



# DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 10 Number 4

OCTOBER 2004

## FROM THE CENTER SEAT

Roger Nygard, who directed the 1999 film "Trekkies," was at the Columbus Museum recently to judge the Columbus State University student film contest. Before the showing of the student films, he presented his newest film, "Trekkies 2" to the excited audience. Naturally, the DaVinci was there in force, in uniforms, and in club t-shirts! Twelve crew personnel were in attendance. Also on hand was Sandra Okamoto, a member of the Film Society, as well as a honorary member of the DaVinci. Following the showing of "Trekkies 2", those in attendance were treated to a table full of exotic Star Trek munchies. Some of the more notable dishes were Sigma Draconis VI Teacher, Devilled Owon Eggs, Putillo and Smoked Targ Pinwheels, Bularian Canapes, and Ktarian Chocolate Mini-Muffins as well as many other exotic appetizers. Before Roger Nygard went back into the auditorium to judge the student films, he was kind enough to be in a group photo with all the DaVinci personnel. A BIG Bajoran thanks to all who attended!

If you did not attend our second annual "Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall" cookout, you missed a real good time. Although not as well attended as other past DaVinci events, it was nonetheless a lot of fun. The usual burgers, hotdogs, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, hot wings, and more pies, cakes, and ice cream than you can shake a stick at were available for the hungry crew. Our resident cook, Connie Heller, outdid herself again by flipping the burgers and turning the dogs! Naturally, Todd Kes brought his 700 picture exposé of Dragon Con to the delight of mostly male crew personnel. Several guests attended as well: Tracy Smith, Frazier's sister and Paul and Sara friends of Randy Dunn.

Now if I could just get them to join!

Our annual Halloween "party" is coming up soon. For you folks who are new to the DaVinci, what we do is set up a Halloween table in my garage. On this table are various candies for the kids and hot cider and cookies for the adults. Crew personnel in their uniforms, club shirts, or costumes serve the kids and parents as they stop by. There is also a bobbing for apples container that was really a big hit last year (several kids had never bobbed for apples before). The kids and adults have so much fun that year after year, as Halloween approaches; I am stopped by folks from the neighborhood and asked if we are going to have our table set up again this year! They really look forward to it!

As you know by now, we had to postpone our trip to the Museum of Aviation Flight and Technology Center at Warner Robbins Air Force Base because the Trekkies 2 showing was scheduled for the same day and it would have been too much to try to squeeze in both activities in one day. Another date will be selected so stay tuned.

October is the month for the annual Help-the-Hooch river clean-up and as usual, the DaVinci will volunteer to help out. This year will be our 8<sup>th</sup> year that we will lend a hand in picking up trash from along the banks of the River Walk. Okay, now for the details. The Hooch clean-up will be on October the 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 AM. The location for the DaVinci will be Rigdon Park which is located in South Columbus right off of South Lumpkin Road. Following the clean-up, there is a party for all the volunteers at Columbus State University. There you can feast on hot dogs, potato chips, and Twinkies! Drinks are also provided. Hope to see you there!

RADML Freddy Heller

## EXECUTIVELY SPEAKING

Two computer geniuses; a soldier; a convenience store clerk; a student; your friendly neighborhood XO and Ship's Counselor, ME! These are but a handful of the 60,000 plus goers that made the annual trek to Dragon-Con in Atlanta, GA for the Labor Day weekend, 2004 convention. The three DaVinci crew personnel in attendance that I saw during the weekend were Stacy, Stephanie, and myself but I'm sure that at least one other crewmember was undoubtedly there even though we didn't see him; isn't that right, Todd! I do want to mention my three new friends that I met with our group and acknowledge the wonderful and exciting fellowship we enjoyed during that short, 4 day period. Personal thanks to Kim, "Snack", and "Leiko" for all their input to the fun & frolic. Scratch up another point for the "Chopstick Kitties" (yarg!, yarg!).



"Mad Dog" the biker outlaw, Stacy, and Stephanie at Dragon Con

Anyway, back at the Con, there were more than enough panels to keep everyone busy the whole time and if that wasn't enough, the dealer rooms offered a surprising amount of collectibles and items to keep your wallet busy for a year. I found of special interest the panel about Ghost hunting where we got to see pictures and film from an actual ghost hunt that was conducted during the con at a local

cemetery. Special guests that I had the privilege of talking with were Gil Gerard & Erin Gray (Buck Rogers), Sybil Danning (just for YOU, Freddy), Garrett Wang (ST, Voyager) & Nicole deBoer (DS9, 7th Season). We got surprised when we went for a late night swim on Saturday and saw Nicole at the pool. WOW!

