America and abroad. Unfortunately, to many people's minds, science fiction is still considered such trash.

Later in the 1930's science fiction gained greater legitimacy when great science fiction writing was attributed to such prophetic writers as Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, etc. According to the Encyclopedia Americana, literary historians attributed the prophet Ezekiel as writing in a form of science fiction when referring to the so-called fiery chariots. The Greek satirist, Lucian, was known to have written science fiction. Cyrano de Bergerac wrote of voyages to the moon and the sun. A modern list of literary writers included science fiction in their writings, including Rudyard Kipling, Mark Twain, E.M. Forster, Aldous Huxley, C.S. Lewis, George Orwell and Ray Bradbury. We can also include our own local science fiction writer from Pine Mountain, GA, Michael Bishop. Many of the above contributed to the legitimization of the science fiction genre. These writers legitimized the genre for four basic reasons. Number one, science fiction writers write to predict the future. Secondly, they write in order to prepare us for the future consequences of scientific inquiry and its application toward human development and exploration. Thirdly they write in order to give us a vision and a goal of a universe that is boundless beyond imagination. Finally, science fiction writers often warn us of the dangers of scientific research

that is unchecked regarding human lives and perhaps other interstellar beings. Isaac Asimov says that there are three kinds of science fiction writing. Among these concepts are, "what if...", the "if only," and "if this goes on" (the warning element of science fiction). One might say that science fiction writing engenders in all of us the wonder lust of imagination, new ideas and a positive outlook for the future.

Next month we will continue with the history of science through the Greco-Roman period and the Middle Ages.

ENS Lesh Mazur

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## COUNSELOR'S COUCH

The Sci-Fi fan: An individual totally dedicated to the knowledge and continued following of science fiction culture. One who keeps up on the latest happening of science fiction series, movies and the actors thereof.

I mentioned in last month's article that I would try to give y'all my outlook on various cultures and I can't think of a better one to start with than the science fiction fan. After all, if you had been privy to experience what I did at DragonCon in Atlanta on the 31st of August then I'm sure you would agree completely.

DragonCon was my first major convention. I had been told to look forward to a lot of people but I did not expect to see the thousands that were in attendance on that day. I was relieved that in spite of the long line awaiting registration it only took 30 minutes to register. The day's events began with a parade that included an armada of Atlanta's chapter of the Klingon Assault Group (I'm glad Star Trek got in there somewhere). DragonCon used two hotel facilities directly across from one another and I must have put at least 20 miles on my shoes going

back and forth during the day.

Even though DragonCon featured an impressive variety of science fiction fandom, the highlight of course for myself was to see and talk to the stars of the Star Trek series. Many do not realize that the actors are just real people like us and what they do as television actors is a job for them just as we work each day. Of course I did get my share of autographed photos for my collection along with a few other sci-fi collectables too.

If you have never been to a sci-fi convention I highly encourage you to attend at least one during your lifetime for it is the experience of a lifetime. By the way, autographed photos of your ship's counselor are available at a reasonable cost!

Until next month, live long and prosper!

LTJG Russell Ruhland

## NEWS FROM FLEET

Region 2 is having a competition to see how many of its members can pass Officer's Training School and Officer's Command College between summits. I received this from Pete Money, the Region 2 Coordinator: "...As I'm sure you know, both of these courses are required for promotion to Captain or higher rank. They are also some of the most valuable courses you can take at Starfleet Academy, helping you to understand what goes on in a chapter, how to help run a chapter, and how to deal with issues that may arise in a chapter. So, to help encourage this, a winner will be drawn from those who pass OTS and those who pass OCC between the 2002 and 2003 Summits. Each of these winners will receive a one-year individual Starfleet membership. These winners will be determined based on data on the Starfleet Region Two roster, so if you pass either of these courses, ask your CO to make sure your information is updated, so you'll be eligible." I would love to see more Starfleet members of the DaVinci take one or both of these courses. They are not hard, not expensive, and can be done on-line! What could be easier!

