



DRAGON**TALK*

Dragon*Con Membership Newsletter
August 31–September 3, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 1
Atlanta, Georgia



Making Walk Up Registration Even Easier

One of the improvements Dragon*Con implemented last year was the use of barcodes to speed up registration. If you purchase your membership in advance, then you receive a postcard with a barcode on the mailing label. You just bring that postcard **and** a valid government-issued photo ID with you to the registration area at the Sheraton. It greatly speeds up the registration experience for you and everyone else.

And if you prefer to purchase your membership onsite, you can speed up your registration process by going to dragoncon.org/dc_pde_barcode.php, fill out the form, submit it, and it will generate a .pdf file with a QR code. This form is not connected to any database; it is merely a utility for printing your own QR code. The QR code will contain your demographic information, mildly encrypted and base64 encoded. Print your form and bring it along with your valid government-issued photo ID to the on-site registration area. Our friendly volunteers will be able to scan your code, check your ID and print up your badge without all that time consuming manual data entry. You'll be free to go have fun that much sooner!

Our Comic Book Costume Contest Is Getting a New Name

Have you heard? We've been in the process of renaming our Comic Book Babes Costume Contest by collecting fan ideas. We've narrowed down the nearly one hundred suggestions received to our *top three* selections and **YOU** are the first to hear the finalists.

We'll be taking these suggestions to Facebook for a poll to determine the winning name. The creator of the final name selected will be a judge at the contest, sitting alongside some of the best comic and pop art guests.

Which will it be???

- ★ From the Page to the Stage: Comic Book Pageant
- ★ Intergalactic Heroes and Villains
- ★ The Ultimate Comic Book Costumes Showdown

Thanks to all who participated in the renaming and be on the lookout for other opportunities to be a part of Dragon*Con history!

Find us on Facebook
and participate in our
Comic Book Costume
Contest naming poll!

facebook.com/
pages/DragonCon/
58381388805



Dragon*Con Survival Guide

Whether It's your first year at Dragon*Con or you're an old pro, we want you to have an awesome time at the show. You may have seen some of these "survival guides" before, and some of you can probably even write them...either way, check out these tips...they could come in handy!

Get Your Badge, Secure Your Badge, Show Your Badge

First things first...swing by the Sheraton and pick up your badge. Did you preregister? If so, be sure to bring your postcard. We made some awesome upgrades to the registration system in 2011 and the lines move much quicker (we promise; ask someone who came last year). Once you have your badge, you must secure it and show it at all times. You will need your badge to get into the events at the host hotels. Additionally, some of our host hotels will be requiring a badge or room key during peak hours to cut down on congestion, and to help keep our members safe. So have your badge ready and visible! Lost badges are not replaced; I know it's a bummer...but you should know...



Plan Your Time

Dragon*Con is four non-stop days of 24-hour fun! There are almost forty individual programming tracks and even more special events, contests, gaming, and parties than you can imagine. We hate to break it to you, but you can't do everything you want, so you'll have to prioritize. The free smart phone app and pocket program are great tools that will tell you where to go, what to do and when to get there. Make a plan and be sure to allow time to wait in line for a big event or popular panel that has your favorite guest. Lines for events in main programming will begin when the group for the previous panel has been seated. An important note, we clear the room after each panel in the larger rooms.

Wear Comfortable Shoes

The convention takes place in five hotels. You're going to be doing a lot of walking! Wearing a costume with special shoes? Bring a pair of plan "B" shoes to wear during your off times in case you can't stand it any longer...you will thank us later!

Carry a Survival Bag

(or enlist someone to carry it for you)

Sure, you think you will swing by your room to pick up what you need. In reality, the elevators, the time, the distance and the crowds will make you rethink that trek. So here is a list of items you might want to have at easy reach.

- ★ Camera
- ★ Batteries
- ★ First aid supplies (adhesive bandages, aspirin, medications)
- ★ Business Cards (for those networking opportunities)
- ★ Cash (ATM machines are available but often run out of cash)
- ★ Snacks
- ★ Water bottle
- ★ Sweater or jacket (it can get cold in some of the rooms plus it makes an impromptu pillow)
- ★ Sanitizer (con crud is no one's friend)
- ★ Page protectors or photo sleeves for autographed photos
- ★ Sharpie, pen, highlighter, and paper so you can make notes to your pocket program and get autographs

Follow the 5/2/1 Rule

We require our staff to adhere to the 5/2/1 rule. Get a **minimum** of five hours a sleep, two meals, and one shower every day, please. It works for everyone.

