

DaVinci Pilot

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

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FEBRUARY 2008

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

I have some very important information to relate to you so please take note. The monthly membership meetings have been pretty sparsely attended for quite a while. If we get 5 people to show up I would have considered that to be a well-attended meeting. Lately however, we do not even reach that figure. I began to think about whether or not the monthly meeting was worth having given the ship personnel's lack of interest as a whole. Recently I called for a Senior Staff meeting and laid out what I had decided to do. There was some discussion and all agreed to my plan. So, effective in February, the monthly membership meeting is hereby eliminated and in its place there will be a meeting of the Senior Staff (Operations, Science, and Engineering heads, and the Captain and First Officer). Now, it is not quite true that we are entirely eliminating the monthly membership meeting for what I proposed was to combine the meeting with the Night Out since the latter is far better attended than the former. Any new information I need to pass on to the crew can be done during the Night Out. So remember, there is no need to go to the Ronald McDonald house on the first Thursday of each month but we still would like you to attend the Night Out on the third Monday of the month. Although this means we will no longer need the facilities of the Ronald McDonald house, we will still support them with our yearly donation of tabs.

The attendance at the New Year's Eve Harry Potter Movie Marathon was not as large as I had hoped (only seven personnel and their guests attended). If you did not come you sure missed a special event! First and foremost we had a very pleasant break after the first movie when Yifen Liu,

a friend of Todd's, brought down the house with several different in-costume cultural dance routines! She was really wonderful and the critical comment from those in attendance was "two big thumbs up!"



Yifen Liu dances for the DaVinci crew



And the crew is certainly enjoying the show!

There was plenty of pizza to go around and after the second movie I had planned on having make-your-own ice cream sundaes with seven different kinds of ice cream and nine different toppings (fudge, caramel, chocolate syrup, Cool Whip, strawberry, and pineapple toppings, and of course sprinkles, mini M&M's, and semi-sweet chocolate morsels)! Well, blame it on the fact that everyone is getting older because by the time the second movie ended everyone decided to call it a night! The ice cream sundae extravaganza never happened! Everyone simply forgot and went on their merry way.

The 2008 edition of the Pie Party was a resounding success! We had one of the best turnouts for the breakfast, tab turn-in, and the Pie Party than we have had in quite a while. Twelve crew personnel and two guests joined us for breakfast and the tab turn-in and three more crew personnel joined us for the Pie Party for a total of 17 folks who came not for the pizza or ice cream sundaes but to see the Captain get pied!



The DaVinci crew at the Ronald McDonald House for the tab turn-in.

Once all had their fill of pizza, it was time for the pieing ceremony. Due to the cold weather, the “splat” fest was held inside. Russell, the top tabber surprised the ensemble by announcing that he was relinquishing his pie and would auction it off to the highest bidder. A furious bidding war developed between Roger and myself with Roger winning out in the end with a \$23.00 bid (early on Ariana, Freddy's little girl, bid \$6.00!). Connie, the runner-up tabber would not have sold her pie for all the tea

in China. She was looking forward to pieing her spouse. Too excited if you ask me!

Roger (with help from Alexander) was first and taking careful aim landed the pie in the center of my face. Fortunately he did not do any after action movements and most of the Cool Whip fell harmlessly to the floor.



Roger and Alexander pie Freddy.

Connie was next and by the expression on her face, I knew that the mistake Roger made would not happen with her. I tried to give her a “poor, poor pitiful me” look but it did no good as the pie hit the center of my face and the twisting and turning began. Unlike Roger's pie most of the Cool-Whip remained on my face (which is not all that bad since it meant more for me to eat).



Connie pies Freddy despite his pleas for mercy!

Being the nice guy that I am, I went over to the fridge and retrieved a third pie that I handed to a very excited Ariana. Her delivery, although not like her mother's, was nonetheless effective because after hitting the center of my face with her two-handed approach, the tin was shifted so that the Cool Whip covered much of my left ear!



