



# DaVinci Pilot

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

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## FROM THE CENTER SEAT

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I do not want to spoil Russell's article but if you were not at the annual bi-city Christmas parade you missed a great time! The combined entry by the DaVinci and the local Star Wars fan club (Fountain City Force) took **SECOND PLACE** in the independent division! And we were thinking that it would be great just to have received an honorable mention! Make sure to read Russell's article for the whole story as only he can tell it!

Whoopie! Did we ever have a great Christmas party. Twenty DaVinci personnel and their guests feasted on a variety of great foods. There was the usual turkey and ham expertly prepared by Connie, our resident chief, Randy's well-loved macaroni and cheese, Connie's now famous carrot soufflé, Vanessa's soon to be famous and quite yummy corn casserole, Gisela's mashed potatoes, Leiko's tasty deviled eggs, Margaret's wonderful salad, Lech's homemade bread, Russell's green bean casserole, and a host of different pies, cakes, cookies, snacks, and ice cream to suit even the most discriminating palate. No one left here hungry, that is for sure! Following the meal, we drew restaurants for the 2006 night out locations. Sorry folks, no Hooter's, no pizza, no Olive Garden this year! The good news is that we do have a few new locations we have never been to before! See the list later in the Pilot. Next we gave away door prizes. Everyone won something with several folks walking away with two since we had more door prizes than memberships. The grand prize, a drawing of the person's choice by Connie was won by our newest member Benlee Huguley! Congratulations Benlee! I know you will love what ever you will have Connie draw! After the door prizes were all given out, we

adjourned to the back room for our gag gift exchange. There were nine participants and some quite interesting and unique items exchanged. They ranged from really bad ties (groan, guess who got the worst) to a Christmas tree starter kit to DaVinci pasta to practical joke kits (won by Randy!) to various calendars and other items too hideous to mention! All in all, everyone had a real good time. A BIG Bajoran thanks to all who attended!

After the December meeting I was told by Gisela that she has to give up her position as Communications Officer due to private reasons. I understood her reason and will respect her wishes. Gisela has been the Communications Officer for many years and we will miss her in that role. When you next see her please tell her thanks for a job well done! Not to worry, however, she is not leaving the DaVinci. So, that leaves her Communications position vacant. If you wish to apply for the position of Communications Officer, please let me or Russell know.

RADM Freddy Heller

## EXECUTIVELY SPEAKING

"How to Build a Starship with Spit and Baling Wire!" This would undoubtedly be the title of the instructions for what turned out to be our prize winning float for the Phenix City/Columbus bi-city Christmas Parade on the 10th of December. The would-be ship builders, gathered together from all parts of the galaxy, shuttled to the newly opened Spacedock Utopia Phenixcitia where minds and science came to create and develop the USS DaVinci float class vessel. Struggling through what seemed to be every barricade possible, the builders thought, then re-thought and finally put together piece by piece, section by section, until the ship was

completed and ready to launch.

Now then, what needs to be understood at this point is that this float was not just a starship. The DaVinci became transformed before our very eyes and since this is the Christmas season, why not a starship sled. Now the DaVinci wasn't the only crew involved in this saga. In fellowship with our sci-fi friends at Fountain City Force, the local Star Wars Fan Club, we cited a joint effort and since every sled needs to be pulled by something, why not ton-tons. You know the stand-up, sort of maybe camel-like without the hump creatures that Luke Skywalker rode on in the original trilogy movies. And of course, why not Darth Vader as Santa and a Klingon female as Ms. Santa.



Connie Heller and Russell Ruhland making last minute touch-ups to the float.

Several members of both clubs showed up to participate in the parade, including the locksmith who had to open Frazier's truck when his keys got locked inside at the last moment.



The smiling but cold members of the DaVinci.



Members of the Fountain City Force along with Princess Leia from the DaVinci pose for the camera.

We did not really believe that our float was going to even be considered for an award when you saw the beauty of all the other floats and then to all our surprise, the judges came by a second time and asked for who was in charge, pulled out the plaque, and told us that we has won 2nd place in the Independent Division!



