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Wednesday
Morning

August 17, 2011

The High Space Drifter

The Official Newsletter
of Renovation

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PROGRAMMING CHANGES

Tim Powers Kaffeeklatsch moved to Thursday.

Tim Powers's Kaffeeklatsch, listed in the Con Guide for Sunday, is now scheduled for **Thursday** at **10:00 AM**. Please note: sign-ups for this new time open at **2:00 PM** at the **Information Desk** in the RSCC lobby.

PREMIUM CABLE PAYS OFF

Renovation would like to thank the generous people at HBO who loaned us the beautiful replica of the Iron Throne, as seen in Game of Thrones, which is on display in the exhibit hall. You are welcome to try it out for size. Sean Bean not included.

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Cell coverage is spotty, and depends on the network. The two that we've tested the most are AT&T and Verizon Wireless. AT&T works better at the C/D/E end of the building, and is frequently tolerable. Coverage in Hall 2 and the A rooms is generally poor to non-existent.

Verizon Wireless has exactly the reverse pattern -- better in Hall 2/A and poor in C/D/E. Other providers not yet tested, but let us know.

PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Party announcements coming in Issue #2. Deliver yours to a newsletter submission box for publication!

Welcome to Renovation

Have fun, learn something new, make a new friend, listen to an author read, sample a new drink, listen to a new song, sing, marvel at a piece of art, dance, buy something cool, tell someone you think they're talented and why you enjoy their work, volunteer to help, enjoy, watch someone's film. That's today. Vary it up tomorrow and every other day of the Worldcon.

I'm pictured here as close as I can get to Charles N. Brown, our Guest of Honor (GoH), sadly, in memoriam. Make sure you visit the GoH exhibits and program items about the founding editor of *Locus*;

someone who shaped the SF world for so many of us.

Most of all, have fun and make fannish memories to treasure.

“We're harmless. Well, that's not true, but we are nice people.”

Opening Ceremonies

I know what you're thinking, "the Con's been going on for 6 hours, but when does it OPEN?" Come see all of our Guests of Honor in one place at **3:00 PM** in the Convention Center room **Co4**. Welcome Tim Powers, Boris Vallejo, Ellen Asher and Tim Willingham to Worldcon in style, and let our Chair Patty Wells welcome you in return. Music by Tricky Pixie and Dr. Demento will get this party started right.

Party with Dr. Demento

Be sure to be in Convention Center room **Co4** at **5:00 PM** today for an audio and video extravaganza hosted by Dr. Demento himself. Experience all his greatest hits, going all the way back to when 'Weird' Al was recording music in the bathroom at Cal Poly.



Reno Survival Guide

Welcome to 4,400 feet above sea level (don't worry, with climate change it will only be 3,400 feet in a few years). If you're from someplace closer to the elevation of the ocean, the air might strike you as a little thin. Take a deep breathe (anywhere but the casino) and relax, you'll be fine. Don't over exert yourself to start. Let your body get used to the altitude before you go crazy in the boffer battle dome. Drink lots of water. Even if you're not doing anything physical, it will help. If you find yourself getting a headache and/or nauseous you may have mild altitude sickness. Take some aspirin, get some rest, and keep the water coming.

The state of Nevada requires nearly all indoor public spaces to be smoke free. If you're extra sensitive be aware that you will still find smoke on all casino floors and in any bar that does not also serve food, as well as...ummm...adult entertainment venues.

Let's talk temperature. The average highs for this time of the year are in the low 90s. The average lows are in the low 50s. Forecasted temperatures are a little higher than that. And yes, it's a dry heat. As in potentially skin cracking dry if you're not used to it. A little sunscreen and some skin moisturizer can go a long way.

Now that you know what you've gotten yourself into, you're ready to face Reno head on.

