



DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 12 Number 03

SEPTEMBER 2006

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

Sorry I missed the August meeting but I attended the Starfleet International Conference (IC) in Philadelphia, PA. Russell and Joe also attended the annual event. I hope that Lech was a suitable replacement. Speaking of the IC we had a really great time! It was a well-run conference although the hotel had a few irritating problems. I do not wish to spoil Russell's article so I will not say anything more about it.

Hey, do not forget that our annual "Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall" cookout will take place on Saturday the 23rd of September. For the first time, the cookout will actually take place on the first day of autumn. So think about what you want to bring to the festivities and fill out the sign-up sheet.

Do not forget to read the Community Service article very carefully! Speaking of community service...

We have several new members that may not know just what the DaVinci does for the Columbus-Phenix City community, Starfleet, and other charitable organizations. You may be new to the club or a long-standing member who just plain forgot. So, to introduce or to reintroduce you to the programs, what follows is a list of the programs that we actively participate in and a few that we have tended to let languish over the past several years. I would like to see these "forgotten" programs rise to the level of the more active ones. So, without further ado here are the programs we actively (and not so actively) participate in:

Tab for the Ronald McDonald House. The collection of tabs is the biggest activity in the club. Since we started collecting tabs, we have accumulated nearly 200,000 tabs. The Ronald McDonald House uses the proceeds from the sale of

the tabs to pay for their utilities. Then there is the pieing contest which makes the search for tabs even that more exciting! Please save those tabs from your cans and drop them off at my house anytime or when we get together for meetings or at the Night Out. Oh, and if you wish to donate the cans as well, please do so. That money goes into the DaVinci treasury.

Overseas Coupon Project. This is the number two activity in the DaVinci. Although the amount of coupons we have accumulated has dropped in the past few years, we still have been high in the list of Region 2 chapters. In 2000 we were also the number one contributor in all of Starfleet with nearly \$300,000 in donations! I would love for us to relive those glory days but to do so requires your help. Gather those coupons, clip them, sort them into food and non-food, add the total amount in each pile, and drop them by my house. If you really do not feel like doing all that work, that is okay, but bring the coupons anyway and the job will get done. Since we first started participating in the OCP in 1995, the DaVinci has sent to various overseas Army Community Service (ACS) centers nearly \$700,000 worth of coupons! Help us reach one million before my hands get too sore to clip anymore!

Adopt-A-Highway. Our highway section does get cleaned, but the participation at those pick-ups could be a little more attended. The more that show up, the less time it takes to pick up the litter. Read on to find out when the next scheduled clean up is and be sure to mark your calendars! Help us keep the streets of Columbus a little cleaner.

Starfleet Stampede. The donation of canceled stamps is not doing as well as I thought it would. What could be easier? All you have to do is cut out the canceled stamp on your letters and packages and

bring them whenever the DaVinci gets together. We have had large donations from Lisa, but we cannot expect her to carry the whole program. So, please save those stamps. You need not sort or count them. Now that Starfleet has a Stampede Coordinator once more, I believe you will begin to see more activity in the program. Remember, this program benefits Starfleet's various charities so clip those stamps today!

Columbus Battered Woman's Shelter When Joe and I attended the annual Starfleet International Conference in Burlington, VT several years ago, we discovered that some chapters were helping out their local women's shelter by donating the soap, shampoo, lotion, etc., you find in hotels. I spoke with the Columbus women's shelter representative and they definitely need not only these items but other things such as cleaning supplies and hygiene items as well. So if you are on any trips save all the stuff the hotel gives you and do not forget to "raid" the cart when the cleaning personnel are at lunch!

