

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTLEFRONT

MARCH 2024



MERCSCON HOST CLAN

WHAT TO SEE IN DENVER

THINKING ABOUT ALTITUDE

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FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Vode,

I know, I know... Its been a while.

You've been, I'm sure, visiting the BattleCry page on the Mando Mercs website in anticipation of finding a new issue only to be crushed when the page looked the same as it has for almost a year.

"Where are they?" you asked yourself.

Well, we were right here, patently waiting to get going again.

You see, last summer, BattleCry (and the whole PR team) had some leadership changes and because of that, we were thrown into a sort of limbo, and then chaos, as existing staff was lost and new staff was hired. Old Files were lost and older files were found, past leadership stepped down and new leadership stepped up.

It was an interesting time, but we thank our past leadership for their time and dedication to this publication and in helping us to make it the best darn news magazine in the outer rim territories, and we are excited for our new PRO and PRXO who have stepped up and are pushing us forward. We'll introduce them to you in future issues.

There have been changes, and there will be more changes in the future as we mold BattleCry to suit the needs of the Mando Mercs well into the future.

I'm excited for you to get into this special issue. Not only is it the first issue of 2024, but it is also a special issue dedicated to MercsCon 3 Denver: Revenge of the Rockies!

It is so good to be back, and I truly hope that you enjoy this special issue.

Diz Ge'tal



MEET OUR NEW STAFF WRITER

GET'AL RUUS

I was born at an early age in Cambridge, U.K. much to my parent's disappointment, as the oldest of two brothers. They of course had no idea there would be two. But as we all know, "Always two there are! No more, no less". Joking aside, my family are some of the nicest people you'd ever hope to meet, and I consider myself lucky that I chose to be born into it!

I joined the military, specifically the RAF Regiment at 17 years of age, and without delving into it too much, I left after just short of 15 years with 3 operational tours, some great friends and a truck load of mental health issues under my belt. Honourably, I might add, if a touch unstable.

Most people in life will have one or two hobbies, not me though. When I list the things I've done (some in a professional capacity), people tilt their heads because they assume I'm just lying to make friends. See if you have the same head tilt as I list some things off.

I play guitar (badly), and have a good ear for music, being classically trained in woodwind at school. I used to love playing rugby until I broke all the ribs down the left side of my body. Twice. I love to read, don't ask me to pick a favourite book though, I can't. I was a professional off road driving instructor, Clay pigeon and other outdoor activities instructor. I'm a master scuba diver (I hung my fins up though). I'm a half decent photographer, very amateur blacksmith and I've always been a bit of a maker. A tinkerer if you will. Which segways me nicely into the Mercs.

Professionally, I am a barber by trade and own/run my own barber shop in North Essex, U.K, Europe, Earth. I am relatively new to the Mercs, only joining the forum as a foundling in March 2022. Despite clearing my kit by consistently building and progressing in around 6 months to OM, I constantly suffer with imposter syndrome. Mainly when I look around at my Vode and see such quality of builds and those with long standing tenure in the club. Back in January this year, I threw my hat in the ring to stand up as Ver'alor for the clan and got elected! Honestly that still blows my mind, and I took that role very seriously, throwing myself in head-first! Then back in May, my very good friend, mentor and generally good dude, Tak'ur had to make the gut-wrenching decision to step aside as Alor'ad, so I stepped up to try to keep the ship steady. So now, here I am in the Vok'Chi Clan hot seat, trying not to fly into an asteroid field and swerving purrgil as I go!

All that said, Vok'Chi Clan are as solid as they come. They welcomed me with open arms, and I now make it my mission to do the same with every new foundling that joins the clan. I hope that I foster an outlook of solidarity, compassion and openness in my clan mates because in my mind, that's how the world works. Finally, the serious bit. Mental health, as some of you know already, is a big part of my life and a topic very close to my heart. The Mercs helped pull me out of a hole. (See a touch unstable). It kept my mind active and hands busy at a time in my life that was quite frankly forlorn, for my own reasons. My wife and my children have been my rock throughout; indeed, my wife is now also an OM and looking forward to her first troop in a few weeks. This club, my clan, my friends both here and overseas have quite literally saved my life at times, and I'm here to give back.

