



Science Fiction Convention

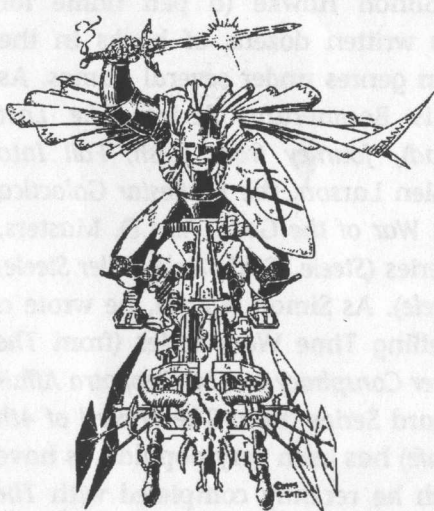
July 21-23, 1995

THE GRACE INN AHWATUKEE • PHOENIX, AZ

PROGRESS REPORT

A weekend-long convention, visually medieval and Renaissance, featuring panels and workshops exploring leading-edge technologies and ideas.

Featuring an Art Show, Authors, Artists, Games, Dances, Merchants, Minstrels, and a Masquerade.



Tickets available at
DILLARDS BOX OFFICE
(602) 678-2222 or 1-800-638-4253

Just \$27.50 thru 7/14

\$35* at-the-door

Children 12 and under just \$10

THE GRACE INN

(Elliot Rd. & I-10 at exit 157)

1-800-843-6010

\$52 Single/Double

\$62 Triple/Quad

*\$5 of the at-the-door price will be refunded if you stay
at least one night at the hotel

AMERICA WEST AIRLINES is the official airlines of DarkCon

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Introducing DarkCon

DarkCon is a brand new science fiction convention coming to the Phoenix area July 21-23, 1995, and you're invited. Our theme this year is Middle Ages, Modern Ages, Future Ages, reflecting our broad range of interests. Call us today at 978-9314 for more information. Come join us for a brand new experience that includes all of your old favorite activities!

Author Guest of Honor Simon Hawke

Some people claim that Simon Hawke is actually a pseudonym for Doc Savage, while others think it's really Gore Vidal writing commercial novels under another name to help support his literary work and dissolute lifestyle. In reality, Simon Hawke is a changeling who was stolen by Russian gypsies when he was a child and raised in the wilds of the Carpathian Mountains, where he learned to classify wildflowers by phylum and communicate with bats. He came to America in the early 1800's by stowing away on a clipper ship in a steamer trunk lined with his native earth and has survived ever since by drinking the blood of editors and taking megadoses of vitamins to compensate for its inferior quality. He has written more books than it is possible to count, many published abroad in Swahili, Sanskrit, and Esperanto, and his hobbies are javelina wrestling, guessing bra sizes, and sacrificing virgins (if he can ever find one).

A bit more detail: Simon Hawke (a pen name for Nicholas Yermakov) has written dozens of books in the fantasy and science fiction genres under several names. As Yermakov he created his Boomerang Series (*The Last Communion*, *Epiphany*, *Jehad*), *Journey from Flesh*, *Fall Into Darkness*, *Clique*, and with Glen Larson, the *Battlestar Galactica* novels *The Living Legend* and *War of the Gods*. As J.D. Masters, Berkley published his Steele Series (*Steele*, *Cold Steele*, *Killer Steele*, *Jagged Steele*, and *Renegade Steele*). As Simon Hawke, he wrote a dozen novels for his time-travelling Time Wars Series (from *The Ivanhoe Gambit* and *The Timekeeper Conspiracy* to *The Cleopatra Affair* and *The Sixgun Solution*). His Wizard Series (from *The Wizard of 4th Street* to *The Wizard of Lovecraft's Cafe*) has been very popular, as have his Reluctant Sorcerer books (which he recently completed with *The Ambivalent Magician*). Other novels include those in his Psychodrome, Sons of Glory, and Catseye Gomez series, and his current books for TSR in

their *Tribe Of One Series* (which includes, so far, *The Outcast*, *The Seeker*, *The Nomad*, and *The Broken Blade*).

All of these great books are in addition to three *Star Trek* novels (both Classic and TNG) and many other novels and short stories that aren't a part of any series (including his latest, *The Whims of Creation*). He currently teaches Dragon Slaying 101 and Advanced Dragon Slaying at Pima Community College in Tucson. On top of all that, this prolific author is a perfect convention guest, full of great stories and fascinating observations — catch him on various panels throughout the convention and at other times, socializing with his fans.

