



DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 9 Number 3

SEPTEMBER 2003

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

From 19 August until 12 September, I will be involved in testing some Enhanced Night Vision Goggles at Fort Benning. What this means is I will not be around as much as I normally would be because of my reverse schedule. Most of the time, I will be working from approximately 2:00 PM until 4:00 AM the next morning. Connie will represent me at any functions that I may miss and I know that our newly elected First Officer, Russell, will chair the next meeting with great enthusiasm.

It has been a while since I last went over our community service organizations. The list is not extensive nor is it definitive. Beside the Adopt-A-Highway program, the list includes the following:

Overseas Coupon Program (OCP)

There was a time when the USS DaVinci would trounce all other ships in the Region when it came to the amount of coupons donated to the OCP. Over the past several years, the donation amount has fallen and fallen. So far in 2003, the DaVinci has only donated a little under \$9,000 worth of coupons. That is a far cry from the \$300,000 we once did.

As a reminder, this is what I need. Personnel should sort the coupons into "food" and "nonfood" piles. The piles should contain no more than \$500 worth of manufacturer's coupons. No coupons from Wal-Mart, Publix, Eckerd Drugs or the like are useable. Do not worry if the coupons have expired. The manufacturers will extend the expiration date by 6 months for all coupons going overseas.

Ronald McDonald House

We are also collecting the tabs from cans for the Ronald McDonald house in Columbus. The tabs are sold by the Ronald McDonald House to help cut the cost of their utility bills. So far the DaVinci had

donated over 45 pounds (53,000 +) of tabs. The Ronald McDonald house also needs miscellaneous items. Lists of these needed items are listed monthly in the Pilot.

Trauma Buddy

This started out as a great idea and several club members jumped in with help and donations. However, since then, the program has pretty much stalled to a dead stop. To refresh your memory, Trauma Buddies are stuffed animals outfitted with Starfleet uniforms that are handed out to ambulatory children to calm their fears. They must be of a size to fit into a gallon baggie, have two feet and two hands (as opposed to four feet), and be non-intimidating. Bears, bunny rabbits and the like are great but "scary" items are not (monsters and just plain ugly). They need not be new as long as they are clean. Getting stuffed animals is not the problem (club members have come through), We have several dozen stored away. The problem lies in the lack of support to help sew and decorate the uniforms that go on the animals. Connie has cut out many patterns but cannot, by herself, sew them together and paint the communicator on. We need your help! When I contacted the fire department several years ago, they seemed quite thrilled about the program and our willingness to help out. They do work.

Starfleet Stampede

Our Starfleet Stampede effort is really dragging. Every one of you receives mail, but only a small number take the time to cut out the stamps on the envelopes. It takes so very little time and the ultimate reward helps others in need. All you have to do before you toss out the envelope is to cut the cancelled stamp off the envelope and save it. Please

cut, do not tear the stamp, and leave about ¼ inch around the edge. These stamps will then be sent to Starfleet who will in turn sell them to dealers. The money collected goes to the various Starfleet charities.

Toys for Tots

On a similar vein, the DaVinci should start collecting items for the annual Toys for Tots Christmas collection program. Stuffed animals can be new or used as long as they are in good shape. Other miscellaneous toys should be new.

Battered Women's Shelter

One of our newest organizations is the Columbus Battered Woman's Shelter. When I attended the annual Starfleet International Conference in Burlington, VT several years ago, I discovered that some ships were helping out their local women's shelter by donating the soap, shampoo, lotion, etc., you find in hotels. I spoke with the Columbus women's shelter representative and they definitely need not only these items but other things such as cleaning supplies and female hygiene items as well. So if you are on any trips save all the stuff the hotel gives you and do not forget to "raid" the cart when the cleaning personnel are at lunch!!

Caring for Babies with AIDS.

Caring for Babies with Aids is another worthwhile organization. Our donations to this worthy cause over the years have not been much (\$100), but every little bit helped. The proceeds from the penny jar competition is supposed to go to CBA, but the amounts from several of the last competitions has not been that good (of course, any amount raised is highly appreciated, but I know we can do better). I would like to see this figure greatly increase. So, we need to look elsewhere for raising funds. There is so much that we can do to raise money and have yet to do. Some of these are a bake sale, a club garage sale, and holding a car wash. If you have other suggestions or are willing to lend a hand in any of the activities suggested, please let me know.