The proud builders of the float with the second place plaque (L-R: Vanessa Winfield, Frazier Smith, Randy Dunn, and Russell Ruhland from the DaVinci and Drew Sadler from the Fountain City Force.

Everyone was clapping and yelling knowing now that our time spent was not in vain. I want to give special mention to Frazier for providing the truck to pull the float; to Randy whom a great amount of materials were donated along with his back yard where we built the ship and our friends at Fountain City Force for making the ton-tons to pull the sled.

Darth Vader was played by Randy's friend Robert,

who is manager of Captain Toms Seafood on Macon Road, and of course to Connie, the best female Klingon in the fleet.



Frazier helping “Klingon Connie” and Robert Darth Vader to their seats.

Also much thanks to 13th Street BBQ in Phenix City for donating the trailer to place the float upon which we named as our sponsor. Who knows, maybe next year a Millenium Falcon pulled by Freddy and Jabba the Hut. See ya'll next time.

CPT Russell Ruhland

## TABULATIONS

Well, give the crew a challenge and they will come forth with a vengeance! The challenge was to collect 100,000 tabs with the top tab donor getting the choice of smacking the Captain or Executive Officer with a pie and the second place finisher smacking the other if that amount was reached. Well as of this writing we have 100,232 tabs donated so Russell and I will definitely get pied. What is not known yet is who the top “tabber” will be and that will not be known until one second after midnight on New Year’s Eve.

What I can tell you is that Connie (“say it ain’t so Joe”) has the inside track with Roger, Russell, and Tony not far behind. Vanessa, Randy and Karen have some last minute tab collecting to do. From now until the end of the contest, I will not reveal the amount of tabs each person has donated. It is your responsibility to bring your donation by our house before the end of the contest. I would like to schedule the presentation of the tabs to the Ronald McDonald house on Saturday, 14 January with the

pieing ceremony and party at the usual time of 2:00 PM that same afternoon. This date is tentative until I have a chance to talk to Susan, the manager of the Ronald McDonald house.

So what I need are as many folks as I can get who have uniforms to come to the presentation. The last time it was early on Saturday and afterwards we had time to go to breakfast at Golden Corral. I hope we can do this again because it was a lot of fun. I will make sure the Ledger-Enquirer knows about the event and hopefully they will send a photographer to cover the presentation as they did the last time. A little photo in the paper is good advertisement for the club.

## NEWS FROM FLEET

Mark your calendars! Fleet Day 2006 is scheduled for 28 January. It will be a day of remembrance and a weekend of fellowship. There will be visits to the Kennedy Space Center and Astronaut Hall of Fame, and dinner on the town. You are encouraged to wear uniforms, chapter t-shirts, Starfleet t-shirts, and there may even have Fleet Day shirts!

Details are still being hammered out. There will be an announcement soon on hotel arrangements and much more. We will have a Yahoo group list serve and a web site. What Fleet event would be complete without them?

This weekend takes on special significance as being the 20th Anniversary of the Challenger disaster. There will be a Fleet wreath laying ceremony at the Astronaut Memorial Wall. You are cordially invited to come and join in what should be a fantastic weekend.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

First Woman in Space (Valentina Tereshkova 1969)	1 <sup>st</sup>
Deep Space Nine Premiers (1992)	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Mars Probe Spirit Lands on Mars (2004)	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Aron Eisenber (Nog on DS9)	6 <sup>th</sup>
First Around-the-World Trip by Commercial Airplane (Pacific Clipper 1942)	6 <sup>th</sup>
Mark Allen Shepard (Morn on DS9)	7 <sup>th</sup>
Four of Jupiter’s Moons Discovered (Galileo 1610)	7 <sup>th</sup>
Michelle Forbes (Ro Laren on TNG)	8 <sup>th</sup>

