



DaVinci Pilot

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

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MARCH 2008

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

ATTENTION! Attention! The Region 2 Summit is just around the corner. From 7-9 March a whole bunch of swell but crazy folks will descend on the Lexington Hotel in Montgomery, AL, for a weekend filled with good times. It is never too late to sign up so head on over to the Region 2 web site (region2.org) and read all about it. I know of at least 8 DaVinci personnel that are planning on attending. Be sure to bring your uniforms and/or DaVinci t-shirts. Oh, the traditional Fleet Admiral's dinner will be 7:30 Friday evening at a local Chinese Buffet. Do not be left out especially since it is so close this year!

It is hard to believe that the USS DaVinci is getting ready to celebrate its 12th anniversary as a Starfleet chapter! Of course you know what this means! On 22 March we will have a party to celebrate our 12th year in Fleet. Normally we order pizza but this year I would like to do something different. First, I asked Connie if she would do the honors as grill chef for hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken, but I had no desire to sleep on the couch for the rest of my life so, I was wondering if a catered BBQ lunch would go over well with the crew. The DaVinci will pay some of the cost but those in attendance will have to pay as well. I talked to the folks at Country's and their cost is as follows: for all the fixings (BBQ, sides, tea, bread, utensils, etc) the cost would be \$139.00 for 20 people. Anything over 20 and the cost is \$6.95 per person. If 25 people decide to come the cost would be \$173.75. The DaVinci would pay \$50 leaving \$123.75 or \$4.95 per person. Now, this amount may vary slightly depending on how many are coming to the party. Please let me know what you think. Call me or send me an email (uss.davinci@knology.net)

if you like the idea and how many are in your party. Please do this as soon as possible because Country's requires 2 weeks notice on catering. Oh, I did check other places as well but they were much more expensive.

Do not forget that the Columbus Sci-Fi Club (formally the Star Wars club) has invited us over to the Space Science Center at 1:30 PM on 16 March to watch Stargate SG-1: Ark of Truth in the Omnisphere Theater! This has to be better than watching it on my big television! Maybe afterwards we can all go out for a late lunch or an early dinner. There is no need to let me know if you are planning on going all you need to do is just show up at the Space Science Center.

VADM Freddy Heller

SCIENCE STATION

As your science office, I'm happy to say that I will be writing science articles on a monthly basis again! Previous obligations tied up my time and I am now free to spend more time writing articles that hopefully will pique your interest in contemporary scientific achievements and developments. I will still continue to do an occasional biography when the bio is relevant to today's scientific interest. Ideas, inputs, and criticisms will be welcomed. Should I happen to disagree with a candidly submitted opinion I will be prepared to set my phaser to a position other than stun and to then merrily use it on the opinionated.

This month I will be presenting to you some information about the Messenger spacecraft that is so far very successfully traveling through space in a gravitational sling-shot fashion on its way to the planet Mercury. On August 3, 2004, NASA launched the Messenger on an eight-year mission

that will ultimately place the spacecraft in the year 2011 on a permanent 124 mile high polar orbit around the planet. The spacecraft's title is an acronym for: Mercury Surface Space Environment Geochemistry and Ranging (Messenger). On January 14, 2008, during its first of several future fly-bys, Messenger transmitted its first photographs of the Mercurian surface that have never been seen before. You can view these first photographs by logging on to the following site: <http://solarviews.com/eng/mercury.htm>

Why will it take 8 years for Messenger to achieve an orbital insertion rendezvous with Mercury? The answer to this question is really quite simple and it can be answered without delving in to the details of complex interplanetary calculus. Mercury is only 35 million miles away from the sun. At this close proximity to the sun, the sun's gravitational field is enormous and unyielding to a little speck of matter the size of Messenger. In order to fire retro rockets which would theoretically insert Messenger into orbit, the fuel payload of the rocket transporting Messenger would have to be the equivalent of a Saturn 5's moon rocket total fuel consumption. At the present time it is technically unfeasible or perhaps impossible to deliver such an enormous payload of fuel into outer space that would be utilized to serve as a braking force for the Messenger craft.

In order to solve this planetary braking process, scientists devised a plan that utilized gravitational assist forces from the planet Venus and the Earth. By sling-shotting the Messenger between planets over an 8-year period of time the gravitational forces of the planets will gradually slow down the space craft. So instead of being a mere 60 million mile voyage to Mercury, the voyage becomes hundreds of millions of miles long.

