



# Progress Report #1

## June, 2012



November 23 – 25, 2012  
Location: LAX Marriott  
5855 West Century Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90045

Located only 5 minutes west of the 405 FWY and 8 minutes north of the 105 FWY. Fans travelling by air enjoy a 24 hour complimentary Marriott shuttle from LAX.

Convention membership is \$50 until November 15, \$55 at the door. Children ages 6-12 are \$25 at any time; children under age 6 are admitted at no charge. Payment may be made by check, or by using the registration link at the convention website:

<[http://loscon.org/391/?page\\_id=71](http://loscon.org/391/?page_id=71)>

We have a great deal from the Marriott with rooms for \$106 for single/double/triple/quad occupancy. Los Angeles has a 15.5% hospitality tax and a tourism fee of 15 cents per night.

*It is preferable to make all Loscon related reservations thru the Marriott website <[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)> . Use this code: **LOSLOSA**, to be certain that you get the Loscon 39 room rate of \$106.00, the reduced parking, and the free wireless internet in the sleeping rooms. (And to make sure the con gets credit for room nights!)*

Parking is \$11.00 (plus the 10% city tax) a day per car. We also have a reduced rate for valet parking of \$24.00 (plus the 10% city tax).

Checks should be made payable to Loscon, and mailed to:

Loscon, c/o LASFS  
6012 Tyrone Ave  
Van Nuys, CA 91401-3622

For more information please visit the Loscon website <[www.loscon.org](http://www.loscon.org)>.

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## **Advertising Rates** for **Loscon 39 Program Book**

Full Page	8" X 5" (20.3 cm X 12.7 cm)	US \$120.00
Half Page	4" X 5" (10.2 cm X 12.7 cm)	US \$60.00
Quarter Page	4" X 2.5" (10.2 cm X 6.4 cm)	US \$30.00
Half Page *	8" X 2.5" (20.3 cm X 6.4 cm)	US \$70.00

Camera ready ad copy may be sent to Karl Lembke, Publications committee head, at <[karl.lembke@gmail.com](mailto:karl.lembke@gmail.com)>

Payment may be sent to

Loscon 39, c/o LASFS  
6012 Tyrone Ave  
Van Nuys, CA 91401-3622

*\* If you must....*

## **Our Guests of Honor**

**Writer:**

**Vernor Vinge**

*A Fire Upon the Deep, A Deepness in the Sky, The Children of the Sky, The Peace War, Marooned in Realtime, Rainbows End, and many others*

**Artist:**

**Alan White**

One of the dedicated Ackerfans, author of The Zombie Effect and A View from the Gurney. Check out his site, <SmellTheFandom.com>

**Fan:**

**Lloyd & Yvonne Penney**

Both Penneys are involved in steampunk, and I'm sure they will be more than happy to give one and all their tuppence worth.

**Costume:**

**Mela Hoyt-Heydon**

Gifted costumer and professional milliner, fortunately free of any taint of Mad Hatter's Syndrome. (Or at least hides it well.)

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## **Parties**

The highlight of nightlife at Loscon is its parties! We have a floor reserved especially for parties. If you are interested in throwing a party at Loscon 38, we want to hear from you! Please contact the Party Maven, Anastasia Hunter, at <parties@loscon.org> with the name of your organization, preferred party night (Friday or Saturday) and hotel confirmation number.

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## **LARP**

*Are you a vampire or are you a were?  
You'll be able to bare your fangs while you're there.  
Friday find the queen and declare your side.  
On Sunday the winner will decide.*

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## **Make Room! Make Room!**

The MAKE ROOM! MAKE ROOM! Has been invited back for

Loscon39. We will be in a bigger, more central space at the rear of the Dealer's Room. We are deciding on whether we will include scheduled demos and a workshop, or just keep it simple with interactive exhibits and table top demonstrations. Let us know what you think. Make Room! Make Room! has a facebook page.

We are thinking this year fans might like to see some 3d printers in action and perhaps learn a bit about Ardurinos. Robots are a given.

Make Room! Make Room! is made of people. We are seeking interesting Makers from both within fandom and outside of fandom. If you have something you'd like to be considered for display or demonstration in the Make Room you can go to our facebook page (Make Room! Make Room!) and leave a contact or email Tim directly at Tim@Softegg.com. If you know someone who makes something Really Interesting who might want to share it, let us know.

