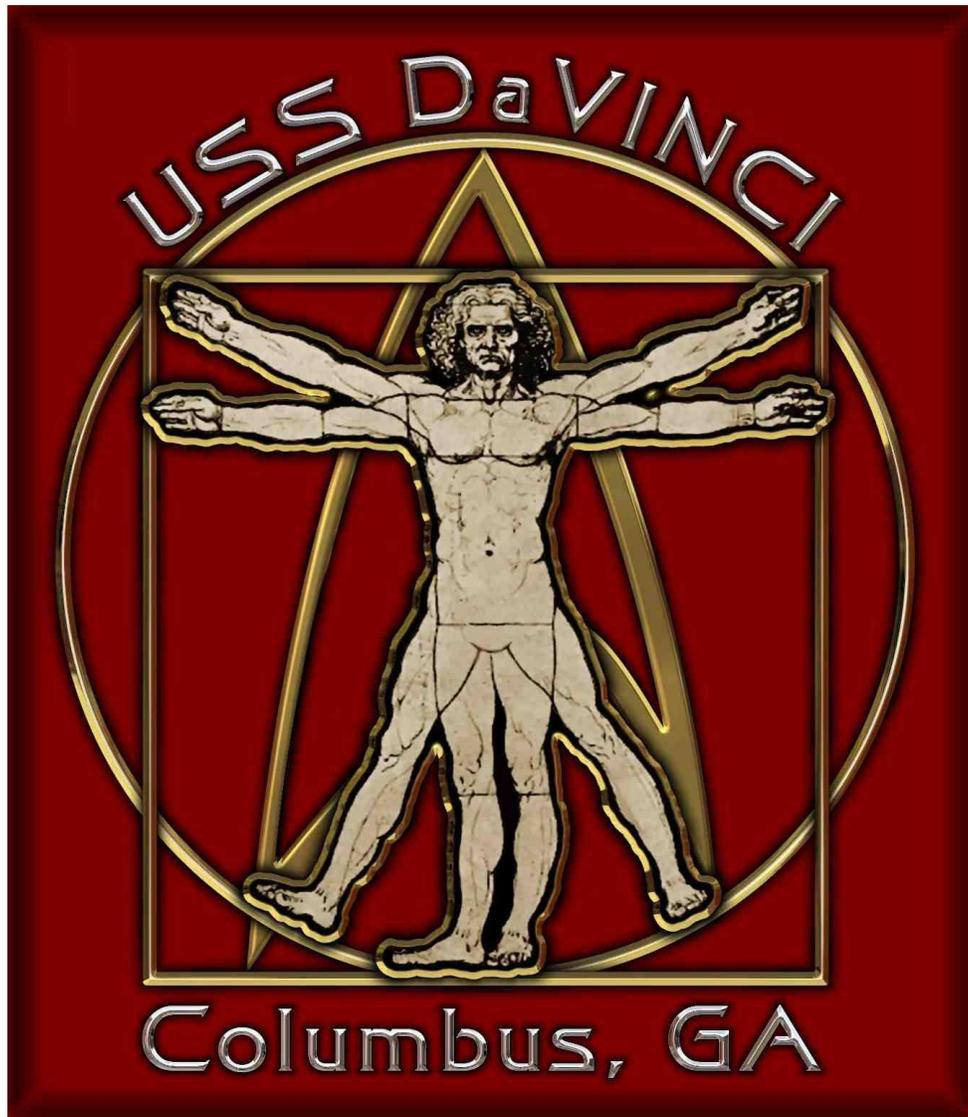


DaVinci Pilot

Newsletter of the USS DaVinci, NCC-74671, Columbus, GA

Volume 24 Number 05 – January 2019



*A Local Chapter of Starfleet, the
International Star Trek Fan Association*



THE INTERNATIONAL
STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

DAVINCI STAFF

Commanding Officer	ADM Freddy Heller	(706) 325-TREK (8735)
Executive Officer	RADM Joe Perry	(706) 457-9725
Operations Officer	RADM Joe Perry	(706) 457-9725
Community Service Officer	VACANT	
Finance Officer	VADM Connie Heller	(706) 392-5100
Publications Officer	ADM Freddy Heller	(706) 325-TREK (8735)
Records Officer	ADM Russell Ruhland	(706) 464-5056
Science Officer	MCPT David Lindsey	(706) 239-1064
Archeology Officer	GEN Barbara Paul	(478) 929-3210
Computer Science Officer	LTJG Leiko Koone	(706) 663-2763
Counselor	CDR Diane Ruhland	(334) 298-3998
Medical Officer	RADM Jeff Kirkland	(770) 253-6474
Morale Officer	LTJG Dutch Cummings	(706) 407-9945
Engineering Officer	RADM Bill Paul	(478) 929-3210
Communications Officer	LT Todd Kes	(706) 593-3598
Quartermaster	LTCDR Randy Dunn	(334) 291-0150
Security Chief	MCPT Scott Roop	(706) 326-6081
Cadet Corps Commander	VACANT	
Starfleet Marines OIC	BRIG Josh Ainsworth	(706) 536-4649

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **10 January, Pizza and a Movie, Freddy & Connie's, 6:30 PM**
- **12 January, Tab Turn-In and Breakfast at Golden Corral, 9:00 AM**
- **21 January, Night Out/Membership Meeting, Country Road Buffet, 6:30 PM**
- **29 January, Movie Night at AMC, "Wizard of Oz", AMC 13, 6:30 PM**



THE INTERNATIONAL
STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION, INC.



FROM THE CENTER SEAT

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hard to believe that it is 2019 – the year I turn 70, our 25th wedding anniversary, and the USS DaVinci turns 23 (the Shuttle DaVinci was formed 24 years ago)!

December began on a sour note as I became quite unwell for a period of several weeks. First I cancelled the Pizza and a Movie scheduled for 07 December and moved it to 14 December, whereby I cancelled that date as well, feeling still under the weather. Hopefully the third time is the charm as I have rescheduled the date for 10 January. So watch your inboxes for all the information.

The December Night Out/Membership meeting also did not start out on a great note. I figured that the downtown Houlihan's would be a little busy during the Christmas season but I had no idea just how busy it would be. Connie and I arrived about 6:00 PM to a very full lobby of folks all waiting for their name to be called for seating. I knew even before going up to the hostess that we were doomed. I was correct in my assumption as I was informed that the wait time would be "at least an hour, maybe more". So we waited for folks to arrive trying to figure out where we could go just in case. By 6:30 PM all of the folks who said they were coming had arrived so I went back to the hostess to get an updated time. I was told it would still be about an hour. So the decision was made to move the Night Out to a different location. I suggested the new Panera Bread Company on Macon Road and the consensus from everyone was positive. And so, I canceled our name off the wait list and the hearty band of DaVinci folks headed towards Macon Road. Todd volunteered to wait around until 6:45 PM just in case any unexpected stragglers arrived late. None did.

And so, 11 DaVinci personnel arrived at the Panera Bread Company ready to chow down on soup and sandwiches. There were a few grumbles concerning no broccoli-cheese soup (they ran out), no chicken & rice soup (not served on Monday's), the walnut-cranberry bread, way too salty potato soup (from moi), and "where the heck are the napkins" (moi again). Blame it on the confusion of having moved locations and hunger. Thanks to Gregory ordering first, Russell and I found out that current military, military retirees, and veterans get a free large drink with your purchase! Almost makes up for the lack of no broccoli-cheese soup. Almost.

By the time folks had finished their meals it was time for the monthly "free" meal and Captain's Perks drawings. First up was the \$10.00 towards your meal drawing. I had Sandra draw a name and Connie was the winner! Connie then drew a name for the first Captain's perk and Gregory was the lucky winner of an autographed photo of Robin Curtis as Saavik from "Star Trek III: The Search for Spock", Gregory then drew Joe's name and he was the recipient of an autographed photo of Vaughn Armstrong as CPT Maxwell Forrest from Enterprise. Congratulations to all the winners. After all the drawings and announcements were made folks chatted a while longer before heading home.

As usual lots of photos to follow! Enjoy.



Connie checks out the gossip log as Diane looks on and Lisa, Steve, Joe, Sandra, and Wilbert check out the menu.



Russell and Gregory check out the menu while Joe waits for Lisa to order and Wilbert orders while Sandra still has not decided.



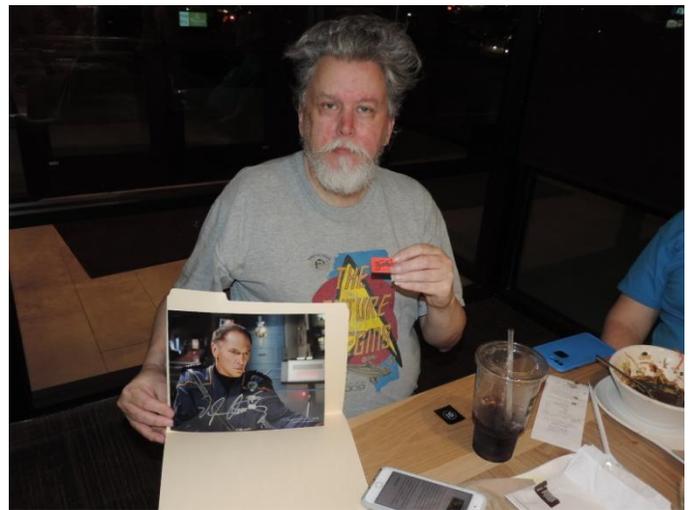
Enjoying their food are Joe and Gregory and Steve and Lisa.



