

# DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 11 Number 09

### FROM THE CENTER SEAT

TEN YEARS! Happy Birthday USS DaVinci! My goodness, it is hard to believe that we have lasted 10 years as a Starfleet chapter. Yes, back at the very first Region 2 Summit, the Shuttle DaVinci became the USS DaVinci. If you count the time we spent as a Shuttle, the DaVinci has been around for 11 years! Of course, you know what that means! Party time! Normally, I would have scheduled the party for the March 18<sup>th</sup> but will have to make it the next weekend instead. My reason is simple - it is only two weeks after the Region 2 summit and I would like folks from other chapters to join us in celebrating our anniversary. But, if it were that close to the summit too many folks might be burnt out and not wish to travel two weekends with just one in between. So, our 10th anniversary party will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March beginning at the usual 2:00 PM time. Normally the food at the anniversary party is pizza but since this is a very special occasion our resident chef, Connie Heller, has graciously agreed to have a cookout instead! Yes, burgers and dogs off the grill and other goodies from the crew will be served at the celebration. A sign-up sheet for the rest of the goodies will be making the rounds at the various DaVinci functions, so sign up soon. You may also call me during the evenings (but please before 9:00 PM) at the number listed below. Not only am I planning on inviting the Region to join in on the celebration but I plan on contacting as many past members of the DaVinci as possible and inviting them as well. Their memberships may be expired but they will always be part of the DaVinci family. Of course, there will be lots of door prizes, a Great Dalmuti tournament, trivia games, and who knows what else! Please come to this special event.

MARCH 2006

Qapla! Success!! Victory!!! Travis Heller, Lech Mazur, and I traveled to Prattville, AL to participate in the USS New Hope's Region 2 charity challenge Great Dalmuti tournament. Upon arriving it was learned that the DaVinci was the only other ship from the Region to send representatives to this worthwhile event. The tournament took place at the home of the New Hope's XO, Jan Sleigh. The CO of the New Hope, Nancy O'Shields, was also present. The remainder of the New Hope's team included Jan's husband, Doug, and her three children, Daniel, Leanne, and Dominic. When we arrived, Travis' reputation as a Dalmuti master preceded him for a slight groan was heard as he walked in the door. Jan, the defending New Hope's "Great Dalmuti", looked dejected for she had hoped Travis would not show up. The New Hope had a great spread of goodies laid out for us to munch on. There were meat and cheese finger food, chips and dip, brownies, a chocolate chip cookie cake, and lots of pop to wash it down before the tournament began. The beginning of the tournament looked pretty dismal, especially for your Captain as he spent the first four rounds as either the Lesser or Greater Peon! Travis "The Great" was doing a little better and Lech "The Rookie" was doing as well as you could expect from someone who has never played the game. The folks from the New Hope always seemed to have one of their members as the "Great One." But, little did they realize that Freddy "The Sly" was slowly working his way out the pits and up the standings. Ten hard-fought rounds were played and at the end Jan Sleigh from the New Hope was on top of the standings with your Captain in second place, a mere two points behind! But wait! It seemed like Travis made a slight addition mistake and after a few anxious moments of anticipation it was announced that Jan was not the

Great Dalmuti after all, but it was your Captain who wore that crown! And where did Travis and Lech come out in the standings? Travis "The Not So Great" was seventh and the overall Lesser Peon (how far the mighty have fallen!) and Lech was sixth. The Greater Peon was Leanne Sleigh. Following the pictures taken of the winners and losers, it was decided that we would all go out for dinner at a local Chinese Buffet. The Dalmuti tournament raised \$60.00 for the Region 2 charity challenge. A BIG Bajoran thanks goes to Nancy and her crew for hosting the tournament and to Travis and Lech for participating.



Freddy, "The Great Dalmuti" smiles as Leanne Sleigh, the "Greater Peon" expresses her feelings for the camera. Thanks to Jan for the photos.



Travis Heller, "The Not So Great Dalmuti" grovels at the feet of his lord and master, "The Great One."

