



DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 9 Number 4

OCTOBER 2003

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

The DaVinci will be having the first annual "Goodbye Summer...Hello Fall" cookout at my house on the 27th of September beginning at 2 PM. As usual, it will be a covered dish affair with the DaVinci buying the burgers and hotdogs. Our great resident chef, Connie, will be on hand to flip the burgers and turn the dogs! So if you want to come, please notify Gisela Stephens (689-4266) to let her know what you are bringing. Come join the crew of the DaVinci as we bid farewell to the dog days of summer!

One day while going through my email I found a very peculiar letter. It was from Klingon who called himself KemleQ. In the message this brash warrior said he was the empire's new question and answer man (the last one being "removed" from office for failing to answer the question "1 + 1 =" no doubt). Anyway, he or she is requesting questions from the crew. So if you have something you would like to ask send me a message and I will forward it to KemleQ. I started it by sending him the following question: "What is the real reason for the difference in appearance between the original series Klingons and those in the next generation timeframe?" After that one I am sure I will get a message from KemleQ! The article is printed later on.

Do not forget our annual Halloween party this year. As always we will be setting up a table with candy for the kids and hot cider and cookies for the adults. Our sub-division looks forward to this every year and this year we have a surprise for the kids – normal size candy bars! A bit expensive but to see the look on their faces will more than make up for the cost! More details to follow.

COMM Freddy Heller

EXECUTIVELY SPEAKING

Oh, DragonCon...Oh, DragonCon...I can hardly wait, it's been so long! This certainly seemed to be the theme song of Randy, Rusty, Roger, Lech, and myself, the DaVinci members who rode on the shuttle bus to Atlanta to attend this sci-fi filled event of over 30,000 fans. Oh, I owe a BIG Bajoran apology to Lisa to whom our communications got mixed up on when to meet. I ask your humble forgiveness in this open forum. We managed to arrive in time so as not to have to stand in line too long and received a discount for the wait! The dealer's rooms were full of all sorts of merchandise and there were many stars from television and movies alike. My favorites were Billy Mummy and Angela Cartwright from Lost in Space and I treasured the autograph I received from Chase Masterson of DS9. The morning parade was unique and everyone especially liked the Klingon Battle Cruiser made from an automobile. Trek Tracks featured J.G. Hertzger and Vaughn Armstrong in one panel and George Takei in another. Both panels were informative and humorous. Vaughn Armstrong mentioned he was sort of pushing the "powers that be" to give Admiral Forrest the new NX-02 to command. Keep watching Enterprise. All in all it was a very enjoyable event. I was surprised when I took a picture of some Star Wars storm troopers and directly afterwards one of them grabbed me by the arm said, "Not so fast Earthling!", and pushed me against the spot where they had stood and proceeded to take my picture! I've already have my ticket for the weekend next year to take advantage of all the activities/events they will offer. Live long and prosper!

Commander Russell Ruhland

THE WARP CORE

Greetings all! It's been a while since I have been onboard the DaVinci, but my tour of duty has once more brought me to be assigned to the USS DaVinci. With that I have accepted the offer to be Chief of Engineering. As your new Chief of Engineering I hope to work with not only the senior staff but with those in my department to help the DaVinci to grow and to serve the rest of the crew with whatever may come along.

Most of you know me, but for those of you who don't, let me tell you briefly about myself. When I became a member of Starfleet I stayed on the DaVinci for quite a while and in that time graduated from OTS and then from OCC. After having been on the ship a while I went off to start a shuttle with the blessing of Captain Freddy Heller. This shuttle eventually became the USS Shadow Hawk which now resides in Opelika, AL.

After being promoted to Captain I led the crew of the Shadow Hawk for a year, but because of some unfortunate circumstances in my life, had to move away to Cusseta, GA where I now reside. Being I live almost 50 light years from Opelika, I thought it best to get reassignment to the USS DaVinci and work with the fine crew on board that ship once again.

