



DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 9 Number 6

DECEMBER 2003

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

Our annual Halloween party and get together was a resounding success! Although it was not as crowded with trick-or-treaters this year as last, we still had a great time entertaining the passersby. There was candy for the kids and cookies and hot apple cider for the adults. One thing new this year was the bobbing for apples set up. At first we were not sure if it would go over so well but once the first little one tried it, the word quickly spread and parents were soon flashing pictures as their offspring tried to bite into those elusive apples! Most had never bobbed for apples before and some even came back for a second and third try. Nine DaVinci crewmembers plus their guests showed up for the fun. Thanks to all who made this annual event very memorable.

Wow! Believe it or not but our annual Christmas party is just around the corner. We will be getting together on December 22nd at 2 PM and as always, the DaVinci will supply the turkey and ham and the rest of the fixings will come from those attending. Please call Gisela, our efficient Communications officer, if you wish to attend but have not yet signed up to bring something. Also, do not forget your "I am too embarrassed to throw this out or take it to Goodwill" present for our hilarious gift exchange.

Our last scheduled highway clean-up was a bust as there were not enough participants to adequately cover the interchange. Hopefully the next time enough will show up. I drove by the interchange the other day and it is quite messy. So Tony, how about setting up a time for the clean-up?

COMM Freddy Heller

DRAGONCON PHOTOS

Greetings one and all! At the "Good-Bye Summer, Hello Fall" party at the Heller's house, I took (advantage of) an opportunity to show off my DragonCon pictures. As the people who were there know, it took a while, and very little clothing was seen in them. However, several people (Roger) complained that I didn't have any pictures to hand out to the many people who wanted them (Roger, again). As a result, I have tried to put them up in a Yahoo group site. Unfortunately, those who sat through them know that I had ~600 pictures, each of them at ~half a megabyte each. The yahoo site can hold only 50 megabytes at a time, so I can only display 100 pictures. However, I only want to show the ones you want. So from now until the end of February, I will be rotating pictures from the Photos section, to the files section. The site itself is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TKConPics>.

Unfortunately, the photos section can hold 64 pictures, and the files section can hold 40 pictures. As a result, I have set up 4 polls. There are 16 pictures in each poll, to reflect the 16 pictures in each page of the Photos section. The top ten winners from each poll will be put full-size into the Files section. If there are any ties, I will randomly select which one gets put in. So if you want a lot of pictures, featuring hundreds of people dressed up in various costumes, feel free to swing by. If you see one you like, vote for it, and if there are enough votes, you will get to see it full size. I decided to do it this way, because the Captain said I shouldn't just hit "Reply to all" on my e-mail, and send out the picture that way ;-)

Todd Kes

PASSAGES

Kellie Waymire, 35, best known to Star Trek fans as Elizabeth Cutler on Enterprise, passed away Thursday evening from causes that are as yet unknown. Waymire first appeared in Star Trek: Voyager in the sixth season episode "Muse", playing the role of Lanya. During Enterprise's first season, she had a recurring role as Crewman Elizabeth Cutler, the love interest of Dr. Phlox, appearing in episodes "Strange New World", "Dear Doctor", and "Two Days and Two Nights". Waymire told Cult Times that she enjoyed appearing on Enterprise as she had childhood dreams of becoming an astronaut and liked working with actor John Billingsley (Phlox).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Brian Bonsall (Alexander Rozhenko)	3 rd
LT Tony Fleming	3 rd
ENS Renee Ainsworth	4 th
Star Trek VI Premiers (1991)	6 th
Star Trek: The Motion Picture Premiers (1979)	7 th
Michael Dorn (LTCMDR Worf)	9 th
John Colicos (Kor)	11 th
Terry Garr (Roberta Lincoln)	11 th
CRMN Kim Townsend	13 th
Garrett Wang (ENS Harry Kim)	15 th
First Airplane Flight (Wright Brothers 1903)	17 th
CRMN Patty Williams	18 th
Nicole deBoer (Ezri Dax)	20 th
Rick Berman (Executive Producer)	25 th
ENS Jean Walker	28 th
Nichelle Nichols (LT Uruhra)	28 th
CRMN Todd Kes	29 th
ENS Randy Dunn	31 st

TREK AND SCI FI BUZZ

Good news! Both Voyager and the Original Series will be released in 2004 in season sets.

On their Collector's Edition release of "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier", Paramount Entertainment has hidden some additional footage. Insert the second disc of the DVD set and from the Main Menu go to the "Deleted Scenes" section. Once there, highlight the menu entry "Behold Paradise" and then press the "Left" arrow key on your remote control. This will highlight a symbol on the screen, which gives you access to a short gag reel from the film.

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

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

**NO NIGHT OUT IN DECEMBER!!
WE WILL BE HAVING OUR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS DINNER
ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 20th AT 2 PM
PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!**

NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

We will be choosing our 2004 Night Out Locations at the Christmas Party. Some nice places opened in 2003, so some of the usual locations may not be picked this time! Dang! What is a fun Night Out without Hooter's! Margaret, are you listening??

ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks to Roger Wright who, once again, donated coupons, stamps, and nearly four thousand tabs!

Thanks also to Karen Pynenburg for donating four bags of cans, nearly a thousand tabs, stamps, and coupons!

Thanks also to Tony Fleming for donating coupons, tabs, and stamps.

A BIG Bajoran thanks to JoAnne Vazquez for donating a box of First Contact posters (thanks also to Kalen who found them for us).

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	500.34
Halloween	37.31
Postage	4.90
Caring for Babies with AIDS	110.00
Deposit	144.85
Errors	1.43
Closing Balance	491.55

I would like to insert some details in this month's report.

Receipts from the yard sale donations totaled \$66.40 for CBA. Our family total was \$203.00, and a 20% donation would have been \$40.60, bringing the CBA total to \$107.00. We decided to round the Heller donation up to make a total of \$110.00.

Thanks to all who made the garage sale the success that it was!

Also, I want to apologize for the subtraction errors which I found when double-checking the account.

CPT Connie Heller

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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 04	
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 XXVI

The three ships cruised through space, their drives propelling them far faster than light. Two of the ships would have been recognized as freighters, once. Now they bore the claw marks of their new owners, showing that they recognized only the authority that could demand it by force. The third vessel was also covered in claw marks, but where the freighters had possessed markings of the claw itself, this mark showed extra detail, as though describing to the universe that it, and those who

came from it were the ones who would control whoever they met wherever they went.

Their destination was as yet unknown to those who would watch, but one could not help but pity their targets. Even worse is what the beings that controlled those ships planned for when they reached their target, for they had been stirred to wrath, and would not rest until they had drenched their anger in the blood of their opponents.

The Excellon set out again, escorting the Amemnon on its convoy mission, heading to the different colonies, picking up and dropping off a little at each colony. As they traveled, they maintained the same single warp bubble as last time, using its own appearance to hopefully lure any slavers in so they could be dealt with. They had managed to do this once before, and had netted a slaver ship, and they were hoping for big game again. The Amemnon had shields and a conductive mesh on its hull and the cargo pods, so it could survive a few shots, and the Excellon had a little mesh as well. Not only that, but its shields had been redesigned to allow a slight bit of leakage. If they ran across a single enemy slaver ship, they would be more than a match for it, they hoped.

The colony noticed the blips on the sensor grid, and wondered why the Excellon was early, as there were three blips there. But the wonder gave way to worry, as the blips refused to identify themselves or even respond to the hails from the colony. An optical telescope was swung to look at the blips, and when the image appeared on the screen, their blood froze.

For they had seen the images of the Slaver ships, and here was one of them, along with two of the six remaining freighters that had been stolen. The administrators had seen how much loot a single freighter was willing to claim and steal, and here were two of them, not to mention how much loot a Slaver ship itself was willing to steal.

Warming up the subspace communicator, they sent out an emergency distress call, sending it to every colony in range, in the hopes that someone out there would hear it in time to respond. Included in the message was a description of the ships involved, and their viewed capabilities. The message was set up as a loop, and every time the message looped, the new information was added to it.

It just so happened that the Excellon was in range, but barely. Lieutenant Vessen was on duty when

the call came in. He had been enjoying the privilege of night watch standing, where he was the only person in charge of the whole ship. Of course Lt Commander Faithen would sometimes stay up in the Engineering section, but he was responsible for the overall well-being of the ship. He looked up as the communications petty officer gasped.

"Something wrong?"

"Sir, we're receiving a distress signal from Ritzak five. They report they have detected three vessels coming in, one Pirate class and two of our freighters."

Turning to the conning officer, a young ensign standing there he told her to lay in a course to Ritzak five but not to execute it yet. Moving over to a ship's phone, he dialed up the Captain's stateroom. When the Captain picked up the phone, Lieutenant Vessen explained the situation, and heard just two words concerning his course change and speed increase, "Do it."

Hanging up the phone, Lieutenant Vessen told the conning officer to carry out the order, and picked up the phone to dial another number. Getting the Main Engineering number, Lieutenant Vessen explained the situation to Lt Commander Faithen, as they needed to get full power from the main power plant. It took only a few minutes, and then the Excellon was moving through space at its top speed of warp five, trying to get to Ritzak five in time to do something.

The Amemnon was told to come out of warp, and stay in that location, so when the Excellon had finished its current assignment they could rendezvous and return to their convoy route.

Nuclear fire ravaged the skies above the colony. Administrator Waldeck had known that Federation charter would not allow obvious weapons, but there had been some designs that could be used. One of the uranium storage containers had been redesigned with a few high explosives on the outside, and the net result was that the colony had made a few command-detonated nukes. Although they only had a twenty-kiloton yield, the Pirate and the freighters were staying well-clear of the planet so far. Every time they had moved in, a nuclear charge had been set off, causing massive waves of EMP, not to mention the thermal effects from the blast as well.

Unfortunately, the enemy slaver was a thinker as well as a fighter, and he launched his shuttles. A dozen armed shuttles charged towards the planet,

with orders to destroy any items they found in orbit. The first two shuttles were destroyed as their ion blasts set off the explosives a little too close, and the remaining shuttles were a little more cautious, using their sensors to spot a nuke, then blasting the area with ion bolts until the object detonated.

When the last bomb in the planet's orbit had been cleared away, the three ships moved in again. The Pirate began using its ion guns to take out local power centers, and the mayday signal was stopped as power to the subspace transmitter was cut off. When the last power centers had been cut off, the shuttles began landing on the ground, and unloading two dozen heavily armed slavers each.

The colonists tried to stop them, by hiding behind barricades and firing their weapons. Unfortunately, the Slavers attacked in mass attacks, and while one or two of them might be hit, the others would overwhelm and kill anyone who tried to resist. Even worse though, were the Slavers who were deliberately not killing colonists, as they were planning to turn the colonists into more slaves.

It only took fifteen minutes, and by then the slavers had complete control of the colony, and had herded the survivors into the main gathering hall. The Slavers had thought about keeping the colony, but since the colonists had hidden the radiation filter and the medicines deep in the mines, and turned up the ventilation, the radiation was starting to rise, and the Slavers knew they had around ten hours before they had to leave.

Even better, from the Slavers' perspective, was that there were no other ships within twelve hours of the colony, so they could take their time, in picking the choice specimens from the colony, and sending them up to be stored in the freighter holds. And so the grisly spectacle began, with two Slavers going through the crowd, selecting one person at a time for inspection. Overall muscle tone, health, and reactions were all measured, and each person was either selected or rejected for transport and storage. For those that didn't quite measure up, there was another option for them. After all, the Slavers did prefer their meat fresh.

The ones selected for food would be sent up first, so the cooks could get ready preparing a feast for when the three ships were to leave. For the others, the cargo bays were cleared, and basic food stock was selected, so the slaves could be kept alive on the way back. There were a few slaves currently on

board, as someone had to teach the others how to be properly respectful of their new Masters.

Ensign Felson sat in the cockpit breathing heavily. She had watched the dance of the shuttles bringing the slavers to the planet, and first few shuttles returning. She had wanted to do something immediately, but now was her chance, and she selected one of the freighters. According to the reports, the freighters were far more vulnerable to ion blasts, so her shots would be more effective if she targeted a freighter. Most importantly though, was that the freighters could carry up to 200 people in their rear modules, while a Pirate class vessel could only carry 100. If she could cripple a freighter, that would be 200 more people that would be saved. Lining her ion gun on the warp nacelles, she began firing.

To Be Continued in Part XXVII 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! Reminisce.



The hungry DaVinci crew enjoys the food at our first Thanksgiving celebration at the Reese Road Senior Center (16 November 1995)



David Geyer (L) and Kim Townsend (R) help themselves to the food



Joe Perry and Rita Johnson discussing the finer points of trek.



Rusty Touchton poses for the camera