



# DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 10 Number 2

AUGUST 2004

## FROM THE CENTER SEAT

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July cookout was a great success! Nearly 22 crew personnel and their guests feasted on hamburgers and hotdogs expertly prepared by Connie Heller, the DaVinci's resident chef and the one who keeps the Captain in line! In addition, there were plenty of side dishes to make anyone happy. Including the potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, and various chips and dip, the crew also feasted on red velvet and chocolate cake for dessert. There was supposed to be ice cream as well, but the nameless and ostracized crew member who signed up to bring ice cream failed to let the Captain know that he would not be able to attend the cookout. The grumbling voices from those present were quite noticeable with phrases such as "drawn and quartered", "hung up by his thumb nails", and "lynched" making the rounds. Fortunately for this unnamed Starfleet Marine (whose initials are Frazier Smith), a late telephone call and a very late appearance (most had already left for home) with the promised ice cream saved him from unspeakable horror. Ironically, no one ate any of the ice cream and the containers were put into the freezer for a future DaVinci event.

The DaVinci "for sale" table was set up as usual but only a few items managed to sell (every little bit helps). The Penny Jar Contest began its run with several folks voting for their favorite Star Trek show (early results show a fierce battle between Jean-Luc Picard and Benjamin Sisko). Finally, Connie premiered her latest creation, "USS DaVinci July 2003 – June 2004" which was available in either CD or VCD format. Just as last year's edition the disk, containing a slide show of photographs of DaVinci events set to the "Voyager" theme, was a big hit with those present with nine being quickly

sold. The celebration lasted until well into the evening hours and it was only after 9:00 PM and some prodding from Connie that I finally put my foot down and "kicked" out of the house those few still remaining. In keeping with tradition, Joe was the last to leave. A BIG Bajoran thanks to all who attended and made our 6<sup>th</sup> annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July cookout the success it was.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> of July cookout many things were discussed, one of which was the new fall television season. One of the shows most of the crew was looking forward to seeing was the 8<sup>th</sup> season premiere of "Stargate SG-1" as well as the premiere of "Stargate Atlantis." Since "Stargate SG-1" was going to premiere the following Friday, a "Stargate SG-1" premiere party was quickly arranged. Over 20 crew personnel and guests showed up for this event, far more than anyone had expected. While most of the kids played around the house, 14 die-hard fans watched the special "From Stargate to Atlantis" followed by the premier of "Stargate SG-1". The DaVinci supplied the munchies consisting of two different kinds of potato chips and freshly popped popcorn. Both cheers and jeers could be heard as the hour special and 2-hour premiere ran their course. The bombardment of "Stargate Atlantis" during the commercial breaks excited those in attendance. By the time you read this "Stargate Atlantis" will have premiered and no, there was not a premiere party for this one. If someone wants to volunteer and do a review of the show feel free to do so.

Finally, there was a very important meeting, called by Roger Wright, the DaVinci's Security Chief, to discuss "important matters." More on that meeting later in the Pilot!

RADML Freddy Heller

## SCIENCE STATION

Political Science is one of the many branches of science that have the ultimate goal of seeking the truth. The film, Fahrenheit 9-11, has been described as being a politically biased statement. I have seen the film for myself. At the behest of Randy, one of our fearless Trekkers, I have chosen to write this month's article about Fahrenheit 9-11. I will focus on the overall impression I got of the movie. As you well know, science seeks the truth in the most objective process. Regarding the movie, I will try to partially emulate the scientific process of examining the evidence in order to seek what is true or is not true. Let us suffice it to say that science seeks the truth by examining all points of view or all the evidence. It is interesting to note that some of the ancient Greek philosophers believed that politicians, or political scientists, should be specially trained in that field the same as doctors, engineers or lawyers are thus highly trained. Perhaps the greatest written work regarding political science was by the Italian Renaissance philosopher, Nikola Machiavelli. His trademark book, "The Prince" has had a great influence on politicians for hundreds of years.

In Ray Bradbury's novel, Fahrenheit 451, the temperature at which paper burns is 451 degrees Fahrenheit. Bradbury used the temperature as a metaphor for an oppressive political system that controls people by denying them the right to read. This was done by policing the world of written material, confiscating it and then burning it. Fahrenheit 911 is about 100 degrees above the temperature at which lead melts. Perhaps it was the intention of director Michael Moore to use Fahrenheit 9-11 as a metaphor for the heat of war and the political heat that was created by the tragedy at the World Trade Center. Margaret, who saw the movie with me, thought of the title as being like a fire alarm, meaning a wake up call.

