



DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 13 Number 3

SEPTEMBER 2007

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

Believe it or not but our annual “Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall” cookout is just around the corner! Yes, on Saturday the 15th of September, the DaVinci’s annual party to welcome the fall season will take place. Naturally we will have plenty of burgers and hotdogs for the hungry crew to consume. Start time will be the usual 2:00 PM. Usually we hold the cookout on the Saturday just before or after the Autumn Equinox but the 2007 Gratitude Festival will take up that weekend. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the September meeting and Night Out. If you cannot make it to these events and still wish to attend, please feel free to contact me via telephone or email.

Sorry I have not been around as much as I should have. I hate missing meetings or Night Outs but work has been pretty busy and I have been out of town quite a bit the last few months. Hopefully as the year comes to an end I will be not so busy.

The USS Robins held a party to celebrate their commissioning as a full-fledged chapter and the DaVinci was well represented by Connie and Ariana, Joe, Russell, and Randy. Read Connie’s article on the whole affair next in this issue of the Pilot!

I have a really nice item to give away to each of the folks who attend the September meeting at the Ronald McDonald House! This is really special and was only given out at the Las Vegas Star Trek convention and nowhere else (well, you might be able to by it on eBay). So, if you collect Trek memorabilia make sure you come to the September meeting. It will look good on any wall. Nuff” said!

VADM Freddy Heller

ROBINS AWAY MISSION

On Saturday, August 11 five members of the USS DaVinci attended an historic away mission. The occasion was the commissioning party of the USS Robins, one of the DaVinci “babies”. Randy, Joe, Russell, Ariana and I set out in the “Trekker” van, heading for Warner Robins. I took the con and Joe was the navigator.

Two hours later we entered the park where the event was held. The first item of business was to locate the “facilities” and then we joined the fun. They had hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, potato salad, baked beans, devilled eggs, chips & dip, watermelon and a marvelous cake.



Some of the happy eaters at the picnic.

There were door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Active games had been planned but were cancelled due to the 100-plus degree heat. Russell acted in Freddy’s stead while reading the commissioning certificate. A special treat was a call from “Gumby” at the Denver IC with a whole roomful of folks hollering “Congratulations!”



ADM Kelly Hillard from the USS Atlanta fills his plate from the assortment of delicious food.!



Russell, standing in for Freddy, hands Mike the commissioning certificate.



Russell and Randy are eagerly awaiting the line to go down for seconds – or is it thirds?



Mike handing Russell a certificate of appreciation from the USS Robins to the USS DaVinci.



Barbara and Bill Paul of the USS Robins, handing out door prizes.



Barbara accepting the call from the folks at the IC in Denver, CO!



The commissioning cake! Yum! Yum!

Mike Sleeth then handed out stacks of awards, certificates and promotions to the Robins personnel. Several artillery-like rolls of thunder then hastened departures of visiting crewmembers of the four ships in attendance: the Robins, DaVinci, Republic and Atlanta.

FCPT Connie Heller

SQUAWK BOX

Based on pre-air pilots I have seen, here is my uninformed review of some of the new shows coming out.

The Bionic Woman

This is not your mother's Bionic Woman. The show has been updated to reflect a more advanced technology implementation very similar to nanobots. The show is a bit more edgy than the previous Bionic Woman. I would guess from the pilot that it is being shot, as are so many shows now, in Canada so expect a somewhat less "sunny" look to the photography. This is mostly from set location but some is directorial style. Expect Jamie Summers (Michelle Ryan) to be a touch more ruthless than she was in the original show. I do kind of wonder if the actress will be able to pull it off, as in the pilot she came across a little too nice (not just nice looking) for the part. It will surely last at least one season but will have to get better than the pilot to go farther.

Cavemen

Ok, so everyone knows by now that the GEICO cavemen have a comedy show. In a nutshell they

are the new "minorities" without all the "Bling" and "Ebonics". They are disrespected, overlooked, underrated, and un-trusted. Welcome to what America would look like if a small amount of cavemen had survived. I don't recall seeing any cavewomen in the pilot though; perhaps they reproduce via osmosis? Expect the cavemen to be clumsy and intelligent. The show, however, will attract the same viewer that found the commercials funny. I am not sure if this show will actually last past the first season. This is shot on locations and is not a sitcom; the production budget will be higher, putting pressure on the producers to have a hit. I am not too sure that this one will last to a second season.

Pushing Daisies

One minute you are dead; the pie baker touches you, then you are not dead. If he doesn't touch you within a minute, someone else close by will die and you will continue to be alive...so long as he doesn't touch you again--EVER! It's as bizarre as it sounds. The pre-air pilot was pretty; and from the looks of it, kind of expensive to make for a comedy. The ratings had better be high on this one to justify its production budget or the show's settings will definitely change as the first cost cutting measures. This show has potential but they will have to work a bit on the writing to make it a hit.

