

DaVinci Pilot

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

Volume 14 Number 10

APRIL 2009

USS DAVINCI STAFF ROSTER

Commanding Officer

VADM Freddy Heller (706) 562-TREK

Executive Officer

COMM Russell Ruhland (334) 298-3998

Operations Officer

COMM Joe Perry (706) 327-5888

Finance Officer

COMM Connie Heller (706) 562-8735

Community Service Officer

ENS Vanessa Winfield (706) 393-8515

Publications Officer

VADM Freddy Heller (706) 562-TREK

Science Officer

ENS Lech Mazur (706) 596-9542

Counselor

LTJG Diane Ruhland (334) 298-3998

Computer Science Officer

ENS Leiko Koone (706) 616-5885

Morale Officer

VACANT

Medical Officer

COMM Jeff Kirkland (770) 253-6474

Engineering Officer

LT Roger Wright (Acting) (706) 464-3000

Communications Officer

VACANT

Quartermaster

LTJG Randy Dunn (334) 291-0150

Security Chief

LT Roger Wright (706) 221-6072

Starfleet Marine Commander

MCPT Frazier Smith (706) 536-3463

Cadet Corps Commander

VACANT

Senior Chief Petty Officer

VACANT

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

Excuse the lateness of the newsletter but I wanted to get a report on our 13th Anniversary party. And, what a party it was! It was one of our most attended affairs in quite a while. Twenty-one DaVinci personnel and three guests celebrated the USS DaVinci's 13th anniversary as a Starfleet chapter. The guests were David who came with Hollie; Andy who came with Todd; and Jacob who came with the Dunns. There was pizza and baked beans for the main course and banana pudding, chocolate cake, and ice cream for dessert.

Of course the food almost never arrived as I called the wrong Little Caesar's and ended up having to drive with Lech all the way to the South Lumpkin road location to pick up our order. By the time Lech and I arrived back at the house a conspiracy had taken place. More about that little item later. While we were gone several more folks showed up and we almost did not have enough pizza!

Once everyone had had their fill of pizza and dessert, it was time for the door prize drawing. The door prize was Season One of "Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles" kindly donated by Randy. The crowd was restless as our usual name drawer, Ariana, reached in and pulled out a name. One of our guests had won! Jacob a friend of Christopher was the lucky winner. Due to his age Randy thought his mom would like the prize better. Someone suggested we auction it off and give Jacob money instead. That suggestion seemed to perk Jacob up a little. When it was over, Joe's bid of \$16.00 was the winner. Jacob was quite ecstatic.

There was also a promotion to be handed out. Dutch Cummings had recently joined Starfleet and thus was eligible for promotion to Acting Ensign. However, he had also recently passed OTS and was

therefore promoted to full Ensign and eligible for further promotions in the future. Alright Dutch!

Now for the conspiracy I was telling you about. While Lech and I were driving all over Columbus in an attempt to find our pizza, Connie and Russell had an idea. Why not present Freddy with a newly established award designed especially for this occasion? And so, following Dutch's promotion Russell read out the new award to the laughter of the crew. Freddy was presented with the very first (and hopefully last) Douglas Corrigan Award! It was quite a touching moment as my eyes became wet. The award was appreciated and WELL deserved!

We had a fairly nice turnout for the Ronald McDonald Night at Chili's. Ten DaVinci personnel helped out the Ronald McDonald House by spending a combined total of \$129.44, ten percent of which will go to the House.



The crew at Chili's for Ronald McDonald Night.

A BIG Bajoran thanks to all who attended both our 13th Anniversary Party and the Ronald McDonald Night at Chili's.

Next up for the DaVinci will be our 2nd annual Sweet Tooth party in May!

VADM Freddy Heller

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT AND
MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE AT**

**CICI'S PIZZA
(BRADLEY PARK)**

**ON MONDAY 20 APRIL AT 7:00 PM
COME FOR THE FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP!**

SCIENCE STATION

The schedules for the March astronomy night are as follows.

11 April, FDR State Park, 7:00 PM

18 April, Space Science Center, 8:00 PM

If you are interested in attending any of these nights, please give me a call and perhaps we can schedule an away mission.