I am looking for a few good men now that I am chief and if you are interested in Security, Communications or Quartermasters units you might be my man or Klingon or Bajoran or Vulcan. Anyway, you get the picture. If you are interested see me at one of the meetings or parties or feel free to call me (no calls after 8:00 please. The new cadet takes to his quarters for some rest at this time.).

For those of you who are in my department already I am glad to be your chief and always feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or even a good suggestion.

Until next time, Qapla'!

CPT Joshua Ainsworth

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BE AT CHEDDARS
ON MONDAY OCTOBER 20TH AT 7:00 PM
PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!**

KEMLEQ'S COLUMN

For those of you who do not know who I am, I am KemleQ, an ambassador of sorts from the Klingon home world of QonoS to the planet Earth. I write this column to help Terrans understand things from well...a Klingon point of view. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have from dealing with aggressive Terrans in SUV's to helping you with dealing with those of the opposite sex. No question is too small or too big and you may ask me any question you like, but beware, you may not like the Klingon answer. If you would like to email your questions you can send them to the following email address: KemleQ@yahoo.com. Send me questions or die! I'll be waiting to hear from you.

KemleQ

COMMUNITY SERVICE

This year, the ninth annual "Help the Hooch" river clean-up will be held October 11. We once again will have the Rigdon Park section of the Riverwalk to clean up. In one of our strongest showings the DaVinci helped over 10,000 volunteers in the community with the clean-up activities. Afterwards from 12:00 until 2:00 p.m. there will be a Thank You party at Columbus State University. So make every effort to attend. We meet at Rigdon Park at 8:00 a.m.

This activity is coordinated by the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, an affiliate program of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. This local organization also has the following events coming up: telephone book recycling, the Magic of Recycling, and Community Improvement Program.

I wanted to thank everyone that came out to help with the highway cleanup on August 23. The area was not real bad but it was appreciated since it was right before Labor Day. My gratitude is deeply extended to Russell, Mariaelena, Randy and Mathew. Rusty, Joe, Rebecca and Christopher met us at McDonald's. The next clean-up will be on October 4.

LT Tony Fleming

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Karen Ferris (D)
George Ferris (D)
Gisela Stephens (S)
Jackie McConnell (D)
Billy McConnell (D)
Jeri Herrington (D)
Todd Kes (D)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Stephen Collins (Cpt Decker, STTMP)	1 st
Avery Brooks (CPT Benjamin Sisko)	2 nd
CADET Ivy Walker	6 th
Todd Bryant (Klaa)	8 th
Scott Bakula (CPT Jonathan Archer)	9 th
CRMN Maritza Fleming	10 th
Man Breaks Sound Barrier (Chuck Yeager 1947)	14 th
Mark Lenard (Ambassador Sarek)	15 th
CADET Christopher Dunn	18 th
Ira Steven Behr (Executive Producer, DS9)	23 rd
John Winston (LT Kyle)	24 th
Gene Roddenberry Dies (1991)	24 th
Robert Picardo (Holographic Doctor)	27 th
William Campbell (Koloth & Trelaine)	30 th
CPT Josh Ainsworth	31 st
And one I forgot from last month!	
LT Frazier Smith	27 th

TREK AND SCI FI BUZZ

Here is a link some of you might appreciate. It is pretty bizarre and might brighten up someone's day. <http://starwreck.peliportti.net/>. Star Wreck is an animation and live action movie series based on Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek. These movies are made with respect for Star Trek and are not an attempt to belittle Star Trek nor its creator Gene Roddenberry. The movies are in Finnish with English subtitles.

William Shatner, seeking to raise money for an annual horse show for disabled children, headlined a paintball tournament that included at least 2,000 registered participants. Proceeds of the tournament went towards his Hollywood Horse Show, an annual event that showcases accomplished riders.

Paramount will begin releasing the season collections of Star Trek Voyager beginning in 2004. They will be done with Deep Space Nine by year's end. After Voyager will come collections of the original series, since the shows were released as individual discs with two episodes each.

Star Trek V: The Final Frontier will be released as a special edition DVD on 15 October.

Oops! Jolene Blalock was voted the worst actor on television by 42% of the readers of TV Guide.