Reaper (CW)

This is a comedic drama about a guy whose parents sold their first born son's soul to the devil in order to save the father's life when he was dying of cancer. And so, at the wonderful age of twenty-one, guess who shows up to collect on the contract? The good news is that the Devil does not want him in hell, The bad news is that he gets to track down and return escaped souls to hell. This one looks like another filmed-in-Canada job. The writing is pretty good, and it is pretty well cast, especially the Devil, who is actually kind of likeable at times. The most expensive thing about this show will be the special effects for the first year; after that probably labor as contracts get renegotiated should it take off. Budget wise, this one should not be too expensive for the network to keep on the air. This one is good for at least two seasons unless the network gets a brain fart.

PO3 James Carey

2007 GRATITUDE FESTIVAL

The Gratitude Festival will be held September 21-23 at the Alabama Special Camp for Children and Adults on Lake Martin in Alabama. See last month's newsletter for a description of the facilities and event. This month I want to focus on the actual activities and what the DaVinci is planning.

Here is the tentative Saturday schedule as forwarded to me by the event coordinator:

7:00 – 8:00	Short Order Breakfast
8:00 – 10:00	CO's Meeting Alien Dessert Workshop Jewelry Design & Fabrication
10:00 – 12:00	Klingon Boffer Tourney
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Alien Dessert Contest
2:00 – 3:00	Astrometrics Workshop
3:00 – 5:00	Issues in Leadership Bread making Workshop
5:00 – 6:00	Downtime / Setup for Banquet
6:00 – 8:30	Banquet
8:30 – 9:00	Breakdown from Banquet/Setup for Gaming
9:00 - ??	Texas Hold `Em Other Gaming
9:00 -- ??	Stargazing

As I mentioned last month, the DaVinci is providing the Sunday morning breakfast. Lesh and I are collaborating on that. He is planning to make French toast with his marvelous homemade bread, and I am working on other items. We are hoping to provide both hot food for those who manage to drag themselves out of bed on time and food that can be "self serve" for those who stagger in later.

For the banquet decorations I have planned a four-level centerpiece featuring the "George Talking to the Probe" scene in STIV—including whale song! The Heller's will pay for this item, as we hope to enter it in both the Gratitude Festival competition and the Grand Slam centerpiece competition next April.

The DaVinci will pay for the table decorations, which will include a blue tablecloth (the ocean), streamers with small humpbacked whale figures, and a banner that reads, "Admiral, there be whales here!" I think I will purchase clear tableware and decorate the plates by gluing two together, with a picture of an Enterprise crewmember in between. So far we only have Lech, Ariana and me going.

Ariana may be seated with the cadets, if they decorate their own table again this year. Anyone who would like to come down just for the day should consider staying for the banquet to help fill our table!

The pricing is as follows for those staying overnight: each person pays a setup fee of \$20 (\$10 for children 6-12) plus \$25 per night stayed. Day-trippers pay \$10. They do have lower rates for what they call "slumber party" accommodations, but this does not include a bunk and private bath. Call me for details if you are interested in this option.

Payment should be made out to "USS Jubilee NCC 57299" and sent to John Clayton, P.O. Box 850124, Mobile, AL 36685-0124 as soon as possible.

I will provide driving directions for anyone interested; however, you are welcome to carpool in our van. There are several turns that you might miss in the dark, so I'd advise an early start. This would be about 1 ½ - 2-hour trip from Columbus.

FCPT Connie Heller

2007 STAR TREK ORNAMENTS

Well, the ornament premier is over and here are the two Star Trek ornaments for this year. They are pretty sharp.

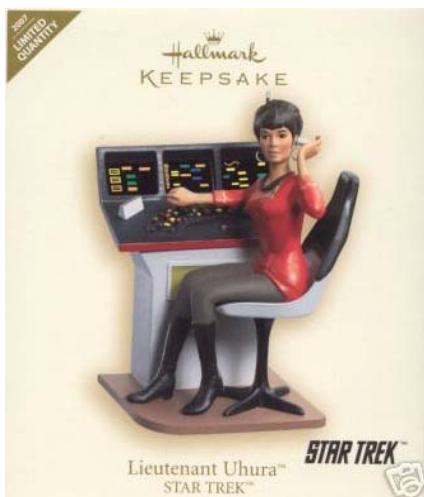


Bridge scene from "The Wrath of Khan"

**THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WILL BE ON THURSDAY 06 SEPTEMBER
AT 7:00 PM
AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
PLEASE JOIN US FOR FUN AND GAMES!**



The Future USS Enterprise



The exclusive Uhura Ornament that could only be purchased at the ornament premier!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to the following DaVinci personnel, 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
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 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

TABULATIONS

Well, there is only 4 more months left in the year and a little more than 45,000 tabs have been collected! It looks as if the Captain and First Officer may be off the hook this year (do I hear sighs of relief?!). However, it appears that the Senior Staff may have a thing or two to worry about. You know how sneaky Roger and Connie are at keeping that large stash of tabs hidden until the very end. Speaking of Roger, notice that he has only donated less than 350 tabs!

