Albuquerque SMOFCon 37 (2019)

General
- Contact for questions from fandom (*including email address*):
  A: Ron Oakes (et. al.) smofcon37-abq@ron-oakes.us

- What site are you proposing?
  A: We are talking to two facilities: Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town, and the Sheraton Hotel Albuquerque Uptown. The committee's (i.e. Ron's) preference is for the Hotel Albuquerque.

- Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running SMOFCons?
  A: Ron Oakes is chairing the bid. Tara Oakes is supporting and will be heading up hospitality if we win. Warren Buff, Jesi Pershing, and Nchanter have volunteered to run programming.

- What is if the size of con-running fandom in your host city?
  A: Bubonicon in Albuquerque runs between 800-1000 members with a committee of about 30. The SMOFCon will be requesting help from them as well as outside the area.

Travel
- What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne?
  A: Prices check via Kayak and Southwest (US Domestic only) on November 4, 2017 for November 30-December 4, 2017 (So, with advance planning, fares should be lower)
  AKL to ABQ, one route shown at $846 USD
  BOS to ABQ, multiple routes shown from $353 on Southwest, $256 on American and Jet Blue
  ORD/MDW to ABQ, multiple routes shown from $333 on Southwest, $192 Frontier
  DFW/DAL to ABQ, multiple routes shown from $255 on Southwest, and $255 on American
  DUB to ABQ, multiple routes shown from $828
  HEL to ABQ, multiple routes shown from $737
  LON to ABQ, multiple routes shown from $953
  LAX to ABQ, multiple routes shown from $131 on Alaska, and Southwest, and probably other airlines.
  MEL to ABQ, multiple routes shown from $1,114 (USD)

- Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport? Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport? Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?
  A: The Albuquerque International Sunport is a focus city for Southwest, and is served by American, United, Delta, Alaska, Jet Blue, and other US domestic carriers. No current international flights are regularly scheduled into the Albuquerque International Sunport. Albuquerque is roughly equidistant from Phoenix and Denver, and has regular service from Denver, DFW, Phoenix, and LAX.

- How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the realistic cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport and taxi from that airport/train station?
  A: The Hotel Albuquerque is located 8.6 miles from the Albuquerque International Sunport and 2.4 miles from the Alvarado Transit Center (Amtrak station). The Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel is located 10.4 miles from the Albuquerque International Sunport and 6.8 miles Alvarado Transit Center (Amtrak Station). While Albuquerque Ride has bus routes to both hotels, a taxi would be recommended. As we work with our hotels and finalize the negotiation and contracts, we'll also work out transportation options and costs.

Facilities

- What venue do you plan to use for the convention?
  A: We are talking to two hotels, The Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town, and the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel.

- What are your expected hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?
  A: At this time, we're awaiting our initial proposals from the hotels, but expect to have them at SMOFCon 37 (and will update the FAQ when we get them). The rates will probably not include breakfast or taxes. According to the Visit Albuquerque FAQ the total room tax including gross receipts and lodgers tax is 13%.

- Is there free internet in all the hotel rooms?
  A: We are still negotiating with our hotels, so we don't know what will be on offer regarding WiFi and other Internet offerings.

- What does parking cost at your hotel?
  A: Parking at both properties is free and plentiful.

- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.
  A: The Hotel Albuquerque is located adjacent to Historic Old Town Plaza, which has numerous restaurants and shops, many in walking distance. Closest restaurants include Garduño's of Mexico (on site), Little Anita's (New Mexican), and Blake's Lota Burger (fast food) – all local New Mexico chains.
  The Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel is located in the Uptown shopping district adjacent from Coronado Center, a shopping mall, and a few blocks from Albuquerque Uptown and the Winrock Town Center. There are many restaurants in the area, mostly national chains. Closest restaurants include Chili's, The Egg and I (breakfast), Chipotle Mexican Grill, Fork and Fig, and Filling Philly's.

- What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?
  A: We are still in negotiation with the hotels, but when initially approached, both properties expressed no concerns with a corkage waiver for the con suite and have promising rooms. We will negotiate additional rooms for private parties depending on the space in the main con suite and other needs.

- Are there any rules or conditions expected to be in force which would surprise us?
  A: We do not expect any at this time.

Miscellaneous

- What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the usual temperature and chance of rain during that time of year? Do not provide the historic high or low that makes your site appear attractive. (Stephen and Deb can use google too)
  A: Weather is likely to be cool but sunny, however wind, rain and even snow are a real possibility in early December. However, if snow occurs it is likely to be less than 2 inches and will be gone shortly (but may well shut the city down until it is gone). Average high for December is 46°F (8°C) with an average low of 27°F (-3°C).

- Do you have a published code of conduct?
  A: We do not have one *yet*. We are still negotiating with potential sponsoring organizations, and will either be utilizing their code of conduct, or if one does not exist that is sufficient, we will write or borrow one that is.