



DaVinci Pilot

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

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MARCH 2003

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

We had an excellent turnout for our February meeting. A vote was taken as to whether we will continue meeting at the Ronald McDonald house or go back to meeting at my house. The vote was to keep meeting at the Ronald McDonald House. The main reason is its convenience to the folks driving in from the Alabama side of the river. The Ronald McDonald House is more centrally located for those who live in Phenix City and Columbus areas. Because the 3rd Thursday is not available, we will continue to meet on the first Thursday of every month.

The USS DaVinci will be celebrating its 7th anniversary in March and we would like to invite anyone who wishes to come to join us for a fun-filled day! The festivities will take place on Saturday the 22nd of March!

Now I know what you are thinking, that this takes place 2 weeks after the Summit and one week after Saint Patrick's Day and most of you have little time and money left. That may be true, but if you do not come, you will be missing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Because of his years of volunteer service to the Coca-Cola Space Science Center in Columbus, the head of the Center has kindly offered Joe Perry and up to 38 of his friends the opportunity to run a mission. The Space Science Center houses a Challenger Learning Center. These centers were established in the name of the Challenger astronauts, who lost their lives in 1986, with the mandate of furthering space science education. For this reason, they run simulated missions that have been approved by NASA. It costs \$600 for local business groups and requires from 18 to 38 people. They are divided up into 2 groups. The first group

goes into a simulated mission control (as seen in the Johnson Space Center, Houston). The second group goes into a small theater (looks like a space shuttle). There they see a short film on a shuttle take-off and rendezvous with the ISS. At this time they exit the shuttle and enter a mock-up lab similar to what would be on the ISS. In conjunction with the group at 'mission control', they proceed through the mission. At the halfway point, the two groups switch places. It takes about 2-2 1/2 hours and is a lot of fun.

Now for the exciting news! The cost to Joe and his friends will be ZERO! That is right, it is FREE! What an opportunity to experience what it is like to run a mission! This is now even truer since the tragic loss of the Columbia crew. What we would like to do is get a \$5.00 donation from all who attend. Half the money will go to the Region for its various charities and half will go to the DaVinci and its charity.

These are the tentative plans. The mission will take place on Saturday, March 22nd at approximately 11:00 AM. Following the mission we will adjourn to the Captain's house for food and good times. If you want to join us for a great time, call Gisela Stephens as soon as you can so that arrangements can be made.

This invitation has also gone out to Region 2 and so far I have had 6 letting me know they will attend at least the Shuttle Mission!

Well, the Night Out at Hooter's had to be one of the best attended ever – for the males on the ship anyway! There were 11 males and two females (Connie and Ariana). Certainly not the best proportion! Anyway, the food was excellent and so was scenery – oops, I mean service!

Commodore Freddy Heller

COUNSELOR'S COUCH

Miss me? Maybe not! Ok, I get the point. Let me talk this month about a subject that many of you might rather desire to keep within their inner conscience than discuss openly. That's right, I'm talking about that old, long forgotten, placed away in the back of our thoughts, hoping never to become an open topic, item of despair - cleaning the storage room!

Having served in the US Armed Forces as a member of the Army for over 20 years I found myself of course being in the position of moving from one location to another on many occasions. Being retired now for over 10 years I've since moved at least 3 times as well. Now I can sense your nerves starting to tingle when it comes to going through all those boxes and crates that have grown from a small one or two, "I'll save those items to pass down" boxes to the infamous, "Hey honey! How did we end up with all this junk?" Surprisingly enough, there's hope yet for all those remnants of times gone by and even still, you may be amazed at what you'll find by pulling a little inventory on all that stuff.

My oldest son was sorting through some stuff that I have had in storage for as long as 20 years or so and next thing I know, he's saying, "Hey, Dad, look what I found." Although I've been a member of Starfleet and the USS DaVinci for about 1 1/2 years, I have been a "Trekkie" ever since the series was first run and would hold on to the few items of what I call "trek-lectibles" whenever they came across my path. My son had found an old TOS quiz book, two hardback copies of the TOS movies, ST-III and ST-IV, a movie poster, and the original series Star Trek Compendium. Unfortunately, the three books had obtained apparent water damage and were not able to be saved but I believe the other two items can be cleaned up to some personal value at the least.