Say, if you are interested in know what is going on in Region 2, then sign up for the Region 2 mailing list. To subscribe send an email to StarfleetRegion2-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

## SCI-FI BUZZ

Art Asylum just released info on new figures, including Trip, Hoshi, and Phlox in standard uniform, and Mayweather and Reed in EVA suits, and an as of yet undecided sixth figure. As most of us know, Classic series figures are in the works, but they have also just announced a Classic Phaser, Tricorder, and Communicator 3-pack. Here is a link to the story on TrekToday, which also has links to the various AA pages.

[http://www.trektoday.com/news/230802\\_01.shtml](http://www.trektoday.com/news/230802_01.shtml)

The Sci Fi channel is canceling Farscape after the last episodes of season 4 are shown in January. I am not too sure how much good it will do, but if you want to send a nasty gram to Sci Fi Channel here are their addresses and telephone numbers.

Email: [program@www.scifi.com](mailto:program@www.scifi.com)

Telephone: (212) 413-5577 or (212) 413-5000

Address: The Sci-Fi Channel

1230 Avenue of the Americas, F115

New York, NY 10020-1513

## FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	237.32
Postage	6.85
Closing Balance	230.47

CPT Connie Heller

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to the following DaVinci personnel and Star Trek celebrities and events that are celebrating birthdays or anniversaries in October!

Avery Brooks (CPT Benjamin Sisko)	2 <sup>nd</sup>
CADET Ivy Walker	6 <sup>th</sup>
Todd Bryant (Klaa)	8 <sup>th</sup>
Scott Bakula (CPT Jonathan Archer)	9 <sup>th</sup>
CRMN Maritza Fleming	10 <sup>th</sup>
Mark Lenard (Ambassador Sarek)	15 <sup>th</sup>
Ira Steven Behr (Executive Producer, DS9)	23 <sup>rd</sup>
CRMN Mitch Colson	24 <sup>th</sup>
John Winston (LT Kyle)	24 <sup>th</sup>
Gene Roddenberry Dies (1991)	24 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Picardo (Holographic Doctor)	27 <sup>th</sup>
William Campbell (Kolothe & Trelaine)	30 <sup>th</sup>
CRMN Deniece Dunn	30 <sup>th</sup>

## DAVINCI SHIRTS

Okay, the number of shirts ordered by the crew is getting up there, however, the number polo shirts is not. If more of you do not order the polo shirts, we may not be able to have them made. I will try to find out what the minimum order has to be, but the last time I asked the folks at Unlimited T-Shirts, all I got was "we will work with you". The polo shirts will remain the same as they are now. The T-shirts will be pretty much the same with the exception that the delta symbol on the front will be black instead of white. The cost has gone up somewhat (after all, it has been nearly 4 years since we last ordered shirts). Tentatively, the cost of the t-shirts will be \$10 for small to XL, \$12 for 2X, and \$14 for 3X. The polo shirts will run \$25 for small to XL, \$27 for 2X, and \$30 for 3X. Children's sizes should be available. If you are interested in getting either the t-shirt or polo shirt or both, please let me know what type, delta symbol color (if you are getting a polo), and size. Both shirts run a little large.

## WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Todd Kes (D)  
Sandra Okamoto (D)

## NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

The following is a list of the remaining Night Out locations for the rest of the year:

November Bonanza (Phenix City)  
December Chili's

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## DaVINCI STAFF ROSTER

**Commanding Officer** Freddy Heller 562-8735

**Executive Officer** Joe Perry 327-5888  
Finance Connie Heller 562-8735  
Community Service Tony Fleming 568-6529  
Publications Freddy Heller 562-8735

**Science Officer** Lech Mazur 596-9542  
Counselor Russell Ruhland 855-4146  
Morale **VACANT**  
Medical **VACANT**

**Engineering Officer** **VACANT**  
Communications Gisela Stephens 689-4266  
Quartermaster Randy Dunn 291-0150  
Security Roger Wright 687-8052

**Cadet Corps Commander** **VACANT**

**Master Chief Petty Officer** **VACANT**

## FINALLY...

Many of you do not know when your membership in the DaVinci is due for renewal. This is due to the fact that most of the newsletters now go out via e-mail. If you get your newsletter the old fashioned way, your expiration date is on the address label. Those going via the Internet have no address label so to speak. So, to help those folks out who get the electronic version of the Pilot, here are your expiration dates for the DaVinci and Starfleet:

	<u>DaVinci</u>	<u>Starfleet</u>
Randy Dunn	Sep 02	Feb 03
Karen Ferris	Sep 03	May 03
Rose Hutson	Sep 02	
Scott Jones	Oct 02	
Todd Kes	Sep 03	
Lesh Mazur	Jul 03	
Joe Perry	Jul 03	Nov 02 (S)
Karen Pynenburg	Jul 03	May 03 (S)
Russell Ruhland	Aug 03	Aug 03 (S)
Michael Walker	Mar 03	Mar 03 (S)
Roger Wright	Mar 04	<b>Mar 02 (S)</b>

Finally, did you see the article Sandra Okamoto did about us in the Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the "To Do" insert? It was all about our presenter her with an honorary membership! Thanks Sandra!

## RM HOUSE NEEDED ITEMS

Although The Ronald McDonald House needs quite a variety of items, the items needed most are listed below. Pick something from the list and bring it with you to each meeting. This is strictly voluntary. Thanks!

### Non-Food Items

Trash Bags (XS and XL)  
Carpet Cleaner  
Spray Air Freshener  
Styrofoam Cups (L)  
Laundry Detergent  
Ziploc Bags  
Paper Plates

### Miscellaneous Items

Copier Paper  
Clasp Envelopes  
Light Bulbs  
Avery Labels 5160  
White-Out Pens  
Staplers

### Food Items

Sugar  
Bags of Hard Candy  
Snack Foods  
Non-Dairy Creamer

NOTE: Right now, they do not need canned goods, but always need perishable items such as bread, meats, cheese slices, fresh fruit, and snack foods. Gift certificates to local grocery stores, Sam's Club, Wal-Mart, and K Mart are also welcomed.

## At the Edge of the Federation

For those of you who came in late, the following is a novella written by our very own CRMN Todd Kes. Hope you enjoy reading it.

### Part XIV

The Excellon and its fellow vessels created quite a stir when they arrived at the colony of Ventradin three. All the colonists there had known was that the Excellon would be escorting a single freighter; instead they had shown up with a second shot up freighter with them. The Ventradin colony couldn't do much, as the planet was a giant ocean, except for a few islands scattered around the planet. Hurricanes were a way of life for the colonists, as hurricanes that could orbit the planet twice before reaching landfall were nightmares to think about. The upper portion of the colony was heavily armored, and the colonists there mainly lived underground. Fishing was a way of life, and a small engineering team was working on a way to regulate the hurricanes.

There was a hurricane going on over one of the upper portions of outpost three, but the colonists had developed air and underwater transports to an art. There was no problem involved in simply landing at another outpost and traveling in the air to near outpost three, then ducking underwater to arrive at the one of the colonies. Virtually every colonist was trained in how to operate a submersible, and many besides the pilots were trained how to operate the multi-environment craft that were used.

As the Excellon watched for any predators from space, the Amemnon began transferring cargo from the module to the colony below, and receiving the processed food from there. The colony dealt mainly with seafood, and other marine food production. Vast mats had been set up to encourage shellfish growth, and large areas were bubble tanks, designed to keep schools of fish one location by using bubbles as walls. There were larger predators in the sea, and the local version of the giant squid was always watched out for. The multi-environment craft could easily get away from it by going from water to the air, but the submersibles had only their speed and the defense web near the colonies to stay safe.

Some people had equipped their submersible with various forms of harpoons and explosive torpedoes to hunt the giant squids, and a few people had been lucky enough to succeed. Unfortunately, the meat from a giant squid only appealed to a few people, so there wasn't that much hunting going on. Second, the colony administrator had stripped those who were caught hunting of their license to pilot any craft. There was the added disincentive too, of the fact that the giant squid was in its element, and five ships had been lost hunting the two animals.