Jan, Nancy, and the rest of the crew from the New Hope have sworn revenge and are itching to take the Dalmuti crown away from the DaVinci. They will be coming to our anniversary party in March eager to do so. Join us to find out the result!

Attention on deck! Since the Olive Garden was not selected as one of the Night Out locations for 2006 and because I have a whole bunch of \$3.00 (off 2 meals) or \$1.50 (off 1 meal) coupons and because the Olive Garden happens to be one of my favorite restaurants, I have decided to have a special "Captain's Night Out" on Friday, 24 February. We will meet at the Olive Garden at 6:00 PM. Please let me know if you wish to come so that I can get there early and reserve a table for our group. Remember, Friday is normally a very busy time for Columbus restaurants, so let me know as soon as possible. I know this is really short notice but try to come.

RADM Freddy Heller

## EXECUTIVELY SPEAKING

Ok, ok, I know I've been accused of writing some rather unusual articles in the past but that doesn't mean this one is going to be anything different. Ha ha, fooled ya! I actually have some serious stuff to write about this month, taking (I should say borrowing) some info on Transporter technology from memory-alpha.org.

**TRANSPORTER HISTORY:** Transporters have been used by many civilizations throughout history, but the first human-made transporter was invented by Emory Erickson some time prior to 2139. The Enterprise NX-01 was the first Earth Starfleet ship to be equipped with a transporter authorized for transporting biological objects, though it was rarely utilized due to the newness of the technology. Its use became common during Enterprise's search of the Delphic Expanse, mainly due to its usefulness in this dangerous sector of space.

Early transporters were not very reliable, and even after Enterprise's mission, most were authorized for non-biological transports only. Even when transporter use became commonplace, most humans and other races at a similar stage of technological development preferred traditional methods of travel. With the advent of safer transporters, biological transport became increasingly common, which led to the appearance of the first transporter-related diseases. The best known disease was Transporter Psychosis diagnosed in 2209.

As Starfleet and its successor, the Federation Starfleet, continued their exploration of space, dependence on transporters grew considerably. Transporters could simplify away missions by

eliminating the need for a shuttlecraft. In case of emergencies, medical or otherwise, the time saved could mean the difference between life and death. The advent of safer transporters gave Starfleet the ability to respond more quickly to mission and medical needs.

Transporters became the most reliable form of short-range transport by the 24th century. Innovations in transporter technology around this time included site-to-site transport, which allowed for transport without the use of a transporter room. The principles behind Federation transporters differed little from those of other species, although they had a distinctive blue color.

By the 29th century, Starfleet used temporal transporter technology to travel through space and time in a very similar manner to standard transporters of earlier centuries.

Beam me up, Scotty!

NEXT MONTH: Transporter Operations!

CPT Russell Ruhland

## SCIENCE STATION

2500 years ago the ancient Greeks were fascinated when they discovered that when some one rubbed a piece of fossilized amber rock against a piece of cloth they found that light objects such as a feather would cling seemingly magnetically to the amber. The Greek word for amber was electron, whereby our modern word for electricity was derived from.

Today we know that the electron is a tiny negatively charged particle that orbits around the nucleus of an atom similar to a miniature solar system. The flow of electrons is measured in amps. One amp is the staggering equivalent of 20 quadrillion electrons moving per second. 20 quadrillion is basically the number 20 followed by 13 zeroes. An amp is by household standards a rather small amount of electricity.

For 2400 years or more the ancients and then the moderns did not understand what was going on with the rubbed amber magnetic attractive force nor did they understand the observable mysterious fluid that lit up the sky during a thunderstorm. From the eighteenth century onwards scientists and experimenters were aware of this electrical fluid or spark as they termed it. Benjamin Franklin discovered from his kite experiment that static electricity from a near by thunderstorm caused the

rope from his kite to electrify and thereby caused a current to flow to the attached key and electrify it. Had lightning actually struck his kite, he would have been electrocuted and Franklin would have gone down as history's greatest doofus as one historian put it. Franklin discovered the phenomenon of electricity but he did not know what it was.

