

THE RUDDER

The Newsletter of the USS Continuum

JUNE-JULY
2009



THE “NEVER LOCKED” LOCK-IN

From 7 p.m., Friday, July 31 to 7 a.m., Saturday, August 1, we will have our first lock-in since February 2008. (Yes, it has been *that* long!). And this time we have more members and more activities than we have had ever before!

For those of you unfamiliar with our lock-ins: they’re not “lock-ins” in the true sense of the word. Meaning, nobody’s locked in. People can come later and leave early if they have to. Throughout the night, we play games, watch DVDs, eat food, and enjoy each other’s company.

We only play (DVDs & games) and eat what people personally bring! Games already on the list include the *Star Trek* Customizable Card Game, *Star Trek* Scene It!, *Battlestar Galactica* Board Game, 3D Chess, and RPGs – all of which will be taught for those who don’t know how to play.

Crewmembers will go through our pictures for the *Continuum* history books, and for this lock-in, we will have STARFLEET Academy for those wishing to take some Fully Automated Courses. (As with all SFA courses, you must be a member of STARFLEET to take them. FACs are designed to be handled in one sitting).

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear crew,

For the last several years, I have had a variety of duties on the *Continuum*. Since September 2007, I have served as Editor of the *Rudder*, but, unfortunately, as it sometimes happens with people, I feel I have not been able to keep up with the workload. And so, I am stepping down as *Rudder* editor. Chris Hammonds will be taking over starting with the next issue. To him I offer the best of luck and my thanks for always willing to help out when it is needed.

Jay Gallops

CONTINUUM DOCUMENTS

The Continuum Database is now online in the Files section of our Yahoo Groups page. This pdf file contains the contact information of all our current members. Members who are unable to download the file should contact Jay Gallops at blsisko@yahoo.com to request an email attachment or hard copy. This database will be undated every few months to reflect any changes in the membership.

We will be reviewing the Operations Manual within the coming weeks for possible revisions. All members are encouraged to review our current documents (the Constitution, Bylaws, and Promotion Point system – available at the Yahoo Group Files section or at the Ship Log of our website).

The Senior Command Staff has named Sandy Dolan to head up the

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**STAR TREK COMES TO
DVD & BLUE RAY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

**For more information, check out:
[http://www.startrekmovie.com/c
omiccon/](http://www.startrekmovie.com/comiccon/)**

Ops Manual committee and will be announcing the dates, times, and places for committee meetings. Any member wishing to add his or her input is welcome to attend or email Sandy at gpsygirl@bellsouth.net with the recommend changes.

All changes approved by the committee will be brought to the *Continuum-STARFLEET* membership before taking effect. A two-thirds vote is required.

THE MONTHS AHEAD (at a glance)

July

31 (Fri) Lock-In, PJC, 7 p.m.

August

7 (Fri) Command Staff Meeting, Books-A-Million, 7 p.m.

7-10 (Fri-Mon) STARFLEET International Conference, Greensboro, NC

21 (Fri) Ship meeting, PJC, 7 p.m.

22 (Sat) Bowling, Avalon Bowling Center, 6 p.m.

29 (Sat) UFO Trolley Tour, Pensacola Bay Area & Convention Bureau (1401 Gregory St), 8-10 p.m.

September

4 (Fri) Command Staff Meeting, Books-A-Million, 7 p.m.

Money for the camping trip due

18-20 (Fri-Sun) Camping Trip, Hurricane Lake
(No Ship meeting)

**CAREFUL:
TRY NOT TO GET
ABDUCTED
ON YOUR WAY
TO THE UFO
TROLLEY TOUR**



Join us on Saturday, August 29 from 8-10 p.m. for the UFO Trolley Tour presented by the Five Flags Trolley Company (1401 East Gregory Street in Pensacola) to see why Gulf Breeze is the UFO capital of the world.

Our journey will take us to the home of Ed Walters, to Shoreline Park, and to the Flying Saucer House.

Cost is \$20. For more information about the tour and to purchase tickets, go to http://fiveflagstrolley.com/Five_Flags_Trolley_to_Outer_Space.html.



