



DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 10 Number 1

JULY 2004

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

Our annual 4th of July party is just around the corner! This year it will be on Saturday, July 3rd beginning at 2:00 PM. There is a sign-up sheet for side dishes. If you have not already signed up to bring something, please call Gisela. As of now, it looks like we will have another great turn-out. The 4th of July party is usually the biggest DaVinci event of the year so please come if you can. Every year I invite ships from Region 2 to attend and this year will be no different. Last year we had several guests from around the Region.

I am sorry I have not been around lately but I am on a month-long test of some enhanced night vision goggles. My schedule is reversed – I begin work at 7:00 PM and get off around 4:00 AM the next morning. This will be going on until 1 July, the last night of testing. So, if you have to get a hold of me for any reason, the best time to call would be during the day. Or you can call at night and leave a message on my machine and I will get back with you as soon as I can.

I spoke with Josh Ainsworth the other day and because of his hectic work schedule and other personal issues he will not be able to participate in ship activities as much as he would like. So it was with great reluctance that I accepted his resignation as Engineering Officer. If you feel you would like to take over Engineering please let either myself or Russell know.

RADML Freddy Heller

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT
WILL BE AT THE PHILI CONNECTION
ON MONDAY JULY 19TH AT 7:00 PM
COME ONE COME ALL!**

EXECUTIVELY SPEAKING

Well, season three of Enterprise has ended and to no one's surprise the series has been given a pardon by UPN executives and will air again for a fourth season. The question now is, "Where do they go from here?" You would think that after a complete season of chasing pipe dreams of saving the world (Earth, that is) they would have at least been given a hero's welcome home rather than a welcome by two WW2 planes with guns ablazin' and CPT Archer ending up in a cot being peered over by an alien wearing a Nazi SS uniform. Give me a break! Enterprise is a name worthy of galaxy class excitement and adventure, not a trip down previous series memory lanes with Ferengi, Andorian, Borg and let us not forget the "Zindi" that Kirk, Picard, Sisko and Janeway never even heard of prior to their commands. Hey, I got an idea. How about they do an episode with "Chef" or at least promote one or two of the ensigns of the bridge crew. Goodness knows they certainly deserve it. I don't really know about "Enterprise" as a prequel and certainly don't believe it will make the full seven year stretch but after all, it is "Star Trek" and Star Trek fans will watch the program based on just that alone. I do.

Live long and prosper!

CMDR Russell Ruhland

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CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY 3 JULY
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SCIENCE STATION

This month we conclude the article by Margaret McGillicuddy on the life of Marie Curie. I hope you enjoy it.

Part 2: The Discovery Years

After going through the periodic system, she found that only uranium and thorium gave off this radiation. She continued her research. Next, she studied the natural ores that contained uranium and thorium. Of the ores she studied, pitchblende was found to be four to five times more active than was motivated by the uranium. It was a new element that was more active than uranium and was found in small amounts in the ore.

Pierre now abandoned his research and joined Marie in her research. They realized that the activity came from bismuth or barium.

“When Marie continued her analysis of the bismuth fractions, she found that every time she managed to take away an amount of bismuth, a residue with greater activity was left. At the end of June, 1898, they had a substance that was about 300 times more strongly active than uranium.”

They had discovered Polonium. In December, 1898 they had come upon another new element that was similar to bismuth. They suggested the name radium.

In order for these two to be considered as new elements, three things had to happen: (1) they had to produce them, (2) find their atomic weight, and (3) isolate them. They did this in a laboratory shed where they spent many happy years together working on this process. William Ostwalt, the German chemist, said “It was a cross between a stable and a potato shed.”

In 1903, Marie isolated one decigram of radium chloride – its atomic weight was 225. She presented this in her doctoral thesis at the Sorbonne.

In 1903, Marie and Pierre were awarded half the Nobel Prize in Physics, and Becquerel received the other half. Because of teaching obligations they weren't able to travel to Stockholm until 1905 to receive the prize.

