



MISSION CONTROL

The Newsletter of ApolloCon—By Fans for Fans

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Sun. Evening, June 28, 2009

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Free!

CONTEST WINNERS

More Parties

Last night we counted eight parties active on the party floor and didn't even bother to count the ConSuite. The parties included the Dendarii Free Mercenaries, the Aggiecon 41 party, the Sooner Con 2010 people, the White Lightning Productions room party, the FenCon party, ConDFW's party, the Nitro Nine Wholigans, and finally the ArmadilloCon Party,. Unfortunately, your reporters didn't get much chance to party as they were working hard on Sunday's issue.

Hall Costumes

ApolloCon would like to thank all its Hall Costumers for sharing their skills and adding to everyone's enjoyment of the Con. To honor the exceptional costumes, ApolloCon issues Hall Costume awards. Winners we know of at press time are:

- Tinkerbelle – Cecilia Bugbe (5½ years old)
 - Goku – Jesse Briceno
 - BSAA Member – Dug Finn
 - Obi Wan Kenobi – Danny Patterson
 - TK8171 Storm Trooper – Chris Smith
 - Gold Dragon – Sandy Hutchins
 - Red Dragon Guardian – Linda Hazelwood
 - Silver Dragon Brat – Dolores Greenbaum
 - Venkmon Ghostbuster – Jennifer Ramon
- There may be additional hall costume awards.

Spaghetti

The building tools: spaghetti and gooey marshmallows. The challenge: build the tallest stable structure possible with the tools at hand. Three teams and two individuals competed in the first ApolloCon Spaghetti Engineering challenge. One of the teams was a group of three girls loosely led by Iker. We didn't catch the name of the other two because they were busy being interviewed by the Chronicle.

One of the individuals, Tammy Langley, built what was the stablest structure, but lacked enough height to be truly competitive. The other individual entry, from Jazzman, went directly for height. His structure was an early leader, but the stress of gravity took him through the 'leaning tower of Pasta' stage into the complete disaster phase. Afterwards he never really had a chance to catch up.

The two teams were serious about it, first testing the building materials and formulating a plan. The team of David Brummel and Music Guest Amy McNally built an interlocking base structure forming a large square and then moved upwards with mutually reinforcing multi-beam bundles of sketty. The top level came into a triangle-supported ridge, a base for a single strand of spaghetti reaching up to terminate in a marshmallow from which yet another piece of spaghetti reached for the sky.

In contrast, the team of Brent Morgan and Zlactrice went with a a more modular triangle structure that could be repeated

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Masquerade

ApolloCon's Masquerade (and costume contest) opened with with a skit featuring Master Carol Phillips with Padwans Marianne Dyson and Yvonne Jaurigue and also featuring Wil McCarthy as the surprise Sithlord. Wil took the reins as Master of Ceremonies and the Masquerade was on. The show judging took place during a break while we were treated to yet another return of Bennie Grezlik's infamous Skip Thruster, Space Detective. The judging ran over as is traditional and Wil cleverly whiled away the time by taking bad jokes from the audience.

Judging at the ApolloCon Masquerade is done in two parts. There is a close inspection of the costume for workmanship or technical merit and then there is a separate and independent judging of the show by a panel of judges. This year the workmanship judge was Kim Kofmel and the show judges were Cat Osborne, Rocky Kelley, and Amy McNally.

The workmanship awards were won by Danny Patterson for detailing as Obi Wan Kenobi, for leatherwork by Chris Obanion as the Anti-Paladin, and best overall workmanship by Sandy Hutchins for Golden Dragon. In the show awards a certificate of honorable mention went to Tim and Lorretta Morgan for Vabbian Traders. The Best Novice ribbon went to Danny Patterson for Obi Wan Kenobi. Second and third novice recognition went to Your Fairy Gothmother Deborah Kent and to Imperial Stormtrooper TK8171 Chris Smith. The Best Journeyman ribbon went to the Anti-Paladin Chris Obanion. The award for Best Presentation was won by Team Goku: Jesse Briceno, Ethan Walters, and Connell Osborn. Finally, the Best

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Programming Changes

Sunday:

No changes as of press time.

During the Day:

Check the board by the Registration Table for last-minute changes.

URGENT!!!

Sunday may be a day of rest (especially for those who partied late into the wee hours), but not so for Volunteering. Please stop by to see how you can help wrap up another great year! There are 10 - 20-minute shifts all the way to 2-hour shifts still available!

Hours

- Art Show 10 A.M. – NOON
- Dealers Room 10 A.M. – 3 P.M.
- ConSuite 8 A.M. – 4 A.M.
(except for the Dead Dog Party!)

