

THE RUDDER

The Newsletter of the USS Continuum

MAY 2008



From the Editor

For those of you who missed last weekend's "The Wrath of Con" in Panama City:

KICK YOURSELF!!!!
Several times, in fact!!
The Convention was THAT GOOD!!!!

It can be tricky for the promoters when they're doing a con in its first year. Fans wonder if it's really worth the time and effort to attend. Will it be fun? It's especially hard when the economy's not doing that great.

However, for the prices they had for the WoC, it was a steal. I bought an entire weekend pass, but was only able to attend Saturday evening and Sunday. Even by the time I got there, the convention was already half over. And I consider myself getting a steal.

The rarest thing I heard the entire time from attendees was complaints. Granted, there were a few *minor* things. But that was it.

And speaking of which, there are plans for a "Wrath of Con 2009" – May 29-31. So mark your calendars. Because, let me tell you, those that went this year have **EVERY INTENTION** of going back.

What I really loved about this con:

1) The Guests. I saw several of the guests both at their tables in the lobby and mingling with the crowd on both Saturday and Sunday. They talked with the fans and partied with them. It wasn't like in other conventions where they were mostly removed from the audience, except for a few distinct times. They were chosen by the WoC because they were known to enjoy the fans' company, and that's exactly what they proved at this convention.

2) The Tables. At the main entrance, immediately to the right was.... Guess who? The **U.S.S. Continuum!** Directly to the right of us was Richard Hatch's table. And just beyond that was Gigi Edgley's and Virginia Hey's. Basically, we were positioned right smack in the middle of it. Attendees saw our table before they saw Registration.

I had two goals for this recruiting table. The first was to recruit for our local chapter, which I'm not sure how well we did with that because this was a new convention, outside of our immediate area. I'm not even sure how many Escambia and Santa Rosa county residents attended.

However, my second goal was to spark some interest in Panama City residents to possibly get a STARFLEET chapter started there. **We did accomplish that goal!** We have some contact information of some people, and we will be following-up with them in the next couple of weeks.

Not bad for a table we didn't even have to pay for.

3) The Activities. Even when you were doing "nothing," you were still doing "something." ☺ As with most conventions, there were "Questions and Answers" with the guests, autographs, and a dealers' room. There was also a film festival, about 50+ computers set up for electronic gaming, tabletop gaming, panels (led by our guests of honor, not convention staffers), parties in the evenings, and guests of honor and fellow fans hanging out. It was impossible to not be having fun!

4) The Hotel. Richard, DJ, and I cheated this last weekend. Instead of staying at the Marriott, we went to the Valu-Lodge, where it was about ½ the price a night for the rooms.

That might be the last I make that mistake.

Don't get me wrong! The Valu-Lodge was great! Comfortable

beds; no problems; good price; good staff; about 15 minutes away from the convention without a lot of traffic, coming or going.

However, the Marriott Bay Resort – that was a "pick up your chin; you're dragging it on the floor"-type hotel. A gorgeous campus! A great and friendly staff that bent over backwards for this convention and its guests, that seemed very enthused we were there! \$130 a night was a steal for that as well.

5) The Con Staff. Besides making a lot of right decisions in con planning, in my personal experience with Rick Albritton and his staff, they were all very courteous and helpful to the attendees throughout the weekend.

All-in-all, I wouldn't be surprised if the Wrath of Con doubled or tripled its attendance next year. In fact, I *would* be a little surprised if it *didn't* with all the positive comments I heard. I know I'm going to making my reservations as soon as I can, as soon as they become available.

Pictures and videos of the convention will be coming up shortly at www.wrathofcon.org. Nancy also took a few pictures, and we will have those posted, as well, so that several of you guys can see what a great time you missed!

Many thanks to DJ Allen, Nancy Keith, Richard Mills, Peggy Moshell, and Karl Ruhl for coming to the con and working the recruiting table.

Jay Gallops

Wrath of Con – Nancy's twist

I guess my one main complaint about the con was not being able to get your registration done after six o'clock p.m. any night. My second main complaint was not being able to be in more than one place at one time. Where is a Cylon Resurrection Ship when you want one to pick up a spare body?

There was a pool party Friday night at 8 p.m. Peggy and I never figured out where exactly it was or who was at it. I did see Jerry Doyle at the bar near a pool throwing back drinks with fans that were gathered near. The crowds around the pool we passed and the groups outside the one restaurant looked like the couples retreat bunch. We were hungry, so we walked out to the two football fields-long pier to the Limes restaurant. There was a cool bay breeze blowing as we dined on the open deck. We hitched a ride back to the lobby area on a shuttle.

The one pool showed movies on a good size screen Friday night and Saturday night. *Happy Feet* was the first night's movie and *Ratatouille* was the second night's show. There was a message button flashing on our rooms phone Saturday morning and when I listened to it was an invite to the movie.

When I came out of the registration lobby, Richard laughingly asked if I had been given a map to find our way to the hotel room. That was exactly what it was. Once you got your car parked you could call for a shuttle to get you back and forth. We were in the Doral Building and I later found out that Richard Hatch

and his wife stayed there also. I saw him come from our walkway and get into their car that I was about two foot from at the time. My timing made me feel like I was stalking them. I just waved, said "Hello!", cleared their car and made my way to my car.

