

MANDALORIAN MERCS

BATTLECRY

ISSUE 10

MARY FRANKLIN

The Mercs celebrate the super fan.

IRON CRUSADE

Meet the crazy War Droid.

TROOPING FROM THE HEART

We discuss what trooping for charity means.

PHOTO BY LIGHTSAINT PHOTOGRAPHY

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**MANDALORIAN
SPEEDER PROJECT**

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OBI-WAN



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WELCOME!

It's been a long road for the Mercs since Celebration Anaheim was announced at Celebration Europe 2.

Those that have been there will know what to expect at this event, those of you who haven't been before have a wonderful experience in front of you and for those that are not able to come, I am sorry that I am not able to thank you for your hard work in person.

There are a lot of people to thank for getting us to this stage and I'm sure that you all agree that without key members of this club busting a gut to get things done in time for us to enjoy the event without worry we would be in a sorry state. Some of them won't even get to see the fruits of their labor.

But this is why we are Mandalorian Mercs, while some of you will never see just how hard people work for our club, I do and I'd like to take the time to thank everyone, especially the unsung heroes within our club and to celebrate their contribution to what we like to call "the spirit of the Mercs."

But for now, we can enjoy that spirit together and put on a great show for the masses of Star Wars fans who will be attending at Anaheim. I look forward to talking to every single one of you.

Tom Hutchens
Mandalore the Uniter



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Battle Cry has a UK English Editor but all US English contributions have not been changed. The Mercs are an International club where all cultures and languages are respected.

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We all use them, but sometimes things can get a little tricky, just for you, here's a quick guide for posting on our Mercs forums.

Welcome recruits, to your new series on the secrets of the forums! Get ready to learn classified passwords, hacks, and all of Thaxos' startling dastardly master plans! Well, ok, probably not all that. But we feel it IS important to help our MMCC forum users navigate the rich, diverse, and occasionally labyrinthine, world that is our beloved forums. There's a ton of information on the boards, from tutorials to news and topics, and we want to help you make the most of all of this fantastic material. So grab your computer and let's get typing!

Let's begin with something that's basic, but vital, to having a presence and sharing your work on the boards: posting up photos. The forums have the capability to showcase both photos and links. Including photos in your posts can help you show off your hard work and, also, get questions answered. Wondering whether your plate spacing is right? Not sure about a color or a sketch? Throw a photo onto the boards and see what other members say. It's a great way to get feedback and positive support too. Here's a quick and easy walk through to get you started:

Step 1: Upload the photo to a third party host like Photobucket and FLICKR. Both of these do require you to create an account, but it is free, quick, and easy to do so. They also each have a great deal of space, so you will have plenty of room to host whatever you'd like.

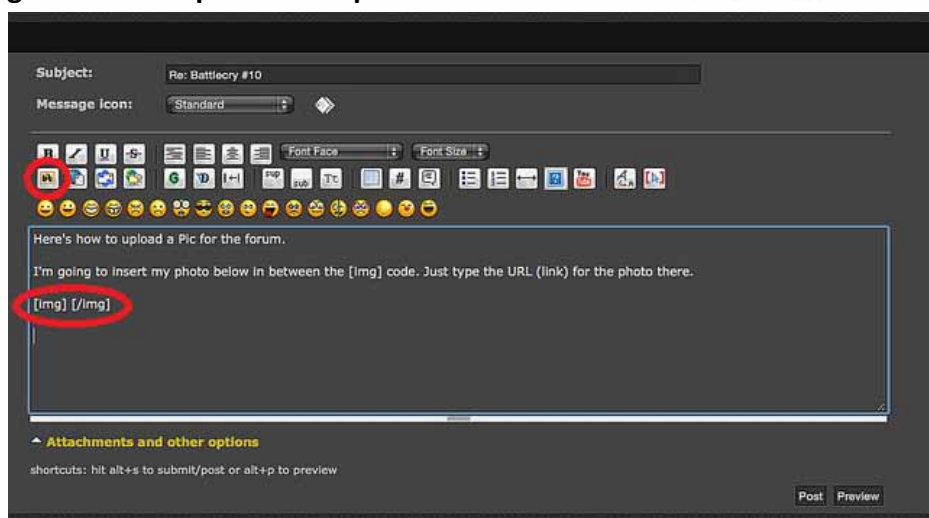
Step 2: Get the link for your photo. Depending upon the host you use, there are different ways to do this step. But for each photo, there will be a dedicated link ending in .jpg (example: <http://www.flickr.com/sample.jpg>). Copy this link to paste it into your post.