Oh boy! Look what Walter Koenig had to say on the future of the Star Trek franchise. "My sense is that the next Star Trek television series after Enterprise has run its full seven years — I'm not suggesting it's not going to — will be a remake of the original series with a whole new cast," the actor said (via Sci-Fi Pulse). "There will be new stories but they'll do them the same way we did and use the same characters — a new Kirk, a new Spock and a new Chekov." Brother, if that does not kill the franchise, nothing will.

Jonathan Frakes commented on the question whether there will be a Roswell movie: "At the moment I think Jason (Katims) is trying to iron out some details to see they can be released on DVD. I think the plan is, if the show finds extended life on home video and DVD, the movie version I know he so dearly wants to do - might have a chance...When we do the movie, it'll be everything back together - Jason, Brendan, Katy, Bill. It'll be a stand-alone movie that anyone can come to see and enjoy on its own merits, whether you watched the series or not". Whoopie! Roswell on DVD!!!! Sorry about that.

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**THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING WILL BE ON 2 OCTOBER
AT 7:00 PM AT THE
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE**

ATTENTION ON BOARD!

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:

November: Longhorn Steakhouse

ACCOLADES

Thanks to Lisa for another load of stamps for the Starfleet Stampede.

Hearty congratulations to Russell who passed several more Starfleet Academy Courses (did you hear that George?): Masters Degree - College of Treknology for Star Trek the Original Series; Flag Officer School - Starfleet Leadership and Starfleet Command.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	373.58
Postage	6.85
Deposit	72.25
Closing Balance	439.98

CPT Connie Heller

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 04	
Tony Fleming	May 04	Jun 04
Rose Hutson	Sep 03	
Fred Kemp	Mar 04	Mar 04
Todd Kes	Sep 04	
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 04	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 XXIV

Captain Morgan looked up from the report. 'How in the world do they manage to say all of this with a straight face' he wondered. Briefly wondering at how the people could be so eager to design more comfort into warships, he turned back to the report from Starfleet Command.

"Return them to the technology and environment they were used to! They were being treated as slaves on board an alien vessel. How do they expect me to figure out what their native technology was? Their homeworlds! One of the beings doesn't even know what race he is, let alone where the homeworld is. Besides, most of them have taken Federation exams, and have done well. In fact, I want a few of them on my ship."

But still, Starfleet Command had to be obeyed, and

he began to think about how to get around that order. The only information he had on their native environment was in the alien ship, so he could argue that their native environment was on board a warship. It was a long stretch, but all he really needed to report was that a suitable environment had been found for them.

The one bit of good news he received was that he would be getting the new personnel. With them, he would be able to swap out crews here faster, or even get a few combat specialists onto the other colonies to stiffen their resistance a little before the raiders arrived next time.

The key bad news though, was that he wouldn't be getting another ship. Without that ship, he would have to limit his patrols to areas near the convoy route he would be setting up, and that would tie him down too much. If he had another vessel available, he could roam free in the region, poking his nose into everything. Without it, the pirates would be able to mass their forces against a known force at a known location and path, allowing them to decide when and where to engage him. Still, he could always try to get the alien ship repaired, and use it as the flying scout vessel.

Even worse, since Starfleet will 'anticipate a lessening of conflict', that meant the fifteen megaton missiles would not be available for him to request. Without them, the only option he had was to use the variable yield missiles, and dial them to full power. But he had made a career out of using the best out of whatever weapons were available, and this time would be like the others.

The Starbase engineers had made good time with the alien structural members though, and had begun replacing their crude attachments with solid beams made from the same material. Even better, they were already starting to make replacements for the Excellon's main beams, and the results were estimated to provide four times the structural strength, in exchange for a fifty percent increase of the mass of the internal structure.

The team studying the engines was making slower progress, as the materials used in the engines was requiring several new areas of materials science to be defined, let alone explored. Not only that, but the massive amounts of waste heat generated would not be wanted on board the Excellon, as the raider vessel had actually parked half of its impulse engine outside the ship in an attempt to get rid of the heat.

