



DaVinci Pilot

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

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OCTOBER 2006

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

Before I get on to other matters, please take a look at when your DaVinci and Starfleet memberships expire. Many of your memberships have lapsed or are getting close to lapsing and if you wish to continue to receive the Pilot and the Starfleet Communique, make sure you renew your membership right away. Thanks.

We had a fairly good turnout for our annual "Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall" cookout. Twenty-two DaVinci personnel (Bill and Barbara Paul drove from Warner Robins to join us for the celebration) and guests feasted on Connie's expertly prepared hamburgers and hotdogs. We also had the usual: green salad, coleslaw, macaroni salad, potato salad, baked beans, and macaroni and cheese. Then there was the unusual: home made brownies, black forest cake, and some rather bizarre ice cream called "Superman" which tasted as strange as it looked. Once everyone had pretty much finished their plates, we all quietly moved into the great room where we had a surprise 11th birthday party for Randy's daughter Rebecca. She was a little embarrassed about the ordeal but did manage to blow out all the candles in one try. The birthday cake was made by Frazier and Vanessa of the Baker's Hut.

Following the birthday celebration we had the drawings for the numerous door prizes in addition to the drawing for the grand prize, a complete set of all 10 Star Trek movies on DVD, donated by Russell. Winners of the various movie t-shirts were Lisa, Roger, James, Diane, and Vanessa. Frazier won the Region 2 Starfleet t-shirt. Bill won the Starfleet ID holder, Joe a miniature book light, Lech a Starfleet bumper sticker, Randy a Starfleet plastic mug, and Russell a Starfleet hat. The winner of the

grand prize was Joe! Joe protected his winnings with the ferociousness of a riled Klingon as many in the room eyed his prize with longing. Congratulations to all the winners!

The rest of the afternoon and evening was spent in conversation about everything science fiction. Slowly one at a time folks left until there were just a few diehards remaining - Randy and his kids, Joe, Bubba, and Park. We were all in the TV room watching a DVD Connie had put together on the Fall Gratitude Festival when one of my neighbors and a big Trek fan dropped by for a visit. I have been trying for months to get Gary to drop by one of our parties and it was nice to see that he finally did. He even bought a DaVinci t-shirt and I believe I have finally convinced him to join our ship. Now if I can only convince him to join Starfleet!

It was nearly 9:00 PM by the time the last person left. All in all I would say that our fourth annual "Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall" cookout was a resounding success! A BIG Bajoran thanks to all who attended.

Say, do not forget that on Halloween is our annual passing out of candy to the kids and cookies and hot cider to the adults. We will even have a bobbing for apples station. This is the only DaVinci event that the folks in our neighborhood look forward to. So come dressed in your DaVinci shirt, uniform, or any other costume to my house on 31 October beginning at 6:00 PM!

RADM Freddy Heller

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT
WILL BE AT NEW CHINA BUFFET
(ON VETERANS PARKWAY)
ON MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 7:00 PM
COME FOR THE FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP!**

EXECUTIVELY SPEAKING

DragonCon 2006 was by far the most exciting convention one could hope to experience in the Southeast. Several DaVinci members including Diane, Randy, Sandy, Lisa, Park, Todd, and myself made the trek to Atlanta to attend this gala event. It was the first time that my fiancée Diane had attended ANY type of event such as this and she was truly amazed at all the wonders and of course the many amazing costumes that were worn. It was also Park's first DragonCon as well and he too was thrilled at all that was available to attendees and if you can't believe that, just ask Randy about this year's Miss Klingon Beauty Pageant. One of the highlights his year was a life-sized replica of Jabba the Hut from Star Wars and of course I had to have Diane pose for a picture with him.



“Slave” Diane poses with Jabba the Hut.

Several Star Trek actors from the television shows and movies were guests. Some of the stars included George Takei from the Original Series and Denise Crosby from the Next Generation. The Walk of Fame was truly awesome and I believe more stars than ever were guests this year. One thing for sure, if you really desire to enjoy DragonCon at its fullest, you must take in what the entire weekend has to offer. I have my reservations set for next year and highly encourage anyone to do the same for a weekend of fantastic adventure, fun, fellowship, and fandom. I hope to see you there next year!

CPT Russell Ruhland

FALL GRATITUDE FESTIVAL

Between 30 and 40 Starfleet members gathered at the Lions Rotary Lodge at Camp ASCCA near Jackson's Gap, Alabama to participate in the first (possibly annual) Fall Gratitude Festival. Hosted by the USS Jubilee of Mobile, with assistance from several other chapters, the event opened its doors Friday evening to guests.



L-R Ralph and Sunnie Planthold, Jim Brunton, Pete Mohney, and Danny and Denby “Mama” Potts enjoying the festival.

Food was available, with an array of finger food set up buffet-style and the ubiquitous “Chocolate Vault”. The scheduled Great Dalmuti game never got off the ground, although the computer gaming and cadet activities took place that evening.

The next morning it became apparent that this event was on typical “Fleet” time, as breakfast began an hour later than advertised. Throughout the day several groups met, with subjects from crafts to ship public relations. The highlight was the sword fighting demonstration, training and competition. Lunch was casual—chilidogs and coleslaw.



