



TarValon.net at  
Dragon\*Con 2012

Atlanta, Georgia  
August 31 – September 3, 2012

## Introduction

Welcome to the TarValon.net group attending Dragon\*Con 2012! This year is especially significant as it is the final year of the Wheel of Time track. *A Memory of Light* is due to be released in January, and as the series is concluded, the dedicated programming track will also end, though other Wheel of Time content is planned for future years.

Not only is this the final year of the Wheel of Time track, it is also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TarValon.net's attendance at Dragon\*con. We've learned a lot in those 10 years and have our own traditions that have grown through the years.

Most of the information included in this packet is based on that experience and is not all that new. If you've not attended Dragon\*con before, or if you haven't joined our group, we hope it will be especially useful. We recommend printing a copy to bring with you.

This is the first year that we haven't arranged a block of rooms due to the increasing difficulty to reserve a block in one hotel, and the policy changes at each hotel. It will be more important than ever to keep in touch with each other via phone and social media, and we hope you each use the twitter account that's been set up. Additionally, we're not recruiting phone numbers this year, but encourage each attendee to gather contact information from their friends in advance.

We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta!

Serinia Sedai  
Director of Events & Conferences

## Overview of Events

### Opening Ceremonies (AKA The Pantsless Party)

Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>; 10:00 PM  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor of Marriott Marquis

The key TarValon.net event is our Opening Ceremonies! Join us for our premier event which includes our traditional Goldschlager toast as well as maybe a formal ceremony or two and general socializing. These Opening Ceremonies are a little different than those for our other events, as this event tends to include participants from outside our community, potentially including members of Team Jordan. Please plan to thoroughly enjoy yourself, but also please be aware that we are ambassadors of the TV.net organization, and we should try to go out of our way to welcome our guests and not scare them too much. ☺

This event is traditionally our Pantsless Party! Feel free to embrace tradition by wearing a kilt, skirt, shorts, sarong, or toga, but remember that the party is still PG-13. This falls squarely in the “let’s try not to scare our guests” category!

### Annual Pool Party

TBD; Marriott Marquis Pool

The Pool Party is another of our traditions and a bucket of watery fun! Though, not an official TarValon.net function, this event has been a tradition since the beginning and includes a round of chicken and the annual meeting of the church of BALS. If interested in attending, ask around and someone should be putting something together. ☺

## Non-tower Events

### The Parade 10:00 AM Saturday

Please visit the Wheel of Time at Dragon\*Con group on facebook if you would like to march with the Wheel of Time group. Muster is usually around 9:00 AM. We always have a strong showing at the parade, please consider participating!

### An Evening at the Winespring Inn 10:00 PM Saturday – Atlanta Ballroom

The big party of the Wheel of Time Track, the Winespring event is a great chance to mix & mingle with tons of WoT fans. Each year includes entertainment like karaoke, a band, dancers or something uniquely WoT.

### A Memory of Light Preview 4:00 Sunday – Atlanta Ballroom

Join Brandon Sanderson and representatives of Team Jordan for a preview of the final book of our beloved Series.

### Costume Contest 5:30 Sunday - Roswell 1-2

A perennial favorite, come participate or watch the Costume Contest and view some amazing handiwork inspired by characters and cultures throughout the series.

### Robert Jordan's Legacy 7:00 Sunday – Roswell 1-2

Join an expert panel including Brandon Sanderson to review Robert Jordan's impact on the realm of fantasy literature.

### Trivia Contests

Come support yours truly and have fun in a low-pressure environment to compete in knowledge from the series. There are three trivia sessions – 2 called “Daes Dae'mar” which feature teamwork in a pub trivia format (2:30 Friday & 2:30 Sunday), and 1 called “Illian's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Bee” in which you choose a question out of a hat and laugh with the audience about how difficult the question is (5:30 Saturday).

## **Useful Links**

The Wheel of Time Current Track Schedule:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Amz9oZOKvE3CdDNiSDlhVXVTRk9Td1h3VUFGVXZkYmc#gid=0>

Dragon\*Con Official Site:

<http://www.dragoncon.org/index.htm>

Includes a ton of useful information including registration & badge information, layout of the conference, special events, fan tracks, guests, artists, etc.

Wheel of Time Track Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/124273964292163/>

The Official FB page for the Wheel of Time Track at Dragon-Con – Includes up-to-the-minute track and conference information.

