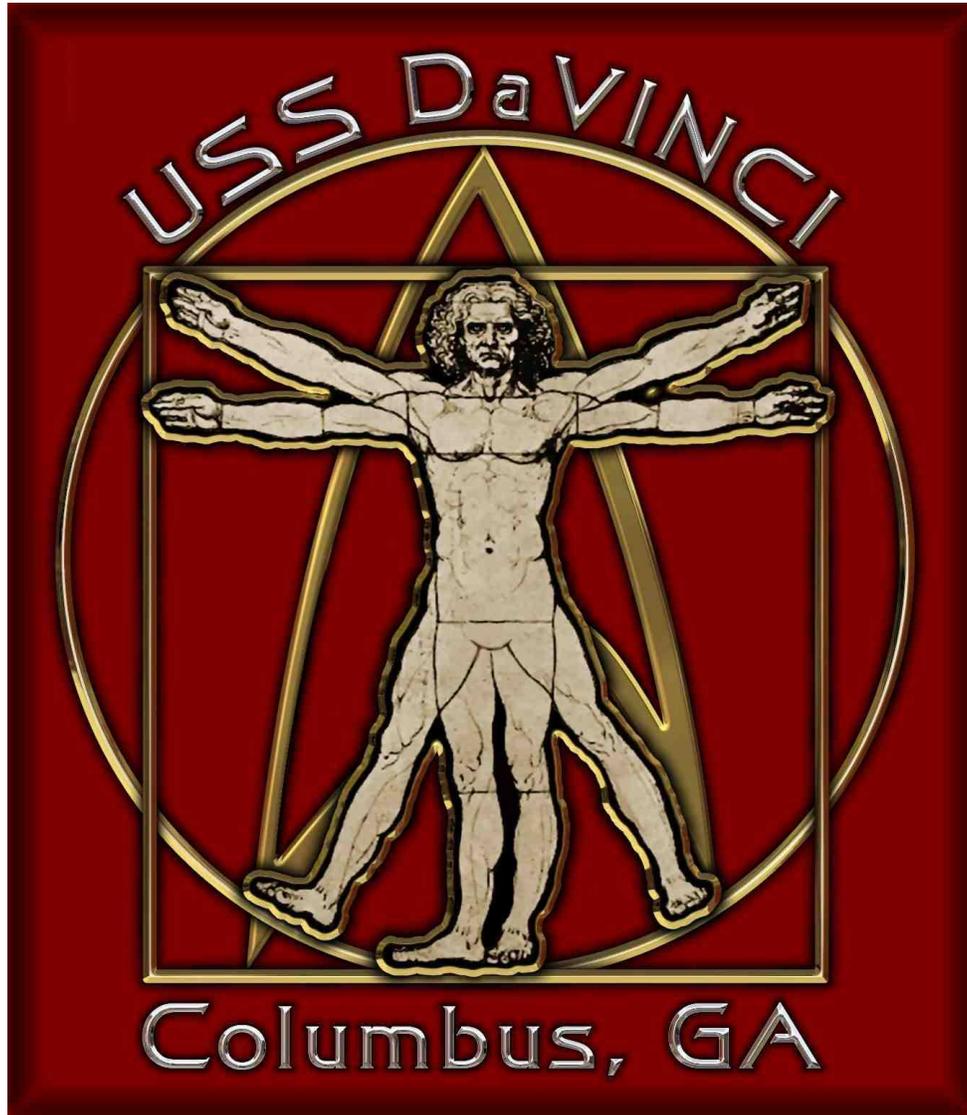


DAVINCI PILOT

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

Volume 32 Number 06 – February 2026



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

****Starfleet's 2018 Electronic Newsletter of the Year****

****Starfleet's 2019 Chapter of the Year****

****Starfleet R2 Summit Best Website 2022 ****

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Executive Officer

FCAPT Mike Watkins

Operations Officer

Community Service Officer

LCDR Karen Pynenburg

Finance Officer

ENS Steve Cushing

Publications Officer

VACANT

Records Officer

LT Leiko Koone

VACANT

Science Officer

VACANT

Computer Science Officer

LTJG Leiko Koone

Counselor

CDR Diane Ruhland

Medical Officer

RADM Jeff Kirkland

Morale Officer

VACANT

Engineering Officer

VACANT

Communications Officer

LT Todd Kes

Quartermaster

LTCDR Randy Dunn

Security Chief

VACANT

Cadet Corps Commander

VACANT

UPCOMING EVENTS

** 16 February, Night Out/Membership Meeting, Red Bowl, 6:30 pm

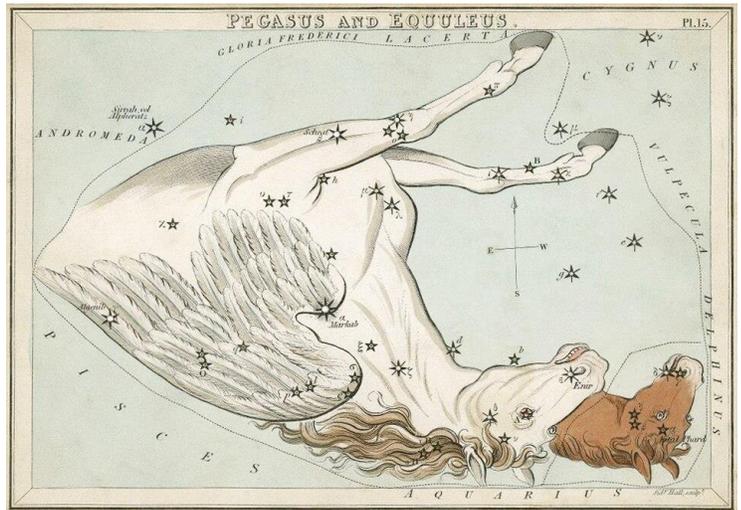


THE INTERNATIONAL
STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

STARFLEET NEWS YOU CAN USE

February 17 is Lunar New Year (also called Chinese New Year), and 2026 is the Year of the Fire Horse, full of energy and adventure. So let us look to the sky and take an equine escapade through the stars.

