

DaVinci Pilot

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

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PASSAGES

James Doohan, best know to fans as Scotty ("Montgomery Scott"), the chief engineer aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise, in the original Star Trek series passed away on July 20, 2005 at his home. Wende, his wife of 28 years, was at his side.



James Montgomery Doohan
1920-2005

Doohan was born on March 3, 1920, in Vancouver, British Columbia, and spent his early years in there and in Sarnia, Ontario. Surviving the anguish of living with an alcoholic father, he left home at age 19 to join the Canadian Forces, fighting with the Allies in World War II. After outscoring his fellow soldiers on an officer's exam, he became Captain in the Royal Canadian Artillery. While leading his men into battle on D-Day, Doohan was wounded in the leg and hand, and eventually lost a finger. For the remainder of the war, he became a pilot observer, and received the dubious distinction of being called the "craziest pilot in the Canadian Air Forces."

After returning home to Canada, Doohan performed a few scenes for the local radio station, and was awarded a two-year scholarship to the

Neighborhood Playhouse in New York City. Beginning in 1946, he trained at the Playhouse with Sanford Meisner, alongside such future stars as Leslie Nielsen, Tony Randall and Jackie Gleason.

In the ensuing eight years, Doohan shuttled between New York and Canada where he worked on 4000 radio programs, 400 live and taped variety and dramatic television shows, several films and plays. Though he became known as Canada's busiest actor, he eventually found himself following other fellow actors in the pilgrimage to Hollywood. There, his versatility and talent as a dialectician helped him earn parts in more than 100 motion pictures and television series, including The Twilight Zone, Outer Limits, Fantasy Island, "Loaded Weapon 1" and "Double Trouble." He has also appeared in the first seven Star Trek motion pictures.

In the years since the final episode of Star Trek, Doohan had pursued a speaking career which had taken him to more than 250 colleges throughout the U.S. and Canada. In addition, he made appearances at numerous Star Trek conventions.

Doohan lived in Redmond, Washington, with his wife Wende and his sons, Eric and Thomas.

****Thanks to StarTrek.com for the information****

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FROM THE CENTER SEAT

I would like to thank all the DaVinci members who attended Rusty's memorial service. His family was very grateful. I would also like to thank all of the kind crewmembers that donated money in Rusty's name. Following the service, I gave Rusty's sister a card containing a \$300 check. I am very proud to be the CO of the best ship in the Second Fleet, and your act of kindness to Rusty and his family will not soon be forgotten.



DaVinci crewmembers at Rusty's memorial service

More sad news! Gisela lost one of her grandchildren recently. Gabriel K. Daniel was only 26 when he died at his home. If you were able to make the service or the visitation the night before, I am sure Gisela appreciated your thoughtfulness. It is times such as these when having friends and family around you is most important. If you knew Gabriel or even if you did not know him, go online to www.mem.com and celebrate his life. I did.

Believe it or not, but just around the corner is our annual "Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall" cookout! As always, the club will supply the burgers and the rest of the munchies will come from those who attend. If you have not already signed up to bring something, just call Gisela, our wonderful Communications Officer. Her telephone number is listed at the end of the newsletter. It sure is hard to believe that fall is almost here. Not only does it signal cooler weather, but lots of DaVinci events such as the Help-the-Hooch river cleanup, the Halloween get together, and our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

I have wanted to schedule a turn-in of all the tabs we have been collecting for the past 2 years. Last time we donated somewhere around 50,000 tabs to

the Ronald McDonald House. For this turn-in I wanted to beat that total and had planned on turning them in when the total reached 60,000 tabs. But with everything that had been happening in the past 6 months, I never got a chance to arranging anything with Susan Yaksh, the manager of the Ronald McDonald house. So, we now have about 80,000 tabs accumulated! A great total indeed, but what I would like to do is have an official turn-in when we hit 100,000 tabs and, I would like to do this before the end of the year. What this means is that I need for everyone to hunt and scrape up tabs until you start dreaming of them! Save your own, beg your friends and neighbors, get them from any source you can! To make it more interesting, from now until the end of the year, the person who donates the most tabs will be able to "pie" the XO if the total reaches 90,000 tabs. If the total reaches 95,000 tabs the CO will take his place. If the 100,000 goal is reached, both get creamed! This will take place at a special "Pie Party" to be held in January! Let us say that the 95,000 goal is not reached and only the XO gets creamed but it was the CO you really wanted to see with cool whip all over his face. Not to worry. In case that happens we will have an auction for the right to cream the CO as well! Come on, I know that you have always wanted to pie one of us! Well, now your dreams can finally come true! Start saving tabs today!