Artist Guest of Honor Davin Lavikka

Born in Denver to an artistic family (his sister is a graphic designer and his mother is a freelance artist specializing in ceramics and oil painting), Davin had his first piece of commercial art published in the *Denver Post* at the tender age of 8.

Describing his art as graphic symbology, he favors vivid colors on black backgrounds utilizing an illustrative and surreal style. He lists his primary influences as Marcus Pierson, Mark Fredrickson, Simon Bisley, and Frank Frazetta. The fantastic spaceships in *Star Wars* urged him into the science fiction genre.

Currently a resident of Tempe, Davin has had showings at Studio 16, Coconino Community College, Dancing Monk Studio, and the Santa Fe House. Talk with this talented artist at DarkCon and examine his art closely — you'll be surprised at some of the details.

Music Guest of Honor Joe Bethancourt

Joe has been making music most of his life and, with that amount of practice, is able to play 64 different instruments (though he's not bringing them all to DarkCon!). He now has some new high-tech equipment to play with (which he will be bringing to the convention).

He's been active in the Society for Creative Anachronism for most of its existence, and has been a well-known entertainer in the valley for many years. He's come out with a slew of albums, all of which are being re-released by WailSongs. Just released is *Our Fathers of Old* (with Leslie Fish) and *Serious Steel* is in the works. Also just re-released is *Who Fears the Devil*, based on the short stories of Manly Wade Wellman.

Come listen to this fantastic entertainer and enjoy some of the dozens of songs he's written with science fiction and fantasy themes, as well as other great contemporary and folk music.

Convention Registration

Registration on-site will be located in the hotel lobby and will open at 1:00pm on Friday. See the last page for rates and more information.

Art Show

Opening at 2:00pm Friday, the Art Show features art from many artists including Robert Ashton, Jack Connelly, Sue Fulkerson, Mitchell Bentley, Denise Satter, Lee Seed, K. McFadden, Monica Livingston, Susan VanCamp, Julie Damon, and our Artist Guest of Honor Davin Lavikka. Browse through the works of these talented folks — they make great eye-candy — or purchase your favorite pieces, either outright or at the auction on Sunday.

Dealers' Room

Our Dealers' Room features a wide variety of great SF&F merchandise including books from The Bent Cover and Barry Bard's Books, middle-eastern items from Stars of Arabia, a variety of swords and blades from Master Gannnd (aka Druid's Keep), and an incredible selection of gaming goods from Waterloo Adventure Games. It opens at 2:00pm on Friday.

Charity Raffle

Help us raise funds for the United Way by purchasing tickets for our Charity Raffle. There will be lots of great prizes to pick from including a variety of books and games, and every penny goes to a great charity.

Gaming

We're featuring a wide variety of role-playing games, wargames, card games, and live-action role-playing. Tournaments are currently scheduled for *Warhammer* and *Warhammer 40K*, *Advanced Dungeons & Dragons*, *Battletech*, *Robo-Rally*, *Toon*, *GURPS*, *Vampire*, and of course, *Magic: The Gathering*. Reality Simulations will be featuring instant *Duelmasters* PBM, too!

The live-action roleplaying is called *Into Soulgate*, and is an extra-planar adventure where you'll gather clues to solve a puzzle that will save your world from destruction. The game will operate all weekend long

at preset times and will require social interaction, strategy, and teamwork to solve. A simple conflict-resolution system has been developed for the game.

There'll be plenty of other games, too, with lots of space for you to set up anything you'd like to run, so bring your favorites and have a blast.

DarkCon Banquet

We're featuring a special banquet this year with some incredible food and an opportunity to have a great dinner with other fans and our guests.

The banquet is buffet-style and features:

Mixed Green Melange with condiments of cherry tomatoes, alfalfa sprouts, cucumbers, garlic croutons, and two dressings

Lahvosh

Crisp Vegetable Crudites

Sliced Domestic Cheeses

Pasta Salad Primavera

Nicoise Salad with Tuna Flakes

Chicken Breast Marsala

London Broil

Filet of Sea Bass with Almond Herb Butter

Fettuccini Alfredo

Rice Pilaf

Seasonal Fresh Vegetables

Assorted Desserts

The entire gourmet buffet is \$25. Seating is limited so advanced purchase is recommended.