Eat, Sleep, Lather, Repeat

It's that time again where somebody tries to find a new and creative way to remind you that it's going to be a LONG week. If you're not careful you'll discover it's Friday and you forgot to check into your hotel room. So remember this handy rule and you'll be in good shape for the long haul:

In every 24 hour period, remember to eat 2 meals, sleep for 6 hours, and take 1 shower. These are not estimates. There is no rounding. These are scientifically proven numbers based on decades of convention testing. "Some" have tried to eat 6 meals and sleep for 2 hours instead. "Some" are asking for trouble.

Shuttle Information

The Renovation shuttle service is available from 8:00 AM to 3:00 AM Wednesday through Saturday and 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM Sunday. There is always at least one bus making the circuit every 15-20 minutes, and a one-way ride takes about 10 minutes. At times when demand is expected to be high, including before and after the Hugo Awards ceremony and the Masquerade, there will be multiple buses on the route.

Please make sure you're at the right stop as the locations change. Before 9:00 PM shuttles stop outside the RSCC Registration Lobby. Then it moves to the Atlantis at the casino door under the Skybridge. At the Peppermill, the shuttle stops at the Tuscany Ballroom side entrance until 11:00 PM, then moves to the valet parking point outside the main hotel lobby.

The white shuttle buses, run by Ryan's Express Transportation Service, have storage areas for folding wheelchairs. Members with non-folding wheelchairs, motorized chairs and scooters should check at the Access Services table in Hall 2, RSCC, about alternatives including:

- Unlimited-ride passes for the Reno RTC rapid transit buses. The Virginia Street bus route runs every 10 minutes weekdays and 12 minutes weekends until 7:00 PM. There are 2 scooter/wheelchair spaces on each bus.
- A limited number of vouchers for accessible taxis.
- Scooter/wheelchair-accessible vans from the Peppermill to the Atlantis following the Hugo Awards and the Masquerade.

For details e-mail access@renovationsf.org.