Thirty-three years ago Mercury was visited by the Mariner 10 spacecraft. The photographs transmitted from that first-ever visit to the planet revealed a cratered mountainous surface not unlike our moon or the planet Mars. The planet has no moons and orbits around the sun in 176 earth days. Millions of years ago Mercury rotated on its axis at a speed of about eight hours. Currently the planet rotates on its axis at a much slower rate of around 59 earth days. Over eons the immense tidal forces of the sun slowed down the planet's rotation and during this process the interior temperature of the planet

increased to over 100 degrees Kelvin. As a result of this process known as the dynamo effect, the planet developed a molten core and a magnetic field similar to and as strong as the earth's magnetic field.

The maximum surface temperature of Mercury is 427 degrees Fahrenheit and the minimum temperature on the unlit surface is a 173 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. Mercury has a very thin atmosphere composed of 42% helium, 42% sodium, 15% oxygen, and 1% other gases. Since the atmosphere is so thin the destructive effects to an un-spacesuited human being would be similar to one standing on the surface of the moon. Basically a person would blow up and the blood would boil. The planet is about 1/3 the size of the earth.

The planet Mercury was named by the Romans after the god Mercury who was known as the speedy messenger of the gods. The Roman astronomers among other ancient astronomers also noted that the planet had the fastest and most irregular motion of the then known planets of Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. In the sixteenth century the Polish astronomer Nicholas Copernicus observed this fast irregular motion of Mercury and the other known planets. The word planet is derived from the Latin word "planeta" which when loosely translated means, "wanderer". Wanderer is perhaps an appropriate definition and description of the motions of the planets during their orbits around the solar system. Copernicus mathematically calculated these planetary motions and via this information he developed the first heliocentric or sun-centered concept of the solar system which was later confirmed by the Italian astronomer's extraordinary book, "The Starry Messenger." Indeed, Messenger was perhaps the perfect title derived by scientists to describe the knowledge wonderlust that will be fulfilled upon Messenger's final descent to orbit the planet.

Next month's article I will provide you with more information about the ultimate mission and knowledge that scientists hope to gain from the probe. Also I will tell you about the "New Horizons" spacecraft that is on its way to the ex-planet Pluto. Alas, I find myself feeling sorry for an inanimate object, namely the poor planet Pluto that was recently down graded to a planetoid.

ENS Lech Mazur

SICK BAY

This is a short report on part of a book I am reading entitled Star Trek Corps of Engineer. This is a group of stories of the adventures of the Corps of Engineers by several writers. This book is Grand Designs and is 9th in the series.

These stories are of the voyages of the USS. DaVinci! The Mission of the DaVinci and her crew is to fix the problems in the Galaxy one disaster at a time.

The first story is about a complex repair and destruction to save a world after the war with the dominion. How engineer CMDR Tev and his team deal with the problem, find a solution, and fix the problem. All this while dealing with the personal problem of going home again and dealing with his childhood friend who now works with the government of the planet that he grew up on.

The name of this story is "Ring Around the Sky." The ring refers to a space platform connected to the planet by a lot of vertical subway tubes going from the planet's surface to the platform, 30,000 kilometers away.

There are six more stories about other engineers and there experiences of repair and life on board the U.S.S. DaVinci.

Commodore Jeff Kirkland

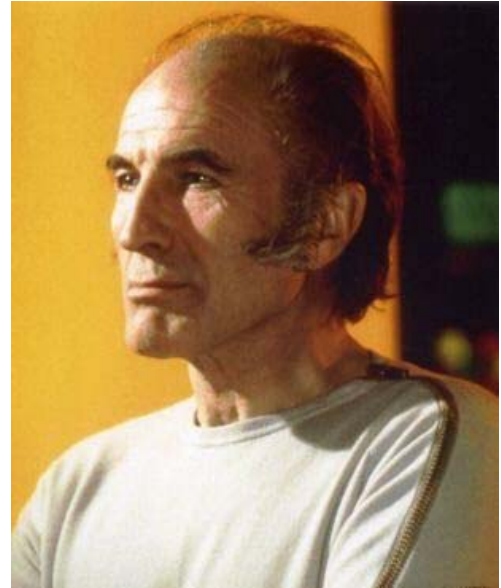
PASSAGES

British-Canadian actor-director Barry Morse, best known to Sci-Fi fans as Professor Victor Bergman on the 1960's TV series "Space 1999" 'has died in England at the age of 89. His most famous role was as the police detective in hot pursuit of David Janssen's Dr. Richard Kimble in the TV series "The Fugitive." Morse died at University College hospital in London on Saturday, his son, actor Hayward Morse, told The Canadian Press. He said his father was taken there after he began experiencing blackouts and was falling down. "He was in hospital for three days before he died. So in the long term, he was in his own home up until three days before he died, which I think is pretty good," said Hayward Morse.