Diane & Russell enjoy their food while Sandra & Wilbert cheer world champions Atlanta United!



Todd and Freddy pose for a photo while Connie says "Look what I won, a free meal!"



Also winners are Gregory (autographed photo of Robin Curtis) and Joe (autographed photo of Vaughn Armstrong)

Next on the December calendar was our annual Christmas Party with all its good food, fun, and games. Unfortunately due to the low potential turn-out (only 9) it was moved from Russell's church to my house and went from turkey and ham with all the trimmings to fish, French fries, Cole slaw, and hush puppies from Captain D's and mushroom and pepperoni pizzas from Little Caesar's. The turn-out was great as 17 DaVinci personnel came to celebrate the holiday season. Some of our usual attendees were not present (we missed y'all) but that did not stop the rest of us from having a fun-filled afternoon of good food, gag gift exchange, door prizes, year of end prize drawing, the Captain's Table, and of course Ferengi "Let's Make a Deal".

With only a couple folks not yet present, Russell said the blessing and the hungry throng hit the "buffet" line. It is not surprising that the fungus pizza went rather quickly which was okay by me as that meant more pepperoni pizza for the rest of us fungus haters (of which I may be the only one).



In line for the food are Joe, Karl, Russell, Diane, and Lisa and Russell & Diane fill their plates.



While Martha and Jeff fill their plates, Steve fills his cup with his usual Root Beer.



Enjoying their food in the kitchen are Margaret, Lisa, Steve, Joe, and Russell and in the dining room Martha, Jeff, Todd, Lisa, Maria, Lech, Carole, and Karl.

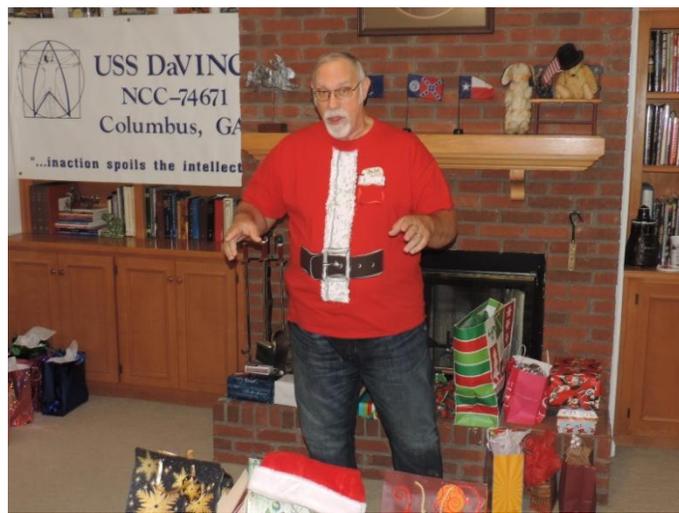


Carole toasts with her wine while Karl points to his Dr. Pepper while Jeff and Todd chat.



Lisa listens to Maria's conversation while Russell fills his bowl with ice cream.

Once folks had finished their food it was time for the fun and games. First up was “Ferengi Let’s Make a Deal”. Russell took center stage as he tried to get three volunteers to play the game. When no one raised their hand he began choosing folks to participate. He picked Michael and Lisa Neal and was on the verge of picking a third (I could swear he was eyeing me) when Carole volunteered to be the third. It was a fun-filled 20 minutes or so of exchanging gifts for latinum paper or keeping their gift and/or latinum paper for someone else’s gift and/or latinum paper. In the end, Michael keep his latinum paper and had no gifts, Carole received a Worf action figure, and Lisa received two gifts, the first a book entitled Spock’s Logic Puzzles and the second a “zonk” prize of one of Russell’s large size shoes! All-in-all, it was a very exciting and funny time. A BIG Bajoran thanks to Russell for donating the prizes and for putting together the game (which might just become a tradition)!



Russell explaining the rules of Ferengi “Let’s Make a Deal” and then asking for volunteers.



Each contestant starts with a sheet of latinum paper and Russell asks Carole if she wants to keep her latinum or take one of the three bags (she chose to keep her latinum).



Russell asks Michael what he wants to do and the three contestants with their final choices!



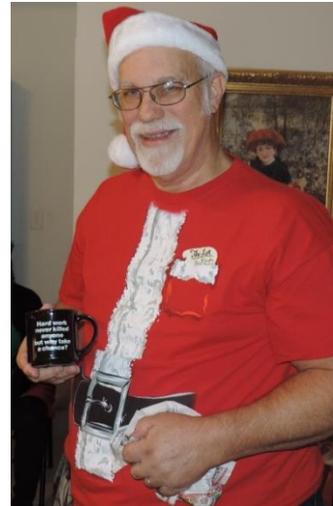
Look what we won! Carole (Worf action figure) and Lisa (Spock puzzle book and the zonk!)

Next up was our yearly gag gift exchange which contained a few groaners and a few gifts which were much appreciated! Just some of the items received (you will see them all in the below photos) were cups, books, some unique wine (?) glasses, money (if you can believe it), a Spock costume cap, various items for the kitchen, scented candle, and more! The most surprising gift was selected by Steve who was shocked to discover a box full of coinage (later to be counted as \$17.17)! Everyone who participated drew a number and that was the order in which the gifts were selected.

THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT AND
MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE AT
COUNTRY ROAD BUFFET
ON MONDAY 21 JANUARY AT 6:30 PM
COME FOR THE FOOD & FRIENDSHIP!!



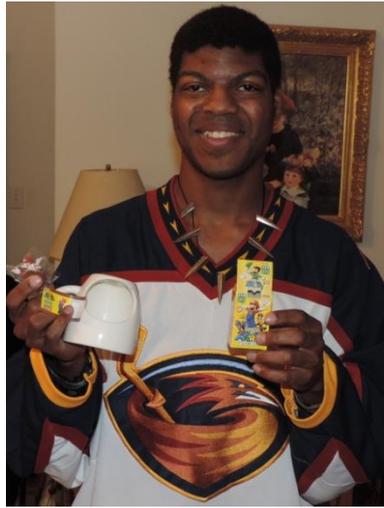
Look what we won! Freddy (glasses), Steve (money), Martha (sparkling cider), Sandra (scissor set).



Lisa (Spock headdress), Lech (cups with orange), Russell, (cup), Michael (vacuum sealer)

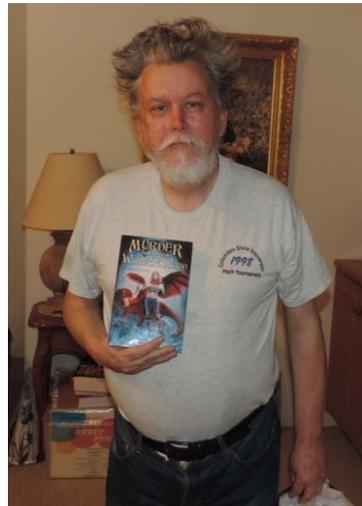


Todd (coloring books), Jeff (Freddy the Borg photo), Diane (knife set), Maria (shot glasses).



Karl (oriental figure), Wilbert (cup and Super Mario items), Lisa (cup warmer), Carole (ornament and a scented candle)

Following all the laughs, groans, and pure excitement (Wilbert opening his gag gift and literally jumping for joy) it was time for the door prize drawings. A BIG Bajoran thanks to Michael who brought 6 gift bags - each one contained one of his books. After all six names were drawn there were a few swaps as folks picked out bags having books they already had or read. In the end everyone was happy. Congratulations to Russell, Joe, Carole, Jeff, Todd, and Sandra!

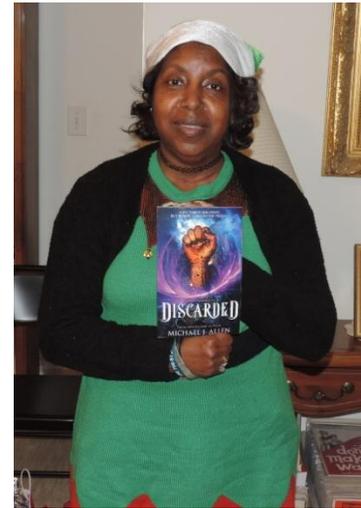
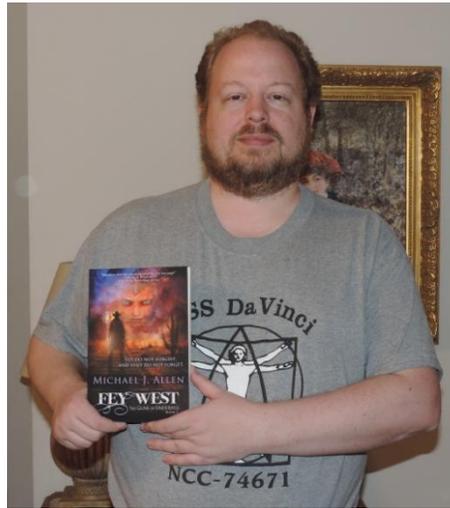


Look what we won! Russell, Joe, and Carole each won a book by Michael!

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The 1967 Outer Space Treaty forbids any nation from owning the Moon.