Ariana demonstrates the two-handed pie delivery.

Following the three pieings, the ice cream came out and the crew eagerly began making ice cream sundaes and ice cream sodas. There were some very impressive creations especially from Roger whose sundae could have been enough for three or more people! A BIG Bajoran thanks to all who attended all three of the Pie Party events.

VADM Freddy Heller

COMMUNITY SERVICE

There will be a clean up of our Adopt-A-Highway site on Saturday, 26 January, at 8:30 AM. We will meet at Freddy's house, get our supplies, and head out around 9:00 AM. Please try to attend as the area is pretty trashy and could use our help. Dress warmly because it might just be a little chilly. If it is I am sure we can convince the Captain to invite us over for hot chocolate!

ENS Vanessa Winfield

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT AND
MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE AT THE
OLIVE GARDEN
ON MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY AT 7:00 PM
COME FOR THE FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Shuttle Columbia is Lost (2003)	1 st
Brent Spiner (Data on TNG)	2 nd
CRMN Joshua Nazario	3 rd
First Female Pilot of Shuttle (LTC Eileen Collins 1995)	3 rd
First Russian On US Spacecraft (Sergei Krikalev 1994)	3 rd
First Untethered Space Walk (McCandless & Stewart 1986)	7 th
Ethan Phillips (Neelix on VOY)	8 th
CADET Alexander Wright	9 th
Jerry Goldsmith (Composer)	10 th
Philip Anglim (Vedek Beareil)	11 th
Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager (Test Pilot)	13 th
FCPT Connie Heller	14 th
Andrew Robinson (Elim Garak on DS9)	14 th
ENS Roger Wright	15 th
LeVar Burton (LTCMDR Geordi LaForge on TNG)	16 th
Maiden Flight of the Shuttle "Enterprise" (1977)	18 th
Pluto is Discovered (1930)	18 th
First American to Orbit the Earth (John Glenn 1962)	20 th
Ranger 8 Crashes on Moon (1965)	20 th
Shuttle Columbia Test Fires Its 3 Main Engines (1981)	20 th
Gary Lockwood (LT Gary Mitchell on TOS)	21 st
Martha Hackett (Seska on VOY)	21 st
Jeri Ryan (Seven of Nine on VOY)	22 nd
Majel Barrett Roddenberry (Lwaxana Troi on TNG)	23 rd
Chase Masterson (Leeta the Dabo Girl on DS9)	27 th
Barbara Babcock (Voice of Loskene, Trelane's Mother, Isis the Cat, and others on TOS)	27 th

ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks or congratulations go to:

John and Jacque Pollock, our neighbors, for their weekly donation of cans.

Dr. Stewart, our Chiropractor, for his weekly donation of cans.

Karen for her donation of cans.

TABULATIONS

Well, a new year brings forth the third tab challenge! We failed to meet our minimum goal of 80,000 tabs last year and I really hope we can do better than that this year. To make it more appealing to those who save and hunt down those little hunks of aluminum, I will make you an offer that you will find difficult to refuse. If and only if we reach 100,000 tabs, all those crew personnel who donated at least 9,000 tabs will get to pie the Captain!

Hallelujah! Can it get any better than that? Now, of course, I think it only fair that if the 100,000 goal is met and if I also reach 9,000 tabs that I get to pie the person of my choice! So, if you wish to be one of the lucky ones who get to smack me with a pie, start saving those tabs today! Here are the totals as of the beginning of the New Year:

Starting Balance	21
Connie Heller	2754
Freddy Heller	2276
Russell Ruhland	950
Total	6001

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Lech Mazur (S)
 Frazier Smith (D)
 Roger Wright (S)
 Alexander Wright (S)
 Joshua Nazario (D)*

NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

Well, the restaurants for the 2008 Night Outs were selected at the Christmas party. The list is below. I hope your favorite restaurant made the list! Check out the four new locations!

Congratulations to Diane, the winner of the free dinner at Houlihan's during the January Night Out.