Masquerade

We're planning a great Masquerade contest! In keeping with our theme, medieval and Renaissance entries are welcomed and encouraged, in addition to fantasy, science fiction, and any mutant offering these fertile areas might produce. Have fun! Be daring! Be outrageously creative!

There will be prizes in categories including workmanship, best historical reproduction, children's costuming, fantasy, SF, and others, including a special "Judges Whim" and Audience Choice awards (feel free to play to the house!). We'd especially like to encourage brief skits and performance pieces. There will be a sound system for optional musical accompaniment and an announcer who can read for you. The rules will be

very simple and we hope to see many new entrants. Pre-registration is encouraged, but you'll still be able to sign up as late as 2:00pm on Saturday before the afternoon run-through and the evening show.

If you're interested in a potential late-night adults-only contest, or if you'd just like more information about the regular contest (including the rules), please call Rebecca Davies at 237-2780 as soon as possible (between 10am and midnight, please).

Kid Lounge

We're setting up a Kid Lounge to help watch your "little monsters!" There'll be lots of activities to keep your child busy, including games, arts & crafts, movies & cartoons, videogames, and a lot more. There will be a limit to how many children can be in Kid Lounge at the same time, and a limit to how long your kids can stay, but this should help give you a little time away. Please note that all parents who leave their kids in the lounge for any length of time will be expected to help watch other kids for a while during the convention. Anyone who'd be willing to volunteer to help in advance should call Diane Golla (Kalidasia) at 992-3501.

Panels, Programs, and Pros

We've got all kinds of interesting programming planned, running in two tracks. Potential panels include Terraforming Planets vs. Xenoforming Humans, Fiber Optics and You, Makeup Effects, Medieval History, Vampires as Heroes, a Pun Contest, and much more.

Participants scheduled to attend include authors Rick Cook, G. Harry Stine, Peter Manly, Adam Niswander, and more, including our Guests of Honor. Other great panelists include space expert Henry Vanderbilt, comics author Don Markstein, and published singer and writer Leslie Fish. Many others are invited and may attend, confirmation pending, including Diana Gabaldon, Alan Gutierrez, Michael McCollum, John Vornholt, Ernest Hogan, Alan Dean Foster, and Somtow Sucharitkul.

Other Activities

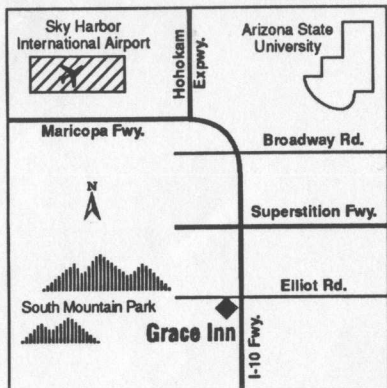
We've got lots of other great stuff planned, too, including: a Hospitality Suite (ConSuite) where you can meet and talk with friends (new and old); modern dancing both Friday and Saturday nights; concerts from Joe Bethancourt, Gary Silar, and Leslie Fish; a well-stocked video room

Security Policies

Weapons can be worn if they are sheathed and peace-bonded, but no real or realistic firearms... No projectile weapons of any kind... If you're having a party, you need to register the date and time with con security, and if you are serving alcohol, you need to card individuals attending your party... Don't do stupid things... The badge remains the property of the convention, so if you do stupid things, you will lose it.

The Hotel

If you are staying at the hotel for at least one night, you can qualify for a \$5 discount off your AT-THE-DOOR convention membership. Each room has a refrigerator, coffee maker and private balcony.



THE GRACE INN

10831 South 51st Street
(Elliot Rd. and I-10 at exit 157)

1-800-843-6010

ROOM RATES

\$ 52 Single/Double

\$ 62 Triple/Quad

Convention Memberships

A full three-day membership is just \$27.50 in advance — call the Dillards Box Office at (602) 678-2222 or 1-800-638-4253. At the door, full memberships will be just \$35 (\$5 of which will be refunded at the end of the convention if you stay at least one night in the hotel).

Contact DarkCon by mail at PO Box 5833, Glendale, AZ 85312.

For more convention information, call us at (602) 978-9314.

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Local Science Fiction Convention Update!