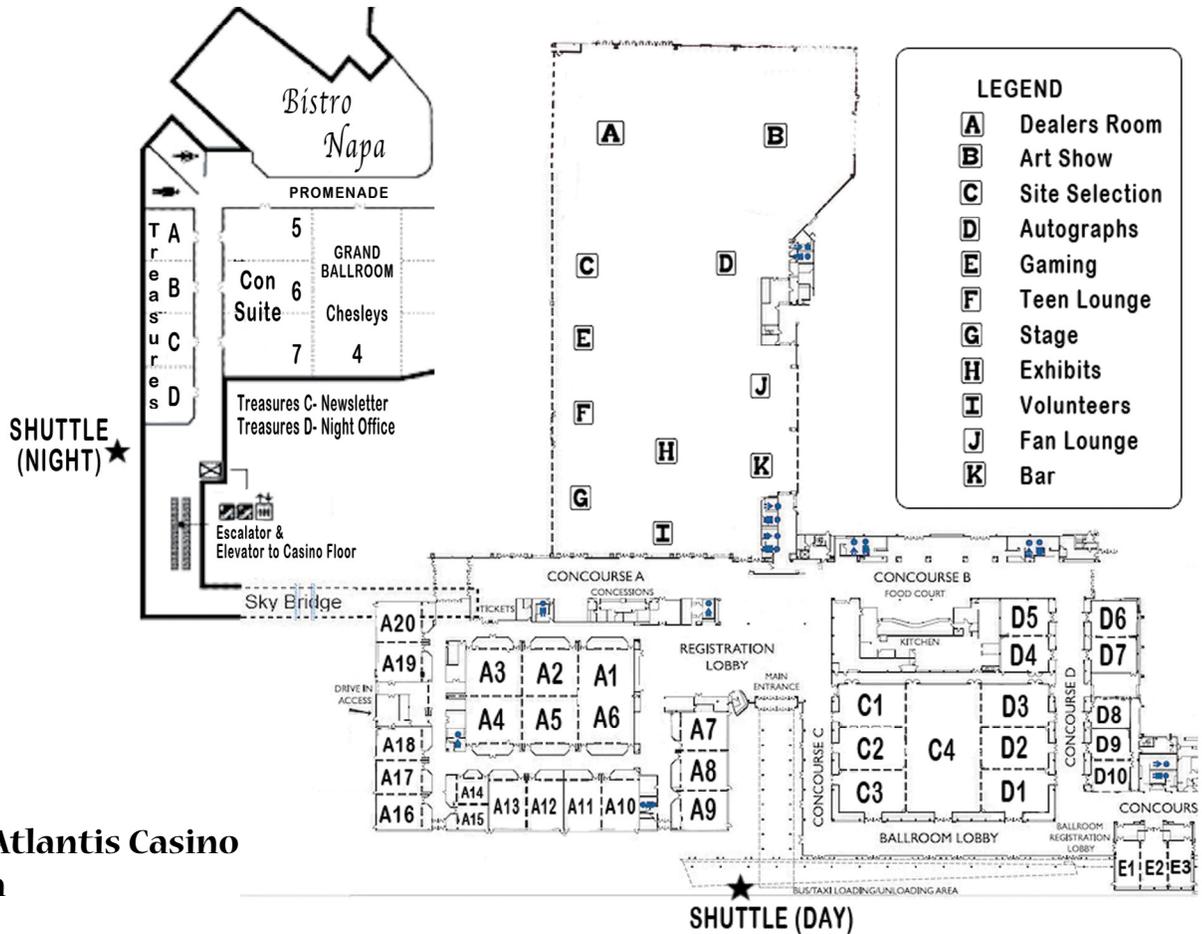
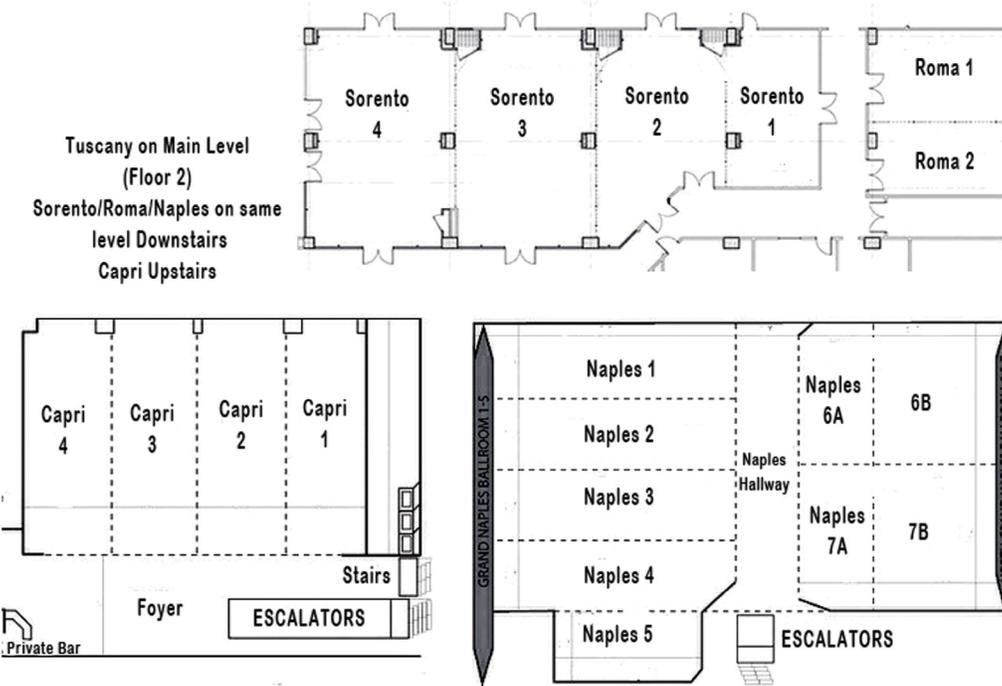
Magic in the Big Easy

Join *Summit Arcane*, a Live-Action Role-Playing Game set in world of Jim Butcher's *Dresden Files*. Journey back to 1928 and celebrate Mardi Gras with supernatural enthusiasm. No LARP experience or knowledge of the source material is required, but slots are limited. To reserve a space or for more information, contact dresdenlarp@gmail.com.