In 1904 Pierre was given a chair at the Sorbonne but no new laboratory. Two years later, in April, 1906, Pierre was killed by a horse drawn carriage.

In 1908, Marie was the first woman to be appointed to become a professor at the Sorbonne.

She continued her work with radium, and along with Andre Debierne, finally isolated radium in metallic form.

In 1911 she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. “Chemists considered the discovery and isolation of radium was the greatest event in chemistry since the discovery of oxygen.”

Marie opened up a completely new field of study: radioactivity. It was being studied all over the world. Two scientists studied with Marie between 1907-1912.

Marie was getting ready to head a department of the Radium Institute in 1914, when the First World War started. She put the radium she had in a bank vault in Bordeaux. During the war she was busy putting X-ray apparatus into mobile vans and fixed installations.

After the war, Marie worked at the Radium Institute. She also did fund raising for the Institute.

Marie Curie died of leukemia on July 4, 1934.
[Thanks to Nancy Forman of the Nobel Foundation]

ENS Margaret McGillicuddy

STARFLEET CONFERENCE

This is the last 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 (region2.org/summit/index.htm), please do so soon. There is still room at the hotel but that may not last long. If you have never been to an IC they are quite exciting. This year is shaping to be one of the best (of course since it is hosted by Region 2) ICs so do not delay and register as soon as possible.

PASSAGES

Richard Biggs, who played Dr. Stephen Franklin on "Babylon 5" and also had a long run on the soap opera "Days of Our Lives," died Saturday 22 May. He was 44, according to the actor's Web site.

A posting on a "Babylon 5" message board by J. Michael Straczynski, the sci-fi show's creator, said the cause of death has not been determined but that "paramedics who showed up suggested it was either an aneurysm or a massive stroke." Biggs, a graduate of the UCLA School of Theatre, gained his first

major exposure as Dr. Marcus Hunter on "Days of Our Lives." He was on the NBC show for 5 years.

He also appeared on Lifetime's "Any Day Now" and "Strong Medicine." Most recently, he played Clayton Boudreaux on the CBS soap opera "Guiding Light." "Richard was a consummate professional, but more than that he was an honorable, stand-up guy," Straczynski wrote in his posting. "He was, quite simply, a terrific guy, and everyone here is just devastated at the news." Biggs is survived by his wife, Lori Gerber, and two sons.

Thanks to CNN.com for the information.



Richard Biggs as Dr Stephen Franklin on Babylon 5

NEW PENNY JAR CONTEST!

It has been a while since we did the penny jar fund raiser and so a new contest is about to begin! This time around we will do "your favorite captain." Yes, start saving your change and vote for your favorite captain. Will it be the man who started it all, James T. Kirk? How about Jean-Luc Picard of the 1701-D? Or maybe you prefer Benjamin L. Sisko of Deep Space Nine? There is always the first female captain, Kathryn Janeway. Or, how about the new kid on the block, Jonathan Archer?

For those of you who have never played the game, this is how it works. If you wish to vote for a particular captain, you would put pennies into his or her jar. If you wish to vote against another captain, you would put silver in his or her jar. Pennies add to the total and silver subtracts from the total. For example if jar "A" had 100 pennies and an additional 75 cents in silver, the total for that jar is 25 cents even though \$1.75 is in the jar. After a period of time, the winner will be determined by the total number of pennies (minus the silver) in the jar. Paper money is always accepted but does not count