There are a couple of upcoming events you should mark on your calendar. The first is the annual Help-the-Hooch River clean up which will take place in October. I am not sure of the date. The second is the fourth Columbus Game and Hobby Expo scheduled for the weekend of 28-30 October. Naturally we will have a membership drive table set up and will be needing volunteers to help out at the table and at the event. This time I would like to have a table set up on Friday. The day after the Expo is our annual Halloween festival in my garage. There will be more about these three events in the October issue of the Pilot.

RADM Freddy Heller

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SCIENCE STATION

Metaphysics and “The March of the Penguins”

The reader may be befuddled by the above title to this month’s science article or better yet I should say this month’s science commentary. Recently I had the good fortune to go see the movie, “The March of the Penguins”. I used the words good fortune because I felt a rather personal profound spiritual awakening after viewing the film. The subject matter of the movie has led me to share with you my experience of it and my thinking regarding the metaphysical aspects of the movie. You may have seen the advertisements on TV for the movie that was geared toward attracting family and children to the almost excruciatingly sweet and cute antics of the little penguin critters of Antarctica. All of the above is quite true and it is a delightful film for both adults and children. The movie was filmed and directed by a French crew for National Geographic films and Warner Communications. The theme of the movie rotated around the mating and the survival of the Antarctic penguins under unbelievably harsh cold temperatures of 75 degrees below zero or more with at times winds reaching the speed of 70 or 80 miles per hour. I had the impression that the Eskimos fight for survival in the Polar Regions was a cinch compared to the penguins struggle for life. The film is worth seeing alone just for the intense colorful beauty of the ice, the snow and the mountains of Antarctica. The icy landscape has a mystical surreal sculptural quality to it that feels as if abstract sculptors had crafted the landscape.

The penguins often looked like they were butlers strolling around in black and white tuxedos. The penguins do this walk for 75 or more miles in order to reach their mating grounds and their feeding grounds. The females lay their eggs and then the males are entrusted to keep the eggs warm in a pouched part of their bodies for months at a time in the intense arctic winter while the females march back to the feeding grounds to gorge themselves with food. Once the females are well fed and fattened, they then march back to the males to feed the hatched chicks and the males who have been without food for months. During all this time, the males have endured incredible cold wind and snow by huddling together in huge masses in order to conserve body heat.

Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy or science that seeks to explain the nature of being and reality. It is a speculative philosophy that attempts to correlate the rational observed universe with the irrational observed universe that is inexplicable. In other words, it is the observation and study of matters transcending material reality as we know and observe it. Like all sciences, metaphysics seeks to find the truth and or laws that regulate the unseen world. Mind and soul, death and the after life, God and creation are some of the concepts of the metaphysical universe. We perhaps intuitively or instinctually feel or believe in the above concepts, but we don’t necessarily have a physical source of measuring, observing or testing a hypothesis regarding metaphysical phenomenon. The term originated around 70 BC by the Greek philosopher Andronicus of Rhodes. He published a treatise on Aristotle’s work called “First Philosophy” or theology or the Greek wording, meta physica, meaning “Following physics”.

The filming of the penguins had some intense ultra close-ups of their eyes and other parts of their bodies which were very beautiful. The old saying or perhaps the cliché that the eyes are the windows of the soul was very apparent in the soulful views of the penguin’s eyes. The profundity of the camera’s gaze into the bird’s eyes was that, at least from my experience, was a very real awareness of consciousness. One becomes very aware that these creatures were created for some purpose that is inexplicable to our very existence. They breed, they feed, they love in their animal way and are experiencing this gift of life and consciousness much as we do. They have a high purpose for their existence quite apart from our human observation of them. The penguins have existed and thrived for eons before humans ever discovered them. It makes you wonder why are we here and why there are so many other creatures dwelling within our realm.

Animal mind and human mind are metaphysical concepts immeasurable as we know it in the scientific world, but observable none the less with our feelings, our intellect and our spirit. Experience the metaphysical by going to see the “March of the Penguins” and let the eyes of these wonderful animals speak to you about the infinite.