Step 3: Type up your forum post and add in the link. Type up your post on the forum and you'll be all set to go. Where you'd like to add in your picture, paste in the photo's link. Then highlight it and, in the post toolbox, click on the little icon that looks like a painting. You will see two magical codes pop up: [img] and [/img]. Each image needs to have these two codes around it so the forum will read that it is an image and display it properly. Once these are placed around your link, your image will show up when the post is made.

Step 4: Post and Celebrate! You've added a photo, now nothing can stop you! Click "post" and you'll be able to upload immediately.

Tips & Tricks:

There's a little "preview" button down at the bottom of the post. You can use this to see if you like your layout, and whether or not the photos are loading properly



Size matters! Don't post a photo that's too small, or one that is too large. The forum has an automatic re-sizing capability but it's great if you can choose a medium size pic too.

Don't use a social media site, like Facebook, to host your photos. They constantly change their settings and your photo links may appear broken or disappear on a random basis.

- Misha

MARY FRANKLIN

In issue 4, we spoke about LFL Events Lead Mary Franklin and all that she has achieved within that role and her place in the Beskar K'arta of all the Mercs who have worked with her. Mary has chosen to move onto new pastures and alongside our best wishes, the Mercs have laid on something special for her.

She hasn't gone entirely though, she will be working along side us still as a member of Reed Pop, who organise the Celebration shows on behalf of LFL. And you'll be sure to see her walking around the floors making sure everyone is ok.

In her role at LFL, Mary has been a delight to work with, so much so that it didn't take much convincing for members of the Mercs to work together to build Mary a Kit.



Mary receiving her honorary membership into the Mandalorian Mercs.

The idea was started when the European Mercs wanted to say thank you to Mary and presented her with a custom helmet in her favorite colour.

This generated the idea that she would have armour built for her and, in discussion with her, the PR Officer and Mandalore arranged for her to have a duct tape body cast.

The body cast has been used by members of the club to make the specific parts and culminating in an unique design just for her. The main aim is to have Mary in her kit posing with the Mandalorian Mercs for the group photo and add her to our ranks as an Official member.

If you're at Celebration, make sure you get a photo taken with our Gladiatrix Mandalorian!

As one of the firm supporters of the Mandalorian Mercs, make sure you say hi to her if you get the chance and thank her for her work with us over the past few years.

We'll certainly miss her cheery disposition!

You can see more of how the armour was built on starwars.com.



Mary was given a custom helmet which was furthered with the idea that we make her a complete armour set. Mary approved the design by Senaar Ordo, as she loves Gladiators.

Yes, we're making a **MANDO SPEEDER**

Following on from our announcement regarding the card game and how it will integrate into the collectible card tradition we have here at the Mercs, another exciting addition to our Celebration lineup is the Mandalorian speeder built by Mandalore, Tom Hutchens.

Those of you who were present at Celebration 6 would know, making a speeder has always been something of a project of Tom's, the single pod (mostly) static speeder was used for decoration at the Mercs booth.

With our presence at C6 and, more recently, at Celebration Europe, the Mercs have really shown that we can put on exciting displays and Celebration 7 promises to be bigger and better than ever!



The Lego model of the Mandalorian Speeder.

The project began with an electric golf cart, as the machine needed to move under its own steam. One of the project goals was to create a resource for the Mercs to be able to use at parades to add that extra bit of fun and enjoyment for spectators.

Of course, this didn't come without its challenges. First, the cart needed to be stripped down to its basic frame, so an elongated metal frame could be welded on.

Engineering was overseen by Dan Johnson.

Once the frame was finished they ensured that the frame could take the load (by taking turns in driving around the block in it, for science, of course).

There were extra issues to be taken on board, one of which was that the motor needed upgrading to take the overall weight.

Once the basic frame work was done, it was time to move onto panelling and creating the basic look of the speeder.

The intention was to use wood for the basic frame and fill the gaps with expandable foam before giving the shape a strengthening coat of fiberglass.



The shaping of the body took the most work, as once the foam had been poured and set, the shape needed to be cut back to the wooden batons that defined the basic skeleton.