Throughout the film, there were many moments where I was deeply disturbed and I felt like walking out because I couldn't stand some of the imagery. There were terrible scenes of families weeping at the burned and mutilated bodies of their children. Equally horrifying were the scenes of American bodies being ruthlessly mutilated. There was a beheading of a Saudi Arabian as sanctioned by the Saudi Arabian government. Scenes where American service peoples' families expressed their severe pain

they experienced from the loss of a family member in the Iraqi conflict. I came out of the movie thinking why are people calling this movie an anti-Bush propaganda film when my gut reaction was, my God, this is an anti war-film with some of its vivid gut wrenching and disturbing images of war.

In short some of the major points of the movies as I saw it are as follows. Number one, was that Bush failed to immediately take action against Osama Bin Laden. Secondly, that Dick Cheney's company, Halliburton, had financial interest in pressing for the war in Afghanistan in order to put in place an Afghani president that would yield to pressures by Halliburton to build a gas pipeline in Afghanistan that would basically enrich the coffers of Halliburton. Thirdly, there was the premise that President Bush's family had an interest in profiting from the Bin Laden family through the Carlyle investment group which worked with the Bin Laden family with Saudi investments in the United States. Finally, the proposition that Bush used fear-mongering in order to push the Patriot Act, (which according to Michael Moore, was not completely read by a single member of Congress) and to have us believe that there were weapons of mass destruction Iraq leading the U.S. to invade Iraq.

Continued next month.

ENS Lech Mazur

## ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks goes out to:

Roger Wright for his usual large donations of tabs, coupons, and stamps.

Randy Dunn for his donations of tabs, coupons, and stamps.

Stacy and Stephanie Harris for their donation of stamps.

Karen Pynenburg for her donation of tabs and cans.

**THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
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## SECURITY SECTION

Hello everyone! Let me introduce myself, I am Skye Cameron and I am the newest member of the USS DaVinci. I'm writing this article on the first annual security meeting, and how much fun it was. The meeting was held at every guy's favorite restaurant, Hooters. The attendees of the event were Roger, and his girlfriend Charlotte, Freddy, Russell, Todd, Rusty, Joe, Randy, Lech, and myself. We started out the afternoon feasting several varieties hot wings complements of Roger. We found out the hard way that we needed an advisory before eating the wings. Warning! Warning! Do not get the Three Mile Island wings. Before Lech even bit into one of the wings he was coughing! You know they had to be hot! Meanwhile, the rest of us were admiring our very pretty server, Jasmine while conversations of DragonCon and other Star Trek fantasy related topics filled the table. Roger announced that the main purpose of the meeting was just to get together. It was a fun-filled afternoon. This is my contribution as the newest member. Thanks for having me!

CRMN Skye Cameron

## NEW PENNY JAR CONTEST!

It has been a while since we did the penny jar fund raiser and so a new contest has begun! This time around we will do "your favorite captain." Yes, start saving your change and vote for your favorite captain. Will it be James Kirk, Jean-Luc Picard, Benjamin Sisko, Kathryn Janeway, or 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 August!

Neil Armstrong (Astronaut)	5 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Okuda (Art Supervisor)	6 <sup>th</sup>
Cathrine Hicks (Dr. Gillian Taylor)	6 <sup>th</sup>
Cirroc Lofton (Jake Sisko)	7 <sup>th</sup>
Matt Jeffries (Set Designer)	12 <sup>th</sup>
Jane Wyatt (Amanda)	12 <sup>th</sup>
CRMN Chantel Billingsley	13 <sup>th</sup>
ENS Joey Pimentel	13 <sup>th</sup>
Brannon Braga (Executive Producer Enterprise)	14 <sup>th</sup>
Julie Newmar (Eleen)	16 <sup>th</sup>
First Trans-Atlantic Balloon Flight (1987)	17 <sup>th</sup>
Harve Bennett (Producer)	17 <sup>th</sup>
Gene Roddenberry (Great Bird of the Galaxy)	19 <sup>th</sup>
Jonathan Frakes (CMDR William Riker)	19 <sup>th</sup>
Diana Muldaur (Dr. Kathrine Pulaski)	19 <sup>th</sup>
Voyager II is Launched (1977)	20 <sup>th</sup>
CADET Hannah Walker	21 <sup>st</sup>
Kim Katrall (Valeris)	21 <sup>st</sup>
Jennifer Lien (Kes)	24 <sup>th</sup>
Mariner II is Launched to Venus (1962)	27 <sup>th</sup>
LT Frazier Smith	27 <sup>th</sup>
Gates McFadden (Dr Beverly Crusher)	28 <sup>th</sup>
LTJG Stacy Harris	30 <sup>th</sup>
First Black American in Space (Guion Bluford 1983)	30 <sup>th</sup>