The cadets, Kaitlyn, Ariana, Daniel, and Dominic clown around for the camera prior to the banquet!

The banquet was prepared and served by Starfleet members and was quite tasty. People were to provide their own table decorations. Cadet activities had included tablecloth painting and centerpiece creation, while the Haise crew had a graveyard theme, using the phrase “Who Mourns for Pluto”.



A memorial to the ex-planet Pluto.

The Alien Dessert competition featured such delicacies as Targ Litter Box (you REALLY don't want to know!) and Chocolate Moose. Alas! My Rokeg Blood Pie only took second place. Traditional Bajoran renewal scrolls were burned at the conclusion of the banquet in a bonfire outside, which was later used to burn—excuse me, roast—marshmallows. Afterwards three tables of Texas Hold 'em poker players assembled and stayed up way past my bedtime. Sunday activities included cleanup and departure.

The setting is beautiful, with trees and a view of Lake Martin from the deck. The Lodge has two wings and a total of 12 bedrooms on the main floor, each with two sets of bunk beds and a large private bath. Networked computers for the Starfleet Academy gaming competition were located on the mezzanine, which overlooks the central kitchen and seating area. The lower floor has a large meeting area and another kitchen, with at least one boardroom-sized meeting room.

At the last Region Two summit a camp-style venue was proposed to keep costs down. This may have been a “trial run” of the idea; however, such facilities may not be available in all areas. Also, at this location absolutely no alcoholic beverages are permitted, which would mean that the hard drinkers would have to either change their ways for a

weekend or just stay away. Trade-offs are apparent; the cost was much less than a hotel stay with a catered banquet, but with the loss of amenities and some privacy.

On its own merits, the Gratitude Festival provided another opportunity to see friends and enjoy their company. The ships represented included the Haise, Continuum, DaVinci, Gasparilla, Hephaestus, New Hope, Jubilee, Okatoma, Spiritwalker, and Space Station Nicola Tesla. My apologies if I missed any.

FCPT Connie Heller

SCOTTY TO “BEAM” UP!

After a nearly 4-month delay Celestis, a company of Space Services Inc. (SSI), will finally deliver the ashes of James Doohan (Scotty) up into space via a rocket launch on 21 October aboard the Legacy Flight (Earth Return) and in December or January aboard the Explorers Flight (Earth Orbit). His ashes will be in good company as the ashes of the Mercury (Faith 7) and Gemini 5 astronaut Gordon Cooper will also be on board. Both men were somewhat responsible for making space travel popular with the general public. The remains of 185 others are included, each being housed in their own containers. Scotty will finally get to boldly go where very few have gone before. If you wish to compose a final memorial tribute to Scotty go to memorialspaceflights.com. Your name and message will be placed aboard the spacecraft. There will also be a public memorial service the day before the launch at the Space Endeavor Center, Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA. Additional details will soon be available on the Celestis and SSI web sites.

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)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

I have the obligation to report that the turn out for the highway cleanup was a bomb. We were not able to get enough participants responding even with the promise of a good breakfast to make planning the meal possible. I do understand that we all have other responsibilities that need to come first and others that have no choice but to come first. We will try again and hopefully have a better outcome with the weather improving.

The Help-the-Hooch river cleanup will be taking place on Saturday, October 21st followed by a Watershed Festival at Golden Park for all volunteers. The DaVinci has always had a great number of people to come out and work and enjoy the festivities. The program has been growing from year to year and this time on October 8th from 3:00-5:00 PM a Second Sunday Serenade will take place at the Columbus Public Library to help celebrate HTH in song. There will be a project for household hazardous waste and electronic equipment recycling on Saturday, October 21st, from 9:00-1:00 AM at the Columbus Civic Center Parking Lot. If you may have items around your home that you might fall into this category, please bring them and make plans to attend the Help-the-Hooch cleanup.

LTCMDR Tony Fleming

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Stephen Collins (Cpt Decker from The Motion Picture)	1 st
Avery Brooks (CPT Benjamin Sisko on DS9)	2 nd
Persis Khambatta (Lt. Iliia from The Motion Picture)	2 nd
Wally Schirra Orbits Earth in Sigma Seven (1962)	3 rd
First Non-Stop Flight Across Pacific Ocean (1931)	5 th
CADET Ivy Walker	6 th
Todd Bryant (Klaa from The Final Frontier)	8 th
First Woman to Fly Across US (Laura Ingalls 1930)	9 th
Scott Bakula (CPT Jonathan Archer on ENT)	9 th
CRMN Maritza Fleming	10 th
First Apollo Mission (Schirra, Eisele, & Cunningham 1968)	11 th
First Multiple Crew (3) in Space (Voskhod 1964)	11 th
First US Woman Space Walker (Kathy Sullivan 1984)	11 th
Man Breaks Sound Barrier (Chuck Yeager 1947)	14 th
First Live Telecast from US Spacecraft (Apollo 7, 1968)	14 th

Mark Lenard (Ambassador Sarek on TOS)	15 th
CADET Christopher Dunn	18 th
Ira Steven Behr (Executive Producer, DS9)	23 rd
John Winston (LT Kyle on TOS)	24 th
Gene Roddenberry Dies (1991)	24 th
Space Shuttle Enterprise Lands (1977)	27 th
John Glenn Returns to Space on Discovery (1997)	29 th
William Campbell (Koloth & Trelaine on TOS)	30 th

TV SHOWS ON DVD NEWS

Season five of Andromeda will be released on 3 October as will the Slipstream Collection. The Slipstream collection includes 50 disks containing all 110 episodes of the series! Unfortunately the Slipstream Collection will not include any extra features not already in the individual season box sets.

