



DaVinci Pilot

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

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NOVEMBER 2002

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

It is really hard to believe that our annual Thanksgiving get together is just around the corner! Where has this year gone? The Thanksgiving get together is scheduled for Saturday, November 23rd beginning at 2 PM and ending when the last person leaves. It will be held at our house as usual. Of course, the club will furnish the turkey while the rest of the goodies will come from those attending. As always, you must call Gisela (689-4266) to let her know what you plan to bring. This is true even if you bring the same thing year after year. It helps give our resident chef an indication of what size bird to buy. Every year we have a great time with good company and plenty of great food. Please make sure you clear your calendars and attend this yearly event. Because of the switching around of the meeting time and the Night Out time, things will be a little different this year. In past years when the membership meeting was held on the third Thursday, we cancelled the meetings for November and December because of their close proximity to the Thanksgiving and Christmas event. This year it will be the Night Out that will be cancelled. The November and December meetings will go on as scheduled.

Speaking of the meeting, we had a great time at the October meeting. Instead of the usual bit of trivia, we played "SPACE: The Game." Some nice prizes were passed out to the winners. Please join us at the November meeting for your chance at fame and glory. (Margaret, I checked my stash of goodies and I still have several more STARFLEET cups, so you still have several chances to win one.)

Our 6th annual participation in the annual Help-the-Hooch river clean up was a resounding success! We had the largest turnout since 1997, which was

our very first participation. Fifteen DaVinci personnel and their guests managed to fill up 8 bags of trash. The usual tire was found on the banks of the Chattahoochee, as were scores of cans, bottles, and Styrofoam cups. The dreaded "Cardies" did not bother us this year, although a few strafing runs were noticed. A wonderful surprise greeted those in attendance. It seems as if Tony Fleming does indeed have a wife and children! Yes, we were finally able to meet the family many believed did not really exist! A BIG Bajoran hello goes out to Maritza, Tony's lovely wife, and his two kids, Mariaelena, and Vincenzo. Hey guys, we hope to see more of you. And, a BIG Bajoran thanks to all who helped make this year's clean up the success it was.

I finally was able to place the T-shirt order! Hopefully, by the time you read these words, they will be ready to be picked up! So, if you have not yet paid me for your order, please do so as soon as possible.

Recently one of our own suffered a tragic loss. Gisela Stephens lost her son, Robert, in a senseless drive by shooting. Robert was sitting in a bar near his home when a car of lowlifes drove by and fired several rounds into the bar. Robert was struck and killed. Gisela lost a beloved son and Rose a brother. It is senseless acts such as this one that makes one wish for a world similar to that shown in Star Trek; a place where the world is at peace and where all of mankind is truly equal. It is a wonderful dream and is one of the reasons I love the Trek world so much. Please say a prayer for Gisela, Rose, and the rest of the Stephens family and for Robert who will never know the joy the future will bring.

Commodore Freddy Heller

SCI-FI BUZZ

Here is an interesting article from the 11 September New York Daily News:

"Two weeks into the new TV season, "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" network UPN's getting hammered in the ratings, meaning it will be forced to give away free commercial time to satisfy its advertisers, media buyers said.

With its ratings down 30% in its key demographic of 18 to 34 year olds, Viacom-owned UPN "is hurting the most" of all the six broadcast networks, said Michael Drexler, chief executive of media buying firm Optimedia International.

Among the downers: returning programs "Buffy" and "Star Trek: Enterprise," as well as newcomer "Haunted." "Their target audience is getting clobbered," Drexler said. "I'm sure they are behind where they thought they would be," said Steve Sternberg, senior vice president of ad buyer Magna Global.

It is early in the game and just one hit show could turn things around. But if the pattern continues, UPN will be faced with giving away millions of dollars worth of free advertising time, media execs said. And the network would be shut out of the current robust TV ad market.

