



DaVinci Pilot

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

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FROM THE CENTER SEAT

The annual Christmas party and celebration will be held on December 18th beginning at 2 PM. The club will supply the turkey and ham and as usual the rest will come from those attending. A sign-up sheet will be available at the December meeting. If you cannot make the meeting and wish to attend, please call Gisela or me and let us know what you are bringing. Also, make sure you go through your attic, basement, or storage building for that special item you have wanted to get rid of but were embarrassed to throw out in the trash or donate to Goodwill. Wrap it up and bring it to the party for some great fun! This is strictly voluntary but last year was a blast! Just ask Lech if he uses what he received! Also, we will have a drawing for door prizes and some special items from the DaVinci Rewards Program (see below for a detailed explanation of the program). You have to be present to win. Also at the party we will be selecting the locations for the 2005 Night Outs. This year, however, the selection process will be slightly different. Naturally, everyone present will get to pick his or her favorite location to go into the hat. But, let us say that you really want your favorite place to be one of the twelve. Well, Connie has devised a way that can certainly go a long way to make sure that happens. If you want your choice to be in contention more than once, you will be able to buy more opportunities! For the low sum of \$2.00 you can have your selection put into the hat again. For \$4.00 it can go into the hat twice more and so on. There is no limit. However, once selected, it cannot be selected a second time. After everyone has put his or her choice into the hat, the selection process will begin. The first name drawn will be the January's Night Out, the second February's, and so

on until December's is drawn.

Our annual Halloween get together was the best one yet! Including Connie and me we had 10 crew personnel show up to help pass out candy to the trick-or-treaters and hot cider and cookies (sugar and chocolate chip) to the adults. We also had a bobbing for apples container set up which turned out to be the hit of the evening. Several parents watched with awe and amusement as their children expertly or in vain tried to snag the elusive apple.



The Halloween gang: First Row: Ariana, Connie;
Second Row: Margaret, Stephanie, Leiko; Back
Row: Joe, Lech, Stacy

The highlight of the bobbing was a little girl who proceeded to dunk her entire head and part of her shoulders in the water and managed to capture an apple in less time than it takes to say bobbing for apples! We guessed it was less than 3 seconds! I forgot to remove the stems from the apples and a good thing too because several kids could not bite

into the apple and the stem was the only way they could capture the treat. This was especially true with one little girl who was missing both top teeth! By the end of the evening, most of the candy, cookies, and cider were almost gone. A BIG Bajoran thanks to all who attended.

We had a great turnout for the last Adopt-a-Highway cleanup on 13 November. Including Ariana (attending her first clean up) and me there were six crew personnel picking up trash along our section of the North Bypass. The only interesting items found were a couple of hubcaps. Quite a few glass bottles, cans, and plastic bottles were picked up and we had about four bags of other trash for the city to pick up. Following the clean up we adjourned to my house because there arose an opportunity to do something that I have been trying since June to do. Tony Fleming, our long lost prodigal son, finally made it to an event and so on the pretense of hot chocolates at my house an impromptu promotion was held. Tony was finally promoted to LT CMDR and a well-deserved promotion it was. Thanks to all who helped out: Lech, Tony, Russell, Randy, and Ariana. Joe dropped by for breakfast but was unable to stay due to commitments at work.

Okay, a new and exciting program has been developed in hopes of getting more folks involved in the ship activities. It is called the DaVinci Rewards Program and here is how it works. Every time you attend a DaVinci event you get a ticket on which you write your name. The ticket goes into a pot. Twice a year, at the 4th of July party and the Christmas party, a name will be drawn. The winner will win a fabulous prize from the Heller Vault of Goodies. So, the more you attend functions, the better your chance at winning!

RADML Freddy Heller

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WILL BE ON DECEMBER 2nd AT 7:00 PM
AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
PLEASE COME.**

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT
WILL BE AT HUNAN'S
ON MONDAY DECEMBER 20th AT 7:00 PM
COME ONE COME ALL!**

SCIENCE STATION

Dark Matter in the Universe

Around seventy years ago a Swiss Astronomer named Fritz Zwicky proposed a theory that there exists a form of invisible dark matter in the universe. Zwicky was not well liked among his colleagues so therefore his theory escaped further scrutiny and study. At around the same time in the 1920's, the American Astronomer Edwin Hubble made the major discovery that the universe was expanding at an accelerating rate. The Hubble space telescope was named in his honor of that great achievement. In 1997 scientists made experiments with the Hubble telescope that gave some evidence that dark matter does exist. They did so by measuring how light was bent traveling from a cluster of galaxies. The results of the experiments showed that the mass surrounding the galaxies was 250 times greater than the actual known physical mass of the galaxies. It has now been theorized that 99 percent of the mass of the expanding universe is composed of dark matter.