Input is welcome. Ideas considered.

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### **Con Suite** *(Eylat Poliner)*

There is Con Suite. Our theme is: Steampunk vs. Zombie Land. You'll just have to stop by the Con Suite to figure out what that's about. There will be sodas and munchies. There probably won't be any brains.

Friday: 9am - 11pm  
Sunday: 10am - 4pm.

Saturday: 9am - 11pm  
Dead-Dog - 4pm - Midnight.

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### **Donations** *(Eylat Poliner)*

Loscon is looking for donations such as tee-shirts, jewelry, genre books, videos, posters, movie passes, dinner for two - whatever you might think is a worthy donation. Depending on the value of your donation, we have several rewards for you. To donate something to volunteers just contact: donations@loscon.org

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### **Loscon Goes Out to the Masses!!** *(Eylat Poliner)*

We are not just at conventions anymore. Loscon39 Promotions/Marketing joins the new media frenzy. Introduced last year we continue this new tradition of media outreach. Join our new

Facebook page at <[www.facebook.com/Loscon](http://www.facebook.com/Loscon)> where you will find the latest updates on the convention. You can also find us on Twitter at <[twitter.com/#!/search/loscon](https://twitter.com/#!/search/loscon)>. Don't Miss Out!

For the first time ever, Loscon is having a contest on Facebook, where you can enter and win donated books autographed by the author, movie passes and OUR GRAND PRIZE: two passes to this year's Loscon. For Rules and Entry Information please visit us on Facebook.

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### **Loscon Sponsorships**

*(Eylat Poliner)*

Loscon is run on Volunteer power. From the Chairman, to the Committee, to volunteers, we all give of our time to help make Loscon successful.

"How can I help?" you may ask. SPONSORSHIP! Depending on the amount of your sponsorship, we offer a website link to your web site, an ad in our program book, admission to Loscon and much more.

For more details on sponsorship or to make a dollar amount donation please contact: <[donations@loscon.org](mailto:donations@loscon.org)>.

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### **What Is Arduino?**

*(Larry Burch)*

I am interested in planning a programming panel and/or workshop for learning about Arduino. I need to know the level of interest before deciding how far to take it for Loscon.

If you would like to find out more about programmable chips, come to a workshop and get hands on, or program your own with the group (which would cost about 35-45 in parts) please mention your interest on the Loscon page or email me direct at [lhburch@yahoo.com](mailto:lhburch@yahoo.com)

Arduino is an open-source electronics prototyping platform based on flexible, easy-to-use hardware and software. It's intended for artists, designers, hobbyists, and anyone interested in creating interactive objects or environments.

Visit <[www.arduino.cc/](http://www.arduino.cc/)> to learn more about the Arduino platform.

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### **Art Show**

*(Elizabeth Klein-Lebbink)*

There will be an art show! With a print shop! This year we are in a smaller space so early registration is encouraged and we will be enforcing a four panel limit. The website will be up soon with downloadable registration forms, but we'll also be seeking a combination

of fan favorites and artists new to Loscon.

Contact us at <Artshow@loscon.org> for more information.

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### **Fan Tables**

*(Ed Hooper)*

Are you interested in promoting your event or convention at Loscon 39? Space is limited and we encourage all interested parties to submit their request as soon as possible. This is a golden opportunity to gain valuable support from fellow fans. Please contact the Fan Table Coordinator, Ed Hooper, at <fantables@loscon.org> for more information.

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### **Volunteers Needed Now**

*(Arlene Satin)*

A convention cannot survive on Committee, Staff, and Attendees alone. The backbone of any successful convention is Volunteers. There are many jobs that need your help. So, if you can give us some time to watch a door, help Con Suite, set up the art show or any number of other jobs please contact Volunteers.

We also need volunteers to help load up the truck at the club house, help unload the truck on Thursday and load up the truck on Sunday. Truck loading and unloading counts as DOUBLE hours. Earn your hours before and after the con if you wish.

Loscon is associated with a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. Because of this, *volunteer hours can be used to fulfil a school's community service requirements*. Bring the paperwork from the school to the convention.

If you have any questions, contact Arlene Satin at <loscon39volunteers@yahoo.com>.

