

THE RUDDER

The Newsletter of the USS Continuum

From the Editor

Happy New Year 2008!

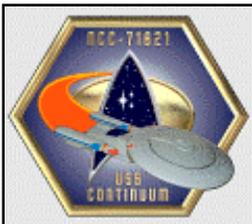
With the first Command Staff meeting of the year approaching, it's time to begin discussing 2008. The new year presents us with some unique opportunities, but it will also present us with new challenges.

To make the most out of the discussion we'll have at this meeting, it's important for each of us to brainstorm ahead of time as to what we want to do. Think about what we have done in past years. What activities have worked well that you would like to do again? What activities do we need to add?

Also, look for opportunities presented in your newspaper, on television, on billboards and signs along the road. Often times, you'll find something we can take a part in or ideas for an activity that we can develop for ourselves. Search the web. Typing in some simple search terms, such as "fundraising for small groups" or "community service projects," can bring a wealth of information.

Furthermore, look at the listing for the Region 2 Awards, downloadable at <http://region2.org/awards.php>. Often times, when we go to decide the ship awards (which are based on the Region's, which are, in turn, based on STARFLEET's), we use hindsight rather than foresight. By that I mean, we tend to look at the awards near the end of the year to see what we have done and how we measure up rather than looking at them at the beginning of the year to organize activities that would help us achieve those awards. That is not to say everything we do this year should be centered on winning awards. Our main goal is to have fun and to make a difference in our community. But looking at the awards can be beneficial, nonetheless, as winning these can improve ship morale.

DECEMBER 2007



Besides are meetings, *Continuum* events will fall in one or more of the following categories:

- Fundraising
- Recruiting
- Community service
- Educational
- Social events

FUNDRAISING

I begin with fundraising because there are many activities from the other groups that will require us having money to do them. Without the fundraisers, the cost will go to our individual members if we are to do them, which can get very expensive if we have to ask members month after month for donations.

The first thing we need to look at is what do we want to spend the money on. A few things come to mind:

- 1) **The Rudder.** Which includes the printing and mailing costs to each of the crew. We mail it because not everyone can make a meeting to pick it up. Furthermore, there is sometimes information the crew needs to have before, by, or shortly after a meeting that if it's not delivered to them in timely manner, they could miss.
- 2) **Award/promotion certificates.**
- 3) **Recruiting materials.** This includes flyers and/or membership applications and any

other items for our recruiting booth. I'll talk more about these in the next section.

- 4) **Launch trip.** Our trip to Cape Canaveral with the EAAA this August will be expensive for those who are taking part, and it is my hope that we could have some fundraisers to help defer the cost.
- 5) **Anniversary Dinner.** Because our next Anniversary Dinner will mark our 15th year as a full-fledged chapter of STARFLEET, there has been some talk about making this one more prestige, such as having it catered rather than potluck. Also, this last year, we send out invitations to all the Region 2 Staff and all ship COs, which we hope to do again this year. And let us not forget the items for the infamous Gag awards.
- 6) **Commercial.** Back in October, we discussed the idea of developing our own television commercial to help spread the word about our group. Although we will be developing it ourselves, we will need to factor in any production costs, as well as the cost for having it aired.
- 7) **Mardi Gras float.** In finishing our float we began last year, we will need to see what supplies we still need, if any.
- 8) **Mardi Gras float entrance fee.**

9) Materials for future fundraisers.

Some of our fundraisers may not do well for one reason or another. For example, at our last flea market sale, we turned a \$3.50 profit. Why did we do so poorly when it was in the middle of the Christmas season, we were in an ideal location, and we still had things to sell? Who knows? We just didn't. So it's best if we quickly bounce back with another activity to help us keep going.