So what is this dark matter and how does it affect the endless undulations of the universe? Basically dark matter is a wimpy substance without mass as we know it. WIMP is an acronym for weakly interactive massive particles. The subatomic particle termed the electron neutrino is a form of the WIMP. The neutrino is created during the nuclear fusion process of our sun, super novas and all the other stellar nuclear reactions in the universe. The transformation process in a fusion reaction produces as a by product three things: a neutrino, an anti electron (also called a positron) and energy. Our dear friend Mr. Data, with his positronic brain would be quite familiar with the workings of a positron. The neutrino has no electrical charge so it is invisible to the electromagnetic spectrum. Billions of neutrinos pass through our body every second. Neutrinos with mass have been theorized as being the substance that dark matter is made of along with other theories that suggest that dark matter also consists of undetected brown dwarf stars, black holes, white dwarf stars and other forms of subatomic particles that are undetectable through electromagnetic radiation. Examples of electromagnetic radiation are radio waves and light waves.

Why is dark matter relevant to the machinations of the known universe? Dark matter theoretically gathers in huge invisible piles that influence the gravitational balance of galaxies. As an example, the stars on the outer arms of our Milky Way galaxy are traveling at nearly the same speed as the stars located near the center of the galaxy. This action defies the actions that one would normally expect of an orbital system such as our solar system or other galaxies. Mercury for example rotates around the sun in a period of days where as Pluto makes a complete circle around the sun in a period that is measured in years. Ninety percent of all the matter in our galaxy is thought to consist of dark matter thereby the dark matter acts as a kind of cosmic balancing system for the rotation of the galaxy. Another consideration is that galaxies generally tend to cluster in clumps and are bound together by gravity. Without dark matter the galactic clusters wouldn't have enough mass to stay gravitationally bound together and they would hence move away from each other. In a nut shell, without dark matter, the universe would have stopped expanding after the big bang, galactic formations would be out of balance with each other and consequently the universe might have eventually fizzled out and Karen Pynenburg wouldn't have been around to write a wonderful essay about the contributions of Star Trekkers.

ENS Lech Mazur

TREK AND SCI-FI BUZZ

The ever present William Shatner recently paid a visit to the small Iowa town of Riverside to shoot Invasion Iowa, reputedly a sci-fi time-travel movie he wrote, directed, produced and starred in. Shatner and crew took over the town for 10 days, held auditions and even cast locals in the flick. At it turns out, the whole thing was a put-on--a hoax perpetrated by Shatner and Spike TV for a new reality series that will be called, yes, Invasion Iowa. Shatner revealed as much when he stood before a crowd of 800 residents, who thought they were going to see footage of the new movie. Instead, Shatner told them they had been punk'd. "Everything in front of and behind the cameras was faked," the Star Trek star told them. "The only thing that was real is the love we have for Riverside."

Speaking of William Shatner, he is among the thousands of people who want to fly on Virgin's proposed commercial space flights, company chief Richard Branson said.

Shatner again and this one you will get a kick out of. Go to <http://www.joejackson.com/lenowm.htm>.

Shades of Seven of Nine! Nanotechnology is right around the corner! Check it out at <http://www.joejackson.com/lenowm.htm>.

An unexplained radio signal from deep space could be contact from an alien civilization, New Scientist magazine has reported. The signal, coming from a point between the Pisces and Aries constellations, has been picked up three times by a telescope in Puerto Rico. There are other explanations besides extraterrestrial contact that may explain the signal. New Scientist said the Signal could be generated by a previously unknown astronomical phenomenon or even be a by-product from the telescope itself. But the mystery beam has excited astronomers across the world.