Well, there's my hard luck story for ya'll. I guess everyone will be counseling me now for not checking up on those type of things more often. I did learn one lesson; check up on those old boxes more often and maybe you might just find that hidden treasure lurking in the midst of it all. Until next time, live long and prosper!

LT Russell Ruhland

COMMUNITY SERVICE

As the Region 2 Summit draws closer, I noticed that the official charity for the weekend was the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. This group was formed by parents of children with diabetes in 1970. Their mission is to find a cure for the disease and its complications through support of research.

This group is making progress in the search for a cure. One of the more promising treatments being investigated that I was reading about at the web site www.jdrf.org is the Islet transplantation using the Edmonton Protocol. While this is not the end to the disease it is a step in the right direction. JDRF is now leading the worldwide effort to expand the success of the Edmonton Protocol. The money raised during the Region 2 Summit will be used to help continue this important research. One of the biggest fund raising projects for the Summit is the charity auction which is held on Saturday night. In the past there has been quite a range of collectibles and services put on the auction block. So whether you are interested in picking up an autographed picture of your favorite character, a fantasy movie script, or a dance with some Regional officer there should be something for everyone. Not only will it be a great way to pick -up some interesting items, but will be a great way to make a contribution to this organization. Last year our Region was able to contribute \$1,120.53. With the mark set let us proceed to break that amount and make another contribution to a worthy cause.

On February 22, the first ever asthma walk in Georgia was held in Columbus. Last year was the first year the event was held. The money raised will go to asthma education programs. A band of willing DaVinci volunteers arrived at the Lumpkin Center on the campus of Columbus State around 8:30 am. We proceeded to set up tables and chairs for the various displays. We must have set up nearly 20 tables and 40 chairs! There must have been nearly 50 volunteers and for a while it looked as if there would be more volunteers than walkers. Thankfully, this did not turn out to be the case. By 11:00 am, the Lumpkin Center was crowded with individuals and groups ready to tackle the 1.5 mile course around the campus of CSU. Thanks to Freddy and Joe who helped in this worthy cause.

LT Tony Fleming

ATTENTION ON BOARD!

A Starfleet Marine unit has been activated on board the USS DaVinci! All crew personnel are encouraged to join. My name is LT Frazier L. Smith, and I have been appointed as Officer in Charge (OIC) of the unit. The Marine unit is the 678th Special Operations Marine Strike Group (MSG). If anyone has a question about the Marines you can contact me at murock44@yahoo.com or you can see me at DaVinci meeting. The Marines will hold a meeting on the same night as the DaVinci. Hope to see you there!

LT Frazier Smith

FLEET NEWS

The following was written by Sandy Berenberg the new Chief of Communications for Starfleet and I thought I would pass it on:

“I would like to take this opportunity to re-introduce myself to you in my new role as Chief of Computer Operations for Starfleet. Like my work in Membership Processing, I wish to continue to bring you innovation, efficiency and personal service. The team assembled to provide Computer Operations Service is ready to move forward with each of the projects that we have spoken about in the past.

Over the course of the next two years, we hope to continue to provide excellent Membership Processing, now under leadership of RAdm Gerri Wampler. New materials are being produced for the membership and should be ready within a week or two. The Starfleet Membership Database (Dynee) continues its evolution and improvements. The General Membership is to be rolled out shortly.

Several last minute changes and improvements are still being completed and we want to finish these before rolling out the General Membership. But if you cannot wait, send an email to HelpDesk@sfi.org and request your username and password.

