

PHOENIX 1988 SMOFCON 5

PROGRESS REPORT 2

SMOFCON? WHAZZAT?

This is the fifth annual convention about running sf and related conventions, aka Con Con. If you're serious about doing conventions of ANY size, bidding for a major convention, conserving your budget, reducing problems, or would just like to learn more and meet the people, this is the place! We'll have panels and discussion groups meeting throughout the weekend on a variety of topics...this is the reason for the convention.

It's not all that occurs, however. The social aspect of SmofCon is as important as the panels (or more so). If you want advice on what to do for your own local convention, need to recruit help for running a department, or want to do some politicking for a bid, there's no better place. There'll be lots of people getting together for partying (and a con suite stocked to help lubricate the process), eating, taunting small animals, bondage, or whatever else that we do at any other con.

So if you want to get together with old friends, party with others who are like-minded, and learn something in the process, then this is the place for you!

HOWDY!

The dates are December 9-11, 1988 and the location is the Hyatt Regency Phoenix in lovely downtown Phoenix, Arizona.

The subject of much of the programming at the 1988 SMOFCon will be Convention Communications, which is being interpreted in a very broad sense. The focus will be on a range of options for each available means of communication and we'll try to make the material salient for all sizes of conventions wherever possible (or else mention where different options might be applicable).

Attendance is expected to be in the range of 70-100 people with most coming from the Western U.S. We'll be making an extra effort to attract con runners and other interested parties from all over the U.S. This will be done by direct mailings to con committees of many U.S. and Canadian conventions as well as to attendees of past SMOFCons, those on the CON GAMES mailing list (which includes about 250 people and conventions), and those who are bidding for future Worldcons and WesterCons. There's a large local fandom in the Phoenix and Tucson area and we expect 30-40 of them to attend, so there will certainly be a Western convention perspective to the proceedings.

The third and final PR will assign people to panels, contain a final list of topics, have more detailed instructions on how to get to the 1988 SMOFCon, and will have what we hope will be a

final membership list. This final PR will go out by mid-November.

WE WANT YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS! Please let us know your thoughts on the material in the PR's. It's still early enough to change some things mentioned in PR 2 (except the dates and hotel, naturally). We look forward to seeing you at the 1988 SMOFCon!

PROGRAMMING

The main purpose of this second Progress Report is to firm up the Program and to refine the prior list of topics. Our theme of "Convention Communications" is currently planned to be in up to half of the formal Program. We will begin programming at 8 pm on Friday, December 9, 1988 and will continue through 5 pm on Sunday, December 11, 1988.

I was surprised that many people who are attending who've been at past SMOFCons actually prefer less programming and more opportunities to socialize and party at night. A comment I heard often was that there'd been too much programming at past SMOFCons and that they'd prefer less structured programming. Therefore, the Program features several discussion events with only a moderator pre-assigned, less evening programming, a lunch break, and little two-track and evening programming.

The 3-5 person panels and moderator-led discussion groups will generally run an hour each event with 50 minutes of actual Program and 10 minutes for changeover. There are two areas available for programming - the larger room seats about 120 and there is a lounge next to the main room and seats about 70. Amplification is available for the main room only, unless we feel the need to bring in a portable system. When only the main room is running, the lounge will be used for continuation of discussions after conclusion of the prior event.

Enclosed is the Program. We would like your input on these subjects, need to find who is interested in being on the panels/would like to be moderator (please let us know your related experience on the subject), and solicit opinions regarding other subjects that should be covered. We don't presently know which events are going to be group discussion and which will be panels. That will be confirmed with PR 3.

To make this easier for making comments, we are numbering the events to key your remarks. Our goal is to have many involved to some extent in the Program and we want to hear from YOU! If you don't want to be involved directly, we hope to at least have you as a responding member of the audience.

THE HYATT REGENCY PHOENIX

Our hotel is a Hyatt Regency with the large, open atrium. We've used or are about to use this Hyatt for 7 local conventions as well as two WesterCons, a Worldconsm, the 1987 North American SF Consm, and several fringe conventions.