Costuming was in full form and I even got a chance to participate in the parade on Saturday morning with about a dozen other trekkers in various ST uniforms. Stacy & Stephanie paraded with the Lord of the Rings group. That was a thrill for sure! Harry Potter costuming was very popular this year and I think Stephanie is still probably hamming it up from all the pictures taken of her and the group in their costumes. How many was that? Last count I believe was 344. The highlight of the entire weekend; however, was the guest panel of stars from the series Firefly. I had no idea that such a large fandom could arise from a series that got cancelled before the first season ran its course. I can say this much. Be sure to look for and attend the upcoming movie in a theater near you. These guys and gals are great people and pleased the crowds to no end.

Well, with all said and done, everyone was pretty tired by the end of the weekend and we called it quits at around lunchtime on Monday. I never have liked saying good-bye to anyone at these events so of course it's, "See ya next year for sure, y'all". I highly recommend this event to everyone and you'll just have to wait until next year to see MY new costumes OR maybe not. After all, Halloween is just around the corner!

CMDR Russell Ruhland

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WILL BE ON OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup> AT 7:00 PM  
AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE  
PLEASE COME.**

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT  
WILL BE AT HOULIHAN'S  
(INSIDE WYNDHAM HOTEL)  
ON MONDAY OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup> AT 7:00 PM  
COME ONE COME ALL!**

## SCIENCE STATION

This month's science article will delve in to the scientific contributions of British lawyer, scientist, philosopher, statesman, and writer, Francis Bacon. He lived from 1561 to 1626. Francis Bacon contributed quite enormously to the development of the modern scientific methods. He ranks highly with such great scientific lineages as Isaac Newton, Galileo and Descartes. At one time it had been proposed that Bacon was the true author of the works of William Shakespeare. That fallacy has since been debunked. However, Bacon's philosophical and literary writing have been deemed profound in their own right.

Bacon lived during the reigns of Queen Elizabeth the first and King James the first. This was the age of Shakespeare. The European Renaissance that lasted from 1450 to 1600 was in full motion throughout the emerging nation states of northern Europe and England. Knowledge and discovery expanded exponentially during this period. The seeds were being planted for the future industrial revolution that began in England in the 1700's with the invention of the steam engine. In 1588 the British defeated the Spanish armada. With the defeat of the Spanish armada, Britannia began its centuries old rule of the waves that lasted into the twentieth century.

Within this context of England's emergence as a world power and a center of learning, Francis Bacon entered Trinity College in Cambridge in the year 1573. He was only 12 years old, a foreshadowing of his genius. Bacon was not very pleased with what he termed, "the stodgy scholastic curriculum" of his college and had problems with Aristotelianism. The Aristotelian process of thinking was focused on inductive reasoning whereby philosophers observed natural phenomenon and then made logical reasoned conclusions.

During the time of Aristotle this school of inductive reasoning became known as the peripatetic school. The peripatetics were philosophers dedicated to observing natural phenomenon and thereby they would arrive at reasoned conclusions by walking about and discussing among themselves. Bacon had difficulties with this method of reasoning because it was too subjective and subject to quite a lot of

personal bias. After all, the concept of a lot of authoritative people walking about concluding things was not enough. Bacon emphasized that, "people are the servants of nature, that truth is not derived from authority and that knowledge is the fruit of experience." Perhaps one might say that Bacon viewed the peripatetic school as the pathetic school. This is not to say of course that inductive reasoning doesn't have its place in modern or old schools of science. Rather, Bacon proposed an alternate school of thinking that has been termed deductive reasoning.

Bacon's form of deductive reasoning was termed ampliative inference. By this ampliative inference process, deductive reasoning became a method by which scientists continued to analyze and observe data and make logical conclusions and explanations for natural phenomenon. With this newer model of thinking however, scientists achieved conclusions not simply by using pure reason but rather they added the elements of putting forth a hypothesis, and an analogy and comparison of differing data. Thus the painstaking process of empiricism was born and is continued to be used to this day. The Aristotelian form of enumerative deductive reasoning basically achieved conclusions by only enumerating observed data and then using pure reason to achieve a logical conclusion.