Central Park's lampposts contain a set of four numbers that can help you navigate. The first two tell you the nearest street, and the next two tell you whether you are closer to the east or west side of the park (even numbers signal east, odd signal west).



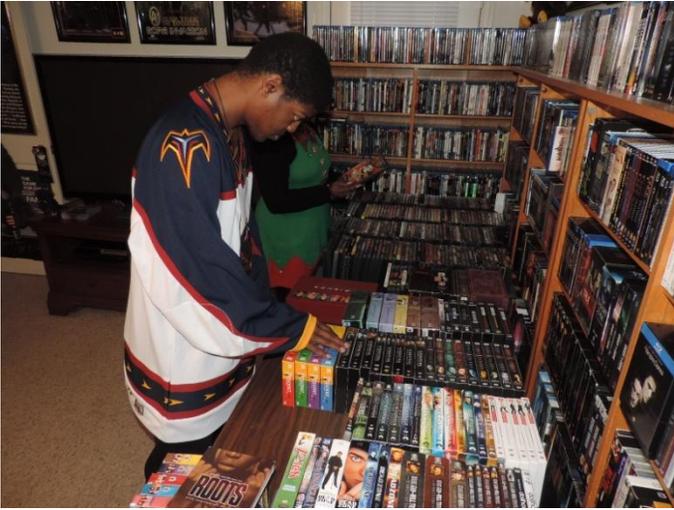
We won too! Jeff, Todd, and Sandra all won one of Michael's books!

Finally, there was the drawing for the door prize of the year in which all of the tickets filled out at DaVinci events and one name is drawn out to win a special prize. This year I choose to give away an autographed copy of Nichelle Nichols' book Beyond Uhura. After stirring the contents of the huge container of hundreds of tickets, I reached in and drew a name near and dear to my heart – my own! Well, I could have said “thank-you!” and gave a long soliloquy as to why I decided to keep it for another time but the crowd was restless (especially Sandra who jumped and tried to steal it from me even before the name was drawn. Luckily for me the room was full of witnesses and she gave second thoughts to tossing me to the ground (only because of my weakened condition) and running out the door for home.) and so I tossed aside my name and reached in to draw another. The lucky winner was Gregory, who was not in attendance due to recent surgery on his foot and is just finding out about his fortune by reading this! Congratulations Gregory and we hope you have a speedy recovery.

After all the excitement had died down folks stuck around and chatted, Michael signed copies of his book, and folks shopped at the Captain's table. Soon after the party began to break up as the crew headed home. Thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to Russell and Michael for their contributions to making this year's Christmas party the success that it was.



The crew checking out their gifts while chatting, and Michael signing copies of his book.



Wilbert and Sandra shopping at the Captain's Table.

A few days after our Christmas party, 13 DaVinci crew personnel met at Carrabba's for our annual Christmas Eve dinner. I had talked to Kenneth (the best server in Columbus) about reserving the center section for us with the hope that he would be our server as he was the previous year. Unfortunately, his schedule got messed up and, although he was there that evening, he was unable (and very apologetic) to wait on our table. In his place was Domenica who did an outstanding job waiting on our motley crew. There was nary a hint of a complaint and I made sure the manager knew how pleased we were at her service.

Carrabba's was packed and I glad they have call ahead seating or else it would have been quite a long time before our group was seated. The food was great, the conversations pleasant, and the atmosphere quite festive as folks enjoyed their meals. Once everyone had finished and paid their bills, I took a photo of the group at the front entrance before bidding everyone adieu and a very Merry Christmas. Thanks to all who attended.



Deciding what to order are Russell and Steve and Lech and Michael.



Posing for the camera are Connie and Margaret and Lisa and Ariana.



Also posing are Sandra and Todd and Joe and Wilbert.



Deciding what to order are Steve and Freddy and our server, Domenica, takes Joe's order.



While Ariana and Connie enjoy their calamari Domenica takes Wilbert and Sandra's order.



The DaVinci crew inside and



outside at our annual Christmas Eve dinner at Carrabba's!

December ended with a New Year's Eve mini-marathon of some classic 1950's sci-fi films. The number of folks attending was not mind-boggling but it was just the right amount to make for a pleasant evening. Attending were Russell, Diane, Margaret, Joe (who was kind enough to pick Margaret up and bring her to the party), Steve C., Lisa M. (who did not arrive until late as she had to work), and of course Connie and me.

Connie went way way overboard to prepare food for the attendees. She spent a good part of 2 days preparing a feast fit for a king. She made loaded baked potato soup consisting of potatoes, onions, bacon, cheese, and sour cream (with small containers of extra sour cream, bacon bits, and chives on the side), collard soup made with collards, ham hocks, onions and Great Northern beans, and harira, a Moroccan soup consisting of pork, lentils, chickpeas, and tomatoes (certainly a soup for different spice palates). Not only that but she made three kinds of bread to go with each offering – artisan French loaf bread for the potato soup, sweet corn bread for the collard soup, and pita bread for the harira! Plus, for dessert she made a blueberry crumb pie and cinnamon scones. The only item she did not make from scratch was the ice cream but I would not put it past her to whip some up for a future DaVinci event!

I set up one of our 9-foot tables in the center of the TV room, placing nine chairs around three sides so that everyone who was seated would have an unobstructed view of the television while they watched a film and enjoyed their soup and bread. A smaller table was set up with extra soup and toppings for those who wanted seconds or even thirds (most did).

Earlier in the week I had sent out a potential list of films to the folks coming to the gathering. The choices were “Angry Red Planet” (1959), “Black Scorpion” (1957), “Creature from the Black Lagoon” (1954), “Cyclops” (1957), “Invisible Invaders” (1959), “Magnetic Monster” (1953), “Man from Planet X” (1951), “Thing from Another World” (1951), and “World Without End” (1956). Russell was the only one who responded with a list and so I decided to go with his choices. Russell selected “Angry Red Planet”, “Creature from the Black Lagoon”, “Cyclops”, “Thing from Another World”, and “World Without End”. I loved his selection and the only difference between his list and mine was that I chose “Invisible Invaders” instead of “Cyclops”.

I stacked the films in an order unbeknown to the attendees. Since it was Russell's list, I gave him the honor of selecting the first movie to watch by picking a number from 1-5 and the movie he selected was “Creature from the Black Lagoon”! While I got the film ready to be watched folks began helping themselves to the bread and soup. While the movie played folks ate and chatted while Joe kept us informed about the film and its stars by checking out the Internet on his phone. Folks were going back for seconds and more by the time the first movie ended. After “Creature from the Black Lagoon” had ended, Connie and Diane adjourned to the kitchen and master bedroom and spent the rest of the evening chatting.

I asked Joe to pick the next number and he chose “Angry Red Planet”. The third film was selected by Margaret and she chose “Thing from Another World”. As it neared its end I could see heads beginning to nod and I knew that some folks were ready to leave. In addition, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the film, Steve left to pick up Lisa from work and they arrived back just as the credits appeared on the screen (much to the chagrin of Steve who wanted to see how the film ended). Shortly after that, Russell and Diane and Margaret and Joe were ready to call it a night (Joe had to leave as he was the one who brought Margaret). Connie also decided to call it

an evening as she was exhausted from spending most of the day preparing all the food. So that left Steve, Lisa, and me to watch one more film as the time was nearing 10:15 PM. I asked Lisa to pick the final film and she chose “World Without End”.

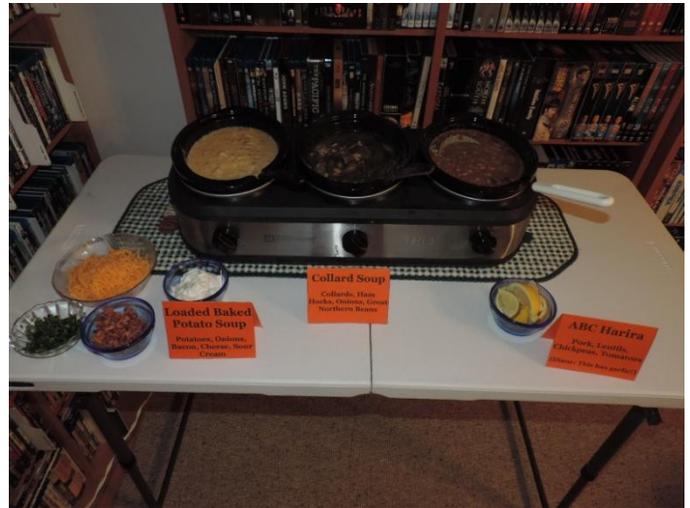
The timing could have not been more perfect as the film ended around 11:50 PM. I broke out the bottle of sparkling white grape juice I bought for the occasion, got three glasses, and poured out the drinks with less than 2 minutes to go until the New Year. When the New Year finally arrived the three of us raised our glasses for the ceremonial toast to the New Year. Steve and Lisa left shortly after that and that left me to clean up the mess. I finished scrubbing pots, putting food away, taking the chairs out to the garage, and pretty much putting everything back to the way it was before all the excitement began. It was 1:15 AM. By the way, from the amount of leftover soup, it seems that the loaded baked potato soup was the most popular one. However, everyone enjoyed all the soups. Even Steve who was quite leery of consuming collards (he being a true bred Yankee) loved the collard soup!