Although a few items were noted that could be used, the sheer heat produced made the drive practically impossible to directly copy.

For the ship's main reactor, the matter / anti-matter reactor was outwardly the same, but on the inside was a slight difference. Instead of using an electrical screen to spray the antimatter in, the pirates used a physical barrier made of an isotope of lithium to keep the reaction going. Initial tests showed that by injecting the material directly at the screen, instead of letting it collide randomly, allowed the reactor to handle higher power levels in the same amount of volume. Of course the coolant system was scaled up, and a coolant that had higher temperature storage was used, but the reactor system was similar to current Federation designs.

As the engineers dug further into the ship, they began to realize that this wasn't a warship, merely an armed freighter! Even more astounding, was that this freighter was just as good as a top-line warship from the Federation. Some people began running estimates of what a full-power warship would be like, and the results were not good. In any one-on-one match up, the Vectron class starships were destroyed, and finally at three to one odds was a single starship able to return to the Starbase.

But if similar improvements could be made to the Vectron class starships, then the odds significantly favored the Federation ship. With the shields protecting it from the ion guns, a Vectron class starship could perform hit and run attacks, if the pirate vessel could be convinced not to follow. With the nuclear missiles on board, it would be easy for them to detonate nukes to their rear as they departed, or even used them for long-range attacks to weaken a pirate vessel initially.

Several engineers there began drawing up plans, intending to create a schedule to refit the Excellon with the advanced systems. This time, they might actually ask the Captain before starting the refit process. Then again, they might get too excited, and start the process as they usually did, with lots of excitement and energy.

Captain Morgan was unaware of their enthusiasm though, and kept on with his plans, seeking ways to turn possible disadvantages into advantages into advantages. The large ion weapons were the key. With their high power levels, he estimated that only twelve to thirteen hits were needed to punch through the forward shields, ten for the side shields,

and eight hits for the rear shields. If there was some way he could either strengthen the shields or dissipate their hit over several shields, he could reduce the rate at which his ship would be burned through. He would need some way to insulate himself against their shots, but targeting systems for both ships used similar technology, i.e. using electromagnetic sensors to target.

Wait! If he literally used a surface coating that did not conduct electricity at all, then potentially he could handle many ion shots on his ship, without any effect at all! But he still would need a way for the sensors to poke out, and that would require them to be exposed to the ion bolts. But the idea was there, and he began composing a message to Commander Faithen, his Chief Engineer. Paul figured that this sort of question was right up the Cheng's alley, so he did what any leader would do - delegate to the right person.

In the meantime, he had another item to deal with. The ion weapons had enjoyed three seconds more firing time against his lasers, and he wanted to know if the extra time was due to better weaponry, or better targeting equipment. If it was because of weaponry, then the Excellon might be refitted with a few ion guns. If it was because of better targeting systems, then those systems could also be added to the Excellon, giving them equality in ranges, instead of waiting those three seconds extra while the enemy ship got to fire first. Passing that on to his Chief Engineer as well, Captain Morgan finally was able to get enough done so he could get some sleep.

Commander Verrin was in her quarters, thinking of names. She was trying to think of a name that symbolized someone that had been fighting for the wrong purpose, and later was given a chance to fight so he or she could defend people, not enslave them. 'Reformed' seemed a bit vague, while 'Paladin' was more of a being that fought to defend from the beginning. 'Liberator' had the right sort of ring to it, but a synonym could serve her better. Telling the computer to bring up a thesaurus, she began scanning through the entries.

Ensign Baker watched as the scanner records began adding more pictures to her simulation. She was charting nebulae, subspace distortions, solar activity, rogue planets, and many more pieces of interstellar debris and activities with her combined sensor display. Parts of it were out of date, but each

time the Excellon went on its route, she would be able to fill in more gaps. Even better, if they managed to have the new sensor system installed, the volume of data she could view would more than double.

