

FENCON ION

The Official FenCon Newsletter

FRIDAY

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Welcome to FenCon V

Greetings to all of the fen! This year we're celebrating our fifth year and, even more importantly, celebrating **fifty years of science fiction conventions in Texas.**

In July 1958, Southwestercon 6 was held in Dallas, organized by the Dallas Futurians. One of those young folks was a teenager named **Greg Benford**. Yes, the noted scientist, legendary science fiction author, and our Guest of Honor—*that* Greg Benford. We're also honored to welcome his fellow Dallas Futurian and current NASA scientist, **Dr. Al Jackson**, and other folks who have seen fandom in Texas take off from that exciting beginning. Check the convention guide for a complete schedule of panels and presentations.

FenCon is also thrilled to welcome Music Guests of Honor **Three Weird Sisters** for a rare live performance. (And thanks to **Kimber Chessmore** for helping to make this possible.) We have lots of music to share all weekend with scheduled concerts, open filking, plus the **FenCon Cabaret** on Saturday night.

We're also honored to welcome Fen Guest of Honor **Gerald Burton**, ORAC Special Guest **Doris Egan**, Special Guest **Jay Lake**, and Artist Guest of Honor **Real Musgrave** plus all of our program participants to celebrate with us this year.

Real has created an amazing work of art for this year's Charity Art Print. It's just \$10 and all money goes to support this year's charity, **Reading & Radio**

Resource, which provides audio books and much more to the visually impaired. Get yours at the **FenConvenience Store** in the dealer room. (They're *very* limited so get yours today.)

Addison has many excellent restaurants... including the one in this hotel!

MacArthur's on the first floor of the Crowne Plaza is convenient, tasty, and now it's extra-affordable. As a special deal for FenCon members, MacArthur's is serving a buffet meal at almost every meal all weekend at special low prices. All prices below *include tax and tip*. Yes, a hot all you can eat breakfast for a flat ten bucks. Why leave the hotel?

On Friday, the **breakfast buffet is just \$10.00** and on Friday night they're offering a "Blue Plate Special" for only \$9.95! Saturday's breakfast buffet is \$10.00, the lunch buffet featuring sandwiches, soup & salad is \$12.95, and the **Saturday night BBQ buffet is \$14.95**. On Sunday, the breakfast buffet is once again a mere \$10.00 and the lunch buffet featuring Mexican favorites is only \$12.95. And these prices are inclusive of tax and gratuity. Stay, eat, and get back to FenCon.

Program Schedule Updates

Friday

- 1pm - Add Dr. Al Jackson to "Are SF Fans Unengaged With the Real World?" in Program Three and Margene Bahm is now the moderator
- 4pm - Linda Donahue is now the moderator of the "Hacking it to Pieces" in Program Three
- 5pm - Chris Fulbright might or might not be on the "C.S. Lewis" panel on Second Stage
- 6pm - Dawn Mennear is now the moderator of "Volunteering for Conventions" in Program Three
- 8pm - Robyn Winans joins the "Obligatory *Star Trek* Panel" on Second Stage as the moderator

Saturday

- 10am - K. Hutson Price is now the moderator of the "Sci-Fi Channel Cage Match Round 2" on Main Stage
- 10am - *The Sarah Jane Adventures: "The Last Sontaran"* (2008) replaces "Looking For Steven Ditko" in the Video Room
- 11am - Chris Fulbright's former 1pm reading has been moved up to 11am in the Reading Room
- 12noon - K. Hutson-Price has been added to the "Blended Genres" panel in Main Programming

Sunday

- 10am - A. Lee Martinez is now the moderator of "Mars v. Venus" in Main Programming
- 3pm - Joy Lanterman will not be on the "Subversion in our Schools" panel in Program Two

Also, Bev Hale is ill and will not be attending this weekend.

Programming Highlights

For you early birds, we offer intimate panels with an intimate panel featuring Guest of Honor **Gregory Benford** and an "unretirement" party for Artist GoH **Real Musgrave**. We've got panels on *Star Trek*, Cthulhu, C.S. Lewis, *Torchwood*, Superman, Volunteering, and much more. Hang out with ORAC Special **Doris Egan** and a creative panel as we ask "Is There A Dr. in the "House"?"

We've got readings from Julia Mandala, Rie Sheridan, Linda Donahue, William Ledbetter, and P.N. Elrod. Oh, and the **fifth annual Obligatory Stargate Panel** and a **whole mess of filk** caps off the evening.

This is only a small sample of what we have planned for Friday. Check the Convention Guide for the full schedule.

We Like to Party

A special welcome to all the groups throwing **room parties** at FenCon this year. Tonight's parties include **Seattle in 2011** and the first of two from our good friends at **ApolloCon**. Look for posted signs with the exact times and locations plus we'll announce more at Opening Ceremonies.

Guest Updates

Late breaking news from Austin as the doctors treating Toastmaster **Howard Walrdop** have advised him that he's not ready to travel. H'ard will be missed but we'll carry on with Masters of Ceremonies **Bradley Denton** and **David Lee Anderson** splitting some of his duties. Sunday's Howard Waldrop reading will still be held, only with other fine folks doing the actual reading part

Shop the FenConvenience Store

We've got historic **FenCon V t-shirts** and roomy **tote bags** for just \$20 each. We've got the limited-edition **Real Musgrave art print** for the low price of \$10. (And every penny of that \$10 goes directly to Reading & Radio Resource!) We've also got a very limited supply of charity prints from previous years, including a few **matched-number sets**. (If you buy a complete matched-number set for \$50, we'll give you a set of program books from the first four FenCons at no charge.) Plus we're having a **super blowout on t-shirts** from previous FenCons—just \$5 each, while they last.

On a political note, get your "**Vote Saxon**" shirts (\$20) and bumper stickers (\$3 or 2/\$5).

Video By the Fen, For the Fen

This year's FenCon Video room offers a fresh mix of classics, cheese, documentaries, and rarities. Some of the **not to be missed** entries on Friday include our tribute to 1958 with *The Incredible Shrinking Man*, Max Fleischer's Superman, *Fiend Without a Face*, *It! The Terror From Beyond Space*, *The Day The Sky Exploded*, plus the documentary *Watch The Skies: Science Fiction, the 1950s and Us* and a SouthwesterCon 6 Tribute: *Man in Space*, as originally shown in the Film Room in 1958! As evening descends (and overhead, without any fuss, the stars begin going out) we remember **Arthur C. Clarke** with *The Making of "2001: A Space Odyssey"*, "The Christmas Star" episode of *The New Twilight Zone*, and the science fiction classic *2001: A Space Odyssey* to cap off the night. Plus check the Video Room all weekend for surprises, short features, and plenty of bonus goodies.