Maps of the Convention Space

Peppermill Resort Spa Casino

Tuscany Ballroom (not shown) can be accessed by using the escalators to the left of the main registration desk or turn right at Roma 1 and left at the pools.



RSCC and Atlantis Casino Resort Spa

The Jackals Say Hello

Greetings, and welcome to the 69th Worldcon. We're the Jackals* and we'll be bringing you the official Renovation newsletter. From our den office in the Atlantis Hotel (Treasure C, across from the Con Suite), we'll be putting out two issues a day, packed with news, events, reviews, and snark. Our fine publications are available at no charge from any of the newsletter distribution racks (located in the Registration Lobby, the Fan Lounge, the Naples Ballroom (in the Peppermill) and outside our office. You can follow us on twitter at **@worldconjackals**, which has more snark per tweet than the official **@sfreno** Twitter account.

Sadly, while the convention is nearly infinite, our staff are finite. We can't be everywhere at once, so we need your content. If you have something to share, please let us know. We can be reached online at **newsletter@renovationsf.org** or, if you are momentarily disconnected from the web, you can leave us a message in any of our submission boxes. For your convenience, we have submission boxes at the Info Desk (in the convention center), Program Operations in the Peppermill, the Fan Lounge, and outside the Newsletter office. We'll happily accept submissions of hall quotes, panel reviews, party announcements, kudos, complaints, bribes, chocolate, or any other interesting material.

We plan to be in our office from at least 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM daily, and we welcome visitors. We *really* welcome visitors bearing chocolate. If you're crossing the Sky Bridge, drop in and say hi.

*Why Jackals? It all goes back to Jesse Ventura's term as the governor of Minnesota. He referred to the press corps as "Official Jackals" and even had that used on their official press badges. We took the term to heart and have been jackals ever since.

Party Early, Party Late!

The Atlantis has extended their service hours in the hotel bars! (Evidently, someone told them that fen have been known to raise a glass or two.) So if you're in need of liquid refreshment, you shouldn't have to search too far.

If you prefer your nourishment in solid form, both the Peppermill and the Atlantis have designed exclusive menus for Renovation guests. Check out the Do Androids Dream of Electric Lamb Sliders in the Atlantis' Napa Bistro and if you challenge the Blob Sandwich in the Peppermill Sports Deli, be sure to grab extra napkins.

Lost and Found

During the day (9:00 AM to 6:00 PM), please check the Convention Operations Office (Con Ops) in room A20 in the RSCC. At night (6:00 PM to 9:00 AM), please check at the Convention Night Operations Office in Treasures D in the Atlantis (near the Sky Bridge to the RSCC). Lost children shall be taken to the Con Suite and fed massive quantities of sugar and caffeine for our amusement.

Lost Badges: Check at Registration in the RSCC Registration Lobby outside Hall 2 to see if your badge has been turned in. If it hasn't, Renovation will charge you a nominal fee to replace it.

The Drifter Staff



Overheard in the
Jackal Lair
"It'll be
coming out
yesterday."

Quick Draw McGraw:

Meredith Branstad

Black Hat:

Stephen Libbey

Fast Hand McCoy:

Matt Branstad

Bloody Meri:

Meri Meraz

Momma Malone:

Kimmi Allbee

Woody:

Stephen Nelson

Chuckwagon Charlie:

Charlie Holmberg

Honky Tonk Sue:

Karen Anderson

The Hangman:

Tom Galloway

Wile E Coyote:

Gary Blog

Text McGraw:

Michael Nelson

Rifleman:

Brian Branstad

Lone Ranger:

Jan van't Ent

Yellow Rose Madam:

Karen Meschke

This publication is ©2011 by Renovation. Any articles or photos not credited were produced by the Renovation newsletter staff. The Jackal Lair is located in Treasure 3 in the Atlantis Hotel. Follow us on Twitter **@SFReno** or **@WorldconJackals**. Email us at **newsletter@renovationsf.org**.