



DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 9 Number 11

MAY 2004

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

The first annual Columbus Game and Hobby Expo held at the Space Science Center was a resounding success! Over 750 tickets were sold for the 2-day event. Most of the attendees were there for the gaming to include the Halo and Dragonball Z tournaments although there were plenty of other gamers in fierce competition at the table games. Half dozen vendors kept busy selling everything from action figures to card games to figures for the table games. One of the busiest vendors was on the outside of the building keeping a steady stream of hot dogs and sausages coming for the hungry attendees. In addition to the gaming activities several telescopes were set up so that you could safely get a rare glimpse of the sun. In addition, the observatory was also open to give you an even closer look at our nearest star! The volunteers, including those from the DaVinci, worked long and hard to make the Expo the success it was. We helped man the ticket table, started and stopped the programs in the center's shuttle theater, manned the door into the Omnisphere Theater, and manned one of the exits leading to the "food court." Of course we also had to man our membership drive table, which was conveniently positioned right by the front door for all to see as they entered the center. A BIG Bajoran thanks goes out to all the volunteers: Connie Heller, Ariana Heller, Russell Ruhland, Joe Perry, and Tony Fleming who worked Saturday and Joe Perry and Margaret McGillicuddy who worked on Sunday. Other crewmembers, dressed in their DaVinci shirts, dropped by on Sunday for moral support as well as to "see what was going on." Although we did have a good time, it was looking poorly for any new members as our table did not draw that much interest. We did speak to several

folks who stopped by out of curiosity and some who showed interested but "did not have the time to get involved." However, all was not lost, as we did manage to pick up four new members! So, the next time you see "strangers" at one of our events it is Stacy and Stephanie Harris, Shannon Wells, or Eric Baumann. Not only did Stacy and Stephanie join the DaVinci but when they got back home on Sunday, they also joined Starfleet as well! Wow! Please make sure you welcome all our new members to the best chapter in Region 2, the USS DaVinci!

This is another reminder that if you wish to go to the Starfleet International Conference (IC) in Birmingham, AL on 30 July – 01 August and you have not yet sent in your registration form or registered on line at sfi.org, the price goes up \$5.00 on 1 May. In addition, if you have not yet made your hotel reservations do so as soon as possible as they may sell out of the conference rate. If you have never been to an IC they are quite exciting. This year is no exception as Vaughn Armstrong, who plays Admiral Forrest on Enterprise, will be in attendance to meet the fans and sign autographs for a nominal charge! This year is shaping to be one of the best ICs so do not delay and register right away.

I have noticed that a lot of folk's memberships in both the DaVinci and Starfleet are getting close to expiring. Remember, your Starfleet membership can be renewed online if you have a credit card. It is much faster than doing it via snail mail. If you get your newsletter via email, please take a look at the dates listed later in this newsletter. If you get your newsletter in the mail, check the address label for your DaVinci expiration date; for Starfleet check your Communiqué label for your expiration date.

RADML Freddy Heller

DaVINCI T-SHIRTS & POLOS

Since I sold the last two DaVinci t-shirts at the game and hobby expo, I thought it would be a good time to place another order. So, if you are interested in replacing you old worn-out shirt let me know. I will be passing out a sign-up sheet at the various upcoming events. If you cannot make it to these events feel free to call me (but before 9:00 PM). I am not sure on what the cost will be but as an estimate I would say \$8.00 for small to extra large on the t-shirts and \$20 for the same sizes on the polo shirts. Larger sizes XX to XXX will cost a bit more, but no shirt should be over \$12 and \$25 for the t-shirt and polo shirt, respectively. Children's sizes are available and remember that I will need all money before I place the order