A reservation card was sent out with PR 1. The sleeping room rate is \$60 for single/quad occupancy (the preprinted card only goes to double, however, and it remarks that a maximum of 3 are allowed per room...this is not so). Rollaways, if needed, are \$15 per night. As to suites, they're wrong again. Their normal suite rates are on the card, but their sales department again confirms to us that the rate is \$60 per room (for example, a bedroom + parlour = \$120 not \$200, and 2 bedrooms + parlour = \$180 not \$300). We didn't reprint the cards since y'all should be sophisticated enough to read this PR and understand. PLEASE CONTACT US IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS!!

The con hospitality suite is on the 3rd floor (which is also the pool level) and there are sleeping rooms and suites available on the third floor. Please book your rooms as you wish, but the 3rd floor or 4th floor would probably be your best bets. The function rooms are on the 2nd floor and can be reached by stairway as well as by elevator from the 3rd and 4th floors (okay, they can be reached that way from all floors for that matter). You don't have to book suites through the convention itself. But do mention in all cases that this is for the 1988 SMOFCon. Rates will be honored for 2 days pre and post-con.

Reservations will be held, per our contract, until 6 pm on the date of your arrival and will then be released unless guarantee has been made by check or credit card. In case you don't have a reservation card, the phone number is (602) 252-1234 and (800) 228-9000. The address is Hyatt Regency Phoenix, 122 North Second Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2379 USA Attn: Reservations.

The pre-con cutoff for advanced reservations (after which they will no longer keep our block of 50 rooms available) is November 18, 1988 (21 days pre-con). There may be rooms left after that date, but please don't count on it and RESERVE YOUR ROOMS EARLY. Pretty please?

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Phoenix weather is fantastic, to say the least, in December. It's why we're up to our fanacs in snowbirds from October through April every year. Expect weather between 70-80 as a high and 40-50 as a low. Rain is bloody unlikely as a rule. The pool is heated and is on the third (our hospitality level) floor and swimming or soaking is recommended, day or night.

Phoenix fandom is fairly active. We conducted a WesterCon in 1982 and 1988. We also hosted a Worldconsm in 1978, a World Fantasy Convention in 1985 (held in Tucson, but run by Phoenix and Tucson fans), and a NASFiC in 1987. There are also two annual conventions in Phoenix (LepreCon in March/April and CopperCon in September), put on by LepreCon, Inc. and CASFS, Inc. (CASFS is the sponsor of the 1988 SMOFCon). Tucson hosts TusCon each October. There are also 3 Fan Gatherings (which are RelaxaCons) each year. AND we've just learned that Phoenix is hosting the 1989 Contact convention. We are bidding for the 1991 World Fantasy Convention and the 1993 Worldconsm.

If you're interested in visiting with local fans pre or post-con, traveling in Arizona, or anything else relating to your travel to the 1988 SMOFCon, please let us know.

YOUR FRIENDLY 1988 SMOFCON COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN/PROGRAMMING	Bruce Farr
TREASURER	Margaret Grady
HOSPITALITY SUITE/HOTEL LIAISON	Terry Gish
PUBLICATIONS	Bruce Farr + everyone else
MEMBERSHIPS	Eileen Phillips

Our sponsor is the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society, a 501(c)3 (IRS-recognized) non-profit corporation that puts on CopperCon convention annually, Fan Gathering relaxacons, publishes MAW and CON GAMES newsletters, and generally tries to spread goodness and light in the world. Well, we do our best, anyway.

TRAVEL TO THE 1988 SMOFCON

Phoenix is one of the primary destinations in this country. Plus Phoenix has what must be the best located major airport as well...Sky Harbour Airport is about 3 miles from the Hyatt Regency in downtown Phoenix. We won't yet confirm that the Hyatt has a free shuttle to the airport (these things seem to come and go - no joke). It'd be silly to have an Official Airlines for such a small con, but America West often has the best rates to Phoenix. We'll publish a map with PR 3 to show you the routes for anyone driving in. The Hyatt is near I-10 freeway at 1st. Street & Adams.

