



# DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 10 Number 3

SEPTEMBER 2004

## FROM THE CENTER SEAT

I am in the initial stages of planning the very first DaVinci away mission! The location will be the Museum of Aviation Flight and Technology Center at Robbins Air Force Base, GA and the date is 11 September! The Museum of Aviation preserves and protects the history of aviation as well as investing in its future. The museum grounds contain more than 90 aircraft from the 1896 glider to the Mach 3 SR-71 (the fastest jet in the world). Admission is free so all you have to do is bring money for food and souvenirs. The museum is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM so we will figure on an early start and a long fun-filled day. If you are interested in going please let myself or Russell know. We will try to car pool.

Also on September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> will be the second Columbus Game and Hobby Expo at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center. We will again have a table and I need volunteers to not only man the DaVinci table but help out as volunteers at the Expo as well. Last April was a lot of fun and we also managed to pick up four new crewmembers! I need folks with uniforms although you do not have to have a uniform to volunteer. Let me know if you can lend a hand.

Finally, the DaVinci will host its second annual "Good-Bye Summer, Hello Fall" party on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Last year's event was a lot of fun and I am sure this year's will be even more enjoyable. As usual, the DaVinci will supply the burgers and hot dogs and the rest of the food will come from the crew. Start time will be at 2:00 PM. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the September meeting and September night out. Mark you calendar.

RADML Freddy Heller

## EXECUTIVELY SPEAKING

Ah, Birmingham! A place of wondrous sites, dining establishments, and of course, the 2004 Starfleet International Conference. Gloriously representing the USS DaVinci at IC 2004 was Connie, Ariana, Joe, Frazier, Roger, and of course, the man of a thousand article jokes, me! Frazier and I arrived on Thursday as I was assigned on staff to assist Denby with the registration table. One great thing about working the registration table is that you get to meet everybody that comes to the IC and I like nothing more than meeting new people and aliens at all the Starfleet activities I attend.

The rest of the crew arrived on Friday with the exception of Roger which I understand, according to Frazier, made a brief appearance on Saturday and somehow must have been beamed onto a Ferengi Freighter and warped quickly away.



(L-R) Joe Perry, Frazier Smith, Connie Heller, Ariana Heller, and Russell Ruhland at the IC2004 in Birmingham, AL

I heard a lot of good comments about the panels this year and did have the opportunity to attend the "Meet the Candidates" panel whereby those attending got a chance to hear from both candidates

and their running staffs for the position of Fleet Admiral this year. Watch for your upcoming issues in the Communiqué for more information on the upcoming election.

The Saturday night banquet was by far the best I have had the pleasure of participating in (sorry Freddy, you really missed a good one!) and the charity auction for the Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham netted over \$4000.00. Connie was glad that Freddy's donation of the signed Voyager cast poster was sold and brought a generous amount to the auction as well. Sunday as always bought sad farewells but never good-bye as we all look forward to seeing each other again next year at IC 2005 in San Antonio, TX. Much thanks to Frazier for donating his time during the IC to helping at the Region 2/IC Quartermaster Store throughout the entire weekend. Next month - DRAGONCON!!!

CMDR Russell Ruhland

## SCIENCE STATION

(Fahrenheit 9-11 continued from last month)

Clearly, from the above views basically proposed by Michael Moore, the film truly has the element of anti-Bush propaganda. Through very clever cinematic techniques and interviews and musical sound effects, Moore does make President Bush look like an incompetent leader and at times he makes him look like a buffoon. This is clearly propaganda. After all, any of us including yours truly, can look like an idiot when caught in an off moment. That after all is inherently unfair. One can clearly see that Moore's techniques of countless interviews and cinematic imagery are designed to influence one's point of view. The movie is in its self quite funny, disturbing and entertaining at the same time. One could completely disagree with the movie's premises and yet walk out of the theater being both disturbed and entertained by the movie.

There are two forms of propaganda. They are positive and negative propaganda. The negative propaganda is usually related to the Hitleran form of propaganda used by Hitler's propaganda minister who's name was Goebbels. In negative propaganda, false information with evil intent is created in order to influence the masses to believe the false information and there by perform evil disservices to certain members of society. Positive propaganda is

usually used to promote a point of view that would influence one for the betterment of society. There is a thin line between the two propagandas because positive propaganda can just as easily cross over into negative propaganda. One's personal biases and human frailties can warp one's point of view.