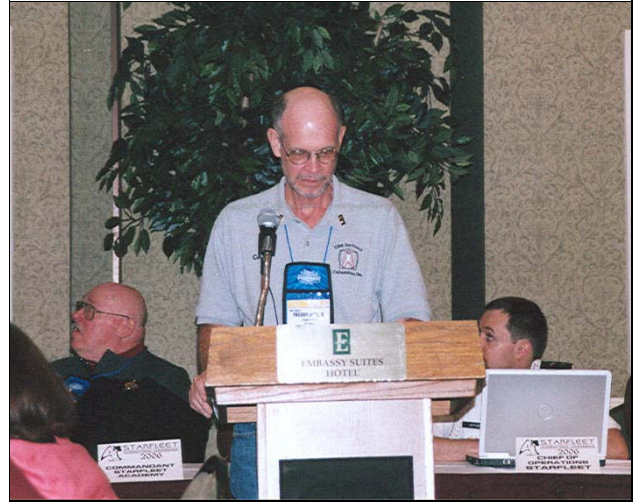
Trauma Buddy The trauma buddy program was one of those on again, off again programs. We started the program early on and it really took off. But after a while it died. I would like to start it up again but this time with one major change – no uniforms! Okay, you ask, just what is a trauma buddy? Trauma buddies are stuffed animals that are given to ambulatory children to ease their pain and fear during transport. It really works and the folks at the fire department would love as many as they can get. So, this is what I need for you to do. Search your house and garage sales for four-legged stuffed animals in clean condition that can fit inside a gallon zip-lock bag. Once we get enough stuffed animals together we will have a formal presentation to the fire department

RADM Freddy Heller

EXECUTIVELY SPEAKING

USS DaVinci; XO's Personal log: Stardate: 200608.02. After a somewhat restless night's sleep I managed to gather together my personal belongings and made it to the Shuttle Bay just in time. My mission: Escort Commodore Joseph Perry to Starbase Philadelphia for the 2006 Annual Starfleet International Conference. I had never traveled in the Shuttle Suvak before but I heard she's a good little ship and I would have it rather easy along the way

since the Commodore insisted on piloting for the entire journey. Having received clearance we cleared the DaVinci and proceeded along our way. Even though I have been the XO of the DaVinci for more than 3 years now I still found myself a bit nervous around Commodore Perry but my anxiety was eased as he is an accomplished conversationalist and kept the Shuttle at a maximum of full impulse the whole flight. After several hours we lodged the night on an asteroid that housed a Pakled mining colony.



Freddy announcing the roll call of Region 2 ships during the General Session.

Stardate 200608.03. Little known to either one of us our hosts were looking for things that make them go all night long and after recovering all our missing parts the Suvak was off and running our second leg of the flight. Much smoother than yesterday I napped on and off until about 4 hours later when we encountered the Maryland asteroid belt followed by the D.C. Nebula to which I must say the Commodore expertly maneuvered through. We finally reached Starbase Philadelphia at 1800 hours and were met to our surprise by Rear Admiral Heller who made arrangements for our stay. The evening ended with an informal gathering of various fleet members and everyone decided to get a good night's sleep.

Stardate 200608.04. Wakeup call was at 0700 hours. Not a bad night's sleep after 2 days of galactic travel. Now one of the really interesting parts of this mission is what am I going to do with all my time while the Admiral and Commodore are in the Executive Committee/Admiralty Board (EC/AB) meeting all day. OK, the free breakfast

was excellent and as more fleet members arrived; greetings and hugs handed out by one and all. I walked around, and then walked around some more; went to my quarters and watched some of those old-time Earth style visual communications on the square box, then walked some more and went back to my quarters, and so on, and so on; well, you get the idea. The evening closed with an informal mixer followed by opening ceremonies, a bit of small talk and back to the quarters for the night.



Russell, Joe and Freddy look sharp prior to the start of the banquet.

Stardate 200608.05. Another round of great breakfast treats started the day's activities. General assembly, promotions, presentations and panels were prevalent throughout the day. Panels included Cinema, Recruiting, Ship Building, Trek Books and Trek Personas. A question and answer period with the brass was very informative and after a couple of hours respite we proceeded to the banquet. Chicken, Beef or Salmon were the divine deletes offered along with cheesecake for dessert (or 2, Freddy). Music filled the air after the banquet and then off to sleep until Sunday AM. Oh, by-the-way, Connie, Freddy thought of you the entire time and even had the DJ play "Only You" to make the evening go smoothly for him. Ain't love grand!



Freddy, Joe, and Russell at the Closing Ceremonies.

Stardate 200608.06. Not much to log today. Worship service at 0800 hours followed by the closing ceremonies and of course the part I always never look forward to, that is; the good-byes until next year. Handshakes and hugs and then back to the Shuttle Suvak for the return voyage which was much like the trip there only in reverse. Two days of travel and back in the Shuttle Bay about 1800 hours on Stardate 200608.07. The International Conference for 2007 will be in Denver and in Ithica, NY for 2008. End Personal Log.

