

TARVALON.NET  
FALL BALL 2014



ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA  
OCTOBER 17 - 19, 2014

## Official Information Packet

### Fall Ball 2014 - St. Pete Beach, FL

*Please print this document and bring it with you to our event. There is a great deal of important information included that you will need for your reference.*

#### INTRODUCTION

This year's Fall Ball is a small gathering, so we've designed the weekend to be relaxing and more free-flowing than usual. We've chosen the beautiful location of St. Pete Beach and the Tradewinds Resorts for our event. The beach is only steps away from the hotel and faces west so that we get to watch gorgeous sunsets either from the beach itself or from the Tradewinds' patio. We also have an interesting trolley tour scheduled that includes stops at the Dali Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts as well as shopping!

We hope that everyone, from veteran attendees to first-timers, has an incredible weekend!

#### COMMITTEES

This event would not be possible without the many members who volunteer to help with our committees. If you have questions or concerns regarding the following areas, please see the head of the respective committee:

- **All Committees:** Lilli Sedai & Nymala Sedai

## **AIRPORT PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF**

You are responsible for your transportation to and from the campsite. It is a good idea to know all of your pick-up and drop-off information before you arrive at the event. Also, it would be a good idea to plan on splitting the gas bill both to and from the event with your traveling partners and to bring cash for this purpose. People who avoid pitching in for gas may find it difficult to find drivers to volunteer in the future. Be sure to exchange phone numbers with your travel partners in advance!

## **EVENT CHECK-IN**

Check in will be on Friday. Please come at the appointed time, be prepared to follow the outlined procedure, and have any materials you may need to assist in your check in (e.g. ID).

- Check-in time is between 2PM and 5PM. If you are going to arrive after 5 pm on Friday, you must contact Lilli Sedai and let her know the anticipated time of your arrival so they may arrange a late check in for you. Please contact her via PM in advance of the event if possible. If circumstances arise that unexpectedly prevent you from arriving before 6, please contact Lilli.
- You are free to check in at **Tradewinds Island Grand in the Blue Heron Room** anytime between 2PM and 5PM. Check-in will include:
  - Confirming your arrival at the site
  - Obtaining your name badge for the event
  - Signing liability and photo release forms
  - Receive welcome bag, etc.
  - Receiving directions to your assigned room and cabin, if applicable

## **DEPARTING**

We must be completely checked out by 11AM Sunday morning. This includes cleaning the space and returning everything to how we found it. To facilitate this, a member of your room must check out with Lilli Sedai in the **Tradewinds Guy Harvey Outpost lobby** no later than 10AM. Check-out will include a room inspection. No roommate should depart the site before inspection & check out is confirmed, unless pre-arranged with roommates who understand that they are responsible for remaining cleaning & chores. Our farewell brunch will be at IHOP located at:

**Directions to IHOP:**

## **DINING & ALLERGIES**

Members are responsible for their own meals except Saturday dinner. We will be eating at the Moon Under Water restaurant in downtown St. Pete after our tour.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

While every member and guest is expected to be responsible for themselves and their own well-being, we do have members in place to help in this regard. Any TarValon.Net Community Admin and those on our safety committee will do their best to help you. Some of them include:

**Lilli Sedai** (*Mistress of Revels*) – Lilli is the main event coordinator. She can be contacted for information regarding schedule, activities, general questions, and can be sought out in case of emergency.

**Nymala Sedai** (*Mistress of Novices*) - Nymala is our local liaison. She knows the area best and will be your resource for finding local things.

Please be aware of the following safety concerns:

1) It is hot and humid for about 8 months out of the year. In summer, it feels like walking into a wet wool blanket. Even in the "fall," it is still warm, please pack accordingly.

2) We are the lightning capital of the world, we get more lightning strikes here than anywhere else. Our rain storms can be violent, fast-moving and scary.

3) We have little lizards here that are native. They're called pine anoles. They are harmless and will run away from you if you approach them. You'll usually see them sunning themselves on sidewalks or trees. If you pick one up, they may drop their tails to run away. Do not freak out if you see them. However, speaking of lizards:

4) We have alligators here. They are \*not\* harmless and will not drop their tails to get away from you. They are ambush predators, mostly active at sunrise and sunset. If you see a sign that says "Alligators - No Swimming" HEED IT! Be careful around lake edges, please.

5) Yes, we have sharks here and yes we have stingrays here. Be aware of this when entering the water. Do the "stingray shuffle" during their breeding season to avoid them. This means shuffling your feet back and forth along the sand (as you enter the water, don't do this on land or you'll look silly) to get them to swim off.

6) Some things you may want to pack or purchase when you get here:

- \* Sunglasses
- \* Sunscreen of at least SPF 30 or higher
- \* Flip-flops or sandals
- \* Shorts
- \* Bathing suit
- \* Shower or beach shoes
- \* Pool cover up

7) Yes, it will be hurricane season still during FB. The chances of a storm in October are very slim, though, so please do not panic.

## **SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP**

All members are expected to help with set-up and clean-up in the meeting room.

## **REGARDING NOISE LEVELS**

We ask that all members be courteous of fellow members who may be sleeping, especially between the hours of 11pm and 7am. The Administration reserves the right to ask members to quiet things down if it is getting unreasonably disruptive. While breakfast officially will start being served at 8:30am, we ask that those eating it try to keep noise to a minimum until 10am. Vivianna Sedai, and Lilli Sedai will be serving as Cabin Leaders. They are there to help you with any minor issues that come from co-habitation, and we ask that you listen to them if they ask for activities to be moved elsewhere, or to quiet down.

Living in close quarters with a lot of people can be challenging. There are several things you can do that will help keep things running smoothly.

- Keep your items tidy. Don't throw things on the floor or allow it to accumulate in piles. This makes packing and clean up much easier, and drastically cuts down on the number of lost items.

- Respect other's sleeping spaces. Don't sit on their beds without asking (or put your feet up on them!), don't use your room as a place to socialize if any of your roommates are sleepy, be sure your roommates are okay with you engaging in any behavior which might be uncomfortable to walk in on, etc.
- Room trash bins need to be emptied every day. Coordinate with your roommates and make sure it happens! If you have particularly personal trash, please be polite and empty your bin yourself.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Members and guests will be held accountable for their behavior as outlined in our Constitution. **Article 4, Section 4 states:** *All attending a TarValon.Net function must behave in full accordance with this constitution and the Code of Conduct. Members who fail to comply may be asked to leave the event and will not be granted a refund. If disciplinary action is needed at a real life event, it may result in termination of membership. Members must act as responsible guests. This includes respecting personal property and space, as well as helping with set-up, clean-up, and costs.*
- Be respectful of personal space. Everyone is a little different, get to know someone before you touch, hug, cuddle, or otherwise invade someone else's "personal space".
- No person under the age of 21 may consume alcohol at the event. No member or guest under the age of 18 may smoke.
- You may not bring a guest who was not previously approved through our guest list.
- Smokers are asked to smoke only in the designated smoking area. These areas will be outdoors. Dispose of cigarette butts and ashes appropriately.
- No one may handle a sword if they appear intoxicated. Anyone found handling a weapon in an inappropriate or threatening manner will be asked to leave the function without refund.
- If you want to participate in an activity, please arrive on time.
- Members should be aware that we are sharing the site with other paying guests, and should behave accordingly in a respectful and courteous manner (as well as be aware of noise levels). Additionally, the staff has gone out of their way to assist us in putting this event together several times over the past months. Please thank them!
- All members must comply with requests of Administration. *Please note, administrators were chosen very carefully for this event. They are not the sort of people to make arbitrary requests and support both your personal responsibility and privacy. If an administrator asks you to change a behavior it is because there is considerable risk to yourself or others involved. Refusal to comply may result in your being asked to leave the event without refund.*
- If you have a difficulty, or need assistance, please contact an Administrator for help.

## SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

**\*\*Bed & Bath linens are provided\*\***

Towel - there are towels provided, but they're a bit small - it's up to you!

Comfortable shoes and clothing for variable weather and tour

Cold/wet weather gear

Toiletries

Public-friendly pajamas

Flashlight, **sun screen**

Necessary medications

Camera and film/memory/battery

Anything else you promised you would bring for the event

Cash

## **A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER ON WHAT TO EXPECT AT EVENTS**

TarValon.Net events can be daunting when attended for the first time. It can be especially challenging for people who have never met friends off of the Internet before, or for people are generally not used to being around a lot of people for a few very intensely social days! The following information should help you prepare for the weekend, clarify what we're doing, and minimize any surprises.

- TarValon.Net people are generally a very friendly lot! Many people are initially surprised by how many people recognize them on sight, and how warmly they're greeted. If you're attending, then you're a member here and many of us view our friendships here as being just as valuable as our friendships elsewhere. There is generally a lot of hugging, especially on the first day.
- At this point in time, many of us have met in person several times. As such, we are comfortable around each other. Remember that a lot of us know each other well, have each other to our homes on a regular basis, talk on the phone quite a lot... The closeness is quite normal.
- Our major events have a lot of people present. It can be easy to be overwhelmed by all of it and feel suddenly very alone even when in a crowd. It's common; almost all of us have felt it at one event or another (I tend to feel that way at least once every event). The best thing to do is find a quiet space for a time, grab some one on one time with another person and talk it out, then get back into the social fray. A lot of us are computer geeks and as such are used to more private time and personal interactions. Expect that you might feel this way, and don't worry if it happens.
- With ~50 people living in close proximity for four days, someone is going to invariably annoy or anger someone else. We have a lot of different personalities (many of them quite strong) and not all of them are going to click. Do your best to remember what you like about that person, give yourself some distance, and be generous with your forgiveness. ;-)
- This event is an adult party. We are doing our best to make it slightly more family oriented, but it is at its heart a bunch of adults camping together. People will undoubtedly drink too much, people will hook up, and people may even do/say stupid things. What happens at camp stays at camp. We don't gossip about who slept where, or who needed a hangover remedy on Sunday morning.
- I, along with many of the other very Senior members of the site, tend to joke a lot and enjoy making fun of ourselves (which may include self-deprecating comments about us being a cult, or desires to take over the world). It is vitally important to understand that this is all said in jest. We are not a religion. We are not trying to take over the government. We are not going to all go live in a commune. It is quite safe to drink the Goldschlager, save for perhaps personal taste. No, we can't channel. And no, we do not think we are better than anyone else. If you hear someone say something that you find alarming, and you are not certain if it is in jest, please ask them. And if you ever hear that I have said something and you don't know if it was in jest or not, please ask me and I will be more than happy to honestly tell you what I meant, and explain the joke if applicable. ;-)
- At events we tend to refer to each other by a mix of our Tower and our real life names (Tower names are more common at the larger events). It is perfectly acceptable to use either. Titles are generally not used. Yes, Novices do dishes and Recruits take out the trash. But so does everyone else. Chores are shared communally.
- We do have some ceremonies that we perform which include our raisings. These are a fun, theatrical part of our event and many people look forward to it!
- Cell phones may not work at our location. Try to have voice mail available or a single point of contact to check in with in case you are difficult to reach.

