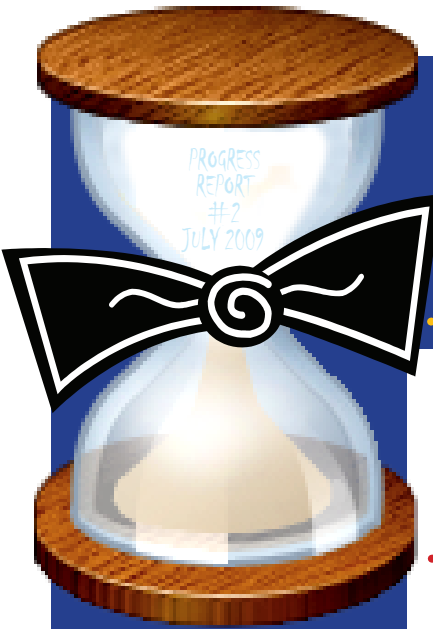


SMOFcon 27

Time Management

and don't miss the **BUDGETING BOOT CAMP on Friday!**

PROGRESS REPORT #2 JULY 2009

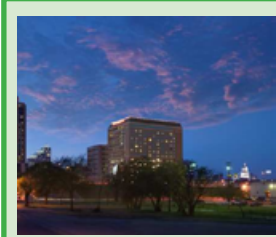


SMOFcon is a yearly get-together where the Secret Masters of Fandom meet to exchange insights into what has happened during the previous year, at both the local level and at the most recently held meeting of the World Science Fiction Society (also known as Worldcon). We look for old friends, make new ones, catch-up on the latest gossip and rumors, attend panels on a variety of subjects about convention running, and express our views on best ways to do something. We talk about what went right and wrong, either behind the scenes or what the general membership saw, review what the ConCom should have done to correct it or how they prevented a mishap from becoming a disaster. We often get recruited to work on other conventions -- or recruit others to come work on our next convention. Okay, we do a LOT of talking with each other -- we refer to it as "SMOFing." And SMOFing requires lots of good food and drink to keep us going when our energy runs low.

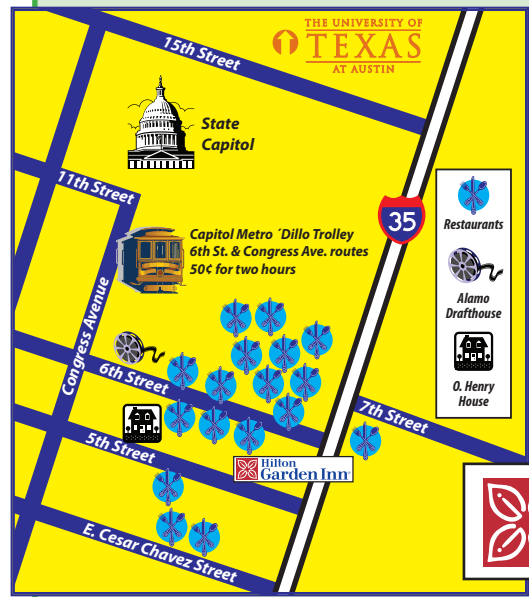
Every SMOFcon has a theme which is used to help focus the convention as a whole. At SMOFcon 27, the theme is Time Management. On Friday, there will also be a Budgeting Boot Camp which will help convention runners plan their budgets for conventions both large and small.

SMOFcon 27
Dec. 4-6, 2009
Austin, Texas

- Chair: Karen Meschke
- Budgeting Boot Camp:
 Vincent Docherty,
 Deb Geisler &
 Mark Olson
- Hotel: Kurt Baty
- Program: Karen Meschke
- Publicity: Cathy Beckwith
- Publications:
 Pat Virzi & Kimm Antell
- Registration: Laura Domitz
- Treasurer: Bill Parker
- Web Page: Clif Davis &
 Kimm Antell



The Hilton Garden Inn Austin Downtown hotel, located in the heart of downtown Austin, Texas, offers first-class Texas hospitality. The hotel is minutes away from the Alamo Drafthouse and the O. Henry House as well as other sights and sounds that give Austin distinction. Situated just blocks from the downtown business district and from Austin's legendary 6th Street/Warehouse Entertainment District, the hotel is nestled in the heart of the Texas State Capital.