I was about to call it a night when I noticed a very peculiar odor which at first I could not locate until I suddenly realized that the noxious odor permeating the air was emanating from moi and so I thought it best to take a quick shower in the back bathroom before getting into bed with a sleeping Connie (I did not want her to wake up suddenly, jump out of bed, look and me, and say “I thought I recognized your foul stench as you opened the door!”). It was well past 2:00 AM before I could get to sleep as my (insert profanity here) neighbor decided it would be fun to blow off very loud and annoying fireworks from 1:30 to sometime after 2:00 AM. Connie rarely stirred even when some of the louder booms rattled the windows! I hope the rest of you did not have a similar experience. I mean really, is blowing off loud fireworks 1-1/2 to 2 hours after the New Year began necessary?

Hey! A BIG Bajoran thanks to all who attended our first New Year’s movie marathon in quite a number of years and the biggest thanks of all to Connie who made the evening a very very tasty one indeed! And to those folks who said they would come or might come – we missed you and you missed a very fun-filled end to 2018 and here are some photos to prove it!



Connie is hard at work mixing up ingredients for the baked potato soup and stirring it in.



And check out the result – the breads, scones, and pie and the three delicious soups!



Margaret, Diane, Joe, and Russell and Connie and Diane anxiously wait for 6:00 PM.



Diane and Russell hit the soup line and the first film plays on the television.



Enjoying “Creature from the Black Lagoon” and eating soup and bread are Margaret, Russell, Diane, and Connie, and Steve joins Diane and Connie to watch the film.



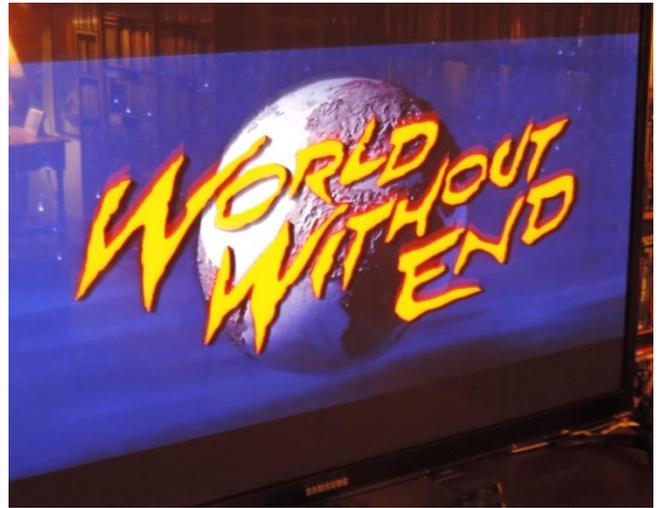
Joe keeps the group aware of film information (“the only two stars still living are Julie Adams and the guy who played the creature on land”) while Russell, Diane, Connie, & Steve watch.



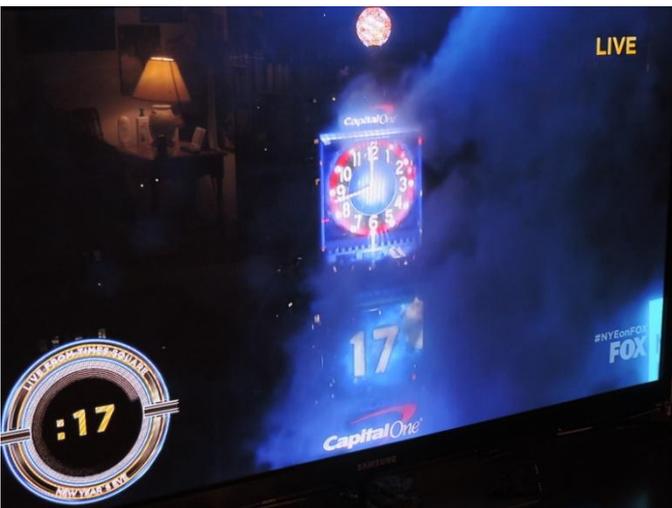
Connie and Diane (“The Gossip Girls”) chat in the kitchen while the second film begins.



Steve, Joe, Margaret, and Russell watch the third film to be shown.



Lisa and Steve (who is without a hat for the first time ever!) watch the final film!



The countdown begins!



Happy New Year!!!

The New Year will start out with the too often rescheduled Pizza and a Movie Night at my house on Thursday, 10 January beginning at 6:30 PM when we will be showing the sequel to “Creature from the Black Lagoon”, “Revenge of the Creature” and if folks are up to it, the third film in the trilogy, “The Creature Walks Among Us”. A couple of days later on 12 January will be our annual turn-in of tabs at the Ronald McDonald House. We will first meet at Golden Corral at 9:00 AM for breakfast with the tab turn-in thereafter. The Pie Party for the top tabbers will take place at our anniversary party in March. It was moved to March because the weather is quite a bit warmer. Next on the agenda will be our monthly Night Out/Membership meeting on 21 January at Country Roads Buffet located in the lower level of the Landings on Airport Thruway (almost across the parking lot from the Metro Diner). The month will end with an away mission to see “The Wizard of Oz” at the AMC 13 Theater. I hope to see you at all of these fun-filled events.

Speaking of “The Wizard of Oz”, the AMC 13 Theater will be showing some classic films throughout 2019 and I hope to have away-missions to see all of them. Besides the “Wizard of Oz” in January (27th, 29th, & 30th), “My Fair Lady” will be shown in February (17th & 20th), “To Kill a Mockingbird” in March (24th & 27th), “Ben-Hur” in April (14th & 17th), “Lawrence of Arabia” in September, (1st & 4th) Alien” in October (13th, 15th, & 16th), and “The Godfather, Part II” in November ((10th, 12th, & 13th). This is a terrific line-up of great films that I highly recommend everyone to see. Of the seven films, four took home Oscars for Best Picture – “My Fair Lady”, “Ben-Hur”, “Lawrence of Arabia”, and “The Godfather, Part II”. I will try to pick dates that will satisfy everyone.

Until the next time - engage!

ADM Freddy Heller
Commanding Officer



678th STARFLEET MARINES

Greetings Marines!

As we find ourselves at the start of a new year, we also find ourselves sitting in front of many opportunities. With the beginning of the New Year, we have plenty of time to concentrate on MURP (Marine Unit Readiness Program). It isn't an easy task, but it will be a rewarding one and we will have bragging rights to something that not a lot of Marine units have. It will make us stand out and be recognized. To start with, if you haven't been to the MURP site to check it out, I am including the requirements for MURP. So far it is only GEN Barbara Paul, MCPT Scott Roop, and me who have decided to move forward with this endeavor. I would like the full participation of the entire unit as this is not an easy task. We will also be asking for the help of members on board the DaVinci as well for help if any are interested. I will post further details as we progress and I also would like to see everyone in the unit in attendance at the next night out for a meeting to discuss this.

In the ages before starships roamed space, the US Marine Corps required that each of its Marines pass a series of tests or drills in order to become certified for combat. A Starship, Space Station, or other Vessel would also pass inspection before it was put into service. This series of certifications is to be earned through the efforts of the entire Starfleet crew of a Starfleet Vessel, not just Marines.

The purpose of this program is to combine the efforts of Starfleet crews taking Academy classes (SFA or SFMCA). In the past, members took classes individually for their own edification, receiving promotion points and/or ribbons for earning each diploma. (OTS and OCC were the only Academy courses that affected the entire Vessel.) The MURP is designed to provide a platform in which Starfleet members can pool their diplomas for the good of the Unit. Rather than one or two people taking all the classes, the entire Starfleet crew will fulfill the requirements by submitting copies of diplomas or confirmations from classes they took at Starfleet Academy (SFA) and Starfleet Marine Academy (SFMCA). OIC'S and CO'S may affirm the existence of the diplomas by e-mail or by mail. Applicants do not have to send copies of the diplomas. The word of the OIC that he/she has seen those diplomas, confirmations, or database entries is good enough. Please note: THIS PROGRAM IS PURELY VOLUNTARY AND IS NOT REQUIRED BY EITHER SFI OR SFMC.

Available Branch of Service/Specialty Certificates

Aerospace Readiness, Infantry Readiness, NCO Development Readiness*, Aerospace Medicine Readiness*, Leadership Dev. Readiness*, Professional Dev. Readiness*, Armor Readiness, Maritime Operations Readiness Special Operations Readiness, Combat Engineering Readiness,

MECHA Readiness, Support Readiness, General Combined Readiness*, and Medical Readiness. Note that the starred (*) listings are specialties and not official Branches of Service as outline in the Marine Force Manual - General Requirements

MSG Qualification Criteria

Commissioned Vessels with 10 or more Starfleet personnel: At least three different crew members must be working together to certify the Branch of Service. Chapters in training with 5 or more Starfleet members but fewer than 10: At least two crew members must be working together to certify the Branch of Service. Pre-Chapters in training and outposts with fewer than 5 Starfleet members may certify the Branch of Service with one crewmember.

MEU Qualification Criteria

A MEU with 5 or more Starfleet members but fewer than 10: At least two crew members must be working together to certify the Branch of Service. A MEU with fewer than 5 Starfleet members may certify the Branch of Service with one crewmember Qualification Criteria that applies to both MSGs and MEUs.

It is expected that an MSG/MEU will certify in its official MOS. However, it is permissible for MSG's to certify in any or all MOS's. This program is meant to reward participation in both academies. Diplomas and verifications will be accepted from any campus (past or present) of SFA or SFMCA.

