

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTLECRY

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CELEBRATION 2022 REVIEW - VOK'CHI CLAN - MHI SOLUS TOME - KIT BOX 101

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**ARMOR TIPS, INTERVIEWS,
FEATURES ON MEMBERS,
CONVENTIONS, AND SO
MUCH MORE!**

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THE CALL TO DUTY

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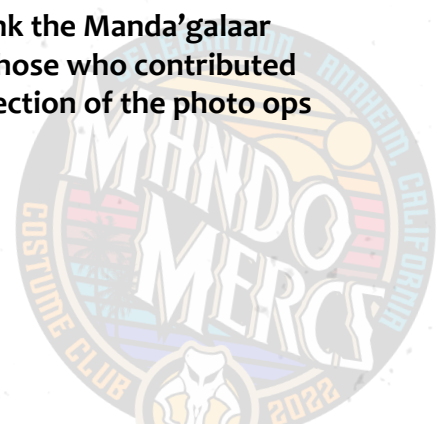
Anaheim, CA - For those who have been to Southern California in early Summer, you can attest that the weather is one of two things - gloomy and cloudy or bright and sunny. Lucky for the attendees of Star Wars Celebration Anaheim - the weather didnt matter that much. In four successive days of an absolute explosion of Star Wars energy that could have matched that of Starkiller base, SWCA took over Anaheim's Harbor Boulevard; hotels bursting at the seams with fans from around the world, cosplayers of every shape and size, and more importantly people there just to enjoy the world George Lucas had created. Beyond that, many of the members of the Mando Mercs costume club were able to gather together en masse once again, and In Masse we were.



Starting on Thursday May 26th, 2022, SWCA opened to the public, but all the behind the scenes work had already been completed. Months ahead of time, the MMCC, the Galactic Senate, and Reed-Pop (the convention organizers) had been setting the wheels in motion to develop an immersive fan experience in Hall D of the Anaheim Convention Center. Surrounding the Celebration Fan Stage (a Navarro themed stage built by the incredible Belgian Prop Crew) the Navarro Base Camp came to life. This was the home of each of the costume clubs in the Galactic Senate for the next few days. Members of the Galactic Senate all contributed to fundraising for Starlight children's Foundation during the course of the extended weekend.



Behind the walls of Navarro, each club contributed sets and props that provided photo opportunities to attendees of SWCA. We would like to thank the Manda'galaar Clan, Kruser, and all those who contributed to the Mandalorian section of the photo ops area.





On other halls of the convention were retail of every shape and size, exhibits, panels, and more. The highlight for many people was the Mandalorian Experience Costume and Prop Exhibit; displaying the screen used items from our favorite Disney+ Show.

Attendees were able to finally see the costumes, set pieces, props, and more in the exhibit. It was a surreal experience being able to walk near inches from movie quality parts and feel completely immersed in everything that is new Star Wars.

It felt like nearly every piece from the

production was on display - greatly helping those who have been building replicas from screenshots. Bo Katan, Max Rebo, Black Krrsantan, The Mayor, Cobb Vanth in their full glory were available to review. I promise, there are TONS more pictures of these pieces if you search hard enough.



Above all that, the Mando Mercs had plenty of reasons to be together and celebrate at Celebration. We were able to host not one but two panels and participate in a third. The first panel, led by our fearless Mandalore, Tom, was focused purely on what the MMCC is all about.

And the ever ubiquitous “Down and Dirty” panel returned once again to outfit one unsuspecting audience member with their own set of mando armor. MMCC members rushed to finish the most parts of a costume we could while conducting a Q&A.



On Saturday May 28th, the MMCC held their group picture and Death March. In the Death March, we remember those who came before us; honoring their memory and contributions to the club. Without many of those members we would never have gotten to where we are as a club today.





Immediately following - the MMCC was able to have a shift to full joyous celebration. The joining of Kad'la Krast and Adenn Cabur in Mando Marriage! It is always amazing to be able to celebrate two incredible members who have dedicated so much time to the club, and more importantly to each other. The full ceremony is available to view on the MMCC Facebook page.

