



DRAGON

TALK



Dragon Con Membership Newsletter
August 29–September 1, 2014

Volume 3, Issue 3
Atlanta, Georgia

The Dragon Con Glossary Issue

We fans, con-goers, geeks, and nerds do like our jargon, it is known to be true. But we also like encouraging others to enjoy our hobbies and fandoms too. So in the spirit of unlocking the mysteries of Dragon Con Speak, we bring you the first installment of the Dragon Con Glossary.

In this issue, we'll focus on some of the general convention terms that are critical to know in order to navigate and enjoy Dragon Con. We're just scratching the surface here and we'll be looking to you for more glossary terms in the future. We hope this glossary provides you with some "oh that's what that means" moments. Plus, you now have another resource you can share with others as you excitedly pull them into the vortex of fun that is Dragon Con.

I will not disrupt the space-time continuum, I will not disrupt the space-time continuum, I will not disrupt the space-time continuum, I will not disrupt the space-



Special Dragon Con Member Fares are Here!

Delta Air Lines is pleased to offer special discounted* airfares. To take advantage of these Travel Discounts, see below for detailed domestic and international travel information. You may also call Delta Meeting Network® Reservations at 1-800-328-1111, Monday–Friday, 7 am.–7 pm. Central Time. (Please use the same number to make changes to an existing Delta Meeting Network Reservation.)

If originating within United States/Canada, please [click here](#) and enter **NMJ7M** under Meeting Event Code.

For ALL other, please [click here](#) and enter **NMJ7F** under Meeting Event Code.

*Please note the following:

- ★ NOT ALL FARES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A DISCOUNT
- ★ Discounts apply to round trip travel only
- ★ Not valid with other discounts, certificates, coupons or promotional offers
- ★ Fare rules will determine eligibility

Also in this Issue:

"Balance Point"
Our featured story excerpt

**The Adventures of the
Dragon Con Superheroes**
Having fun while giving back to
the community

**Plus news, fun facts, and
benefits for our members!**

The Dragon Con Glossary or Translating Dragon Con Speak Into Regular English

6/3/1 Rule	An oft repeated con recommendation. You should get at least 6 hours sleep, 3 meals, and 1 bath for every 24 hour period. Meant to ensure sanity, health, hygiene, friends, and maximum enjoyment during the convention.
App	The Dragon Con mobile app for iOS, Android, Blackberry, and mobile internet browsers. It's the techie kid brother of the pocket program, complete with customizable convention schedule, hotel maps, guest programming schedules, vendor list, social media feeds, and other great features to help you plan your time.
Badge	When you pay to attend Dragon Con, you become a member of Dragon Con. Instead of a ticket, you receive a specially designed laminated badge as your proof of membership as well as your admission to the myriad events going on throughout the four days. Wear it proudly!
Con Crud	The name of the "illness" you receive as a result of being in close proximity to and/or in contact with other convention goers. It varies from bacterial to viral and often includes nasal congestion and fatigue.
Costume Contests	Dragon Con holds numerous costume contests, including (but not limited to) the Masquerade, a multi-genre contest that allows audio and performance; the Friday Night Costume Contest, with its emphasis on costume workmanship; and the Hall Costume Contest, where our photographers snap photos of cosplayers in the halls and fans vote on the winners.
Cosplay	Cosplay is a combination of the words "costume" and "play." It is the art or practice of wearing costumes to portray characters from fiction, especially from manga, animation, and science fiction. ¹
Daily Dragon	The <i>Daily Dragon</i> is your source for schedule changes, party announcements, lost and found info, and informative articles. It's available every morning at the information booths, fan track rooms, registration, the app, and the website.
DCTV	<i>Dragon Con TV</i> provides all the bumpers and videos shown on screens between panels, and also runs continuous feeds of popular panels, contests, and content to your room in all the host hotels.
Dragon Con	Dragon Con is the largest multi-media, pop culture con focusing on sci-fi, fantasy, gaming, comics, lit, art, music, and film in the universe! It is held in the Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott, Sheraton, Westin, and AmericasMart, in downtown Atlanta for four nonstop days over Labor Day weekend.
Dragon Con Store	The stores in the Sheraton, Marriott, and AmericasMart that sell the official event shirts, lanyards, and other Dragon Con logo'd merchandise. There is also an <i>online store</i> where you can buy your membership in advance of the show.
Elevators	To win at Dragon Con, you must bow down to the will of the Elevators. Because they get so busy, it is often best to take the first available elevator that comes, whether it is going up or down. Hence the term, "You must go up, to go down" and vice versa. Just ride it out, meet some fun people, and be mindful of folks with disabilities who need a spot.
Escalators	The place to see, be seen and get where you want to go. The big escalators that people often refer to are in the center of the Marriott, which are surrounded by awesome people watching areas. Follow the directed flow of traffic towards escalators; don't stop and take photos, come to a halt or back up, and all will be well.
Guests, Professionals	Dragon Con invites 400+ official <i>guests</i> each year. These are celebrities, actors, musicians, artists, creators, and others who have a strong genre background and appeal to a broad range of people within their fandom or general public. In addition to guests, we have professionals, who are subject matter experts or appeal to a more specific base.
Habitrails	The unofficial term for the series of skybridges that connect host hotels and the Peachtree Center to one another, allowing people a way to go from building to building without wandering out into traffic. There is a skybridge between the Hilton and the Marriott, and between the Marriott and the Hyatt. In addition, the Marriott and the Hyatt both have skybridges that connect to the Peachtree Center. The name "habitrails" comes from the plastic tubes created to house hamsters and other small pets.