COMM Freddy Heller

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT WILL
BE AT GOLDEN CORRAL
ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH AT 7:00 PM
PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!**

EXECUTIVELY SPEAKING

Having been only one of two crew members from the DaVinci to attend IC 2003 this year I will give my synopsis of what I encountered in Greensboro, NC. Our Starfleet Marine representative, Frazier was also there this year and my sincere thanks for his attendance as well.

Our trip to Greensboro went well and it wasn't total boredom since, during the 438 miles one way trip, I was able to count the number of law enforcement personnel giving tickets to everyone speeding through the Atlanta area (not us) and Frazier seemed to enjoy counting the number of rivers we crossed after getting into the Carolinas. Registration was painless and the banquet had been sold out but Frazier received a blessing as someone offered an extra seat for a no-show and he gladly accepted the dinner seat.

We gave our usual DaVinci cheer during the roll call and Mike Malotte gave all of us a surprise when he presented a certificate given to the fleet proclaiming Starfleet as the world's largest science fiction fan club by the Guinness Book of World Records. The panels were informative and during the weekend Starfleet acquired two new members, who by the way also took and passed OTS the same day.

I did manage to run into a bit of car trouble when the Shuttle Bus (as Rose likes to call it) quit on us at dinner Friday night, but leave it the 2nd Fleet to come to the rescue and once I found the trouble I was able to get the van running again on Saturday night after the banquet and charity action. My sincere thanks to Pete, Danny, Denby, Mike, Kelly, Steve and above all Steve's wife, TJ, who stayed with us Saturday night on site until I got the new starter installed. I'm thankful that we are just more than casual acquaintances in Starfleet. We're a family!

Oh, what about the banquet and charity auction did you say? Both went extremely well. The food was better than last year in San Jose, CA and the charity auction netted over \$2500 for the Starfleet Scholarship Fund. Next year the IC will be held in our own back yard, Birmingham, AL. Hope to see ya there!

Commander Russell Ruhland

SCIENCE STATION

The following is a continuation of the series on the history of science. After the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D., the study of science virtually disappeared in Western Europe. European philosophers relegated some of their studies to the pseudo science of alchemy. Alchemy was a mystical, spiritual and an industrial process that sought to turn common substances such as lead into gold. The alchemical method was an extremely complex series of rituals and processes that literally involved a life time of study and experimentation with these rituals in order to slowly transform a base element into gold. As a by product of the creation of gold, the alchemist would also have produced what is known as the philosophers stone. The philosopher's stone was meant to be consumed by the alchemist and in doing so the alchemist would achieve eternal physical life along with untold wealth from the endless supply of gold being created. Alchemy was a very secretive process in which complex symbols derived from books, painting and architecture were gathered over a life time in order to learn the rituals involved in the transformation of gold. Many of these symbols are said to be encrypted in the various sculptures and gargoyles of Strasbourg Cathedral in France. Hieronymus Bosch's bizarre paintings are said to have many alchemical symbols. Many other architectural sights, paintings and literature were subject to the life long scrutiny and study of would be alchemists. The process was said to be extremely dangerous. The wrong ritual or the wrong word would supposedly incite spiritual forces to cause explosions or other deadly phenomenon that would of course put an end to the alchemical sojourner-explorer. Alchemy did however lead to the discovery of sulphuric acid in the 1300's. As far as we know, no one has achieved eternal life or produced endless gold supplies except the miners of South Africa.

Until the early 1400's, Europe was virtually isolated from the scientific thought and achievement that was going on in the rest of the world. The Chinese used their scientific discoveries for very practical needs. In 270 AD, The Chinese invented the compass. Wood block printing was developed around the year 700. Gunpowder and movable type were invented around the year 1000. The Chinese

were also very good mathematicians and astronomers. In mathematics, they calculated the value of pi to within seven decimal places. In 1054 Chinese astronomers observed a super nova, or stellar explosion that took place in the Crab Nebula. China was also the source of the world's oldest portable map dating from about 940.

Continuing our series next month, we will explore the scientific achievements of the Arab world and beyond.

