

# BATTLECRY

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**VENIX AR'DEN - KENOBI RETURNS! - YUSTAPIR - TROOPING IN THE HEAT**

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FEATURES ON MEMBERS,  
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# ***IN THIS ISSUE***

**4. GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICC MINISTER: VENIX AR'DEN**

**5. KENOBI RETURNS!**

**8. CLAN SPOTLIGHT: YUSTAPIR**

**9. TOOLS OF THE TRADE: TROOPING IN THE HEAT**



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# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICC MINISTER: VENIX AR'DEN

**-ARTICLE BY: BRYN CIN'PRUDII**

Today we are going to take a deeper look into one of the 3 ICC Ministers that represent the membership of the club on an international level. Today that Minister is Venix Ar'den of Concordia Clan out of Orehon, USA.

**BATTLECRY:** How did you learn about the Mercs and When did you become OM ?

**VENIX:** I have always been a Star Wars fan and I happened to be at a parade in my hometown. I saw some Mandalorians walking by and got a business card. I signed up on the forums that week and absorbed as much knowledge as I possibly could. After some trials and error, I became an Official Member in August of 2018

**BATTLECRY:** Tell us a little about yourself, What defines you outside of the Mercs?

**VENIX:** I work in Lumber sales and logistics and I am the proud parent of four ferrets. They keep me on my toes and bring me a lot of joy.

**BATTLECRY:** The job of ICC Minister is something new and not an easy one. Tell us about your role. What is it you do here? What is new about your job?

**VENIX:** That's a great question! The International Command Council (ICC) is the chief governing body of the MMCC. The ICC is responsible for the MMCC's financial well-being and the fulfillment of the MMCC's global mission. It's an honor to have been elected to this position and I feel we've done an outstanding job with learning the ropes of this new position in the Club. Coming from the position of Alor'ad it's a big step-up. There are a lot of policies to remember and use of the Governing Documents is a must. I love the position though and I will always strive to do my best for the greater good of this amazing organization.

**BATTLECRY:** What is the one piece of advice that you find yourself always giving future members of the Mercs?

**VENIX:** Sign up on the forums and then \*use\* them. The forums are the greatest tool in your arsenal for being approved as an Official Member. Interact with your local Mandos and ask questions. Get involved by being a Supporter or Auxiliary Member and go to events as a handler. Read the CRL's. And then re-read them. Most importantly however is for everyone to find their "why". Why do you want to join? Charity work? Cosplay enthusiast? Skill building? Friendship? Use that "why" as a motivator.

**BATTLECRY:** What is your favorite thing about the Star Wars community?

**VENIX:** Probably the fact that we come from all walks of life. Different backgrounds, jobs, countries etc but we all share a love for this beautiful universe George Lucas imagined. Which in turn, sparked the imaginations of millions of people.

**BATTLECRY:** What are your future plans within the Mercs, any new builds planned, or projects you want to pursue (Any secret things you can share with our readers) ?

**VENIX:** I currently have a Post Imperial costume ready for application and another one in the works. I'm building a life-sized Pit Droid and my local Clan, Concordia, is constructing a new event booth and jailcell for our upcoming convention!