CPT Russell Ruhland

MEMORY ALPHA

This past year's DaVinci slideshow is finally complete! It has been burned onto DVD+R discs, which play in nearly all DVD players. The price is \$5.00 apiece. Remember the tribute to Roger is also included on the DVD and it is something not to be missed!

If anyone does not have a DVD player and needs one to play on computer in Windows Media Player format, let me know.

There are also historical discs (old leftovers) available for only \$1.00 apiece.

FCPT Connie Heller (Ferengi-In-Training)

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT
WILL BE AT JUMBO CHINA BUFFET
(ON WYNNTON ROAD)
ON MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 7:00 PM
COME FOR THE FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP!**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

We have officially relinquished our Veteran's Parkway adopt-a-highway site. However, we have not totally given up on the volunteer effort. We have exchanged the old site for a new one! The new one is a little further east down the highway at the Schomburg Road/Blackmon Road interchange (Exit 6). The first scheduled clean up of our new section will be on Saturday September 16th at 8:00 AM. Pay attention, because this is important! We will no longer be meeting at the McDonalds on Veteran's Parkway since it is too far from our new site. You have been warned, so you cannot blame me if you show up at the McDonalds anyway. Okay, where will we meet? Well, just for the first time (and maybe more in the future), we will meet at Freddy's house where a delicious home made breakfast will be served to all the volunteers! That is right; we will have breakfast at Freddy's before picking up trash. Now this too is important! If you plan on helping out, please let Freddy know if you are coming and how many are in your group. He needs to know how many eggs, sausage, bacon, toast, biscuits, coffee, etc to prepare! Wait a minute! Freddy cooking? I remember a certain 4th of July cookout where he did some rather unspeakable things to hamburgers that no one should ever see let alone taste! Maybe Connie should do the cooking. Please!

LTCMDR Tony Fleming

NIGHT OUT SURPRISE!!

August 2006 will be remembered as the month of a very special night out. At the Panera Bread Company, Russell, the DaVinci's Executive Officer, asked his special lady Diane to be his wife!

With video camera rolling and digital camera snapping, Russell went down on his knees and begged for her hand in marriage. Diane said "yes" to applause both from the crew and the restaurant staff.

The only glitch in the evening was that the jewelry store was closed when Russell stopped by to pick up the engagement ring he had chosen. A small ring of onion from Connie's Greek salad was used as a substitute.

Surely from one of the DaVinci's engaged couples (Randy and Sandy, Frazier and Vanessa,

and now Russell and Diane) we can get at least ONE Star Trek wedding!

And an appropriate food at Russell and Diane's reception would be - onion rings!



A very nervous Russell, begins preparing the assembled for 'the question!'



On one knee, Russell "pops" the question to a very excited Diane



The answer is "YES!"



The substitute ring!

PASSAGES

Pluto the Planet, 76, died Thursday, 24 August, in Prague, Czech Republic, when it was killed by the International Astronomical Union.

Pluto was born in 1930 when Clyde Tombaugh, a lowly assistant at Arizona's Lowell Observatory, spotted a new object on photographic plates.

An 11-year old girl from Oxford, England, suggested the name of the Roman God of the underworld. It was a perfect fit for a planet shrouded in darkness.



Pluto, shown in happier times.

Within a year of its discovery, Walt Disney gave the same name to Mickey Mouse's faithful companion - Pluto the Dog. Walt Disney Studio said Thursday there were no plans to demote Pluto the Dog.

Survivors include Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune and their numerous satellites.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

ENS Cricket 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
CRMN Robert Crosby	23 rd
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
CRMN Lisa Hightower	30 th

TV SHOWS ON DVD NEWS

I have an update on the release of Star Trek the Animated Series. The release date is still scheduled for November 21st, and Deep Discount DVD.com finally has it listed on their site. The price is \$42.35 for the set! Seems to be the cheapest on line. It is also available at Buy.com, Barnes & Noble.com, and DVD Empire.com.

Finally! The 9th season of Stargate SG-1 will be out on DVD on 3 October. Medium, Season 2 will also be released on 3 October. The first season of Ghost Whisperer, which was to be released on 26 September, has been delayed. No new date has been announced. The fifth and final season of Alias will be released on 21 November. For you Alf fans, you will have to wait until 5 September to get season four. The 13-episode animated Return to the Planet of the Apes is scheduled for a 3 October release.