## TREK AND SCI-FI BUZZ

James Doohan, has Alzheimer's disease. The 84-year-old actor's family has revealed that the progress of his dementia means he will have to retire from public life. Despite a history of ill health, including Parkinson's disease and diabetes, he was still a regular fixture on the Star Trek convention circuit until recently.

The good news is that Jimmy has finally received his star on the Hollywood walk of fame.

Police arrested Brian Bonsall, who played Worf's son Alexander, in Boulder, CO for driving under the influence. He failed the roadside sobriety test and had a high blood alcohol level. He was convicted in 2001 of drunken driving and had his license suspended. No word if Blood Wine was the intoxicating agent.

## 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 polos for future members.

## 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)

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

## FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	467.73
Postage	10.70
Office Depot (supplies)	45.83
July 4 Party	11.30
Deposits	111.18
Closing Balance	511.08

CPT Connie Heller

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## OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

Below is a picture of Brayden Pimentel, the daughter of Lindsey Pimentel. Congratulations to Lindsey and to Grandpa George and Grandma Cricket!



Brayden attempting his first Vulcan hand salute!

## WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Skye Cameron (D)  
Tony Fleming (D) (S)  
Maritza Fleming (D)  
Mariaelena Fleming (D)  
Vincenzo Fleming (D)  
Freddy Heller (D)  
Connie Heller (D)  
Travis Heller (D)  
Ariana Heller (D)  
Lech Mazur (D)  
George Pimentel (D)  
Cricket Pimentel (D)  
Joey Pimentel (D)  
Lindsey Pimentel (D)  
Brayden Pimentel (D)  
Karen Pynenburg (D)  
Russell Ruhland (D)  
Roger Wright (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	<b>Mar 04</b>
Karen Baker	Jul 04	
Robert Crosby	Dec-04	
Karen Ferris	Sep 04	
Tony Fleming	Jul 05	Jun 05
Stacy Harris	Apl 05	Apl 05
Rose Hutson	Sep 04	
Fred Kemp	<b>Mar 04</b>	Mar 05
Todd Kes	Sep 04	
Lesh Mazur	Jul 05	Mar 05
Carl Olsen	Feb 05	
Joe Perry	Jul 05	Nov 04
George Pimentel	Jul 05	Jun 05
Karen Pynenburg	Jul 05	May 05
Russell Ruhland	Aug 05	Aug 04
Frazier Smith	Feb 05	Apl 05
Joanne Vazquez	Apl 05	<b>May 04</b>
Michael Walker	Mar 05	Mar 05
Shannon Wells	Apl 05	
Patty Williams	Jul 04	
Roger Wright	Jul 06	May 05

## DaVINCI STAFF ROSTER

<b>Commanding Officer</b>	Freddy Heller	562-8735
<b>Executive Officer</b>	Russell Ruhland	855-4146
<b>Operations Officer</b>	Joe Perry.....	327-5888
Finance	Connie Heller	562-8735
Community Service	Tony Fleming	568-6529
Publications	Stephanie Harris	221-3425
<b>Science Officer</b>	Lech Mazur	596-9542
Computer Science	Stacy Harris	221-3425
Counselor	Russell Ruhland	855-4146
Medical	<b>VACANT</b>	
Morale	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Engineering Officer</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	

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

Sorry to say that there will no "At the Edge of the Federation" story this month. Todd is working on several more chapters and as soon as these are complete, we will continue the story line.

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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.



A large membership meeting gathering. Special guests Mike Henigan & Kelly Hillard (second row center) from the USS Republic, Atlanta, come down for a visit (15 February 1997).





Connie Heller receives her Commander pips!



One happy new Commander!



Karen Baker receives her promotion certificate to Petty Officer Second Class (PO2).



Gisela Stephens wins the February door prize!



Ruth Troyer, Gisela Stephens, and an unknown (if you know who she is please let me know) chat during the February meeting.

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