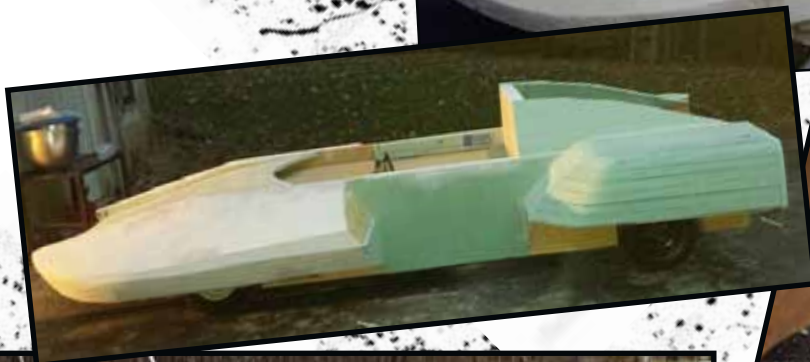
Further work was needed to refine the shape and a lot of man hours were placed into getting the sleek curves of the speeder's design.

Once the shape was correct, Tom chose to use carbon fiber to cover the bodywork of the speeder after consultation. It would make the speeder lighter but also very strong.

With so much experience now under his belt, it became easier to build the extra decorations, such as the gun and the main console, which will sport a working animation.

Whilst the main version will be used for Celebration 7, the future aim is to be able to create molds of the frame to pass to clans so that they will be able to make their own speeders.

Whilst we're not quite done, from the work you can see, it will be a fantastic addition to the club's booth at Celebration 7.





PART 6 - War Droid

Iron Crusade was the name of a Mandalorian-centric game that, as sadly seems to be the case with most great ideas, never saw completion. However, we at Battle Cry don't let a story go to waste, so we asked Kell Ordo to rewrite his script as a story and every issue we'll get to play the game in our imaginations!

"Keep up Kael." Beviin griped over the comlink as he led the newest member of Tal'kara through the now besieged Keldabe. A thirty minute run completed in just over twenty, Kael was still trying to catch his breath. War waited for no one and when he arrived at the morut the rest of the clan was gone leaving a scowling and irritable Beviin waiting to gripe at him for taking so long.

"I need, a sec," Huffed Kael in protest.

"No time. Aggressors have taken a nearby tower and its got to be sorted out."

Kael keyed off the mic and groaned in frustration. Resolved to rest when he was dead, he followed behind the veteran mandalorian, covering alleys and corners.

Keldabe was rough and rundown to begin with but battle added a strange imposing pressure to the air. Every window was an ambush, every door was a surprise attack. It was the hunt Kael had just left but with more predators. This game was beginning to get old.

Covering their rear, the pair advanced through the streets to the sound of muted weapons fire. There was clearly fighting going on, but the streets they had seen so far seemed abandoned. Kael let his mind sort out reasons for this attack. A person would have to be stupid or desperate to attack Mandalore. But attack they did, and in a fashion that said they were looking for something.

Beviin rounded a corner and opened fire at an enemy Kael couldn't see. Red bolts returned forcing the Mandalorian back around the corner. The fury didn't stop once he was out of sight as chunks of stone exploded under a hail of blaster bolts.

"They're dug in." Beviin explained. "Double back and see if we can get around them." Kael did as ordered and maneuvered back down the alley and on to a street. Rounding a corner, Kael began firing before he fully processed what he was seeing.

Overtured speeders had been erected into a defense line that was pointing right at him. Armored solders opened fire with blaster rifles and a heavy repeating blaster sending Kael diving back around the corner. He gracelessly slammed into Beviin's leg armor causing him to lose his balance and roll onto his back.



Bevine's armored boot snapped forward into Kael's now ground level visor. His head rocked back violently from the impact. The force would have obliterated his nose on his own visor had the helmet not been padded against such impacts.

"Get up." Beviin ordered. Kael did so as Beviin looked around. "I've got an idea, follow me." The pair picked through Keldabe to a collection of buildings on the south end. Kael followed Beviin under a durasteel sheet scrawled with 'repair shop' in paint into a dark entryway. After clearing the small building, Beviin walked into the back storage area to a tarp speckled with parts.

With a yank Beviin tore away the tarp revealing a metal monstrosity. Even slumped over, in the dim light Kael could see it would stand a head taller than him. It's frame was a matte grey with beskar armor, shaped and styled to look mandalorian, over gangly servo sections. The head was even helmet-like, complete with T-visor. The Tal'kara crest was painted on the upper left chest plate.

"I hope they completed that memory wipe." Beviin grumbled as he reached for a switch under the lip of the droid's helmeted head. The wardroid sprang to its feet causing Kael to jump back several feet as it pointed its weapon laden gauntlets around the room.

"Vaii aru'e? Ni linear aru'e!" Shouted the wardroid's digital voice.

"They didn't." Beviin said as he clasped his hand to his visor and shook his head.

"They didn't what?" The droid looked around to see where he was. "You were going to have my memory wiped." It said accusingly.

"Let it go SI-83." Beviin waved him off but the droid persisted.

"And why should I?"

"Because Keldabe is under attack." SI-83 seemed startled by this revelation, then angry as he dropped his visor to Beviin's face.

"Aruetiise?"

"Yep." Beviin was unfazed by the droids intimidating glare.

"Not for long." SI-83 turned toward the door of the repair shop and stomped his way through the debris on the floor. With a single hand, it grabbed and threw a speeder bike into the wall that just happened to be in the way.

"That's the clan wardroid I heard about?" Kael asked.

"Yeah." Beviin said with a sigh. "It's as dumb as a rock but loves a good fight." SI-83 walked out onto the street, shouted something Kael couldn't quite hear as he went charging down the street.

"Did he just...?" Kael asked.

"Yeah." Beviin answered as he too stepped out on the street.

"Wrong way di'kut!" He shouted after the wayward droid. With a quick pivot, SI-83 reversed directions and went charging the other direction. Beviin groaned and Kael chuckled as they followed the enthusiastic droid.

To be continued...



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KELDABE TALK RADIO

OFFICIAL PODCAST OF THE MANDALORIAN MERCS

Launched on December 1st 2007, Keldabe Talk Radio discusses all things Mandalorian and Mandalorian Mercs related. With a dedicated team made up of Mercs members, the show airs once a month and is ready to tackle the hot topics regarding Star Wars.

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STAR WARS COLLECTING NEWS

Australia**Sandhawk Clan**

facebook.com/SandhawkClan

Brazil**South East - Vode An Clan**

facebook.com/vodeanbrasil

Canada**Alberta - Hett'ciri Clan**

facebook.com/HettciriClan

Manitoba - Vhetin'Ade Clan

facebook.com/VhetinAdeClan

Quebec - Gaht Kyr'bes Clan

facebook.com/quebecmandos

Europe**Belgium - Twin Suns**

facebook.com/mmctwinsuns

Germany - Jai'galaar Clan

facebook.com/jaigalaar

Holland - Diryc Vhetin Clan

facebook.com/clandirycvhetinr

United Kingdom - Vok'chi Clan

facebook.com/VokChi

Mexico**BigFang Clan**

facebook.com/BigFangClan.Mexico

United States of America**Arizona - Shonare Vhekadla Clan**

facebook.com/azmandomercs

California (LA) - Manda'galaar Clan

facebook.com/mandagalaarclan

California North - Teren Clan

facebook.com/TerenClan

California South East - Skirata Clan

facebook.com/SkirataAliit

California (San Diego)

facebook.com/harangalaarclan

Colorado - Cerar

facebook.com/CerarClan

Florida - Buurenaar-Verda Clan

facebook.com/BuurenaarVerdaClan

Georgia/Alabama - Naast Clan

facebook.com/NaastClan

Hawaii - Five-O Clan

facebook.com/MMCCFiveOClan

Illinois - Nexu Clan

facebook.com/nexuclan

Indiana - Taakure Clan

facebook.com/TaakureClanfanpage

Iowa- Vhett Manda Clan

facebook.com/vhettmandaclan

Kansas & Missouri - Yustapir Clan

facebook.com/YustapirClan

Kentucky - Blue Moon Clan

facebook.com/bluemoonclan

Maine - Wampa Clan

facebook.com/wampaclan

Maryland & DC - Kyrimorut Clan

facebook.com/Kyrimorut

New Jersey - Raquor'daan Clan

facebook.com/RaquordaandClanNJ

North Carolina - Talon Clan

facebook.com/talonclan

Ohio - Rancor Clan

facebook.com/rancorclan

Oklahoma - Ge'tal Vheh Clan

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Oregon - Seron Clan

facebook.com/seronclan

Pennsylvania - Mav'oyala Clan

facebook.com/MavoyalaClan

Tennessee - Besuliik Clan

www.facebook.com/BesuliikClan

Texas North - Murraan Clan

Facebook.com/ClanMurraan

Texas South - Zakkeg Clan

facebook.com/ZakkegClan

Texas East - Arqet Clan

facebook.com/ArqetClan

Texas West - Vhe'rang Clan

facebook.com/ElPasoMandalorian-Mercs

Utah North - Krayt Clan

facebook.com/KraytClan

Washington State - Oceanhawks Clan

facebook.com/oceanhawksclan

Individual members - Freelancers Guild

facebook.com/FreelancersGuild



TROOPING FROM THE HEART!