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Host Hotels	Dragon Con takes place in five host hotels in downtown Atlanta, plus the AmericasMart. They are the Hilton Atlanta, Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Marriott Marquis Atlanta, Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, and Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel. This helps us provide the unique, 24/7, take over downtown Atlanta, convivial atmosphere that is Dragon Con. Dragon Con has negotiated special rates at these hotels but they sell out quickly.
Marta	Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority. MARTA has a rapid rail service that runs directly from Hartsfield International Airport to the Peachtree Center Rail Station. This station is directly connected to the Hyatt and the Marriott through the Peachtree Center Mall and Food Court.
Membership	Dragon Con sells Memberships to the Convention vs. tickets. We want to welcome everyone to the community of Dragon Con and the limitless things to do during the four day convention and beyond. In addition to the show, Members also receive invitations to special events, member publications, member discounts and other great benefits.
Overflow Hotels	Overflow hotels are hotels around Atlanta (including Downtown, Midtown and Airport Hotels) with which Dragon Con has negotiated special rates and room blocks for attendees. Most downtown overflow hotels are within walking distance of the host hotels and/or have the Dragon Con shuttle. Click here to verify shuttle service and to learn more.
Panels, Fan Panels	Panels are a slot of time where members can come in, sit down, and enjoy guests, professionals, or fans discussing the topic of the panel. Fan panels specifically feature fans discussing the topic of the panel.
Peace-bonding	The process of securing a prop weapon (firearm/sword/etc) to prevent it from being drawn and/or fired in conjunction with convention weapons policy. When in doubt, check with a security volunteer.
Peachtree Center	Peachtree Center is a retail and office complex at the corner of Peachtree Street and International Boulevard. It is home to the Peachtree Center Marta Station and the FOOD COURT, and is surrounded by the Marriott, Hyatt, and AmericasMart.
Pocket Program	The pocket program is a 5½ x 8½ inch paper program book that you pick up in registration that includes the convention schedule, guest programming schedules, maps, and other critical info you need to plan your time.
Pre-registration	This is the former term used to describe purchasing a membership in advance of the convention. Since “Pre-registration” also referred to the place members picked up their badges, it was causing many people to line up in the wrong place. We spit on the grave of the term “Pre-registration”.
Pre-sales, Pre-paid	“Pre-sales” is the new term for selling memberships in advance of the convention. If you buy your membership before arriving at the next show, congratulations, you have “pre-paid” for your membership! When you arrive at registration, you will be directed to line up with others who have “pre-paid” and are picking up their badges.
Registration	Located in the Sheraton, Registration is where you go to get your membership (admission) to Dragon Con. Whether you have pre-paid for your membership online, or want to buy a membership at the door, you need to come to registration to pick up your badge that allows you entry to the events.
Track/Fan Track	Tracks are groupings of panels and events that share a similar interest or audience. For example, the Star Wars Track will have panels and events scheduled just on Star Wars related subject matter from Friday through Monday. There are over 40 tracks at Dragon Con, each with its own volunteer team who organize, plan, and run all the events.
Vendor Halls, Dealers, Exhibitors	The Vendor Halls are where you can buy cool genre related merchandise and in 2014 are located in the AmericasMart, Building 1. The Exhibitors can be found in the 10x10 foot booths on both the first and second floor which can be accessed via either the Peachtree St. or the John Portman Blvd. entrance. The Dealers are located on floor 2 adjacent to the Westin entrance.
Walk of Fame	A huge room filled with over 100 media guests at tables with whom you can meet and ask for autographs. Please note, most guests do charge for autographs. Rates are completely determined by the guest and vary from approximately \$30–\$60 for most, with few reaching higher.