How does one deal with the weaknesses, bias and fears that we all have? I have reported the details about Michael Moore's movie as best as I can. Note that I did not use the word facts. I have failed in my effort to use some of the principles of science to find the truth about this film. I have not done an extensive research, using the best resources available; to prove to my satisfaction that everything Michael Moore proposed was true. I have yet to explore the resources regarding the Republican point of view. Am I supposed to believe every single liberal editorial writer or every conservative writer as gospel truth without exploring the information and choosing for my self what is true based on the information I have gleaned? Should one not go see the film because one has heard that the film is clearly an anti-Bush bashing propaganda film? Which to my point of view it is a Bush bashing film and I'm getting bushed writing about it. The great Italian journalist, Orianna Fallacci, once said that there is not such thing as objectivity because if one truly seeks to find the truth, one automatically becomes objective by looking for every conceivable point of view. My point is that you must be the budding political scientist, the philosopher the seeker of truth. Decide for your self and weigh the evidence not just because I said so or some body else said so. I can not do it for you. That is why I have failed to use the bias freeing principles of science. It's your job. Do it for your self and watch your self grow.

ENS Lech Mazur

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## STARFLEET FINAL

Karen Pynenburg wrote a wonderful article about Starfleet and Trek fans in general for her English Composition class. Many of you were interviewed for the information it contains. I thought I would share it with you. Due to its length part one will be presented this month and part two in October.

### POINTED EARS & GOLDEN HEARTS

Star Trek. For some these words bring to mind visions of kooks in costumes. Nerds and Geeks who cannot find any place else to fit in, or totally annoying people that just will not go away. For others they bring to mind the possibility of a world at peace, a world in which people help each other, the community, and the environment. They look forward to a world in which peoples' differences come together with their similarities to paint a picture more stunningly beautiful than any Van Gough, DaVinci or Kincaid. Many of these people make up an organization called Starfleet: The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. From the very beginning in 1974, when John Bradbury organized the first club, or chapter, Starfleet has been about diversity, fun and making our little corner of the universe a better place.

One of Star Trek's, and thereby Starfleet's, biggest tenets is I.D.I.C. – Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations. Diversity keeps monotony and boredom at bay. Acceptance of diversity is the ability to take a screech or a bang and turn it into Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 or Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite. Embracing diversity is what takes us to the stars. If one person, working on a problem, comes up with two ways to solve the problem, how many solutions are to be found when two or more people examine the problem from their different points of view? When combining these solutions the best one presents itself - diversity to teamwork. Starfleet is a study in diversity. All ages, many nationalities and most occupations are represented by the membership of Starfleet.

Current members enroll their children as soon as they are born. At chapter meetings the children are playing in the back yard, coloring in the next room or watching mermaids and puppies on TV. International Conferences have activities set up for their younger members. While their parents are attending the "adult" functions, the children have

meetings of their own. "Away Missions" are set up for them, taking them to fun and educational places, such as The McWane Center in Birmingham, AL. This center is designed as a series of science exhibits that encourage public participation. Starfleet Academy (yes, they even have an "educational division") has courses for preteens and teenagers, as well as adults. These young people aspire to achieve the "rank and responsibility" of their parents and grandparents. Grandparents? Most definitely, grandparents are some of the most fun loving and helpful people around. Having brought their own children up within Starfleet, grandparents are well qualified to guide the younger set through Fleet activities. Grandparents are the founders and the experience of Starfleet.

As indicated by the full name, Starfleet is more than just a few chapters in two or three states. There are close to 5,000 members spread across the United States, Canada, the UK and Australia. Even within stateside chapters, there is quite a range of ethnicity. The membership typifies the "American melting pot". Heritages ranging from American Indian to European, from African to Asian, Canadian to Mexican and many others are found within the Fleet. These cultures come together to form a mosaic in which each shines forth as unique, and yet compliments the whole. Starfleet is a living rainbow.

