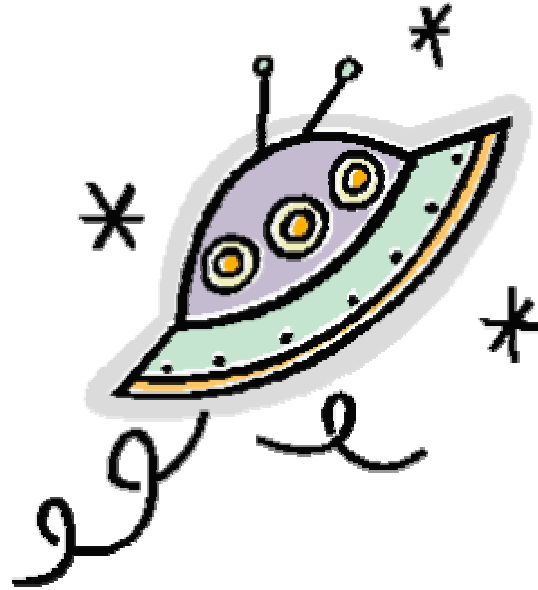


# Smofcon 23



**Expecting the Unexpected!**

**Portland, Oregon**

**December 2-4, 2005**

**Red Lion Convention Center Hotel**

## From the Chair . . .

The Smofcon 23 Committee is gearing up for the upcoming for the convention. We are excited about how things are shaping up.

Portland always has some great ideas so it should be an enlightening weekend for both the novice and pro! I expect a large turnout of local (Northwest) con runners wanting to learn all the tips and secrets of conventions from outside of our area.

We promise you exciting activities, terrific food, fascinating convention stories, an awesome program, and great restaurants in a marvelous city. (Have I mentioned the 2005 Holiday Ale Festival in downtown Portland is on the same weekend?)

*Come and smof 'til you drop!*

David Schaber



### **Smofcon Wants You!**

Smofcon is open to *all* fans interested in *all* aspects of convention running. Contrary to rumor, it is **not** invitational! Whether you are helping out for the first time at your local convention or you have been a Worldcon Chair or Division Head, there's something that you can learn (or teach) at Smofcon. Ideas come from the most unexpected sources. Fans will be sharing experiences and exchanging neat ideas in the hospitality suite, over meals, and in the bar, as well as during discussion groups and panel items.

# Smofcon Program

Patty Wells

[orycon25chair@comcast.net](mailto:orycon25chair@comcast.net)

I have posted some of this already, but it is worthwhile to share how a theme for this year's Smofcon program really came to be. When I asked to do another Smofcon program, I was envisioning something kind of quiet and maybe even a shade academic. I completed a second masters degree in Adult Education in the last couple of years and figured I could use some of the teaching ideas I picked up (which I still intend to do)..

Then all Hell broke loose in Portland. The Columbia River hotel where we'd held Orycon for 17 years was sold. This wasn't a problem in itself; it has been sold before, multiple times. This time its closure was announced in the papers fairly abruptly over the weekend, with no weekend staff able to answer any questions posed by people like me. At that point the Columbia River was half the site for a Westercon bid, and housed Orycon and our 600 person gaming con, GameStorm. In the way things happen, other insanity and problems we'd not dealt with recently all rained down from the sky at once.

As we began picking up pieces, I made notes for a Smofcon program. After all, the essence of a Smofcon is that your experiences may help someone else avoid pitfalls or try a new approach and that you learn from others. I plan to feature discussions of these sorts of topics:

- Hotel re-siting
- Controlling mailing lists when rumors abound
- Breaking bad news
- What documents you should have multiple copies of
- Developing a team when you have tough decisions to make
- The importance of fannish networking

This is not to say we've done any of these things well, you understand. We just have some fresh insights on the issues involved, and decided to see if we've learned anything useful to share in a Smofcon.

We have discussed trying a couple of things that are in slightly different formats besides the usual panels, discussions, and workshops. After following some discussions on SMOFS it seemed like there might be a few issues that would lend themselves to holding a formal debate. I am interested in how committees reach some philosophical decisions through discussion and how a strong meeting leader makes this productive.

I need more of the ideas of those who are planning to attend, and to know what you consider to be your areas of expertise for a program. With the philosophy that we all learn from each other, I'd like to have a wide variety of people appear on the program.



Our Former Orycon Home

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Where we are going this year



Future Hotel?

m3architects

## Our Hotel

John Lorentz

(Portrait of a Treasurer as the Writer of a Hotel Blurb)

Our hotel is the Red Lion Hotel Portland - Convention Center, and the room rate is \$69/night (plus tax).

The hotel is located in the heart of Portland's Lloyd District in the core of the city. Along with being across the street from the Oregon Convention Center (and the Convention Center light rail station), the Red Lion is within walking distance of numerous restaurants and the (large) Lloyd Center shopping center. It is located within Portland's "Fareless Square", a free bus & light rail zone that also includes Portland's downtown shopping district (as well as Powell's City of Books). The hotel has been recently renovated and each room includes free wireless Internet service, a refrigerator and coffeemaker. Many of the rooms have flat panel televisions, and the Hospitality Suite looks great.

### Getting to the Hotel

The hotel is easily accessible by all forms of transportation:

#### By Auto:

From I-5, take the Lloyd Center/Convention Center exit (#302A), go east on Weidler (4-6 blocks), turn right on MLK. The hotel will be on your left four blocks later.

From I-84 westbound: Take the I-5 North exit and follow the signs to "Convention Center" as I-84 ends at I-5. Turn right when the street ends at Holladay, and then right on MLK. The hotel is on your left in the next block. Alternatively, take the Lloyd Center exit (#1), continue straight on Lloyd and turn right on Grand. The hotel will be on your left in about six blocks.

Parking is available at the hotel, on the street and at several other parking lots nearby.

**By bus or light rail:** The hotel is across the street from the Convention Center light rail ("MAX") station, and is about three blocks east of the Rose Quarter transit station. Additionally, several buses run from the transit center to Lloyd Center, passing within a block of the hotel, and the #6 MLK runs directly by the hotel.

**By air:** By far, the easiest way to travel from Portland International Airport to the hotel is via the "MAX Red Line" light rail line. The airport station is adjacent to the baggage claim area, on the south side of the terminal. Tickets may be purchased from machines at the station—the cost is scheduled

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to rise to \$1.75 by the time of the convention. You'll need an "AZ" (All Zone) ticket. **Keep your ticket—not only is it your proof of purchase, but the hotel will reimburse you the cost of the ticket when you check in and will give you a free return ticket to the airport!** The run from the airport to the hotel takes approximately 26 minutes and you won't need to make any transfers.

### **By Spaceship**

Not yet available.

### **Making a Reservation**

West Coast/Red Lion Hotels recently revamped their web site and now the group reservation function doesn't work at all. Keep checking our web site for updates on this problem, but in the meantime you can phone or fax your reservations to the hotel (be sure to ask for the Smofcon rate).

Phone: 800-343-1822 or 503-235-2100      Fax: 503-238-0132

## **The Book**

Patty Wells

We are intending to produce the usual book for a Smofcon, although we're still kicking around the format for it. We would like to receive not just your articles on subjects relating to the theme, but also on what you think other conrunners would find useful. Share your expertise. I would particularly like to see articles that tell the details of how your con solved a problem well, and the stages you went through to come to and implement this solution.

Additionally, my personal project, as announced on SMOFS is to do a variation/one off fanzine-ish publication that is the truly weird of science fiction. The daughter who says she's engaged to Big Foot suggests a Weekly World News format, but you never can tell, saner heads might prevail, should we be able to find any.

Remember, this is the uniquely weird, not con horror stories. We have plenty of those on record.

Photographs would be fun too, should you have anything suitably weird.



Evil Green Peppers take over Family dinner

# Wanna Run Your OWN Smofcon?!?!?!?

Are you as excited about having a Smofcon as I am? You gotta be or you wouldn't be showing up! Did you know that opportunities exist to run your own Smofcon?

If you and/ or your group are interested in hosting next year's Smofcon, please let us know. The Smofcon 23 membership will choose the next Smofcon sometime Saturday.

## 23 Membership List

Here is the list of current members. If you don't see your name listed below and you thought you were already a member please contact us as soon as possible.

Bobbi Armbruster  
Margaret Austin  
Margene Bahm  
Judy Bemis  
Gary S. Blog  
Kent Bloom  
Stephen Boucher  
Seth Breidbart  
Elaine Brennan  
Roberta L. Carlson  
Gay Ellen Dennett  
Vincent J. Docherty  
Martin Easterbrook  
Naomi Fisher  
Crickett Fox  
Deb Geisler  
Janice Gelb  
Marc Gordon  
Ed Green  
Hal Haag  
Shouichi Hachiya  
Mike Higashi  
Craig Howlett  
Elspeth Kovar  
Grant Kruger  
Ruth Leibig

John Lorentz  
Robert J. MacIntosh  
Patrick Molloy  
Mary Morman  
Liz Mortensen  
Jim Murray  
Michael Nelson  
Priscilla Olson  
Mark L. Olson  
Bill Parker  
Tony Edwin Parker  
Linda Pilcher  
Michael Pins  
Jan Price  
Ruth Sachter  
John T. Sapienza  
Peggy Rae Sapienza  
Sharon Sbarsky  
Kevin Standlee  
Guest of Kevin Standlee  
Ian E. Stockdale  
Tom Veal  
Marc Wells  
Patty Wells  
Ben Yalow

Your Editor has been Linda Pilcher. I accept full responsibility for all typos and weird stuff

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# Smofcon 23 Registration

## RATES

Our current rates are \$55.00 through October 1, 2005, and \$65.00 through November 15, 2005, the end of pre-registration. Supporting membership is \$25.00 at all times.

OSFCI members get a \$5 discount on pre-registration rates.

There's the traditional pay-by-mail option for sending checks or money orders which should be made payable to SMOFCON 23.

On the credit/debit card side, we have a link on the site for PayPal transactions - Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express. You do not need to have a PayPal account, or to create an account, in order to purchase SMOFCON 23 memberships.

We do not have off-line credit card processing.

## REGISTRATION FORM

Make all checks/money orders payable to SMOFCON 23 and mail to:

SMOFCON 23

PO Box 5703

Portland OR 97228-5703

smofconpdx@gmail.com

503-283-0802 - Info/reg

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in being on program? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

May we list your name in print & web lists? \_\_\_\_\_

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