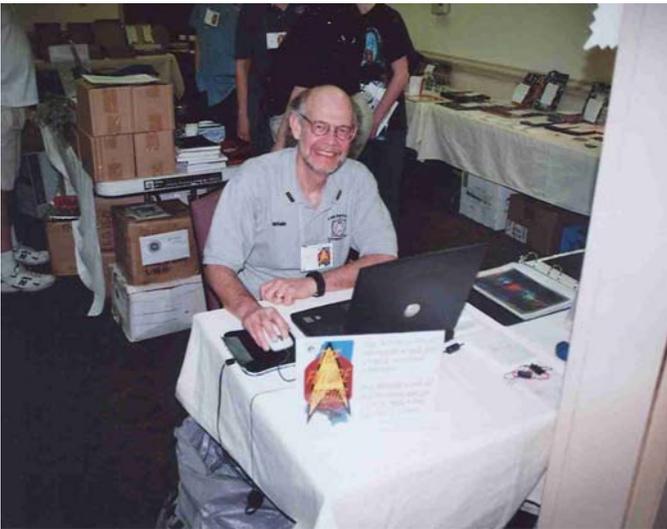
ENS Lech Mazur

REGION 2 SUMMIT

The 2009 Region 2 Summit was a resounding success. I know there were some complaints about the shoddiness of the hotel but all I can say is you get what you pay for. For years folks in the Region have been complaining about the cost of the hotel and as soon as we get one at a very very reasonable cost those same folks complain again! Sure the rooms were a bit aged; sure the place was not the "cleanest" but I can tell you one thing, the staff bent over backwards to help in any way they could. The facilities were fine and the banquet was great. The only "stain" on the entire weekend may have been the Fleet Admiral's dinner. Some folks waited over an hour for their food, the restaurant ran out of plates, orders were not prepared correctly, but hey, we had fun nonetheless! Next year when the Summit comes to Columbus – yes, you heard right – Columbus, there will be complaints, there always is at every Summit I have attended. You cannot please everyone no matter how hard you try. Kudos to Lucy Ferron and her staff for a fun Summit!

Okay, on to the recap. Nine DaVinci personnel made the nearly 400-mile trek (no pun intended) to Jackson, MS and the Budget Inn. Joe rode with me on Thursday since I am the Region 2 Auctioneer. I did some digging into my collection and brought a bunch of really nice items that I hoped would sell. We arrived around 2:30 PM and with Joe's help, the heavily laden van was emptied. All the Region 2 auction material was placed into the room where the sale and auction was to take place.

Friday morning saw Joe and me setting up the auction material. It took quite a while, as we had to keep rearranging some of the tables because of two additional sellers in the room – Aardvark Tees and the Starfleet Quartermaster. By noon I was open for business.



Freddy, the Region 2 chief of Moogie's Store and Auction Emporium!

Slowly throughout the day, folks from the DaVinci as well other chapters began to arrive. It was one big family reunion!

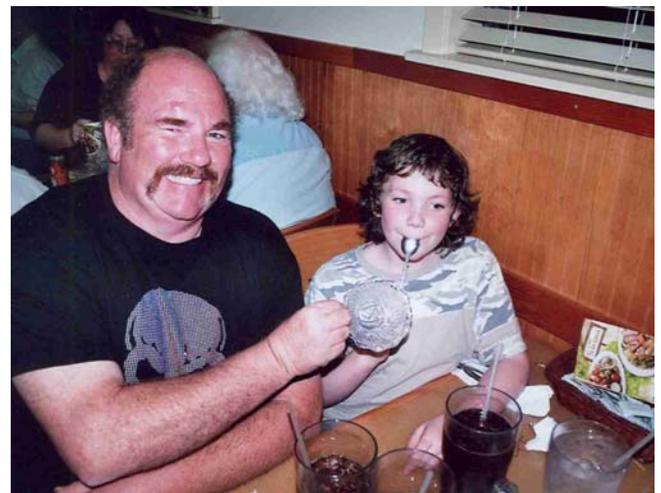


Russell receiving his packet at registration.

Later that evening was the Fleet Admiral's Dinner, which took place at Sonny's Barbeque just a short distance from the hotel. Joe and I caught a ride with Russell and upon arriving at Sonny's we could tell that the place was packed. I would estimate the number of Region 2 personnel to be at least 60 or more. Although the restaurant was informed of our coming well in advance, I do not think they were quite prepared on the number that showed up. There were problems with wrong orders and waiting a long time for their meals, however, there was also a lot of laughter, camaraderie, good times, and joy despite the difficulties.