Regarding his personal life, Bacon was not always regarded as a terribly charming chap. During his multi-varied career he attained the office of Chancellor of England, the highest political office attainable at that time. After a few years maintaining that office he was convicted of bribery to which he sorrowfully confessed. Consequently he was removed from office and paid his due punishment.

One historian has said that perhaps his downfall from political office was but a blessing in disguise because Bacon's longings for writing, philosophy and the pursuit of scientific knowledge were now granted to him. Time was no longer an obstacle. His time was well spent because this newfound freedom granted us the legacy of the modern forms of scientific hypothesis and experimentation. Bacon died in the year 1626.

ENS Lech Mazur

## 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. This month will be Part II of a three part series.

### POINTED EARS & GOLDEN HEARTS, PT II

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.

As diverse as the Starfleet membership is, they all have at least one thing in common - they love to have fun. Hobbyists abound within the Fleet, whether as individuals or groups. Fishing is one manner of relaxation; reading is another. Star Trek and good science fiction are always appreciated, but other genres are enjoyed as well. Confounding mysteries that keep the mind active, spine tingling horror stories, historical accounts in which

interesting facts are found, Shakespeare and, yes, even "sappy" romance novels are just some of the choices. Others enjoy books on the sociology and/or theories of religion, as well as metaphysics and magic.

Collecting is a common activity, ranging from white tigers or model trains to stuffed animals and coins. Model making is another pleasing hobby, covering everything from Starships to three-masted schooners and model cars. Sewing is a pastime enjoyed by many and comes in handy when there are costume contests.

Chapters enjoy getting together to play cards or watch television. Some chapters get together for dinner once a month, going to a different restaurant each time. Many chapters set up "away missions" such as trips to the theater, local park or zoo. Individuals are often surprised with birthday parties thrown by their Starfleet family. Chapter anniversary and commissioning parties are regular events, and holidays such as the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas are some of the biggest "local" gatherings of the year.

Regions consist of chapters from several states or provinces. When a region has its yearly summit and members from ten, twenty, or more chapters get together, there is more than enough fun for everyone. Summits are actually gatherings for regional business, but the summit coordinators make sure that there is plenty of enjoyment mixed in. There are awards given for outstanding service, special food tables, card tournaments and dances. There may also be costume and/or pie throwing contests. The International Conference is similar but on a vastly larger scale. Hundreds of people from all across the world gather to share their interests and enjoy each other's company.

While delighting in their differences and sharing their hobbies is no small part of the member's interaction, there is one very important aspect left - compassion. Starfleet members believe that charity and giving of one's time is an important part of making the world a better place. From the organization as a whole, through the regional and chapter levels, Starfleet members are highly active in charitable events.

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 October!

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Stephen Collins (Cpt Decker, STTMP)                       | 1 <sup>st</sup>  |
| Avery Brooks (CPT Benjamin Sisko)                         | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  |
| Wally Schirra Orbits Earth in Sigma Seven (1962)          | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| First Non-Stop Flight Across Pacific Ocean (1931)         | 5 <sup>th</sup>  |
| CADET Ivy Walker  | 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Todd Bryant (Klaa)  | 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| First Woman to Fly Across US (Laura Ingalls 1930)         | 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Scott Bakula (CPT Jonathan Archer)                        | 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| CRMN Maritza Fleming                                      | 10 <sup>th</sup> |
| First Apollo Mission (Schirra, Eisele, & Cunningham 1968) | 11 <sup>th</sup> |
| First Multiple Crew (3) in Space (Voskhod 1964)           | 11 <sup>th</sup> |
| First US Woman to Walk in Space (Kathy Sullivan 1984)     | 11 <sup>th</sup> |
| Man Breaks Sound Barrier (Chuck Yeager 1947)              | 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| Mark Lenard (Ambassador Sarek)                            | 15 <sup>th</sup> |
| CADET Christopher Dunn                                    | 18 <sup>th</sup> |
| Ira Steven Behr (Executive Producer, DS9)                 | 23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| John Winston (LT Kyle)                                    | 24 <sup>th</sup> |
| Gene Roddenberry Dies (1991)                              | 24 <sup>th</sup> |
| Space Shuttle Enterprise Lands (1977)                     | 27 <sup>th</sup> |
| John Glenn Returns to Space Aboard Discovery (1997)       | 29 <sup>th</sup> |
| William Campbell (Koloth & Trelaine)                      | 30 <sup>th</sup> |

## ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks goes out to:  
Roger Wright for his usual large donations of tabs, coupons, and stamps.  
Maureen Byrd from Central High School in Phenix City for the large donation of tabs.