We have four planned Roll Outs for 2003 and four for 2004. This means that improvements to be implemented every 3 months. In between this time, we will give Dino and his team some time to relax and have a life. I hope you understand the burdens of being a webmaster, product developer, engineer,

QA Tester and Database Administrator simultaneously can be very taxing. The Recruitment Department has been hard at work preparing their services and programs for Starfleet. Mandi Livingston and Bob Vosseller will be making an announcement about the Recruitment Department and services. The Unassigned Member Director, Bran Stimpson, and his team will soon start work with each Region to help better support Fleet's unassigned members. Michael Dugas is preparing the new Computer Operations Website which should be ready within a few weeks. This site will contain our staff list and services provided. The Computer Operations Website will then grow and evolve as our Computer Operations Department does. If you have any membership concerns, you may address them at any time to either: helpdesk@sfi.org or compopshelp@sfi.org. We have big plans to help further your Starfleet Experience. My office is always open, so please feel free to contact me should you need my assistance or any help in any Membership Services area.”

ACCOLADES

Many thanks to Roger Wright for donating over 3000 tabs!

A BIG Bajoran thanks to Lisa Neal who brought over to my house nearly 1000 stamped envelopes!

Congratulations to Tony Fleming who recently passed, with honors, the College of Treknology's Star Trek The Next Generation Main Character Test.

Congratulations to Russell “Mr. SFA” for passing, with honors, yet more Starfleet Academy courses. From the Vulcan Academy of Science a Bachelors in Meteorology; from the College of Trade and Commerce Intermediate Level; and from the College of Temporal Physics - Basics of Temporal Physics!

Finally, congratulations to Joe Perry who was selected to serve as the Region 2 Assistant Inspector General!

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Randy Dunn (S)

SCI-FI BUZZ

The Academy was kind to "Lord of the Rings; The Two Towers" bestowing six Academy Award nominations. They are: Best Picture, Art Direction, Sound, Sound Editing, Film Editing, and Visual Effects. Other sci-fi pictures getting nominations were: "Spiderman" for Sound, "Minority Report" for Sound Editing, "The Time Machine" for Makeup, "Spiderman" for Visual Effects, and "Star Wars: Attack of the Clones" also for Visual Effects.

Star Trek producer Rick Berman has acknowledged that following the failure of Star Trek: Nemesis, the future of the feature franchise is uncertain. "I don't think this is like falling off a horse, and you want to jump right back on it," he told Sci-Fi Wire, the news Web site of the Sci-Fi Channel. Asked what went wrong, Berman replied: "There's no way of telling what happened. ... I'm convinced that we made a very good movie, and I'm also convinced that the movie was promoted properly." Star Trek fans, apparently, are not nearly so mystified by what occurred. On the Web site, one Trekkie posted this message in response to Berman's remarks: "The huge plot holes, the inconsistencies within the story, the inconsistencies within the Trek framework, the lack of historical continuity within the series, the lack of logic or common sense in the writing and MUCH more led to this film alienating not only all of the fans I know but all of the intelligent non-fans I know, too. Folks, people were ****laughing**** during the screening I attended, and not at the 'funny parts.' "

REGION 2 SUMMIT

Well, the Region 2 Summit is just one short week away! The 2003 Region 2 Summit will be held 7-9 March in Huntsville, AL and a mere 3 hours from Columbus! The DaVinci will have a fairly good turnout! Seven have signed up and will attend the festivities! Along with Connie and myself, Joe, Russell, Tony, Lech, and Margaret will also be attending. A BIG Bajoran thanks to all! If you decide at the last minute you wish to attend, I am sure that you can still get tickets for the panels although the banquet may be sold out. Check the Region 2 web site for all the latest information: [http://www.omnifacets.com/Region2/summit/index.htm!](http://www.omnifacets.com/Region2/summit/index.htm)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