I suggest having one fundraiser every two months -- ideally, once every month, not counting workshops. Some of the ideas already discussed include:

- **Reinstating ship dues.** Years ago, we stopped charging dues for *Continuum* membership because we had little or no expenses. This has certainly changed. If we charge \$10 a year per member, with an additional dollar for additional member of the same household (a total of \$11 for 2, \$12 for 3, etc.), we should be able to cover one *Rudder* per household and the award and promotion certificates. Certificates, of course, will vary between member to member depending on how active they are with the group, but it should all even out in the end.
- **T-shirts.** Although it would only cost us \$10.80 to have *Continuum* T-shirts printed for our members, we could charge a full \$15, keeping the extra \$4.20 for ship expenses.

- **Cafepress.** We are still working on our own Cafepress store, where we would sell sci-fi related, but non-copyrighted, T-shirts and other items on the Internet.
- **Marshmallow guns.**
- **Krispy Kreme, Candy sales, etc.** The advantage of doing these is, although we would still have to approach people to ask them to buy, we wouldn't have to twist too many arms to make a sale.

RECURITING

One of our annual awards is the Recruiters Award. On the Region and STARFLEET-level, this means recruiting people into STARFLEET, while on the ship-level, it can also mean recruiting them into our chapter.

One of the things we've never done before is have a recruiting workshop. When we go to a convention or a movie theater to recruit, we are often given a table to use. However, we are the ones who have to bring the items and design it. If we want the public to take us seriously and consider joining us, we need to take our appearance seriously. It is vital we, as an organization, look professional. This includes having a tablecloth filled with plenty of flyers, business cards, and visitor sheets all in the ideal spots to make lasting impressions. We need to have a place and the tools to hang our banner and our STARFLEET flag. If we're using duct tape in the front of our table or if

things keep falling down, we might as well just go home.

One or more recruiting workshops would help us work out any problems we might have. It would give us a chance to construct display boards, using pictures to describe many of our activities. We still need to update the ship's flyer to introduce the prospect to the *Continuum*, briefly discussing who and what we are. The *STARFLEET Recruiting Manual* also suggests designing a Visitor's Newsletter, which would have information about our activities, introduce the Command Staff and give more information about the *Continuum* and STARFLEET. It would be much like our newsletter is now, but be more geared towards newcomers who are generally unfamiliar with STARFLEET.

We do have a few recruiting opportunities that have already been presented to us for 2008. The first is "The Wrath of Con" on Memorial Day weekend (May 30 to June 1) in Panama City. We have already been approached about having a recruiting table and possibly helping with the convention. Several guests are already set to appear including

- **Jerry Doyle** (Security Chief Garibaldi - *Babylon 5*; Nationally syndicated radio talk show host).
- **Gigi Edgley** (Chiana - *Farscape*).
- **Virginia Hey** (Zhaan - *Farscape*).
- **Richard Hatch** (Apollo - The Original *Battlestar Galactica*, Tom Zarek - The New *Battlestar Galactica*).

- **Aaron Douglas** (Chief Galen Tyrol - The New *Battlestar Galactica*).
- **Tahmoh Penikett** (Capt. Karl "Helo" Agathon - The New *Battlestar Galactica*).
- **Chase Masterson** (Leeta - *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*).
- **Robert Meyer Burnett** (Writer/Director - *Free Enterprise*).
- **Andrew Probert** (Technical Design - The Original *Battlestar Galactica*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*).
- **David Wellington** (Author - *Monster Island*, *Monster Nation*, *Monster Planet*, *13 Bullets*, *Plague Zone*).
- **Dr. Travis Taylor** (NASA/DoD Future-Tech Scientist).

with more possibility being added. With such a large convention, I suspect there will be many sci-fi fans from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties ideal for *Continuum* membership.

Our second major recruiting opportunity is the movie premier of *Star Trek*. Although it is set to open Christmas Day, there is a possibility that date could change. For one, there are still filming and any number of things could push the cast and crew ahead of or behind schedule. Also, it's not uncommon for theaters to get to show such anticipated movies ahead of schedule when they're set to appear on holidays. (Some examples: *Transformers*, originally scheduled to appear on July 4, 2007, actually opened on July 2; *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* was originally set for

Christmas Day 2002, but opened December 18).