**BATTLECRY:** Blaster or Melee Weapon?

**VENIX:** Definitely a blaster

**BATTLECRY:** Favorite Ship?

**VENIX:** Kom'rk-class

**BATTLECRY:** Favorite Character?

**VENIX:** Cad Bane





# KENOBI RETURNS!

ARTICLE BY: VIRRA TENAU

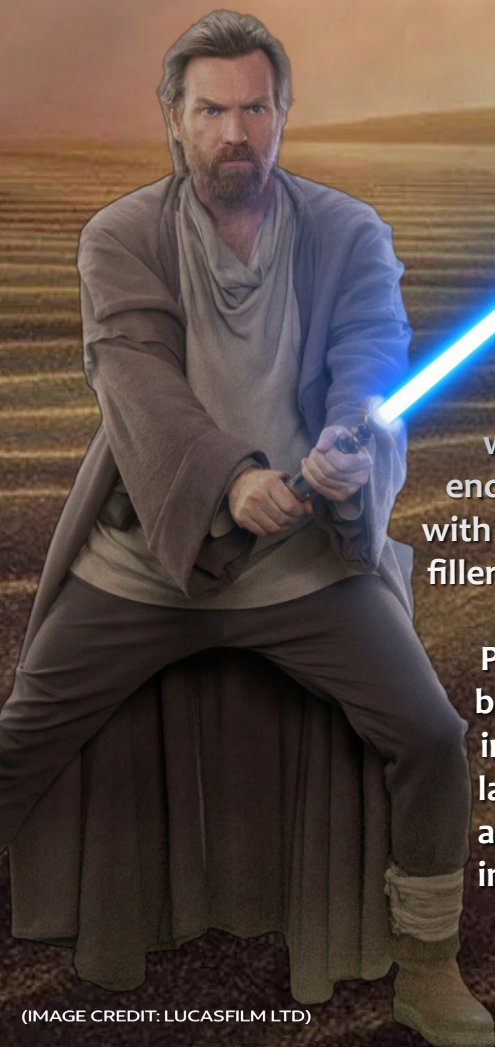
Star Wars fans were both excited and apprehensive when Disney announced that they were making a new TV show available only on Disney Plus centered around one of the most iconic roles in the whole saga, Obi-Wan Kenobi. However, the community thrummed with excitement that we would see the reappearance of actors like Ewan McGregor and Hayden Christiansen; as well as some unexpected actors making their first Star Wars appearances such as Sung Kang from the Fast and Furious franchise. Of course, with the new show set to take place around ten years after Revenge of the Sith, fans were eagerly anticipating an appearance from the Dark Lord of the Sith himself, with James Earl Jones reprising his role as the iconic Darth Vader. We will be diving into the particulars of the show in the paragraphs ahead, so here is your only spoiler alert.

Starting in the first episode, we get to meet young Leia Organa and young Luke Skywalker. I was pretty excited to see the younger versions of such beloved characters, and to Disney's credit, the portrayals seemed to be exactly what we would have pictured. Leia is full of spirit and independence and Luke playfully runs around the farm (at the same time showing us how Uncle Owen has aged so much). However, the focus was primarily on the titular character, Obi-Wan Kenobi. Kenobi has gone into a desert hermit lifestyle, working and existing only to protect and care for young Luke. The focus is then taken back to Alderaan, and we see Leia running off alone, only to be kidnapped. This is my first issue with a fun show.

It seems that Disney has yet to master the art of the chase scene.

We see this in young Leia being chased by bounty hunters, with Third Sister Reva chasing Obi-Wan and Leia, and even beyond Kenobi in the scooter chase during The Book of Boba Fett and when Finn and Rose are escaping the Canto Brite Security in The Last Jedi. There seems to be no plausible explanation, Force-sensitive or not, for Leia to be able to outrun grown beings chasing her. Additionally, when Leia is trying to "escape" Obi-Wan, Reva is somehow close enough to hear or sense the commotion but is unable to catch up with the pair. Honestly, it felt as if those scenes were meant to be a filler, without adding to the story.

Perhaps instead of extended chase scenes, time would be better served on something that most (if not all) fans enjoyed immensely; flashbacks to the time of the prequels. We see a large gap between Attack of the Clones and Revenge of the Sith, and though we have The Clone Wars animated series to help fill in that gap, many couldn't help but wonder what the dynamic