in the final total. The jars will be available at each of the DaVinci functions. So, make sure you bring lots of change!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Dominic Keating (LT Malcolm Reed)	1 st
Alan Ruck (CPT Harriman)	1 st
Brock Peters (Joseph Sisko)	2 nd
Pathfinder Spacecraft Lands on Mars (1997)	4 th
Rick Sternbach (Senior Illustrator)	6 th
William Schallert (Nilz Baris)	6 th
Kim Darby (Miri)	7 th
CADET Gracie Walker	9 th
Linda Park (ENS Hoshi Sato)	9 th
Patrick Stewart (CPT Jean Luc Picard)	13 th
Robert Justman (Producer)	13 th
First Link-Up of Apollo-Soyuz (1975)	17 th
First Man on the Moon (Neil Armstrong 1969)	20 th
Second American in Space (Gus Grissom 1961)	21 st
Louise Fletcher (Kai Winn)	22 nd
1 st Solo Flight Around Word (Wiley Post 1933)	22 nd
Ronnie Cox (CPT Jellico)	23 rd
First Woman Space Walker (Svetlana Savitskaya 1984)	25 th
FCPT Joe Perry	25 th
Nana Visitor (COL Kira Nerys)	26 th
NASA Created (1958)	29 th
Wil Wheaton (Wesley Crusher)	29 th
David Warner (Chancellor Gorkon)	29 th
CRMN Jackie McConnell	29 th
CADET Hunter Ainsworth	31 st

TREK AND SCI-FI BUZZ

There is some exciting news on the DVD front!

Paramount Home Entertainment delivers the highly anticipated Star Trek, the complete First Season on DVD - this August 31, in an 8-disc collectible box set. The box will contain all 29 episodes from Season One, along with newly produced bonus features exclusive to this DVD release. They will be in air date order. Disc 8 of the DVD also includes special features. All three seasons will be out before Christmas.

David Gerrold ("The Trouble with Tribbles") reports on his web site that plans are also underway

for a DVD box-set of Star Trek: The Animated Series, with commentaries from cast and writers. It is scheduled for a 2005 release! Hurray! This is a long time coming.

Television series have recently begun selling previous seasons on DVD while still on the air in first-run broadcast. Rumors have circulated that something similar might happen with Star Trek Enterprise and that it could happen very soon. TDB's Rumor Mill today reports that we could see DVD season box sets of Enterprise as early as next spring. This would accompany the second half of the show's fourth season on UPN and the site speculates that Paramount may be timing the release to boost the series for possible life beyond 2005.

The most recent issue of TV Guide contains an article discussing the reason UPN renewed Enterprise. The article claims UPN was set to cancel Enterprise, until Paramount made UPN "an offer it couldn't refuse". Paramount agreed to lower what it charges UPN per episode from \$1.7 million to \$800,000 in return for airing it for another season. UPN could now afford to air the series on Fridays at 9pm, where the network was drawing virtually no viewers. The article further states that Paramount agreed to lower the price to ensure a much more syndication-friendly four-season run, as well as to have a "fresh Trek product out there", which keeps Trekkers happy and buying other Trek-related products, which provides Paramount with a healthy revenue stream.

DaVINCI T-SHIRTS & POLOS

If you are interested in replacing your old worn-out DaVinci t-shirt or polo let me know. I will be passing out a sign-up sheet at various upcoming events. If you cannot make it to any of the events, feel free to call me (but please, 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. I also am planning on spending some DaVinci funds to buy some extra t-shirts and polo's for future members.

ATTENTION ON BOARD!

The 678th Marine Detachment has added another new member, LTJG Stephanie Harris. I would like to welcome her aboard and also wish her a happy birthday (06/18/04). The 678th is working on something for later this year (maybe September), but more on that when I have worked every thing out. I would like to thank Randy, Russell, and Rusty for their help in helping me do some yard work last month. Starting in August the 678th will hold their meeting on the second Saturday of each month. The place of the meeting is still being worked on, but the time should be around 2 PM.