There are many horse related celestial bodies to explore. The purest “horse” constellation is Equuleus, the second-smallest constellation after Crux. Latin for “Little Horse,” or foal, Equuleus is depicted as a horse head consisting of four stars, the largest of which is Alpha Equulei, also known as Kitalpha. There are two Greek myths about the origin of this constellation. One says Equuleus is the foal Celeris, either the son or brother of the winged Pegasus. Another myth claims the foal is the horse struck from Poseidon’s trident during his contest for superiority with Athena.



From Equuleus it is a small step to the East to find the most famous horse constellation, the seventh largest in the sky, Pegasus. The mythology behind this constellation is more than can be included in this article. Suffice to say this magical winged horse featured in multiple Greek myths. The most recognizable part of the winged horse, known as the Square of Pegasus, consists of four stars; Alpha Pegasi (also known as Markab), Beta Pegasi (Scheat), Gamma Pegasi (Algenib), and Alpha Andromedae (Alpheratz, formerly called Delta Pegasi, or Sirrah, before this star was officially assigned to Andromeda). The Square of Pegasus is easy enough to spot in the sky, thus making it a good reference point for other celestial bodies.

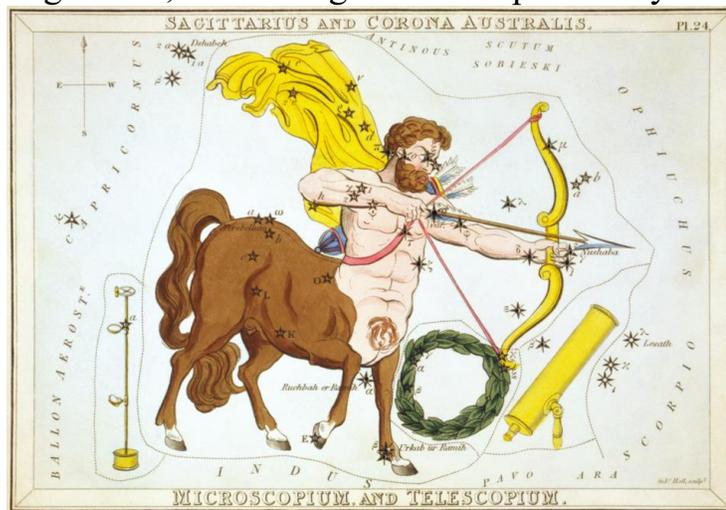


We now move on to Monoceros, the unicorn. Located between Orion and Hydra, this single-horned equine is rather faint, thus difficult to spot unless the sky is very dark. January through March is the best time of the year to spot this constellation. As it was only introduced in the seventeenth century by Petrus Placius, Monoceros is a relatively young constellation.