Masquerade continued:

of Show went to the Golden Dragon, Sandi Hutchins, winning a special ribbon and tickets to the Houston Symphony production of the Music of Star Trek & More Sci-Fi.

Two additional sets of the Houston Symphony Star Trek tickets were available. The standard under-the-seat method of selecting lucky winners of the tickets would have required going back in time, so a random selection of the winners was used instead. The first ticket was won by Michelle Murray and the second by Kathy Thornton. Kathy and Derly discovered they would be vacationing during that time and generously released the ticket. A new winner was selected, Jill Moffitt.

Oddly, two late entries, or non-entries, appeared on stage. The first was Dug Finn's Testament, taken from Guilty Gear. The second was from an unnamed costumer promoting the Whologins party. Both costumes seemed warmly received, particularly Testament, though in fairness, Dug Finn was a welcome respite from bad jokes and the other costumer was offering a party.

Overheard at ApolloCon

"What do you mean ApolloCon isn't that kind of con? ApolloCon is always that kind of con."

"I don't use Rogaine, but I have friends who do."

"The ginger peach is wonderful, but the lemon is pure sex."

"I could tell you, but then you'd have to shoot me."

"I'm a fan of Dr. Who—I don't worry about canonical."

"You're a man after my own taste buds."

"Now we're using big engineering words like technohedron."

"If you're really nice, I'll sing for you."

"Latex is good for preventing clumping."

"If I have to wake up at 3:00 a.m., everybody has to wake up at 3:00 a.m."

"Damn, I'm coming back here next year."

Firefly LARP —Jorge 'Flash' Troy

Galactic Press—Hoag's Moon

The night began lie almost any other on planets and moons outdies the Core—drinking, revelry, and a bit of political intrigue. The Resistance, led clandestinely by a woman as ballsy as any man (the local

Interview: **Pat Rawlings, Artist Guest of Honor**

Mission Control: Thank you for coming to ApolloCon. What medium did you start art with? Crayons or finger paints?

Pat Rawlings: Hmmm . . . probably crayons, but I went to pencils and markers pretty quickly. My first art-for-client was when the school bully (who later attended prison) threatened to beat me up if I didn't draw him a picture.

MC: Do you prefer the old way, using a brush, or the new way, with a mouse?

PR: I like both (pc answer), although for different reasons. If I had the 'undo' function on my paintbrush, I would probably use it more often. The digital stuff is great for complex hardware art, but I still prefer landscapes with a brush . . . more happy accidents.

MC: Why did you choose the field of space art?

PR: The answer is probably too long. I'll try to abbreviate:

Tom Swift > Heinlein > Apollo > SF Films > Airborne Command Post > Galveston > Johnson Space Center > Eagle Engineering. There, that's the short version.

MC: Does a client's initial description paint a definite picture in your mind?

PR: A fuzzy one. Sometimes, upon researching the subject, the composition changes radically. I also have to walk around the location a bit in my head to see how the pieces interrelate.

MC: How long did it take you to learn about the media you use?

PR: Photoshop was a very quick learn for me—at least the basic functions. It operates the same way an airbrush artist works—just better. I'm still learning new parts of it all the time.

The 3D animation programs were slower and somewhat counterintuitive for me. I started using very crude 3D software in 1983 on an Apple II to delineate the general wireframes. I only started using CGI for final art in 1995.

Painting took me the longest to learn. I still haven't mastered everything that I would like to know in traditional media after 30 years of doing it professionally.

MC: Thank you.

PR: Thank you for being interested.

Spaghetti (continued)

for the base level and higher levels. Unfortunately the resulting structure failed at a critical point with most of the time gone. However, the team quickly recovered, and working from a modified base ,built a structure echoing aspects of the plan of their competitors. They finished with a respectable construct that was a close second.

At the end of the competition, it appeared that the Morgan-Zlactrice entry was more stable than the Brummel-McNally entry whose up-reaching strands were even then beginning to lean, threatening to take out the entire top section, but certainly appearing to lose the advantage in height. The body of both entries passed the

initial stress test by the judge, Kathy Thornton. She then required both structures be moved and the Brummel McNally entry lost a bit more of its advantage but still held. The structures survived further weight-loading followed by vigorous S- and P-wave testing by the enthusiastic audience. The Brummel-McNally structure lost further height, but then the process stopped with a dead heat between both entries. Just as Judge Thornton was starting to announce a tie, the foundation of the Morgan-Zlactrice structure gave way spilling it across the table, leaving Brummel-McNally as the only standing choice.

Unexpectedly exciting and suspenseful, this event was a real winner.

Many of the locals on bot sides of the conflict perished in the conflagration.

The towns political landscape is now in a state of upheaval; nobody iknow who is planning to take jorde, as the Mob Boss and most of his entourage were killed, and the Resistance was similarly decimated.