Sleep: We know you are probably not going to get enough sleep at the convention, but you'll have a lot more fun if you at least try. Plus, you'll be a nicer person to be around (just ask your friends). So shoot for 5 hours sleep at a minimum in one stretch.

Food: You can usually find a hamburger and hotdog vendor anywhere. Here are some other options:

Each of the hotels has somewhere to buy café and deli style food and salads and some are open 24 hours.

Don't Miss Out! Update Your Address

Don't miss out on getting your copy of the *2012 Progress Report*, update your address at the Dragon*Con office today!

Mail: Dragon*Con Office
Attn: Address Update
PO Box 16459
Atlanta, Georgia 30321-0459

Call: 770-909-0115

Email: dragoncon@dragoncon.org



The Peachtree Center has a food court that is accessible via the skywalks from the Hyatt, Marriott and the Peachtree Center parking garage. You can find a wide variety of quick food options as well as fine dining restaurants nearby.

Be sure to carry some snacks with you so you can eat something when you get hungry and don't have time at that moment to track down food. There is a Publix located approximately one mile north of the host hotels on Piedmont Avenue.

And don't forget about the ConSuite. It's a sci-fi convention tradition located in the Hyatt where you can get snacks and some soda.

Tip Your Hotel Staff

The hotel staff gets a kick out of the convention and they work pretty hard to take care of us throughout the four days! So be sure to tip the maid service, bartenders and other hotel staff that provide a service to you.

So now you're off to a good start and ready to go. We look forward to seeing you in August!

Get to Know the Puppetry Track

Dragon*Con has two new tracks this year, one of which is the Puppetry track. If you're already into puppetry, then we're sure you're excited about this new track and are eager to know what they have planned. But let's say you don't know much about puppetry. What if you're asking yourself "isn't puppetry just for kids"? Ah, there is stuff for the kids, but puppetry is so much more—just ask one of the 700+ people who were in line for the Late Night Puppet Slam last year.

The footage they created that day became the first twelve episodes of Bob and Carl, the *Sci-Fi Janitors*. *The Sci-Fi Janitors* have gone on to become a staple of DCTV. Based on the popularity of *The Sci-Fi Janitors*, Dragon*Con hosted their first ever Late Night Puppet Slam to a packed house of 250 people with a line of people waiting to get in.*

*See the afore mentioned 700+ minus the 250 that actually got in...well you can do the math.



Puppetry is an art form that combines elements of both visual and performing arts and encompasses a range of styles from humorous and touching to dark and macabre. Members will see marionettes, shadow puppets, rod puppets, hand puppets as well as styles that defy description!

So why a Puppetry Track at Dragon*Con? Well, you probably know about Bob and Carl, the *Sci-Fi Janitors*. If not, visit www.scifijanitors.com, we'll wait here till you get back.

Patrick Freeman saw Beau Brown and Matt Nitchie perform "Clean Up", an early version of the *Sci-Fi Janitors*, and thought it would make a good skit for the Dragon*Con Television, which is the closed circuit network that we run in host hotels during the convention (aka DCTV). They got together to start filming.

The Puppet Slam was outrageous, hysterical, and paved the way for Beau Brown to bring the Puppetry Track to Dragon*Con for 2012.

So what can you expect from the Puppetry track for 2012? In a nutshell they want to celebrate Puppetry in pop culture. We're sure you are familiar with one of the biggest names in pop culture and puppetry...Jim Henson and the *Muppets*.

The Puppetry track is excited to welcome some wonderful guests, including Peter Linz, who performed as "Walter" the Muppet in the recently released *Muppet Movie*. Peter is an Atlanta native who has also worked at the Center for Puppetry Arts, *Sesame Street*, *Between the Lions*, and *Avenue Q*. Peter will be here to share his knowledge, joy and love of puppetry with the members of Dragon*Con. Joining Peter in the puppetry guest line up is Leslie Carrara-Rudolph, best known as *Sesame Street's* Abby Cadabby.

So here is just a sampling of what you can expect:

- ★ Live performances with renowned puppeteers such as Madison J. Cripps, Carole D'Agostino, Honey Goodenough, Kristin Haverty and Allisa Hunnicutt;
- ★ There will be performances appropriate for all ages during the day, and more mature themed performances at night;
- ★ Question and Answers with the puppeteers and performers;
- ★ Create-a-puppet workshops for kids;
- ★ Workshops on puppet construction using advanced techniques and materials;
- ★ How to film puppetry for television and video;
- ★ Fan panels on the world of Jim Henson including the *Muppets*, *Fraggle Rock*, *Farscape*, and *Sesame Street*;
- ★ Panels about influential puppetry on US television including Howdy Doody, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, and Shari Lewis and Lamb Chop;
- ★ A presentation on how to work as a busker and street performer (and not get booted off your corner);
- ★ Films representing a wide range of styles including the *Handmade Puppet Dreams* film series produced by Heather Henson;
- ★ Puppetry merchandise to buy including puppets, DVDs, t-shirts, and cool stuff you won't find anywhere else;
- ★ And of course, the Late Night Puppet Slam!