Centaurus, the ninth largest constellation, depicts a centaur, which is a mythical creature that’s human from the waist-up, but has a full

horse's body from that point down. Being located so far South, it's difficult to impossible to see from much of the Northern Hemisphere. Centaurus is composed of many exceptionally bright stars, including Alpha Centauri, the nearest star system to our own solar system. In Greek mythology, Centaurus, a son of Apollo and Stilbe, is the father of the centaur race. Another myth says Centaurus is the malformed offspring of King Ixion and Nephele, who went to live in the mountains and mated with mares who lived there, resulting in the birth of the centaurs. Centaurus is said to be the first to group stars into constellations, and teach others about them. It is said that he placed a picture of himself in the stars to guide the Argonauts on their journey. But there is yet another Greek myth that says the immortal king of the centaurs, Chiron, is the individual represented by this constellation.

Another celestial centaur is Sagittarius, the Archer, which is best known as the ninth sign of the zodiac. The Babylonians associated this constellation with their centaur-like god Nergal. The Sumerians called it "Pabilsag." The Greeks adopted this constellation and named it Sagittarius, associating it with the previously-mentioned Chiron. Some myths say that Chiron put



both Centaurus and Sagittarius in the sky to act as navigation guides for the Argonauts. (There is yet another myth claiming the Archer is a satyr named Crotus. But this is a horse-centric piece so we'll disregard the half human, half goat figure.) Turning our attention to the literal stars, Sagittarius contains a notable asterism known as "the Teapot." When the sky is dark, part of the Milky Way appears as the "steam" coming from the Teapot. (One wonders if that's Earl Gray brewing within.)

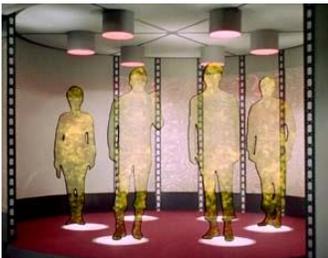
Constellations aren't the only horse-shaped objects in the sky. There are several nebulas with an equine theme, most notable being the Horsehead Nebula. This dark nebula is located in the constellation Orion, and is named for the fact it's shaped like the head of a horse. But this isn't the only equine cranium in the cosmos. The Blue Horsehead Nebula can be found in the constellation Scorpius. It's a reflection nebula lit by Nu Scorpii, a multiple star system. You might think it's nothing but horse heads out there, but you'd be wrong. The Dark Horse Nebula, also called the Great Dark Horse, or the Prancing Horse, has not just a head, but also a body and legs. This nebula is located within the constellation Ophiuchus, near Scorpius and Sagittarius. The Dark Horse is one of the largest groups of dark nebulae in the sky. It is a feature of the Milky Way's Great Rift.

Playing connect-the-dots with stars and gazing at shapes made of dust and reflected light might be the most popular ways of findings horses in the heavens, but there's still more out there.

2060 Chiron, named for the immortal king of the centaurs, is a minor planet that orbits our sun between Saturn and Uranus. It was first discovered in 1977, seen to exhibit comet-like behavior in 1989, and today is classified as both a minor planet and a comet. Chiron also has rings, making it one of only four minor planets to feature such.



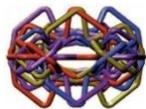
Our final celestial equine is 3838 Epona, a near-Earth asteroid discovered in 1986. Roughly the size of Mount Everest, this mid-sized asteroid orbits on an elongated path around the sun, crossing the orbits of the four inner planets. While Epona travels close to Earth, it is not considered a threat to the planet. The naming of this particular hunk of space rock steps away from Greek tradition. Epona, meaning “Great Mare,” is named after the Celtic goddess who protected horses, donkeys, and mules. The goddess Epona stands out as being perhaps the only Celtic deity to be worshiped in Rome. While the asteroid is not shaped anything remotely like a horse, it carries a proud equine name which allows it to stand alongside the other celestial equines.



