

MANDALORIAN MERCS

BATTLECRY

CELEBRATION EDITION



CHEST DIAMONDS

A armor, art, and Mandalorian tradition.

GETTING THERE

Mercs share what it takes to travel the globe.

A NEW RIDE

The Mercs' new Battle Barge rolls out.

THE BASH

Party with the Mandalorians in Orlando.



CONVENTION
EXCLUSIVE

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The

MANDALORIAN MERCS



would like to thank the individuals, builders, and companies who donated items to sponsor our Little Warrior International fundraiser for the Mandalorian Mercs 10th Anniversary Birthday Bash



Photo by Sierra Haworth

Seugtai
Solus Raam
Ter-n Solo
Thalia Solo
Talyc Rancor
Kebii'tra Verda
Drake
LoneWolf1183
K'raam Xrati
Gungan Armories
ConDar Ward
Delta13

Woodchuck
Amber the Nail Geek
Surreal Makeup
Ares
Mishakitty
Naran Baatar
Coreysnaps
Antique Archaeology

IN MANDO'A, WE SAY "ALIIT ORI'SHYA TAL'DIN" MEANING, "FAMILY IS MORE THAN BLOOD" AND WE ARE HONORED, AND PROUD, TO HAVE YOU ALL IN OUR FAMILY.



WELCOME!!

Happy Birthday MMCC!

It's hard to believe that 10 years ago, the idea to create a home for custom Mandalorian costumes would grow to become one of the world's largest STAR WARS™ costume organizations.

One question I am asked time and time again, is if I could have ever imagined MMCC would become as large and popular as it's become; the short answer is "No". Nobody can ever foresee something like that, and while I knew it would gain traction over the years I could have never imagined how big it would become and how much I would have in common with people from all around the world.

The MMCC today is very different from its early years, as the organization has grown so has its mission. I see today's MMCC as more than just an organization of friends helping each other build cool costumes, it's an organization that teaches and encourages creativity and the use of that creativity to help change lives for the better around the world.

STAR WARS™ Celebration Orlando is our 6th appearance as an organization at the show, with each of those appearances growing dramatically from the last. Our goal, as always, is to give the fans a place where they can immerse themselves in the Mandalorian culture. The members of MMCC have worked hard to create such an awesome exhibit area and props, my helmet goes off to each and every one of them.

OYA!
Tom Hutchens
Mandalore the Uniter



On the cover

Orrryn Varek and Nike Viin from Buurenaar Verda Clan patrol Bath Tub Beach in Stuart, Florida.
Photo by Suzanne Vosbikian.

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BUILDING TOWARD CELEBRATION

Planning for the galaxy's largest "Star Wars" event moves from the forums to reality as Mercs get busy building their Florida base.

By Orriyn Varek, Buurenaar Verda Clan

Photos courtesy of Orriyn Varek and CoreySnaps

Quite a bit of work goes in when you have 6,000 square feet of booth space to fill. Planning for a space like this is important, and as you might imagine, planning for Celebration Orlando was no different.

The design and planning phase for Celebration Orlando started when the event was just a rumor, back at Celebration Anaheim in 2015. Planning was done backwards, starting with the day the doors would open in Orlando, and working backward to the present day. This was essential, as it helped to figure out when each piece needed to be built, what tasks needed to be divided, and enabled a schedule to be made.

The moment Anaheim ended, discussions had already started about Orlando. Brainstorming was running rampant, and the "good idea fairy" was waving her wand over many of our members. For months, the

Mandalorian Mercs forums were the home to threads full of amazing ideas, not all of which were able to make it into the final design. Mandalorian Mercs Archivist Kensnaps was the set designer, and he talked about his inspiration.

"Seeing the set for Celebration Anaheim being developed, built and on display was a major source of inspiration. Between the concept and execution in 2015 and the highlights from the locals here in Buurenaar Verda Clan for Celebration VI in 2012, we had a lot to work with. I'm also a huge fan of feng shui and I have a lot of stage and theater background that helped while designing the overall concept."