LT Frazier Smith

NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

At the December meeting, the 2003 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)

August: Longhorn Steakhouse
September: El Vaquero (Phenix City)
October: Houlihan's (Inside Wyndham Hotel)
November: Olive Garden
December: Hunan's

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	500.56
Firefly Party	52.83
Stephens Party	50.00
Deposit	70.00
Closing Balance	467.73

CPT Connie Heller

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Joe Perry (D)
Russell Ruhland (D)
Karen Pynenburg. (D)
Mike Walker (D) (S)
Jean Walker (D) (S)

Hannah Walker ((D) (S)
 Grace Walker (D) (S)
 Ivy Walker (D) (S)
 George Pimentel (S)
 Cricket Pimentel (S)
 Joey Pimentel (S)
 Roger Wright (S)
 Rusty Touchton (D)
 Lisa Neal (D)

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	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	Apl 05	May 04
Michael Walker	Mar 05	Mar 05
Shannon Wells	Apl 05	
Patty Williams	Jul 04	
Roger Wright	Mar 04	May 05

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	Stephanie Harris	221-3425
Science Officer	Lech Mazur	596-9542
Computer Science	Stacy Harris	221-3425
Counselor	Russell Ruhland	855-4146
Medical	VACANT	
Morale	VACANT	
Engineering Officer	VACANT	
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 XXIII

The Excellon launched its missiles first, a spread of four missiles at maximum yield were targeted on the lead Pirate, and it angled course slightly, and opened fire.

"Captain, enemy vessel firing, not at us, its targeting the missiles!"

"On screen, tactical view."

The forward screen lit up, showing the relative positions of the four vessels, the colony, and the missile spread. The firing arcs and estimated ranges for the weapons were shown as well, the whole allowing a Captain to see the tactical picture immediately. The firing arc of the Pirate was swinging around, and the missiles were now in the center of the cone. Energy flares were detected, and lines were drawn on the screen, showing the firing vector.

"Pirate classified as Beta class. Three missiles destroyed, one missile detonating."

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The lone missile had managed to survive the fire, and detonated near the Pirate vessel, the nuclear wave washing over the vessel's hull.

"Target the Pirate, four missiles, sunburst pattern. Fire."

The eight missiles were launched this time, but instead of proceeding in as a group, they spread out, and came at the Pirate from different directions. This pattern was not as effective as a standard strike, as the damage would be spread out across the hull, instead of concentrated to get through. However, with the enemy deciding to shoot down the missiles, Captain Morgan needed the extra missiles to ensure enough got through.

The slaver vessel opened fire again, but could only target two of the missiles in time, and the other two reduced the vessel to a drifting vessel, instead of a full power warship. Captain Morgan hadn't wanted to take the risk of the large ion weapons damaging his ship with their firepower, and wanted to disable the Pirate before moving within range. With the slaver ship drifting, he could control the range and firing vector, and used that advantage.

"Helm bring us to 010 by 000, for half impulse. Tactical, status of the other vessels?"

Although he had the tactical screen in front of him, it could only show a limited amount of data in the interests of clarity. He needed more information on the other two ships, without losing track of the whole battle.

"Raider vessel sending single armed shuttle after us, freighter sending two armed shuttles. two more armed shuttles boosting from the planet. Flight profile of all indicate empty."

That simplified his options considerably. If the shuttles were empty, then he wouldn't have to face the nightmares caused by him destroying the shuttles, with civilians on board. It also meant that those shuttles would be entering the battle soon, so he had to get rid of the Pirate quickly. Studying the screen, he waited for the moment. There!

Helm course 330 by 015, three quarters impulse. Tactical, lock Spinal lasers on target."

"Locked, and two in the hole." Tactical told him that both of the Spinal lasers could hit the Slaver, referring to their five degree angle of fire.

"Fire."

The lasers cut into the Slaver, damaging its wings, and firing again, to damage the nose. They had been doing studies of the Slaver vessels, and the

lasers had been programmed with critical structural members and weapons in mind, and the beams had hit the areas with the main support beams, and the weapons, keeping the rest of the hull, and the computer core intact.

Captain Morgan didn't know which computer core would have the information he needed to find their base, but he would try to grab as many as possible, and eventually they would get the break they needed. Until then, it would be an interstellar game of Pokemon, with him trying to collect all the computer cores possible. The good part was, here were three potential computer cores, and one of them an ex-Federation core, with the potential to be accessed by Federation technicians later.

