



## Launch trip

An important reminder to those going on the Launch Trip on August 6-10: **the initial deposit of \$60 is due Friday, March 21.** That date is the regularly scheduled ship meeting for this month.

## Continuum T-Shirts

*Continuum* T-shirts have been ordered and should be ready by Friday, March 7. If they are, those going to the Region 2 Summit in Montgomery will get theirs first when I arrive there on Saturday, March 8. For those that can't make the Summit, we'll make other arrangements to get those who ordered their shirts to them as soon as possible.

We have already sold 14 shirts to our members out of an order of 24. (Thanks to everyone who pre-paid!) The *Continuum* fronted the money for the additional 10, and we really need to sell those to build our ship funds back up, as well as continuing with our plans for additional fundraisers.

If you have not already bought a shirt, please do if you can. They are still \$15 each, and having one provides a great opportunity to let the public know we exist without having to say a word. Furthermore, it shows we are proud of our chapter and reminds us that we're a part of good friends.

Sizes available of those not sold yet are M (x3), L (x3), XL (x2), and 2XL (x2). We will be bringing

them to future meetings to sell them there. It's first come, first served, but if you're interested in buying one, let me know and we can make some arrangements before the next meeting.

## Marshmallow guns

As a potential fundraiser, our Captain has the supplies and designs to make Marshmallow guns to be sold at the flea market. We will be have a workshop and handing out these supplies at the March general meeting.

## Ship meeting programs

In January, we decided on letting each department organize a program for our general meetings. The schedule for the next few months is:

March – Marines  
April – Sciences  
May – Medical  
June – Ops  
July – Security  
August – Command Department

The particular department for each month chooses what we do after we finish with the business. This could be playing a game, watching a short video, having a educational presentation, or whatever the department decides.

Departments can feel free to trade months if they like. If we get a Chief Engineer, we'll have Engineering do August before the Command Department (CO, XO,

Second Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Counselor) is up again.

### Camping trip

At the next Command Staff meeting, we will need to decide about our camping trip. We originally planned it for April 4-6, but we may wish to postpone it to give us a little bit more preparation time.

### Recruiting table

Members have been coming up with various ideas for designs for a recruiting table. The idea is to have a plan and design in place so that when we are given a table at a convention, movie theater, etc., we can make it appealing to potential members.

So far, the items we have decided for the table include:

- A tablecloth, preferably a dark enough blue to cover the entire table,
- *Continuum* and STARFLEET flyers,
- Pencils and pens. Not only for someone to write with but for prospects to take home with them, having the "USS CONTINUUM" and our website URL printed on them,
- Beads with disks that have the *USS Continuum* logo on them for giveaways.
- Forms to take down prospect members contact information.
- Surveys to determine how interested potential members

are in *Star Trek* and science fiction in general.

- Clipboards to write on.
- A photo album of *Continuum* activities.
- Display boards of the *Continuum*. (These are listed as optional because they will have to go on the side of the table so people can see them where they won't block *Continuum* members or anything on the table. They will be used only if we have room).
- Strings and/or a pole and base to display the *Continuum* banner and STARFLEET flag.

### Star Trek movie news

For those of you who have not already heard: the opening of the next *Star Trek*, originally scheduled for December 25, has moved back to May 9, 2009. The decision from Paramount came because the powers-that-be felt that this was a summer blockbuster film, not because of the recently-ended-but-incredibly-long Writer's Strike or any production delays.

### Marine Matt's Movie Review: *Cloverfield* by Matt Fossa

Fasten your seatbelt and keep your Dramamine handy 'cause the newest and most innovative monster movie is here! Paramount and Bad Robot's *Cloverfield*, produced by J.J. Abrams (director of the upcoming *Star Trek* prequel), and directed by

Matt Reeves, is a new take on the classic “Big scary monster destroys Metropolis” story.

Ever since *Godzilla*, *King Kong*, and their many sequels and copycats have saturated the market with their incredibly basic stories, one can expect that the overall plot is not the main selling point of this movie. What makes *Cloverfield* so interesting is everything else including the acting and the cinematography. This new film could be considered the next logical step forward from the *Blair Witch Project*. Like *Blair Witch*, *Cloverfield* is meant to look like a home movie made by amateurs. In a world where anyone with a digital video camera could potentially become a star over the internet, this film can easily appear quite believable simply through its amateurish appearance. Some people liken it to the same sort of videos you could find on YouTube.

Leaving aside the simplistic camera work, the movie also could be seen as a very accurate portrayal of how a group of Joe-average twenty-somethings might react to the arrival of the unimaginable. While some may criticize the behavior of the four main characters, Rob, Hud, Marlana, and Lily, it seemed to this reviewer, that all four were acting very much like any of us might had we seen something like the severed head of the Statue of Liberty crashing into our street! (Which would REALLY be strange, as we’re in Florida, but I digress). What follows is an attempt at depicting how these four very human individuals would act in a crisis of epic proportions where all control over the situation appears lost.

There is no room to stop and take a breath in the action. Events unfold very rapidly and, thanks to the amateur video-style cinematography, you are swept up and carried along as though you were really there. Be prepared to hear the phrase “Oh my God” uttered at least a zillion times and be ready for very awkward camera angles and fast pans.

Overall, I thought it was an action-packed thriller that kept me right on the edge of my seat... when I was able to watch it. As I said earlier, a good dose of Dramamine might be necessary before sitting down in the theater for this one. Otherwise, your stomach might be doing somersaults regardless of the fact that you’re not actually moving. In fact, if you’re a big fan of wild amusement park rides, this film is right up your alley! Meanwhile, those of us with more sensitive guts might need to sit this one out, which really is a shame as Abrams and Reeves really had some cutting-edge ideas. Maybe they’d consider a sequel shot like *Saving Private Ryan* in which more traditional slower-moving shots are interspersed with hand-held camera sequences.