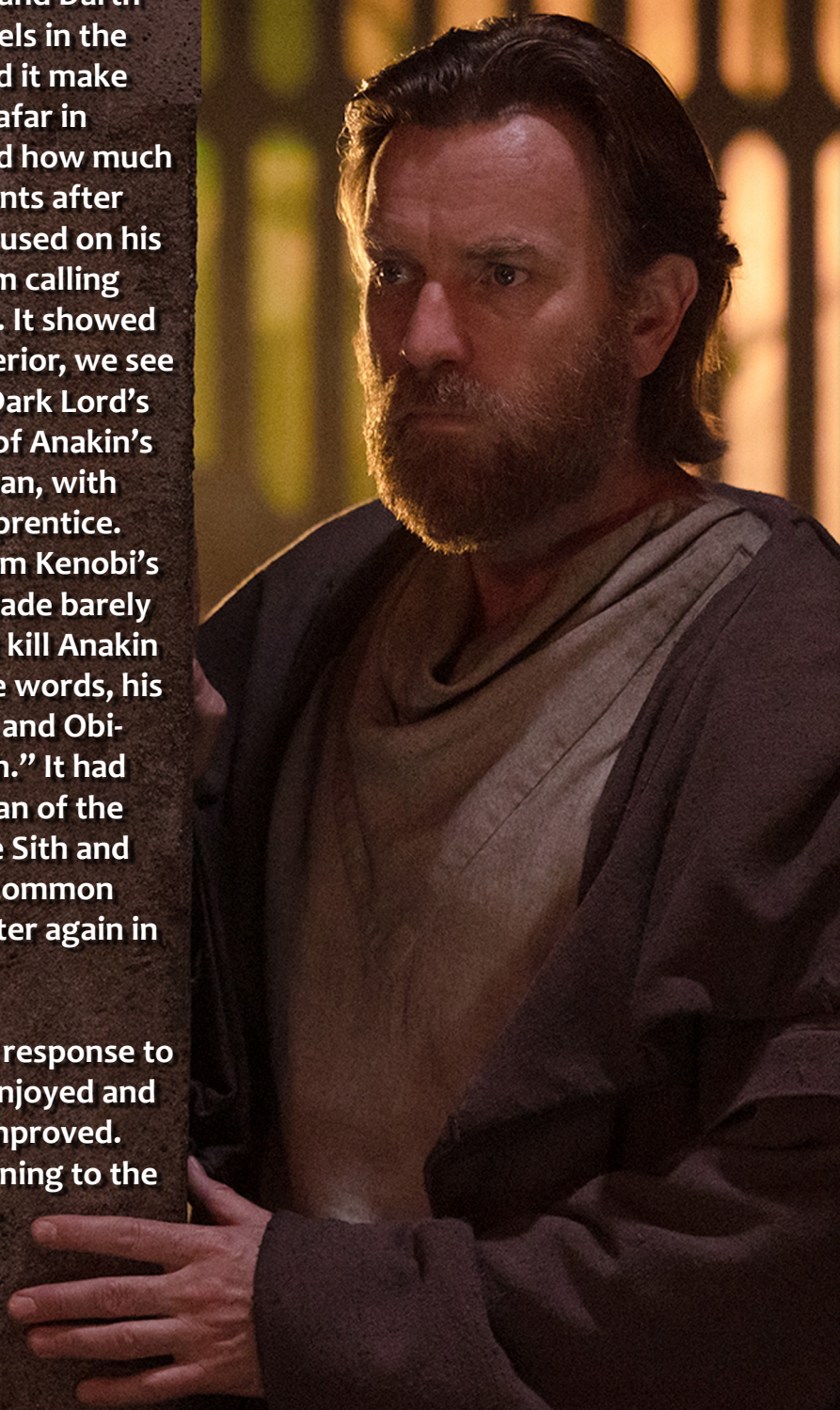
(IMAGE CREDIT: LUCASFILM LTD)



was like for the padawan Anakin Skywalker. The pieced-together training duel between a younger Obi-Wan Kenobi and padawan Anakin Skywalker added depth to how close the two Jedi were. They could anticipate the moves of one another and often be evenly matched. However, it did also demonstrate the foreshadowing leading to the scene that was powerful enough to bring viewers to tears.

The final duel between Obi-Wan and Darth Vader is one of the most impressive duels in the Star Wars universe to date. Not only did it make several references to the duel on Mustafar in *Revenge of the Sith*, but it also revealed how much both characters struggled with the events after the ordeal. Darth Vader was wholly focused on his revenge on his former mentor, with him calling Obi-Wan “Master” even ten years later. It showed that even deep under Vader’s hard exterior, we see him battling. None more so when the Dark Lord’s mask is cut in half, revealing a portion of Anakin’s face. He has a conversation with Obi-Wan, with the latter apologizing for failing his apprentice. Anakin’s face is bathed in blue light from Kenobi’s lightsaber, with the hue from his red blade barely seen until Vader proclaims, “You didn’t kill Anakin Skywalker... I did.” As he uttered those words, his face was engulfed in the red reflection and Obi-Wan left him, saying “Goodbye... Darth.” It had a full circle moment of relieving Obi-Wan of the guilt from the events in *Revenge of the Sith* and at the same time gives merit to the uncommon abbreviation that is used by the character again in *A New Hope*.