Click here to reserve a room
<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/AUSGIGI-SMO-20091203/index.jhtml>

Click here to find out more about the hotel
<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/hotels/index.jhtml?moreDesc=true&ctyhocn=AUSGIGI>

SMOFcon Rates are
\$139.00 single/double/triple/quad



From The Chair

It's a very hot and dry Austin summer, and preparations are underway as we get ready for SMOFcon 27. Even though December seems far away it is less than six months from now...

As this Progress Report will be released before WorldCon, I'm anticipating many discussions that week in Montreal about what folks are expecting to see and do in Austin. What do you hope to learn in SMOFcon's three short days that you can use to make your home conventions even better? I look forward to your ideas and input.

Details for Friday's "Budgeting Boot Camp" are included here, along with an updated airline listing for Austin. So make your travel arrangements early — and we'll see you when the temperature drops below 90°.

Karen Meschke
 (meschke@io.com)



Drop and Give Me 20 Spreadsheets: Budgeting Bootcamp for SMOF's

BUDGETING BOOTCAMP
Friday, December 4
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Make your
Bootcamp
reservation
today!

SMOFcon is for Secret Masters of Fandom, but the Secret Masters of the Secret Masters are the budgeters. How, you may ask, might you join that exclusive group? **Come to the Budgeting Bootcamp!** Join us for 4 hours and leave knowing the A to Z of how (and why) to do a budget.

Budgeting Bootcamp is designed to help both utter novices (who want to know what it's all about) and experienced con-runners (who need to hone their skills).

Topics we'll explore include:

- * Why have a budget? (There's more than one reason – and the best ones probably aren't what you think they are.)
- * Learn a budgeting process that works. (Some approaches are a lot more effective than others. Here's a tested one that works.)
- * Get budget numbers without the use of torture. (How to get the data you need to construct your budget without having to threaten physical harm to anyone.)
- * Budgeting Betacon. (A practicum where recruits construct a budget for Betacon from scratch.)

We'll cover the three major fannish **budget situations** (there's a lot in common among them):

- * budgeting a stable regional,
- * budgeting a start-up, and
- * budgeting a Worldcon

We'll also analyze some of the typical convention **personnel** who pose challenges for budgeters: Anal Alice (the information hoarder), Clueless Louie (who won't admit what he doesn't know), Spendthrift Sam (who didn't think tips for the servers at his soiree came out of his budget), and Disorganized Dan (who's sure he sent you numbers just last month, so why do you need more?).

Budgeting Bootcamp will include lectures, discussions, group exercises and lab work (examples designed to explore strange new line items; to seek out new costs and new rationalizations; to boldly... okay, you get the point). There will be handouts – lots and lots of handouts.

Our bootcamp attendees will not be called maggots – but we hope you will leave with the tools to help you conquer the enemy research, create, and manage convention budgets.

Your drill instructors:

*Mark Olson,
Vincent Docherty,
and Deb Geisler.*

Please tell us if you plan to join the Budgeting Bootcamp, so we know how many handouts to make, cookies to bake, and that sort of thing. The Bootcamp will run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2009.

