

Dragon*Con
Atlanta, Georgia
September 2-5, 2011

Introduction

Hello folks! This packet was designed mostly for new con-goers. To those of you who have done this plenty of times before, it will be very familiar. You'll probably still want to print out the contact sheet though, to have at the convention.

This will be our 9th time, I believe, attending as an organized TarValon.net group. What started as a small group of us, jamming ourselves into one or two rooms has grown tremendously! This year our attendance is not the largest, but we've still got 27 people staying in our room block, with even more staying on their own. Not too shabby. :)

The TarValon.net group is staying this year in Atlanta's Marriott Marquis. It is a beautiful hotel with loads of convention space, is one of the Dragon*con host hotels and you can see photos of the hotel on the Marriott's site, Esteban has helpfully added the link below. Don't be surprised if things look a bit different once you get there! The lobby and common areas look quite different once they start to fill up with our fellow con-goers.

Dragon*con is, I think, the most unusual event we attend as a group. From www.dragoncon.org: "Dragon*Con is the largest multi-media, popular culture convention focusing on science fiction and fantasy, gaming, comics, literature, art, music, and film in the universe!"

This fan convention is huge! I really mean that, huge. There are authors, artists, actors, musicians, gamers, costumers, filmmakers - the list just goes on and on! If you have any sort of media fandom, it's probably represented here. Can't get enough of Buffy? Got it covered!

Can't get enough Star Wars? Got it covered! Harry Potter? Star Trek? Comics? Anime? BSG? MythBusters? Got them all covered! Do you worship the Crux Shadows? Does Voltaire make you dreamy eyed? Always wanted to go to a "live" performance of the Rocky Horror Picture Show? Covered. You will not lack for things to do at this convention. In fact, you'll likely not make it to half of what you want to! I highly recommend that you bring a highlighter and/or a pen and mark the things you really *need* to go to in the Pocket Program.

The people who attend are by and large a friendly group. I've always found it easy to strike up conversations with people in lines, wandering the lobby or passing time people watching. Bringing your camera is a must! Don't feel awkward about wanting pictures of people in costume. Odds are that they'd love to be photographed. Do though try to be polite and ask someone for a photo. They'll likely stop and give you a good pose also.

The packet below is full of useful information, so I'll let you get started. I can't wait to see you all there!

Serenla Sedai

Useful Links

<http://www.dragoncon.org/index.htm>

Go to this website. It has a ton of useful information for you, and will answer nearly all of your questions about the conference itself. This is where you find out about your badge information, layout of the conference, special events, fan tracks, guests, artists, etc. Remember, TarValon.net does not have anything to do with your badge for Dragon*con!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/124273964292163/>

This is the Official FB page for the Wheel of Time Track at Dragon-Con! Here's where you can find links to the schedule and socialize with all your fellow fans of WOT.

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/atlmq-atlanta-marriott-marquis/>

Those who are staying in official TarValon.Net member rooms will be staying at the Marriott Marquis on Peachtree Center Avenue in Atlanta. If you need to get directions, be sure to look at the websites. I personally think this is one of the prettiest hotel in the city! Be sure to give yourself at least half an hour to 45 minutes to get anywhere from your room. It can take a while for an elevator to arrive. The hotel offers a wonderful swimming pool and work out center for those who wish to take advantage of it.

Hotel Directions and Check-in Procedures

Esteban will be arranging for our hotel rooms no later than 10am on Thursday. If you plan to arrive before then, you will need to keep yourself occupied. The hotel will set up a place for you to check your luggage while you wait. You will receive a text message with the location of our check in & Welcome Committee. You do not check in at the hotel at the front desk. You must check in with our Welcome Committee. If you do not have a cell phone with you or cannot receive texts, please call Esteban when you arrive. The Welcome Committee will have your key and room number, and be able to point you in the direction for the conference registration.

If you are arriving by airplane, the MARTA train takes you very close to the convention. If you need assistance getting from the airport to the hotels on MARTA let us know and we will do our best to have an experienced con-goer meet you at the airport. If for some reason you do not get connected, you want to take the MARTA system to the Peachtree Center Mall. That is the closest station to the hotel. Then follow signs. If you do not meet the party you are supposed to meet, call Esteban. Please do not ask for help at the last moment. Make sure you have your arrangements put in place now.