Featured Story

“Most students of superpower relations know that the balance point between detente and Armageddon is a razor’s edge. Few realize how often that edge has been as slim as the survival odds of a single spy.”

—Vladimir Yefimovich Semichastny,
Chairman of the KGB
throughout
the Cuban Missile Crisis
of October, 1962



Here for Dragon Con Members is the first two chapters of *Balance Point*, book 3 in the Orphan’s Legacy series by Robert Buettner. *Balance Point* continues the saga of spy games and military action on an interplanetary scale, as the balance point of interplanetary Cold War II between Earth and monolithic Yavet tips unexpectedly toward peace.

Dig into some juicy space opera complements of *Baen Books*.

The pilot on my left tapped my shoulder as his voice crackled in my headset. “Captain Parker? There, sir!”

I looked where his gloved finger pointed. Twenty degrees right of the tilt-wing’s nose, five miles distant, an oily black rope writhed between the ground and the sky. The smoke tied together the South Georgia swamp below us and the low cloud ceiling beneath which we raced.

“Fire? Why the hell is there fire?”

“Flame thrower, sir. Apparently the animal doesn’t like ’em.”

I shook my head and swore. Of course “the animal” didn’t like ’em. No being in its right mind liked burning alive. “What idiot thought that up?”

“I just fly the bird, sir.” The pilot banked the tilt-wing toward the smoke. He had never overflown this place before and knew only what he’d been told through his headset during the last two hours. His tilt-wing was a regular Army trainer that had been diverted in flight from Ft. Stewart, a couple hundred miles northeast, because it was the only available vertical take-off and landing aircraft near enough to pick me up in a shopping center parking lot, then drop me off, that was also clearable into restricted airspace.

The pilot leveled the ship and settled it toward a landing pad. The pad was just a rectangle where the scrub had been scraped back to expose bare soil.

At one corner an orange wind sock flapped from a pole. A ground-level breeze now carried the smoke from the fire across the pad like a shroud four hundred yards long.

Two turret-variant hellcats idled at the pad’s edge. Each ‘cat’s roof was stenciled “OCWTRS,” an acronym for “Okefenokee Chemical Weapons Test Range Security.” Of course, the eighty-three square miles of muggy Federal scrub woodland and restricted airspace that surrounded the pad had never seen a chemical weapon, unless you counted that flame thrower.

But the skull-and-crossbones signs on the barbed wire fencing and the overflight restrictions advisories on aerial maps discouraged the curious. The ‘cats with their turret guns, and automated triple-A ‘bot batteries along the range perimeter, discouraged the more-than-curious.

Half hidden in the trees bordering the pad, a boxy command and control hovertank hunched like a plasteel porcupine, its roof bristling with swept-back antennas.

On the pad another tilt-wing, like the one that was delivering me, but spook-black, already squatted on its landing

gear alongside the vehicles. A command-and-control communications pod bulged from its back like a tumor.

“Looks like there’s some brass on the ground already, sir. Guess you could ask them about the fire.”

The tilt-wing’s props were still blowing at landing pitch when I dropped through the belly hatch and ran, eyes slitted against the dust and smoke, to the command slider. The air smelled of seared wood and jellied gasoline.

As the tilt-wing that had hauled me in lifted off, a personal security detail corporal, posted alongside the slider’s rear hatch, recognized me, saluted, then jerked his head at the command vehicle. “The Old Man’s waiting for you in the slider, Captain Parker.”

Inside the red-lit command slider only one person sat, back to me, hunched at one of the flatscreen consoles.

The rest of the consoles were dark and unattended. “Where is everybody, Howard?”

General Howard Hibble, AKA The Old Man, AKA The King of the Spooks, didn’t turn around, but in the reflection of his face off the screen I saw his gray eyebrows flick up. “Inauguration Day’s a federal holiday. If you hadn’t been moping around for the last week you’d know that, Jazen.”

[Click to continue reading...](#)

THE ADVENTURES OF THE DRAGON CON SUPERHEROES!

**DRAGON CON SUPERHEROES
SAVE THE DAY AT
SWEETWATER CREEK STATE PARK!**

EPISODE ONE

It began slowly. First there was a humanoid in the early hours of the park. Then it was joined by others being transported in metal boxes. Soon, Sweetwater Creek Park, idyllic nature area with trails, picnic areas, historic ruins, and a magnificent creek, was filled with masses of humanoids. They came in every shape and size, many with four legged furry organisms connected to them with straps.

Park officials knew they were coming and welcomed their arrival, but the sheer numbers were staggering. Their own team of volunteers had been working furiously to ensure that all evidence that the humanoids had been there was expunged daily. But now that the sun was shining and the days were warmer, more and more beings were coming back to life and heading out to play.