Last Unmanned Probe Lands on Moon (Surveyor VII 1968)	9 <sup>th</sup>
First Hispanic in Space (Franklin Chang-Diaz 1986)	12 <sup>th</sup>
Kirstie Alley (LT Saavik from Wrath of Khan)	12 <sup>th</sup>
CRMN Faye Cole	12 <sup>th</sup>
Voyager Premiers (1995)	16 <sup>th</sup>
DeForest Kelley (Dr. Leonard McCoy on TOS)	20 <sup>th</sup>
ENS Vanessa Winfield	20 <sup>th</sup>
David Gerrold (Author & Script Writer)	21 <sup>st</sup>
CRMN Susan Wood	22 <sup>nd</sup>
LTJG Michael Walker	25 <sup>th</sup>
Mars Probe Opportunity Lands on Mars (2004)	25 <sup>th</sup>
James Cromwell (Zephram Cochrane from First Contact)	27 <sup>th</sup>
Apollo I is Lost (1967)	27 <sup>th</sup>
Shuttle Challenger is Lost (1986)	28 <sup>th</sup>
Moon Probe Ranger VI is Launched (1964)	30 <sup>th</sup>
US Launches First Satellite (Explorer I 1958)	31 <sup>st</sup>
Apollo XIV is Launched (1971)	31 <sup>st</sup>

## TREK AND SCI-FI BUZZ

This letter was sent to the members of the Tim Russ fan club and passed on to me.

As if we needed further reminding that the fate of Star Trek is a tenuous one at best, it has been announced that Paramount Digital Entertainment, the home to startrek.com since 1996, is shutting its doors as of 12/31/05.

As many of you now know, Viacom and CBS started trading as separate companies today. The splitting of Viacom into two companies -- as does any corporate maneuver -- comes at a great cost to personnel. Needless to say, many here on the lot will be collecting their final paycheck at the end of the year.

Oddly, one thing that hasn't been completely resolved is the ownership of Star Trek. I know it sounds crazy, but it appears to be true. We think CBS will be taking it over. (Even though it will be forever identified as a Paramount product.) As a result of this lack of clarification on the ownership of the franchise, the fate of startrek.com also hangs in the balance. As of this writing, we simply do not know what is happening to the site, we just know that at the end of the year we will be out of a job!

Rather than go quietly, we are in the midst of preparing a presentation for the powers-that-be designed to show the vast scope and depth to the site, and how it is a "go to" site for anyone in the world in search of Star Trek information.

Startrek.com is used not only by fans of the show, but by licensees to promote their products, various Paramount departments (including production), convention organizers, news organizations, advertisers, etc. In other words, a lot of people use the site, and it would be almost impossible to assign it a monetary value.

Before we make our case, if you would like to write a testimonial sentence or two that we can use in the presentation, it would be very gratefully received.

Thanks for listening, and thanks for your support over the years. This is a great franchise and it would be sad to see it sink into an abyss of lost TV and movie franchises. I would like to think that we could do better.

All the best,

Tim Gaskill  
 Editorial Director  
 Paramount Digital Entertainment  
 5555 Melrose Ave/MOB 1208  
 Hollywood, CA 90038  
[www.startrek.com](http://www.startrek.com)

## ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks or congratulations go out to:

All those who built and help build the float and those who participated in the Christmas parade.

Everyone who donated tabs to help us reach the 100,000 tab goal!

## FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	412.22
Postage	4.90
Closing Balance	407.32

CPT Connie Heller

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT  
 WILL BE AT CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL  
 ON MONDAY 16 JANUARY AT 7:00 PM  
 COME FOR THE GREAT FOOD!  
 COME FOR THE FRIENDSHIP!**

**THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL  
 BE ON 05 JANUARY AT 7:00 PM  
 AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE  
 PLEASE JOIN IN ON THE FUN!**

## NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

At the December Christmas party, the 2006 Night Out locations were selected. We had some familiar locations and some new spots as well. So without further ado, here are the remaining 2006 locations. Bon appetite!

January	Mediterranean Café (Closed Monday)
February	Steak N' Shake
March	Cracker Barrel
April	Longhorn Steak House
May	La Nacional (Mexican buffet)
June	El Zapata
July	Chili's
August	Panera Bread Company
September	Jumbo China
October	New China Buffet
November	Moe's
December	Zaxby's

In addition, two alternates were selected in case of a closure. These are Carrabba's Italian Grill and Country's at Main Street.