TABULATIONS

We had so much fun at the January pie party that we are going to do it again! So if you missed out getting to pie Russell or me here is your chance to win that honor this year. But wait! Not only will you be able to pie one of the two of us, you might even get to pie one of the Senior Staff! If we can collect 100,000 by 31 December of this year, the entire Senior Staff (consisting of the Captain, First Officer, Operations Officer, Science Officer, and Engineering Officer) will be pied. The finer points of the contest like who gets to pie whom or what if a position is vacant has not yet been decided. This will not be an easy task because it took us nearly 2 years to reach 100,000 tabs. Then again, once the contest was announced last year, over 30,500 tabs were collected in only 3 months! So start saving those tabs and you too may get to "SPLAT" your favorite officer. Here are the numbers as of press time:

Starting Balance	11463
Connie Heller	9754
Roger Wright	7200
Tony Fleming	5313
Russell Ruhland	3550
Freddy Heller	2716
Karen Pynenburg	2500
Rebecca Dunn	1500
Benlee Huguley	321
Total	46414*

*Hey, the Senior Staff might start breathing a heavy sigh of relief because only 3 short months remain and not even 47% of the total tabs needed for the pieing have been collected! Hurray!!

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

The next big convention will be the 27-29 October Vulkan in Altamonte Springs, FL. The convention will take place at the Orlando North Hilton and as of now rooms are still available. The guest lineup is impressive – Avery Brooks (Sisko); Jonathan Frakes (Riker), Suzie Plakson (K'Ehelyr), Rene Auberjonois (Odo), Denise Crosby (Yar), Armin Shimerman (Quark), Tim Russ (Tuvok), and Walter Koenig (Chekov). Also appearing is Andrew Probert an illustrator on The Next Generation. Avery Brooks and Jonathan Frakes are the

headliners with all the others listed as bonus guests. Tickets range from \$250 for Platinum VIP tickets (rows 1-2), to \$125 for Gold tickets (rows 3-7), to \$85 for Deluxe tickets (rows 8-16). As of press time, the front row has been sold out. The Platinum ticket gets you two autographs each from Avery Brooks and Jonathan Frakes and a ticket to the banquet. Gold and Deluxe tickets get you one autograph each from the headliners. All seats are reserved so you can come and go as you like. There are also General Admission tickets available but they do not include autographs or reserved seating. The weekend will be busy with other things as well. These include multiple guest sessions, panels, a costume contest, an auction, autograph sessions, a dealer's room, a film room, crazy games with Sean of the Con, and the Vulkan dance. Just added to the festivities is a dessert party! Of course there is also the famous Vulkan hospitality suite where food and refreshments will be served free of charge all weekend long! Check out Vulkan.com for all the latest information. Plan on attending this great convention. I already have my ticket and hotel reservation and so if you are giving some thought about attending remember, you are more than welcomed to ride down with me and even share my room at the Hilton. Let me know as soon as possible. NOTE: As of press time, second row Platinum tickets are still available!

ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks or congratulations go to:

Lauren Gary, a friend who lives in California, for the large donation of coupons!

Roger for his usual donation of coupons.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	172.26
Postage	8.50
Nights Out	17.36
Deposit	75.50
Closing Balance	221.90

FCPT Connie Heller

**THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL
BE ON 07 SEPTEMBER AT 7:00 PM
AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
PLEASE JOIN US FOR FUN AND GAMES!**

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!

October	New China Buffet
November	Moe's
December	Zaxby's

Congratulations to Lech the winner of the free dinner at the Panera Bread Company during the August Night Out! There a grumblings in the ranks of the DaVinci for this is the second month in a row that Lech has won!

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Tony Fleming (D)
 Maritza Fleming (D)
 Mariaelena Fleming (D)
 Vincenzo Fleming (D)
 Lech Mazur (S)

MEMBERSHIPS

Many of you do not know when your membership in the DaVinci or Starfleet is due for renewal. So to help you remember, the following lists your expiration dates. Pay special attention to those marked in **red** they mean expired or nearing expiration in your membership. Please renew as soon as you can.