Due to all this careful planning, by the time Celebration Europe wrapped up in 2016, everything was in place to get underway for Orlando. The first





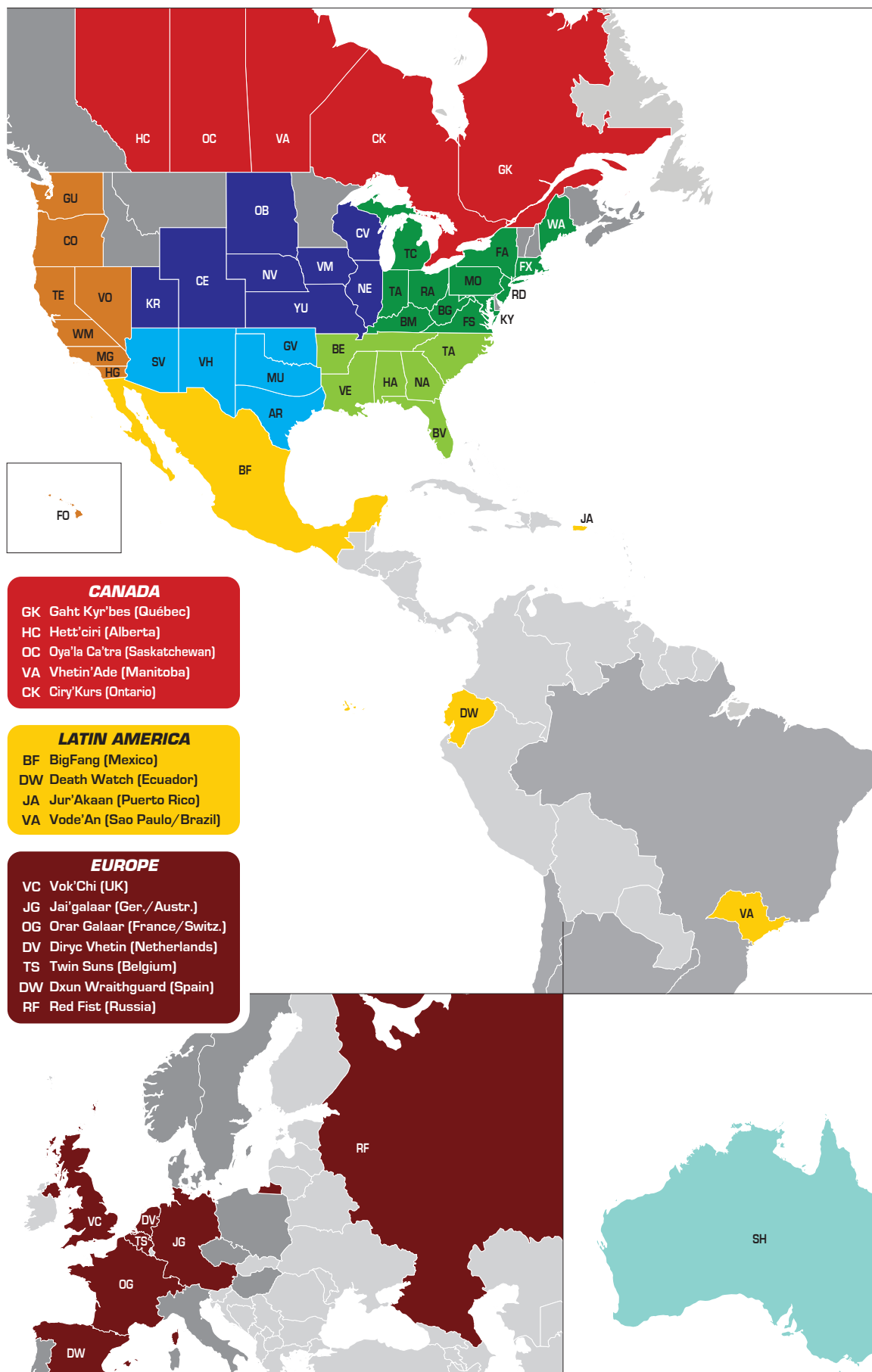
Celebration Orlando build day was a fairly sunny Saturday this past January. Fifteen people were gathered at the home of Kensnaps and Coreysnaps to help build what would become the centerpiece of the set for the Mandalorian Mercs. The first part of the day was spent gathering materials, mostly plywood and paint. The people gathered got to work, first cutting the plywood and other materials into sections small enough to build one of the center pieces of the set: the jail cells, for the MMCC “Jail and Bail” game.

This started the construction phase, 25 individuals put in over 200 man hours over five build days to build the walls, tables and jail cells that would be the main part of the booth.



Members and recruits of Florida’s Buurenaar Verda Clan work to build the set for Celebration Orlando.