If you are driving, please get your directions from the Hotel website. Do be aware, this conference has an attendance of 30,000 – 40,000 people. Most of them will also be arriving on Thursday. Traffic will be horrible. Parking will be even worse. You will not find free parking anywhere. Contact the hotel if you want to know the rates for keeping your car there (usually about \$20 + per day/night). Carpooling is highly recommended. If you are lost, call Esteban for help with directions and he will do his best.

Roommate List and Room Leaders

The following list is for those members staying in the TarValon.Net designated rooms at the Marriott.

In each room, we have one or two designated "Room Leaders." These people are listed in bold. Room leaders serve to help facilitate our living together for four days. If there is something that needs resolution, the room leader is the final authority on the matter unless it requires Serenla's attention or my own. It is also advisable to let your room leader generally know where you will be or how we can find you. It's not only a safety precaution, sometimes we really just need to find you to tell you something. ;-)

Room assignments are as follows:

Room of 4 and three quarters

Arie Davion

James Davion

Yelenia Hyllaren

Adolla Ceryia

Rum & The Coconuts

Adriana al'Tere

Bryher al'Venna

Nethanel al'Tere

Khisanth al'Danya

Pol Rohanson

Four Corners

Jayrik Thaurtunion

Jarin Mayani

Kiana a'Jadein

Maidelyn Sedai

#wheel IRL

Ara Alyona & two guests

Shendare Doanshar

Book Smarts

Serenla Tamowith & one guest

Zashara Da'sainne

Melearlin a'Valarnon

Shara Nevan

Green Acres

Serinia Edoras

Valorian Edoras
Murasaki

The Worst Kept Secret Room
Amarande al'Kalin
????????

ALSO ATTENDING, BUT NOT STAYING IN OUR BLOCK OF ROOMS:

Amira Coriande
Arya Ellesméra
Ben al'Den
Cassie Dainar
Dralyn Montsier
Dwynwen al'Muir
Ismene Gillandred
Karaelyn Midorie
Jenarra
Jeral Mazur
Maris De Casside
Miriam ti Casside
Myk al'Tod
Segurant Trevalaer
Sorohen Ciryaher
Sulamein Jorh'aran
Taric Gillandred
Vashanka Val'rus
Venric Methalion
Verscen Ter Sala

Chain of Command

Esteban Diego – Esteban is the Conference Coordinator! He will check you in, point you in the right direction and answer your questions. He will not be staying at the Con. So if you need help during Con, contact Serenla or Serinia

Jayrik– These folks have volunteered for our Safety Committee. He will help find you first aid if needed. If you have an actual emergency, please call 911!

Serinia– Serinia is the Director of Events and Conferences! She will be available if you have any problems or concerns regarding the hotels or your stay that need to be addressed.

Serenla – Serenla is our Director of Membership! Any problems that arise during the convention that relate to our membership should be brought to her. If necessary, the situation will be escalated up the chain. She can be reached at (678) 431-0836.

Contact Information

A number of members bring their cell phones in order to facilitate contact between members. The following are those members who have volunteered to share their numbers with you. I recommend you keep these phone numbers in a place where you can find them at the Conference.

Please remember, these numbers are private and are only for use at Con. Do not assume that you are invited to call anyone on this list after Con unless they specifically communicate to you that you may.

Dragon*con 2010 Registrations Tower Block	
Tower Name	Phone Number
Serinia Edoras	513.543.7246
Adolla Ceryia	240.405.5416
Maidelyn Sedai	+88.447.411.2185
Ara Alonya	505.948.4037
Kiana a’Jadein	757.816.6680
Amarande al’Kalin	203.731.0864
Murasaki	360.742.20613
Khisanth al’Danya	404.483.2206
Yelenia Hyllaren	409.939.1302
Bryher al Venna	614.537.5941
Pol Rohanson	614.327.2002
Zashara Da'sainne	410.236.9307
Jayrik Thaurturion	918.519.9231
Arie Davion	661.313.6028
James Davion	818.263.2536
Melearlin a’Valarnon	310.850.6213
Shara Nevan	214.537.52090
Adriana al’Tere	417.288.9914
Nethanel al’Tere	660.864.5511
Serenla Tamowith	678.431.0836
Valorian Edoras	918.760.7778
Shendare Doanshar	951.367.7863
Jarin Mayani	503.547.3170