Additional help was needed if the park officials expected to keep up with their cleanup mission.

The call went out to the Dragon Con Superheroes. Armed with coffee, gear, and the goofy enthusiasm that can only be found in Dragon Con Members, they attacked their targets with a vengeance. Gum, litter, tape, cigarette butts; banished into industrial sized trash bags. Wrappers, cans, and athletic equipment found floating in water; hauled out by intrepid team members. Superheroes outfitted with brooms, spray cleaner, and paper towels set about taming the Visitor

Center and picnic shelters. Specialized superheroes installed signs, repaired trails and built trail map kiosks. And did our Superheroes complain about minor aches and pains? No! Yes! No! Okay, a little.

But in true Dragon Con form, the team was all about the fun. Singing, joking and banter was constant with regular sci-fi and fantasy references. Team members were always ready to help out a fellow superhero or visiting humanoid in need. And when the mission was complete our superheroes feasted on barbecue and pie and sang out the official Dragon Con Superhero rally cry, "da-da-daa!"

**DRAGON CON SUPERHEROES
GATHER TO HELP DEFEAT THE
CRUEL MYSTERY OF LUPUS AT**

**THE WALK
TO END
LUPUS
NOW**

EPISODE TWO

Two enthusiastic teams of Dragon Con Superheroes went the distance for the Walk to End Lupus Now, the signature fund-raiser for the Lupus Foundation of America.

One team of forty-four Superheroes walked the one-mile course at Piedmont Park on April 26 while the other, some of whom were dressed in costume, worked the final water station and greeted walkers as they crossed the finish line in Dragon Con style. In all, the Dragon Con Superheroes raised nearly \$11,000 for the Lupus Foundation and ranked in the top 5 teams for money raised.

Lupus, which occurs when the immune system attacks normal, healthy tissues in the body, is nicknamed the Cruel Mystery because its symptoms mimic arthritis and can be difficult to diagnose. Nine out of ten lupus sufferers are women. Though there is no cure for the disease, it can be controlled.

The Lupus Foundation is devoted to finding a cure for the chronic disease while giving caring support to those who suffer from its brutal impact.

The Superheroes community service program taps into the naturally giving nature of Dragon Con members and fans, creating opportunities to get together outside of Labor Day while making a difference in the community.

"Each project is guaranteed to be a great time for a great cause," Convention Co-chair Rachel Reeves said. "It may sound cliché, but I one-hundred percent believe it: Helping others in the community is absolutely addictive. You cannot imagine how great you feel afterwards."

THE ADVENTURES OF THE DRAGON CON SUPERHEROES!

**DRAGON CON SUPERHEROES
JOIN FORCES WITH -
THE ATLANTA COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK!**

EPISODE THREE

Dragon Con Superheroes were at it again this week, lending a hand at the Atlanta Community Food Bank and helping power a food supply chain that leads to the hungry and homeless around metro Atlanta and North Georgia.



Dragon Con hopes to donate \$100,000 to the Atlanta Community Food Bank this fall.

“Spending a day at the food bank has given a lot of our members and fans a chance to learn, first hand, what a great organization this really is,” said Reeves. “We made a difference today and learned more about our community at the same time. It’s hard to put a price on that.”

The children and other light volunteers climb into big boxes to unload the food items, passing them to a large crew of inspectors, who are looking for items that can be rescued.

The unusable items are set aside and the good ones are handed over to a second crew who sorts them by category—food, condiments, toiletries, beverages, etc.—and packs them into boxes. Boxes are weighed and stacked, ready for shipping to one of some 600 agencies across the metro Atlanta area and North Georgia. These organizations include food pantries that distribute the food to families or sheltering agencies that provide meals to the hungry and homeless.

According to the food bank, it’s not hard to put the food back into the community. One out of every five Georgians is food insecure, meaning they don’t know where their next meal comes from.



Atlanta Community Food Bank gives a second life to the unsalable food items—dented cans, for instance—and the things families donate to their local food drive. These items arrive at the food bank’s Produce Rescue Center by the tractor trailer load, 100,000 pounds at a time.

Once in the door, the process is simple. After a little training to identify usable food items and how to classify them—peanut butter is food, but jelly is a condiment—the volunteers head out to the warehouse floor.



Some 115 Superheroes, roughly split into equal shifts—60 in the morning and 55 in the afternoon—inspected, sorted and packed almost 29,000 pounds of food, which is enough to serve about 24,400 meals. All the while, they danced to a sound track straight off MTV’s early 80s heyday blaring through the warehouse speakers.