Just as diverse as age and ethnicity is occupation. Two of the hardest jobs, as well as most rewarding, that anyone could have are found throughout the Fleet - child and parent. There are single parent families, two parent families, families where both parents work and families where one parent stays at home. While the female homemaker is more common, there are families who have decided that, until the children are in school, the "stay at home Dad" is the better option for them. College students abound, computer operators and technicians, hospital maintenance workers and bank tellers are members. Ministers and Pastors, male - and female, are not hard to find. The military is well represented, with some active military personnel sending home pictures of one of Saddam's many thrones or M.A.S.H. like photos from Korea. Retired military personnel who teach radiography, ultrasonics and florescent dye penetrant and those who have decided on a less technical life are members. Customer service representatives and

writers of technical manuals are in the Fleet. Whether dentist, instructor, paramedic, or surgeon, the medical professional is accounted for. Grade school teachers, pastry chefs, tax lawyers, and government CPAs are members as well. Possibly one of the most "famous" members, Bjo Trimble, worked for Gene Roddenberry for 15 years. In 1968, Bjo helped Mr. Roddenberry set up Lincoln Enterprises. This company answered Star Trek mail and marketed licensed Star Trek products.

LTJG Karen Pynenburg

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

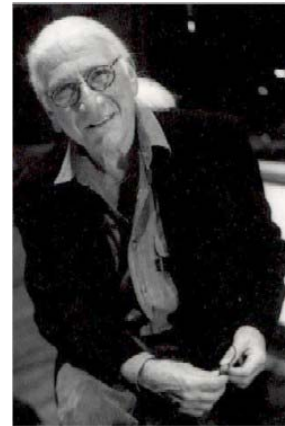
Many happy returns to the following DaVinci personnel and Star Trek celebrities and events that are celebrating birthdays or anniversaries in September!

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| ENS Crickett Pimentel                              | 1 <sup>st</sup>  |
| Viking II Lands on Mars (1967)                     | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| ENS Lindsey Pimentel                               | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Voyager I is Launched (1977)                       | 5 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Star Trek Premiers (1966)                          | 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Star Trek Animated Series Premiers (1973)          | 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Jeffrey Combs (Weyoun, Brunt, Shran, Krem)         | 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| ENS Fred Kemp                                      | 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| CRMN Jeri Herrington                               | 11 <sup>th</sup> |
| Roxann Dawson (Lt B'Ellana Torres)                 | 11 <sup>th</sup> |
| Walter Koenig (ENS Pavel Chekov)                   | 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| Bruce Hyde (LT Kevin O'Riley)                      | 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| First Man-Made Object to Reach Moon (Luna II 1959) | 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| NASA Unveils Space Shuttle Enterprise (1976)       | 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| LTJG Karen Pynenburg                               | 19 <sup>th</sup> |
| ENS Carol Harrison                                 | 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Rosalind Chao (Keiko O'Brien)                      | 23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Neptune Discovered by Johann Galle (1846)          | 23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| CRMN Rusty Touchton                                | 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| CADET Rebecca Dunn                                 | 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| Enterprise Premiers (2001)                         | 26 <sup>th</sup> |
| The Next Generation Premiers (1987)                | 28 <sup>th</sup> |
| First Round-the-World Flight (US Army 1924)        | 28 <sup>th</sup> |
| William Windom (Commodore Matt Decker)             | 28 <sup>th</sup> |
| CRMN Eric Baumann                                  | 29 <sup>th</sup> |
| CRMN Karen Ferris                                  | 30 <sup>th</sup> |

## PASSAGES

Composer Jerry Goldsmith, 75, whose memorable music included the themes to The Waltons and Star Trek the Next Generation has died of cancer.

Goldsmith's compositions have virtually defined the musical personality of Star Trek since the debut of "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" in 1979. That score went on to be the theme song for Star Trek: The Next Generation. Goldsmith also wrote the title music for Star Trek: Voyager, along with several other Trek movies including "Star Trek: First Contact," which many fans believe to be one of the most inspired scores ever written for a genre film (or any film for that matter).



He even left his mark on the Star Trek: The Experience attraction in Las Vegas, with original music for "Borg Invasion 4D." He also scored "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier," "Star Trek: Insurrection," and "Star Trek Nemesis."