Nevertheless, even though the film probably will be opening in the busy Christmas season, as much as possible, we need to have recruiting tables staffed at each of the theaters showing it. There is a lot of positive buzz about this new film -- more positive than we've had on *Star Trek* project in a very long time -- turning this movie into perhaps the most anticipated film of 2008.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our group used to be very active in community service, and this is something I would like for us to be once again by having at least one community service project every month.

Many people are interested in working with Clean & Green. Being involved in their Individual Assistance Program is something very easy for us to set up. With it, we're able to assist another group, spending only a couple of hours to clean someone's yard that needs our help.

We have also, in the past, helped the Ronald McDonald House by collecting aluminum can tabs. However, there are many other projects we can do with them, including collecting needed supplies, preparing meals for the families, and doing cleaning work. Check out <http://www.rmhpensacola.org> and go to the "Support the House" tab on the left for more information:

Other websites that feature listings for community service projects include:

- <http://volunteerflorida.org/>
- <http://www.volunteermatch.org/>
- <http://www.1-800-volunteer.org/>

EDUCATIONAL

Educational events include those like the Launch Trip we're preparing for in August. Throughout 2008, the Escambia Amateur Astronomy Association will have its meetings on the third Friday of every month, the same evening we have our ship meetings. While this would prevent them from joining us at our meetings and us, theirs, it would allow us to come together at times to discuss plans for the trip.

We should also try to be involved with the EAAA in other ways. Both groups have invited the other to their functions, but, unfortunately, there's been little in the way of follow-through. I occasionally get notices from Professor Wooten about stargazing events the Amateur Astronomers are planning, and I can forward those to the *Continuum* list. We can then try to organize something as best as our schedules allow.

SOCIAL EVENTS

We will, no doubt, continue with bowling month after month, but how many lock-ins do we want to have and when do we want to have them? What about the camping trip? Or trips? Other chapters throughout the Region occasionally send notices to the Region 2 listserv, inviting others to their events; participating in some of those could be as simple as organizing a carpool.

There are also a number great films set to come out in 2008 we might be interested in seeing as a group. Besides the aforementioned *Star Trek*, there is

- **Superhero** (Mar 28). *[A spoof of superhero films].*
- **Iron Man** (May 2). *[Based on the Marvel Comic about a billionaire industrialist/inventor who creates a suit of iron to fight evil].*
- **Speed Racer** (May 9). *[A live action film based on the 1960s Japanese anime series about a race car driver. Written & directed by the Wachowski brothers].*
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian** (May 16). *[The next installment of C.S. Lewis' series, where the Pevensie siblings return to Narnia one-year after the events in The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe in "real" years but 1300 in Narnian years].*
- **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull** (May 22). *[Starring Harrison Ford and directed by Steven Spielberg].*
- **The Incredible Hulk** (June 13). *[Interestingly enough, starring and being directed by no one from the previous film. But it does feature Lou Ferrigno, although I can't say if he will play the Hulk as he did in the classic TV series].*
- **The Dark Knight** (July 18). *[The sequel to Batman Begins].*
- **The X-Files 2** (July 25). *[David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles of Mulder and*

Scully from the popular FOX series].

- **The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor** (Aug 1). *[This time, Brendan Fraser fights a new mummy played by Jet Li].*
- **Punisher: War Zone** (Sept 12). *[The sequel to the Marvel Comics-based film].*
- **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** (Nov 21). *[The adaptation of the sixth book].*
- **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (Dec 12). *[A remake of the 1951 classic sci-fi film, starring Keanu Reeves].*

Needless to say, there are a lot of possibilities before us, and we will need each of you involved and discussing these ideas and others so we can have a great 2008!

Jay Gallops

**Congratulations to our
2007 award winners!**

**Trevor Wooten - Scholastic
Achievement
Nancy Keith - Outstanding Participant
Sandy Dolan - Official Commendation
for her work as R2 Summit Chair
Shawnacy Dolan - Cadet of the Year
Chris Hammonds - Officer of the Year
DJ Allen - Flag Officer of the Year**