Russell and Diane at the Fleet Admiral's Dinner.



Randy and Christopher at Sonny's.

Sunnie "I love chocolate" Planthold went around kissing the tops of the folks who, shall we say, needed help in the hair department. The folks from the DaVinci were not immune to this attack! Both Randy and me were victims (?).



Sunnie laying one on the top of Randy's head!

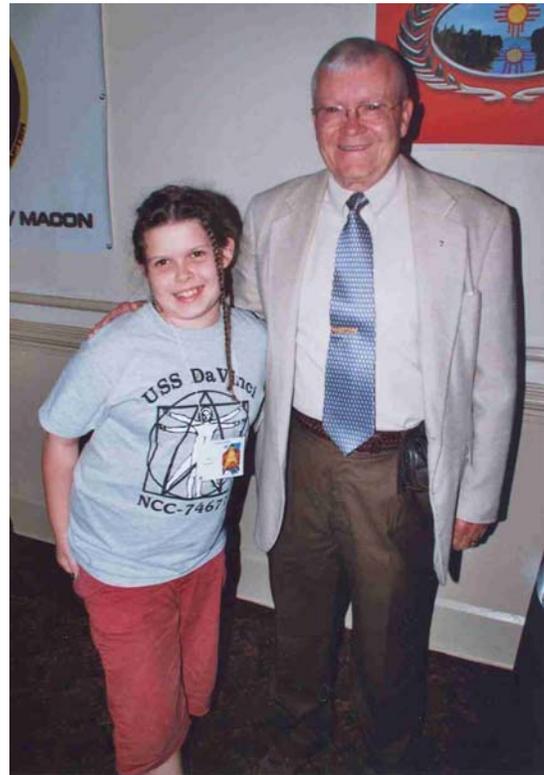
Following the Fleet Admiral's Dinner, I went back to Moogie's store while the rest of the DaVinci crew did their thing. Friday evening also saw the Dalmuti tournament, Region 2 Staff meeting, and a welcome reception hosted by the USS Haise.

Saturday dawned to a beautiful day. The hotel had a hot buffet as well as their normal continental breakfast. Although the Opening Ceremony was not until 9:30 AM, I had to open the store at 8:30 AM for all those early shoppers. I left my post to sit in on the Opening Ceremony that had all the laughter, introductions, and speeches of past Summits.



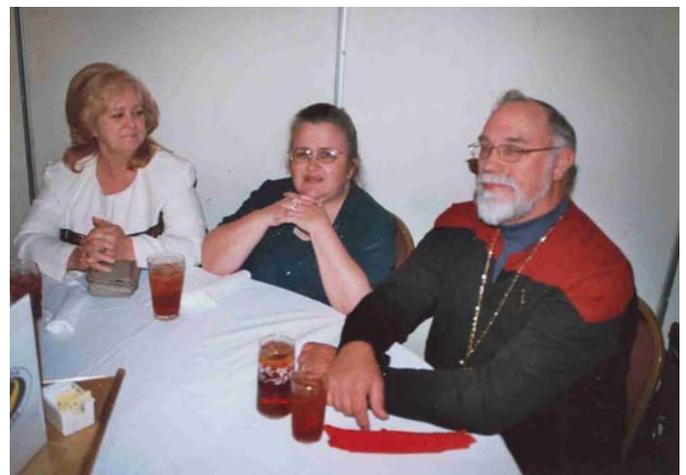
The USS DaVinci at the Opening Ceremony

Following the Opening Ceremony I had my one and only Panel, "Star Trek Collectables", which was nicely attended. I cannot tell you about the rest of the panels (I will leave that to the other contributors), as I was very busy with Moogie's Store. I did sneak out for a precious few minutes to listen to the guest of honor, former astronaut Fred Haise speak. I managed to get a photograph with him, as did Connie and Ariana. I am sorry I could not stay to hear the rest of his talk. I heard it was really good.



Ariana with Fred Haise.