James Doohan (LTCMDR Montgomery Scott)	3 rd
Jolene Blalock (T'Pol)	5 th
CADET Ariana Heller	12 th
J.G. Hertzler (Martok)	18 th
First Human to Walk in Space (Alexi Leonov 1965)	18 th
Conner Trineer (CMDR Charles "Trip" Tucker)	19 th
John DeLancie ("Q")	20 th
CADET Travis Heller	22 nd
William Shatner (CPT James T. Kirk)	22 nd
Michael Westmore (Makeup Designer)	22 nd
D. C. Fontana (Story Editor)	25 th
Leonard Nimoy (Spock)	26 th
Yuri A. Gagarin Dies (1968)	27 th
Marina Sirtis (CMDR Deanna Troi)	29 th
ENS Lesh Mazur	30 th

NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

At the Christmas party, we selected the restaurants for the 2003 DaVinci Night Out. Several locations were chosen that we have never been to before. It looks like a pretty good year! And so, without further ado, here are the 2003 Night Out locations:

April:	Hunan's
May:	Olive Garden (At Last!)
June:	El Vaquero
July:	Texas Steakhouse
August:	Primo's Italian Buffet
September:	Golden Corral
October:	Cheddars
November:	Longhorn Steakhouse

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	321.15
Summit for XO	45.00
Postage	8.05
Deposit	10.00
Closing Balance	250.99

CPT Connie Heller

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
Marine OIC	Fraizer Smith	298-5074
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	Nov 03	Feb 03
Karen Ferris	Sep 03	May 03
Rose Hutson	Sep 03	
Todd Kes	Sep 03	
Lesh Mazur	Jul 03	Nov 03
Joe Perry	Jul 03	Nov 03
Karen Pynenburg	Jul 03	May 03
Russell Ruhland	Aug 03	Aug 03
Frazier Smith	Feb 04	Mar 03
Michael Walker	Mar 03	Mar 03
Roger Wright	Mar 03	Jan 04

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 XVIII

The remaining trip through the colonies and back to the Starbase went quietly, leaving Captain Morgan alone with his thoughts. The only person who he could normally talk with, emotionally an equal, was Commander Verrin. But since she was on the Amemnon, she was not available, so Captain Morgan had to content himself with his thoughts. 'We are the only armed ship in this sector. We have to find the slaver's base. But if we go to find the slaver's base, we will be abandoning the other colonies, and the freighters that are needed to keep the colonies going. The other alternative, having the freighters tag along with us, is not a good one, because if the base's defenses are tough, we might have to leave quickly, and a freighter isn't accustomed to moving quickly.

'So the only way to keep the colonies supplied is to either deposit a larger than usual amount of supplies at the colonies, or get another ship here.' "Computer, call up a list of Starfleet officers who are currently out of favor with Starfleet headquarters."

"Insufficient data provided. Please elaborate 'out of favor'."

"List all officers who have received failing marks on the section of their officer review titled 'Political Correctness'."

"Processing. List complete. Eighty-seven officers found and are listed in alphabetical order."

"Remove from that list all officers that are currently assigned to the Excillon."

"Sixty-seven officers."

"How many are of Captain rank?"

"None are of Captain rank."

"How many are higher than captain rank?"

"Three."

"List all the ones below Captain rank on this screen, in descending order of rank."

A screen in front of Captain Morgan flashed into existence, with a list of officer names on it. 'The only way for me to find the base is if I can take the Excillon out by itself. But I wouldn't feel safe doing that unless there was another ship in the area. If I can pick a select crew that Starfleet wouldn't mind putting out here, I can get that back-up I need.'

Captain Morgan began going through the records, selecting various officers for different jobs. Since there was only a commander there as the highest ranking officer, he would have to find one with good command ability. Once he had the crew assembled, he could contact the three admirals, and ask them to assign another ship out to his area. With the crew he had selected, and the admirals to assign him another warship, he could hold this sector against the current slaver raids. Unless they had some radically new technology besides their ion guns, then he could simply stand off from long range, and use his missiles to weaken them. After that, they could surrender or die, as they chose. He got to work on the project, as he wanted to have it finished by the time he was back at Starbase 121, for better communications with the admirals.