Excitement filled her to the core, for the reason she had joined Starfleet was to explore, but her activities had always been at odds with Federation guidelines. They had wanted her to submit the proper forms to explore a given system, with her expected results listed beforehand, and her explorations were limited to those lines of research. But she liked to poke her nose into things! If she saw something interesting, she would poke and prod it until she was finally satisfied, and found something else. As a result, whenever people had seen her coming, they would try to hide themselves, or wind up being on the receiving end of a blond green eyed Inquisitor, who seemed to have less patience than was shown during the Salem witch hunts.

Her social life hadn't been much better, as whenever she had found a guy, she would go all out during the first few months, and then stop afterwards. During that time, the guy would be overwhelmed, and her sudden leaving would leave him a bit startled, and almost empty. Guys that had dated her before tried to warn anyone she was interested in, but the experience usually left everyone drained.

But still, here was a mountain of data, and news of a new type of subspace phenomenon. If she could figure out how to predict it, and what was causing it, then she would be able to submit that to the Federation science Board, and they would have no choice but to reward her for her efforts. 'After all,' she thought, 'who else could they chose?' But so far the information wasn't yielding to any pattern yet, and this was a mystery to her. This meant that it did not stand a chance. She would study it every day, gathering data, until it yielded its secrets to her.

Elsewhere though, events were occurring. A harsh warlord was taking his wrath out on several of his underlings, for the lack of communications with several of the prizes under his command. They in turn took out their wrath on the slaves present, as they did not dare speak back to their leader. The slaves, scurrying away from their 'masters' wrath, began wondering what had happened. Rumors began circulating among the beings, and all of them

were wondering what the cause was for the extra anger. Some rumors said the leader was simply bored, while others hinted that several of the raiding vessels had gone out and not come back. That last one was doubted by all openly, but secretly hoped for, because every slave there wanted to be free, or at least know that someone was trying to destroy the slavers. But their tasks remained unchanged, and they kept at their work, afraid to show the slightest hesitation among the slavers, whose anger was barely under control.

In the meantime the warlord retired to his room, where the more favorable of his females and the slaves he had captured were there to entertain him. The stable of slaves present was changed frequently, as broken bones were common to those who 'waited' on him. With his rage at the prizes not talking though, he ignored the slaves, and simply sat there and brooded. He had to maintain control over the others, and any potential weakness by him would be like blood in the water to those under him who wanted his job, those of his neighbors who were wanting to expand, and those over him who wanted to place another in his location. He had to do something dramatic to demonstrate his authority, and he brooded, thinking over what would be a proper triumph. A few hours later, he smiled, as an idea had formed.

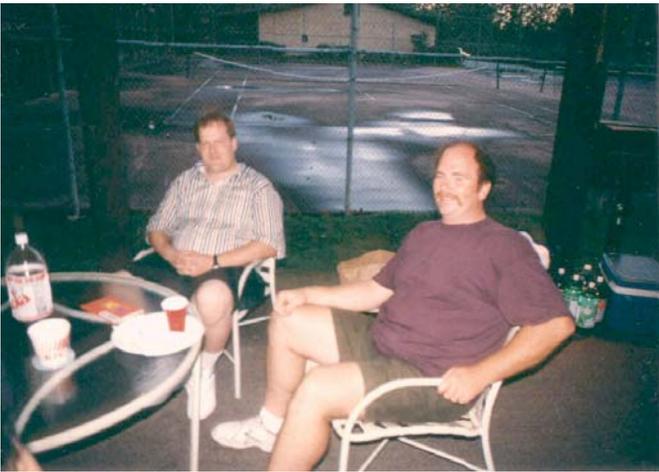
****To Be Continued in Part XXV Next Month****

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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! Reminisce.



Rob Anthony and Randy Dunn at our first cookout (Rob's Apartment Complex - 30 July 1995)



The crew (L-R: Travis Heller, Elizabeth Atkins, Connie Heller, and Rita Johnson, enjoying the food at our First Night Out (Bonanza - 09 October 1995)



The Baker clan and a very young red-headed Travis Heller enjoy a lighter moment at the Deep Space Nine premiere party (24 September 1995)



Randy and a very young Mathew Dunn at the first Night Out



Patty Williams and Connie Heller at the Deep Space Nine premiere party

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