Note: "choice of one (or two) diploma(s) from" followed by a list of schools means that the crew must submit two different SFA or SFMCA diplomas from any of the listed classes or schools, in addition to the SFMCA courses listed. The diplomas must be from different courses.

In next month's article I will start to review all the available class requirements of MURP.

That's all for now! Oooh Rah!

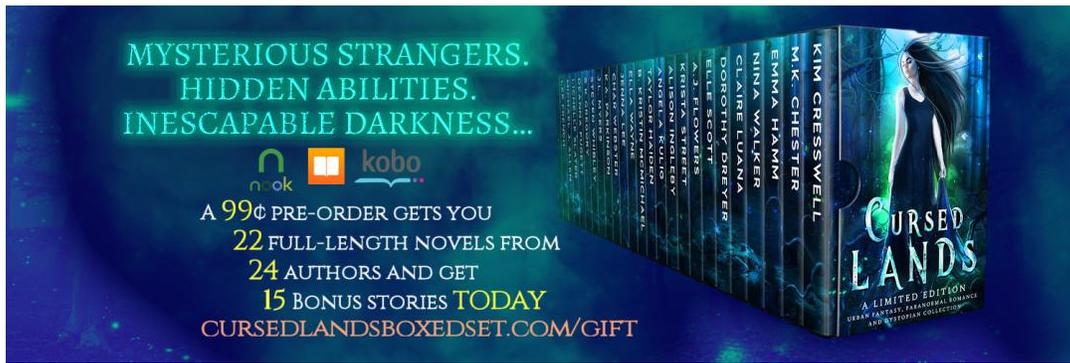
Brigadier Joshua Ainsworth
678th MSG OIC
2nd Brigade, 3rd Battalion



FROM THE WRITER'S ROOM

My Run for the USA Today Bestseller's List

I'm not big on sales pitches, so please forgive this article. I don't like burdening others with requests to help me, but this is something I cannot do alone. Despite my day job and this year's detours, I've managed to release 3 books this year and every year since I first got published. I've been working as hard as I can to achieve my dream of sharing my stories with the world.



For me and pretty much every novelist, coveted titles like New York Times or USA Today Bestselling Author are part of that dream. All of you have been kind enough to let me bore you with writing details. You've read and hopefully enjoyed my stories. Some of you have helped me launch new books and even left a couple of book reviews.

Well, I'm asking for your help in furthering this dream, and you don't even have to read this kind of thing to help.

24 Authors Collaborating to Hit the USA Today's Bestsellers List

I've joined forces with 23 other authors to make a run at hitting the USA Today Bestsellers list, including my new novel Ashes of Raging Water (read more below) exclusively in this set. We need to sell ~1k+ pre-orders on Nook, iTunes, Kobo and Amazon (available in February) between now and release day in May of 2019.

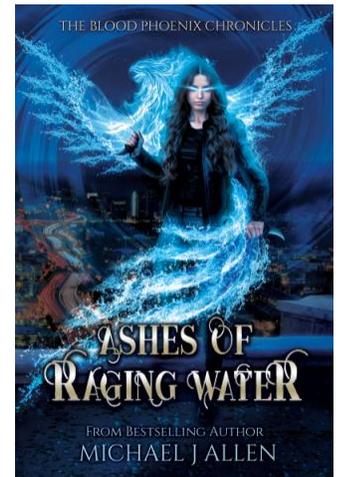
For a single 99¢ pre-order purchase you'll get:

22 Full-length novels when the set releases;

15 bonus stories today including Discarded;

The opportunity to help us achieve this dream; and,

My sincerest thanks!



You have my thanks for choosing to help, but not all of the authors in the set have the great readers and friends I do. So I'm going to ask you to consider investing a little bit more: \$3.00 more. If everyone who knows me bought the Cursed Lands set on all four platforms, a mere \$4.00, this set could potentially even rise on to the New York Times list. How would that be, knowing you helped 20+ authors earn such coveted titles?

This means enough to me that for Starfleet and the DaVinci, I'll even sweeten the deal. Since you can't order Cursed Lands on Amazon until the pre-order becomes available, if you'll email me at scribber@deliriousscribbles.com and tell me you pre-ordered off of any 2 or more platforms, I'll email you an eBook of your choice from my list for your holiday reading pleasure. Two caveats: I can't send you any eBook that hasn't been released already, and I won't be able to include Fey West because I don't control access to that eBook.

Cursed Lands Set Synopsis:

Mysterious strangers. Hidden abilities. Inescapable darkness...

Join our courageous heroines and heroes as they battle demons, governments, and secret organizations in worlds where fae, vampires, angels, witches, humans, and more fight for survival.

Cursed Lands will lead you through one doomed world after another in this haunting dystopian, urban fantasy, and paranormal romance boxed set. Inside, you'll find 22 exclusive, page-turning tales from today's bestselling and award-winning authors.

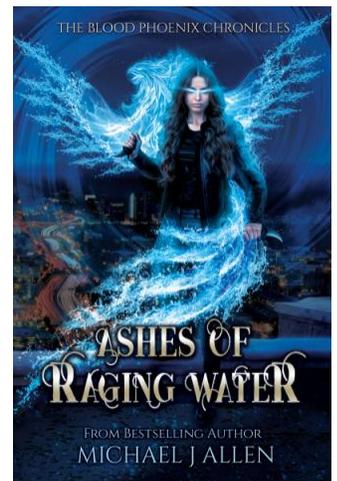
Do you dare venture into Cursed Lands, where magic, danger, and romance lurk between the shadows and the light?

One-click today to indulge in over 100 hours of bewitching young adult and new adult reads in this epic limited time collection. You can:

1. Pre-order from Nook go to books2read.com/dsi-cl
2. Pre-order from iTunes go to books2read.com/dsi-cl
3. Pre-order from Kobo go to books2read.com/dsi-cl
4. Get the Pre-order Bonus go to cursedlandsboxedset.com/gift
5. Cursed Lands Boxed Set go to cursedlandsboxedset.com

I'm excited to reveal the project that has derailed so many other of my plans for this year. Due to contract limitations, I wasn't able to talk to you about it, but now I am. [Ashes of Raging Water](#) is the first of my new [Blood Phoenix Chronicles](#) urban fantasy series. I've actually had this idea sitting on the back burner for a long time. This story was just awaiting its turn in the long queue until I was offered the [Cursed Lands](#) contract.

There are a lot of things about this new series that are different than everything else I've been doing. For one, I've been developing a new way to write series that I hope will bring them to you beginning-to-end and far faster than before. I would have preferred to write/release [Bittergate 3](#), [Scion 4](#) and [Dumpstermancer 3](#) for you, but the new contract enabled and in many ways required me to write the whole [Blood Phoenix Chronicles](#) series concurrently. That means in May of 2019 when [Cursed Lands](#) releases with [Ashes of Raging Water](#), the next book in the series will release right along with it. The third should be available on pre-order at the same time with the rest right on their heels. My fantastic cover artist is already working her way through the covers. Here are the titles you can look forward to:



1. Ashes of Raging Water
2. Ruled by Tainted Blood
3. Vengeful are the Drowned
4. Rise of the Exiled Lady
5. Razing the Last Bastion

Don't worry, those other titles are coming too - the when dependent on my overly demanding day job, dating famine conditions and a steady supply of Diet Pepsi.

Ashes of Raging Water Synopsis:

Wyldfae incursions plague Atlanta. The Georgia Shield must protect humanity from the Sidhe Courts and their twisted games. Quayla, the city's newest and only water phoenix, gambles her life to stop the attacks and prove herself to the other phoenixes.

Quayla scours a labyrinth of half-truths and misdirection to unravel the guilty from the merely vile. Her love life is crumbling. Atlanta PD is hunting her. Every move seems wrong, and one more mistake could globally unleash panic and magical pandemonium.

As Quayla's pursuit closes in, the Sidhe launch an assault on her Shield. Phoenixes are dying. Faeries invade their sanctum. Down to her last dregs of essence, Quayla must choose between abandoning her brothers or risking True Death to safeguard their last line of defense against oblivion.

Thanks!

LTJG Michael Allen



NEWS YOU CAN USE!

The new rates for membership in Starfleet are in place and are a pretty good deal. NOTE: There are no more paper memberships available. All memberships are electronic (via email). If you are thinking of joining Fleet but the expense was too high, now is the time. If you do join Fleet you are automatically promoted to Acting Ensign! The new Starfleet membership rates are: Individual - \$5; Family of 2 - \$9; Family of 3 - \$12; Family of 4 - \$14; Family of 5 - \$16; and Family of 6 - \$17. Paper membership certificates are no longer available – all memberships are now completely digital. However, if you wish a paper certificate it will cost you \$3.00 for each one plus shipping. If you want a printed copy of the Starfleet handbook it will cost you \$8.00 plus shipping. If you are not in Starfleet, please give some thought about joining this great organization!



TABULATIONS

Our tab collection effort for 2018 is over! The amount we collected last year, 35,300 was the fourth lowest amount since we began collecting tabs in 2002. Still it was a fine effort from all who participated. Gregory is our top "tabber" with Jeff a distant second and Connie coming in third. All have qualified to toss a pie at our Pie Party in March. Gregory gets to pie both Joe and me; Jeff gets to pie me; and Connie gets to pie Joe!