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### **Handicap Services**

*(Marcia Minsky)*

This just in from Special Needs/Handicap Services:

We are once again looking forward to seeing everyone at Loscon. As a reminder, those who need mobile assistance, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can put into place your Mobie. And don't forget, there will be a Zombies vs. Mobie race at Loscon. Get your Mobie tuned/charged up, and join in the merriment.

Contact Marcia for any requests at <access@loscon.org>

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**Toy Drive**  
*(George Mac Urso)*

We have a change of Venue. Instead of the Con Suite the Loscon toy drive will be located in the Dealer's room. It'll be the same type of toy drive, and the same objective: to make sure that kids who otherwise don't have much to look forward to during the holiday season will find something under the tree.

I'll be there with ribbons to hand out in exchange for your donations. Please bring new and unwrapped toys, and keep in mind that the circumstances under which most of these children live precludes them getting much out of toys that eat their weight in batteries every few days or need a ton of expensive accessories.

I would once again like to express the appreciation of myself and all of the committees of Loscons past for the kindness, generosity and above all the cleverness shown by all of you who have donated toys, books and games in the past and my hope that I will get to visit with you kind people this year.

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**A Case of Death Warmed Over**  
*(Karl Lembke)*

Harold Taylor was prospecting. At least, he called it prospecting, though it had been years since he'd found anything worth keeping. It was over a decade since gold had been discovered at Sutter's Mill, and it seemed most of the veins had been found and mined out. There were some mining operations that made enough on deep veins of gold to be worth the trouble, and some people always found a few flakes and the occasional nugget -- just enough to keep them chasing the precious metal deeper into the mountains and forests.

Taylor had been supporting himself by hunting and foraging, stopping in a town to purchase supplies with his meager gold, or lately, in trade for his meager talents. He had promised himself if his latest effort didn't pan out, he would settle down and start a farm. Last night, he had been inspecting his reflection in a scrap of polished metal he used as a mirror, on the rare occasions he shaved. On the whole, what he saw was not too bad. At forty years of age, he still had most of his hair. His brown eyes were still sharp. There was a little gray in his beard but relatively few wrinkles for the beard to cover. He even had most of his teeth. If he took the effort to make himself presentable, he could still find a wife. Heck, if he had his own farm, he might find a widow with enough of an inheritance to make a decent start.

No, the life of a prospector wasn't working out for Taylor, so he promised if this attempt failed, he'd quit and settle down to something less romantic. Granted, he'd already made the same promise four times, but a tempting new opportunity always rose up to tempt him. This time,

he'd come upon a river that was changing course. He didn't remember a whole lot of the geology he'd picked up from other miners, but he had noticed this river was undercutting some very big trees. He decided the current might be exposing bedrock that had been covered for a very long time, and gold might well have settled through the soil and onto the bedrock. It might not be very good geology, but he thought it convincing. It was convincing enough to have him at the river bank, scooping up freshly exposed soil from the bank, swirling it in his gold pan, and cursing as no telltale flakes of gold remained behind.

He'd been following the bank of the river for a month when he found something strange. At first it was something in his pan that sparkled in the light. As he worked his way upstream, the sparkles turned to specks large enough to see. They were transparent, like glass. But where would glass come from in the wilds of the Pacific coast?

A few miles up the stream, the pieces got bigger, then disappeared completely. Backtracking, Taylor found a spot where the soil looked to have been disturbed. Maybe someone had buried something here? But why use an expensive glass vessel unless it was to something valuable? He found a spot where there were pieces of glass embedded in the soil and started digging.

He'd barely started excavating when he found a hollow in the soil. There was something inside – a case of some sort? He reached in and started pulling it out. It must have been holding up the soil above it because as soon as he disturbed it, the hollow collapsed onto his hand. Reflexively, he jerked his hand away. It emerged bleeding from the soil.

"Ow! Dad gummit!" His voice, rusty from disuse, echoed through the trees.

He looked the wound over. It wasn't very deep. He wrapped a bandanna around it to stop the bleeding, then turned his attention back to the river bank. He pushed a nearby piece of wood into the soil, then hung his shirt from it to mark the spot. The red flannel would stand out against the black soil of the river bank. He would return with a shovel and dig out that box.

By the time Taylor got back to his camp, he was feeling warm and light-headed. His hand was starting to throb, and was turning a bit red. He brewed up some willow bark tea and choked down two cups of the stuff.