HOSPITALITY AND AT-CON REGISTRATION

Hospitality and At-Con Registration will be located on the 3rd Floor in rooms 326 and 327. It'll be possible to register whenever Hospitality is open.

Hospitality/Registration will be open from 2pm to 1am on Friday, 8am to 1am on Saturday, and 8am to 1am on Sunday. We will have coffee, soft drinks, and other munchies available during all open hours and will have other special fattening items as well. Our Con Hospitality theme will be "chocolate du jour" with a different theme item each day. For example, chocolate crepes. Bid groups are welcome to try to bribe attendees by paying for/providing different chocolate items for each day's theme - credit will be prominently displayed!

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SMOFCON 5 REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____

POSTAL CODE _____ TELEPHONE (_____) _____

AREA(S) OF INTEREST _____

(refer to Program Topics by number if related to specific topics)
(please note if you wish to be on a panel/be a moderator)

FANNISH EXPERTISE/EXPERIENCE _____

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____ FOR _____ MEMBERSHIP(S)

1988 PHOENIX SMOFCON PROGRAM

As mentioned in this PR 2, we need your comments and are soliciting potential panelists. Please refer to each topic by number when commenting.

- A) one event at 9pm on Friday, December 9
 - B) one track from 10am to 1pm on Saturday, December 10
lunch break from 1pm to 2pm, Saturday
 - C) two tracks from 2pm to 6pm on Saturday, December 10
 - D) one event at 9pm on Saturday, December 10
 - E) one track from 10am to 1pm on Sunday, December 11
lunch break from 1pm to 2pm, Sunday
 - F) one track from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday, December 11
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- 1) General Publications to Members (Program Book, PR's, fliers, Pocket Program, Post-Con PR)
 - 2) Radios, Telephones, and Pagers, Oh My! (electronic communications during the con)
 - 3) Pre-Con Special Publications (Dealers' Room & Art Show PR's, Travel Info., Masquerade Info., Programming Guest PR's/Questionnaires)
 - 4) At-Con Special Publications (Daily Newsletter, Film Guide, Video Guide, Restaurant Guide, Handicapped Pubs.)
 - 5) Publicity (PR mailings; flier distribution; free or paid ads in commercial media; ads in other con publications, free con listings, use of fanzines)
 - 6) Committee Newsletters/APA's (...why not for small cons, too? Aid in recruiting, spreading info.)
 - 7) Electronic Communications (Computer Networks - pre-con publicity and communications)
 - 8) Budgeting and Treasury (how to budget, control monies, report results)
 - 9) 1989 & Future SMOFCon Presentation/Future Worldcon(s)sm presentation
 - 10) Upcoming Worldcon(s)sm Presentations
 - 11) Communications & Coordination/Security/Whatever Dept. Role in the Convention
 - 12) Brainstorming the 1989 Worldconsm
 - 13) Brainstorming the 1991 Worldconsm (will add 1990 if anyone will be here to represent them)
 - 14) Brainstorming on SMOFCon (topics/themes for the future, purpose of the convention, areas needing improvement)
 - 15) Role of the Pre-Convention Office (for all sizes of conventions)
 - 16) How to Make a Good Impression with the Con Attendees (organizing Attendee info in at-con publications, smooth registration procedures, avoiding lines, etc. etc.)
 - 17) Outrageous Behavior at Conventions (and what to do, or not to do, about it; legal liabilities and hotel problems) -
 - 18) Communicating With Program Participants (an area seldom done well, to the point where it's become a major gripe of the Participants) - perspectives from the pro's point of view
 - 19) Sex in Conventions (well, everyone else is doing this topic in some variation - why not us?) Getting 30/40 oil out of sheets, getting the Slave Girls of Gor back into their leather & studs, Porno Patrol Dances, and other eunuch opportunities for amusement

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PHOENIX 1988 SMOFCON FIVE
C/O Central Arizona Speculative
Fiction Society, Inc.
A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation
P. O. Box 11743
Phoenix, AZ 85061

Non-Profit Org.
Postage Paid
Permit 839
Phoenix, AZ

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO: