



DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 9 Number 9

MARCH 2004

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

It is hard to believe but on the 16th of March, the USS DaVinci will celebrate its 8th anniversary as a chapter in Starfleet! Naturally, this calls for a party! So, on the Saturday 20 March at 2:00 PM there will be a celebration at the Captain's house to celebrate this event. Since this is a very special occasion, the DaVinci will buy the pizza and the rest of the goodies will come from those in attendance. Be sure to mark your calendars. A sign-up sheet will be making the rounds at the March meeting so figure out what you want to bring. Just like every other get together, you must call Gisela to let her know what you are planning on bringing. This time, however, once you put your name down on the sign-up sheet there is no need to call her. Only call her if you want to attend but have not yet signed up to bring something to the party. This is a change from the usual way we do it.

Do not forget that the Coca-Cola Space Science Center will hold their first annual Columbus Game and Hobby Expo on the 3rd and 4th of April. Note that the dates have changed! They want the DaVinci to help out. They need volunteers to do various things. If you volunteer and wear your uniform, they will waive the admission fee. Plus, they will give us space and a table for a membership drive! If you are interested in working either Saturday (9:30-6:00) and Sunday (11:30-5:00) please let Tony know as soon as possible. Six volunteers is the limit, so volunteer today!

The Region 2 Sunny Summit IX is just a few week away! "Ride the Wave of the Future" is the theme of this year's Summit and will be held March 12-14 at the Holiday Inn Gulfport in Gulfport, MS. Check out the Region 2 web site at <http://www.omnifacets.com/region2/> for all the information you

need. So far, the only folks attending are Connie and I, Joe, and Russell. I would like to see a good DaVinci turn-out if possible. Remember, the longer you wait, the more expensive it will be and the possibility that they will run out of banquet tickets is much higher

COMM Freddy Heller

COMMUNITY SERVICE

We had a very successful clean-up of our highway intersection. Boy did it ever need cleaning too! Nearly five full bags were filled up! Thanks go out to Freddy, Ritz, Mariaelena, Vincenzo, Randy; Rusty, and Lech for coming out on a cool January Saturday morning. It was rough going after the Holidays but looked a lot better after the work. By the way, the most interesting set of object found was about a dozen unused condoms and tube of very used K-Y jelly. Freddy complained that he never finds out about these parties before hand! In order to cut down on the length of the work and to try and keep the area consistently picked up, the second Saturday of the month will be the designated the highway cleanup day. Since the Regional Summit falls on the second weekend in March it will be the morning of the third Saturday in March. It should not interfere with the anniversary party since that does not begin until 2 PM.

I am also planning a trivia contest at the anniversary party. For a nominal fee you will be able to put your knowledge to the test. The fee will go toward Caring for Babies with AIDS the same organization we held the garage sale for last year. More details will be coming soon.

LT. Tony Fleming

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Barbara Luna (LT Marlene Moreau)	2 nd
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
Connor Trinneer (CMDR Charles "Trip" Tucker)	19 th
John DeLancie ("Q")	20 th
CRMN Billy McConnell	20 th
ENS 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

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!

On Saturday February 07th Smiths Station had its second road side clean up. Over 60 people came out to help. Among them were myself and two new members of the 678th Randy and Rusty! The Marine Unit picked up more beer bottles than any thing else. Nearly 1/3 of the back of Randy's truck was nothing but beer bottles. It was a little bit on the cold side and so after the clean-up the Marines had a nice lunch at EL Vaquero in Phenix City. A good time was had by all. I just want to say thanks to Randy and Rusty for joining up.

LT Frazier Smith

TREK AND SCI FI BUZZ

Star Wars is finally coming to DVD! All of the unforgettable heroism, villainy and epic adventure of George Lucas's trilogy comes to the ultimate home-entertainment format for the very first time around the world this September ending the wait for the most-anticipated DVD release ever. The DVD set will not be the original theatrical version but the special edition version.

The Sci-Fi channel was very pleased with how well their mini series, Battlestar Galactica did in the ratings and so they have ordered 13 one hour episodes.

Well, it had to happen sooner or later. Star Trek Enterprise might not be soaring through space next season," began an article on UPN's future plans, quoting CBS and UPN. Stating that the fate of the series will remain uncertain for several months - at least until April, when the network will review its 2004-5 schedule, when instead of being cancelled, Enterprise might move to Friday nights - a move long predicted by Mediaweek Programming Insider Marc Berman.

The Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films yesterday announced the nominations for the 30th Annual Saturn Awards. Three of the franchise's four nods went to the only Trek series currently screening, Enterprise. Enterprise was recognized in the category of Best Network Television Series. This is the third successive year Enterprise has been nominated in this category, though it has yet to win. Star Scott Bakula (Jonathan Archer) picked up a nod for Best Actor in a Television Series. While Connor Trinneer (Charles 'Trip' Tucker) was passed over for Best Supporting Actor, a category he contested in 2003 and 2002, Jolene Blalock scored her third successive nomination for Best Supporting Actress. The franchise's fourth and final nomination came in the category of Best DVD Television Release, with Star Trek: Deep Space Nine nominated for all seven seasons. The Next Generation's DVD packages won this category last year.

Early reviews of the first season of Star Trek: Voyager on DVD were mixed. One praised the content but had qualms about the packaging, while another praised the presentation but not the quality of the episodes, and a third was content with both.

Thanks to "TrekToday.com" for the information.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	481.20
Postage	4.90
Deposit	59.80
Closing Balance	536.10

CPT Connie Heller

NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

At the December meeting, the 2004 Night Out locations were selected. We have some familiar locations and some new spots as well. And so, without further ado, here are the 2004 Night Out locations: (sigh...no pizza; no Hooter's)

April:	Chili's
May:	Golden Corral
June:	Cheddar's
July:	Philly Connection
August:	Longhorn Steakhouse
September:	El Vaquero (Phenix City)
October:	Houlihan's (Inside Wyndham Hotel)
November:	Olive Garden
December:	Hunan's

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
Carl Olsen	Feb 05	
Joe Perry	Jul 04	Nov 04
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 Publications Tony Fleming 568-6529
 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**

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Carl Olsen (D)

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 WILL BE MARCH 5TH
 AT 7:00 PM AT THE
 RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
 COME ONE COME ALL!**

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT
 WILL BE AT
 CAPTAIN TOM'S (MACON ROAD)
 ON MONDAY MARCH 15th AT 7:00 PM
 PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!**

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!

Most Needed Items

Grocery Gift Certificates	Solid Queen Sheets
Styrofoam Cups (20oz)	Sugar
Spray Air Freshener	Trash Bags (35 gal)
Twin/Queen Mattress Pads	Heavy Paper Plates
Storage/Freezer Bags	Interior Flood Lights

Household Items

Tide Detergent	Ready to Make Desserts
Fabric Softener	Bags of Hard Candy
Bathroom Cleaner	Vegetable/Olive Oil
Pine Scented Cleaner	Cake Icing
Swiffer Wet Sheets	Cake/Brownie Mixes
Dryer Sheets	Lemonade
Sting Mops	Salad Dressing
Carpet Cleaner	Soups
Bathroom Cups	Box Dinners
Spray Starch	Brooms
Windex	409 Cleaner

Miscellaneous Items

Mailing/Scotch Tape	Sewing Kit/Scissors
Copy Paper	Clasp Envelopes (9x12)
Disposable Cameras	Phone Cards
White-Out Pens	Sam's Gift Certificates
Computer Lables (Avery 5160)	
AA, C, D, and 9 Volt Batteries	

NOTE: They currently have a need for canned soups, and perishable items such as bread, meats, cheese slices, fresh fruits, and snack foods.

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 XIX

The clean up on board the ships went well, although there were a few trouble spots. Several times a trooper would go almost berserk when fighting one of the slavers, and the others would have to restrain him or her from killing the slaver with bare hands. Whenever they found a group of ex-slaves, they would put them in a safe location

(usually the shuttle they came in), and keep on going. Several times, shuttles would detach from the ship being taken over, and would deposit the liberated slaves on the colony.

There were even a few 'entertainment' slaves kept, including a few that looked similar to the slavers. When a translator on board the ship explained that these were the females of the slavers, and that the slavers considered their females and slaves in the same category, the troopers were shocked again. Several of them had grown up with the concept of all beings being created with equal rights, and the thought of someone treating member of their own species, let alone members of another species, as slaves was making them almost numb to further shocks.

At the end, Captain Morgan totaled up what had been recovered. One Pirate Beta vessel, with open stomach; two freighters, with a total of fifteen small electron guns and one large electron gun, six alien shuttles, and three Federation armed shuttles. Nodding to himself, he thought, 'Not a bad day's work'. But the thought of what the colonists had gone through went through his mind repeatedly. Even more important was what one of the colonists had said about the nuclear mines that had been in orbit, and the few hours they had bought for the colonists to get underground and for the Excellon to arrive.

He knew that the mines were highly illegal, but they had worked. Unfortunately, the radiation from the mines in orbit would show up for a long time, and the next ship that came by would be able to spot what had happened easily. But fusion warheads were much cleaner, and the Excellon still had 110 missiles in its vertical launch bays. Thinking slowly, knowing he was violating Federation law about arming colonists, Captain Morgan ordered, "Deploy ten warheads from our vertical launch missiles. They will be transferred to the colony to function as mines in orbit."

Several people on board the bridge gasped at the order. They knew that Federation law prohibited colonies from owning weapons, and that Captain Morgan's orders was completely illegal. The weapons officer was the first to speak up.

"Captain, we can't do that. It goes against Federation law to let colonies have weapons of any kind. If we let the colony have weapons, then we're no better than the pirates we're hunting."

"Lieutenant I know that. I also know that those mines they had placed in orbit were the only thing that slowed down these slavers enough for us to arrive in time. I don't like arming colonists any more than you do, but if we are to get anywhere in time, the colonies need something to slow down or stop these pirates. Unless we can get orbital laser platforms in, using our missile warheads as clean mines will work in the meantime."

"What if the colony tries to rebel after the pirates are driven away? They will have top of the line weaponry to hold off ships with."

"That makes it even more important that we provide the weapons. Since they are ours, we can record their control codes, and if the colony later decides to rebel, we can always drop in, disarm or detonate the mines remotely, and put the Federation back in control. The other option is watching the colonists put more of those fission warheads in orbit, with the radiation they cause, and not have them under our control."

Lieutenant Ilhar quieted down at that comment, and but off his retort as he thought about the obvious problem, and the two solutions. No matter what they did, the colonists would soon have more mines put in orbit, and that was a serious problem. They could either provide the mines themselves, or the colonists would build them. If they provided the mines from their missile warheads, the explosions would be clean fusion explosions, and they could always disable them later with the control codes. But if the colonists built their own warheads, they would be dirty fission bombs, and there would be no way to disarm them later.

The real problem in his mind was that if they provided the warheads to act as mines, they would be violating Federation law. He knew that he had been posted out here because he wasn't properly Federation, but he had always tried to obey Federation law wherever he went. Now he was faced with a situation he had never expected, and his fundamental beliefs were being assailed by the fact that mines were needed to keep the slavers away. He had a simple choice, but it was not an easy one. Either violate his deepest-held beliefs, or watch the pirates slaughter Federation citizens.

The internal struggle barely showed on the outside, and after a few seconds, he nodded his head. He would get the warheads removed and reconfigured as mines. Captain Morgan could only see a hint of

the struggle that occurred on the inside, and he knew that he would have the Chief Engineer talk to him later, to help him accept his decision.

Already the salvage crews were reporting back with their news, and it was fairly good. One of the freighters was damaged, but the other contained enough parts to get it flying again. They could attach the pods to the freighter that could still move, and store the other nose and the Pirate in its cargo holds to be returned to Starbase 121.

The missiles were jettisoned and their warheads removed, and the Ritzak colony members began the process of hooking the warheads up to their mine control system. The power plant was being repaired in the meantime, and soon they could report back to Starbase 121 what had happened, and what the slavers had done to the people here. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that the people back there would be horrified by what had nearly happened, and would try to get help from the rest of the Federation.

The best part was that the two freighters that had been recovered were among the earliest ones captured. The Gervon had disappeared at the earliest outbreak, and the Halmat was a little more recent. Some people had looked funny when they realized they had recaptured five freighters, but Captain Morgan reminded them that they had recovered half of the recent disappearances earlier, not half of the total amount. Now with four freighters recovered out of eight originally stolen, and nineteen out of twenty shuttles accounted for, they were definitely making an impact on the local slaver operations.

With the Gervon following them, Captain Morgan led the ship back to where they had left the Amemnon, intending to escort both freighters back to the Starbase, and then continue the rounds. After all, if he sent the Gervon back by itself, the freighter might get recaptured, and that would tip off the slavers as to how much firepower was being wielded to stop their activities. As long as the Excellon was able to remain an unknown force, and able to surprise the slavers, they would have a chance.

But when they returned to where they had left the Amemnon, everyone grew quiet. For the Amemnon was gone.

To Be Continued in Part XX 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.



In the foreground (L-R) Joe Perry listens to a conversation in the back of the room while Jeremy Wynn, Patty Williams, and Karen Baker chat in the front at a membership meeting (16 February 1996)



Victoria and Bill Washing get promoted to Ensign!



The crew enjoying the good Italian food on the Night Out at Deorio's (05 February 1996)



A very tired Travis Heller has enough of the excitement!

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