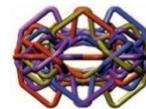
AHOY! WELCOME ABOARD

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

ENS Wilbert Adams IV	ENS Sandra Adams	RADM Jeff Kirkland
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LINKS



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

USS DaVinci

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

Starfleet International

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

Starfleet Database

<https://db.sfi.org>

Starfleet Region 2

<http://region2.org/>



PASSAGES



In Memory of Sonnenlicht Koone (age 19.5) who passed away on 4 January, 2026 after a valiant battle with ill health. You were the best kitty, and are missed dearly by the Koone family.



LATINUM VAULT

Opening Balance	\$11.00
Donation	+ \$108.00
Closing Balance	\$119.00



ON THE HOLODECK



MondayMandala.com

COMIC CORNER NEWS

This is a partial list of Sci-Fi, etc. conventions for 2025. If you know of any upcoming convention that's not yet listed, please feel free to submit it.

February

- Feb 7-8 **CCS Artist Alley Atlanta 3** - Stone Mountain, Georgia
(charliescollectibleshow.com/events/artist-alley-atlanta-iii/)
- Feb 7-8 **Collect-A-Con** - Atlanta, Georgia (collectaconusa.com/atlanta/)
- Feb 9-11 **Atlanta Comic Con** - Atlanta, Georgia (atlcomicconvention.com/)
- Feb 14 **CCS K-Pop Demon Hunters Mini Con** - Stone Mountain, Georgia
(charliescollectibleshow.com/events/kpop-demon-hunters-mini-con/)
- Feb 14 **MomoCon X CCS OtakuCore Fashion Show** - Stone Mountain, Georgia
(charliescollectibleshow.com/events/momocon-x-ccs-otakucore-fashion-show/)
- Feb 15 **Southern Spin: Atlanta CD & Record Show** - Stone Mountain, Georgia
(charliescollectibleshow.com/events/southern-spin-atlanta-cd-and-record-show/)
- Feb 20-22 **Dice + Diversions** - Atlanta, Georgia (diceanddiversions.com/)
- Feb 20-22 **Days of the Dead** - Atlanta, Georgia (www.daysofthedead.com/atlanta/)
- Feb 20-22 **Mad Monster Party** - Concord, North Carolina (madmonster.com/carolina-2026/)

March

- Mar 21-22 **CCS Nerd Yard Sale** - Stone Mountain, Georgia
(charliescollectibleshow.com/events/ccs-nerd-yard-sale-vi/)
- Mar 26-29 **Lexington Comic & Toy Convention** - Lexington, Kentucky
(lexingtoncomiccon.com/)
- Mar 27-29 **Toylanta** - Duluth, Georgia (www.toylanta.net/)

April

- Apr 11-12 **SC Comicon** - Greenville, South Carolina (sccomicon.com/)
- Apr 17-19 **Huntsville Comic & Pop Culture Expo** - Huntsville, Alabama
(www.hsvexpo.com/)

May

- May 7-10 **Furry Weekend Atlanta** - Atlanta, Georgia (furryweekend.com/)
- May 21-24 **MomoCon** - Atlanta, Georgia (www.momocon.com/)

June

- Jun 15-17 **Rangerstop & Pop** - Atlanta, Georgia (www.rangerstopatlanta.com/)
- Jun 20 **Augusta Anime-Fest** - Augusta, Georgia (augustaanimefest.com/)
- Jun 26-28 **JoeFest & Comic Convention** - Augusta, Georgia (www.joefestusa.com/)

July

- Jul 18-19 **Savannah ComicCon** - Savannah, Georgia (www.savannahcomiccon.com/)
Jul 26 **AugustaCon** - Augusta, Georgia (theaugustacon.com/)
Jul 31-Aug 2 **Southern-Fried Gaming Expo** - Atlanta, Georgia (gameatl.com/)

August

- Jul 31-Aug 2 **Southern-Fried Gaming Expo** - Atlanta, Georgia (gameatl.com/)
Aug 7-9 **Monsterama Con** - Atlanta, Georgia (monsteramacon.com/)
Aug 15 **Sarasota Anime-Fest** - Sarasota, Florida (sarasotaanimefest.com/)
Aug 21-23 **Mad Monster Expo** - Concord, North Carolina (madmonster.com/expo-2026/)
Aug 28-30 **Smoky Mountain Terror** - Kingsport, Tennessee
(www.smokymountainterror.com/)