My humour is odd, my British spelling might look weird to some of you, and I'm a MASSIVE nerd. That's just who I am, and I make no secret about it.

Oya!



MERCSCON HOST CLAN

CERAR CLAN

-ARTICLE BY: GET'AL RUUS

As the run up to MercsCon draws nearer, the core command team of Cerar Clan took some time out of their extremely busy schedules to speak with Battle Cry, and what a conversation it was!

The first ten seconds of our hour-long call immediately set the bar for what can only be described as a very open and warm virtual welcome.

Cerar Clan, if you're not aware already are the Colorado and Wyoming Clan of the Mando Mercs. Whilst their territory casts a wide net in real estate terms, they are also a large clan with a strong bond and excellent membership. At the time of interview, they boasted 50+ Official Members in their ranks with more well on the way!

When the vote results came in to host MercsCon in Denver, the clan as a whole were simply ecstatic, the usual hum and buzz from both OM's & UM's alike has only increased as the date closes in.

Bryn Cin'Prudii (Rob) - Clan Alor'ad, Tor Cin'Vhetin, (Moby) -Ver'alor and Roe'gall Montar (Brian) - Clan Ruus'alor Solyc sit atop of this formidable force and the Clan are chomping at the bit to ensure that this MercCon is the best yet!

Whilst taking the lead on a large scale event can seem daunting, these warriors among us have accepted this challenge head on with a cool head and clear vision. If all else fails, they will happily revert to their unofficial clan slogan "Semper Gumbly" which to us mortals, translates loosely as "Stay Flexible".

They've been working closely with the Rally Master and Mandalore the Uniter himself to ensure that all the T's and I's are crossed and dotted.

According to Bryn, Hosting MercsCon in Denver just makes perfect sense. Being nearly the most central City in the United States, it's fairly easily accessible for most and being the travel hub that it is, accommodations are plentiful.

We asked the team what they were most excited for at MercsCon and the list went on!

Meeting New faces and putting a name to people that they've only ever interacted with online is a good start. With the Mercs being Worldwide, it's an opportunity that doesn't come along very often.

Cerar Clan are also extremely excited to show their excellent working relationships with other charity organizations, including The 501st Legion and Rebel Legion. Indeed some of these may be in attendance, and the command team are extremely proud of the partnerships, friendships, and comradery that they have cultivated over the years.

On a personal note, I have to say that although my armor is Red, I am a little green with envy over not being able to attend this iconic event. Not only for the general goings on of the Con, giving maybe some insight into the inner workings of the MMCC, but building those relationships in person and networking; not to

forget of course the social aspect of hanging around with so many like minded people. More on that in a moment!

I asked each of the Command team one direct question, and that was “what keeps you interested and working hard for your clan?”

Bryn is motivated by “wanting to continually perpetuate motion, steering the clan in a positive direction and staying the course when needed” his pride in the bond, love and kindness that their clan shows consistently is more than apparent in conversation.

Tor remembers the harder times. He “came from a place of struggle” and admires the growth and family that has been built. Stating quite simply it’s “exciting to see it all come together”.

Roe’gall as the RS joined when the clan was “on the up” he loves to see the amount of uptake and the “how can we help attitude” from all clan members. Passing on knowledge and setting the bar for costuming keeps him plugging away.

Of course, anyone visiting MercsCon from out of town will need some top tips, so here’s what the clan suggest....

-Denver isn’t called the Mile High City for nothing. It’s at a high altitude! Be prepared for that! “Hydrate or Dietrate”, was a term thrown into this chat! Alcohol has a much stronger effect at altitude too, so if you will be imbibing, please remember to take it easy! Oh and wear sunscreen! You’re gonna need it.