The event at the Atlanta Community Food Bank was also a great way for Dragon Con’s members and fans to learn more about the organization that is Dragon Con’s official charity for 2014. With funds raised through charity auctions and other events, plus a Dragon Con match of up to \$50,000,



Dragon Con News and Edumacation

Dragon Con! Aquarium! Aspen! Contests!



Did you hear about the Aspen Comics Beach Party that was held at the Aquarium Last Year? The top creators at Aspen Comics hosted a night of music, dancing, exclusive art releases, costume contests, and then to finish it off, diving alongside the magnificent whale sharks! The night was a huge success, so Dragon Con Comics & Pop Art are pleased to announce the return of the *Aspen Comics Beach Party* at the Georgia Aquarium on Saturday, August 30.

A DJ will again be spinning a premium blend of beach-party-perfect tunes while you enjoy your admission to the spectacular GA Aquarium. And new for 2014, there's a VIP experience for \$75 which includes admission to the aquarium, private lounge area with scenic intimate views of an animal gallery, open bar, light bites, and an exclusive meet-and-greet with Aspen Comics creators.

Aspen Comics and the Georgia Aquarium are offering an exciting array of Costume Contest prizes to commemorate this occasion, including original art, sculptures, signed books, and a behind-the-scenes Aquarium tour. And because so many of you asked, fans will have a chance to compete for the chance to join the Aspen team as they dive in the whale shark tank during *Dragon Con Night at the Georgia Aquarium!*

Interested? Here's how you [enter](#) to win a chance to dive with the Whale Sharks. Want to attend Dragon Con Night at the Aquarium? Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets.

Hey Dragon Con, What Does Filk Mean?

Here are a few more frequently inquired about terms you might hear at the con:

Anime and Manga are two different storytelling media. Anime are Japanese animated cartoon videos. Manga are Japanese comics, typically in black and white. ¹

Drum circle is any group of people playing hand-drums and percussion in a circle. They are distinct from a drumming troupe in that the drum circle is an end in itself rather than preparation for a performance. ²

Filk is music by fans about any aspect of fandom. Legend has it that it was a misspelling of the word "folk" and it's been used to mean non-acoustic music about sci-fi, fantasy, and other fandoms ever since.

LAN Gaming Local Area Network Gaming is a large area full of computers and consoles where people can play in organized tournaments, view demonstrations, or enjoy free play on a connected network.

LARP Live Action Role Playing is a form of role-playing game where the participants physically act out their characters' actions.

The players pursue goals within a fictional setting represented by the real world while interacting with each other in character. ²

NSDMG is the National Security Decision Making Game.

Puppet Slam is a performance of short-form adult oriented puppet theatre from a variety of artists.

RPGs Role-playing Games

Sci-fi Janitors Bob and Carl are the puppet ambassadors of Dragon Con. You can catch them on DCTV and live in the Puppetry Track.

Steampunk is a subgenre of science fiction and fantasy featuring advanced machines and other technology based on steam power of the 19th century and taking place in a recognizable historical period or a fantasy world. ³

War College is military and academic professionals who give lectures, panels and programming in the Hilton. They also judge/supervise the NSDMG.

Member Benefits!

Did you know that in addition to four continuous days of fun during the show, as a member you receive all this too?

25% off merchandise purchases at the Dragon Con Stores at the show, and the [online store](#) year round.

Discounted prices on workshops given by award winning performers, writers, and artists.

Fun events to attend like Dragon Con Night at Turner Field, the GA Aquarium, and Medieval Times.

15% off all e-books from [Event Horizon Publishing](#) with coupon code DCEbook15. Plus, free shipping on trade paperbacks or hardbacks using coupon code DCFREESHIP.

Discounted rental car rates with Enterprise and National Rental Car. Click [here](#), or use Enterprise code: XZ03A67, pin: DRA or National code: XZ03A67 if not using the link.

15% off limo services in the Atlanta area, with [Cooper Global](#). Call 866-723-5466, and mention the discount code "Dragon Con".

10% discount on any [Scootaround](#) rental taking place in Orlando, Florida or Las Vegas, Nevada. Call 888-441-7575 and use the code **Dragon14**

Discounted* airfares with Delta Airlines. If originating within United States/Canada, please [click here](#) and enter **NMJ7M** under Meeting Event Code. For ALL other, please [click here](#) and enter **NMJ7F** under Meeting Event Code. *(Some restrictions apply)

Informative publications such as Dragon Talk, the Progress Report, and our convention Program Book.

Team work, fun, and community service through involvement with the Dragon Con Superheroes!

¹ [stackexchange.com](#) ² [Wikipedia](#) ³ [dictionary.reference.com](#)