## DaVINCI T-SHIRTS & POLOS

We are swiftly running out of shirts! If you want one you better act quickly before your size is gone. We have no extra large or XX left, only small, medium, and large. Several of you have approached me about obtaining a DaVinci polo shirt. I will be happy to place another order but again I 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). If you want extra printing on the shirt, such as your name or position, that too will run you a few extra credits.

## WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Lieko Koone (S)  
Benlee Huguley (D)

## FINALLY...

Many of you do not know when your membership in the DaVinci or Starfleet is due for renewal. So to help you remember, here are your expiration dates:

	<u>DaVinci</u>	<u>Starfleet</u>
Skye Cameron	Jul 06	
James Carey	Oct 06	
Faye Cole	Mar 06	
Dutch Cummings	Apr 06	
Randy Dunn	Nov 05	May 06
Karen Ferris	Sep 06	
Tony Fleming	Jul 06	Jun 06
Eldred Hightower	Dec 06	
Benlee Huguley	Dec 06	
Todd Kes	Oct 06	
Leiko Koone	Oct 06	Oct 06
Lech Mazur	Jul 06	May 06
Margaret McGillicuddy	Mar 07	Sep 06
Lisa Neal	Jul 06	
Barbara Paul	Jan 06	Aug 06
Joe Perry	Jul 06	Nov 06
Karen Pynenburg	Jul 06	May 06
Russell Ruhland	Aug 06	Aug 06
Park Scully	Apr 06	
Dennis Shaw	Jun 06	
Frazier Smith	Jun 06	Jun 06
Gisela Stephens	Jan 07	Sep 06
Michael Walker	Mar 06	Mar 06
Vanessa Winfield	Jun 06	Jun 06
Susan Wood	Apr 06	
Roger Wright	Jul 06	Sep 06

## 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 everyone would enjoy a look down memory lane. Each month I will show a series of photographs from our very beginning, as the Shuttle DaVinci, 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 and Gisela Stephens Chat during our annual Halloween get together (31 October 2000)



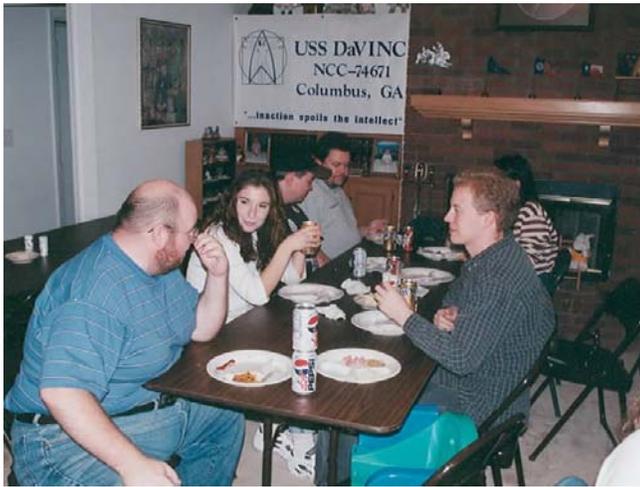
Travis and Ariana “Po” Heller enjoying their booty!



Steve Gordon and Frazier Smith in their Starfleet Marine uniforms!



Gisela Stephens, Joe Perry, Connie Heller and Ariana Heller smile for the camera (well, three are smiling anyway).



Frazier Smith Chats with Nina Grgas at our annual Thanksgiving dinner while Todd Kes looks on. (18 November 2000)



Roger Wright looks on as Nina Grgas looks at the goodies in the Captain's vault.



The crew enjoying a bit of Star Trek trivia hosted by MC Josh Ainsworth.



After a full meal, the crew adjourns to the back room to watch television.



Roger Wright and his then current girlfriend Alicia Carter look over recent DaVinci photographs.

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PLEASE JOIN IN ON THE FUN!**

# 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 Vanessa Winfield 732-0125

Counselor Russell Ruhland...298-3998

Medical Barbara Paul (478) 929-3210

Morale **VACANT**

**Engineering Officer** **VACANT**

Communications **VACANT**

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 Joe at any of the DaVinci events or give them a call.