Whether you are a novice or a budding professional, a new fan or connoisseur there will be something for everyone. Be sure to stop by and say hi to our new track and welcome them to the Dragon*Con family!

AAA!

No, we are not referring to the ever popular and helpful motor club. Nor are we speaking of the Amateur Astronomers Association (although they will be pleased by the third A). This has nothing to do with the highest level of play in minor league baseball either.

What we are talking about is **Acting**, **Artists**, and **Astronomy!** That's right, this year Dragon*Con is bringing you three new and exciting workshops!

Acting

We are pleased to offer a unique acting workshop over a two day period by acclaimed actress, director, and author Amber Benson. If you are interested in a career in acting either on the stage or screen or just want to polish up your professional skills, here is your chance to gain insights, and learn tips, from the successful, talented, and knowledgeable Amber Benson.

Amber Benson is a writer, director and actor. She currently writes the *Calliope Reaper-Jones* paranormal romance series for Ace/Roc and her middle grade book, *Among the Ghosts*, came out in paperback this past fall from Simon and Schuster. As a director, she co-directed the Slamdance feature *Drones*, which was picked up for distribution by Phase Four Films. She also directed (and co-wrote) the BBC animated series, *The Ghosts of Albion*. Her acting work includes the Steven Soderbergh film, *King of the Hill*, and the indie feature, *Race You to the Bottom*, for which she won the Best Actress Award at Outfest. She also spent three years as Tara Maclay on the television series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

The two day workshop, held on Thursday and Friday, will cover valuable topics such as "Breaking into the Business," "An Improv Primer," and "Character Building." At the end of the experience students will complete a mock audition to be recorded on video and personally critiqued by Amber.

And for all of you fans that have already fallen in love with some of our other great workshops, worry not...we will be bringing back some of our favorites. For all of the aspiring writers out there, you have the choice of Jody Lynn Nye's Two Day Intensive Workshop or the Writer's Hourly Workshops with Mike Stackpole and Aaron Allston. If you are looking to clear your head, you can still relax and mediate with Virginia Hey or practice Tai Chi with the always amazing Erin Gray. And for those that have been wondering how to investigate the paranormal, we still have our Scientific Investigation Workshop with Benjamin Radford. Finally, don't forget our free Belly Dancing with Phoencia if you are looking for a fun workout!

For more information on all workshops, please visit our website at dragoncon.org/workshops.php.



Artists

Dragon*Con 2012 presents a series of workshops over a two day period by acclaimed artist and illustrator, David A. Cherry. Whether your interest is traditional, digital, illustration, or game art, one or more of these workshops will be for you.

David A. Cherry is past president of The Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists and winner of multiple Chelsey Awards, the Frank R. Paul Award, the Skylark Award, and the Polly Freas Award for Artistic Merit. After 20 years as an illustrator, working in traditional media, he became Marketing Artist for a game studio, Ensemble Studios, and moved on to the 3D modeling team, producing titles such as *Age of Mythology*, *Age of Empires III*, and *Halo Wars*, among others. There he became proficient in digital media. For the past several years, he has been Professor Cherry, teaching 2D and 3D game art production at The Guildhall at SMU in Dallas, a graduate school for those interested in working in the ever expanding game industry.

The series of workshops, which are purchased individually and take place over Friday and Saturday, will include "Acrylic Painting Technique," "Life Drawing Sessions," "Photoshop for Illustration and Game Art," "3D Studio Max Game Asset Creation," and a "Personal Project Review for Illustration and Game."

Astronomy

We are also proud to offer a two-day workshop on Friday and Saturday, focused on astronomy, physics, and other space sciences and how to present these topics to general audiences. The workshop is designed for writers and editors of science fiction, as well as other interested parties. The workshop will be directed by Mike Brotherton, an astronomy professor specializing in quasars, a hard science fiction novelist (*Star Dragon*, *Spider Star*), and founder of the Launchpad Astronomy Workshop for Writers held each summer in Laramie, Wyoming. Joining Mike is Launchpad co-founder and science education specialist, Dr. Jim Verley, observational cosmologist Adam Myers, internationally recognized astronomy education researchers Tim and Stephanie Slater, and planetary astronomy Kevin R. Grazier who is science consultant for TV and movies (*Battlestar Galactica*, *Eureka*, the upcoming movie *Gravity*, and many others). Among subjects to be included are fundamentals, planets, stars, galaxies and cosmology, and issues common to "science fiction science." Special attention will be given to common misconceptions, jargon, and techniques for communicating science that make science less accessible. Examples from popular movies and books, good and bad, will be used for illustration.