Denver and Colorado, more widely has so much to offer, Cerar clan couldn’t be happier to host and are fully expecting to give people local tours outside of the Con!

And also, if you’re worried about traveling with your kit, don’t worry, it’s not expected, though if you can bring your bucket, please do!

I have no doubt that Cerar Clan will do the club, the costuming community and themselves proud as they welcome members from around the world. To everyone attending, please travel safely, take pictures, make memories and enjoy each others company.

To quote my teenagers here in England, “Yo, this party Gonna be Lit, fam!”



DENVER

WHAT TO SEE:

ARTICLE BY: DIZ GE'TAL

With MercsCon happening in Denver this year, I started wondering, "what else is there to do in Denver?" Being a westerner, myself, I know that Colorado has great opportunities for hiking and such, but having never been in Denver, I just don't know what else there is.

I contacted my friend Rob, who is an OM in Cerar Clan and asked him the about it, and after consulting his Clan mates, he sent me the following list:

BLUCIFER. A giant blue horse at the Denver Airport, and the subject of several conspiracy theories

BLUE BEAR. A giant blue bear at the Colorado Convention Center

UNION STATION. The Union Station was originally opened in 1881 and was rebuilt after a fire in 1894. Today it is filled with Denver's top shops, bars, and restaurants.

RED ROCKS AMPHITHEATER. Nearby in Morrison, the amphitheater has hosted hundreds of bands including the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, U2, and Rush. redrocksonline.com

MOUNT BLUE SKY. At 14,271 feet above sea level, the peak is the highest in the Front Range. You'll find it 57 miles west of Denver.

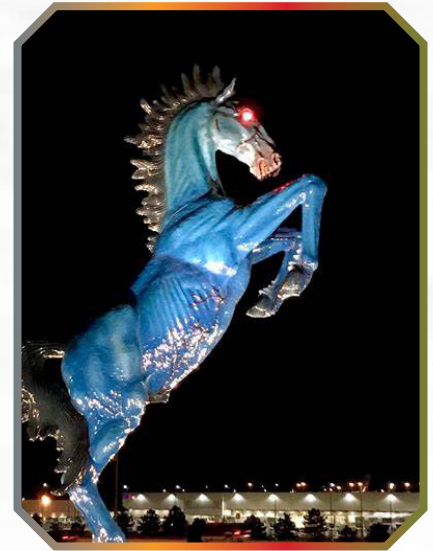
WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES. An Air and Space Museum and the site of the first Star Wars Celebration. wingsmuseum.org

MEOW WOLF. Even after exploring their web site, I'm still not really clear on what it is. According to their website it's some kind of walk through art installation. meowwolf.com

CASA BONITA. A really cool looking restaurant. casabonitadenver.com

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN. Located in Golden, this 7,377 foot high peak is a part of the front range of the Rocky Mountains.

PIKES PEAK At 14,115 feet it is one of the highest peaks in the Front Range. It's about a 2 hour drive south of Denver, but I hear that it is well worth the trip.



MANITOU SPRINGS. Just over an hour south of Denver, Manitou Springs is a resort city featuring natural mineral springs, hiking, and cool archaeological sites. manitousprings.org

COORS FIELD. Home of the Colorado Rockies MLB team.

GARDEN OF THE GODS. Beautiful red rock formations and 21 miles of trails to explore. gardenofgods.com

CELESTIAL SEASONINGS TOUR.

30 minutes north of Denver is the city of Boulder and the Celestial Seasonings Tea factory. celestialseasonings.com

MILE HIGH COMICS. Claims to be the largest comics dealer in the USA with over 10-million comics in stock. milehighcomics.com

TWIST'N'SHOUT RECORDS. Founded in 1988, an 11,000 square foot store filled with vinyl, CD's, DVD's and more. twistandshout.com

VOODOO DOUGHNUTS. Wow... I spent some time on their website, and I don't even know what to tell you about them, except to say... doughnuts! voodoodoughnut.com

MANDALORIAN MURAL ON BROADWAY near Voodoo Doughnuts. I've seen pictures and it's pretty epic.