## **TIPS TO HELP YOU HAVE A BETTER TIME**

- Have one or two "buddies" that you keep track of over the weekend. A lot of people use their Aes Sedai/Warder, Roomies, members of their Ajah, etc. for this purpose. It's good to have someone know where you are and how you're doing.
- Try to eat with different people at each meal! We have such a great array of members and each of them is unique and wonderful in their own way. Eating with someone new is a great way to get to know more people.

- Try to say “hello” to everyone at least once at the event. You will surely not be able to have a long meaningful conversation with everyone in the span of four days, but do try to meet and greet everyone.
- Get involved in the activities. There is a wide variety of activities to choose from! Pick one that suits your mood and spend time with everyone.
- Try to get some sleep. It can be pretty scarce at our events. But sleeping, and remembering to hydrate oneself, can make a big difference in the quality of one’s experience.

## Event Location

Our meeting space will be at the Tradewinds Island Grand resort in the Blue Heron room.

- **TradeWinds Island Grand**
- *5500 Gulf Blvd.*
- *St Pete Beach, FL 33706*
- *727-367-6461*

Our sleeping rooms will be at the Tradewinds Guy Harvey Outpost

- **Guy Harvey Outpost**
- *6000 Gulf Blvd.*
- *St Pete Beach, FL 33706*
- *727-360-5551*

There is a three minute walk between the meeting space and sleeping space. **Please come to the meeting space first to receive your room number and key!**

## Driving Directions

### From points North

From I-75, take I-275 to Tampa and remain on it through Tampa and across Tampa Bay. Continue South on I-275 approximately 15 miles through St. Petersburg. Proceed from \* below.

### **From points East**

Take I-4 west into Tampa. Stay in the left hand lane and follow the signs for I-275 South "To St. Petersburg" past downtown Tampa and across Tampa Bay. Continue South on I-275 approximately 15 miles through St. Petersburg. Proceed from \* below.

### **From points South**

From I-75 take the I-275 exit "To St. Petersburg" (not Tampa), and over the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (toll). Proceed from \* below.

### **From Tampa International Airport**

Follow the signs to I-275 South "To St. Petersburg" and across Tampa Bay. Continue South on I-275 approximately 15 miles through St. Petersburg. Proceed from \* below.

### **From St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airport**

Turn left out of airport onto Roosevelt and follow signs to I-275 South through St. Petersburg, approximately 13 miles. Proceed from \* below.

\* Exit I-275 at the St. Pete Beach/Pinellas Bayway Exit (exit 17). Proceed West across Pinellas Bayway (toll) which takes you directly to St. Pete Beach and ends at Gulf Blvd. Turn right, and the TradeWinds Resorts are on the left hand side of the street, about 1.5 miles north.

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Most events are voluntary. We hope you'll join us for all of the activities, but the only mandatory obligations are registration, your group's assigned chores, site clean up on Saturday night/Sunday morning, and check out. If you want a break and would like to go walking or explore the site or grab coffee with a friend, that's fine, just make sure that if you go on your own that someone knows where you're going in case of emergency. Thanks!

### **Friday**

2:00 PM - 5:00PM: Check in at the Island Grand

5:00 PM- 8:00 PM: Dinner

8:00PM: Welcome Toast and Games Night

## Saturday

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Swimming/Activities on the Beach adjacent to the Island Grand

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM: Lunch

12:45 PM: Meet in front of the Guy Harvey Outpost for tour

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Tour of downtown St. Pete on the Looper Trolley

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Dinner at Moon Under Water

10:00 PM: Late night shenanigans in the meeting room/farewells/clean up

## Sunday

10:00 AM: Check out

11:00 AM: IHOP farewell brunch

## ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
Rafka	Lireina	Lilli	Elatheara
Rafka - Guest	Jaim	Elays	Gunnar
Saki		Nymala	Wil
Giles		Morrighan	