MMCC CLANS LOCATOR MAP



WESTERN USA

CO Concordia (Oregon)
 HG Haran'galaar (San Diego)
 MG Manda'galaar (Los Angeles)
 GU Gurreck (Washington)
 TE Teren (Northern California)
 VO Vornskr (Nevada)
 WM Wolves of Mandalore (Cent. Calif.)
 FO Five-O (Hawaii)

NORTH CENTRAL USA

CE Cerar (Colorado/Wyoming)
 CV Cin'ciri Verda (Wisconsin)
 KR Krayt (Utah)
 NV Ne'tra Vhipir (Nebraska)
 NE Nexu (Illinois)
 OB Oyu'baat (Dakotas/West Minn.)
 VM Vhett Manda (Iowa)
 YU Yustapir (Missouri/Kansas)

SOUTH CENTRAL USA

AR Arqet (Southern Texas)
 GV Ge'tal Vheh (Oklahoma)
 MU Murraan (Northern Texas)
 SV Shonare Vhekadla (Arizona)
 VH Vhe'rang (El Paso/Tex./N. Mex)

NORTH EASTERN USA

BG Black Mountain Guard (W.Va)
 BM Blue Moon (Kentucky)
 FA Falco (New York)
 FX Firaxan (New England)
 FS Firestorm (Virginia)
 KY Kyrimorut (Maryland)
 MO Mav Oya'la (Pennsylvania)
 RA Rancor (Ohio)
 RD Raquor'daan (New Jersey)
 TA Taakure (Indiana)
 TC Tra'cor (Michigan)
 WA Wampa (Maine)

SOUTH EASTERN USA

BU Bes'uliik (Tenn./ Ark.)
 BV Buurenaar Verda (Florida)
 HA Haaranovor (Alabama)
 NA Naast (Georgia)
 TA Talon (Carolinas)
 VE Veshok (Miss./La.)

OCEANIA

KA Kamino (New Zealand)
 SH Sandhawk (Australia)

CANADA

GK Gaht Kyr'bes (Québec)
 HC Hett'ciri (Alberta)
 OC Oya'la Ca'tra (Saskatchewan)
 VA Vhettin'Ade (Manitoba)
 CK Ciry'Kurs (Ontario)

LATIN AMERICA

BF BigFang (Mexico)
 DW Death Watch (Ecuador)
 JA Jur'Akaan (Puerto Rico)
 VA Vode'An (Sao Paulo/Brazil)

EUROPE

VC Vol'Chi (UK)
 JG Jai'galaar (Ger./Austr.)
 OG Orar Galaar (France/Switz.)
 DV Dirc Vhettin (Netherlands)
 TS Twin Suns (Belgium)
 DW Dxun Wraithguard (Spain)
 RF Red Fist (Russia)



HAVE BESKAR, WILL TRAVEL...

Without their usual hyperspace lanes, Mandalorians must plan and endure long treks to meet up at Celebrations around the world.

By Zerxus Dral, Haaranovor Clan

Photo courtesy of Wak'Rust Atin

From its start in Denver, Colorado in 1998, Star Wars Celebration has been a truly unique gathering of "Star Wars" fans and there are many members of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club who have made the trek to the United States or to Europe to visit a Star Wars Celebration event.

These events are some of the largest gatherings of the Lucasfilm-endorsed costuming clubs and can be very difficult to travel to. On either coast of the US, and either side of the Atlantic Ocean, these events take place in diverse and unique locations and can take a large amount of planning and preparation to organize. For those traveling inside their own country, the logistics can be very simplistic. You take several days off of work, catch a ride, or fly, to the city of the event with your costumes and props and then enjoy.

For those traveling to or from another country the logistics can be downright daunting. In writing this article several members of the club including Thaxos, from Manitoba, Canada, and Pointoforigin, from Perth, Australia, were interviewed to gather information about how they plan and arrange their trips.

Traveling to an event such as Celebration from a long distance can take a long time and a large amount of energy considering that they are held in locations far away from many of us. There are many people for whom this sort of trip not only requires a large amount of travel, but international flights and travel visas. For some individuals the preparations that go into this sort

of event can't happen overnight and are usually started about a year or more in advance.

Pointoforigin, who lives more than 11,000 miles from Florida, started planning his travel arrangements for Celebration Orlando back in the fall of 2016. This trip can strain one's thoughts and energy as a trip that can sometimes be halfway around the world and take the better part of several days and several different international flights to reach one's final destination. Beyond such travel, items such as shipping costumes and props must be arranged, and according to various countries' laws, alternatives may have to be worked out or flat out replacements arranged to be used at the location.