September

- Sep 3-7 **DragonCon** - Atlanta, Georgia (www.dragoncon.org/)
Sep 19-20 **Ocala Comic Con** - Ocala, Florida (www.ocalacomicon.com/)
Sep 20-21 **Cobb County Brick Convention** - Marietta, Georgia
(www.brickconvention.com/cobbcounty)
Sep 25-27 **Ancient City Con** - St. Augustine, Florida (www.ancientcitycon.com/)
Sep 26-27 **Collect-A-Con** - Atlanta, Georgia (collectaconusa.com/atlanta-2/)
Sep 28-30 **Fanboy Expo** - Orlando, Florida (fanboyexpo.com/orlando/)
Sep 26 **Florida Horror-Fest** - Fort Myers, Florida (floridahorrorfest.com/)

October

- Oct 2-3 **Smoky Mountain Anime Fest** - Gatlinburg, Tennessee
(www.smokymountainanimefest.com/)
Oct 3-4 **South Alabama Comic Con** - Mobile, Alabama (www.southalabamacomiccon.com/)
Oct 10 **Appalachian Horrorfest** - Knoxville, Tennessee (appalachianhorrorfest.com/)
Oct 16-18 **Multiverse** – Peachtree City, Georgia (www.multiversecon.org/)

November

- Nov 14-15 **PalmCon: Treasure Coast** - Port St. Lucie, Florida (palmcon.net/treasure-coast)
Nov 6-8 **CONjuration** - Duluth, Georgia (www.conjurationcon.com/)
Nov 19-22 **Anime Weekend Atlanta** - Atlanta, Georgia (awa-con.com/)
Nov 29 **SW-FloridaCon** - Fort Myers, Florida (swfloridacomicon.com/)

December

- Dec 13 **Huntsville Anime-Fest** - Huntsville, Alabama (thehuntsvilleanimefest.com/)





HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



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

<i>Star Trek: Deep Space Nine</i> Premier (1993)	3 rd
NASA Rover <i>Spirit</i> (MER-A) Lands on Mars (2004)	4 th
Aron Eisenberg (Nog, <i>Deep Space Nine</i>)	6 th
Spock born in ShiKahr on Vulcan (2230)	6 th
Mark Allen Shepherd (Morn, <i>Deep Space Nine</i>)	7 th
Galileo Galilei Discovers Four of Jupiter's Largest Moons (1610)	7 th
Michelle Forbes (ENS Ro Laren, <i>The Next Generation</i>)	8 th
Stephen Hawking (Himself, <i>The Next Generation</i>)	8 th
Kirstie Alley (Saavik, <i>Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan</i>)	12 th
Franklin Chang Díaz, First Costa Rican-born Astronaut, Launches on Space Shuttle <i>Columbia</i> (1986)	12 th
LTJG Harold Stewart	13th
Brett Gray (Dal R'El, <i>Prodigy</i>)	13 th
<i>Huygens</i> Module (Part of <i>Cassini-Huygens</i> Probe) Lands on Titan (2005)	14 th
<i>Star Trek: Voyager</i> Premier (1995)	16 th
Ilan Ramon, First Israeli Astronaut, Launches on Space Shuttle <i>Columbia</i> (2003)	16 th
Isa Briones (Dahj & Soji Asha, Sutra, Kore Soong, <i>Picard</i>)	17 th
Ro Laren is Born (2340)	17 th
Maulik Pancholy (Dr. Nambue, <i>Discovery</i>)	18 th
DeForest Kelley (Dr. Leonard "Bones" McCoy, <i>The Original Series, TNG</i>)	20 th
CAPT Mike Watkins	22nd
<i>Star Trek: Picard</i> Premier (2020)	23 rd
NASA Rover <i>Opportunity</i> (MER-B) Lands on Mars (2004)	25 th
James Cromwell (Zefram Cochrane, <i>Star Trek: First Contact</i>)	27 th
<i>Apollo 1</i> Crew Dies in Cabin Fire During Launch Rehearsal (1967)	27 th
Gillian Vigman (Dr. T'Ana, <i>Lower Decks</i>)	28 th
Space Shuttle <i>Challenger</i> Disaster, Entire Crew Lost (1986)	28 th