Saturday was a blur. One goal was to buy a book from a featured author named Travis Taylor. I could not get the book at our local bookstores and had resolved to buy it at the Con even if it was more expensive. He did not bring a lot of the books to sell. After one of his workshops he told me that if I had the right answer to a question after his next workshop, I might score a book. Kaydmaw Fass and I sat in the front of the group. When the workshop was over, he asked the challenging question. Who wants a book? First come available! He then randomly handed the very book I had wanted to me and the book prior to it to Kaydmaw.

While gracing the catwalk with my *Battlestar Galactica* hangout costume, I was totally flustered by the heckled outburst of Richard Hatch, "Take it off, take it all off." I teasingly motioned like I was pulling my top off and then shrugged, and exited the stage. Rodney Rani came in third place with his Klingon outfit. There was a film fest and screening that ran movies from noon-ish to 2 a.m. Chase Masterson produced and starred as the lounge singer in the overall wining film *Yesterday was a Lie*.

Sundays Q@A with Gigi and Virginia had a cosy group of around eight chatting. It was very close up and personal. Gigi told of managing

to lose one of a pair of fairy boots that had been custom made for her *Farscape* character while moving from place to place. Virginia told of the time she was trying to share her serenity gaining techniques. She had moved into gated community and gave the gate guard a pamphlet offering get-togethers for a cost to share her methods of reeling in your aura and gaining serenity. She said you would have thought she was teaching how to cast spells or that they would be dancing naked like nymphs.

After church services on Sunday morning, I hopped on a twenty minute complimentary boat ride to shell Island. Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville and various Country songs filled the background as the salty air tossed our hair and cooled our cheeks. If you bought bottled drinks (water was two bucks a piece), they loaned you a small cooler filled with ice to keep them cool as you lingered on the island till your return trip. When the captain eyed dolphin he would slow to idle and charm them to come closer to the boat.

I cornered Jerry Doyle and Richard Hatch as the time was passing mid-Sunday and told Jerry he looked younger and more fit than his Garibaldi character. Richard offered his hand to me to shake and stated 'You told him just what he wanted to hear.' Many had found him a drunken lush or brasher. This had to be a first. Then Jerry put his arm around my waist, pulled me closer and somewhat loudly whispered in my ear, "So can we go up to the room now and have sex?" I could only retort, "Maybe next year." I'm

sure next times Con will have a larger crowd and we won't be able to have the closeness we had this year with the featured guest!

Nancy Keith

Another Wrath of Con report

Jay called me the other night and asked me to write a little something about my experiences at WoC, so here goes dudes and dudettes.

First let me say there was some lack of communication (but hey this was Brightstar's first con that I know of). Peggy, Nancy, and I carpoled down to Panama City Beach to find the registration for the con was closing at 6 p.m. I got my badge just in time; however Peggy and Nancy had to wait until Saturday morning to get their badges. Also, when we arrived DJ had informed us that someone at the con, perhaps one of the promoters or volunteers that we were supposed to be there at 9 a.m. that morning (the 30th). Oh well, we'll know next time.

On Saturday, I went to a panel entitled Ghost Hunting 101 with The Big Bend Ghost Trackers (from Tallahassee) and Brian Harnois (Ghost Hunters International). The program got started late, hence the program ran over. That's the only panel I went to, so I'm guessing a lot of the other panels got started late and ran over their scheduled times. Participated in a **HorrorClick** tournament. I won the tourney prize, however it was just me and one other that played. Even if I wouldn't have won, I wish more would have signed up and

participated. Played a little bit of M:TG and a preview of D&D 4th edition. Let me tell you, most of the gamers in the game room were locals and were some of the nicest guys you could or would want to meet.

On Sunday, Jay and I talked to a RPG designer. Apparently Richard Hatch, one of the nicest guys you could meet, has a company where they want to publish a brand new game system titled ***The Great War of Magellan***. Gigi Edgely (Farscape) was there and one of the characters is based on her, sooo I went to her table and got her autograph. And one of the characters is based on Richard, so I got his autograph. I met Chase Materson (*DS9, Of Gods and Men*) and got her autograph. Let me tell you both Chase and Gigi were both hotties. Farragut Films was there and promoting their fan made film *Starship Farragut*, and actually the film isn't half bad. Not what you think of when you think "fan made" film, very professionally done. Of course, I got The Big Bend Ghost Trackers to all sign a group photo. As a side note, Scott from the group said they were thinking about coming to Pensacola sometime in the future. Of course, I got Brian Harnois autograph. There was a dealer in the dealer's room who has an employee, Mike Smith, who likes to draw. Not bad artwork-manga style-almost bordering hentai, I was able to snag three photos of his artwork for free and got his autograph.

At the end of the day Sunday, Peggy, Nancy, and myself started back home looking forward to next year's con, which they announce

which be May 29-31, 2009. We need to just remember to be there around 9 a.m. In conclusion, the Wrath of Con was one EXCELLENT con.

Richard Mills

Camping trip

As mentioned last month, the camping trip has been scheduled for September 12-14 at the Florida Caverns State Park in Marianna, FL.

Costs for the campsites will be \$17 per day plus tax, and are due by **Friday, June 20** (the same night as the June ship meeting). We can put up to two tents on each site.

Cost for food is \$20 per person for the weekend due by **August 15** (the August ship meeting).

Cave Tour Fees are \$8 per person, age 13 and up, and are due at the trip.

Visit www.floridastateparks.org/floridacaverns/default.cfm or call (850) 482-9598 for more information about the park.

Continuum T-shirts

Remaining sizes available are two Mediums, two Larges, and one XLs. The cost for each shirt is \$15.

And, as always, we ask for each member that owns a shirt to wear them at all functions where we interact with the public, including our Command Staff and general meetings.