The versatile actor, who had played everyone from "Macbeth" to Hollywood gangsters, had worked until a few years ago, but was still active in the (George Bernard) Shaw Society of England,

which he was president of, and chaired society meetings as recently last week.

In 1963, Morse was hired by producer Quinn Martin to play LT Philip Gerard on "The Fugitive" - a series that ran four seasons and 120 episodes. "He was very proud of that. He always said he felt it was one of the best things television had produced,"



Morse as Professor Victor Bergman on Space 1999

said Hayward Morse. "He felt it was well directed, well produced, well filmed. and that it was a very high quality standard of television. And he was very proud of his part in that television series."

His wife, Sturgess, died of Parkinson's disease in 1999 and their daughter, Melanie Morse MacQuarrie, who was an actress and teacher, died in 2005. Hayward Morse said no funeral arrangements are being made because his father wanted his body donated to science. "My father was very concerned that what was left of him, his body, should be used for science or any kind of transplant or donations that might be useful," his son said, adding that he was trying to arrange that. But he said there will be a gala celebration of his father's life in mid-summer around his birthday, which is in June.

Barry Morse is survived by his son, two granddaughters, two grandsons, and several great-grandchildren.

[CPT's Note] I met Morse at a convention several years ago and he was one of the nicest persons I have ever met. He was so fan friendly as to put others to shame. He will be sorely missed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Barbara Luna (LT Marlene Moreau on TOS)	2 nd
James Doohan (LTCMDR Montgomery Scott on TOS)	3 rd
Apollo 9 Blasts off to Test Lunar Module (1969)	3 rd
Jolene Blalock (T'Pol on ENT)	5 th
CADET Ariana Heller	12 th
Astronaut Wally Schirra	12 th
Uranus Discovered by Sir William Herschel (1781)	13 th
First American (Norman Thagard) on Russian Space Craft (1995)	14 th
Astronaut Frank Borman	14 th
Astronaut Eugene Cernan	14 th
Penny Johnson-Jerald (CPT Cassidy Yates on DS9)	14 th
Astronaut Alan L. Bean	15 th
ENS Bubba Dutton	16 th
J.G. Hertzler (Martok on DS9)	18 th
First Human to Walk in Space (Alexi Leonov 1965)	18 th
Conner Trinneer (CMDR Charles Tucker on ENT)	19 th
John DeLancie ("Q" on TNG)	20 th
ENS Travis Heller	22 nd
William Shatner (CPT James T. Kirk on TOS)	22 nd
Michael Westmore (Makeup Designer)	22 nd
First US 2-Person Craft (Gemini III) Launched (1965)	23 rd
Russia's Mir Space Station Falls to Earth (2001)	23 rd
D. C. Fontana (Story Editor)	25 th
Leonard Nimoy (Spock on TOS)	26 th
CADET Derick Turner	26 th
CADET Brayden Pimental	27 th
Yuri A. Gagarin Dies (1968)	27 th
Marina Sirtis (CMDR Deanna Troi on TNG)	29 th
ENS Lesh Mazur	30 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.

Randy for becoming a GRANDFATHER for the first time! Congratulation Randy!

THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE AT
APPLEBEE'S (Airport T'way)
ON MONDAY 17 MARCH AT 7:00 PM
COME FOR THE FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP!

TREK FILM UPDATE

What else will you be doing on Christmas day besides opening presents? I hope you will be in line waiting to see the new Star Trek movie! The cast is set, filming has begun, and the web site for the film is up and running (www.paramount.com/startrek) where you can watch the exciting new trailer. If you did not already know who the "new" crew is here are the primary cast members:



Chris Pine
CPT Kirk



Zachary Quinto
Spock



John Cho
Sulu



Zoe Saldana
Nyota Uhura



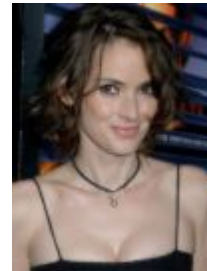
Simon Pegg
Scotty



Karl Urban
McCoy



Anton Yelchin
Chekov



Winona Ryder
Spock's Mother



Eric Bana
Nero (Villain)



Jenifer Morrison
Winona Kirk



Tyler Perry
Head of Starfleet Academy

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
Freddy Heller	2768
Connie Heller	2766
Russell Ruhland	2680
Total	8235

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Vanessa Winfield (D) (S)
Cesario Turner (D) (S)
Mario Turner (D) (S)
Harry Turner (D) (S)
Derick Turner (D) (S)
Joshua Turner (D) (S)
James Carey (S)
Jim Adams (D)

NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

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 Ariana, the winner of the free dinner at the Olive Garden during the February Night Out.