ENS Lech Mazur

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

ENS Crickett Pimentel	1 st
ENS Lindsey Pimentel	4 th
Star Trek Premiers (1966)	8 th
Star Trek Animated Series Premiers (1973)	8 th
Jeffrey Combs (Weyoun, Brunt, Shran, Krem)	9 th
CRMN Fred Kemp	9 th
Roxann Biggs-Dawson (Lt B'Ellana Torres)	11 th
Walter Koenig (ENS Pavel Chekov)	14 th
Bruce Hyde (LT Kevin O'Riley)	14 th
NASA Unveils Space Shuttle Enterprise (1976)	17 th
CRMN Karen Pynenburg	19 th
CRMN Kalan Vazquez	22 nd
Rosalind Chao (Keiko O'Brien)	23 rd
CRMN Rusty Touchton	25 th
CADET Rebecca Dunn	25 th
Enterprise Premiers (2001)	26 th
The Next Generation Premiers (1987)	28 th
ENS Karen Ferris	30 th

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ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH AT 7:00 PM
PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!**

**THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING WILL BE ON 4 SEPTEMBER
AT 7:00 PM AT THE
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE**

PASSAGES

Matt Jefferies, 82, the man who designed the fictional Starship Enterprise for the original television series "Star Trek", has passed away. With its saucer-shaped primary hull, separate engineering section and twin warp nacelles, the USS Enterprise, NCC 1701, has become one of the most recognizable icons of the last 35 years. During the mid 1960's, Jeffries came up with the ship design for "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry. The Enterprise design evolved as the original show gave way to a string of movies and four television series.



Matt Jefferies at June 2003 Tribute



USS Enterprise 1701

"Matt was a gentle soul. He has put his stamp on everything we have done since his brilliant, classic Enterprise," Herman Zimmerman, production designer for the current series "Enterprise," said in a statement posted on the official Star Trek web site. References to Matt Jefferies' contribution continue in almost every episode and movie as the engineering tunnels that run inside each starship are called "Jefferies Tubes" by the characters in his honor.

ENTERPRISE UPDATE

From Trek Today.

Enterprise was one of the hot topics at UPN's portion of the Television Critics Association press tour, with reporters asking questions about the show's ratings decline last season.

CBS chairman Les Moonves, who also oversees UPN, was asked whether he had contemplated canceling the fifth Trek series at the end of its second season, according to a report by Michael Ausiello at TV Guide. "I don't think we were close to it," he said, "[but] everything is talked about."

Later in the day UPN unveiled its Enterprise panel, consisting of executive producers Rick Berman and Brannon Braga, as well as actors Scott Bakula (Jonathan Archer), Jolene Blalock (T'Pol) and Connor Trinneer ('Trip' Tucker). The topic of the show's ailing ratings came up once again. "I don't think creatively we were doing anything wrong," Braga said.

This season, with the new alien threat, the Xindi, coming to the forefront, Enterprise will be "more action oriented, faster-paced", Braga told the gathered media. Sexier too, according to fellow executive producer Rick Berman. "T'Pol is going to start experimenting with her emotions. It's going to provide us with some fun and possibly sexy stuff," he said.

From StarTrek.com, here is T'Pol's new look for next season.



T'Pol's new look

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

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 remaining 2003 Night Out locations:

October: Cheddars
November: Longhorn Steakhouse

ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks to some teachers at Central High School in Phenix City for donating over 400 tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

A BIG Bajoran thanks to Roger Wright for donating over 1400 tabs, over a thousand dollars worth of coupons, and some stamps as well.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	417.44
Pool Party	43.86
Closing Balance	373.58

CPT Connie Heller

<p align="center">THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE ON 4 SEPTEMBER AT 7:00 PM AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE</p>

FINALLY...

Many of you do not know when your membership in the DaVinci is due for renewal because most of the newsletters now go out via email. If you get your newsletter the old fashioned way, your expiration date is on the address label. Those going via email have no address label. So, to help those folks out, here are your expiration dates for the DaVinci and Starfleet:

	<u>DaVinci</u>	<u>Starfleet</u>
Josh Ainsworth	Jul 04	Mar 04
Karen Baker	Jul 04	
Karen Ferris	Sep 03	
Tony Fleming	May 04	Jun 04
Rose Hutson	Sep 03	
Fred Kemp	Mar 04	Mar 04
Todd Kes	Sep 03	
Lesh Mazur	Jul 04	Nov 03
Joe Perry	Jul 04	Nov 03
George Pimentel	Jul 04	Jun 04
Karen Pynenburg	Jul 04	May 04
Russell Ruhland	Aug 03	Aug 04
Frazier Smith	Feb 04	Apl 04
Joanne Vazquez	Nov 03	May 04
Michael Walker	Mar 04	Mar 04
Patty Williams	Jul 04	
Roger Wright	Mar 04	Jan 04