Several of the beings that had been used as slaves started looking at the windows suddenly. Asking Ved to translate, Commander Verrin found out that their race came from a similar type of world, and they would like to go down to the planet. After quickly talking to Captain Morgan she got together with the shuttles traveling to the planet, and was able to have the entire group on the planet. They knew that they would only have a short amount of time, so the beings took the opportunity to swim in the water. Seeing how much fun that group was having, Commander Verrin got permission from Captain Morgan to have the entire group of slaves

down to the planet, and give them a chance to relax.

That night while on the planet, the freed beings were given a very wonderful meal, as several of the creatures and plants grown underwater agreed with their body's chemistry. There was a wide variety of foods available, giving every species something to try that they would enjoy. There were a couple spear fishing expeditions that occurred and the one race that lived in water joined in, and brought back a record kill.

But even the good times had to come to an end, and all the crews and ex-slaves began returning to the ships, to get their little convoy underway again. The beings who had crewed the Potenton before were fairly skilled in creating outfits, and were preparing a surprise for the Excellon's crew. Several of them had been asking to become part of the crew as official members, but were slightly disappointed when they were told that they would have to go through Starfleet Academy. Commander Verrin began putting together a set of training manuals for them to study with though, so that if they passed the ship-approved exams, they could be shipped off to Starfleet. Ved helped in this endeavor, as he was able to translate the material to the different languages used, and was also taking the time to create a translator program for between the various languages and Starfleet standard.

When the manuals were complete, the beings threw themselves into the manuals, devoting all their time to learning the material within. They knew that only Starfleet was their protection against becoming slaves again, and they wanted to do what they could to prevent that happening to anyone else. The species that was good in water was unusually skilled in three-dimensional combat, and learned it easily, while the two other races had members that were highly skilled in physics, and the other race was skilled in memorization.

Commander Verrin had finally managed to get the names of the three races as well. The water planet beings were called Tuilasin, and the other two races came from planets similar to Earth climate. The Secongo were highly skilled in physics, while the Veichlongosemtifutu were skilled in memorization. They understood that other races were not as skilled as they were in memorization, so they had been shortening their names to four syllables, so that others could easily say them. They had realized that long names took time to repeat in combat, and had

no trouble knowing their new names now. There were individual variations in the three species, as one Tuilasin might be good in memorization, while a Secongo might now know as much about physics, but was skilled with machines, while a Veich might be among the deadlier in hand to hand combat.

Captain Morgan was getting concerned these days though, for the Excellon was down to half its fuel supply. Since it took several months for a freighter to arrive, he knew that his ship would be down to one month's fuel left when it arrived. Power-saving measures were not being used though, because the main power-saving measure was to shut down the warp drive and subspace scanners. Given that there were hostile vessels out there that was not a good idea.

But he refused to let that worry him now, and he composed a message to be sent back to starbase 121 that would be sent when he arrived at the next colony. It would be a week before they arrived, so he was able to complete it easily. He heard about what Commander Verrin was doing, and smiled. She was probably enjoying herself over there, with the entire ship under her control, and being able to enjoy every second of it.

Commander Verrin would have disagreed with Captain Morgan at that moment. One of the gravity networks had developed a surge phenomenon, and every few seconds the gravity would suddenly vary to a new value. This value ranged from one third a G, to up to two and a half times normal gravity. She had finally had enough of it, and had ordered the main gravity net shut off while the engineers figured out the problem. Although everybody had been floating around weightless for several hours, the engineers had been able to fix the problem with the power relays, and the gravity was slowly turned back up to one tenth gravity. This was done to allow objects to slowly fall to the deck, instead of having everyone land hard from a sudden restoration.

But the engineers were slowly working around the problems, and finding all the old equipment left behind by the slavers. They were replacing it with working, effective components as they traced their way through the wings and parts of the Potenton. As each component was removed, it was analyzed by the combined engineering teams, and a suitable replacement was found. Several components were found that seemed to combine several functions in

them, and they were saved for the engineering teams to look over when they had a chance. New technological ideas might come out of those components, and the engineers on board were known for their curiosity. The fire-control circuits for the large energy cannon were also analyzed, and gone over for any possible loopholes in the circuitry.

**\*\*\*To Be Continued Part XV Next Month\*\*\***

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