Later in the evening on Saturday, MMCC hosted the Mercs Bash for our members to have an after hours meal and in general hangout. We hosted our own auction of Mando gear and memorabilia benefitting Little Warriors Intl. We also were blessed enough to host Jon Favreau's wife Anne as well as Pete Vilmur, head of fan relations at LFL during the Bash. Additionally in attendance were Kristen Hidalgo from LFL and Author Jason Fry.



And, 'ya know, all the other incredible Star wars things happened. The Premiere of Obi-Wan, trailers for Andor, Bad Batch Season 2 and Willow, The Mandalorian Season 3 panel, the 20th anniversary of Attack of the Clones, and countless interviews with our favorite creators, directors, actors, and contributors to the Star Wars universe. You may be best served to see all that content on [Star Wars official YouTube Channel](#).

Most of all, we look back on Star Wars Celebration Anaheim as an experience worth the time and struggles. Not only was it our first one after the Pandemic, but it served a greater purpose; bringing all the Star Wars fans together to revel in all things that make our universe a bit smaller, and more importantly more friendly. The love and affection we have for all of our members who helped ensure this was an incredible event cannot be overstated. We appreciate all of you who tuned in from home for our events and can't wait to see you in London next April.



CLAN SPOTLIGHT: VOK'CHI CLAN

-ARTICLE BY: VIRRA TENAU

For those who are unaware, the next Star Wars celebration will be held in Europe. Being that most of the Clans are in the United States, BattleCry is pleased to show you the host clan for this next Star Wars celebration - Vok'Chi! Alor'ad Tak'ur was kind enough to give us some insight into his beloved Clan.

Star Wars Celebration holds a special significance for the members of Vok'Chi. The founding members of the Vok'Chi Clan came together for Celebration Europe in 2007, and the Clan was officially recognized as the 5th Clan to join the MMCC in October of the same year. Vok'Chi was the first European Clan. Prudii Vok'Chi (sharing a name with his Clan) is the sole remaining founding member.

Although Prudii and the Clan share a name, the Vok'Chi name originates from the combination of Mando'a words for sharing a drink with friends; Vorer, meaning to accept, and Buy'ce, meaning helmet, pint, or bucket. Given the frequency of Mandos shortening sentences or words, it changed from Vorer Buy'ce to Vok'ce, and finally to Vok'Chi. So for the Vok'Chi Aliit, this is to enjoy a pint or close-knit group as a family.

The sigil has changed a few times since the original concept. The first idea came about from the original mythosaur design over a tribal tattoo worn by one of the clan members. However, they now have had two other sigils, including their current design. The current sigil was presented to the clan in late 2020, featuring a more realistic interpretation of a mythosaur over the Kar'ta Beskar that all Mandalorians wear.

Historically, Vok'Chi has been involved in some way with all the Celebration Europe events, along with current planning and construction for the upcoming Celebration Europe 2023. Beyond that, they have had a number of large-scale events. Tak'ur said "I think most clan members would agree that our time at Legoland Windsor has always been a highlight of the calendar. We would join with the other UK clubs to help entertain upwards of 21,000 visitors a day over the May 4th weekend. We would deploy as a clan into the 1st section leading from the ticket plaza into the park, so we would be the 1st to see most attendees. The look of trepidation on the faces of attendees as they

waited for the gates to be opened, when all they can see are heavily armored and armed Mercs, then seeing that look change to sheer joy as hundreds of kids come charging at you like baby Krykna on Atollon. That has brought some of my favorite memories as a clan member."

Additionally, walking the "Blue" Carpet for the European/UK Premiere of The Rise of Skywalker was another proud moment for the clan. Members were invited to join the stars in the theater, with Lucas Film wanting to keep only canon characters in costume. This did not prohibit members from being able to bring along their mando buckets. However, the Mandalorian hadn't been released in the UK at that time, so for the public to see a dozen or so well-dressed people with helmets tucked under their arms was a treat that left many onlookers wondering if Vok'Chi members were cast.