For those traveling to such an event from a closer distance, travel can be arranged within a few months of the event, work and currency exchange rates permitting of course. Plane tickets are booked, stops to see friends are arranged, and stops to visit other events and cons on the way to and from the event are set up. The entire trip can be turned into an excuse to troop with many different clans that one might have never had a chance to troop with along the way. And if trooping with other clans doesn't seem to fit into the schedule one can always spend extra time in the location so that one could get to see parts of the city beyond the convention center and hotel. Exploring a new place can be a welcome addition to the trip and add a unique cultural opportunity one may not normally have been given the chance to explore.

At the end of the day no matter how much planning goes into a trip to go to a Celebration event one can

always find that just as in our involvement in the club there isn't just a single way to do the job. People from various locations and countries put in varying amounts of time arranging their travel to the location with their costumes so that they are able to make sure that they can partake in the event to the fullest.



Ne'tra Cuyan (blue and black), of Germany and Austria's Jai'Galaar Clan, and Vi Caeirn-Atin (red and white) of France and Switzerland's Orar Galaar Clan, investigate the Technik Museum in Germany.

INTRODUCING THE NEW MANDALORIAN MERCS CELEBRATION ORLANDO PUZZLE PATCH



1 & 2

The center "Orlando" and the "Join the Fight" patches will be available for purchase at Celebration, at the Mandalorian Mercs booth.

3

The "Death March" patch will be given to those who participate in the Death March. Only official members will be able to participate in the Death March.

4

The "Mercs Bash" patch will be available to those attending the Mercs' 10 year bash in their swag bags.

5

The "Heed the Call" patch will be given to those who help work the Mandalorian Mercs booth at Celebration.

MERCS CON

COMING
2018

The Heart of the

Creating chest diamonds is a Mandalorian tradition, ceremony, even act of mourning



By Naran Baatar, Tra'cor Clan
Photos courtesy of
Naran Baatar and Mandalore the Uniter

Preparations for Celebration 2017 have been going strong across the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club for months. All over the world MMCC folks have given their time and energy getting ready for this exciting event, creating artwork, donating social society-themed gift baskets, and contributing items they have made for the silent charity auction.

An iconic piece of Mandalorian armor is the iron heart - a.k.a. chest diamond - and these can be worn on kits, not only as trophies looted from defeated enemies, but also as memorials of fallen companions. This year at Celebration, if you happen to find yourself attending the MMCC Bash, you will find in your swag a string of three trophy/memorial diamonds, which you can incorporate into your kit. Some sets will include chest diamonds in the style of the armor of the club's three eternal members: Remo Jadd, Pogo, and TheSniper.

Creating chest diamonds that memorialize a special event, or a fallen comrade, is an honored process in the MMCC, and one that, with a few tips, you can incorporate into your own work.

The process of making chest diamonds is straightforward and is something that most people have experience doing from making their own kits. All of the tricks mentioned here can be applied to normal kit weathering and painting as well, but some of them are a little extreme. This is a great use for scrap PVC foam board because you don't even need full diamonds; partial or even half is often enough to make the recognizable shape, and the nature of these



To prepare for Celebration, App and PR Team member Naran Baatar, of Tracor Clan, cut out, sanded, painted and weathered 850 chest diamonds out of expanded PVC foam "Sintra," all by hand.

"It isn't so bad once you get a system in place. Just takes some time. I broke it up and would do around 50 to 100 a week."

Baatar said he was able to make approximately 270 diamonds out of a 4-by-8 foot sheet of Sintra.



MANDALORIAN

- supposedly picked up from the battlefield - means they can be justifiably more beaten up than a normal armor kit.

Simply cut out the desired iron heart shape, and then use weathering techniques to weather the surface of it. There are a number of ways to go about doing this and it really comes down to the level of weathering you want to achieve. You can stomp the chest diamond into your driveway, carve into it with a dremel or screwdriver, scrape it with a rock, hit it with a hammer, or roughly cut or scrape off pieces of it; really you cannot go wrong here.

After that, prime and coat it with your favorite primer; after that dries, give it a good coat with any metallic color. From there, a masking agent can be applied. Toothpaste works well; lightly dab it on with a sponge or paper towel, then paint over it as normal. Once you have completed all the painting, apply warm water and soap, and it will remove all layers applied on top of the toothpaste, exposing lower metallic and primer layers for a paint-chipped look.