Dragon*con 2010 Registrations Non-Tower Block	
Tower Name	Phone Number
Dywnwyn al'Muir56	909.649.2126
Arya Ellesméra	256.490.3321
Ben al'Den	770.833.5559
Esteban Diego	404.932.3188
Dralyn Montsier	256.276.0193

TarValon.Net Opening Ceremonies - The Pantsless Party 10 PM Thursday - 10th Floor Marriott

If you're a member, you should be there! We will open up festivities with our traditional Goldschlager toast, followed by our ceremonies and general revelry. (Please bring your own beverage if not drinking Goldschlager.) Do not come wearing trousers. You will be denied entrance. Acceptable articles of clothing include: shorts, skirts, sarongs, togas, kilts, strategically placed bath towels, etc. Please do not come only wearing underwear... the point is to be pantless, not to see everyone's naughty bits.

In all seriousness, though, if you're there on Thursday, I highly recommend making time to attend our opening ceremonies. This is where we all generally take stock of how many of us there are, introduce ourselves to one another, etc. It makes the entire weekend a lot nicer and much, much easier when it comes to knowing everyone and recognizing them. The Welcome Committee will notify you if the location changes when you check in with them.

TarValon.Net Pool Party ?????????

Hang out with us in the Marriott pool! Participate in a round of Chicken! Snuggle in the spa! This party will be followed by the traditional annual meeting of the Church of BALS. Time will be decided during the Con.

Sunday Night Pajama Party!!! Late Night - 10th Floor Marriott

The 10th floor of the Marriott has loads of this lovely open space! As you can see, we use it a lot. :) Jammy up and bring your games, role playing games, cards and dice!! This is an unofficial party! No swordfighting! If we keep it kind of low key, then the Marriott folks probably won't kick us out!!

Specific Con Events You Should Consider Attending

The Parade – 10:00 AM sharp Saturday!

Please go to the Age of Legends track posted above if you would like to march with the Wheel of Time group. Muster is usually around 9:00 AM. We always have a strong showing at the parade, please consider participating!

An Evening at the Winespring Inn- 10:00 PM Saturday - Westin EFGH

This year, we have Karaoke! We got the “big room” back this year for our party and it should be a blast! Wear your best Randland garb, or really, anything. We just want to see you there!

Costume Contest – 5:30 PM Sunday - Westin AB

Please participate this year! If you’re not going up, at least show up to cheer your fellow folk on. Double check the Pocket Program or track room for changes! Come for the costumes, stay for the impressive shawls. :waggle

The Wheel of Time Track Schedule can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Amz90ZOKvE3CdDVCZUc5czljcHNKNFpaWWpNRTFEOWc&hl=en_US#gid=0

Code of Conduct

- Please remember that the constitution’s code of conduct does still apply during a real life event. In a nutshell, it says to be respectful of one another.
- It is illegal for someone under the age of 21 to drink alcohol in Georgia. If you are underage, please take that into consideration.
- Please, whenever possible, use the buddy system. And if you are not with the majority of the group make sure at least one person knows where you’re generally planning to be. This is a safety issue. Not only for yourself, but we have had to try and find people when emergency situations have occurred before.
- Living in close quarters with no sleep means that there are going to be some grumpy people starting around day two and lasting through the rest of the weekend. It also means there is a good possibility of personality clashes. Please try to keep this to a minimum. If it gets to a point where it becomes apparent to the rest of us or apparent that someone needs to step in, then an Admin or Room Leader will do so. We are, as always, here for you if you need to talk about anything.
- What happens at Con stays at Con. It is nobodys business as to who slept next to whom, who got ill, who got drunk and acted silly, etc. Please let people keep personal issues personal.
- If a problem occurs, we cannot find resolution and you have broken our code of conduct or the conference’s code of conduct, you will be asked to leave our rooms. We’ve only had to do it once, and it was an extreme case so you probably don’t have anything to worry about. :-P However, be forewarned if you are asked to leave due to such reasons, your room rate will not be refunded to you and your membership at TarValon.net may be revoked.