While UPN's ratings are down, AOL Time Warner-owned rival WB Network has rallied. "We got back on a growth track," WB network president Jed Petrick told the Daily News. Early this year UPN was folded under respected CBS Network boss Leslie Moonves, and in sharp contrast, CBS is on a hot streak.

UPN execs defended their schedule and said "Buffy" and "Star Trek," are facing tough comparisons with last year when those shows enjoyed unusually strong debuts. Joe Abruzzese, the CBS ad sales boss now responsible for selling UPN, said "we are a little disappointed." But he added that UPN is just 8% to 9% below the ratings promised to advertisers, which he called "manageable." "It's very, very early in the season," he said. "We still have inventory to sell."

**THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WILL BE AT 7 PM ON 07 NOVEMBER
AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
COME ONE COME ALL!**

GENERAL RAMBLINGS

All right, now how long is it before they reveal that Soval (the infuriating Vulcan ambassador portrayed by Gary Graham) is actually a close relation of T'Pol: brother, uncle, "Daddy"? Look at the resemblance—the bedroom eyes and especially those pouty lips. That would also explain his displeasure at her loyalty to the Enterprise crew, especially if he expected her to act as a spy on his behalf. No doubt he supported the Andorian spy station at the Vulcan shrine, which would mesh quite well with his paranoid tendencies.

I was dissatisfied with the story of T'Pol's great-grandmother. Let's see, three exotic-looking strangers mysteriously arrive in a small town during the height of the Cold War, unfamiliar with common American customs and icons. They are embraced by the townspeople. Wake up, folks! This is sweet but unrealistic! Can anyone say "Russkie spies"?

Who else spotted the blooper on the Romulan episode? While Malcolm was pinned to the ship, he told Archer to turn the second set of detonators clockwise and instead he turned counterclockwise and the mine didn't blow up (then)! Maybe it was counterclockwise/clockwise, but anyway it was the wrong direction.

And is there anyone in this galaxy who can explain Andromeda's season opener? Was that the gateway to hell? Why did Tyr lose his forearm spurs? Is it because he is "devolving" to normal human feelings? Notice that they're losing all the tough prosthetic appliances—bone spurs, Trance's tail, the entire character of Rev Bem. I did like the little spurt of power that Trance exhibited in the Maru when she set herself free from Beka's shackles. And thank goodness Rommie got rid of her blue hair. Did you catch Beka's response to the change: "I can do that!" Remember, it was Beka's hair that Harper used when he created Rommie.

CPT Connie Heller

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HAVING OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING
GET TOGETHER AT THE CAPTAIN'S
HOUSE ON THE 23RD AT 2 PM**

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	230.47
Deposit	176.00
Closing Balance	406.47

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 November!!

Armin Shimerman (Quark)	5 th
Eric Menyuk (The Traveler)	5 th
Robert Duncan McNeill (LT Tom Paris)	9 th
CADET Maxwell Walker	11 th
Wallace Shawn (Grand Nagus Zek)	12 th
Whoopi Goldberg (Guinan)	13 th
Max Grodenchik (Rom)	14 th
Star Trek Generations Premiers (1994)	18 th
Terry Ferrell (LTCMDR Jadzia Dax)	19 th
Robert Beltran (CMDR Chakotay)	19 th
Alexander Siddig (Dr. Julian Bashir)	21 st
CRMN JoAnne Vazquez	22 nd
Star Trek: First Contact Premiers (1996)	22 nd
Denise Crosby (LT Natasha Yar)	24 th
Ricardo Montalban (Khan Noonian Singh)	25 th
Jeffrey Hunter (CPT Pike)	25 th
Star Trek IV Premiers (1986)	26 th

ACOLADES

Congratulations to Russell Ruhland who recently graduated with honors from the College of Religious History, STARFLEET Academy.

A BIG Bajoran thanks to Karen Pynenburg who donated 800+ aluminum cans to the DaVinci.