Following Fred Haise's talk, it was time for the Region 2 auction. Although poorly attended, the auction did raise nearly \$300.00 for the summit charity. Following the auction, Moogie's store stayed open until about 5:45 PM when it closed for the banquet and awards presentation. The banquet put on by the hotel was good and consisted of garden salad, fruit salad, green bean almandine, a vegetable medley, red potatoes, grilled chicken breast, fried catfish, rolls, and for dessert, pecan pie and chocolate cake. What was my one and only complaint? No coffee!



Sandy, Diane, and Russell at the banquet

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Freddy, Connie, and Ariana at the banquet.



Joe is sharply dressed for the banquet.

Following the banquet came the awards ceremony where the Region's best were honored. I had put the DaVinci in for several awards but as in year's past did not hold my breath. Perhaps I should have for one of the first awards presented was Region 2 Commanding Officer of the Year. I was quite surprised when my name was called!



Freddy accepting the Region 2 Commanding Officer of the Year award from the Regional Coordinator, Jack Eaton.

Accolades for the DaVinci were not over as the DaVinci was presented the 2008 Overseas Coupon award for donating the most amount of coupons for the year. This one really floored me as last year's winner, the USS Gasparilla, had over \$100,000 in donations and I thought they would surely win again. Our \$16,000 in donations triumphed over all! Once all the awards had been presented, the night activities began – the Texas Hold'em tournament and the Popcorn and a Movie. I attended the latter, which happened to be Star Trek II: The Wrath of Kahn.



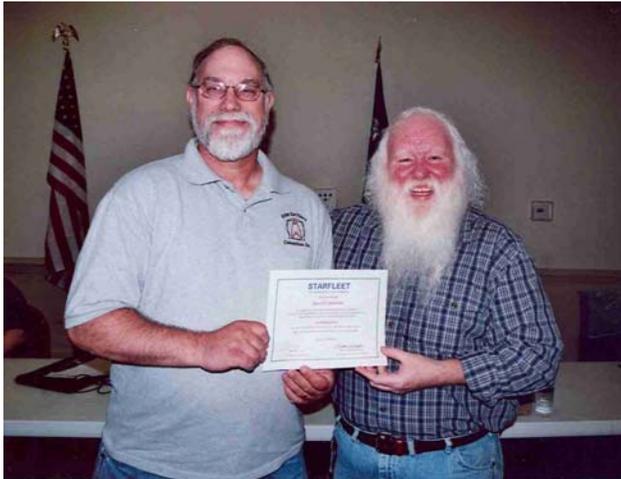
Freddy accepting the OCP award from Lucy Ferron.

The next morning began with breakfast again, the opening of Moogie's Store, the non-denominational service, and several other panels throughout the day. Moogie's Store did exceptional sales almost beating Saturday's total even though it was open for far less time. Over the weekend Moogie's Store and

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Auction Emporium raised over \$1500 for the Region!

The Closing Ceremony came far too quickly! The promotions for the Region were given out at this time. I nominated one member of the crew for promotion for several reasons. First, he deserved the promotion and second he "bugged" me about it! Congratulations to Commodore Russell Ruhland!



Russell receiving his promotion certificate from Fleet Admiral Sal Lizard.

Following the promotions other awards were presented one of which was the Cadet Boffer Tournament champion. I am proud to say that Ariana was the winner!



Ariana receiving her certificate as Boffer Champion from Larry Morris

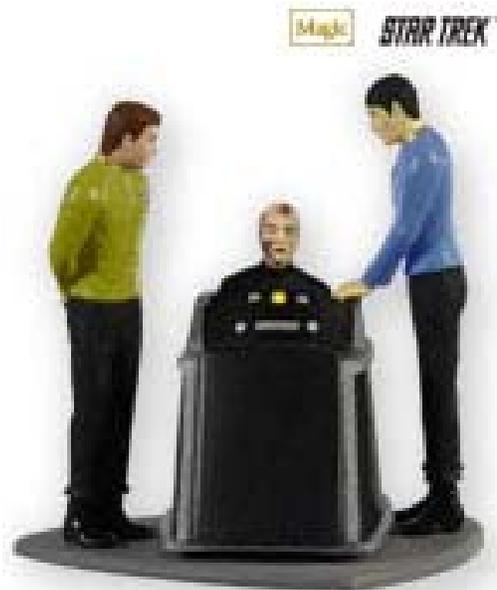
Shortly thereafter, the colors were retired and the 2009 Region 2 Summit came to an end! It was sad as always knowing that you will not see many of your friends for another year but at the same time there was excitement in the air as the 2010 Region 2 Summit will be in Columbus! I hope that we will see you there!