As a reminder, if we reach 80,000 tabs, the Operations Officer (currently Joe), the Science Officer (currently Lech), the Engineering Officer (currently acting in that capacity is Roger), and the Starfleet Marine OIC (currently Frazier) will get pied. If we reach 90,000 tabs Russell and I will be the recipient of the pies. But, if we reach the magic number of 100,000 tabs we all get pied! As usual, the top "tabbers" get to do the pieing. So start saving those tabs now!

As of press time the total tabs collected so far is:

Starting Balance	10
Russell Ruhland	16083
Freddy Heller	10482
Connie Heller	10330
Karen Pynenburg	5500
Rebecca Dunn	1831
Leiko Koone	735
Roger Wright	344
Benlee Huguley	235
Lech Mazur	230
Total	45780

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT
WILL BE AT THE SPEAKEASY PUB
ON MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER AT 7:00 PM
COME FOR THE FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP!**

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Freddy Heller (S)
Connie Heller (S)
Travis Heller (S)
Ariana Heller (S)
Gisela Stephens (D)
Russell Ruhland (D)
Diane Ruhland (D)
Dennis Shaw (S) (D)

JAMES' TOP TEN LIST

Top Ten New Projects for the Crew Of the ISS DaVinci

10. Leaving the cans they have pulled the tabs off of on Freddy's doorstep.

9. Dumping trash on the highway adopted by the USS DaVinci.

8. Selling joy-buzzers that look like agonizers at Region to pay for the hotel room.

7. Hacking the USS DaVinci's website and replacing the DaVinci logo with the Mickey Mouse Club Logo.

6. Placing "Disintegration Chamber" signs on all public restrooms in the city while dressed in Starfleet uniforms.

5. Selling Captain Kirk voodoo dolls while in New Orleans to fund their Marti Gras trip.

4. Taking over "Rock" 102.9 FM and playing Klingon Operas non-stop for 24 hours while thanking the show's sponsor, Starfleet.

3. Raffling off tickets for tours of the ISS DaVinci so they can the bail ship's captain out of jail.

2. Trying to get the crew of the USS DaVinci to use electronic voting for next captain's election so they can take over the ship and finally have better place than Internet chat rooms to hold their meetings.

And, the number one Project for the crew of the ISS DaVinci is...

1. Trying to find a place to park the Yugo, ahh I mean the "Ship" on night outs.

PO3 James Carey

ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks or congratulations go to:

John and Jackie our neighbors for their weekly donation of cans.

MEMORY ALPHA

The 2006-2007 version of the DaVinci slideshow is now available! The cost is \$5.00 and is available on DVD. Please contact me to place your order.

FCPT Connie Heller

NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

At the Christmas party in December, the 2007 Night Out locations were selected. The list of the 2007 locations is below. I hope your favorite spot made the list.

Congratulations to James, the winner of the free dinner at Johnny Carino's during the August Night Out!

October	Mi Casa
November	Panera Bread Company
December	McAllisters

TV SHOWS ON DVD

Here are the scheduled DVD September releases:

"Supernatural, Season 2" (11 September)

"Alien Nation – The Ulitimate Movie Collection"
(11 September)

"Jericho, Season 1 (25 September)

"Ghost Whisperer, Season 2" (28 September)

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	394.64
CD labels	5.37
Deposit	31.00
Postage	19.53
Closing Balance	400.74

FCPT Connie Heller

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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 (or your family's) membership.

	<u>DaVinci</u>	<u>Starfleet</u>
James Carey	Oct 07	
Dutch Cummings	Jul 07	
Randy Dunn	Jan 08	May 08
Bubba Dutton	Sep 08	Sep 07
Tony Fleming	Jul 07	Jun 08
Freddy Heller	Jul 08	Sep 07
Mike Henigan	LTM	Nov 07
Benlee Huguley	Feb 08	
Roderick Jennings	Nov 07	Oct 07
Todd Kes	Oct 07	
Jeff Kirkland	Oct 08	Jul 07
Leiko Koone	Oct 07	Oct 07
Lech Mazur	Jul 08	Jul 07
Margaret McGillicuddy	Mar 08	Sep 07
Lisa Neal	Jul 08	
Joe Perry	Jul 08	Nov 07
George Pimentel	Jul 07	Jun 07
Karen Pynenburg	Jul 08	May 08
Russell Ruhland	Sep 08	Aug 07
Park Scully	Jul 08	Jul 08
Dennis Shaw	Jul 08	Jul 08
Frazier Smith	Sep 07	Oct 07
Tonya Spanks	Nov 07	Oct 07
Gisela Stephens	Jan 08	Oct 07
Michael Walker	Apr 08	Mar 08
Patty Williams	Nov 07	
Vanessa Winfield	Sep 07	Oct 07
Roger Wright	Jul 07	Sep 07

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.