But later meant they had to survive the now, and the Raider vessel was closing. It fired pulses from each of its wings, and the technician called out, "Raider firing, either Alpha, or older model. Scanning further."

Captain Morgan saw the advantage quickly. At best, the Raider had a battery gun in the nose, which mean this ship was far superior to the Raider vessel. But the next call from tactical, as well as the screen told another story.

"Raider vessel scans as half full. Sensors indicate civilians onboard. Freighter Valraish also moving in, and cargo module scans as one third full. Detecting explosions, freighter has disconnected cargo module."

That simplified his options a little. The Raider vessel was the more dangerous of the two, and it had civilians on board, but the freighter didn't, now. They had likely done that to improve their maneuverability, but it also turned them into a target. He had to do it quickly, as a standard cargo module only had enough life support for two hundred man-hours. If it was one third full, that translated to less three hours to solve the problem.

"Target the Raider's warp nacelles, and cripple them. Fire Spinal lasers when in range."

"In range, firing." The main lasers lanced out again, cutting into the warp nacelles at the end of each wing of the Raider vessel, destroying its FTL capability.

"Raider firing, Alpha version." The Raider only had three large ion guns, and none of them had the auxiliary batteries, allowing multiple shots.

"Impact on forward shields, down to 85%. Reinforcing from other shields."

Captain Morgan smiled. Even if the Raider managed to hit full on with all three guns, it would take three volleys to bring down the forward shields, and by then the other shields would be used to reinforce the forward shields.

"Return fire, take out their engines. I want only life-support running on it."

"Firing, incoming shuttles! Four shuttles strafing us, fifth behind them."

"Turrets, take them."

The turrets on the Excellon swiveled the mirrors and lenses around, and began firing upon the shuttles, as the shuttles opened fire upon the Excellon, sending several bolts into the forward shields.

"Forward shields down to 78%. Raider vessel hit in engines, drifting to port. Turrets firing, three shuttles destroyed, fifth shuttle firing. Forward shields at 75%."

"Take us to port, to stay clear of the weapons on the Raider. Status of the freighter?"

"Aye Captain, coming to port."

"Freighter is closing, scanning for weapons. Dorsal array, no ventral array. Dorsal array unknown."

That meant the freighter only had one set of weapons to fire with. As it hadn't opened fire yet, that likely meant that it was armed with the short-range ion guns instead of the larger ion guns. Still, the freighter only had one weapon instead of two. Were the slavers running out?

"Disable the Raider, and engage the freighter with spinal lasers. Even with a large ion gun, that's not enough to worry us."

"Targeting Raider, firing. Main power disabled, estimate two hours for repairs." The lieutenant at tactical stiffened for a moment, reading something, "last two shuttles taken down. Of the five shuttles, two destroyed, three drifting."

Captain Morgan sighed. Apparently his turret crews were getting tricky, trying to just damage the shuttles, rather than destroying them completely. It was nice, that they felt they could use the shuttles later, but it was a dangerous sign of either overconfidence, or sloppy firing. He would have to make sure which it was. Sloppy firing could be cured with targeting drills, while overconfidence was dangerous, as it allowed one to make mistakes.

To Be Continued in Part XXIV Next Month*

THE USS DAVINCI IN PHOTOS

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



Lying down is Patty Williams and with Lisa Neal, Travis Heller, Karen Baker, and Malik Coles is enjoying a game of Chinese Checkers at the last meeting of the year (19 December 1996)



Joanne Vazquez smiles for the camera. at the December meeting.

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Grant Kersey looks at the Captain's Deep Space Nine cards at the December meeting.



Connie Heller discusses the Grand Slam convention at the December meeting.



Brian Evans, John Miller, and Kalan Vazquez swapping Star Trek: The Next Generation Customizable Card Game (CCG) trading cards at the December meeting.



Joe Perry and Jason Fields playing Star Trek: The Next Generation CCG in the kitchen at the December meeting. Guess who lost?

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