ENS Lech Mazur

ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks or congratulations go out to:

Patsy Carey of Central High School for her usual large donation of tabs.

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 st
Viking II Lands on Mars (1967)	3 rd
ENS Lindsey Pimentel	4 th
CRMN James Carey	4 th
Voyager I is Launched (1977)	5 th
Star Trek Premiers (1966)	8 th
Star Trek Animated Series Premiers (1973)	8 th
Jeffrey Combs (Weyoun, Brunt on DS9; Shran on ENT)	9 th
Roxann Dawson (Lt B'Ellana Torres On VOY)	11 th
Walter Koenig (ENS Pavel Chekov on TOS)	14 th
Bruce Hyde (LT Kevin O'Riley on TOS)	14 th
First Man-Made Object to Reach Moon (Luna II 1959)	14 th
NASA Unveils Space Shuttle Enterprise (1976)	17 th
LTJG Karen Pynenburg	19 th
ENS Carol Harrison	20 th
Rosalind Chao (Keiko O'Brien on DS9)	23 rd
Neptune Discovered by Johann Galle (1846)	23 rd
First All-Instrument Flight (1929)	24 th
First Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carrier (USS Enterprise)	
Launched (1960)	24 th
CADET Rebecca Dunn	25 th
Enterprise Premiers (2001)	26 th
The Next Generation Premiers (1987)	28 th
First Round-the-World Flight (US Army 1924)	28 th
William Windom (Commodore Matt Decker on TOS)	28 th
CRMN Karen Ferris	30 th

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Russell Ruhland (S)
Barbara Paul (S)
Bill Paul (S)
Freddy Heller (S)
Connie Heller (S)
Travis Heller (S)
Ariana Heller (S)

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	466.06
Deposits	318.00
DaVinci Nights Out	18.34
Postage	37.00
Donation to Rusty's family	300.00
Pool party	30.21
Closing Balance	398.51

CPT Connie Heller

DVD NEWS

Stargate SG-1 Season 8 will hit the stores on 8 October. It will have a suggested price of \$59.00 but you can preorder it for only \$39.00 from Amazon.com!

Twilight Zone, The Definitive Edition, 4th Season will be out on 18 October.

Enterprise Season 3 is scheduled to be released on 27 September and Season 4 on the 1st of November.

Earth the BBC miniseries that was on television recently will be available on 25 October.

Finally, Kolchak: The Night Stalker is coming to DVD! Look for an October 4th release date. Got to have this one!

The new Outer Limits will be released on 1 November for you fans of this show.

Season 3 of Charmed will be released on 15 November. This was Shannon Doherty's final season (sigh).

And, Space Above and Beyond will be a Best Buy exclusive beginning on 6 September!!!

Check out these shows and dozens more online at tvshowsondvd.com.

NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

At the December Christmas party, the 2005 Night Out locations were selected. We had some familiar locations and some new spots as well. So without further ado, here are the 2005 locations. Bon appetite!

October	Deorio's
November	Lieutenant's
December	Jason's Deli

Congratulations to Mariaelena Fleming the winner of the free dinner at the September Night Out at the Olive Garden!

DaVINCI T-SHIRTS & POLOS

Several of you have approached me about obtaining a DaVinci polo shirt. I will be happy to place another order but need more than just one or two. So, if you want a new DaVinci polo shirt, let me know the size you want and whether you want a red (operations), blue (science), or yellow (engineering) trim on the DaVinci logo. Remember, they do run slightly large. The cost should be around \$22-\$27 depending on the size (XX and up are slightly higher). Also, if you want extra printing on the shirt, such as your name or position, that too will run a few extra credits.

We 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.

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>
Faye Cole	Mar 06	
Dutch Cummings	Apr 06	
Karen Ferris	Sep 05	
Tony Fleming	Jul 06	Jun 06
Craig Harrison	Aug 05	Aug 05
Todd Kes	Sep 05	
Leiko Koone	Oct 05	Oct 05
Lech Mazur	Jul 07	May 06
Barbara Paul	Jan 06	Aug 06
Joe Perry	Jul 06	Nov 05
George Pimentel	Jul 05	Jun 05
Karen Pynenburg	Jul 06	May 06
Russell Ruhland	Aug 06	Aug 06
Frazier Smith	Jun 06	Jun 06
Michael Walker	Mar 06	Mar 06
Vanessa Winfield	Jun 06	Jun 06
Susan Wood	Apr 06	
Roger Wright	Jul 06	May 05

RM HOUSE NEEDED ITEMS

Although The Ronald McDonald House needs quite a variety of items, the items needed most are listed below. Pick something from the list and bring it with you to each meeting. This is strictly voluntary. Thanks!