Many of us live for conventions and few argue that a night spent celebrating after the Dragon Con parade is boring, or that meeting with members of the world-wide Mercs community at big events like Celebration is a waste of time. Overall, conventions are a fantasy weekend where we can dress up with our friends surrounded by colorful characters. We also have the opportunity to meet others who share our love of Star Wars and Mandalorians, enticing them to join the club too.

Conventions are fun, but beyond that what else can we do as Mercs? We probably think of national events, like Star Wars Reads Day and May the Fourth. We also have launch events for special Star Wars themed products such as comics and games. But there's another category of events, those for charity organizations, that are not only fun to troop but make a positive and tangible impact on the wider community.

We've all seen children light up when they see us, or have been high fived by people who recognize our character, but there is also the benefit to the charity organization itself. Many of these events are fundraisers and, by attending the event, your are helping to raise money for a cause. Last year alone, the MMCC logged 1642 hours which generated an estimated \$32,889.24 of donations.

Also, as you are a volunteer, you are donating your time which has a value. According to the Independent Sector (a US organization for volunteer research) the average value of volunteer time in the US for 2014 was approximately \$22.55 per hour. If we use this rate as an average global baseline, one 4 hour troop for a charity with one MMCC member in attendance nets that organization nearly \$100 worth of service. To the charities it is quite valuable as they are able to use our volunteer service as match for additional fundraisers such as grants. From the Club's perspective it's important too, as it shows our members are giving back in a very tangible way.

If you want to get your clan involved, a good place to start is to partner with the other local Star Wars groups if possible. If that is not an option, look to your membership. Many of your members have connections with other organizations and can suggest the inclusion of the Mercs in local events. You can also take up the banner of a chosen charity yourself, for example: Lem'zig Dee worked with St. Jude's children hospital to participate in their fundraising walk. She signed up to have a team, and got permission to attend the event in kit, and even sponsored a patch run to raise additional funds for the organization. Lem's actions proved that even if we are not directly invited, we can still take the initiative and help.

Whilst money is important; the joy that we can bring to the event far outweighs numbers on paper. However, these values help the public understand the value of what we do and how our presence at these events is more than just standing in armor. The next time you're deciding whether or not to try a charity troop remember that the value goes beyond our presence to have a much bigger impact on both the club and community as a whole.



The Sandhawks invaded Kidsflix in Werribee (Melbourne, Australia).



Ruusaar Cin of Canada's Hett'ciri Clan helps some Brownies sell Girl Guide cookies!



Kol Hoka and Am Vindam of Seron Clan joined the local clubs at a Red Cross blood drive.

- Misha

SANDHAWKS CLAN



Sandhawk Clan, covering Australia and New Zealand, sprung on to the costuming scene in 2011. Since then, they have 26 official members and many potential ones spanning the largest territory in the club. Clan members often have to fly hours to meet with other members. Although the distance can make things tricky, Sandhawk enjoys a sense of closeness from having the area united. As well as honorary membership, Sandhawk also gives out their Hawk's Foot Award with the motto, "Ani Di Alor" or "Like a Boss."

Sandhawk's big troop is Melbourne Armageddon expo. Sandhawk's first big troop as a clan was at Armageddon in 2011. At the time they had three members at the event, now they have significantly more. Sandhawk usually makes an appearance at other events across Australia including Brisbane, Sydney and Perth.

Recently Sandhawk invaded Brickvention 2015 in Melbourne. Mercs complimented a showroom floor filled with Lego Star Wars exhibits including the Mos Eisley Cantina, the Death Star trench run, and the old Mandalorian nemesis: the Sarlacc Pit.



- Tanner

MERCS EVENTS AT



Mandalorian Mercs “Dreadnought”

Feared throughout the galaxy during the Old Republic, the Kandosii-type “Dreadnought” was the largest Mandalorian star ship ever produced. Mandalorian Mercs’ Celebration Anaheim fan area features a scaled-down interior of a Mandalorian “Dreadnought”.