Annie Wersching Dies at 45 (Liana, *Enterprise*; Borg Queen, *Picard*)
NASA Lunar Probe *Ranger 6* Launches (1964)
Explorer 1 is First Successfully Launched US Satellite (1958)
Ham (Chimpanzee) Launches into Space (1961)
Apollo 14 Launched (1971)

29th
30th
31st
31st
31st



AQUARIUS - KAZON



*Fight for Something Bigger
than Themselves, Stubborn,
Love Dangerous Adventures,
Hate Boredom*

Jan 21 – Feb 19

PISCES - BETAZOID



*Empathic and
Selflessly Helpful,
Sometimes Too Trusting*

Feb 20 – Mar 20

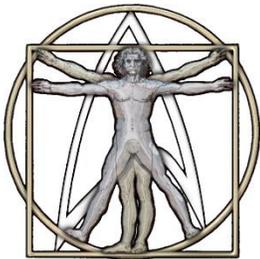
**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT AND
MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE AT**

Red Bowl

**ON MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY AT 6:30 PM
COME FOR THE FOOD & FRIENDSHIP!!**

NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

January	Texas Roadhouse	
February	Red Bowl	
March	Olive Garden *Uniform Night*	
April	Old Chicago	
May	DeOrios	
June	Five Guys	
July	Fuji	Alternates:
August	Raising Cane	Country's BBQ
September	Red Robin	Chef Lee's
October	Cheddar's	El Carizo
November	Firehouse Subs	
December	Black Cow	



MEMBERSHIPS



Many of you do not know when your membership in Starfleet is due for renewal. So to help you remember, the following lists your **family** expiration dates.

Please note that if the date is highlighted in **RED**, your membership has expired and you need to renew as soon as possible.

If highlighted in **BOLD** your membership is nearing its expiration, so please renew soon.

Name	Starfleet	Name	Starfleet
Sandra Adams	Nov '26	Leiko Koone	Apr '26
Wilbert Adams	Nov '26	Charles Koone	Apr '26
Robert Anthony	—	Sue Koone	Apr '26
Michael Allen	Expired	Everett Leonard	Feb '26
Richard Biniasz	Expired	Gregory Newer	Feb '26
Steve Brown	—	Joe Perry	Nov '25
Steve Cushing	Expired	Karen Pynenburg	Mar '26
Randy Dunn	Expired	John B Morell	Sep '28
Freddy Heller	LTM	Harold Stewart	Mar '26
Todd Kes	Nov '26	Mike Watkins	Apr '27
Jeff Kirkland	Nov '26	Paula Lee	Mar '26

DAVINCI T-SHIRTS

DaVinci t-shirts are still available! The cost is very reasonable: YM to L (\$11); XL (\$12), 2X (\$13), 3X (\$14), and 4X (\$15). Please contact Joe if you'd like to purchase a shirt.

Here is what the shirts 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	0	Small	1	Small	1
XL	3	Medium	2	Medium	4
2X	2	Large	0	Large	1
4X	1	2X	0	XL/2X	0/1

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Opelika, AL 36801

Cell # 706-326-2409
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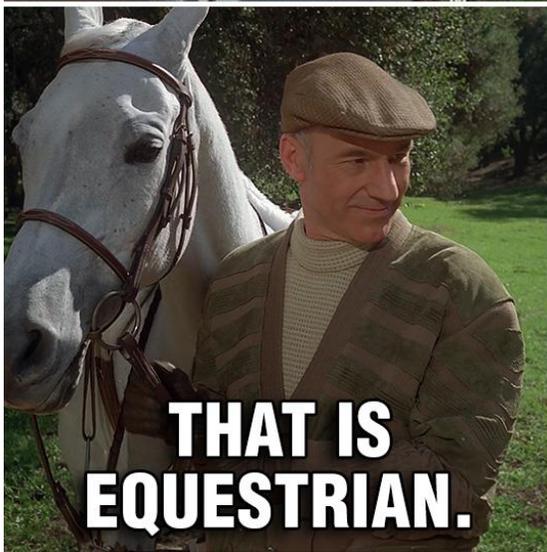
Get 10% Off when you spend \$5 or more.
Use Code DAVINCI10



Gryphic Designs

Spend \$5 Get 10% Off with code: DAVINCI10

ONE MORE THING THEN DISMISSED



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Red Bowl
ON MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY AT 6:30 PM
COME FOR THE FOOD & FRIENDSHIP!!