Tak'ur was also kind enough to make our readers an honorary part of Vok'Chi, allowing me to know an inside secret. "We all know how Mandalorians make great trackers and bounty hunters, well we have our very own navigator in Rhenvar. He is a Merc of such renown that he has been known to take you on a 20-mile detour for not knowing his lefts or rights when trying to get you to a social event after a troop."

He also mentioned a special ritual that the clan has. "...[s]ince I joined the clan in 2017, at the OM's first troop, it is the new OM's responsibility to bring Cake for all attending members. We have had varying degrees of competency, but if you can't bake we recommend visiting a local bakery for cakes."

The Clan is very much looking forward to their duties as Host Clan for the upcoming celebration. They currently have three teams working on large props, thematic props and Club/Clan Banners, plus assistance from their European Regional Vode. Tak'ur wanted to "extend our thanks

for their help". He did admit that they will keep their current staging plans a secret for now as to not spoil any surprises, but also admitted that Mandalore has asked for a "Special Build Item". They are working closely with their Galactic Senate partners and the 501st to bring a cohesive, immersive, and interactive display to the forefront for all attendees. Different social events are being planned; from an informal Meet & Greet evening the night before the event kicks off, to an All Clubs Bash and the MMCC dinner.

Throughout the last few years of the Covid Pandemic, Vok'Chi has tried to rekindle and foster a family atmosphere for all members to feel part of a close-knit community. Being unable to meet face to face with many clan members since 2019, both Tak'ur and his predecessor thought that this was key to keeping the clan together through the difficult times. Tak'ur ended with this sentiment that some would say encompasses the MMCC as a whole: "I feel lucky and proud to call my fellow Vok'Chi members Ner'Aliit."



MHI SOLUS TOME

-ARTICLE BY: MANDALORE THE UNITER

Celebration Anaheim created so many memorable moments for attendees and MMCC members, but none so much for me as officiating the Mandalorian wedding of Adenn and Kad'la Ka'bur.

Information on in-universe Mandalorian weddings are relatively scant, we have some information from Star Wars Insider #81 as well as from at least one of the Republic Commando novels. The basic premise of a traditional Mandalorian wedding is that it's very much more of entering into a practical agreement of honor than it is ceremony and fluff that you might expect in an earth-based wedding.

Knowing the culture and what references already existed, I went about creating a "Traditional Mandalorian Wedding" ceremony that I felt was representative of Mandalorians while also creating a "scene" for attendees to experience as if we were actually in the STAR WARS universe. The Mandalorian wedding as-written is a simple affair where partners exchange the following vows:



"mhi solus tome"
(we are one when together)
"mhi solus dar'tome"
(we are one when apart)
"mhi me'dinui an"
(we will share all things)
"mhi ba'juri verde"
(we will raise warriors)



While it's a good start, it's not enough material on its own to use as a ceremony. So the next step was coming up with the actions and details surrounding the vows that would complete the ceremony. In this case I created the position of "Defender" who vouches for the honor of the mando they represent, and vow to protect the honor of the "bonded partners". The second need was for a personal item, or totem, to be exchanged between the partners similar to rings being exchanged as it is in most earth-based weddings. This totem doesn't have to be a ring, it can be any item of importance that the mando feels is a representation of their vow.

We had a very informal rehearsal of the wedding on the Thursday before the wedding, which was taking place on Friday at the SaberGuild performance stage. I think we ran through the ceremony 4 or 5 times before we all felt comfortable with it, but not being able to rehearse on the actual stage still raised some questions on how the party would enter and exit. After the rehearsal was probably my favorite part, as the Adjutant General had been working on a crawfish boil. Anyone who knows me well enough knows that I do enjoy a good meal after a hard day.

Friday was the big day! Once the MMCC group photo was complete, every mando present (Official Member and Unofficial Member) lined up to walk the traditional Death March to honor our fallen members. The march ended at the SaberGuild performance stage where Celebration attendees had already taken up most of the seating, MMCC members and mandos gathered around the seating area to watch the ceremony. The ceremony went off without a hitch, the wedding party did an excellent job (thank you rehearsals!). At the end of the ceremony I led the mandos in attendance in a shouting of “OYA!” which I was told by a couple people could be heard in D hall (the wedding took place 2 halls over in B hall). The couple exited the stage through a lightsaber tunnel provided by our friends in SaberGuild. All in all it was a ceremony fit for Mandalorians and I look forward to performing it again for my mandos.