The biggest difference with the painting stage of this process compared to making a chest diamond for a kit one would wear is that using more than one color is highly suggested. A good way to think of these diamonds (doubly so for memorial diamonds) is that you want to try and capture the look of a whole set of armor with just the diamond. After you are pleased with the paint, apply brown and/or black washes.

Finally, drill a hole somewhere in the chest diamond, run a bit of cord through it, and find a nice place to hang it. It looks better if you string multiples together rather than having just one.



MERCS ROLL OUT NEW BATTLE BARGE

By Coryn Jusik, Wolves of Mandalore Clan
Photos courtesy of Kebii'tra Verda

When members of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club roll into the sunshine state for Celebration Orlando, they'll do it in armored style, thanks to the hard work of Florida's own Buurenaar Verda Clan.

After retiring their first full-size "battle barge" in 2016, the clan has been working tirelessly to complete the Akalenedat II barge for Celebration. The finished product, nearly 30 feet long and weighing in at an estimated two tons, can hold three dozen Mercs.

"The name 'Akalenedat' was actually suggested by Lem'zig Dee from here in Florida and it means 'hard contact.' 'Hard contact' is in reference to the first "Republic Commando" novel by Karen Traviss that inspired the Mandalorian Mercs. This iteration is a full-scale model of the Mandalorian Transport seen in the Mandalorian episodes of 'Star Wars: The Clone Wars,' said project leader Kebii'tra Verda of the BVC.

This barge is the latest in a growing line of large-scale props built by the MMCC. The most recent Celebration in the United States, in Anaheim, had both a working, driveable Mandalorian speeder, made by Mandalore the Uniter himself, and a prison and cantina for Mercs to relax in and take photos with the public in. Several clans have also built their own jail cells or props for conventions and events as well.

Like some of those projects, the barge was designed by MMCC Alor and Order of Ori'ramikad recipient Ohl'd Vart.

"It's really a challenge to design something that only exists virtually on screen, and make it 'real world' usable. It has to be handicapped accessible, and safe for public use, not to mention it has to maintain the illusion of being 'Swarzy,'" Vart said.

Buurenaar Verda Clan has been using some form of a barge for several years, especially in the annual Titusville, Florida, Christmas Parade. After borrowing and outfitting trailers for several years, the first barge was built and used from 2013 until 2015.

"Because the BVC has been in the Titusville parade every year since 2009, I wanted to give us a better float, so I built the first Akalenedat with a lot of help from a

lot of BVC members. Then (Mandalore) had to one-up me and build the Mandalorian Speeder for Anaheim. So that speeder, Roxy the Rancor, Lemmy the Luggabeast, and the old barge needing replacing because of age, got me to thinking about making something more canon, that could be for the Mercs as a whole," said Verda.

Like Mandalorian armor and weapons, the barge is a fascinating blend of materials and found items. The main structure is wooden 2 x 12s and plywood, the tubing is welded aluminum, and Sintra, acrylic, Bondo and lots of greeblies make up the details and artistic elements. White estimated that the project cost approximately \$2,500, mostly from the MMCC itself, with welding done by BT's Welding in Titusville.

Because of the quality of construction and the fact that this barge belongs to the MMCC, Verda says he hopes to see it in wider use. The hope is to send it around the United States for events, and he joked that if Lucasfilm pays for the transportation, he'd love to see it at overseas events.

"I love seeing kids' reactions to what we make. I'm hoping that once Celebration is over, we can start having this in more events to help with LWI and local charities. And we do have some ideas to truly make it a 'battle barge' in the future with some added weapons and modifications," he said.

As leader of the MMCC, and a large-scale crafter himself, Mandalore the Uniter says he hopes this build



The now-retired first version of the Battle Barge, seen here in the 2014 Titusville Christmas parade, was carried on a trailer that the MMCC had to borrow before events, limiting the ways it could be used.



Illustration by Kara Kelborn

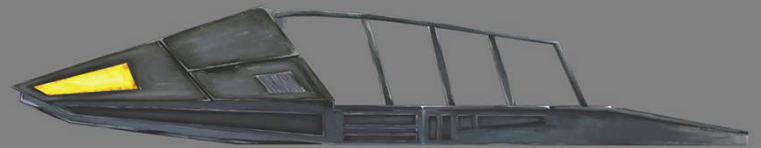
inspires Mandalorians, recruits, and other fans to challenge themselves creatively.