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Leonardo DaVinci Dies (1519)	2 nd
Astronaut Scott Carpenter	2 nd
Marc Alaimo (Dukat)	5 th
1 st American in Space (Alan B. Shepard, Jr. 1961)	5 th
CADET Matthew Dunn	6 th
ENS Ken Baker	10 th
PO2 Lisa Neal	12 th
Last Mercury Flight (Gordon L. Cooper 1963)	15 th
LT Gisela Stephens	15 th
CADET Vincenzo Fleming	16 th
CADET Wyatt Ainsworth	16 th
First Woman to Break Sound Barrier (Jacqueline Cochran 1953)	18 th
John Billingsly (Dr. Phlox)	20 th
Joan Collins (Edith Keeler)	23 rd
2nd American in Space (Scott Carpenter 1962)	24 th
CMDR Russell Ruhland	25 th
RADML Freddy Heller	26 th
Sally K. Ride (Astronaut)	26 th
Harlan Ellison (Scrip Writer)	27 th
Lee Meriwether (Lorisa)	27 th
Mariner Nine Blasts Off to Mars (1971)	28 th
Michael J. Pollard (Jahn)	30 th
Colm Meaney (Chief Miles O'Brien)	30 th
Michael Piller (Executive Producer)	30 th

TREK AND SCI-FI BUZZ

There's a new Star Trek-themed roller coaster at Carowinds amusement park this year and it is promising to excite thrill seekers. Called Borg Assimilator, it is touted as the world's first Star Trek themed roller coaster. The Borg Assimilator travels at 51 miles per hour in a 2 ½ minute ride of plenty of loops and turns. The promoters say the eight inversions are the most of any ride in the Southeast. Most of the eight inversions are with the rider face down.

Trekkies 2, the long awaited sequel to the 1997 documentary Trekkies, premieres April 20 in the Lido Theatre in Los Angeles. Director Roger Nygard and host Denise Crosby visited eight countries, including Germany, Australia, Serbia, and Brazil, to profile the world-wide nature of Star Trek fandom. Trekkies 2 will include a look at the filming of the German fan film Star Trek: The Legacy, a peek inside Tony Alleyne's apartment which he transformed into a replica of the Enterprise-D, and a visit to the first-ever Star Trek convention to be held in Serbia. Many of StarTrek's biggest names were interviewed for the documentary, including Enterprise writers Brannon Braga and David A. Goodman and actors Nana Visitor (Kira) and Connor Trinneer (Trip), to name just a few.

Follow this link, <http://www.civfanatics.net/~trek/e>, and click on "No More Trek" to see a funny commercial for the cable "Space Channel."

Check the following site out for a great fan film. It will take a few minutes to download but is well worth it: <http://www.bringbackkirk.com/trailer.html>

The Sci-Fi Channel and Tribune Entertainment Company have entered into a major program license agreement for the popular weekly action hour "Gene Roddenberry's Andromeda," starring Kevin Sorbo and Lisa Ryder. In addition to presenting the fifth season of "Andromeda" next fall as an original series, Sci-Fi will also have the television rights to Andromeda's first four seasons. The fifth season will be Andromeda's last.

The Original Series is being released on DVD in Europe shortly. Soon after that but still not until 2005, it will be released in the US. Check out the article at: <http://www.r2-dvd.org/article.jsp?SectionId=3&articleId=6394>

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

ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks or congratulations to:

The staff of Central High School in Phenix City for the large donation of tabs.

Lisa Neal for another box of envelopes with canceled stamps.

Frazier Smith who successfully completed all courses and requirements for the Starfleet Marines Initial Entry Training Award!

Stacy and Stephanie Harris who completed Officers Training School with honors!

Stacy Harris who also completed Officer's Command College In fact, he did so well on his exam that he received a score of 101 out of a possible 100 points. Starfleet said his essays were of superlative quality and because of it, he was recognized by graduating with honors and distinction. Way to go Stacy!