By the time the Excillon and the Amemnon arrived back at Starbase 121, Captain Morgan was ready to deliver his proposed crew list. He had gone back in later, and added various enlisted

personnel that had also done poorly in their 'Political Correctness' review, and he was satisfied with the result. If he could get another Vectron class warship out here, his chances of finding the slavers would more than double, as he could literally have his ship become a mobile unit, with no one ever knowing where it would be next.

Surprisingly enough, there was a message waiting for him there, from Starfleet headquarters. Captain Morgan accepted the message, while letting Commander Verrin oversee the transfer of supplies from the Amemnon to Starbase 121, and the flow of needed materials from the starbase destined for the colonies. He saw that the message was for him only, and sat down in his room, setting the screen there to play the message.

The standard security protocols were opened properly, and the message began. "Captain Morgan, this is Starfleet Command. We have received your report concerning the disappearing shuttles, and we congratulate you on recovering the Amemnon. We are currently reviewing all possible leads on the subject, and we believe an extremist faction in the Federation is responsible for these attacks. Attached to this message is a file with full data about the group. The data on the ion weapons has been analyzed, and we don't believe they are a threat, as your shields should be able to handle them easily.

"We want you to try to contact them peacefully, and convince them to return to the Federation. After they have surrendered, take them into custody and return them to starbase 121. Contact us at that time, and we'll send a ship to pick them up and deliver them to a re-education facility.

"Although we've had our differences in the past Captain Morgan, we at Starfleet Command think you're doing a good job. Keep up the loyal work, and we look forward to hearing that you've recovered the extremists.

"This is Admiral Hunter at Starfleet Command signing off."

The standard Federation symbol appeared at the end of the message, signaling the end of the transmission. Looking over the message, Captain Morgan saw the attachment, and downloaded it to the main computer. The direct download like that saved time on analyzing the data, as Starfleet Command would transmit nothing harmful.

While his actions were routine, his thinking wasn't. 'What the heck is wrong with them? A new weapon shouldn't be dismissed simply because it doesn't do a lot of damage in its current configuration. Also, if the extremists were operating in this area, they want me to trap them, and deliver them to the Starbase so a ship can deliver them to a re-education facility.

'I need to remember though, that they are operating with a two month delay in communications. It takes one month for a message to arrive at Starfleet Command, and another month for their reply to arrive. Means that it took them several months to come up with that level of political idiocy and compress it into a message that short. I have to admit, it takes a rare kind of genius to do that. Unfortunately, all of the geniuses like that seem to wind up in Starfleet Command, or in the Federation government.

'But I can turn this to my advantage though. I can say that the extremists are operating from a hidden base, and need a second ship in this area to help me find them. I can get the crew I need as well, saying that the extremists would be more willing to trust us if the crew was not as well known for their dedication to Starfleet protocol.' Smiling at the ease of what Starfleet just made possible, Captain Morgan began redoing his reply to Starfleet headquarters, attempting to redo the message to fit more in line with what they just sent him.

After the cargo had been transferred, Captain Morgan opened a communications line to Commander Verrin, requesting a direct link.

"Yes Captain?"

"Commander, I just got a transmission from Starfleet headquarters, and I'd like to discuss it with the senior staff. It's set up for today at 1600 hours, and I'd like you to be present. I'll be discussing the message from Starfleet Headquarters, and an idea I've had to help us find the slaver's base. Can you make it?"

"Yes, Captain. I will be there."

Captain Morgan cut the link, and turned to the main computer, selecting a specific item on the menu presented. The item selected connected him to the intra-ship messaging system, and he selected a specific address scheme. The one selected would send the message to all the senior staff, and Captain Morgan composed a message to them, informing them of the meeting in three hours. The three hours would give them enough time to complete whatever

they needed to, leaving them free for his announcements. He included his idea of getting a new ship out here, along with his current work-up of the crew listing.

****To Be Continued Part XIX Next Month****

**THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WILL BE AT 7 PM ON
THURSDAY 06 FEBRUARY
AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
COME ONE COME ALL!**

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT WILL
BE AT 7 PM ON MONDAY MARCH 17th
AT CHILI'S!
PLEASE JOIN US!**