MERCSCON INFO

SCHEDULE

ARTICLE BY: DIZ GETAL

After a quick chat with Myriot the Rally Master, I was able to get a snapshot of the MercsCon Schedule, but it is still pretty rough and will be changing and firming up as we get closer to the event.

Thursday 10/3/2024

9am - 12am	Conference Setup
12pm - 1pm	Lunch (Not Included)
1pm - 5pm	Conference Setup (Attendee Early Check-In)
5pm - 7pm	Break
7pm - 10pm	Cantina Crawl with Mandalore

Friday 10/4/2024

8:30am - 9:30am	Warrior's Breakfast Buffet
10am - 11am	Attendee Check-In / Opening Ceremonies Prep
11am - 12pm	Opening Ceremonies & Presentation of Banners
12pm - 1pm	Lunch (Not Included)
1pm - 3pm	Programming TBD
3pm - 7pm	TBD
7pm - TBD	Victory Feast

Saturday 10/5/2024

8:30am - 9:30am	Warrior's Breakfast Buffet
10am - 12pm	Programming TBD
12pm - 1pm	Lunch (Not Included)
1pm - 3pm	Programming TBD
3pm - 7pm	TBD
7pm - TBD	City Crawl with Cerar Clan

Sunday 10/6/2024

8:30am - 9:30am	Warrior's Breakfast Buffet
10am - 12pm	Programming TBD
12pm - 1pm	Lunch (Not Included)
1pm - 3pm	Programming TBD
3pm - 5pm	TBD
5pm - TBD	Farewell Dinner (Not Included)

Monday 10/7/2024

11am	Hotel Check-Out
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For the most updated information Please Visit
mercscon.com
or click on the QR code

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ALTITUDE ISSUES

ARTICAL BY: DIZ GE'TAL

Recently, while talking about MercsCon in Denver, a friend (who lives at sea level) asked if she could expect any problems from the altitude.

Now, I was probably not the best person to ask, since I was born in the mountain west at 4600 feet above sea level, my current home is at 5000 feet and my favorite camping site is at 8500 feet. So, to me, Denver's impressive 5200 feet is not even a concern.

Now, I'm well aware that there will be quite a few Mandos at MercsCon who will be coming from coastal areas and are more acclimatized to lower altitudes, higher atmospheric pressures, and frankly, more oxygen.

So, if this is the situation that you find yourself in, what can you expect? Are you going to get sick from the altitude?

Most likely, you'll be just fine and will suffer no ill effects.

But, if you do get affected by the altitude, it will most likely be pretty mild and can include:

Headaches

Dizziness

General feeling of fatigue

Loss of appetite

Trouble sleeping

Now, there are some things that you can do to prevent these symptoms.

According to the University of Colorado, some good steps to help prevent getting sick from the altitude are:

Hydration: Water and electrolytes are a good first step. The way I've had it explained to me is that the higher the altitude the thinner the atmosphere equals more solar radiation which is dehydrating. You should also avoid alcohol and caffeinated drinks at first since they can also be dehydrating.

Limit Exertions: While acclimating to the elevation, it's probably not a great idea to hit the gym. You'll also want to get plenty of rest until your body can build up some extra oxygen delivering blood cells.

Ibuprofen: Can help you with your headaches.

Oxygen: The reason you aren't feeling very well is that your body isn't processing the air as efficiently as it was at lower altitudes and breathing in some extra oxygen can help. Last time I was in Colorado, I found little bottles of oxygen at a gas station, i thought it was funny at first, but i'm sure there's a reason they sell them. So there's that.

Time: After a couple of days, your body should adjust and you'll be just fine.

I hope this has helped to allay any fears that you have about spending some time in the Rocky Mountains. I for one am looking forward to meeting our fellow mercs in the Rocky Mountains.



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