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Stacy Harris (D) (S)
Stephanie Harris (D) (S)
Shannon Wells (D)
Eric Baumann (D)

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WILL BE MAY 6th
AT 7:00 PM AT THE
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE**

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)

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

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	548.25
Anniversary party food (chicken & pizza)	47.69
Closing Balance	500.56

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	
Robert Crosby	Dec-04	
Karen Ferris	Sep 04	
Tony Fleming	May 04	Jun 04
Stacy Harris	Apl 05	
Rose Hutson	Sep 04	
Fred Kemp	Mar 04	Mar 05
Todd Kes	Sep 04	
Lesh Mazur	Jul 04	Mar 05
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 05	Apl 05
Joanne Vazquez	Nov 03	May 04
Michael Walker	Mar 05	Mar 05
Shannon Wells	Apl 05	
Patty Williams	Jul 04	
Roger Wright	Mar 04	Jan 04

RM HOUSE NEEDED ITEMS

Although The Ronald McDonald House needs quite a variety of items, the items needed most are listed below. Pick something from the list and bring it with you to each meeting. This is strictly voluntary. Thanks!

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.

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	

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 XXI

At the meeting an hour later, the personnel sat around a large table to review the information about the slavers. The new officers were easily recognized by two things. The first was that they were among the lowest ranking personnel. The second was their expressions of total shock as each new piece of evidence was presented. When one of them finally managed to get enough of her thoughts together, she asked, "What is going on out here? What is Starfleet doing about this?"

Captain Morgan responded to her question first. "Lieutenant Kirgen, the local colonies are being preyed on by an alien race of warriors who possess advanced technology and little to no concern for anyone else's life. Even more frightening than that is the ships the slavers seem to be using aren't in good shape, and a cargo hold takes up over a third of the ship's volume. As far as Starfleet is concerned, it takes a month for a message to reach

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT
WILL BE AT GOLDEN CORRAL
ON MONDAY MAY 17th AT 7:00 PM**

them from out here, and another month for their reply to reach us. As of the last message I sent, they were told about the aliens, including their autopsies, and the fight with one of their ships. Since it is another week before any sort of reply can be expected from them about that, they do not know about the recent slave raid, or the recovery of the different freighters.

"Does that answer your question?"

Lieutenant Kirgen nodded quickly, while trying to come to terms with the time scale involved. She had been posted near Earth, and transmission times were measured in hours, or at most, days. But with transmissions taking a month to be sent and received, then they were effectively on their own.

Lieutenant Haskins, who had been sitting back in a chair the entire time asked, "What areas of technology are they ahead of us in?"

Lt Commander Faithen spoke on this. "They are ahead of us in reactor technology, fire-control and targeting capability, speed, and metallurgy, judging from their captured ships. Their reactors use a lithium filter system that allows three times higher power production from within the same size reactor. Their electron guns outrange ours, meaning they have targeting sensors with longer ranges than ours. Although our missiles outrange their guns by several times, they can only be steered to proximity kills, not direct impact kills. Their ships can accelerate at up to double impulse, while we are still limited to one and a quarter. Finally, their structural beams provide four times the strength of ours in the same volume, at a slightly higher mass."

Lieutenant Haskins replied, "In short, their ships are small, powerful, fast, and tough. But what areas are they behind us in? From these reports it looks like they don't use shields or armor, and most of the other races on board do the work. If we could start transferring some of their technology to our ships, we'd be in even better shape to tackle them. Of course, that would require the services of a full-size shipyard in order to do the internal structure refits, but it should be a fairly easy manner to retrofit our reactors with the lithium filters.

"Of course the easy way out of this would be to install shield generators in the cargo holds of one of their ship, and slap on some protection from their electron guns. It looks like the captured ship will be repaired in another month and a half, so that should give us enough time to get the generators installed

and coordinated, along with applying a mesh over the surface, like the one mentioned here."

The others looked at her in shock. The information had been in front of her for less than ten minutes, and she had already read through it, and drawn roughly the same conclusions as everyone else about the capabilities of the slaver ship. Even more startling, she had gotten a fairly close guess on how long it would have taken the to get the ship repaired, and had done a rough timetable for installing some of the other items in the ship. Her report would have impressed everyone there, if it hadn't been for the way she hunched back in her chair with an evil grin on her face.