DaVINCI STAFF ROSTER

Commanding Officer Freddy Heller 562-8735

Executive Officer Russell Ruhland 855-4146

Operations Officer Joe Perry.....327-5888
Finance Connie Heller 562-8735
Community Service Tony Fleming 568-6529
Publications Freddy Heller 562-8735
Morale VACANT

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

Engineering Officer Josh Ainsworth 989-0853
Communications Gisela Stephens 689-4266
Quartermaster Randy Dunn 291-0150
Security Roger Wright 687-8052

Marine OIC Frazier Smith 298-5047

Cadet Corps Commander VACANT

Master Chief Petty Officer VACANT

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 XXIII

The two ships continued on their cruise, and stopped off at the colony of Omidron four. The colony of Omidron four produced various fabrics from the many creatures and plants that grew there. They even produced fabrics from minerals that existed there, including a variant of asbestos that was far more effective, while having practically no dangerous effects on humans.

Omidron four was dependant on other colonies for its raw materials, while it produced the uniforms and outfits that were worn by many. Other fabrics

produced were used to help crops by providing a surface for the young seedlings to grow on, while still other varieties were used as a form of tubing. The colony would take in custom orders from the starbase, and by the time a ship came around, any plants needed were grown, and the fabric was ready and waiting to be collected.

As the Excellon settled into its orbit, and the Amemnon began the steady process of transferring supplies to and from the colony, the engineers from the Excellon were meeting with the engineers who had been working on the captured Pirate. They were sitting in the main mess hall, talking about what they had seen, and what could be done with it.

"So I'm telling Wilson here, that ship needs a decent shield system. We should go with a modified type twelve system with six section overlay."

"You idiot, a six section creates a cube effectively, and the shape of that ship means that a cube will be too darn big in terms of shield area and cross-section. We should be using a twelve section instead, which means it will use fifty percent less power because we'll be using a smaller surface for the shields."

"Twelve sections? Do you have any idea how much 'fun' it's going to be trying to program the shield control and rigging up the generators to handle twelve different shield sections? Each edge between the shields has to be taken into account, not to mention corners, and with your design it will be twenty edges that the poor control has to deal with. Mine will only have twelve edges!"

"How about a two-lobed shield design?"

Several heads turned back to see who had thought up that crazy idea.

"I'm serious. By having an upper and lower, or bow and aft shield, we will only have a single edge to worry about. There will be extra surface area to deal with, but that is a matter of pumping out the necessary power."

The other engineers looked at her, and continued their arguments, with her included in it. To any outsider, it might have looked like they were going to kill each other, but this type of discussion was their preferred method of arguing, as they could let off energy, and have a fun technical and mathematical discussion at the same time.

The decision was finally made to use a 6 sided shield configuration, with an unusual twist. Instead

of the standard top, bottom, front, left, right, and aft shields, the whole system was rotated forty five degrees, allowing the forward part of the ship to effectively be protected by two shields. With the side 'wings' of the enemy ship swept forward, this configuration provided a lot more protection than a standard cube shield arrangement would. The novel idea was passed around to the various engineers, and as they discussed the shield arrangement, they began thinking about ways to improve the Excellon's shield system as well.

Now all the Engineers had to do was sneak six shield generators into their section of space, without any Starfleet 'blind bean counters' (their name for the accountants who try to measure the amount of material used to weld together the doorframes, while ignoring the fact that the ship was thirty feet longer than originally designed). But they were engineers, and to them everything was a problem to be solved. It was usually solved through loud arguments while viewing the world through the bottom of a glass, but they loved to solve problems.

As for the new crewmembers that had come onboard the last time they were at Starbase 121, there was a lot of talk going on. They had been transferred out here, expecting a boring assignment, where Starfleet would not care about what they did. Instead, they found themselves on board a warship, fighting against unknown aliens. The few who were actual discipline cases were introduced to the concept of discipline under fire, and learned very quickly. Now that they were safe, for now, they talked to each other trying to come to grips with the fact of the aliens who were out there. They shared how they had been scared, and how they had come to grips with it. There had even been one person who was a pacifist on board the ship, and she was starting to modify her beliefs slightly. She did not like the idea of killing other beings, but since these other beings seemed determined to kill casually and repeatedly, she was starting to think that pacifism with a ready fist was more appropriate out here.