Start saving tabs. We need to collect at least 45,700 tabs to hit 1.5 million total tabs collected! As always, the tabs can come off any type can from pop to cat food to dog food to soup! Ask your neighbors to save tabs for you; ask your church or other social group to save tabs. You will be surprised as to how many tabs you can collect that way. Here are the year-end totals as of press time:

Starting Balance	0
Gregory Newer	13695
Jeff Kirkland	8000
Connie Heller	5037
Freddy Heller	4766
Paul deHart	1200
Todd Kes	842
Russell Ruhland	415
Lech Mazur	353
Randy Dunn	346
Scott Roop	279
Maria Morgan	210
Joe Perry	48
Sandra Adams	42
Hal Stewart	35
Dutch Cummings	32
Total	35300



DAVINCI NIGHT OUT

The Night Out/Membership Meeting locations for 2019 were selected at our Thanksgiving get together at Golden Corral. We also chose to alternate locations in case the original location falls through. There are some great restaurants in store with a couple new locations and several we had not been to in quite a while. I hope you will mark your calendars. Here are the 2018 locations:

January	Country Road Buffet **NEW**
February	IHOP (Airport Thruway) **NEW**
March	Shrimp Basket **NEW**
April	O'Charley's
May	Olive Garden **UNIFORM NIGHT**
June	Panera Bread Company (Macon Road)
July	Shane's Rib Shack
August	Buffalo Wild Wings
September	Denny's **NEW**
October	Cheddar's

November	Blue Iguana
December	Texas Roadhouse
Alternate #1	Bojangles (Airport Thruway) **NEW**
Alternate #2	Tavern on Main **NEW**

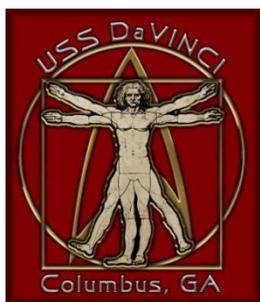


HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Here are just a few of the following DaVinci personnel, Star Trek celebrities, and historical events that are celebrating birthdays or anniversaries in January.

First Woman in Space (Valentina Tereshkova 1969)	1 st
First Coast to Coast Broadcast of Color TV Program (NBC 1954)	1 st
First Rocket Fired Past Moon (Russia 1959)	2 nd
Deep Space Nine Premieres (1993)	2 nd
Mars Probe Spirit Lands on Mars (2004)	3 rd
Aron Eisenberg (Nog on DS9)	6 th
ENS Natalei Zappala	6 th
First Around-the-World Trip by Commercial Airplane (Pacific Clipper 1942)	6 th
Mark Allen Shepard (Morn on DS9)	7 th
Four of Jupiter's Moons Discovered (Galileo 1610)	7 th
Early Motion Picture Experiment Took Place (Thomas Edison 1894)	7 th
Dr. Stephen Hawking (Himself on TNG)	8 th
Michelle Forbes (Ro Laren on TNG)	8 th
Last Unmanned Probe Lands on Moon (Surveyor VII 1968)	9 th
First Hispanic in Space (Franklin Chang-Diaz 1986)	12 th
Kirstie Alley (LT Saavik from Wrath of Khan)	12 th
CRMN Harold Stewart	13 th
Cassini Probe Lands on Titan (2005)	14 th
China Lands First Rover, Yutu, on Surface of Moon (2014)	14 th
Shuttle Columbia Blasts off with Israel's (Ilan Ramon) First Astronaut (2003)	16 th
Voyager Premieres (1995)	16 th
First Non-Stop Round-the-World Flight by Jet Planes (3 B52's 1957)	16 th
Maulik Pancholy (Dr. Amton Nambue on DIS)	18 th
First Landing of Aircraft On a Ship (Eugene Ely on USS Pennsylvania 1911)	18 th
Coast to Coast Air Record Set (Howard Hughes 1937)	19 th
DeForest Kelley (Dr. Leonard McCoy on TOS)	20 th
First Atomic Submarine, USS Nautilus, is Launched (1954)	21 st
David Gerrold (Author & Script Writer)	21 st
Reporter Nellie Bly Completed a Round-the-World Trek in 72 days (1890)	23 rd
Alexander Graham Bell Began Transcontinental Telephone Service (1915)	23 rd

JFK Held the First Live Radio and TV News Conference (1961)	23 rd
President Reagan Directs NASA to Build An International Space Station (1984)	25 th
Mars Probe Opportunity Lands on Mars (2004)	25 th
LT Mike Walker	25 th
CRMN Yonah Linsey	26 th
Thomas Edison Received a Patent for an Electric Incandescent Lamp (1880)	27 th
Atomic Testing Began in the Nevada Desert (1951)	27 th
James Cromwell (Zephram Cochrane from First Contact)	27 th
Apollo I is Lost [White, Chaffee, & Grissom Die] (1967)	27 th
Shuttle Challenger is Lost (1986)	28 th
CRMN Karl Henry	29 th
Moon Probe Ranger VI is Launched (1964)	30 th
US Launches First Satellite (Explorer I 1958)	31 st
Ham the Chimp is Launched into Space for 16-1/2 Minute Flight (1961)	31 st
Apollo XIV is Launched (1971)	31 st



MEMBERSHIPS



Many of you do not know when your membership in the DaVinci and/or Starfleet is due for renewal. So to help you remember, the following lists your **family** expiration dates. Please note that if your name is highlighted in **RED** in the DaVinci column your membership has expired and you need to renew as soon as possible to make sure you keep getting the Pilot every month. If highlighted in **BOLD** your membership is nearing its expiration so please renew soon. Thanks!

Name	DaVinci	Starfleet	Name	DaVinci	Starfleet
Sandra Adams	Jul 19	Jul 19	Margaret McGillicuddy	Jul 19	Sep 19
Josh Ainsworth	Aug 19	Oct 19	Jeremiah Meadows	Jul 19	Jul 19
Michael Allen	Jul-19	Jul 19	Lisa Monhead	Jul 19	Jul 19
Steve Brown	Dec 19		Maria Morgan	May 22	
Mackey Carter	Jan 21	Feb 19	Gregory Newer	Nov 19	Expired
David Craft	Jul 19	Jul 19	Scott Norman	May 19	
Dutch Cummings	Jul 19	Jul 19	Sandra Okamoto	LTM	
Steve Cushing	Dec 19	Dec 19	Randy Ortiz	Aug 19	
Paul DeHart	Jul-22	Jan 19	Barbara Paul	Jul 21	Mar 20
Randy Dunn	Jul 19	Jul 20	Bill Paul	Jul 21	Jan 20

Whitney Gaines	Aug 19	Mar 19	Joe Perry	Jul 19	Nov 19
Freddy Heller	Jul 19	Mar 19	Scott Roop	Jul 19	May 19
Karl Henry	Mar 19		Russell Ruhland	Aug 19	Feb 20
Todd Kes	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dennis Shaw	Jul 19	Jan 20
Jeff Kirkland	Nov 19	Aug 19	Thelma Shumpert	Dec 19	
Leiko Koone	Dec 18	Feb 19	Gisela Stephens	LTM	Jan 20
Everett Leonard	Dec 18	Feb 19	Harold Stewart	Feb 19	May 19
David Lindsey	Mar 19	Mar 19	Mike Walker	Jul 19	Jul 20
Lech Mazur	Jul 19	Dec 19	Natalei Zappala	Oct 19	



AHOY! WELCOME ABOARD!

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

Thelma Shumpert (D)	Maci Shumpert (D)	Tish Brown (D)
Elijah Howe (D*)	Joseph Howe (D*)	Dakota Howe (D*)
Steve Brown (D)	Lisa Neal (D)	Steve Cushing (D) (S)
Lech Mazur (S)	Gisela Stephens (S)	



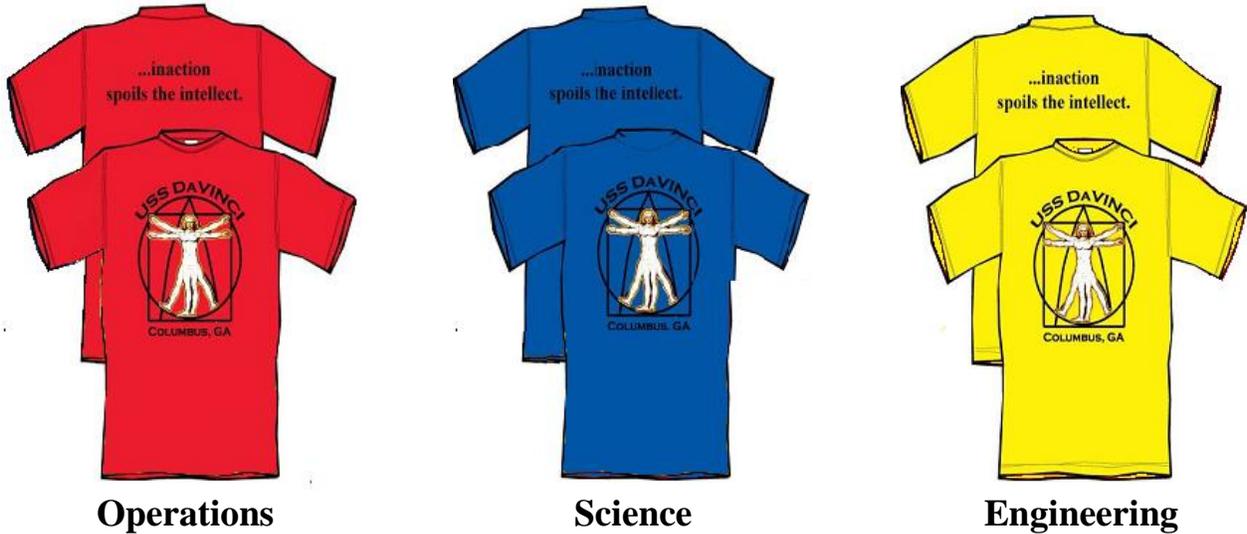
LATINUM VAULT

Opening Balance	\$40.00
Sales & donations	\$11.00
Cans	\$25.00
Dues	\$30.50
Postage	\$36.37
Closing Balance	\$70.13