A classic case of not knowing what electricity was was the electrical experimentation and invention of Thomas Edison. In Thomas Bodanis' book, "Electric Universe", Bodanis says the following about Edison: "He was supposed to be the greatest electrician of his age yet he didn't even know what was happening inside an electric wire. Most of the time when journalists asked him to try to explain how these great inventions really worked, Edison would laugh them off. He'd say that those matters were for the fancy professors to work out and that he would be long dead before that happened." As it turned out, Edison lived until 1932 and the secrets of electricity were formulated and codified by the great Scottish scientist, James Maxwell.

Alessandro Volta, the Italian scientist of the 1700's discovered that when he placed two round pieces of metal into his mouth, one made of zinc and the other made of copper, he would feel a tingling sensation when both metal coins touched each other when placed on the right and the left part of his tongue. This tingling sensation was essentially the flow of electricity. From that discovery, Volta went on to build the first battery by layering pieces of metal in a salt solution that induced the flow of electricity. The electrical unit of the volt was named in his honor. A volt is a measurement of the amount of work that can be created from the use of electricity. A volt as a measurement of the ability to do work can easily be remembered by associating the dreaded work we all do from day to day as a re"volt" ing phenomenon. One can't help but notice that volt and work are four letter words. Again, Alessandro Volta, among other experimenters in the early era of electrical discoveries, did not understand what this fascinating flow of invisible particles and force was.

More next month on electrical discoveries and the Isaac Newton of the nineteenth century, James Maxwell.

ENS Lech Mazur

## PASSAGES

Andreas Katsulas, whose striking Greek visage was often obscured by prosthetic makeup in his several sci-fi roles, died on Monday, February 13, of lung cancer. He was 59. Katsulas played the recurring role of the Romulan "Commander Tomalak" in the Star Trek: The Next Generation episodes "The Enemy," "The Defector," "Future Imperfect" and "All Good Things..." He also appeared in the Enterprise episode "Cogenitor" as the Vissian captain "Drennik" who takes Captain Archer on a very close encounter with a hypergiant sun.



Andreas Katsulas as Commander Tomalak from The Next Generation.



Andreas Katsulas as Captain Drennik with Scott Bakula in "Cogenitor"

Science fiction fans also know him well as the Narn ambassador "G'Kar" in Babylon 5. His numerous other TV credits include spots on Alien Nation, Max Headroom, Millennium, Diagnosis

Murder, NYPD Blue, etc. Katsulas also had his share of movie roles, and perhaps his most famous was the notorious one-armed man "Frederick Sykes" in "The Fugitive" with Harrison Ford.

Of working-class Greek and American heritage, Katsulas was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and by age 4 had caught the acting bug. He earned his master's degree in theater from Indiana University, and performed on stage in St. Louis, New York and Boston before being cast by Michael Cimino in "The Sicilian." That role jump started his Hollywood career, where his scowl and furrowed brow landed him mostly villainous parts, such as a ruthless mobster in Ridley Scott's "Someone to Watch Over Me," and a terrorist leader in "Executive Decision" with Kurt Russell and Steven Seagal. Katsulas is survived by his second wife, whom he married less than a year ago, and a daughter and a son from his first marriage. [Thanks to StarTrek.com for the photos and story]

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

We had a very successful clean up of our Adopt-A-Highway interchange. Being that it was the weekend after the Super Bowl, there was sure plenty of trash to be picked up. We filled about 5 bags of trash and Freddy took home one big bag of cans, bottles, and plastic. The find of the day had to be the DVD "Elf" of which Freddy found the DVD and Ariana the case. Many thanks to Randy, Rebecca, and Christopher Dunn; Maritza, and Vincenzo Fleming; Todd Kes; and Freddy and Ariana Heller for coming out on a wet and chilly Saturday morning to lend a hand.