TRAVELING IN STYLE: KIT BOX 101

-ARTICLE BY: ALDWYN KASS

With the world opening back up and events starting up again, traveling to conventions will become normal once again. Whether you are traveling by plane or car, packing a kit to prevent damage is essential, especially when attending an event that is far away from home and it may not be possible to fix up your kit last minute. While traveling with a kit can be intimidating, the BattleCry Magazine is here to help ease some of the anxiety and help with some tips and tricks to transport your armor safely and securely so you can happily troop at your events.

Prior to securing your kit. It is essential to do a layout to double check all of your gear and make sure it is in working order. What I, Parjii, typically do is lay everything out from helmet to boots and check to make sure there are no cracks or dents that may weaken my armor and break during travel. Each piece is inspected and that way I know if I am missing any parts of my costume. On to the exciting part of travel, that is the protection to your beskar, the travel case.

In order to secure your kit, finding a hard-shelled suitcase or bag is essential. While a hard suitcase or luggage is an option, fitting armor in them is often difficult, especially with members who have jetpacks or bulkier armor. In addition, suitcases are harder to customize for smaller individual armor parts. The BattleCry team suggests a Husky tote box for transportation. Not only are Husky boxes hard-cased, but adding padding for smaller pieces for individual "wraps" are also an option. Husky also has boxes that have wheels, allowing for ease of transportation through airports and long stretches of walking. If Husky cases are not an option in your country or area, another option would be any type of hard tote case with some type of wheels like Nanuk hard cases or Monoprice cases.

Aside from using foam to compartmentalize individual parts, it would be beneficial to wrap hard parts into the soft aparts to prevent the plates from rubbing or "clacking" together. The continuous jolting may cause paint to chip or plates to chip and crack. Additionally, to wrapping the armor with soft parts, it can be advantageous to line the interior of the tote with foam or upholstery foam to prevent additional scrapes and scratches from the inside of a tote box. Protect your armor, for it is your life. Do not let it scratch! However, it is important to note that armor pieces should fit snugly together, but they should not be crushing each other. If the pieces slide around, and tumble against each other, they may get damaged, especially when flying. However, if packed too tightly, there is a chance they will bend and snap.

Along with foam compartmentalizing, placing elastic straps, velcro pieces, nylon straps, or magnets inside of the lid of your kit box add additional storage, easy access to smaller pieces (for an example a chest diamond or costume first aid kit), or even an area to hang greeblies, trophies, and less essential parts of the costume.

A helmet is not just something that can protect your noggin, it can also become a great little cubby for smaller armor pieces. You can turn it upside down then stuff it with gloves, gauntlets, boot plates or even fold your flightsuit into it. Not only does it allow for additional storage area, it can also prevent the helmet from compressing during travel. Especially when flying, it would be a good suggestion to take that into a carry-on when flying. This prevents it from being banged up too much and you are able to keep an eye on that precious noggin protector.

While helmets are able to be hand carried, blasters are not suggested to bring in a carry-on, for obvious reasons. Therefore, protect your blasters by wrapping them or placing them within foam or having a separate weapon system specifically for travelling. From Parjii's personal experience, pistols and knives are much easier to travel with in comparison to blasters or axes and larger framed weapons. Smaller weapons also have less snapping points, especially during travel. There will be less chances for damage to the prop. However, if a blaster rifle is a weapon you still wish to have on your kit, having a solid rubberized-resin travel blaster rifle would be beneficial as those are extremely sturdy and are difficult to break.

Travelling with a kit may be intimidating the first time, after your second or third trip, you will become confident with your packing abilities and even a master traveller. I hope that this article helps with your packing process! Simply stay calm and troop on! Happy trooping! Oya!

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