Seeing why Lt. Commander Faithen had warned him about her, Captain Morgan continued on a separate subject. "One other good piece of news is that the slavers can only be within one of these eight systems." A hologram above the table showed the local sector, the , the colonies scattered all over, and the eight systems. "With your ship and mine here, one of us can protect the Gervon, and the other can be surveying each of the systems in turn. After we finish surveying each system, we will drop scan satellites around the life-bearing planets, in case the slavers shut down all emissions and we aren't able to find them. After we have dropped off satellites at each system, we can easily go back to each system, and download the latest information from each. The satellites will be designed for passive sensors, as I don't want active emissions giving them away.

"Commander Faithen, Lieutenant Haskins, I want you two to review the satellites, to make sure they have as little signature as possible, can tolerate a year long deployment if necessary, and have the proper sensors. Commander Wilson, how quickly will you need the information?"

"I'll need a report in three hours, so my teams can get started on their modification and construction. Also, did the Axlor arrive with any munitions?"

Commander Keleros blinked at that question. "Munitions? As in missiles?"

"Yes. How many missiles does your ship have in its VLS cells?"

"As a 'training ship', its munitions were being pulled out, so we only have ten percent available, or twelve missiles. Of them, ten are training rounds, to familiarize people with the firing controls, and the ship's reaction when a missile is fired. The other two are long-range probe drones, for sensor

practice. They're a fairly new system, and because I came in a training ship, four of them were allocated for my usage. I used up two on the way here, trying to get my crews some experience. But it was a little tough though, as I had less than half the crew the ship needed."

Captain Morgan digested that piece of information, as it effectively meant that the Excellon's current ammunition load of 100 missiles was all they had at the moment, until the missile factory got into full production. But those recon drones sounded useful. The Excellon could arrive at the edge of a star system, and fire the drones inward. The drones could then coast in, while the Excellon advanced slowly, and used the drones to see what was waiting there.

"Then my ship's missile load can be divided with yours. For the probe drones, do you have a copy of their assembly plans?"

"We do have that on board, as we were expected to perform maintenance on them every month while out here. We can easily transfer the plans to your computers, in case you want to build replacements.

"One question I have though is why communications out here take so long. Why does it take around a month for a message to be transmitted to Starfleet Headquarters, and another month to be transmitted back?"

"That Commander Keleros is fairly simple. We are a little over sixty light years from Earth. Even with subspace messages traveling at warp nine, they take a month to arrive at Earth. Return messages take the same amount of time."

"Then why not transmit the messages through the tachyon stream we used to reach here?" Asked a young lieutenant from the Axlor.

Lieutenant Haskins turned on her and replied, "because, the tachyon stream isn't exactly stable for message traffic. If they tried to send a message to here, the currents in the tachyon stream make the message completely garbled at any distance over twenty light years. Of course the message travels the twenty light years in less than two days. A ship can make the transit easily, but it is slower than a message, and would still take a month to get here, as we did. As a result, Starfleet Command has decided to build small relay stations, as they are cheaper than sending ships as couriers through the tachyon stream. Even better, is that the relays can transmit in any direction at warp nine, while a ship

will have to drop out of the tachyon stream, and proceed at normal warp, multiplying the time delay by five.

"So in short, it is cheaper and more effective for Starfleet to use relay stations for passing messages, than using courier ships through the tachyon stream." Looking around at the others, Lieutenant Haskins just smiled, as she knew that she had gotten the answer correct. She knew she was a genius, and every genius in history had always had a few quirks. Since she figured she was a higher-level genius of sorts, she should have more quirks than the others, and had worked hard at developing them. Of course it hadn't endeared her to her superiors or almost everyone else in Starfleet, which probably explained her being out here, but she was used to making her way through anything that stood in her path.

Listening to her explain how the transit system worked out here, Captain Morgan remembered another lieutenant a while back. It wasn't himself, but a friend of his who had been determined to push the envelope in getting the warp core of his ship to the highest power output. He had managed to get the reactor running to twenty percent above normal for several weeks, when a faulty injector got jammed wide open. His modifications had removed several of the safety systems, and the antimatter plant had exploded. The remaining safety systems had managed to shut off the antimatter flow, but everyone within the main Engineering room had been incinerated by the blast. There hadn't even been any identifiable molecules of their bodies to bury in space.

