



The Hatch

Where information is created and flung far into space
Saturday, September 27, 2014

The Game is Afoot!



Why is this man sitting in a shallow ball pit? Because he is part of the Hale Space Station Scavenger Hunt, that's why! And you can be, too.

The Hunt is on all weekend and sign up is at the Info Desk, along with the list of clues. All clues get turned into Con Services. Participants get a scavenger-specific ribbon, so you win no matter what. Of course, there are fabulous prizes that will blow your mind.

Objects to find include: a space ship, the best pony, a sabre and a picture of the Chairwoman. (Good luck with that one, she is a blur in cargo pants.)

The winner will be announced at closing ceremonies. All disputes and decisions will be settled by the Info Desk, and their word is law.

Happy hunting!

Warm up those pipes

Today's fun fact: "Karaoke" is derived from the Japanese *kara ōkesutora*, or "empty orchestra", and although the idea of recorded music without vocal tracks has been around since the earliest music recordings, the modern craze started in Japan in the 1970s.

This weekend, we're putting a fandom spin on this venerable tradition — *complete with a disco ball!* Leave your self-consciousness at the door, because Friday's singing was a blast, and all are welcome to tonight's repeat engagement. Join us starting at 10 PM, in Sandpebble A (down the long hallway heading to the pool).

Our Karma Just Went Up

Last night's charity bingo brought in \$103. Way to go, everybody!

Hopefully you saved some cash, because today at 2 PM you can **Blast a Trooper** in Harbor A for the same good cause. Sunday is the charity auction. Always a good time, and tax-deductible to boot.

Programming Changes

Moderated Fan Gathering: Cultural Diversity will re-run Sunday at 2:00 PM in the Oak Room

Handling Rejection In Writing on Saturday at 4:00 PM will be in Sector 8, room 8052

Wonderflex Workshop on Saturday at 2:00 PM has moved to Sector 7, room 7052

Moderated Fan Gathering: The Big Bang Theory from noon to 2:00 PM will be in Sector 7, room 7052

Fan Boy Planet will be in Harbor B, Saturday at 2:00 PM

Registration:

631

As of 9 PM Friday

“

Let's steal his pants!

”

Halfway Done, and Having Fun

The first night of parties got kicked off in epic fashion. As reviewers, we've come to expect no less. Here's the rundown, more or less in the order in which we stumbled through them. Oddly enough, the drinks got stronger the further down the hall we went. Here goes...

BayCon — The theme was Women of Wonder! And the more we think about it, the more we are shocked (shocked!) that this theme hasn't been done before. At any rate, it was a well-populated co-ed party (ironic, that) full of lovely people and strategically placed bowls of sugary goodness, both of which supplemented the relaxed atmosphere of conversation. There was also a full non-alcoholic bar — which turned out to be a good thing. Because things got real after that.

Convolution 2015: Announcement Party Chairman Erik Bigglestone and Vice-Chair Tycho Brahe have a long history of throwing Con social engagements, so it's nice when two skill sets come together. They had gathered a good crowd of well-dressed people and M. Todd Gallowglass was plying them with custom cocktails while we were there. While the libations were distressingly devoid of cutely themed names, the "caramel apple" combination (two kinds of Schnapps) went down amazingly smoothly, and one of the others was described as being like drinking liquid Jell-O. While sampling their offerings, we heard several plots being, um, plotted, so stay

tuned for further developments.

San Jose in 2018 WorldCon Bid Party — By now we were kinda drunk, but onward, ever onward. This party featured sparkling ribbons! Unfiltered hard apple cider served in a rainbow of custom plastic cups! Lots of super heroes! Why? No idea. We also got to see our nattily-dressed host doing a perfect sommelier pour into a plastic glass as he explained the nuances of supporting and opposing bids. Classy!

The Black Hole — The notes for this party say "Klingon bar. Yay!" That pretty much sums it up. Also, pro tip: Based on our experience sampling multiple concoctions, the "Revenge" is NOT the strongest drink on the menu. We'll leave it up to the reader to figure out which one it is.

FLARE — We got here by following a bunch of chicks in tiaras around a corner. That worked out well enough that we may try it again sometime. This was a fundraising party to help children, which also introduced us to the libation known as "Donk+" - for which we will forever be grateful. Also worthy of note: possibly the only room party ever to use living billboards. We're heartened to see that the painter's-tape rule applies to shirts as well as it does to walls and doors.

Tonight: More parties. Same great floor, whole new cast of characters. See you there!

“ Just whisper dirty things to Steve. He'll whisk you right in. ”

It's Not Just (3² * 29)

You may have seen references to "261" as you wander the convention hallways.

"What is 261?" you may ask. 261 is life; 261 is light; 261 is rapture and epiphany and the plastic thing at the end of your shoelaces.

But mostly, "2-6-1" is the golden rule of conventioning, reminding us to honor the basic necessities of life while we enjoy this necessary retreat from basic life.

Every day at a convention, make sure you eat **two** meals; get **six** hours of sleep; and take **one** shower. This makes the con experience more sustainable for you and more enjoyable for everyone around you.

Saturday's Social Calendar

Once again, all parties are being held on the second floor between Rooms 2070 and 2080. Bring your ID — offering to let the door dragons count your crow's feet won't work. Sorry.

The **Klingon Black Hole** will be open for their second night in the same place. They like tips, but do not like them in their tankards. You were warned.

FLARE will also be hosting for their second night. Come help some foster kids get new backpacks and drink your weight in Donk+. Everyone wins!

Birthday Party - Hard to beat that for a theme. We're assuming it's someone's actual birthday, but maybe it's for all of us.

LosCon 41 - Maybe. Seriously, that's what our list says. We're optimistic.

BASFA - Another party classic. Come pay homage and meet some cool folks.