“The Mandalorian Transport Skiff is to date the largest prop we’ve ever produced. The idea for the skiff goes back several years as a prop we’ve been wanting to create for Celebrations, but was eclipsed by the landspeeder build for Celebration Anaheim. Watching it come together has been great, and (Vart) has done an outstanding job bringing a piece of Star Wars to life for fans to appreciate,” Mandalore said.

For more on the Akalenedat II barge, visit themandalorianarsenal.com/abb.html or check it out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mandoskiff

Mandalorian Transport

mandalorianTransport.TT.ma
Fri Jan 9 13:36:26 PST 2009
H: 4' 11" (1.492504 meters)
W: 8' 4" (2.552192 meters)
D: 25' 11" (7.887208 meters)
Left



The new barge, owned by the MMCC, can be used at more events, and can carry more than 30 Mandalorians. The railings on the side were created by Titusville, Florida’s BT Welders.

(Above) The design of the barge came from “Star Wars: The Clone Wars,” where it first appeared as a Mandalorian Transport.

A BASH FOR THE BUCKETED

Like speaking the language and wearing the armor, meeting up at Mercs Bash is a tradition that takes practice and planning.

By Mishakitty, Buurenaar Verda Clan
Photos courtesy of Mishakitty,
Coreysnaps and Seugtai

Days spent at Celebration are action-packed, full of opportunities to soak up that “Star Wars” magic we all know and love. But the fun doesn’t end once the event halls close; even though the convention may conclude there are still many activities from dance parties to dinner. During each Celebration, the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club offer up their own after hours event in the form of the Mercs’ Bash.

This year’s Bash will be held on Friday, April 14 at the Hyatt across the road from the Orange County Convention Center. The date was selected in part so as not to conflict with the events the other costuming clubs host, allowing for joint members to enjoy multiple events. The Bash is a fun, but low-key, event intended to bring the international family of Mandalorian Mercs, and their families, together. This year as we gather to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club we hope our members, their families, and friends join us to celebrate a decade of creative costuming.

Quartermaster Coreysnaps heads up the Bash planning committee and, along with her bash team, is responsible for everything from site selection and menu planning to soliciting items for the silent auction and, added for this year, the raffle.

A seasoned event coordinator, Corey has planned two of the three bashes to date, including the wildly popular Anaheim Bash in 2015, and has organized other club events. For the Celebration Bash, she aims to create a family-friendly atmosphere that is affordable and fun. The hard work is worth it, she explains, because she “loves being able to plan a way for everyone to get together and celebrate another year of the Mercs.”

She’s excited to improve this year’s event by transforming the format from a sit-down dinner with little interaction to a more social event. After receiving feedback from members who requested

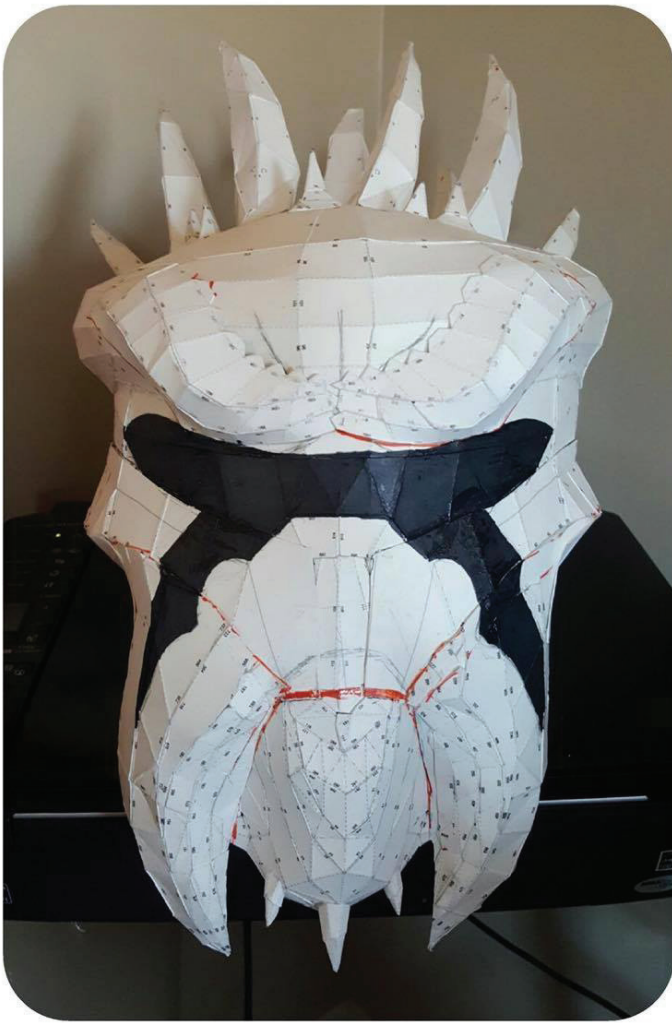
more opportunity to connect with their friends, the Bash planning team has adjusted the style of the event to promote more interaction. This year’s food will be appetizer style, leaving members with plenty of time to mix and mingle while still getting full bellies.