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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 03	
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	Mar 02 (S)

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 XV

When they reached the next stop, the colony of Tentarin five welcomed them. The colony had been hearing about the missing ships, and had been building new sensors to help. They hadn't sent the new sensors out yet, as they had feared that the mysterious raiders would simply capture the sensors initially, and after that because no shuttles had ever come. But when the Excellon had arrived, the colonists were very happy to use the ship as their new guinea pig.

Captain Morgan put a stop to that immediately. He didn't want his ship changed too much, so he had the colonist's transport up a working model of their new sensors, along with full information on how it was put together and standard operating limits. The new technology from the Potenton caused the greatest stir, and the Starfleet security

on-base had to stop a small riot as the local mad scientist engineers nearly tore each other apart trying to get to the pieces to analyze them. But after the engineers and scientists on the base began working together, they said they would have an initial report ready in a few hours. The younger engineers quickly made new components, and the Potenton was soon equipped with enough spare components to completely rebuild its electronics.

When the report was given, Captain Morgan felt a new respect for the slavers. The circuitry was designed to withstand repeated blows from heavy physical and electric shocks and keep on working. The main reason his ship had done as well as it had during the first two battles was because the Federation equipment hadn't been able to handle the stress. These components were tough, and though they had failed, it had been the Federation hardware that had failed first. Asking the teams here to see what they could do to improve Federation technology, he left them in a state of excitement as they began tossing out theories on how to improve the computer systems.

Finding a second group, he gave them the information on the slaver's ion weapon, and began asking them how the shields could be better set up to defend against the energy surges. The answer surprised him, as it was similar to what he had said; use the conductive mesh to absorb what energy gets through the shields. When one of the scientists questioned about what to do with the excess energy resulting from the dispersion, an engineer spoke up and said that the power from the battery could be channeled to a laser system, and the laser could be used to fight off the slaver ships.

Several other engineers were startled by the idea, but the idea suddenly came into focus for them, and they began getting to work on the system. It eventually was designed to use a triple battery system. One battery would be charging, one being made ready to charge, and a charged battery being used to fire the laser. The system was eventually designed to be installed on a cargo module, with four lasers being used, and a power plant on board that could fire the lasers if the slavers weren't being kind enough to provide the power to do so. The shields were designed for the Amemnon also, and were set to be slightly "leaky". This way the shields would take some of the impact, but would mainly disperse the charge inside the shield, resulting in

less impact in one location, but still delivering the charge to the mesh.

Looking at the timetable for the construction, Captain Morgan asked them to send the modified plans to Starbase 121, and also asked them to send his report to the Starbase as well. In the meantime, Captain Morgan also asked them to begin research into a system that had more resistance to the surge effects from the ion weapons. The scientists said they would get on it, and Captain Morgan then turned to Captain Verrin, and asked her how the trip on the Potenton was.

Commander Verrin looked at him in the eye and said, "You knew that it would be a rough ride, didn't you?"

"I had my suspicions, but I take it was worse than I thought?"

"Let me put it this way. The temperatures fluctuated wildly; the gravity net went out a couple times, and the lights strobed several times. It was a trip that I am not going to forget, that's for sure."

"How did the other races do to help you during the time?"

"The other three did a great job. They worked just as hard as any of the other crewmembers to get the ship repaired, and were learning all about the Federation in the meantime. I have to admit, we'd still be behind schedule if it weren't for their efforts.

"But the best help I have had so far is from Ved. He, at least I am referring to Ved as a he, is a perfect translator. He can learn any language it seems, and understand it in a very short time. I had him develop a translation book for the other races, and they are learning our language right now."

"Sounds like you've got a good crew right now. How do you feel about knowing that you'll have to eventually leave that ship and return to the Excellon?"