The USS DaVinci at the Region 2 Summit in Jackson, MS.

2009 ORNAMENTS

There may be more but this is the only Trek ornament photo that has been released. Cannot wait for the others to show up!



Kirk, Spock, and crippled Pike from "The Menagerie"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Grace Lee Whitney (Yeoman Janice Rand on TOS)	1 st
First Weather Satellite, TRIOS-One, is Launched (1960)	1 st
Maiden Voyage of Shuttle Challenger (1983)	4 th
Frank Gorshin (Bele on TOS)	5 th
NASA Announces its First Seven Astronauts (1959)	9 th
Apollo 13 Begins its Ill-Fated Mission (1970)	11 th
First Man in Space (Yuri Gagarin 1961)	12 th
Charles Napier (Adam on TOS)	12 th
ENS Leiko Koone	13 th
First Test Flight of Shuttle Columbia Ends (1981)	14 th
Michael Ansara (Kang on TOS)	15 th
First Woman to Solo Around World (Jerrie Mock 1964)	17 th
Apollo 13 Returns Safely to Earth (1970)	17 th
CADET Mariaelena Fleming	18 th
Herman Zimmerman (Set Designer)	19 th
Elinor Donahue (Asst Commissioner Nancy Hedford on TOS)	19 th
Ashley Judd (ENS Robin Lefler on TNG)	19 th
Apollo 16 Lands on the Moon (1972)	20 th
Clint Howard (Balok on TOS; Grady on DS9)	20 th
George Takei (CPT Hikaru Sulu)	20 th
CADET Joshua Turner	24 th
China Launches Its First Satellite (1970)	24 th
First Satellite Relay of a Television Signal (1962)	24 th
Pioneer Ten Crosses Pluto's Orbit (1983)	25 th
Hubble Space Telescope is Deployed (1990)	25 th
Spice Williams (Vixis from Search for Spock)	26 th
Kate Mulgrew (CPT Kathryn Janeway on VOY)	29 th

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Shane Russell (D)

TABULATIONS

The tabs are beginning to flow in at a record pace! Here we are in the fourth month of the year and already we have over 20,000 tabs! At this pace we should easily reach our goal so keep those tabs coming. Remember, our goal for 2009 is to reach 110,000 tabs! If this amount is reached, the top "tabber" gets to pie both the Captain and First Officer! Yes, you get to pie both of us! Anyone else who reaches 10,000 tab donations gets his or her

choice as to which one of us gets pied. What could be better than that? So start saving those tabs today. Here are the tab counts as of press time.

Starting Balance	Zero
Connie Heller	10313
Russell Ruhland	4135
Jeff Kirkland	3689
Tony Fleming	2730
Freddy Heller	2530
Joe Perry	30
Shane Russell	22
Total	23449

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	107.56
Night Out	10.00
Postage	10.80
Membership renewal	5.00
Cans	4.00
Donations	37.00
Pizza for anniversary	41.34
Purchase dishes for parties	27.22
Closing Balance	64.20

COMM Connie Heller

NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

Attention! The Night Out locations for 2009 were selected at the Christmas party. The list is below. There are some new places this year. I hope your favorite restaurant made the list!

May	Olive Garden
June	New China
July	Buffalo Wild Wings
August	Chili's
September	Ruby Tuesday (Veteran's)
October	Ryan's
November	Texas Roadhouse
December	Hong Kong Buffet

Congratulations to Diane Ruhland, the winner of the free dinner at El Vaquero during the March Night Out.

TV SHOWS ON DVD

Here are some scheduled DVD releases for April:
"Caprica, Pilot" (21st)
"Star Trek, Season 1 [Blu-ray]" (28th)

ACCOLADES

A BIG Bajoran thanks or congratulations go to:

- Harold for his weekly donation of cans;
- Roger for his donation of coupons;
- Russell for his donation of stamps and;
- Jeff for his donation of cans and coupons.