March	Applebee's
April	Cowboy's Steak Saloon
May	Hooter's
June	Country's on Broad
July	New China
August	Chef Lee's
September	Red Lobster
October	Panera Bread Company
November	Hooter's
December	Carrabba's Italian Grill

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FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	246.79
Deposit	23.50
Baskets for Ronald McDonald House	17.00
Postage (Coupons)	10.20
Closing Balance	243.09

FCPT Connie Heller

TV SHOWS ON DVD

Here are some scheduled DVD February releases:
 "Beauty and the Beast, Season 3" (5th)
 "Blade: The Complete Series" (12th)
 "Highlander: The Source" (26th)
 "The Invisible Man: The Complete Collection (26th)

For you Witchblade fans there may be good news on the horizon! Top Cow publishing has confirmed that they have been contacted for interviews for a DVD package. Stay tuned for more information as it develops.

SCI FI TV

Okay folks, it is up to you! CBS is bringing back **Jericho** on February 12th with the first of seven new episodes. Please tune in it is really a great show!

The USA network has decided to cancel both **The 4400** and **The Dead Zone**. Another pair of great shows gone – sigh!

Other axed shows include **The Dresden Files**, **Journeyman**, and **Daybreak**.

MEMORY ALPHA

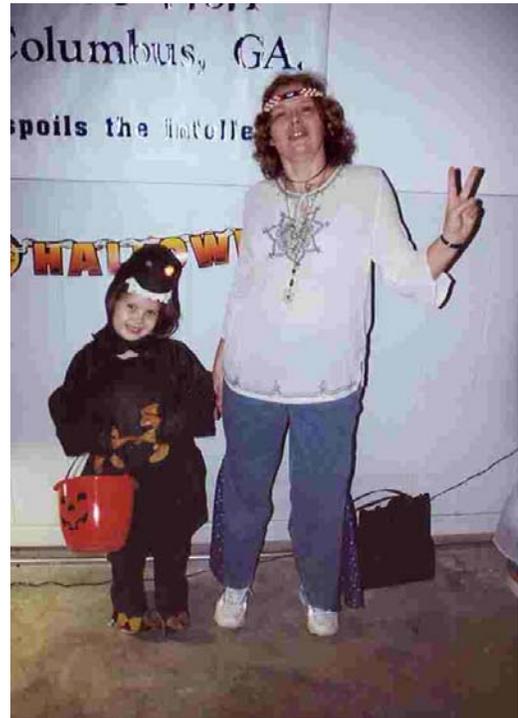
The 2006-2007 version of the DaVinci slideshow is now available! The cost is \$5.00 and is available on DVD. Please contact Connie to place your order.

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	Nov 08	
Dutch Cummings	Jul 08	
Randy Dunn	Jan 08	May 08
Bubba Dutton	Sep 08	Sep 07
Tony Fleming	Jul 08	Jun 08

Freddy Heller	Jul 08	Sep 08
Mike Henigan	LTM	Nov 08
Benlee Huguley	Feb 08	
Todd Kes	Oct 08	
Jeff Kirkland	Oct 08	Jul 09
Leiko Koone	Nov 08	Oct 08
Lech Mazur	Jul 08	Jan 09
Margaret McGillicuddy	Mar 08	Sep 08
Joshua Nazario	Jan 09	
Lisa Neal	Jul 08	
Joe Perry	Jul 08	Nov 08
Karen Pynenburg	Jul 08	May 08
Russell Ruhland	Sep 08	Aug 08
Park Scully	Jul 08	Jul 08
Dennis Shaw	Jul 08	Jul 08
Frazier Smith	Jan 09	Oct 07
Gisela Stephens	Jan 08	Nov 08
Michael Walker	Apr 08	Mar 08
Patty Williams	Nov 07	
Vanessa Winfield	Sep 07	Oct 07
Roger Wright	Jul 08	Jan 09