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
Roger Wright	18300
Connie Heller	9823
Tony Fleming	9091
Russell Ruhland	4810
Freddy Heller	3496
Karen Pynenburg	2500
Rebecca Dunn	2200
Benlee Huguley	322
Total	62005*

*Whoa! With a sudden and unexpected addition of nearly 17000+ tabs by Roger, Tony, Rebecca, and Russell, things are not looking as rosy for the Senior Staff as they once did! Nonetheless, I still think we need not start sweating too much. There is only 2 months left and nearly 38,000 tabs are still needed! Then again, maybe Roger has another hidden stash in his house! Groan.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

The next big convention is just a few weeks away! It will be the weekend of 27-29 October 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 Platinum VIP and the Deluxe tickets have been sold out! Gold tickets are still available and 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. Starfleet will also have a presence at the convention with a membership drive table, a Captain's Call, and other activities as well. Plan on attending this great convention. I already have my ticket and hotel reservation and so if you are giving some thought about attending you are more than welcome to ride down with me and even share my room. Call me.

ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks or congratulations go to:
 Roger for his usual donation of coupons.
 Lisa for her donation of stamps.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	221.90
Night Out	10.63
Deposit	64.00
Purchases	38.98
Closing Balance	236.29

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 appetite!

November Moe's
 December Zaxby's

Congratulations to Randy the winner of the free dinner at Jumbo China Buffet during the September Night Out!

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Bubba Dutton (D) (S)
 Frazier Smith (D)
 Vanessa Winfield (D)
 Todd Kes (D)
 Russell Ruhland (D)
 Roger Wright (D)

**THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL
 BE ON 05 OCTOBER AT 7:00 PM
 AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
 PLEASE JOIN US FOR FUN AND GAMES!**

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT
 WILL BE AT NEW CHINA BUFFET
 (ON VETERANS PARKWAY)
 ON MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 7:00 PM
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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
Bubba Dutton	Sep 08	
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 07	
Leiko Koone	Oct 06	Oct 06
Lech Mazur	Jul 07	Jul 07
Margaret McGillicuddy	Mar 07	Sep 07
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 07	Aug 06
Park Scully	Jul 08	Jul 07
Dennis Shaw	Jul 07	May 07
Frazier Smith	Sep 07	Jun 06
Gisela Stephens	Jan 07	Sep 06
Michael Walker	Mar 06	Mar 07
Vanessa Winfield	Sep 07	Jun 06
Roger Wright	Jul 07	Sep 06

DaVINCI T-SHIRTS & POLO'S

Soon I will be making an order for new DaVinci shirts and polos. If you want one please let me know as soon as possible the size you require and if you want the polo, whether you want 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

polos 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! Reminisce.



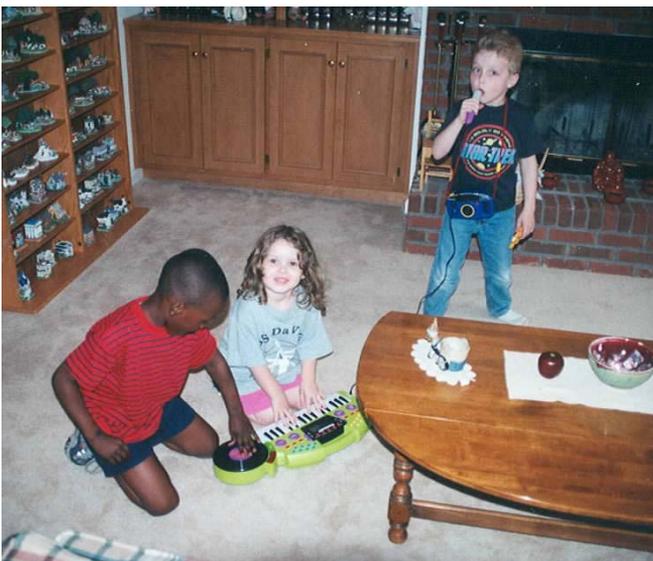
Connie, our resident chef, prepares the burgers and hotdogs at our 6th Anniversary Party
(17 March 2002)



Relaxing and looking at DaVinci photos after the filling meal. (L-R: Roger, Joe, Connie, Margaret, Lech, and Alicia)



Getting seconds and just relaxing. (L-R: Margaret, Connie, and Rose)



Christopher, Ariana, and Nicholas, were getting down to some rock n' roll music!



“Whew! I have had enough,” says little Deborah, “it is time for a nap!”

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 221-6072

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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