He thought about cutting her back right then and there, but decided not to. The main reason would be that Lt Commander Faithen's assistant in Engineering was now also a Lieutenant Commander, and the two of them would be in charge of their respective departments. Both of them were well-balanced people, and would know to watch out for any possible tinkering she might try. The second reason was that her enthusiasm at the alien's technology, and trying to use it and improve upon it, was already slightly tempered by the images of what the slavers did to anyone in their path. First hand contact with their sadistic attitude would complete the job.

The rest of the meeting went fairly smoothly, except where the Axlor's crew heard about the alien

races encountered, and the plan to bring them into the official crew roster of the Excellon. They had initially protested the use of alien crewmembers, as Starfleet had a very strict policy of only allowing humans or Vulcans on their ships, but Captain Morgan made it plainly clear that several of these beings had passed the basic entrance exams to the Academy. With the limited numbers of crew available, along with the aliens' training, the Excellon and Axlor would now serve as a modified Academy training center. There wouldn't be time to go into the advanced subjects, but basic items could be taught easily, and on-the-job training had always been part of any military force. After that, the meeting broke up and the Excellon's department heads began meeting with their assistants and the Axlor's senior staff, dividing up the limited crew between the two warships.

That afternoon, the Excellon off-loaded thirty of its missiles to the Axlor, as the missile factory was still being assembled by the technicians, and five training rounds were taken from the Axlor and loaded onto the Excellon. Forty more missiles were taken off the Excellon and were loaded into the repair bays of the Excellon and the Axlor, as the repair crews would convert them into mines on the way to the colonies.

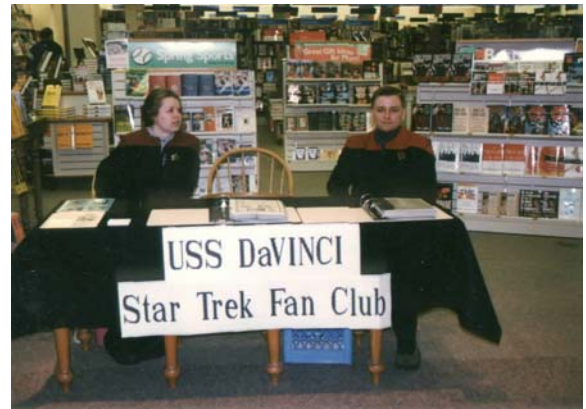
It had originally been planned to put four missiles in orbit around every colony, but with over two dozen colonies in the area, even putting two mines around every planet would have taken sixty missiles to be converted. As a result, the Excellon and Axlor would be visiting four colonies, dropping off ten mines at each, and then returning to 121. By that time, the missile factory would be in full operation, and it would have more missiles and mines built.

Hopefully, the slavers would stay low for a while, giving them time to place mines around most of the colonies before the raids started again. It was possible the loss of the vessels attacking the Ritzak five colony would encourage them to lick their wounds, but since they had obviously captured the Amemnon, they would be eager to use it to go out and hunt again. Hopefully, enough mines could be placed before that happened.

To Be Continued in Part XXII 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.



Connie Heller and Joey Alcorn at Our First Membership Drive at Walden Books, Peachtree Mall (15 April 1996)



The Captain and the Captain's Woman



Our First Membership Meeting at the Book Source. It is Also the Largest Meeting (29) We Have Ever Had (18 July 1996)



First Officer Joe Perry. Has Not Changed Much.
Same Amount of Hair. On the Other Hand.....



Captain Freddy Heller. Say, I Do Believe that is the
Uniform Now Worn by Tony Fleming! Say, is that
Hair on Top of His Head?

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WILL BE MAY 6th
AT 7:00 PM AT THE
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE**

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT
WILL BE AT GOLDEN CORRAL
ON MONDAY MAY 17th AT 7:00 PM
COME ONE COME ALL!**