Overall, there was a fairly mixed response to Kenobi. Fans had both elements they enjoyed and elements that they thought could be improved. With so many beloved characters returning to the stage, nostalgia was almost impossible to avoid. To those actors who work so hard to make the Star Wars Universe come to life, we say “Thank you” and we are excited to see what happens in the universe next in *Andor*.







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# CLAN SPOTLIGHT: YUSTAPIR

-ARTICLE BY: PARJII SAVIIN

The myth, the legend, the clan stationed in the heartland (kar'ta vhetin) of the United States, covering the Missouri and Kansas territories is none other than Yustapir Clan, River Clan. Yustapir came up with their name as both the Mississippi and Missouri rivers run through their territory. This small clan was founded in the early days of the Mando Mercs, in late 2007 to early 2008. This month, I had the honor of interviewing Scott (Alor'ad), John (Ru'cabur), and Rafael (Ruus'alor) and hearing their story about the formation of their clan.



together.

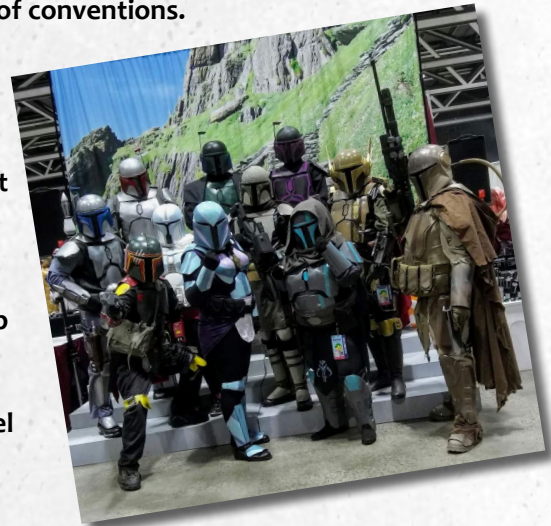
As Yustapir Clan has gone through many transitions throughout the years, the exact date of clan founding has been lost to the ages. However, In their earlier years, Yustapir was originally in Missouri and Illinois. However, in 2012 Nexu Clan became its own clan, splitting off from Yustapir Clan then later took over Kansas's squad: Nolif, combining the two states

Currently, Yustapir Clan has 20 active clan members spanning across the two states, with current clan officers living in the major cities, enabling them to aid foundlings with their kits. During the pandemic, the clan had to make adjustments to their clan life, their socialization, and the lack of conventions.

In order to roll with the punches, the clan had formed social media groups to encourage foundlings to continue their armor projects and even hosted several virtual armor parties to give members an outlet from their pandemic lives. According to their Alor'ad, Scott, "The clan of the Rivers creates strong independent warriors, that even though they are spread out across their territory their bond of brotherhood is one of the strongest in the galaxy"

According to the clan morale officer, John, "the group chats helped to keep the clan focused on designing up new armor, recruiting new troopers, and getting stuff done. Laughter is the best medicine and we tried our best to laugh our way through the rough spot." In addition to armor parties, Rafael had started a series of Mando storytime to bring some laughter to the meetings.

This Clan prides itself on showing others and the general public their dedication to the Mandalorian way and upholding the Rusolnare. They are indeed the heartland of the United States and demonstrate their Iron Heart through their charity work and their dedication to the club and each other. The clan internalizes the Mando'a saying, "Aliit ori'shya tal'din" (Family is more than blood) and shows that to anyone they cross their paths with. They spend their time with the clan members, support them in any way possible, and continuously encourage each other through the difficult battle called life.



With the covid restrictions becoming looser, and with events and conventions starting to open up again, Yustapir clan is excited to be able to attend their favorite troops and be able to see their Mando family once again. Scott and John both mentioned that they are excited to be able to participate in hospital troops in the near future, and be able to support their community with the "Boo in the Zoo" Halloween Zoo troop, and perhaps be able to troop at another Kansas City Airport "Fly to the North Pole" event. Make sure to mark your calendar for Planet Comic Con Kansas City in March 2023 to be able to meet and greet this amazing family-loving clan.