EMAIL YOUR BOOTCAMP RESERVATION TO: bootcamp@EatFlamingLaserDeath.com



Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

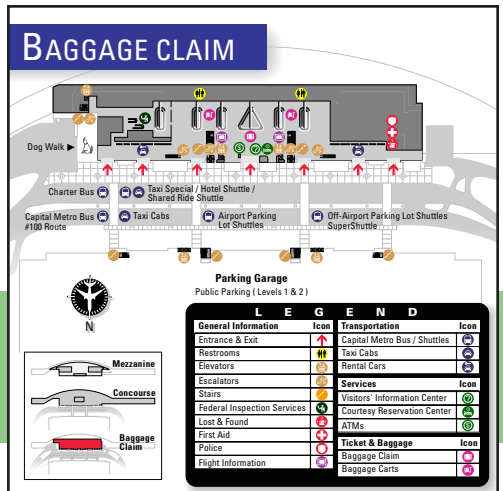
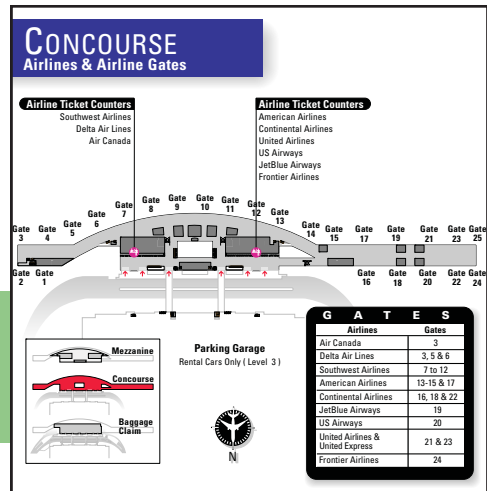
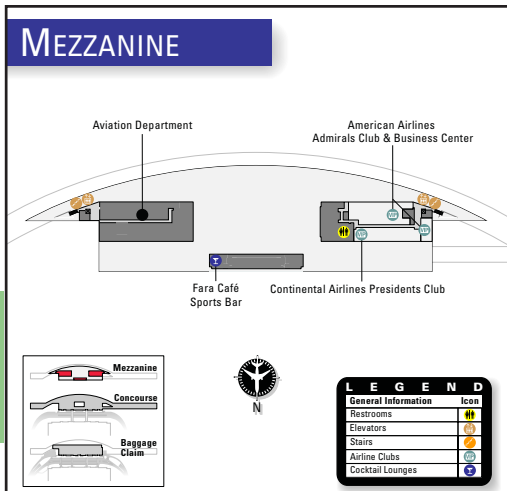
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/austinairport/>

Music – Brought to you Austin style

“Live” Austin music greets visitors and welcomes home Austinites, while showcasing the best of Austin’s diverse music scene. The Stage is next to the Ray Benson’s Roadhouse located in the center of the terminal building on the concourse level. Live music performances are located on the secure side of the concourse, accessible to ticketed passengers only. Performances are made possible through the Department of Aviation in cooperation with Delaware North Companies.

Catch a non-stop flight to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport from these cities:

Atlanta (ATL)	Delta	Los Angeles (LAX)	American, Southwest	Salt Lake City (SLC)	Delta
Baltimore/Washington (BWI)	Southwest	Memphis (MEM)	Delta	San Diego (SAN)	Southwest
Boston (BOS)	JetBlue	Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP)	Delta	San Francisco (SFO)	United, JetBlue
Charlotte (CLT)	US Airways	Nashville (BNA)	Southwest	San Jose (SJC)	Alaska Airlines
Chicago (ORD, MDW)	American, Southwest, United	New York (JFK)	JetBlue	St. Louis (STL)	American
Denver (DEN)	Frontier, Southwest, United	New York/Newark (EWR)	Continental	Seattle (SEA)	Alaska Airlines
Detroit (DTW)	Delta	Oakland (OAK)	Southwest	Tampa (TPA)	Southwest
Ft. Lauderdale (FLL)	Southwest, JetBlue	Orlando (MCO)	Southwest, JetBlue	Toronto (YYZ)	Air Canada
Las Vegas (LAS)	Southwest	Philadelphia (PHL)	Southwest	Washington, D.C. (IAD)	United
Long Beach (LGB)	JetBlue	Phoenix (PHX)	Southwest, US Airways		



The terminal at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is named for the late Barbara Jordan. Jordan represented the people of Texas as state senator then U. S. congresswoman for more than a decade. For more information see the Barbara Jordan Memorial page at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/austinairport/bjmproject.htm>.

SMOFcon 27

Members as of July 21, 2009

Kimm Antell – Pflugerville, TX
 Julie Barrett – Plano, TX
 Keri Bas – Houston, TX
 Kurt Baty – Austin, TX
 Cathy Beckwith – Jersey Village, TX
 Judith C. Bemis – Groveland, FL
 Gary S. Blog – Edison, NJ
 Kent Bloom – Colorado Springs, CO
 Steven Boucher –

South Yarra, Victoria, Australia
 Seth Breidbart – Minneapolis, MN
 April Bremner – San Antonio, TX
 Liz Burton – Austin, TX
 Steve Cooper – Letchworth, GC, UK
 Clif Davis – Spring, TX
 Margaret Davis – Spring, TX
 Gay Ellen Dennett – Natick, MA
 Vincent Docherty –