## TREK AND SCI-FI BUZZ

James Doohan - famed for his portrayal of Scotty, the intrepid engineer who kept the starship Enterprise warping across galaxies - grinned and waved to fans Tuesday as he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. It was expected to be the last public appearance of the 84-year-old performer, who was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and also suffers from Parkinson's disease, diabetes and lung fibrosis.

The ceremony on Hollywood Boulevard was the culmination of several days of farewell activities that brought Doohan back into contact with many of his longtime fans. George Takei, who played Sulu on "Star Trek," told the crowd: "This is a galactic day in this town full of stars. "We've gathered from throughout this planet to say congratulations to you, Jimmy," Takei said. "We love you and we thank you for your luminous talent. We thank you for the gift you have given us of that unforgettable character, that ingenious and beloved engineer that was able to fix anything."

Other "Star Trek" cast members to attend were Nichelle Nichols, who was Uhura on the series, and Walter Koenig, who played Chekov. "He's a wonderful friend, a beautiful person," Nichols said of Doohan. "There is no one better than he, and no one more deserving. We all love this man." Koenig said he felt great companionship with Doohan after decades of working together, from the original TV series in 1966 to their last film in 1994, "Star Trek: Generations." "This star is a recognition of a man's talent, his endurance and the effect that he's had on people all over the world," Koenig said.

Doohan did not speak to the crowd, but he waved and posed for photos before leaving with his family.

## DaVINCI T-SHIRTS & POLOS

If you had not heard by now, the new shipment of DaVinci t-shirts and polos is in! If you placed an order please contact me as soon as possible. T-shirts run from \$9-\$11 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)

November: Olive Garden  
December: Hunan's

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## FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Opening Balance | 536.08 |
| T-shirts        | 399.28 |
| Deposit         | 130.95 |
| Closing Balance | 283.48 |

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).

Karen Ferris (D)  
Todd Kes (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> |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Robert Crosby   | Dec-04         |                  |
| Karen Ferris    | Sep 05         |                  |
| Tony Fleming    | Jul 05         | Jun 05           |
| Stacy Harris    | Apl 05         | Apl 05           |
| Craig Harrison  | Aug 05         | Aug 05           |
| Rose Hutson     | <b>Sep 04</b>  |                  |
| Fred Kemp       | <b>Mar 04</b>  | Mar 05           |
| Todd Kes        | Sep 05         |                  |
| 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         |                  |
| 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 |
| <b>Marine OIC</b>                 | Frazier Smith    | 298-5047 |
| <b>Cadet Corps Commander</b>      | <b>VACANT</b>    |          |
| <b>Master Chief Petty Officer</b> | <b>VACANT</b>    |          |

## 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.



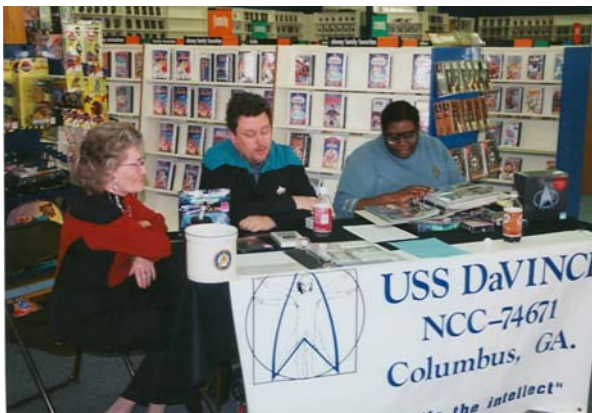
The girls playing Chinese checkers and watching a video at the DaVinci's First Anniversary Party (15 March 1997)



Connie Heller helps Joanne Vazquez put lots of coins (silver?) into Voyager's jar.



Enjoying a game of The Great Dalmuti with guests Mike Henigan and Kelly Hilliard (blue shirts)



Gisela Stephens, Joe Perry, and Patty Williams enjoy a conversation at the First Contact on video membership drive at Blockbuster Video on Macon Road (20 May 1997)



Quick! Rent your copy before they are all gone!



Boy! Do I mean before they are all gone!

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## LOWER DECKS

For those of you who are fans of Charmed and have been waiting patiently for the show to come out on DVD, well I have some bad news. Paramount will not get home video rights to Charmed before the end of the 2005 season. Figure on sometime in 2006 before season one is released!