LTCMDR Tony Fleming

## NEWS FROM FLEET

The Region 2 Summit in Birmingham, AL is just a few short days away!! The Summit will take place 3-5 March at the Airport Holiday Inn. If you wish to attend, register on-line at [region2.org](http://region2.org). The Summit is a great way to visit with old friends and meet new ones. The Summit will feature more than 30 panels some of which are newsletters, leadership, costumes, and beginning a shuttle. There will also be a gaming room, auction, tournaments, and much more! For those of you who are going and wish to car pool or share a room, please contact either

Russell or myself. It never hurts to save a little latinum.

Also coming up in a little less than 6 months is the Starfleet International Conference (IC)! This year the IC will take place from 04-06 August in historic Philadelphia, PA. Right now, Joe Perry, Russell Ruhland, and I are the only ones definitely attending. I would love to see more folks from the DaVinci go. I realize that it is a long way to travel and you may be short on funds but Joe and Russell are driving up and all three of us are staying in the same room. So if you wish to go you might be able to catch a ride with them and you are sure welcome to stay with us at the hotel. Just bring a sleeping bag, blanket, or other item to keep you comfortable. Check out sfi.org for all the latest information on the IC. Let us know!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Barbara Luna (LT Marlene Moreau on TOS)	2 <sup>nd</sup>
James Doohan (LTCMDR Montgomery Scott on TOS)	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Apollo 9 Blasts off to Test Lunar Module (1969)	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Jolene Blalock (T'Pol on ENT)	5 <sup>th</sup>
CADET Ariana Heller	12 <sup>th</sup>
Astronaut Wally Schirra	12 <sup>th</sup>
Uranus Discovered by Sir William Herschel (1781)	13 <sup>th</sup>
First American (Norman Thagard) on Russian Space Craft (1995)	14 <sup>th</sup>
Astronaut Frank Borman	14 <sup>th</sup>
Astronaut Eugene Cernan	14 <sup>th</sup>
Penny Johnson-Jerald (CPT Cassidy Yates on DS9)	14 <sup>th</sup>
Astronaut Alan L. Bean	15 <sup>th</sup>
J.G. Hertzler (Martok on DS9)	18 <sup>th</sup>
First Human to Walk in Space (Alexi Leonov 1965)	18 <sup>th</sup>
Conner Trineer (CMDR Charles Tucker on ENT)	19 <sup>th</sup>
John DeLancie ("Q" on TNG)	20 <sup>th</sup>
ENS Travis Heller	22 <sup>nd</sup>
William Shatner (CPT James T. Kirk on TOS)	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Michael Westmore (Makeup Designer)	22 <sup>nd</sup>
First US 2 Person Craft (Gemini III) is Launched (1965)	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Russia's Mir Space Station Falls to Earth (2001)	23 <sup>rd</sup>
D. C. Fontana (Story Editor)	25 <sup>th</sup>
Leonard Nimoy (Spock on TOS)	26 <sup>th</sup>
Cadet Brayden Pimental	27 <sup>th</sup>
Yuri A. Gagarin Dies (1968)	27 <sup>th</sup>
Marina Sirtis (CMDR Deanna Troi on TNG)	29 <sup>th</sup>
ENS Lesh Mazur	30 <sup>th</sup>

## FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	426.50
Postage	44.20
Closing Balance	382.30

FCPT Connie Heller

## 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 appetit!

April	Longhorn Steak House
May	La Nacional (Mexican buffet)
June	El Zapata (Veteran's Parkway)
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 (used in January) and Country's at Main Street Village.

Congratulations to, James Carey, the winner of the free dinner at Steak n' Shake during the February Night Out!

## 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.

## **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	
Robert Crosby	Jan 07	
Dutch Cummings	Apr 06	
Randy Dunn	Jan 07	May 06
Karen Ferris	Sep 06	
Tony Fleming	Jul 06	Jun 06
Diane Franklin	Dec 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 07	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.