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	Mar 09	Mar 09
Steve Brown	Dec 09	
Hollie Bundy	Sep 09	
James Carey	Nov 09	Jan 09
Adam Chryst	Jul 09	May 09
Dutch Cummings	Jul 10	Feb 10
Randy Dunn	Feb 10	Jun 09
Tony Fleming	Jul 09	Jun 09
Freddy Heller	Jul 09	Sep 09
Mike Henigan	LTM	Nov 09
Benlee Huguley	Feb 10	
Todd Kes	Oct 09	
Jeff Kirkland	Oct 10	Jul 09
Leiko Koone	Nov 09	Nov 09
Lech Mazur	Jul 09	Jan 09
Margaret McGillicuddy	Jul 09	Oct 09
Joshua Nazario	Jan 10	
Lisa Neal	Jul 09	
Joe Perry	Jul 09	Nov 08
Karen Pynenburg	Jul 09	May 09
Russell Ruhland	Aug 09	Aug 09
Shane Russell	Mar 10	
Park Scully	Jul 09	Sep 09
Frazier Smith	Jan 09	Oct 07
Gisela Stephens	LTM	Nov 08
Harold Stewart	Feb 10	
Michael Walker	Jul 08	Mar 08
Patty Williams	Apr 09	
Vanessa Winfield	Jan 09	Jan 09
Roger Wright	Jul 09	Feb 10

MEMORY ALPHA

The 2007-2008 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.

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 The DaVinci 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!

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.

If you have any photographs that you would like to see published in the Pilot, feel free to send them to me with a brief explanation as to who is in the photo and when and where it was taken.



Connie discussing the finer art of grilling to Rose, Roger, and Faye at our 2nd Annual Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall Cookout (18 Sep 04).



Connie, Gisela, Rose, Nina, Russell, and Roger digging into the good food



“Okay, you have been a good boy so here is your ice cream treat.”



Frazier, Tracy, Nina, Joe, Lech, and Margaret discussing Trek and enjoying the food.



“Open wide for the airplane!”



Faye, Roger, Connie, and Rose smile for the camera.



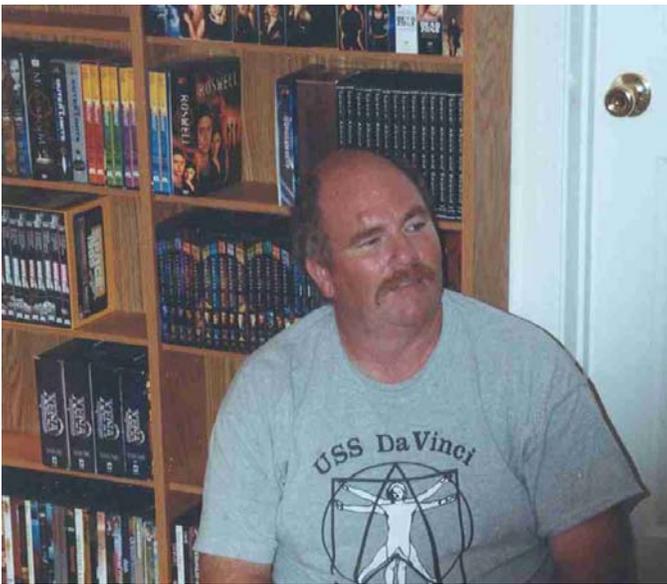
Todd showing his annual “Dragon Con” video.



Paul, Sara, and Russell enjoying the Dragon Con presentation.



Margaret and Tracy relaxing after a filling meal.



"Oh my she does not have very much on does she?"



Connie and Randy having a conversation while Joe and Margaret listen in.

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!

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!



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DaVinci Members Receive a 20 % Discount!

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.

TOP 9 SIGNS YOUR SCI-FI GEEK IS SICK

9. His answer to the Kirk vs. Picard debate is "Whatever."
8. His pointed ears are droopy.
7. Her phaser is set on "Decongest."
6. You thought all that jerking around was his imitation of the birth of an alien chest-burster. It wasn't.
5. His urine is a hyper-intelligent shade of the color blue.
4. "To feed a cold and starve a fever is not logical."
3. She refuses to throw out used tissues, insisting that the plasma oozing out of her nose could be an alien life form that must be treated with dignity and respect.
2. Refers to their diarrhea as "The Wrath of Khan."
1. Looks so bad, even zombies pass him by for a tastier meal.

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