



**TarValon.Net's
10th Anniversary Celebration
March 4 - 6, 2011
Charleston, SC**

Dear Friends,

I am so excited to know you'll be joining me in celebrating TarValon.Net's 10th Anniversary! In the past decade, we've grown from a small community experiment into an international organization several thousand members strong. In that time we've made an impact in our communities and in each other's lives. This is something well worth celebrating!

We've had some epic get-togethers over in the last ten years, but we've never thrown one like this. Well over a year in the planning, this will be our biggest celebration to date. The ambitious schedule aside, this event will have over 150 attendees (a record for us). We also are also blessed to have our friends from the greater "Wheel of Time" community coming to celebrate with us. Having them join us is such a privilege and a joy.

So, very soon, we shall all meet up in Charleston. This was Robert Jordan's home, and his "Two Rivers." Old friends, I cannot wait to see you. New friends, I cannot wait to meet you.

"There's not a word yet for old friends who've just met."
- Gonzo, "The Muppet Movie"

Yours in the Light,

Eleyan al'Landerin
The Watcher of the Seals
The Flame of TarValon.Net
The Amyrlin Seat

(Melissa S. C. Dombrowski)

TarValon.Net
PO Box 12421 Huntsville, AL 35815



P.S. Yes! You really will want to read all of this! Yes! You will want to print it out! Yes, you will want to bring it with you. Trust me in this. :)

EVENT LOCATION/TRANSPORTATION

Embassy Suites North Charleston - Airport and Convention Center

http://embassysuites1.hilton.com/en_US/es/hotel/CHSEMES-Embassy-Suites-North-Charleston-Airport-Hotel-Convention-South-Carolina/index.do

5055 International Blvd North Charleston, SC 29418
phone: 843-747-1882



The hotel and convention center are right off of the highway and easy to spot. There is ample free parking. The hotel does offer a complimentary airport shuttle for guests staying at the hotel. You are responsible for all of your transportation with the exception of travel to and from Harriet Rigney's home (a shuttle will be provided).

There are a few chain restaurants within walking distance of the hotel, and many more that are not a far drive. There is also an in-hotel restaurant and room service available. All hotel guests receive a complimentary breakfast cooked to order each morning. There is also a "manager's reception" every evening featuring snack foods (like chips and dip, pretzles, etc.) and free non-alcoholic and well drinks for a couple of hours. Our event also includes dinner on Saturday, a

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dessert reception on Friday and snacks on Sunday. Each hotel room is outfitted with a coffee maker, fridge and microwave. I know a great many of us are planning to bring fixings for some inexpensive in-room meals.

The hotel is very understanding that we are likely to take good advantage of the manager's reception. *Please do not forget to tip the bartender every time, even when the drink is free!*

TarValon.Net has a special negotiated rate with the hotel for \$149 per night. These rooms officially sleep up to 6 (2 per double bed, with a couch that converts to a double bed). These rooms are quite spacious, have a living area separate from the bedroom, have flat screen t.v.s in both rooms, and have a dining table for two in addition to a couch and lounge chair. The hotel has a swimming pool, exercise room, and a business center for your use. The hotel is also physically connected to the conference center. Regardless of weather, you won't have to worry about climate control or rain in your costumes!

It is highly recommended that you schedule some "cushion" time into your trip to Charleston. The city has been consistently named one of the top tourist destinations in the United States. The food is exceptional, the architecture is lovely, and the history is long and engaging. Please do take some time to visit the downtown area and local attractions (Ft. Sumter, the Citadel, the downtown, etc.). This is the crown of the American South. This is also an exceptional city for those who enjoy the arts and antiques.

INFORMATION ON GRATUITIES

We have many of our friends joining us from very far away! In order to assist you in preparing for the trip, we're including some guidelines for what is expected in the way of gratuities in the USA.