**TO BOLDLY GO...
CAMPING!**

It's time for the *Continuum's* annual camping trip!

On Friday, September 18, we'll head out to Hurricane Lake (11650 Munson Hwy in Milton) and do some primitive camping for the entire weekend.

Members can show up any time. However, if you plan to arrive after dark, please contact Bruce at (850) 748-0747 as the road leading to the campsite is somewhat poorly lit and marked.

Cost is \$20 and covers the food for all three days. (Tent space has already been covered). Money is due by the Command Staff meeting on September 4.

For a list of what to bring, check out http://www.region2.org/uscontinuum/camping_trip.html. Wayne Davis is preparing a medical form that we ask each camper to fill out.

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https://twitter.com/uss_continuum

LUNCH AT THE CACTUS FLOWER

June 20, 2009

The *Continuum* had the pleasure of being guests at the Cactus Flower in Pensacola on June 20.

Owner Lee Kafesity saw the new *Star Trek* movie at the Rave on Bayou Blvd in Pensacola on opening weekend. Being *Star Trek* fan herself, she stopped at our display where we were promoting the movie and our group. She was so excited about the film and seeing us there she invited us all to dine on the house at the Cactus Flower. So a bunch of us showed up to take her up on her offer, and to me it was one

of the best authentic Mexican restaurants in the area and well worth trying again. The portions were generous, the atmosphere was warm and inviting, the service was good and the food was great! Most importantly, I was among good friends. All in all, it was a very pleasant dining experience.

Many thanks to Lee and her staff for the wonderful time and the wonderful meal.

Sharon Bogart



The gang at the Cactus Flower (3425 N 12th Ave, Pensacola)! From forefront, clockwise: Tony Miller, Chris Mathews, Nancy Keith, Sharon Bogart, Christina Boos, Chris Hammonds, Billy Lyons, Ritchard Lee DeChaine, Seth Williams, Connie Fleming (hidden behind Christine's head), Jay Gallops, David Jolly, and Christine Miller.

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CLEAN-UP

June 27, 2009

Community service is the heart of STARFLEET, so the U.S.S.

Continuum did their part in helping the Ronald McDonald House by stuffing goody bags with assorted items to be given out at the Ronald McDonald 5K Run, Walk and Wheelchair Race to be held on July 4.

Upon our arrival at Ronald McDonald House shortly before 2:00 p.m., Chris and I met up with fellow *Continuum* crewmembers Jay Gallops, Billy Lyons, Tony and Christine Miller and Connie Fleming. Nancy Keith had arrived early and was already hard at work inside cleaning. We were soon followed one of our visitors, Shawn O'Leary.

We set up a small assembly line and had over 500 goody bags prepared in relative short order. One of our crewmembers – I won't mention names – was an *absolute* assembly line maniac, as she put together several hundred bags. This task requires standing for long periods of time, but when you work with good friends, it goes smoothly and quickly and everyone had fun. There were many happy faces and a general good feeling among everyone, once the job was completed. All donations will benefit families who need to be close to their children while they are staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

Sharon Bogart



From left to right, Tony Miller, Connie Fleming, Sharon Bogart, Chris Hammonds; back row: Jay Gallops, Christine Miller, Ronald, Billy Lyons, Shawn O'Leary.

FINISHING THE CENTER SEAT

The Captain's Chair was a great display for the Movie Premiere and the Wrath of Con. However, we still need to add the control panels, as well as reinforce the chair to make it more stable.

We're hoping to have this completed by the *Star Trek* DVD release, so we can possibly do another recruiting drive.

Bruce will be setting up workshop dates. Get with him if you're interested in helping out at 626-3669 or bdtrek@bellsouth.net.



REVIEWS BY CHRIS HAMMONDS:

The following articles originally appeared at Axiom's Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy (<http://www.axiomsedge-scifi.com/>).