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

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	243.09
January Night Out	17.00
Closing Balance	226.09

FCPT Connie Heller

TV SHOWS ON DVD

Here are some scheduled March DVD releases:

- "Stargate SG-1: Ark of Truth" (11th)
- "Tin Man" (11th)
- "Battlestar Galactic, Season 3" (18th)
- "Bionic Woman, Volume 1" (18th) New Series
- "Day Break: The Complete Series" (25th)
- "The Invisible Man, Season 1" (25th)
- "Painkiller Jane: The Complete Series" (25th)
- "Sliders, Season 4" (25th)
- "Tripping the Rift: The Movie" (25th)

Okay **Witchblade** fans, it has been confirmed by Anthony Cistaro, who played Kenneth Irons on the show, that he is filming interviews for the DVD set! Stay tuned for more information. More great news! **The Invaders**, the 60's sci-fi thriller starring Roy Thinnes, is finally coming to DVD this May! Although not a sci-fi show, one of my all time favorites, **Crossing Jordan**, is also coming to DVD in May!! Hurray!

SCI FI BUZZ

Robert Picardo, the Doctor on Voyager, has been chosen to replace Amanda Tapping as the new leader of the Atlantis expedition in "Stargate: Atlantis." Tapping is leaving the show to star in a television version of her Web series "Sanctuary," which recently got picked up by SciFi. Returning for the fifth season are Joe Flanigan as LTC Sheppard, David Hewlett as Rodney McKay, Rachel Luttrell as Teyla, Jason Momoa as Ronon and Jewel Staite as Jennifer Keller. Making guest appearances this season include Tapping, Michael

Shanks as Daniel Jackson and Paul McGillion as Carson Beckett.

Speaking of "Stargate: Atlantis", Jewel Staite, who has played a recurring role as Dr. Jennifer Keller on the show has been confirmed by executive producer Joseph Mallozzi as a full-time cast member for Season 5.

The American Film Institute has released their nominations for its "10 Top 10," in which they will honor what they believe to be the ten greatest films of ten different film genres. Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan was among the fifty science fiction films nominated. The winners will be revealed when AFI's 10 Top 10 TV special airs on CBS this June.

This is not the first time Star Trek has been nominated by the AFI. Star Trek II was up as one of America's most heart-pounding movies in "AFI's 100 Years. 100 Thrills", and both James T. Kirk and Khan Noonien Sign were nominated for the organization's "100 Years. 100 Heroes and Villains." In addition, Jerry Goldsmith's score for TMP was nominated for the organization's "100 Years. 100 Film Scores." In the end, however, none of these made it to the final "winners" list.

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>
Jim Adams	Feb 09	
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	Jan 09	Jan 09
Roger Wright	Jul 08	Jan 09

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!

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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 crew helping themselves to the feast during the DaVinci's eighth annual Thanksgiving Dinner. (22 November 2003)



Rose ponders whether she should go back for thirds or is it fourths!



(L-R) Russell, Joe, Lech, and Margaret enjoying varied food items.



Steve wonders what is going on in the great room.



More of the crew having a good time! (clockwise, beginning at left) Karen, Freddy, Rose, Russell, Charlotte, Roger, and Travis



"Ahhh, there is nothing better than relaxing after a filling meal" thinks Connie as Gisela looks on.



Talking Trek after a filling meal (clockwise from left) are Rose, Russell, Travis, Charlotte, Karen, and Nicholas.



More talking with (L-R) Connie, Randy, Joe, and Rusty. Seated are Gisela, Johnnie, and Rose.



The cadets pose for the camera. (L-R) Christopher, Nicholas, Deborah, Ariana, and Rebecca.



Randy checking out all the goodies on the Captain's Table.

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!

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!

If you were at the Olive Garden Night Out you met Jim Adams. Well he has decided to join the DaVinci and attend the Summit as well! Welcome aboard Jim!!

Paramount is pushing back the release of the new Star Trek movie from 25 December to 08 May, 2009! The primary reason behind this decision is that the picture's gross potential is greater during the summer.

Bonus photo:



Zachary Quinto as Spock!

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