Ariana as Godzilla and Connie as a hippie at the DaVinci's sixth annual Halloween party (31 October 2003)

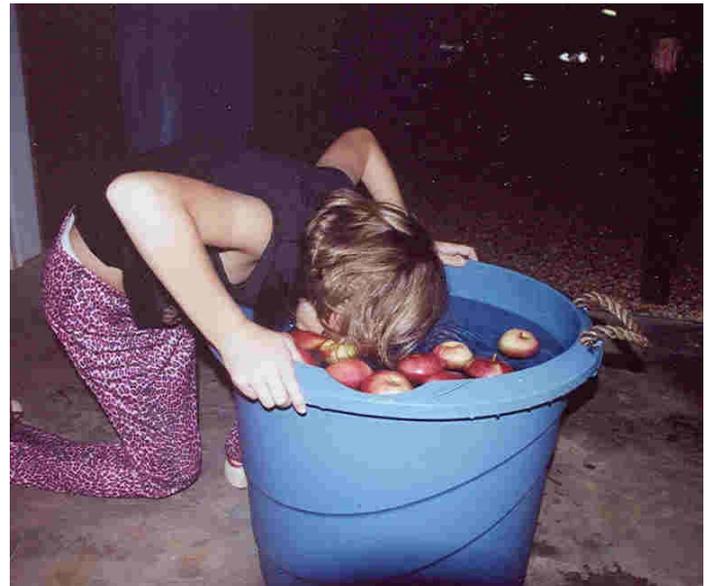
RM HOUSE NEEDED ITEMS

Even though we will no longer be meeting at the Ronald McDonald house they still are in need for a variety of items. If you wish to donate an item, bring it by my house and I will make sure it gets there. It is a good way to say "thank-you" for letting us use their meeting room free of charge these past few years.

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.



Bobbing for apples is a popular activity for the trick-or-treaters at the party.

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The crew at the party (front row L-R: Joe, Connie, Frazier; Back row: Russell, Joanne, Margaret, Lech)



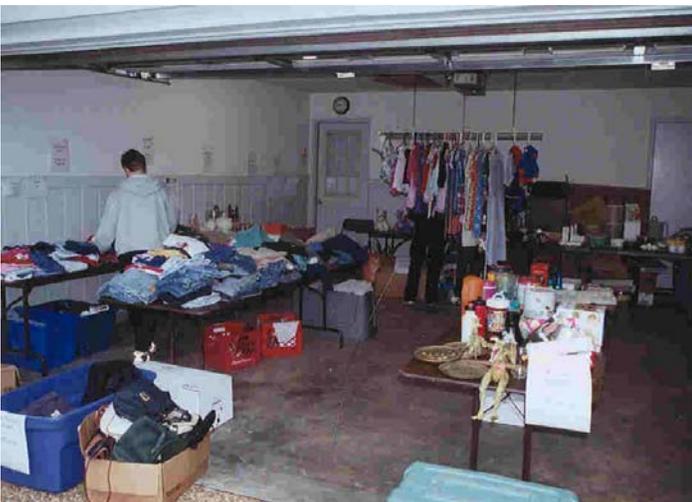
...lots of goodies on the outside!



Connie and Tony manning the tables at the garage sale for our charity, Caring for Babies with AIDS (08 November 2003)



“Would you like to buy some homemade cookies or Kool-Ade?”



There were lots of goodies on the inside and...



Russell drops by to check out the merchandise.

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.

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FINALLY!

Go back and check when your membership on the DaVinci and or Starfleet expires. **Several memberships have expired!!!** Please renew as soon as possible or you might not get a newsletter. Thanks!

Mark your calendars for this one! On Sunday March 16th at 1:30 PM the Space Science Center in conjunction with the Columbus Sci-Fi club (formally the Star Wars club) will be having a private showing of the new Stargate SG-1 movie in the Omnisphere Theater! All DaVinci crew personnel are welcomed to attend. There is no charge.



Are we having fun yet?