COMICS REVIEW: WHAT IF? CLASSIC VOL. ONE

Rating: 5 Stars

Anyone reading Marvel in the '70s should remember this title. DC Comics had a long tradition of doing what they called "Imaginary Stories" in which they could show things that could never happen within the regular run of any character at the time. The death of Superman, Superman and Lois Lane marrying, Superman splitting into Superman-Red and Superman-Blue were just a few of the completely outrageous (for the time, anyway) things they depicted in these stories they always prefaced by saying they may or may not ever happen. The heyday of this type of story was in the '60s, and whereas DC's characters had been around for awhile and appeared to



need a little "break from reality." Marvel's mainstays were new and still fresh, their mythology still being set. By the '70s, though, Marvel had more writers with more ideas and more thoughts about what had gone before, not to mention fans who, as typical sci-fi geeks, were always asking, "Why did this happen instead of that?" or "What if this other thing happened rather than that?" So Marvel did what the House of Ideas did best at the time: Took DC's

template and made it better. Instead of “Imaginary Stories” Marvel had The Watcher invite readers to look in on alternate realities, other dimensional planes in which a slight change, in decision or in circumstance, could lead to radically different outcome. This trade paperback is a collection of the first six issues of this title.

The Stories: “What if Spiderman had joined the Fantastic Four?” in which Reed Richards changes his answer to Spidey from *Amazing Spiderman* #1, and then we follow the FF with their new member as their adventures are slightly different, until the Big Difference in the ending. Fantastic first issue (no pun intended)! “What if the Hulk had always had Bruce Banner’s Brain?” is an excellent story following its central premise very logically until badly marred by a slipshod ending. “What if the Avengers had Never Been?” is a bit of a misnomer in that we are shown a reality in which the original Avengers break up at the end of what was their second ish, only to have Iron Man do something totally in character that would give that world an Avengers anyway. The sixth story, “What if the Fantastic Four had Different Super Powers?” is also a very good, very logical follow-through on the career of the FF after each of them gain other, different powers for very logical reasons.

I skipped the fourth and fifth stories for a very good reason: they’re my favorites and I wanted to talk about them a little more. The



fourth story in the series, “What if the Invaders had Stayed Together after WWII?” has the distinction of being the first story in this series which could have occurred in the Marvel Universe itself rather than an alternate reality (and it would later be determined that it had in fact been set in the MU). The Invaders was a great super-team consisting of Captain America & Bucky, Namor, Human Torch & Toro, with other hangers-on like Spitfire and Union Jack from time to time. They had a great book with great stories that I loved as a kid (they even fought the greatest character in the Universe, Thor, in a two-issue set). This story is exactly what it sounds like. At the end of the war, after Cap and Bucky

had been lost and presumed killed in the explosion of the Nazi drone launched by Baron Zemo, President Truman decided, even as the war was winding down, that Cap and the Invaders should go on. He has the Whizzer and Miss America join them and they take the name “The All-Winners Squad.” This story is about their exploits over the next year or so until a fateful vacation in '46 leads to triumph and tragedy. My second favorite story of the set.

So what's my favorite? The other side of the coin: “What if Captain America and Bucky had Both Survived WWII?” In this story, as Cap and Bucky speed along beside the drone plane, their motorcycle moves slightly faster, allowing Cap to reach the plane and deactivate the bomb. This allows them both to survive (this was written long before Marvel lost their senses completely and allowed the recent insipid “Bucky was a Hit Man for the KGB” storyline to be written) and continue to fight for Truth, Justice, and the

American Way (I know that's Superman's but how can it not fit Captain America?). They continue into the '60s until Buck is no longer able to live in Cap's shadow and quits the costume before becoming the Director of S.H.I.E.L.D. (because in this reality Nick Fury was killed in Korea). Later, Steve Rogers would give up the costume and allow Buck to take it, with Rogers becoming the Director. This is just a great story, one that I read over and over again when I bought the issue originally and still love today.

Not sure how far they've gone in this series — I know there's a second volume — but if they follow the pattern set by this one of each subsequent volume reprinting the next six issues in the series, I can say without doubt that this will be my favorite of the series. There were other great stories in the first series run of 47 issues, but no other run of six in the series could match this one for sustained excellence.

HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE A REVIEW FOR NON-GEEKS OF THE CHARACTER



Rating: 3 Stars out of 5

I have never read a single *Harry Potter* book, nor had I seen a *Harry Potter* film before this weekend. And I knew surprisingly little about a character, which has seemingly taken the world by storm over the past few years once I sat down and thought about it. I knew he was a kid who had magic powers and there

HISTORY IS DEAD: A ZOMBIE ANTHOLOGY EDITED BY KIM PAFFENROTH

Rating: 4.5 stars

I ran across this by accident a few months ago and finally got around to it in the last couple weeks. One thing I like about anthologies like this for novels is that when I'm busy doing all the various things I have to do to keep a roof over my head and food on the table, short stories offer a smaller, more easily digested taste of the fantastic than a novel would. I love novels, too, don't get me wrong, but sometimes I just can't spend the time investing in a 400-page story (he says, knowing he's about to start on the *Star Trek* novelization). That, and an anthology of shorts written by many different authors offers a variance in style and story idea so that there is almost always something I'll like about the book. And, of course, an anthology like this one is sure to please. It has zombies and history, zombies in history. Zombies making history.

While shorter, with fewer stories than, say, *The Living Dead* — this is 20 stories to TLD's 34 — this is also an assemblage of new stories that follow the walking dead all through the ages, beginning in prehistory and taking us up to the time of Thomas Edison. And now I await the next volume; there has to be more recent zombie activity (just ask Max Brooks) for us to read about. Some of my favorites from this volume:

was a whole mythos built around a school for magic-users, a school that was set up on a far-away mountaintop and filled with secrets and hidden histories as all such mystic places seem to be. I figured there was something special about the young Mr. Potter, something that made him stand out from his classmates — after all, there's a reason Buffy the Vampire Slayer wasn't called "Cordelia the Homecoming Queen." Oh, and I knew that Harry Potter wore glasses. That's pretty much it.

But I also knew that the character, in books and film, made a ton of money for J. K. Rowling, the series creator and writer, which is fine because she's earned every penny of that money. I don't know much about her personally, but the few times I've heard or read anything about her she always seems like a really nice lady. Just to show how little attention I've paid to such things, I wouldn't know her if I ran into her somewhere; I'm not sure I've ever seen a picture of her. And that's an odd thing, isn't it? How many times do you think I've mentioned Harlan Ellison, one of the most celebrated writers in America, a man who has won a slew of awards from short story to script-writing, to someone who had never heard of him? Same way here with Rowling. As popular as her work has been, as ubiquitous as one would think her characters and name are, I know next to nothing about her, and if they hadn't made her books into films I might never have known anything about her at all. And I still haven't seen the first five films they've made from her books.

“The Reluctant Prometheus”

by David Dunwoody: A tale of homo ergaster, a subspecies of homo erectus, that died out over a million years ago under mysterious circumstances. The hunt had gone well that day, a great mammoth felled with almost no resistance and everyone in the clan ate well that night except for Black Shoulder, a strong man who had been struck by a “dagger of light” from the sky, and Rock Biter, a young’un whose name came from his penchant for gnawing rocks while teething. Everyone else feasted, fell into a deep sleep, and awoke acting very strangely—and very hungry.

“The Barrow Maid”

by Christine Morgan: “The saga of Sveinthor the Unkillable and the beautiful Hildirid, his beloved barrow maid.” This is a story of Viking draugr avenging their betrayal in a horrific way. It may have been my favorite story of the volume. A great warrior and many of his brethren are slain through subterfuge in their own camp, then buried with their property and women, anything they may need in the next world. Unfortunately for their betrayers, however, they’re not quite finished with this one.