	<u>DaVinci</u>	<u>Starfleet</u>
Skye Cameron	Jul 06	
James Carey	Oct 06	
Robert Crosby	Jan 07	
Dutch Cummings	Jul 07	
Randy Dunn	Jan 07	May 07
Karen Ferris	Sep 06	
Tony Fleming	Jul 07	Jun 07
Diane Franklin	Dec 06	
Freddy Heller	Jul 07	Sep 07
Eldred Hightower	Dec 06	
Benlee Huguley	Dec 06	
Todd Kes	Oct 06	

Leiko Koone	Oct 06	Oct 06
Lech Mazur	Jul 07	Jul 07
Margaret McGillicuddy	Mar 07	Sep 06
Lisa Neal	Jul 07	
Barbara Paul	Jan 07	Aug 07
Joe Perry	Jul 07	Nov 06
George Pimentel	Jul 07	Jun 07
Karen Pynenburg	Jul 07	May 07
Russell Ruhland	Aug 06	Aug 06
Park Scully	Jul 08	Jul 07
Dennis Shaw	Jul 07	May 07
Frazier Smith	Jun 06	Jun 06
Gisela Stephens	Jan 07	Sep 06
Michael Walker	Mar 06	Mar 07
Vanessa Winfield	Jun 06	Jun 06
Roger Wright	Jul 06	Sep 06

DaVINCI T-SHIRTS & POLO'S

Soon I will be making an order for new DaVinci shirts and polo's. If you want one please let me know as soon as possible the size you want and if you want a polo, 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 \$8.00 - \$12.00 for the shirts and \$22.00-\$27.00 for the polo's depending on the size (XX and up are slightly higher). If you want extra printing on the polo, such as your name or position, that will run you a few extra strips of latinum.

RM HOUSE NEEDED ITEMS

The Ronald McDonald House is always in need for a variety of items. Try to bring something each time we have our meeting. Bringing something with you is a nice way to say "thank-you" for letting us use their meeting room free of charge.

Although The Ronald McDonald House needs quite a variety of items, the items needed most are trash bags (35 gal), laundry detergent, dryer sheets, air freshener spray, AA batteries, copier paper, labels, Styrofoam cups, and food items such as hard candy, cake icing, lemonade, salad dressing, soup, box dinners, vegetable oil, and perishable items such as bread, meats, cheese slices, fresh fruits, and snack foods. Thanks!

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! Reminiscence.



The crew enjoying the good food and fellowship at our 5th annual Christmas party (15 December 2001)



Travis and Gisela having a conversation with folks on the other side of the table.



Lech, Gisela, Patty, and Margaret listen to Roger explaining the finer points of eating ice cream!



Connie and Margaret talking Trek.



Gisela and Karen show off their door prizes while Mr. "I just had to be in this picture" smiles for the camera.



"Ohhhh, way too much ice cream!"



Lech and Margaret watching television following the meal.

DaVINCI STAFF ROSTER

Commanding Officer Freddy Heller 562-8735

Executive Officer Russell Ruhland (334) 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 718-6239

Counselor Russell Ruhland (334) 298-3998

Medical Barbara Paul (478) 929-3210

Morale **VACANT**

Engineering Officer **VACANT**

Communications Chief Benlee Huguley
(334) 329-4988

Quartermaster Randy Dunn (334) 291-0150

Security Roger Wright 687-8052

Marine OIC Frazier Smith 718-6239

Cadet Corps Commander **VACANT**

Master Chief Petty Officer **VACANT**

Interested in a position within the ship? See Joe or Freddy at any of the DaVinci events or give them a call. All numbers are in the 706 area code unless otherwise noted.

FINALLY...

The fall and winter months will soon be upon us and you know what that means! Yes, lots of really great parties. Stay tuned for more information.

CARGO BAY

For Sale: Hundreds of Star Trek, Star Wars, and other miscellaneous female action figures. Low prices! The more you buy the more you save. Call or email Freddy for a complete list!

For Sale: Miscellaneous Star Trek items. Comics, magazines, commercial items, toys, you name it I probably have it! Low prices. Call or email Freddy for a complete list!

For Sale: If you have been to Freddy and Connie's house you probably noticed the large collection of Liberty Falls houses. Well, they are for sale! Check with Connie for your needs.

Autographs: Looking for that certain autographed photograph of your favorite Star Trek or other sci-fi personality? Check with Freddy. He just may have what you need.

Want to put an ad in the Pilot? Just send it to me and it will go in. Does not matter what it says – wanted, for sale, or something more personal! Deadline is the 20th of each month.

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