Suggested Packing List

- Clothing for four days. The weather is generally warm, but it can also be wet. Do bring a light sweater or jacket for use indoors.
- Comfortable shoes. There is a lot of walking. Really – a whole lot of walking.
- Toiletries. Showers make everybody like your company.
- Spare pillow (especially if you want two, or you're sleeping in a crowded room). If your room has more than four people, determine who will be sleeping on the floor. If that person is you, then be sure to bring bedding!
- Costume(s)! While not mandatory, everyone else will be doing it. Be sure to pack some fun stuff to wear! Pretty much anything goes.
- A camera.
- A watch (please bring a watch!)
- More money than you think you're going to need.
- This packet!

Transportation

Once at the Con I recommend that you walk. Few places for vehicles have in and out privileges, and traffic is horrid. The public transportation system (MARTA) is relatively safe and clean (still go with a buddy!).

Helpful Hints for First Timers

- Crowds. Crowds, crowds, crowds. It will take you three times as long to get anyplace you need to go than you think it will. Budget your time accordingly.
- Atlanta passed a bill outlawing panhandlers at certain places in the city. If you walk outside the conference hotels and mall, you will be approached by people looking for money. It is up to you whether or not to give them some, but please be aware that if you do there is a good chance other people will see it and you will be subject to more harassment.
- Please be safe! Yes, it's a conference of geeky folk. Yes, hotel security will be thorough. Still, it is a party of 30,000 something people in silly costumes who have most likely been drinking. If you stay in the hotel's public areas, you're probably pretty safe. Do not wander outside by yourself, do not go into room parties with people you do not know by yourself. If you think you're going to be unaware (aka tipsy), be sure to buddy up with someone to help you watch your back. When drinking among strangers, always keep your drink in your hand and do not set it down.
- Costumes! Costumes are fun! Everyone wears them at this con, and everything goes. One year I had my picture taken with Dark Helmet and the Donny Darko Bunny. Even if you're just dusting off your geekiest shirt, I'd recommend you bring it. You actually feel like you fit in more if you're not wearing the usual.
- Consuite is a place that serves up free food and drink through the con. It's terrible food and drink, there isn't a lot of it, it is all heavily sponsored... but it is free. So while I wouldn't rely on it to feed me throughout con, it's sometimes a good option if you're hard up for cash and they happen to be serving. The next cheapest place to eat is in the food court of the Peachtree Center Mall. The food court and mall are connected to the hotel, so look out for signs.
- Please remember to drink plenty of water. You'll be getting a LOT of walking in. It's humid if you go outside. Especially if you drink alcohol... be sure to drink water. Dehydration is a big deal at Con, and a lot of people fall prey to it. Also, sleep. You won't get a lot of it. Sleep up

before you get there. Try to take cat naps when you can. And if you go into your room and a roommate is sleeping, try to respect that and be quiet.

- Almost everyone feels overwhelmed at some point during the Con. You may not even recognize the signs, but it is the number one thing behind us dealing with weepy members. A lot of us like to keep our socialization somewhat controlled, and after a few days of being bombarded with it... it can take its toll. Oddly enough, it most frequently strikes us with the "alone in a crowded room" syndrome. When that happens, take some time to rest. Spend some one on one time with a friend. It will pass, and you'll feel better.

- Be sure to follow local laws. Sadly, this includes no liquor stores open on Sunday (plan accordingly!), no smoking indoors, and no feeding the bears. (You can feed SDS bears!) While you will still be able to buy alcohol at the bars at Con on Sunday, none of the stores will be selling alcohol.

- On your first day, check in to your room with Esteban first. Then go get your badge. Get that out of the way ASAP, it will take awhile! Go with a friend or other member if you can. A lot of folk will be found in the WoT track room (Westin AB 7th Floor) that afternoon, so that's the best place to go if you're not sure what to do next.

- If you're looking to buy stabbities and costumes, many of the stores mark down their prices considerably on the last day. It is cheaper to sell at a loss than to drag the stuff back home.

- 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. :-D If you prefer not to be hugged and such, just quietly let the person know. They won't be offended.

- Be kind to people trying to remember your name. Sometimes we all get caught up in the excitement and the names fly out of our heads!

- Have fun!