## **TarValon Twitter Feed**

Twitter is a great way to keep in touch with each other while running around the massive space of the convention! There is an official TarValon.net events account which you can follow: @TarValonEvents

HOWEVER, this account has not been consistently used in the past and rather than wait for pushed messages from the official account, I encourage each of you to post twitter updates with the hashtag “#TarValonEvents” so that not only can

we keep in touch with each other, but our friends who couldn't attend can follow along as well.

Also consider using other Social Media outlets to connect with your Tower friends at Con such as Foursquare, Sonar, Google Latitude or Find My Friends. Try to set these up before you depart for the convention!

### **Tower Resources**

Serinia Sedai – Seri is the Director of Events and Conferences and acting as the Conference Coordinator. Due to our scaled-back attendance at this year's event she should be your go-to Tower contact if you have any concerns or questions.

### **TarValon.net Events Code of Conduct**

- Please remember that the constitution's code of conduct does still apply during a real life event. In a nutshell, it says to be respectful of one another.
- It is illegal for someone under the age of 21 to drink alcohol in Georgia. If you are underage, please take that into consideration.
- Please, whenever possible, use the buddy system. And if you are not with the majority of the group make sure at least one person knows where you're generally planning to be. This is a safety issue. Not only for yourself, but we have had to try and find people when emergency situations have occurred before.
- What happens at Con stays at Con. It is nobody's business as to who slept next to whom, who got ill, who got drunk and acted silly, etc. Please let people keep personal issues personal.

### **Helpful Hints for First Timers**

- Crowds. Crowds, crowds, crowds. It will take you three times as long to get anyplace you need to go than you think it will. Budget your time accordingly.
- Atlanta passed a bill outlawing panhandlers at certain places in the city. If you walk outside the conference hotels and mall, you will be approached by people looking for money. It is up to you whether or not to give them some, but please be aware that if you do there is a good chance other people will see it and you will be subject to more harassment.
- Please be safe! Yes, it's a conference of geeky folk. Yes, hotel security will be thorough. Still, it is a party of tens of thousands of people in silly costumes who

have most likely been drinking. If you stay in the hotel's public areas, you're probably pretty safe. Do not wander outside by yourself, do not go into room parties with people you do not know by yourself. If you think you're going to be unaware (aka tipsy), be sure to buddy up with someone to help you watch your back. When drinking among strangers, always keep your drink in your hand and do not set it down.

- Costumes! Costumes are fun! Everyone wears them at this con, and everything goes.

- Consuite is a place that serves up free food and drink through the con. It's not gourmet food and drink, there isn't a lot of it, it is all heavily sponsored... but it is free. So while I wouldn't rely on it to feed me throughout con, it's sometimes a good option if you're hard up for cash and they happen to be serving. Consuite is traditionally in the corner of the second floor of the Hyatt.

- Please remember to drink plenty of water. You'll be getting a LOT of walking in. It's humid if you go outside. Especially if you drink alcohol... be sure to drink water. Dehydration is a big deal at Con, and a lot of people fall prey to it. Also, sleep. You won't get a lot of it. Try to take cat naps when you can.

- Almost everyone feels overwhelmed at some point during the Con. You may not even recognize the signs, but it is the number one thing behind us dealing with weepy members. A lot of us like to keep our socialization somewhat controlled, and after a few days of being bombarded with it... it can take its toll. Oddly enough, it most frequently strikes us with the "alone in a crowded room" syndrome. When that happens, take some time to rest. Spend some one on one time with a friend. It will pass, and you'll feel better.

- Be sure to follow local laws. Sadly, this includes no liquor stores open on Sunday (plan accordingly!), no smoking indoors, and no feeding the bears. (You can feed SDS bears!) While you will still be able to buy alcohol at the bars at Con on Sunday, none of the stores will be selling alcohol.

- Picking up your badge can take a while. Get that out of the way ASAP, and go with a friend or other member if you can.

- A lot of folk will be found in the WoT track room (Roswell 1-2), so that's the best place to go if you're not sure what to do next.

- TarValon.Net members are very huggy folk. Most of us now know each other in real life. Yes, we really are that happy to meet you. :-D If you prefer not to be hugged and such, just quietly let the person know. They won't be offended.

- Be kind to people trying to remember your name. Sometimes we all get caught up in the excitement and the names fly out of our heads!

- Have fun!