

# THE RUDDER

*The Newsletter of the USS Continuum*

SEPT-OCT 2008



## From the Editor

The *Rudder* is now in pdf!

As I'm sure all of you are aware, there was no issue last month, primarily because of the expense of having to print and mail it every single month (which we talk about in further detail below). Distributing it by email in a pdf format is a way for us to cut costs.

For those who don't get email or actually prefer a hard copy, the *Rudder* is still available in print. (However, there is a major difference, price-wise, between one or two copies and eighteen). It will also be available for download at the Continuum website (<http://www.region2.org/usscontinuum>). Past issues have been stored under the "Ships Log."

## Financial issues

### Issue #1

As we have discussed before, there are three ways for us to handle our financial situation:

- 1) We collect funds from our members
- 2) We cut back on what we do
- 3) We fundraise

While we do charge membership dues, our current price does not cover everything we wish to do (see Issue #2), which leaves us either to raise our annual dues or take donations. Unfortunately, this can get expensive for some members.

We can cut back some, finding cheaper alternatives, etc. However, the problem with cutting back is cutting back *too much*. Things don't become quite as fun for our members, and we're limited in things like recruiting.

The problem with fundraising is that, right now, the crew is not able to have a clear objective on how much they need to raise to do the things we want. ***If we had a Chief Financial Officer, who could monitor our income and expenses and could report this information to the crew, we could possibly plan ahead. We would know when we need to schedule our fundraisers so we wouldn't have to ask crewmembers for the funds (and***

***run the risk of being a nuisance) AND we would be able to keep the Continuum running successful for the enjoyment of all its members.***

According to our Ops Manual, we need a person, 18 years of age or older, who has been a member of the *Continuum* and STARFLEET for at least one year. (We would be willing to have an “acting officer” if someone who has not been a member for a year). Furthermore, Bruce, Peggy, Chris, and myself are not eligible because we already have positions in the Command Department.

The job duties are simple: keep a record of our income and expenses and provide this to the crew on a monthly basis. You do NOT set up a budget (we’ve already started handling that in this issue of the *Rudder*). You do NOT have to write any checks or worry about making deposits. You do NOT have to have a college degree in business or accounting or any experience in either. You don’t even have to do it in a spreadsheet. You just need to know how to do basic math.

Based on how many transactions, we have in a given month, this should not take more than 5-10 minutes to complete, if that much. But it is something that needs to be done each and every month even if there have been no transactions.

If you are willing to be an enormous asset to the *Continuum* by fulfilling this role, please contact the Command Staff.

## **Issue #2**

Our expenses in a given year have been broken down as follows:

### **Award/promotion certificates.**

This estimated was based on having 6 promotions, 8 “serious awards,” and 8 “gag awards,” for a total of 22 certificates needed. Unfortunately, both are only available at office supply stores.

At the price of \$8.50 per 25 certificates, with sales tax, it comes to \$9.14.

The document covers, while not completely necessary, provide a nice covering. At \$16 for 6, with tax, we would need \$68.80.

This brings the total to \$77.94.

**Flea Market Sales.** We need money to make money. Tables cost \$18, regardless of how much we make in the sales. If we do three sales per year, we would need \$54. If we decided to do more than that to raise extra funds – say, six times per year, that would bring it up to \$108. (However, see Issue #3).

### **Anniversary Dinner invitations.**

Printing and mailing invitations to the various Executive Committee members, Region 2 staff, Commanding Officers, former members, and visitors cost approximately \$40.

**Gag awards.** The total costs for the “gifts” given with each gag award comes to approximately \$40.

**Miscellaneous.** \$50 to \$100 have been factored in for anything else we might have to face (i.e., flyers).

The grand total in expenses in a year: \$261.94 to \$365.94.

Looking over our current membership database and considering whom *I think* will renew, we should make, at least, \$132 in membership dues. Meaning, at current prices, we will need to raise an additional \$129.94 to \$233.94.

### Issue #3

As an alternative to the flea market sales, we could do yard sales. The advantages:

- No \$18 table fee.
- We won't have to worry about making reservations or trying to get a table in a busy location.
- We can show up when we wish. (At T&W Flea Market, we must show up no later than 7:30 a.m. or risk losing our table, even if we've already paid for it).
- More room to put up more tables.
- At the flea market, we are at one table amongst hundreds. At a yard sale, we are one group.

The disadvantages:

- Finding an ideal location.
- Promoting it. Buying and putting up our own signs and advertisements.

These three issues will be discussed at the next Command Staff meeting. We have already reserved **Table #128** at T&W for **Saturday, November 22**, but we have not paid for anything.

## Anniversary Dinner

The *Continuum* 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner is set for Saturday, December 6 at our traditional site of the Locklin Building at Santa Rosa Medical Center.

DJ Allen has provided a list of menu choices that we need people to bring. Each dish should be enough to serve 15 people. So, on the list below, when you see "x2," we need either 2 people to each bring enough for 15 or 1 person bringing enough for 30, etc.

- Sweet Potato Casserole x2
- Green Bean Casserole x3
- Corn x2
- 2 cans of cranberry sauce
- Turkey dressing x2
- Turkey gravy x2
- Vegetables tray
- Salad greens x3
- Salad Dressing, 3 different types
- Sweetened and unsweetened tea x4 (2 each)
- Sodas x3 (3 bottles each)

The ship will bring the ham and turkey for the main course, and a cake for desert.

Jay Gallops will bring the bread and butter.

Sharon Bogart will bring a sweet potato casserole (originally needed 3).

Peggy Moshell will bring some turkey dressing (originally needed 3).

We hope to know what everybody plans to bring by the November ship meeting.

## December meetings

Because of the holiday season, we will have no Command Staff or Ship meeting in December.

## Orchestra

We have chosen Saturday, January 10 to see our very own Matt Fossa play "Lollapalooza, Beethoven & Blue Jeans." The concert will be at First Baptist Church, 500 N Palafox. Pre-concert lectures start at 7 pm with the concert starting at 8. We'll meet for a formal dinner at a restaurant beforehand.

We will be collecting \$20 for Mezzanine seating at the Anniversary Dinner on December 6.

## Picture Scavenger Hunt

At the October Command Staff meeting, we discussed doing a Picture Scavenger Hunt. This will be a charity fundraiser and a chance for us to do some public relations and recruiting. There will be several things we do to do beforehand to make this project a success.

The object of this scavenger hunt will be to give participants a series of pictures and then have them figure out where we took those pictures. Players will be able to work individually or as part of a team – up to how many people they have will be entirely up to them. While having several people will be a chance to divide the registration costs and have more help, it will also mean having to divide their winnings.

As we go along, we'll decide what works best for this hunt – how much area will be covered, how many hours we want this game to last, etc.

Between now and January, we'll need to take pictures – not necessarily be the one we use for the actual game, however. It would be best if we first did a trial run amongst *Continuum* members, so we know we won't have clues that are too easy or too hard at the actual hunt. Also, we will also need to find a location for where we wish to start and finish this game.

In January, we do this practice run.

By February, we'll need to:

1. Decide the target date for the game. We'd like to have it sometime after the next movie for recruiting purposes when people's interest in *Trek* should still be at a high. Ideally, this will be in June or July, but we could go as late as September.
2. Decide the charity we wish to support. We will also send them a letter, telling them of our intentions.
3. Make reservations for the area we wish to begin and end the game at.

By March:

1. Contact businesses to sponsor this event. We explain the game to them and ask them for prize support: gift cards/certificates for those who finish the hunt first would be best. We will feature these

- companies in all our press releases and flyers.
2. Choose the registration cost. Proceeds will go to the charity. The fee (as well as the actual difficulty of the game) will be determined by how much the prizes are worth.
  3. Begin taking 50-100 pictures for the hunt. Participants will each get a certain number of photos (I'm thinking about 8), but there needs to be variety to make it more challenging and to avoid cheating.
  4. Create an info page on website where players can pre-register.
  5. Issue press releases to various media outlets.

By April:

1. Create and display flyers: both one-page ones to hand out and larger size mini-posters to be displayed in store windows.

This project is something unique and should be lots of fun. That, in turn, can be beneficial to a good cause. And it's a chance for us to get a little bit of the spotlight without being too expensive.

### CPR classes

Wayne Davis is a CPR instructor and brought up the idea of holding CPR classes for inexpensive prices with the *Continuum* getting the proceeds. We will announce this to the public once more information becomes finalized. We are looking at doing this sometime early next

year. The place is still yet to be decided.

### Continuum T-shirts

Besides two shirts I have on hold, I have only one left: a medium. It is \$15 for anyone is interested in it.

Should we make another order? Perhaps somebody wanted a shirt, but we were out of your size. Or perhaps we'd like to have long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts. Let us know.

### Continuum website

Check out <http://www.region2.org/usscontinuum> to see the updated design for the *Continuum's* website.

Additional changes are in the works. In the future, we hope to have various *Star Trek* quizzes, including the series, characters, aliens, and ships. If anyone is interested in designing a ten question, multiple-choice quiz for the website, please let Jay know.

We always want to have member pages – one for each member – which will include a picture and a short questionnaire.

### Costuming

Many crewmembers do not have *Star Trek* uniforms or costumes, but we hope to change that in the near future. Costumes – especially those of elaborate designs with make-up – are a great way to grab attention, and there are several opportunities for us to show them off. We'd like to gather a list so we can put this project in action.