Planning for the party starts early, often as soon as the location of the upcoming Celebration is announced. Corey and her team first discuss ideas for location and, once a site is selected, the other elements fall into place. Behind the scenes, the team works to secure a site that is both close to the convention location and affordable, allowing the club to pass those savings on to its members. The team works hard to make sure that the event stays economical while providing unique surprises.

One favorite element of each bash is the event’s swag bag. Corey keeps the contents of the goodie bag



Although its contents are top-secret, Coreysnaps says this year’s swag bag will be one of Celebration Orlando’s many highlights.



a closely-guarded secret up until the event, but past years' selections have proved that the bags consistently contain truly fantastic treasures. From Anaheim's laser etched glasses to special event themed patches, pins and stickers, the bags are stuffed full of unique merchandise. This year, for instance, attending the Bash is the only way to get the Bash piece of the Celebration puzzle patch.

Each Bash also features a silent auction which includes specialty donated items from many of the Mercs' talented members and vendors. Some, such as helmets made by Early Crusader artist Seugtai, are nearly impossible to purchase. Others, such as entire kits of armor and sets of weapons, can be bought or commissioned and stand as excellent showcases of our club's skilled artists. This year the planning team is expanding this part of the Bash, adding themed gift baskets to the auction. Examples will include the "Beards" basket, with everything facial hair aficionados will need for a beautiful beard, and the "Elegant Mandos' Tea Society" basket, stuffed with tea-themed treats.

FROM THE EDITOR

Here we go again.

It doesn't seem like a year since we Europeans turned up in London to build the Mandalorian camp and to work real hard at entertaining people. Each Celebration is built on the last and it makes me proud to see that the trust has been growing between LFL and ourselves to put on a really good display and show the Star Wars community what we as the Mercs are all about.

I've been concerned lately about being on a lofty throne and the great thing about Celebrations is that it humanises people. When you're sitting in front of your computer all you have to gain measure of people is your own perspective of what you think they are trying to say to you, in the end we are a verbal/sight communication species and we're trying to communicate via a method that prevents us from being able to see or hear the basic key inflections that allows us to find meaning.

Celebrations also bring a closeness, where we all realise we're here for the same reason. It's finding the similarities and the shared goal that helps friendships bond.

However, I have to spare a thought to those who can't afford to go. It's heartbreaking knowing that everyone but you is going to go and make close bonds whilst you're stuck at home watching perhaps on the live feed on YouTube. You're not able to interact and form those bonds and it just makes things harder for you when everyone comes off a Celebration with "That glow"™ and great stories and adventures from the event.

What makes the Mercs is its people and the way they go about spreading cheer and Star Wars out there. We truly are an unique club and we're constantly changing (hopefully for the better). Like every club we have our foibles and problems and not everyone is expected to agree on everything, but as Celebration reminds us, it is about a common interest and when we take the time to forget our personal vendettas, issues and hurts and spend time just being with people, suddenly all of the politics and nonsense just don't seem to matter.

If you're here reading this at Celebration, give a friend a call, or a video chat. Let them know that you're thinking of them there at the hub of Star Wars and include them in the event. Even a small gesture will help many not feel so left out.

Also, give the people running the show a break. I know from my own personal experiences there is nothing more stressful than everyone looking for you for the answers to every little problem. They'll be trusting in you to solve the menial stuff together as a group. The important part of it all is that a Celebration is supposed to be fun, you're supposed to enjoy what you're doing, so have fun.

Anyway, enough of my idle banter.

Have fun, guys! Enjoy the 10 years celebration.

Oya!



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