“Theatre is Dead” by Raoul Wainscoting: Lieutenant Richard Litchfield of Her Majesty’s Royal Navy is part of a force that repels a zombie attack (they call them “postvitals”) and is then posted to advise on a play written by one of

So there’s the windup, and here’s the pitch: *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* is a very well-made, fun film filled with magical battles against a seminal darkness and teenage girl/boy problems. It is a film that shows you it has a past without burying the new viewer in that past. The only real problem I had with the picture at all was — and this isn’t much of a spoiler, even for the non-Potter fan like me — that Harry finds a potion book (think: Chemistry class, with frog’s warts and baby’s breath as ingredients) that had belonged to someone called “The Half-Blood Prince”, and later it is decided that he needs to get rid of it, but they never really make it clear why. The Potter-ites sitting around me explained it, but that was only because they knew why — even the ones who hadn’t read the books seemed to get it. That was really my only problem at all with the picture, other than the obvious things of not knowing who certain characters were and their relationships. But, like I said, the filmmakers did a good job of not leaving me completely lost.

Sharon and Billy went with me to this picture and they had both seen the other films. Sharon wasn’t thrilled with this one from the beginning, but she got more into it as it went along; Billy thought it was



the survivors about it. Litchfield is there to make sure the postvitals and, more importantly, the methods of postvital destruction are accurate so the citizenry of London can be warned in case the zombie plague ever reaches the capital. Little does anyone connected with it know this play is going to be much more realistic than anyone would have thought. A very funny story.

“A Cure for All Ills” by Linda L. Donahue: A decidedly different story in which the dead rise and do pretty much what they’ve always done in life. But as time goes by — well, let’s just say that zombies will be zombies. This is the tale of a dead doctor trying to understand and treat what is happening, and is told entirely through his diary.

“Society and Sickness” by Leila Eadie: A serious story that’s actually very funny, if only because we all know people who would just be too stodgy to allow the end of the world to happen to them. Miss Katherine Alders has to survive the rising of the dead long enough to find a husband so her mother and father can hold their heads up again. Another top, top favorite.

“Junebug” by Rebecca Brock: The story that shows that even hillbillies living way yonder up in the hills can be plagued by the hungry dead.

excellent from the beginning on. Both of them told me this was a darker picture than the previous films. For myself, I can only say that it made me want to see the earlier films, and perhaps even read the books. It has a very *Buffy* meets *Lord of the Rings* sensibility to me — which is not to say it rips off either of those mythos — that makes me want to know more. Which is why, as usual, I haven’t said much about the plot here. This is a film you really should see. (I have been told since watching it that it is radically different from the novel of the same name but I can neither confirm nor deny that assertion.) Enjoy it, and then, if you haven’t, go see the first five films like I’m going to.

And to celebrate (sort of) the 30th Anniversary, a look back...

STAR TREK: THE MOTION PICTURE (1979)

Rating: 2 Stars

In 1968, NBC made the decision to cancel *Star Trek* after its second season. The network very nearly cancelled it after the first but Lucille Ball, head of the Desilu studios where the show was made (and the single funniest woman to ever appear on American television), used her influence to stay that execution. Toward the end of the second season, with cancellation again imminent, a fan letter writing campaign was launched and spearheaded by the great sci-fi fan Bjo Trimble, and the show was again

And, as with most really good “end of the world zombie stories,” the dead aren’t as much of a problem as the loony living people. A cool story even though the end is seen pretty early on.

“**Pegleg and Paddy Save the World**” by Jonathan Maberry: The Chicago Fire and zombies; do I really need to say anything more? Okay, one more thing: Lum and Abner couldn’t have done any better in this story.

“**The Loaned Ranger**” by John Peel: This is exactly what you would think it is from the title. A lone Indian scout watches from hiding while six Texas Rangers are gunned down in an ambush. He then rummages through the bullet-riddled dead, looking for a body intact enough to be raised through magic. A very good story with a satisfying ending that makes me want to read more of this incarnation of the man in the mask.