His soundtrack for "ST:TMP" earned him one of his 17 Academy Award nominations (his one Oscar win was in 1977 for "The Omen"), as well as nominations for Golden Globe and Saturn awards. His Voyager theme song earned one of his five Emmy trophies. "First Contact" won him a BMI Film Music Award, and his audio commentary on the "Director's Edition" DVD of "TMP" earned a Video Premiere Award nomination in 2001.

Thanks to StarTrek.com for the information.

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## ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks goes out to:

Patsy Carey from Central High School in Phenix City for the large donation of tabs.

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

Stacy & Stephanie Harris for their donation of cans and tabs.

## TREK AND SCI-FI BUZZ

Roger Nygard, who directed "Trekkies," will be in in Columbus on 11 September at the Columbus Museum. He was the judge of the Columbus State student film contest and will be showing the films that evening. He is also bringing a copy of his film "Trekkies 2" that will be shown at 6:00 PM. Tickets for the event are \$10 which includes all the evening's entertainment. This sounds like a good opportunity for the DaVinci to get some great publicity! I met Roger and saw Trekkies 2 at the big show in Vegas and highly recommend seeing it.

For the 25th Anniversary of Star Trek: The Motion Picture, the WilliamShatner.com website has opened their Pre-Sales department with a unique opportunity for you to own a piece of the Vger set from Star Trek: The Motion Picture. They're offering a special, numbered, limited edition plaque featuring a signed photo of William Shatner as Admiral Kirk from Star Trek: The Motion Picture, an actual piece of the Vger craft from the set of Star Trek: The Motion Picture and a plate indicating the anniversary commemoration plus the number of the plaque. In addition, there will be a Certificate of Authenticity with each piece which includes a photo of Bill with the original Vger piece that was used to create these plaques. There will only be 250 of these plaques made and the price reflects this limited edition \$250 price.

Could this be the new Enterprise theme music? Lord I hope so. Check it out for your self: [www.startrek.com/startrek/view/news/article/6184.html](http://www.startrek.com/startrek/view/news/article/6184.html).

The next few months will have a glut of Star Trek on DVD! In July Voyager Season 3 was released; in August the Original Series Season One, the Jean-Luc Picard Collection, Trekkies 2, and Voyager Season Four; in September the Special Edition of Generations will be released; in October we will see Voyager Season Five and the Original Series

Season Two; November will bring Voyager Season Six; and in December we will find Voyager Season Seven and the Original Series Season Three under our Christmas tree. More goodies will be out in 2005 including First Contact, Nemesis, the Animated Series, and Enterprise Season One! If you do not have a DVD player it is time to get one!

## DaVINCI T-SHIRTS & POLOS

If you had not heard by now, the new shipment of DaVinci t-shirts and polo's will soon be in! If you placed an order please contact me as soon as possible. T-shirts should run about \$8-\$10 and the polo shirts \$25-\$30 for the larger sizes.

## 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)

October: Houlihan's (Inside Wyndham Hotel)

November: Olive Garden

December: Hunan's

## FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Opening Balance | 511.08 |
| Deposit         | 25.00  |
| Closing Balance | 536.08 |

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).

Freddy Heller (S)

Connie Heller (S)

Travis Heller. (S)

Ariana Heller (S)

Russell Ruhland (S)

Craig Harrison (D) (S)

Carol Harrison (D) (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> |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Karen Baker     | <b>Jul 04</b>  |                  |
| Robert Crosby   | Dec-04         |                  |
| Karen Ferris    | Sep 04         |                  |
| Tony Fleming    | Jul 05         | Jun 05           |
| Stacy Harris    | Apl 05         | Apl 05           |
| Craig Harrison  | Aug 05         | Aug 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 05           |
| 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  | <b>Jul 04</b>  |                  |
| 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.

## 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.



Volunteers at the first DaVinci Adopt-a-Highway clean-up (08 March 1997). Burr baby is it cold! If I remember correctly the temperature was only in the 40's and there was a slight mist in the air.

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Connie Heller wishes she was home taking a hot bath and sipping on some hot chocolate!



Gisela finds a pager and is the winner of the “most unique item found during the clean-up” contest!



Gisela Stephens and Randy Dunn with some of the collected trash.



Chantel Billingsley (L) tells her aunt, Karen Baker, just what she thinks of the clean-up.

## WHY I DID NOT GO TO THE IC IN BIRMINGHAM:



Nuff' said!