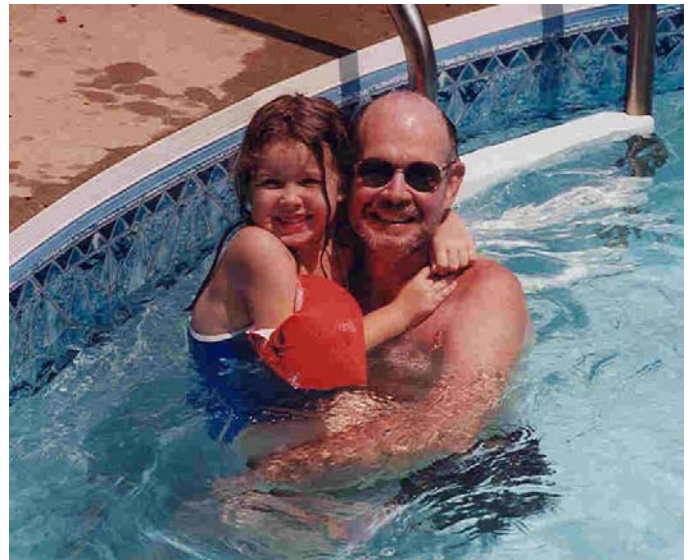
Connie, Randy, and Rusty enjoying snacks at our third Pool Party (07 August 2007).



Margaret always comes but never swims.



Ariana and Rebecca enjoying the water.



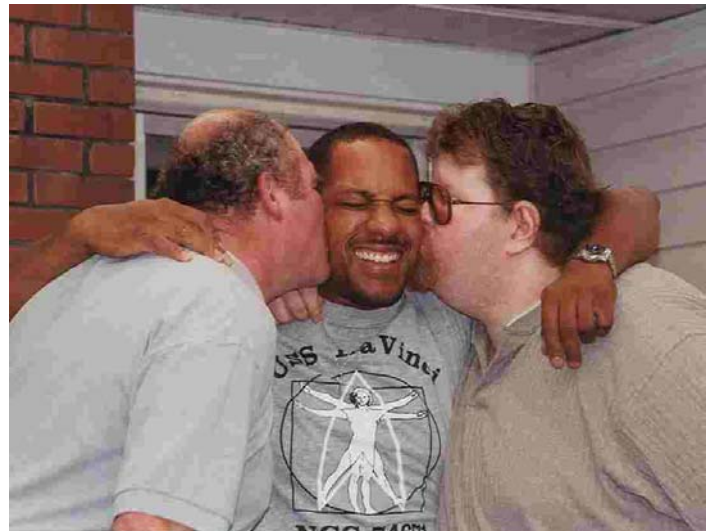
Freddy and his "little girl" pose for the camera.



Travis, who tried to drown his father was duly warned and so.....



...he lost his swimming suit!



Roger, the latest victim of the "Squeeze" by Randy and Rusty.

Next Month, our Third Pool Party, Part II!

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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.

Plates: I have several Hamilton Collector Plates for sale: Star Trek II: The Wrath of Kahn, Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home, Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country, Yesterday's Enterprise, Worf, and Captain's Tribute. Call Tony at (706) 568-6529 and leave a message.

DaVinci Slideshow: The new DaVinci slideshow is now available. It has been burned onto DVD+R discs, which play in nearly all DVD players. The price is \$5.00 apiece. There are also historical discs (old leftovers) available for only \$1.00 apiece, in varying formats. See or call Connie for more info!

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.

FINALLY!

The new USS DaVinci web site is up and running! Leiko, our computer science officer, worked long and hard putting it together. Check out the site at <http://www.usdavinci.org> and let her know what you think. Comments are always welcomed.

Go back and check when your membership on the DaVinci and or Starfleet expires. Several memberships have expired in July! Please renew as soon as possible. Thanks!

Lastly, there is an error on last month's newsletter. Well, two errors actually. First the month is wrong. It says "July" when it should read "August." Next it should read Volume "2" and not Volume "1." So, if you want a corrected copy let me know.