VADM Connie Heller

DAVINCI T-SHIRTS

The new DaVinci t-shirts are in!! They are quite nice and I am sure they will go fast so make sure you reserve yours today. The cost is very reasonable: YM to L (\$11); XL (\$12), 2X (\$13), 3X (\$14), and 4X (\$15). I did order (I hope) enough of each size and this time around some youth medium in each color. Oh, we still have a few of the older ones left and they can be purchased at a slight discount. Here is what the new ones look like:



Operations

Science

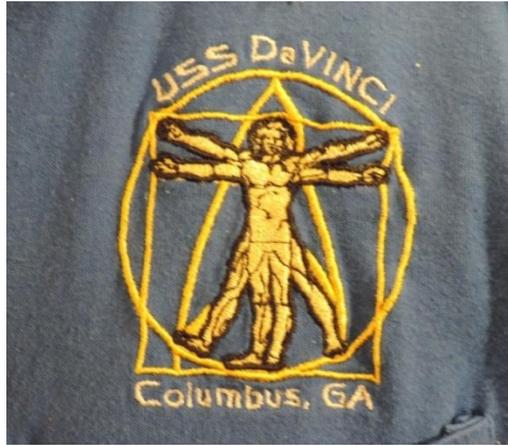
Engineering

Here is what we currently have in stock:

<u>Operations (Red)</u>		<u>Science (Blue)</u>		<u>Engineering (Yellow)</u>	
Medium	2	Youth Medium	1	Youth Medium	1
Large	1	Small	1	Small	1
XL	4	Medium	2	Medium	5
2X	3	Large	3	Large	3
4X	1	2X	3	XL	1
				2X	2
				4X	1

We also have several of the older versions DaVinci shirts available for a discount – your choice \$7.00 each. Here is what we have: Operations (1 - medium); Science (1 - medium); Engineering (1 - medium); Generic Gray (1 - medium and 2 – XL); and believe it or not we still have two previously worn of our first gray t-shirts (medium) in stock for \$3.00 each. If you want any of the above t-shirts feel free to email or call me to reserve your size. I cannot hold it forever so if you reserve a shirt, please pay as soon as possible. Thanks.

Do not forget that Jeff knows a woman that goes to his church that will embroider a DaVinci logo on any t-shirt or polo for only a \$10.00 fee. This is what it will look like:



You have to supply the item in any color you wish. Bring me the item and the \$10.00 and I will send them to Jeff who will then pass on the items to the embroiderer.



ACCOLADES

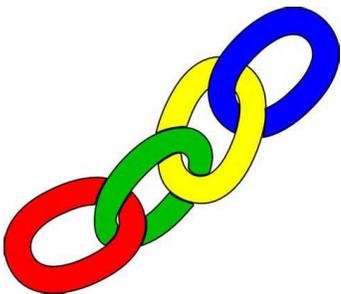
A BIG Bajoran thanks or congratulations go to:

Hal Stewart for his weekly donation of cans;

Steve Cushing for his donation of coupons;

Russell Ruhland and Maria Morgan for their donations of Box Tops for Education, and,

Paul DeHart for taking even more Starfleet Academy courses and for mailing 1200 tabs for the Tabulation effort (Paul lives in MS)



LINKS

Here are a few important web sites relevant to the DaVinci:

Craig's List:

<http://columbusga.craigslist.org/grp>

Starfleet Database

<https://db.sfi.org>

Starfleet Home Page:

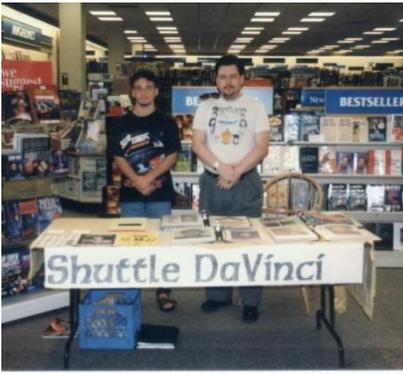
<http://www.sfi.org/>

Starfleet Region 2 Home Page:

<http://region2.org/>

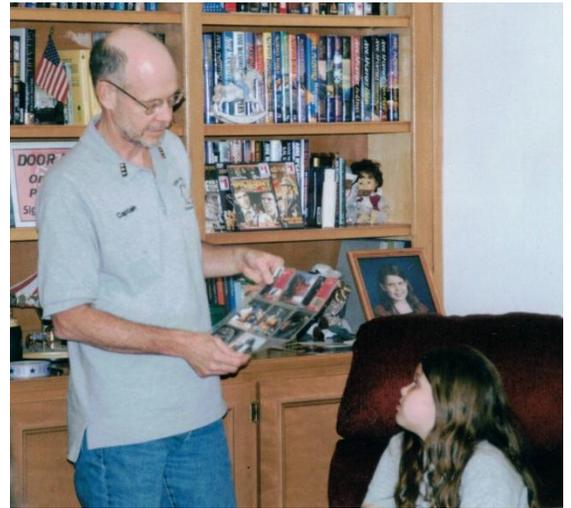
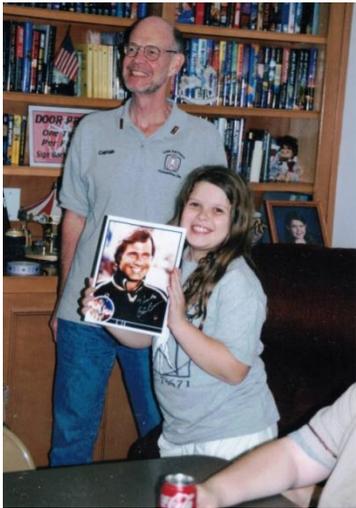
USS DaVinci Home Page

<http://www.usdavinci.org/>

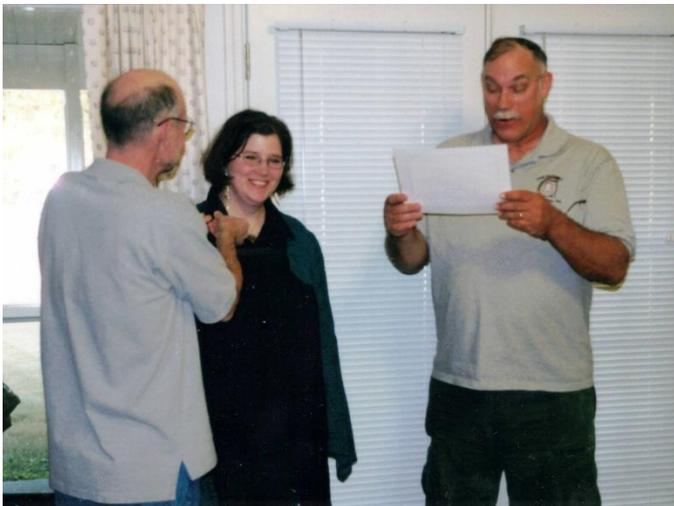


USS DAVINCI IN PICTURES

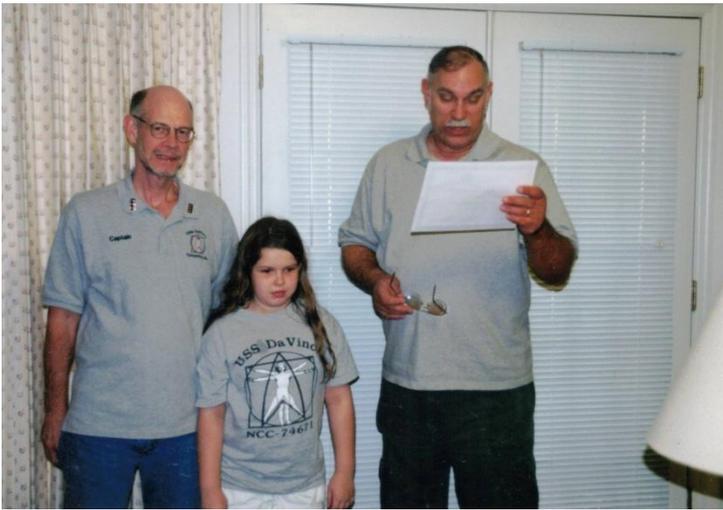
The following is a trip down the USS DaVinci memory lane. Each month I will show a series of photographs from our very beginning, as the Shuttle DaVinci, up until the present time. Many of you will remember these faces. To others they will be complete strangers. But, they made the USS DaVinci what it is today. 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. If I get a name wrong, please let me know! Okay, here is Part III of our November 2007 Thanksgiving Dinner celebration:



Ariana shows off her door prize, Roger looks at the glass he won, and Freddy checks out the next door prize as Ariana looks on



Russell reads the promotion certificate; Freddy pins on Leiko's ensign pips; and posing for a photo.