Returning to Starbase 121, Captain Morgan and his crew were celebrated by all the people there. The Engineering crews started getting to work on a totally new computer system and a different mind-set of how to assemble a starship. The first engineers who went planet side were mobbed by the local engineers who wanted to know everything about the alien ships discovered. After several

hours, after the first engineering crews had returned, and the ideas were being passed around the various taverns, the serious thinking began going on. Several teams were already connecting the main computer found in the ship to the Starbase's computer in order to crack its secrets. The Starbase computer would copy the alien code, and then it would try to figure out what different items did.

It would take weeks to figure out everything, but the local engineers were working on a substitute. Since they had no idea what the computer's details were, they were copying a standard computer core with a plug and play interface program into the alien vessel. This would allow the engineers to have a basic computer running, allowing people to have a chance to work in a shirtsleeve environment, but still having several of the necessities for working on a starship. Other work crews were hard at work trying to reattach the forward boom of the alien ship, but with the massive melting that had occurred when the Excellon's lasers had hit it, a decision was soon made to simply replace the material with Federation grade structural supports.

After a couple minutes, it turned out the pirate vessel had better structural support per volume than a Federation ship. So all those structural beams that were being put in were four times the size of the Pirate ones, causing the passages between the nose and tail to become a very tight squeeze. The material was also sent to the Starbase, for the engineers to take a look at it, figure out how it worked, figure out how to make it, and possibly figure out how to improve on it.

The bodies recovered were also undergoing an examination. There appeared to be heavy bone plates on the forward part of the skull, and their immune systems appeared highly evolved, given the rate at which the defending cells still moved and reacted to various chemicals that were applied to them.

Even more of a surprise, there was very little difference between the DNA of these aliens, and humans! In spite of several hundred light years distance, a different evolutionary path, there was roughly a 96% similarity between the aliens and humans. It was even possible for humans and these aliens to interbreed! The doctors and evolutionists were having a tough time trying to figure that one out, and the main theory so far was that humanoid life forms were inherently superior to other life

forms, and would out-evolve anything else. It was a bit speciesist, extremely hollow, but no other reasonable explanation based on statistics or theoretical models seemed to work. The second theory was that some race had seeded various planets with the appropriate DNA at some recent point in history. If it had happened too far back, the DNA would have undergone too much evolution and change for the DNA to be this close. The final theory that was proposed was similar, in that some race had seeded the races a long time ago, but had been keeping an eye on them over the millennia, putting down any possible competing strands of DNA to keep that certain breed of DNA 'pure'. If a race had done that, then it was possible the race was still around, manipulating the other races for its own ends.

But those arguments could wait; as it meant that several of the existing chemicals that were used against humans would work against this new race. They would have to be altered slightly, and only non-lethal items would be used, but knockout gasses, tear gas, and paralyzing gasses would probably work against them just like humans. Unfortunately, given their better immune systems, the rest of their bodies were probably built on a similar scale, meaning the concentration of the gasses would have to be much higher. Still, if assault troops used environmental suits, or stayed inside space suits, it wouldn't matter how concentrated the gas was.

Those findings were transmitted up the chain to Starfleet headquarters, and the latest orders from Starfleet were received. As of the time the message was sent, Starfleet knew about the attacks, and had heard of the new alien species. The voice message from Admiral Hunter was long, and full of confusion.

-Starfleet Headquarters to USS Excellon- "We have reviewed your report about the sightings of the new alien species and have decided as follows:

"The Tuilasin, Secongo, and the Veichlonga, um, Veichlongoso, um, the Veich are to be detained at the starbase until we have managed to send an expedition to their homeworlds. The Prime Directive requires us to evaluate their civilization to prevent our interaction with them from interfering in their natural evolution. While at the Starbase, every effort will be made to simulate their natural environment and technology available.

"The unknown race that you have discovered is another matter. We want you to cease any potentially hostile interactions with them, and begin to open diplomatic channels with them. We at Starfleet Command believe in peaceful cooperation with other races, but in the event a conflict become unavoidable, this unknown race will be allied with us and will be able to handle any combat, should it occur.