Dragon*Con Membership Rewards

What exactly do you get when you buy a membership at Dragon*Con? Of course you get four days of non-stop fun, the chance to see some pretty awesome costumes and meet friendly, interesting people that are obsessed with the same things you are. Oh yeah, you also get more gaming than you could imagine, parties that go on and on, the biggest art show in the South, the chance to meet around 400 guests, the **biggest** parade in Atlanta, and much, much more! So basically, the four best days of your year, right?

We here at Dragon*Con really appreciate our members and know that they have helped make us the convention that we all know and love!

In fact, we love our members so much that we are working to provide you guys with even more “perks” to membership. We are thinking drawings, contests, discounts, and more!

So we are excited to announce a new membership perk. Now when you shop at the Dragon*Con store online, you get 10% off all merchandise and even bigger discounts on our fabulous workshops. All you have to do is go to store.dragoncon.org and log in.

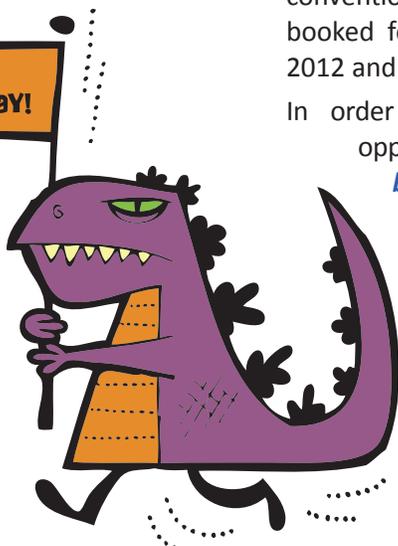
Stay tuned for even more membership perks to be announced in the future!

PURCHASE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Phone the Dragon*Con Office at 770-909-0115;

Or Mail Your Membership Form (Available Online) to: Dragon*Con Attn: 2012 Membership PO Box 16459 Atlanta, GA 30321-0459

Or Order Online at: store.dragoncon.org



New Guests

Dragon*Con is excited to welcome the leading men of the hit series *Vampire Diaries*, **Ian Somerhalder** and **Paul Wesley**, to Dragon*Con 2012. Both will have limited appearances on Saturday and Sunday including programming, photo ops, and signing, courtesy of Celebrity Authentics. Stay tuned for more details.

Also check out some of our other recent additions:

- ★ Aaron Ashmore
- ★ Dean Cain
- ★ Grant Imahara
- ★ Juliet Landau
- ★ Sean Maher
- ★ Eve Myles
- ★ Craig Parker
- ★ Leslie Carrara-Rudolph
- ★ Katee Sackhoff
- ★ Jewel Staite
- ★ Jim Starlin
- ★ *The Guild's* Felicia Day, Jeff Lewis, Amy Okuda, Sandeep Parikh, & Robin Thorsen
- ★ *True Blood's* Nelsan Ellis, Joe Manganiello, Carrie Preston, & Sam Trammell
- ★ *Walking Dead's* Steven Yeun and James McCune

Dragon*Con Partners with Delta Air Lines

This year Dragon*Con has partnered with Delta Air Lines to offer attendees a 2%–10% discount on airfares to the convention. Reservations must be booked for travel between August 28, 2012 and September 6, 2012.

In order to take advantage of this opportunity, please visit delta.com/booking and enter meeting/event code NM8S7 for domestic travel into Atlanta or NM8SR for international travel. Reservations can also be made over the phone at +1-800-328-1111 Monday thru Friday 7:00 am–7:00 pm CDT, but a direct ticketing fee will apply.

Dragon*Con Night at the Aquarium

Dragon*Con will again partner with the world's largest aquarium to provide our members with a unique “after hours” experience Saturday, September 1, from 7:00 pm–11:00 pm.



All exhibits, as well as food court, will be open and of course your Dragon*Con costumes are welcome! Tickets are \$20 in advance (before Aug 29th) and \$25 after. Please visit www.georgiaaquarium.org/dragoncon to take advantage of this offer.

Stay Connected!

Want to be connected to Dragon*Con with the quickest and most regular updates out there? Be sure to add us to your social network...like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to stay connected.



facebook.com/pages/DragonCon/58381388805



twitter.com/#!/DragonCon