Most Needed Items

Grocery Gift Certificates	Solid Queen Sheets
Styrofoam Cups (20oz)	Sugar
Spray Air Freshener	Trash Bags (35 gal)
Twin/Queen Mattress Pads	Heavy Paper Plates
Storage/Freezer Bags	Interior Flood Lights
Swiffer Wet Sheets	Gladware Containers

Household Items

Laundry Detergent	Ready to Make Desserts
Fabric Softener	Bags of Hard Candy
Bathroom Cleaner	Vegetable/Olive Oil
Pine Scented Cleaner	Cake Icing
O'Cedar Mops	Cake/Brownie Mixes
Dryer Sheets	Lemonade
Sting Mops	Salad Dressing
Carpet Cleaner	Soups
Bathroom Cups	Box Dinners
Spray Starch	Brooms
Windex	409 Cleaner

Miscellaneous Items

Mailing/Scotch Tape	Sewing Kit/Scissors
Copy Paper	Clasp Envelopes (9x12)
Disposable Cameras	Phone Cards (15 min)
White-Out Pens	Sam's Gift Certificates
Card Stock Paper	Clear Storage Containers
	Computer Labels (Avery 5160)
	AA, C, D, and 9 Volt Batteries

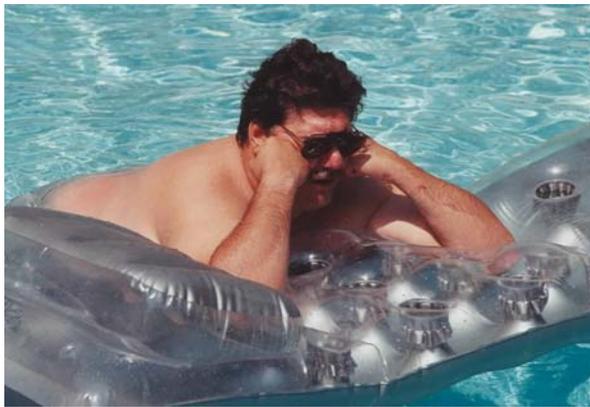
NOTE: They currently have a need for canned soups, and perishable items such as bread, meats, cheese slices, fresh fruits, and snack foods.

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.



Joe Perry (host) chats with the crew as they enjoy the water, food, and fun at our first pool party. (21 August 1999)



Alan Certo relaxes in the pool.



“Whoopee!” cries Travis Heller as he jumps on cue for the camera.



“Now this is more my size.” Ariana and Connie Heller enjoy the mini pool.



“Ummmm, pizza.” Josh Ainsworth enjoying a slice of Papa John’s pizza.



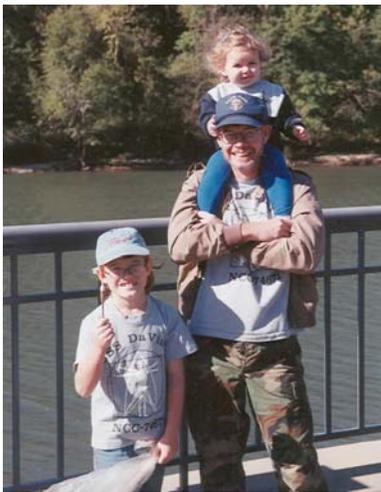
“Come on in, the water’s fine!” (L-R) Josh Ainsworth, Travis Heller, Mike Walker, Freddy Heller, and Emma Certo smile for the camera

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“Mine!” Freddy Heller finds treasure at our 3rd annual Help-the-Hooch River clean-up. (23 October 1999)



Travis, Freddy, and Ariana Heller pose following a hard day’s work.



“Hummm, I wonder what this is?” Ariana Heller wonders what she is about to eat.



“Oh, this is soooo good!” Ariana Heller discovers the joy of eating a Twinkie!

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	Freddy Heller	562-8735
Science Officer	Lech Mazur	596-9542
Computer Science	VACANT	
Counselor	VACANT	
Medical	Barbara Paul (478)	929-3210
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	

Interested in a position within the ship? See Freddy or Russell at any of the DaVinci events or give them a call.