Costume/Discussion Panels

Panel #1: Introduction to Mandalorian Mercs: Learn what it takes to join the world’s “Elite Mandalorian Costume Organization”, and how we build our awesome sets of Mandalorian armor. Location: Thursday, April 16th. 12-1pm, Star Wars University

Panel #2: Mandalorian “Skunk Works”: Learn to Build Props like the Pros: If you’ve seen a prop in our exhibit area or on a costume and want to learn how you can make your own, you’ll want to attend our panel on prop-making. Location: Saturday, April 18th, 10:30-11:30am, Star Wars Fan Stage

Mercs Photo Ops

You never know when a group of Mandalorian Warriors is planning to attack a group of Jedi, Sith, Imperials or Rebels. Keep those cameras “locked and loaded” so you don’t miss out on some great battle scenes and photo opportunities. Locations: Throughout the Convention Center. During Convention Hours

Mandalorian Mercs Group Photo

Your best chance to see the world’s largest group of Mandalorians at one place and time. We awed the masses at Celebration V, Celebration VI, and Celebration Europe II, now we plan on shaking up Anaheim with the largest gathering of Mandalorians ever! Due to time constraints, we will not be doing individual photos. Location: Anaheim Convention Center Front Fountain at 2pm PST Friday, April 17

Mandalorian Mercs Birthday Bash

Come celebrate with us at the Mandalorian Mercs Birthday Bash; a gathering of Mandalorian Mercs members, friends, VIP guests, and much more. Non-dinner tickets are on still on sale, you must at-minimum be a registered forum member to purchase. Tickets are still available in the MMCC Online Store. Location: Disney’s Paradise Pier Hotel, Pacific Ballroom at 6:00 (Dinner) 7:15 (Main event)

Mandalorian Mercs Charity “Bounty Hunt”

Hire your own personal group of Mandalorian bounty hunters to track down and apprehend a target of your choosing. We’ll drag them back to the dungeon in our Mandalorian Dreadnought, where they will serve out their time for a great cause. Location: Booth 1294 on Thursday, Friday & Saturday.

Mandalorian Mercs “Family Room” Activities

We’ve come up with some great Family Room events for those “little mandos” to have fun with including Build Your Own Mando and decorate your own magnet. Location: Celebration Family Room at various times.

FROM THE EDITOR



Are you excited yet?

Of course, I am talking about Celebration 7 in Anaheim, coming up in only a few weeks time!

There has been a flurry of activity here on the organisational side of the club, with clan members on the ground sorting out their local patch to be able to receive so many guests all the way to the Mandalore himself, who as you may have noticed has sweat blood to get our agreed projects finished in time.

I just wish I was there to see the audience when the whole set is finished, I've had a taste with Celebration Europe and it really feels good when fans comment on how good we are.

Once the work is done, it's time for fun, remember that the Bash tickets should be available at the door if you realise that you've not yet booked your tickets. Even Mandalore has made a chair for him to finally put his feet up in, go on Tom, you deserve it.

Remember though that we're on a mission to tell the Star Wars community that we are a growing force for good and enjoy the attention that you no doubt deserve!

I'd like to follow on from our tribute to Mary Franklin, as a member of this club who has built up a relationship with her over my time a PR Officer and her time as Fan relations Officer, I have to say I am going to really miss the silliness.

Mary really cares about fan groups, being a massive fan herself and her ideas and inclusionism garnered her respect amongst all of the Star Wars groups. I am pretty sure there are members all over the world who have Mary Franklin stories and all of them will be positive and fun.

I am really glad that we are including her in our ranks.

I had the opportunity to go through the first 3 episodes of Rebels with some of my clan mates at an armour party recently (God bless Disney XD) and I have to say, watching it through for a second time, knowing what I knew now I have to admit I have enjoyed Rebels more with the second sitting, as there are so many hints as to what is coming.

Of course that season finale has to be talked about, and many have been doing so, is it a good thing that the surprise character has been reintroduced to the fans? I'd like to think so and I hope it is also going to be a vehicle for Dave Filoni and his team to tell a few more of the unanswered story line questions.

Let's hope we start to see a lot more Mandalorian story as well, as I am keen to see what happened after the civil war.

Happy trooping!

THE END CREDITS

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