- Bartenders - \$1 per standard drink. Drinks that take a lot of skill should be tipped higher at \$2 - 3 (the tip should never be under 10% of the cost).
- Waitstaff - 15% is the minimum. 20% good. The norm generally falls somewhere in between. Tipping for service in a restaurant is expected, and makes up the majority of your waiter's income.
- Bellhops - \$2 - 3 per bag is expected when bellhops assist you with your luggage. If you have a lot of small bags being brought up on a cart, \$10 is fine.
- Valet Parking - \$1 - 2 dollars to the person who parks your car, and the person who brings it back. The same amount should go to someone who hails a taxi for you.
- Housekeeping - \$5 dollars per day minimum. Put the cash on your pillow (set clearly to indicate that it is not left by accident) or in an envelope clearly marked for the housekeeping staff.



EVENT CHECK-IN

We have a lot of people to check in on Friday, and quite a lot to process. 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 12 pm and 6 pm. If you are going to arrive after 6 pm on Friday, you must contact Tian Sedai or Cassie Sedai and let them know the anticipated time of your arrival so they may arrange a late check in for you. Please contact one or both via PM in advance of the event if possible. If circumstances arise that unexpectedly prevent you from arriving before 6, please contact Tian at 720-341-3863.

- Event Check in is separate from hotel check in. The front desk can give you directions to find our break-out room, where we will hold registration for the event.

Check in will include:

- o Confirming your arrival at the site
- o Obtaining your name badge for the event
- o Signing liability and photo release forms
- o Receive program, welcome gifts, etc.
- o Pick up your shirt if you ordered one
- o Sign up for special activities (e.g. Amyrlin's Tournament).
- o Sign up for time slot for visiting Harriet's home (please note, times will be chosen on a first come first serve basis with the exception of people running events that coincide with our visiting time).

OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR USE OF FACILITIES

We have always prided ourselves on our respectful use of facilities at our events. In those cases where we clean up afterwards (as we do when using camping facilities) we have always been very good about leaving the facility in better condition than we found it. It is expected that our members will be considerate of other hotel guests and of hotel property. We have been provided spaces that we may use late into the night, and they are trying to put our rooms together in a block in order to minimize impact on other guests.

ALCOHOL POLICY

The hotel and convention center do not allow outside alcohol to be brought and consumed on the



premises. If you chose to do this, please be aware that you do so at your own risk, and keep it private to your room. Each evening event will feature a no-host bar for your convenience.

COMMITTEES AND EVENT STAFF

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:

- Awards – Adina Sedai
- Decorating – Yelenia Sedai
- Entertainment – Triste Sedai
- Safety – Riley Gaidin
- Welcome – Tian Sedai

As at every event, everyone attending is on a committee. If you have not signed up to assist one of the above committees (PM the committee head if you want to help them specifically, and they can add you to their group), you are automatically assigned in the “help clean-up/misc.” committee. Many hands make light work! Please be sure to lend a hand if you see that a hand is needed.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*

* While mostly set, this is still subject to change as needed.

Friday March 4th

2 pm - 6pm (Breakout room) - Registration

12 pm - 8pm (Breakout room) - game playing (board games re-themed to be “Wheel of Time” including such favorites as WoT monopoly, Who Killed the Chosen (Clue), WoT Risk and Ajahs to Ajahs (Apples to Apples). Video game tournament.

6:00 - 6:30pm (Main room) - Event Opening and Introductions (it is highly recommended that you attend this, especially if this is your first event! We’ll go over our ground rules and introduce people that you need to know).

6:30 - 7:30pm (Main room) - “History of TarValon.Net” or :“This one time? At Cult Camp?” discussion! A look back over our history, how we got started, how we evolved, and where we’re going in the future. Explanations of inside jokes, remembering past events and open Q&A



should make for some lively discussion!

8:30pm - Late (Main room) - Dessert reception, toast, ceremonies, followed by Slumber Party and TarValon.Net retrospective! Join us for an assortment of chocolates, petit fours, and other bite-sized dessert as we settle in to our weekend. We will hold our official Toast this evening (you may toast with any drink you like; shots of Goldshlagger will be available for purchase at \$9 per shot at the bar - please note, you are absolutely *NOT* obliged to drink anything but what you wish to drink for the toast. We have people regularly drink soda and water for this event). After our toast we will hold our raising and bonding ceremonies. Take a short break after this to change into your public-friendly PJs, and come back down to join us for the biggest slumber party pretty much ever. We will be screening a movie, and likely be inserting the word “pants” whenever we deem it funny (don’t know why that’s funny? Make sure to attend our 6:30 panel!). We’ll bring in the board games, and play White Tower Twister on a very large scale. There is also a chance of a blanket fort (please note, if you wish to help build a blanket fort, you must bring your own personal sheet (recommended) or blanket (not so much. They’re heavy). Under no circumstances should you use those belonging to the hotel!). Our very first event was a slumber party. We had around 10 people then. Oh how we’ve grown. :)

Saturday March 5th

10am - 1:00 pm (Breakout room)- Video games and board games available to play.

10am - 11:00am (Main room) - “How to Not Stab Yourself in the Foot.” Valorian Gaidin will lead this small seminar about how to use a sword, and how to not generally get yourself killed while doing so. This is an absolute *must* for people considering entering the sword fighting section of the Amyrlin’s tournament for the first time. If you have extra practice swords, please bring them to share!

11:30am - 12:30pm (Main room) - Tentatively called “Brandon Talks About Interesting Things” featuring Brandon Sanderson! Do I know what he will discuss specifically? Not yet! But I can honestly say I have never ever been less than entertained when Brandon has the floor.

1pm - 3pm (Breakout room) - Brandon Sanderson book signing! Brandon will sign any book that he has written, but please note he will not sign books that he has not worked on (i.e. books written by Robert Jordan). Bring your camera for pictures.

1pm - 2:30pm (Main room) - Amyrlin’s Tournament - Strength and Agility. The first our of tri-event tournament tests our competitors strength and agility through a wrestling match..... in giant inflatable sumo-wrestling suits.



3pm - 4:00pm (Main room) - “Robert Jordan's Redefinition of Tolkien's Fantasy” by Dr. Michael Livingston, professor at the Citadel (Robert Jordan’s Alma Mater). I had the good fortune to attend his lecture around 2 years ago for a Charleston literary society, and I’m excited to be able to bring this to my members. You’re not likely to come across this lecture through any other of our regular fan venues.

6:30 - 11:30pm (Main room) - Awards Dinner and Costume Ball. All of our pageantry will be on display for the crowning moment of the weekend. Dinner will be served, followed by dancing. The evening will also feature the presentation of the Member’s Choice and the Amyrlin’s Awards. We roll out our merit badge system at this time by recognizing attendees who have achieved gold badges, and we will (for the second time in our history) hold a live ceremony to officially induct our new Keeper of the Chronicles. Our costume contest will be held at this time. Dress code is WoT costume or cocktail attire. No, no one will look at you twice if you decide to come in formal wear or a tux. In short.... it’s a lot like Prom, except everyone is a geek and your friend. It’s a great deal of fun. :)

Regarding seating arrangements - The majority will be open seating. A few places will be reserved for our guests and speakers. You will get a ribbon that indicates your meal preference at check in. Please tie this to the back of the chair you choose to sit in to assist our waiters in serving you).

11:30pm - Late (Main room) - The Amyrlin’s Court. This fairly unstructured event is absolutely **adult only** (over 18). While it is a fun and relaxed affair, it also unfiltered. Strong language and adult themes are likely to come up (and laughed over). We will hold our Da’Covale auction at the beginning of this event (please see our section on fundraisers).

11:30pm - Late (Breakout room) - CCG Time (Magic the Gathering, etc.). Come in for a (not so?) friendly game of cards and spend the night blasting your friends into tiny pieces.

Sunday March 6th

9am - 2pm (Excursion) - Private tour of the Rigney home. We will have a shuttle taking members there and back. Please sign up at registration for your preferred time. With the exception of people working an event that coincides with the Tour window, sign up times will be first come first serve. Harriet is being incredibly gracious to allow our (very) large group to visit her home. While I am sure it does not require saying, I still want to go over our expectations for behavior.

- This is a private home. Please only go where you an invited to go.