All four current seasons of "Star Trek: Enterprise" and the special edition of "Star Trek: First Contact" will be available on Region 1 DVD next year! "The Digital Bits" and "TV Shows on DVD" are both showing a May 3rd release date for the complete first season of "Enterprise", with the former citing both industry and retail sources, though adding that the information is subject to change. "TV Shows on DVD" has also posted tentative dates for the rest of the "Enterprise" box sets: July 12th for the second season, September 6th for the third season, and November 1st for the fourth season.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Brian Bonsall (Alexander Rozhenko)	3 rd
LT CMDR Tony Fleming	3 rd
Gemini VII Launched (Borman & Lovall 1965)	4 th
Hubble Repaired by Crew of Endeavor (1993)	4 th
Construction of International Space Station Begins (1998)	4 th
Star Trek VI Premiers (1991)	6 th
First US Attempt to Orbit Satellite Fails (1957)	7 th
Star Trek: The Motion Picture Premiers (1979)	7 th

Michael Dorn (LTCMDR Worf)	9 th
CRMN Shannon Wells	10 th
John Colicos (Kor)	11 th
Terry Garr (Roberta Lincoln)	11 th
Mariner Two Transmits Pictures of Venus (1962)	14 th
Garrett Wang (ENS Harry Kim)	15 th
First Airplane Flight (Wright Brothers 1903)	17 th
Nicole deBoer (Ezri Dax)	20 th
Apollo 8 Journeys to the Moon (1968)	21 st
First Non-Stop, Non- Refueled Flight Around the World (1986)	23 rd
Rick Berman (Executive Producer)	25 th
ENS Jean Walker	28 th
Nichelle Nichols (LT Uhura)	28 th
CRMN Todd Kes	29 th
ENS Randy Dunn	31 st

ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks goes out to:
Stacy and Stephanie Harris for the large donation
of tabs, stamps, and coupons.

A BIG Bajoran congratulation goes out to:
Tony Fleming for his promotion to LT CMDR
Russell Ruhland for receiving a distinction grade
for Trek Chronology 101 - USA from the School of
College of Star Trek Chronology.

Tony Fleming for receiving a "distinction" grade
for Hist Enterprise 1, Hist Enterprise 2, and Hist
Enterprise 3 and a grade of "honors" for Hist
Enterprise 6 from the School of College of
Federation Studies

DaVINCI T-SHIRTS & POLOS

There are still plenty of DaVinci shirts available
for purchase. If you do not have one get yours
before your size is gone. The shirts run from \$9.00
for S-XL and \$11.00 for XX and up. See Freddy if
you want a shirt. Plenty of extra shirts were ordered.

NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

At the December meeting, the 2003 Night Out
locations were selected. We had some familiar
locations and some new spots as well. New night
out locations will be chosen soon. There will be a
new voting process as well so bring lots of money
to the Christmas party.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	439.57
Halloween	14.93
Thanksgiving	30.09
Closing Balance	394.55

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>
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	Sep 04	
Fred Kemp	Mar 04	Mar 05
Todd Kes	Sep 05	
Leiko Koone	Oct 05	Oct 05
Lech Mazur	Jul 05	Mar 05
Carl Olsen	Feb 05	
Joe Perry	Jul 05	Nov 05
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	
Michael Walker	Mar 05	Mar 05
Shannon Wells	Apl 05	
Roger Wright	Jul 06	May 05

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DaVINCI STAFF ROSTER

Commanding Officer Freddy Heller 562-8735

Executive Officer Russell Ruhland 298-3998

Operations Officer Joe Perry.....327-5888

Finance Connie Heller 562-8735

Community Service Tony Fleming 568-6529

Publications Stephanie Harris 682-5615

Science Officer Lech Mazur 596-9542

Computer Science Stacy Harris 682-5615

Counselor Russell Ruhland 298-3998

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**

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 Jeanne Ainsworth enjoy a moment at the Next Generation Mini-Marathon (27 September 1997)



What is going on here?? L-R: Karen Baker, Chantel Billingsley, Patty Williams, Lisa Neal, and Tim Schiro enjoy a game of Chinese checkers.



The crew is getting excited to view their favorite Next Generation episode!



Patty Williams is eagerly awaiting Jean-Luc Picard!



A break in the action naturally calls for pizza!



The crew enjoying the mini-marathon!



Travis Heller did not make it through the final episode!

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