# TOOLS OF THE TRADE: TROOPING IN THE HEAT

-ARTICLE BY: ALDWYN KASS

Summer is in full swing, and for most of us that means it's HOT. No one knows that better than the MMCC - marching out in the sun under layers of plastic and duck cloth is not for the faint of heart! Trooping in the summer months can be downright dangerous if you're not careful, and that's why Battlecry is here this month with some tips and tricks to help you stay cool and safe.

## HYDRATE

Water, water, water. And then maybe some Gatorade too.

The most important thing to remember during those hot weather troops is to drink plenty of water. Drink every chance you get, even when you're not thirsty. Dehydration can be very dangerous and should be one of your first concerns. Encourage your fellow costumers to remember to stay hydrated as well!

## TAKE A BREATHER

Perhaps it seems like a no-brainer, but there's a lot to be said for simply being aware of your limits, and remembering to take breaks often.

Seek out a place in the shade wherever available, sit down (if you can!), take off your helmet, and drink something as often as you feel you need to, and maybe a few times when you don't think you need to as well.

If an indoor space is available to you, take advantage of the AC as well!

## NECKWEAR

A great way to avoid overheating is to cool your body with water, or a wet cloth.

While a regular old cloth bandanna will do if you get it wet, a quick internet search will provide you with a number of slightly more sophisticated - though still very affordable - options, including bandanna ice packs you can freeze!

Wearing a wet or frozen cloth under your neck seal (or if you can find one that matches your flightsuit, instead of your neck seal!) will help cool the blood pumping through those big veins on either side of your neck and will do wonders to keep that body temperature lowered.

## VEST

A similar option is available in the form of a cooling vest.

There are a few different types of cooling vests, and they all vary in price.

Evaporative vests work much like a bandanna or wet cloth - just soak it in water before putting it on, and let it channel your body heat away as the water evaporates.

Ice vests are usually sewn with pockets for large panels of gel or liquid packets. These can be frozen and then inserted into the vest, and worn under your flak vest or flightsuit. Having these frozen packets against your body will be a great help in warding off the heat.

Lastly, there are circulatory cooling vests. These work by pumping cold water through a tube system built into the vest, circulating and cooling the water to keep you comfortable on even the hottest days. These are by far the most expensive option, and usually the bulkiest as well.

## HELMET FANS

In the heat of summer, there's nothing quite like a cool, refreshing breeze on your face.

So what better way to beat the heat than by carrying your own personal breeze with you! Helmet fans are an easy and low-cost way to help keep you cool.

A couple small CPU fans inside your bucket wired up to run on batteries and positioned just right can



not only help keep you from overheating, but can prevent your breath from fogging up your visor as well.

You can purchase CPU fans online and wire them yourself, or check places like Etsy and the Trading Post section of the MMCC forums for helmet fan kits that come pre-wired and ready to install.

#### **HYDRATE!**

I know we already covered this step, but it's so important, I think it's worth hitting twice.

Drink more water than you think you need to, and don't forget those electrolytes while you're at it! Gatorade and other sports drinks like it are a great way to replenish those important nutrients and should be consumed in addition to your regular old H<sub>2</sub>O.

Or if you want to get a little wild and crazy, try pickle juice for another great and very tasty "recovery" drink to keep you going in the heat.

#### **WATCH EACH OTHER'S BACKS**

Finally, but perhaps most importantly of all, don't forget to watch out for each other. Handlers and kitted mercs alike can suffer the effects of the summer weather, and sometimes our best defense against the dangerous heat is one another.

Watch out for your fellow troopers, whether they be kitted or plain-clothes, and remind them to take breaks and drink plenty of water.

Handlers, wear a backpack when possible and carry extra water bottles for the costumers under your care.

Kitted mercs, encourage your handlers to take breaks too. And everybody remember that acting a fool and pushing yourself past your limits is not only stupid, it's dangerous. And nothing ruins everybody's fun like a trip to the emergency room because someone underestimated the heat!

Hopefully we've given you some good tips and tricks this month to help you survive and thrive in those hot summer invasions.

No matter the time of year, or the weather, remember that safety is the most important thing.

Sometimes it's time to admit that it's simply too hot to troop, and that's okay.

Stay safe, stay hydrated, watch out for each other.

Until next time, happy trooping!

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