The above is a sample of my favorites from *History is Dead*, but there aren’t any stories I can think of I just didn’t like at all. There are several others I could have easily spotlighted, as well. Another fun walk through the whimsical world of dead people chewing through entrails and helping painters (from a story I didn’t mention) and scaring writers (from another story I didn’t mention).

saved. Except that this time the network execs decided to make sure there would be no third save for the show, slashing its already small budget and placing it in the Friday

night at 10 p.m. “Death Slot.” Gene Roddenberry, the show’s creator and guiding force, saw the writing on the wall and withdrew from the show, leaving his name on the credits as Executive Producer but otherwise having pretty much nothing to do with the show. And that was that; the low-rated show was gone, vanishing into the dustbin of history.

But then a funny thing happened. The show had produced 79 episodes, which was deemed enough for syndication and began showing on various stations through the US. And that’s when the phenomenon began. There were toys, shirts, books, novelties, even conventions, all devoted to this little show. Most of this is outside the scope of this review, just wanted to give a little background into how this film would come to be made before getting into the movie itself. But there is one more thing we need to talk about, something that almost happened instead of this picture.

By the mid-’70s, as discussed above, *Star Trek* had become one of Paramount’s most prolific cash cows and this popularity led to an idea that, for that time, was remarkable. In a time when there were only three major networks, Paramount developed a plan to start its own, with *Star Trek: Phase II* as its flagship. (20 years later, of course, this is pretty much what they would do with the formation of UPN having *Star Trek: Voyager* as its centerpiece.) But there was also the thought that they should do a film, which would bring in more money and had the added attraction of having a chance at reuniting the entire crew that had made the

original show such a cultural icon, as Leonard Nimoy (for one) had already nixed the idea of joining the cast for a new television show. For months they went back and forth with these two ideas, the show proceeding into pre-production as if it was already green lit. But eventually the movie idea won out.

Now we come to the problem of what to do in the film. Gene Roddenberry went to sci-fi writer after sci-fi writer, looking for ideas to develop. The problem, according to one of these authors, Harlan Ellison, was that nothing they came up with was big enough for the execs. “Blow up the ship; ‘Not big enough! Blow up the Universe; ‘Not big enough!’” he said. HE and GR came up with an idea about a separate intelligent race that grew up on Earth alongside Man that was thrown out (and I’ve always wondered whether or not this was the central idea that gave us the *Voyager* episode “Distant Origin,” but I don’t know because I’ve never heard any more detailed account of the story), and that was the end of HE’s involvement. It would eventually be decided that “In Thy Image,” which was to be the pilot for *Phase II*, would be made into the feature film.

The story: A “ship” of immense power is headed directly for Earth, destroying with frightening ease everything that could impede its progress. The only Starfleet vessel with any hope of intercepting it is the newly refitted *Enterprise*, and Admiral James T. Kirk (played by William Shatner) is placed in command ahead of Will Decker (Stephen Collins) who was slated to captain the ship. Dr. McCoy

(DeForest Kelley) is “drafted” into service, and Spock (Leonard Nimoy) joins the crew from Vulcan for his own personal reasons. The rest of the original crew was already assigned to the ship, along with a new navigator, a Deltan named Ilia (Persis Khambatta) (Decker’s and Ilia’s backstories served as models for TNG’s Will Riker and Deanna Troi). They intercept the “alien” and communicate with it — sort of — eventually learning the secret of why it’s headed for Earth and what it expects to find when it gets there. (If you saw the TOS ep “The Changeling” you pretty much know the story.)

I love this film because it was new ST in a time when there was no new ST. It’s stiff delivery and sterile demeanor notwithstanding it delivered a “fix” I needed. I knew nothing of Paramount’s plans for a new network at the time, only that I wanted more *Star Trek*. It does, however, spend far too much time on showing off its budget — long, slow scenes unveiling the *Enterprise* in a way that for the first time gave the viewer a true sense of its size, updated interiors for the ship, and vast landscapes for the interior of the antagonist — at the expense of its story. Most of the characterization for the familiar characters is very good, although Kirk was difficult to watch at times and Spock was too cold for most of the film for the viewer to relate to; Dr. McCoy is the most natural member of the Big Three, and he’s often the only thing on the screen worth seeing.

As stated in my other ST films column, this is my least favorite of the original ten, but I still enjoy it.