The small turn-out for our Voyager Mourning Party. On the couch are Randy and Christopher Dunn, Tony Fleming, and Joe Perry. Holding the Mourning Towel is Travis Heller and Mathew Dunn (23 May 2001)



With the absence of our resident chef, Freddy Heller tries his hand at cooking the burgers at our third Fourth of July cookout (07 July 2001)



Gisela Stephens checking out the goodies on the "Captain's Table."



Margaret McGillicuddy, Alan Certo, and Frazier Smith discussing the excellent cooking ability of the stand-in chef.



Rusty Touchton shows off his Gene Simmons (KISS) imitation as Randy Dunn looks on.



Randy Dunn digs into a cake as Frazier Smith, Rusty Touchton, and Mathew Dunn look on.



"Ach du liber!", thinks Gisela Stephens, "Who cooked these burgers?" Rose Hutson wonders too.

**THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL  
BE ON 02 MARCH AT 7:00 PM  
AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE  
PLEASE JOIN IN ON THE FUN!**



Gisela Stephens shows Emma Certo what she would rather be eating.



The crew developing a petition to forbid Freddy Heller from ever cooking at a DaVinci event again.



Emma Certo, Alan Certo, and Shaughn O'Connor chowing down on the excellently prepared food.



Freddy Heller, Joe Perry, Don Meyer, and Shaughn O'Connor discussing the finer points of culinary cuisine.



Alan and Emma Certo listening intently to a conversation on the other side of the table.



Rusty Touchton playing a game while Mathew Dunn (seated) and Josh Ainsworth look on.



Alan and Emma Certo, two of our favorite past members.



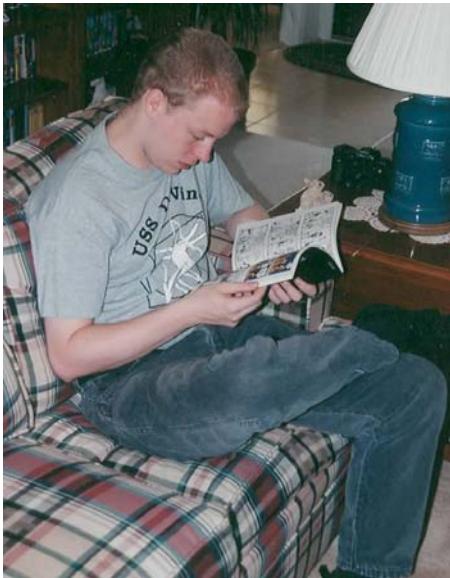
Gisela Stephens, Rose Hutson, Lisa Neal, and Alan Certo playing Chinese Checkers.



Shaughn O'Connor and Don Meyer, our favorite Klingons from the USS Rogue Phoenix.



Todd Kes and Lisa Neal enjoying a game.



Todd Kes enjoying a Bloom County after a delicious meal.



As always watching a Trek show is mandatory. Todd Kess, Lech Mazur, Margaret McGillicuddy, and Emma Certo enjoying Deep Space Nine.

# DaVINCI STAFF ROSTER

<b>Commanding Officer</b>	Freddy Heller	562-8735
<b>Executive Officer</b>	Russell Ruhland	298-3998
<b>Operations Officer</b>	Joe Perry	327-5888
Finance	Connie Heller	562-8735
Community Service	Tony Fleming	568-6529
Publications	Freddy Heller	562-8735
<b>Science Officer</b>	Lech Mazur	596-9542
Computer Science	Vanessa Winfield	732-0125
Counselor	Russell Ruhland	298-3998
Medical	Barbara Paul (478)	929-3210
Morale	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Engineering Officer</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
Communications	<b>VACANT</b>	
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>	

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

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT  
WILL BE AT CRACKER BARREL  
ON MONDAY 20 MARCH AT 7:00 PM  
COME FOR THE GREAT FOOD!  
COME FOR THE FRIENDSHIP!**

**THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL  
BE ON 02 MARCH AT 7:00 PM  
AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE  
PLEASE JOIN IN ON THE FUN!**