He slept badly, if at all. The fever kept getting worse, and he was finding it hard to breathe.

It was after midnight. As the gibbous moon was setting in the west, Taylor died.

The sun was high in the morning sky when Taylor's form stumbled out of the tent and headed slowly, stiffly, gold pan in hand, back to the stream. Anyone passing by would have seen the old miner's body scabbling at the newly exposed bank, scratching soil from the newly exposed bedrock into his gold pan, swishing it in the water for a while, and dumping it, gold and all, into the flowing water of the stream.

*...to be continued.*

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### **Dealer's Room**

*(Greg Bilan, Elayne Pelz)*

We have a dealer's room, with plenty of things you can spend money on. We have many fine dealers appearing, including some new faces. Check the website <[loscon.org/391/?page\\_id=119](http://loscon.org/391/?page_id=119)> for a complete list of dealers.

Contact Elayne Pelz at <[elayne@maileater.net](mailto:elayne@maileater.net)> with any questions.

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### **Panel Programming**

*(Craig Miller)*

Our programming committee is busily at work inviting guests and developing winning program ideas. This year, we will feature a writer's track of programming for the yet-to-be-discovered author.

Do you think you have a good idea for programming? Well, we would like to hear it! Please send your programming ideas to Craig Miller at <[program@loscon.org](mailto:program@loscon.org)>, or contact him through Facebook at <[www.facebook.com/Loscon](http://www.facebook.com/Loscon)> or <[www.facebook.com/cfmiller](http://www.facebook.com/cfmiller)>.

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### **Children's Programming**

*(Alison Stern)*

There will be activities based on this year's theme. Children's Programming serves ages 3-12 yrs. If you would like to volunteer some of your time in the Kids' Room then please contact the volunteers chair. Also if you have any suggestion as to Activities then please email us at <[sternkids@ymail.com](mailto:sternkids@ymail.com)>.

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### **Masquerade**

*(Jess Miller)*

There will be a Masquerade on Saturday at 8:00PM. We welcome all costumes and costumers. This is where you can show off your creation, whether it was built for the stage or for the hall. Please follow the rules; they are there for a reason. If you have any questions, please contact the director, Jess Miller, at <[msjess@earthlink.net](mailto:msjess@earthlink.net)>.

**You must read the rules before entering.**

**Please get the signed entry form to the masquerade sign-up by 4:00PM. No signed entry form, no entry.**

The categories will be Children 13 and under, Novice, Journeyman and Master. Only one costume can be worn by each person, but there is no limit to the number of costumes you can make and have your friends wear!

No unsheathed, edged weapons on stage. All edged weapons must be peace bonded. There will be a weapons master to check them if there are any questions.

No food product-based costumes or messy substances allowed on stage or in the backstage area.

No outside food in the backstage area. You may be careful about the burger, but your neighbor may not.

No fire allowed on stage.

No projectiles of any sort. If you need to throw something during your presentation, clear it with the director.

No Costume Is Still No Costume.

If you have any questions, ask the director; surprise the audience, **not** the director.

If you have any doubts, ask the director. See above.

Presentations are 30 seconds to 1 minute for one or two entrants, 1 to 2 minutes for groups of three or more. This is open to negotiation with the Masquerade Director. "Keep it simple" is the best policy.

The Green Room opens at 6:00 PM. Please be there and checked in by 7:30 PM. This means either in costume or you have your costume ready to put on in the Green Room. Please do not check in and then leave.

If you are going to unavoidably be detained, please send word down to the Green Room and accommodation will be made. Really.

Please, **no late entries**. If you have any questions, ask the director.

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### **Ice Cream Social**

*(Mark Poliner)*

Ice cream! The treat that melts in your mouth, not in your zombie!

We will have an ice cream social Friday night, and all are welcome, regardless of the state of their metabolism.

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### **Membership List**

*(Elayne Pelz)*

In order to save space and postage, the membership list is exclusively online. It may be found at <[loscon.org/391/?page\\_id=82](http://loscon.org/391/?page_id=82)>.

If your name is not on the list and it should be, please contact Elayne Pelz at <[membership@loscon.org](mailto:membership@loscon.org)>



**Loscon 39**

6012 Tyrone Ave.

Van Nuys, CA 91401-3622  
USA

Change Service Requested