"As for the various crewmembers you requested, we will be able to dispatch them within a couple months. Apparently their commanding officers have been unsatisfied with their attitudes towards Federation foreign and domestic policy, and have been attempting to transfer them off. As a result, you will be getting approximately one hundred and eighty new ship's personnel in the next three months. We anticipate you reiterating their loyalty to Starfleet, and returning them back to proper Starfleet ethics as soon as possible.

"Unfortunately, your request for a second Vectron class starship has been declined for now. Since we anticipate a lessening of conflict out in your volume, we see no need for any additional ships to be posted to your location."

Attached to the message was a section about recent technological developments by the Starfleet Science Department.

Commander Fontanyard has made excellent progress in his work on the new structural field generators. His exact words were, "We anticipate designing new classes of ships able to take advantage of them, and get away from the blocky style of current ship designs. Soon our ships will be the envy of every race currently known, as their elegant forms sail from star to star, bringing the banner of peace to every man, woman, and child everywhere."

Doctor Ventradin is showing excellent progress in developing a new matter transmission system that will allow us to send cargo and even people between one starship and another, without resorting to clumsy shuttlecraft and the loading and unloading process involved. We will soon be able to build sealed cargo transfer facilities, even on the most inhospitable of planets, and allow people to work in regular uniforms instead of needing heavier clothing to work. She said, "I foresee a future where there are no shuttlecraft or starships needed in the future, as we will be able to simply use a

matter transmitter to travel from planet to planet. Starship accidents will be a worry of the past." When questioned about the limited range the transmitter currently has, she replied, "We have proven the basic theory is sound. From now on, all that remains is improving our technology to handle the theory."

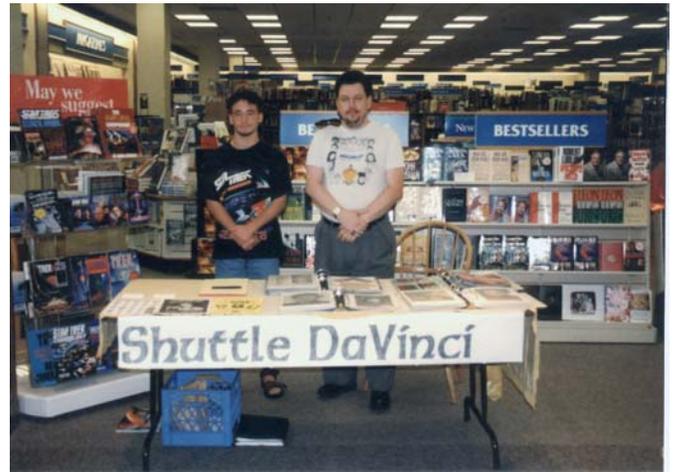
Commander Froushkin is currently working on a new type of beam that is designed to produce a cascading reaction in whatever it is aimed at. The beam is designed to cause a chain reaction through the lighter elements in rock, allowing large chunks to be broken down easily and cheaply, allowing us to reach the more valuable ores below. He said, "With this phased energy system, mining in the Federation will never be the same. We will no longer need leaky equipment or dangerous explosives, just a single projector pointed towards the ores we need. As the rock is cracked apart, low-level gravity plates will be used to drag it out of the way. The whole operation can be overseen by a single person sitting in comfort miles away, promising a new era of comfort for Federation citizens."

Lieutenant Morster's project on antimatter transport pods is proceeding well. Her plan is to use automated probes to allow a starship in orbit to be refueled by small robots. Small sensors are placed in the nose to allow the probe to automatically find and connect to the proper location in a Federation starship. "With these refueling torpedoes, ships are spared the danger of losing a person during an antimatter refueling accident. A ship can arrive in a star system, get refueled while waiting, and be on its way within hours, instead of days as is needed for current antimatter refueling operations. Also, by using on-site refueling, fuel tanks for starships can be reduced in size, allowing more room for the people on board to enjoy."

****To Be Continued in Part XXIV Next Month****

THE USS DAVINCI IN PHOTOS

I thought y'all would enjoy a look down memory lane. Each month I will show a series of pictures from our very beginning up until the present time. Many of you will remember these faces. To others they will be complete strangers. But, they made what the USS DaVinci is today. Enjoy! Reminiscence.



Jeremy Wynn and Joe Perry at our first membership drive (Walden Books – 24 June 1995)



Connie Heller and Joe Perry at our first membership meeting (North Branch Library – 6 July 1995)



Not a bad turn-out for our very first meeting!
Are you in this photograph?