Russell reads the “Region 2 Summer Reading Award” 1st place certificate and Ariana poses with her award.



Roger plays with and then feeds his son Alexander.

Next month, Part I of our November 2007 Night Out/Membership Meeting at Panera Bread Company.

THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT AND
MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE AT
COUNTRY ROAD BUFFET
ON MONDAY 21 JANUARY AT 6:30 PM
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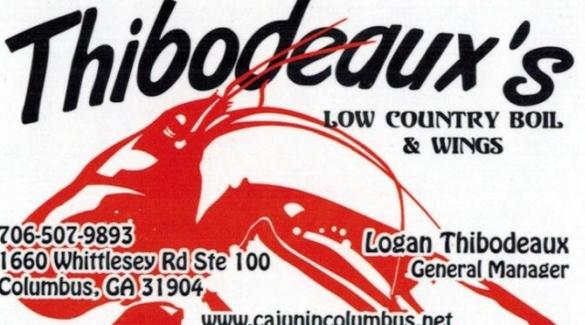


Dr. Harold C. Stewart Jr.

P.O. Box 7603 (706) 596-5200
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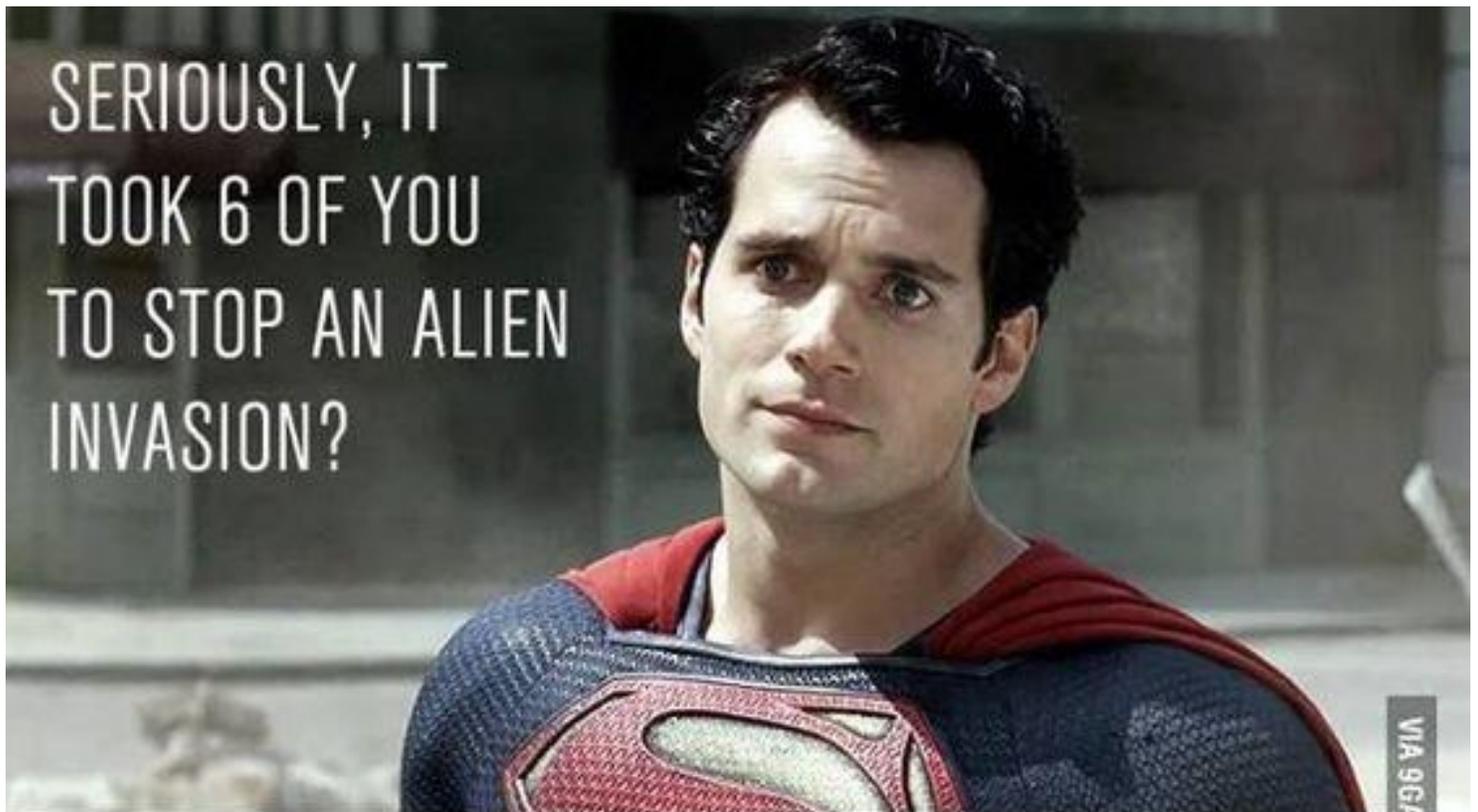
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Relive the 50's

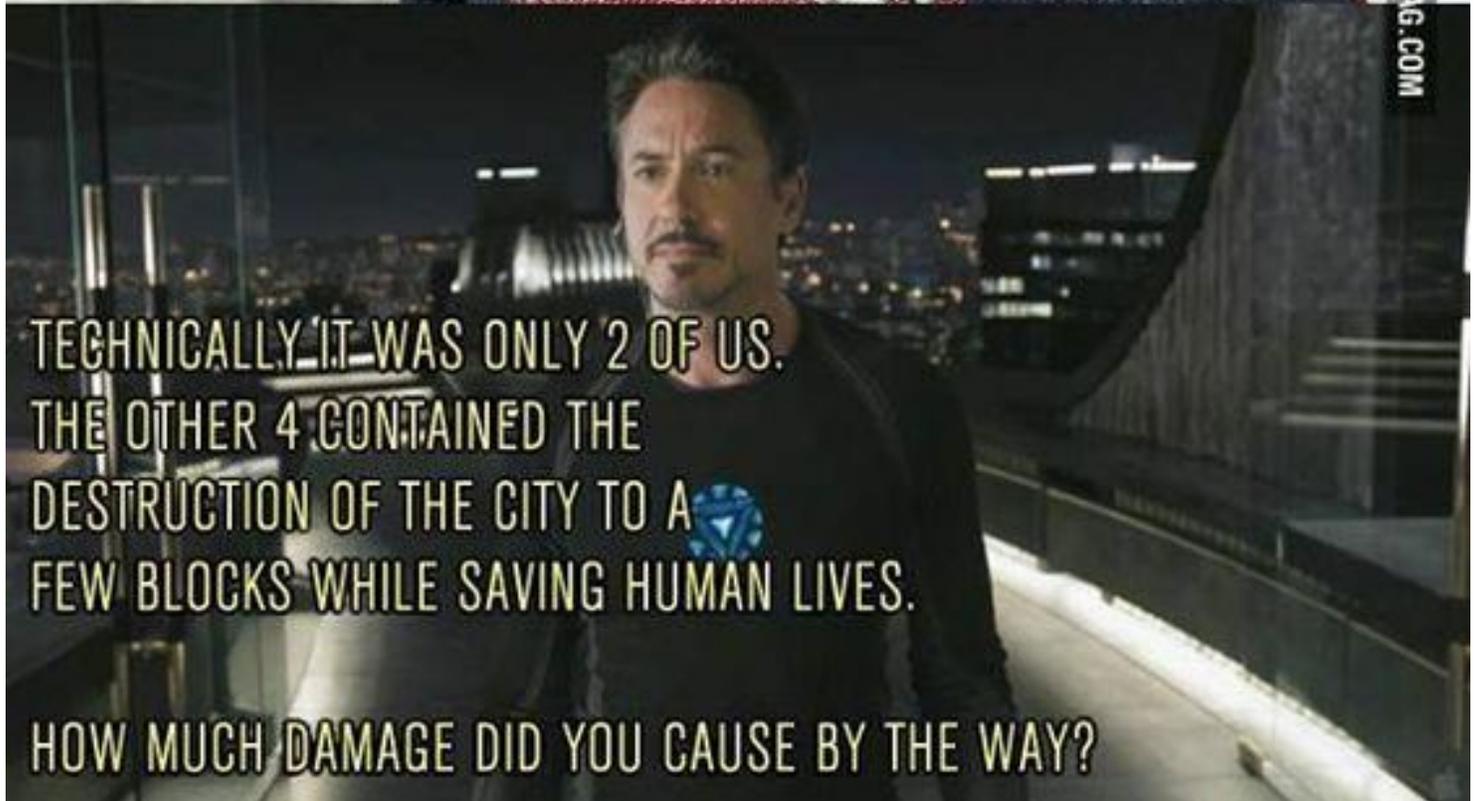
Spend \$5.00 and Get a Free Drink!

ONE MORE THING THEN DISMISSED!



SERIOUSLY, IT
TOOK 6 OF YOU
TO STOP AN ALIEN
INVASION?

VIA 9GAG.COM



TECHNICALLY IT WAS ONLY 2 OF US.
THE OTHER 4 CONTAINED THE
DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY TO A
FEW BLOCKS WHILE SAVING HUMAN LIVES.

HOW MUCH DAMAGE DID YOU CAUSE BY THE WAY?