"Right now, I'd do anything for a decent shower. The shower systems on board that ship are communal, and the only temperature control is either searing hot or freezing cold. By standing between two nozzles, and aiming them at me, it was tolerable, but I plan on taking a nice shower today. Not only that, but view screens were in there, and the computer was set up to automatically route the caller to wherever the recipient was. I had to have the bridge put a limit on the calls for people, because otherwise I would have been paged in the shower.

"Quit laughing!"

Captain Morgan was chuckling at the thought of his confidant XO suddenly being interrupted, and even more at what the person calling must have thought when the image appeared. "Sorry about that, I was imagining what the person on the other end was thinking. Why didn't you just put a towel over the screen?"

"There was no place to hang it. Also, the engineering teams were busy trying to keep the engines running, and there were not enough extra hands for a job like that."

"Did you enjoy your chance to command the ship though?"

"I suppose so, yes. I did enjoy the chance to be in charge of the ship, even with all the problems. Even though I was responsible for everything that happened, knowing that everything would eventually be my responsibility, I enjoyed the fact that I could do anything, with my conscience as the only authority I had to answer to."

"And Starfleet."

"And Starfleet."

Captain Morgan smiled, realizing that Commander Verrin had appreciated the fact that a Captain could indulge in almost any whim, and she had realized that a conscience was the best friend.

"Is there anything else Commander?"

"Nothing at all Captain."

"Very well then, feel free to return to your ship."

As Commander Verrin walked out the door, Captain Morgan suddenly said, "Commander."

"Yes Captain?"

"Call me Paul."

"Susan." With that brief interchange, they now felt more comfortable with each other, and Susan Verrin smiled inwardly as she left the room. 'Yes!'

The next day, the convoy left the planet's orbit, and proceeded into warp towards their next stop. With the new parts, the engineering team on the Potenton was able to finish the repairs and replacements, bringing the Potenton back to its normal operation. Special compensation had been necessary for the different races, so the crew quarters were slightly different, but as for normal operations, the different species found ways to adapt to human norms in temperature and pressure. The Tuilasin simply brought a water bottle around with them to stay hydrated, and the other races made do with other similar implements.

Nothing important happened on the rest of their trip, except for the three new races causing a stir on each of the colonies as they went down to look around. There had been no fear of them causing a medical problem, because they had been living around humans for several months, and the humans had checked out fine on their medical scans. The medic on the Potenton had transferred the blood samples from each of the different beings to the Excellon, where the doctor had looked at them and pronounced them safe to interact with humans. The samples allowed the doctor to see what the effects of various compounds were, allowing her to see if various foods were poisonous to the four types of races. There had been a couple foods that could not be eaten, but on the whole, the four races were able to get their full nutrition from the foods on board the Potenton.

When they arrived back at Starbase 121, several members of the three races had asked to take the tests for Starfleet Academy admission. The tests would be administered at the base, and the results would be analyzed afterwards. Surprising Captain Morgan though, was the small construction yard in orbit. He quickly got a communications line open to Commander Wilson, and began talking.

"Commander, this is Captain Morgan. What is that in orbit?"

"Captain, how do you like my new toy? It's a small antimatter production plant. When complete it will be able to provide enough antimatter for your ship. There are also several antimatter pods orbiting the fourth planet, and I can detail several shuttles to help you in loading them aboard your ship. I ordered a freighter to perform a re-supply of antimatter the last time you were here, and also asked the supply department to send an antimatter plant as well. They couldn't get all the components on board, so I just had them send the components that couldn't be built here.

"The ship arrived two weeks ago, and we've been building it the entire time. No antimatter is being produced, because all the pods here are full, and we haven't had a chance to build any. If you're willing, we can change out the pods, and see how well the plant works."

"Sounds like a great plan. I'll send the message to my chief engineer, and we'll get started on refueling. Did you send my report on to Starfleet Command?"

"Sure did, and I expect they are going crazy about what happened out here. You found a total of four new races, and possible a fifth if the slavers are a different race. Not only that, but you managed to recapture two of the freighters used, ten of the shuttles, and found out about a totally new weapon. They're probably going into shock right now over the report.