- Be aware of your photographs. Please do not take pictures of the street address.
- Please, don't touch.
- Understand that we have a limited time per group (about 45 minutes per group) as we have so many people coming through.

- Be respectful of the place, our hostess, and the trust she is putting in us to be good guests.

10am - 11:30pm (Main room) - Amyrlin's Tournament - Round 2 - "*Stategy*"! It's like rock-paper-scissors, except it's Aes Sedai-Whitecloak-Darkfriend. And the pawns are life sized and get to duke it out. Who shall win this battle of wits?

10am - 3:30pm (Breakout room) - Video games and sewing circle!

12pm - 1:30pm (Main room) - Wheel of Time trivia! Last year this was a hit, and was masterfully done. Aldus and Xylenia come back for Round 2, and will blow your socks off. Lots of fun!

2pm - 3:30pm (Main room) - The third and final round of the Amyrlin's tournament (and the Amyrlin's favorite): *Sword fighting*. Our competitors will entertain us while competing with Shenai (bamboo practice swords). Don't miss it! The welts are real. Please note! To participate in this event, you will have to sign a release form holding TarValon.Net harmless in the event of injury. You will not be allowed to participate in this event if you have had any alcohol on the day in question, and/or appear to be intoxicated.

4pm - 5:30pm (Main room) - Harriet and Maria head up this small panel! The topic? Yes, I don't know this one either, yet. :P But even if they decide to just do a Q&A, it will be well worth attending!

6pm - 8pm (hotel pool) - Swim party! Join us at the hotel pool to engage in "chicken" fights and general shennanigans.

8pm - 12am (Main room) - Karaoke and snacks! At our very first Tower get-together, we went out for Karaoke. Now we're too many to bring to the bar. So, naturally, we bring it to us. :)

Breakout room when otherwise not in use:

The breakout room should generally be open for the majority of the weekend. The room will have video games, board games, and will serve as a place to hang out when not participating in main programming (with the exception of book signings, etc.).

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 when needed. Any TarValon.Net Community Admin and those on our safety committee will do their best to assist you.

Admins actively working the event include:

Cassie Sedai (Mistress of Revels - North America) – Cassie is the Mistress of Revels for North America. She can be contacted for information regarding schedule, activities, general questions, and can be sought out in case of emergency. Yelenia Sedai will be taking over this role in the next year and may also help in this capacity.

Serinia Sedai (Director of Events and Conferences) - Serinia, or more commonly “Seri,” is our Director of Events and Conferences. She can be contacted for information regarding schedule,

activities, general questions, and can be sought out in case of emergency.

Eleyan Sedai (Amyrlin Seat) – Eleyan oversees the general execution of the event and serves as the final authority during the event. If there is a dispute or a member problem during the event, the Amyrlin will be brought in if it is not easily resolved. Eleyan Sedai is also serving as Local Liaison at this event, and should be notified of any major facility concerns.

Riley Gaidin (Camp Nurse/Safety Coordinator) – Contact him if you are in need of very basic first aid, a band-aid, or a hang-over remedy. In the event of a medical emergency, we will have you transported to the nearest hospital or clinic.

Serenla Sedai (Director of Membership) - Is available to help in an emergency.

Vivianna Sedai (Director of Moderators) - Is available to help in an emergency.

Dralyn Sedai and Leora Sedai - The position of Keeper will be passed on over the weekend. Both are available to help emergencies when present.

Throughout the weekend, we have a set list of volunteers who will remain sober through part of the event. They do so to be available in the event that there is an emergency.

Please be aware of the following safety concerns:

- Be careful when handling recreation equipment. Especially if you plan on playing with practice swords, or are wearing any sort of weapon. You are responsible for your own safety, and a strict safety code will be followed. If you have had any alcohol you will not be permitted to participate in any weaponised events.
- Please do not grab or unsheathe a weapon belonging to another person. While it is fine to



take a weapon out of its sheath to show people, anyone caught brandishing live steel will be asked to leave the event.