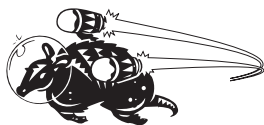
Den Haag, Netherlands
 Laura Domitz – Copperas, Cove, TX
 Ed Dravecky III – Allen, TX
 Fred Duarte – Austin, TX
 Bobbie DuFault – Gold Bar, WA
 Rhonda Eudaly – Arlington, TX
 Deb Geisler – Middleton, MA
 Janice Gelb – S

outh Yarra, Victoria, Australia
 Gerald Gieseke – Gold Bar, WA
 Glenn Glazer – Felton, CA
 J-Mag Guthrie – Katy, TX
 Johnathan Guthrie – Katy, TX
 Anita Haddock – Houston, TX
 Mark Hall – Houston, TX
 Kate Kligman – Houston, TX
 Kim Kofmel – Houston, TX
 Colin Harris – Guildford, Surrey, UK
 Mark Herrup – Chicago, IL
 Meredith Hines – Plano, TX
 Mary Kay Kare – Seattle, WA
 Richard (Rick) Kovalcik –

Newton Centre, MA
 Elisabeth Kovar – Laurel, MD
 Alexis Layton – Cambridge, MA
 Ruth Leibig – Palo Alto, CA

Ruth Lichtwardt – Lawrence, KS
 Robert MacIntosh – Annandale, VA
 Faith Malcolm – Saratoga, CA
 Jim Mann – McDonald, PA
 Laurie Mann – McDonald, PA
 Karen Meschke – Austin, TX
 Russ Miller – Waxahachie, TX
 Tim Miller – Murphy, TX
 Tim Morgan – Flower Mound, TX
 Mary Morman – Colorado Springs, CO
 Michael Nelson – Oakton, VA
 Michael Nelson – Flower Mound, TX
 Mark Olson – Framingham, MA
 Priscilla Olson – Framingham, MA
 Tony Parker – Groveland, FL
 Bill Parker – Houston, TX
 TR Renner – Chicago, IL
 Dan Robb – Frisco, TX
 John Sapienza – Silver Spring, MD
 Peggy Rae Sapienza – Silver Spring, MD
 Andrea Senchy – West Paterson, NJ
 SFSFC1 – Sunnyvale, CA
 SFSFC2 – Sunnyvale, CA
 SFSFC3 – Sunnyvale, CA
 SFSFC4 – Sunnyvale, CA
 SFSFC5 – Sunnyvale, CA
 SFSFC6 – Sunnyvale, CA
 Chuck Shimada – Huntington Beach, CA
 Jimmy Simpson – Arlington, TX
 Julian Snitow – Saratoga, CA
 Kevin Standlee – Fremont, CA
 Guest of Kevin Standlee – Fremont, CA
 Ian Stockdale – Palo Alto, CA
 Tamisan – Flower Mound, TX
 Barbara Vantilburg – Sandwich, IL
 Tom Veal – Chicago, IL
 Leane Verhulst – Brookfield, IL
 Pat Virzi – Duncanville, TX
 Bobb Waller – Irving, TX
 René Walling – Montreal, Quebec, Canada
 Robyn Winans – Allen, TX
 Ben Yalow – Bronx, NY
 Scott Zrubek – Friendswood, TX

SMOFcon 27 is sponsored by ALAMO, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit literary corporation recognized by the IRS since 1996. ALAMO, Inc. is organized for the purposes of promoting the understanding and appreciation of the literary fields of fantasy, science fiction and horror, and to provide a forum for the free discussion of the ideas and concepts associated with these literary fields. In this role it acts to further the interests of the international community of active science fiction fans and the field's professional writers, editors and artists. ALAMO, Inc. was enfranchised by the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS) to run the 55th annual World Science Fiction Convention in 1997.



ALAMO, Inc. • P.O. Box 27277 • Austin, Texas 78755-2277

YES! I'd like to become a member of SMOFcon 27!



You can register online at
<http://www.alamo-sf.org/smofcon27/membership.html>
 and pay for your membership with PayPal...

...or fill out this registration form and send it with your check to
SMOFcon 27 • P.O. Box 27277 • Austin, Texas 78755-2277

- Attending membership \$60 until 11/1/09, \$70 afterwards
 Supporting membership \$25

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

Address 2 _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Country _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone _____

Badge Name #1 _____

Badge Name #2 _____

Badge Name #3 _____

Badge Name #4 _____

Would you be willing to be on programming? _____

SMOFcon 27 • P.O. Box 27277 • Austin, Texas 79755-2277