"For fueling, how does tomorrow sound? I can get a few shuttles and tow ropes together, and two shuttles can string a tow rope between them to bring one antimatter pod at a time. If the containment fails, the shuttles can disconnect the rope, and the pod will detonate. With the rope between them, the shuttles won't be burning it with their impulse exhaust."

"Sounds good. The Excellon's needed an antimatter meal for a few months, and this sounds like the perfect opportunity to eat. Is there anything else that I should know about?"

"Nothing else Captain."

"Excellon out."

Captain Morgan later got together with Lieutenant Commander Faithen, and told him the news about the anti-matter fueling. He got out the necessary materials, and got his engineering team together. Thanks to the Starbase, there had been several new recruits there, and the various departments had been brought back up to normal levels. The new people were of the same grade as the original crew, i.e. the ones Starfleet didn't want to have the people back home knowing about, but they were slotted into the rest of the crew without much disruption.

The anti-matter fueling was scheduled for the next day, and Captain Morgan got together with the Amemnon and the Potenton's crew. He asked them for a report on consumables needed to keep operating, and other material needs. Commander Verrin and Lieutenant Gordon had prepared a report, and were talking to him now. Commander Wilson was there by communications link as well, to see if he needed to have his base do anything.

"Both of our ships are getting a little low on deuterium fuel. Can the base provide us with more, along with some tritium reserves?"

"We have over fifty tons of deuterium stored here. There is also one ton of tritium stored here as well, so refueling your ships should be no problem. However, do you really need to take both ships back out again? The colonies produce a small enough

amount that only one module freighter is needed."

Commander Verrin and Lieutenant Gordon looked at each other in that regard. Both of them had gotten used to being in charge of a ship and neither wanted to give up that privilege. Lieutenant Gordon knew that her ship was in good shape, but she also knew that rank had its privileges, and figured that she was going to lose her command.

Captain Morgan broke the tie. "The Potenton will stay here, but Commander Verrin will transfer over and take command of the Amemnon. Lieutenant, I know you've grown attached, but it's time for you to return to the Excellon."

Command Verrin then raised an important point. "Captain, what about the different races on board the Potenton? What will be done with them?"

Commander Wilson was able to answer that. "The Starbase here can handle most of them, as long as we can provide the right kind of food. I've gone over your doctor's list of foods to avoid, and I am sure that we can provide the right kinds for everyone."

"Commander, how did they do on the Starfleet exams?"

"Captain, not many of them passed the test. This could be due to the fact that they only had one month to prepare, and that most of the material on the test requires them to think from a human's perspective. I have an exact breakdown of the scores here if you want. According to the average scores of them all, they were good in engineering skills and repairing, and not so good in moral issues. Five of the group of forty three passed, and they are eligible to enter Starfleet Academy. But it will take some time to get the full paperwork in order, to allow a new species to attend the Academy, and if I might be so bold, I'd like to have them here to help me. A couple of the ones who passed have scores that are what I would normally expect from a second or third-year cadet."

"The Excellon could use a couple as well. Their presence will help us remember what we're looking for out here. How about if we give the ones who passed the exam a choice and the remaining will be assigned on an as-needed basis?"

"Sounds good Captain."

With that decided, the meeting broke up, and Lieutenant Gordon began moving her stuff back to the Excellon, while Commander Verrin began transferring her stuff to the Amemnon. The

Amemnon's crew was a little disappointed, as they couldn't call their Captain 'Batgirl' anymore. Lieutenant Gordon had been puzzled by the reference at first, but after she had looked it up, she had shaken her head. True, she was good with gadgets and figuring stuff out, but the red hair had completed the nickname. Fortunately, not many people knew that her first name really was Barbara, and she was determined that nobody would find that out.

*****To Be Continued Part XVI Next Month*****

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