- If you drink, please drink responsibly. It is not our habit (nor our job) to police personal behavior. However, if you become a nuisance to others, or are endangering yourself, you may be asked to stop drinking by the event staff listed above. Failure to comply with that request may result in your removal from hotel premises and the event. We are very reticent to involve ourselves unless there is a major problem.

REGARDING NOISE LEVELS/ROOM SHARING

We ask that all members be courteous of fellow members who may be sleeping; especially between the hours of midnight and 10 am. The Administration reserves the right to ask members to quiet things down if it is getting unreasonably disruptive.

Sharing rooms 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 our amount of lost items.

- Respect other's sleeping spaces. Don't sit on their beds without asking (or put your feet up on them, or sit on their pillows!), 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.

- Please be considerate and appropriately dispose of your trash.

- It sounds silly until you need it..... ear plugs make for good roommates just as fences make good neighbors.

- If there is one bathroom and you intend to occupy it for awhile, please ask if anyone needs to duck in there quickly first (there are restrooms in the lobby of the hotel, however, if needed!).

RULES AND REGULATIONS

• Members and guests will be held accountable for their behavior as outlined in our By-laws.

Article 4, Section 4 states: All attending a TarValon.Net function must behave in full



accordance with 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.

- 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 or in designated smoking rooms. Please 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).
- All members must comply with requests of Administration. Please note, Event Admins 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, and/or removal of membership.
- If you have a difficulty, or need assistance, please contact any present Administrator for help.

FUNDRAISERS

South Carolina has some very specific rules when it comes to raising funds. We normally sell raffle tickets; this is not legal in SC. So we will adjust! We will hold two major fundraisers at this event.

The first will be a Silent Auction conducted on Saturday during the Ball. Over several hours, people may put in their bids for items. Many of the items up for auction are very rare. Several



of the items are *one of a kind*. Items will be on display throughout the ball, and everyone is encouraged to stop by an look at them regardless of ability to bid or not. Winners of the auction will be announced towards the end of the evening. Payment will be required in full at the event before items may be claimed (cash or checks).

For the second fundraiser, we will hold a “Da’covale Auction” during the late night “Amyrlin’s Court.” Willing members (who have attended an event before and know what they’re getting into!) volunteer 2 - 3 hours of their time in exchange for donations to TarValon.Net’s general operating fund.

PARTICIPATION RAFFLE

Like last year, we will be passing out tickets all weekend long! Every member and guest attending gets one simply for showing up. Other tickets may be earned by participating in competitions and other active events. The more you participate, the better your chances are to win the drawing (held Sunday night).

HELPFUL HINTS FOR FIRST TIMERS

- TarValon.Net members are very huggy folk. Most of us now know each other in real life. Yes, we really are that happy to meet you!
- Lots of people means lots of new names to remember. Wear your name badge, and don’t be embarrassed if you need to ask someone their name several times. We all do it.
- Stay hydrated, remember to eat, and remember to sleep. It’s amazing how distracted we all get when we spend a weekend with 150 friends and family! Hunger, dehydration and exhaustion can sneak up on you, and they can ruin your weekend.
- Make an effort to interact with people you don’t know well! Sit with someone new for lunch. Join a team with people you haven’t yet met in person yet. This is a great environment in which to meet new friends.
- Almost everyone feels overwhelmed at some point when attending these kinds of events. A great many of us are used to socializing with each other over the Internet, and the “alone in a crowded room” syndrome isn’t an uncommon feeling when we all get together in person. If it happens, we’ve found that going somewhere quiet with only one or two friends for a bite to eat or cup of tea works wonders. Naps are also good. If you need additional help, approach any of our Admins. We are happy to help you find activities and ways to be included.
- Aside from your regular packing list of clothes and toiletries (*and a printed copy of this packet!*), consider packing:
 - Camera



- Bathing suit
 - Costume
 - Comfortable walking shoes
 - Umbrella
 - Public-friendly PJs
 - Copies of books you would like signed (there is a Barnes and Nobles about 10 minutes away by car from our hotel)
 - Earplugs
 - Snacks
 - Extra cash (hotel ATM fees tend to be high)
- Have fun!