

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTLECRY

APRIL 2024

MEET THE RALLY MASTER

MERCSCON FAQ

WHERE DO I START?

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FROM THE EDITOR



Hello Vode,

I can't tell you how good it is to be publishing BattleCry again. For a writer, like myself, the prospect of not writing just puts me in a funk. You can ask my poor wife, while BattleCry was on hold, every night, I would power up my tablet, connect my keyboard, and then just stare into the abyss of a blank Google Doc for a while. But with nothing to write about I'd just shut down the whole set up and go off to mope somewhere.

It was a sad time, for me and for the BattleCry staff.

But all that is over, BattleCry is back, Spring is upon us, the snow is starting to melt from the mountain tops, and it's time to fix up the old armor and get ready for the trooping season!

In my mind, 2024 has a whole lot going for it, warm weather is on its way, our trooping calendars are starting to fill up with charity events, local pop-culture conventions are ramping up, the first trailer for the Disney+ series "The Acolyte" was just released, and MercsCon is coming to the Rocky Mountains!

What's not to love? Right?

Mike Diz Ge'tal" Porter
Editor, BattleCry Magazine

WHO IS THE RALLY MASTER?

AN INTERVIEW WITH MYRIOT

Interview by Kat "Parjii Saviin" Kiele

With MercsCon well on its way, we thought that you would like to meet the vod responsible for planning the whole shindig. Recently, contributor Parjii Saviin was able to sit down with Myriot, the Rally Master to find out a little about her and what the Rally Master does.

BattleCry: How did you learn about the Mercs and when did you become OM ?

Myriot: "I learned about the Mercs from our local con, they had a small booth and told us about the next armor party and told us to come check it out. I was reluctant at first but ended up going and caught the armor bug. I became an OM in January 2015 which was about a year after first meeting the clan."



BC: The job of a Rally Master is not an easy one. Tell us about your role. What is it you do here?

M: "The role of the Rally Master is to set up and run all events for the club. From helping regions put together a regional event, running the International Virtual Meet and Greets, to MercsCon and Celebration."

BC: What is your favourite things about being apart of the Star Wars costuming community/MMCC?

M: "My favorite part of being a part of the Star Wars Community and the MMCC is our charity forward clubs. I love that we are here for the kids, we're plastic spacemen like a lot of people say doing good for the kids."

BC: What is your favourite costume and why?

M: "Right now I only have 2 completed Star Wars Costumes and 2 non Star Wars costume. My Mando is my favorite Star Wars but I do love my other one as well which was from the show Umbrella Academy."

BC: Tell us a little bit about yourself and what you do outside of the mercs?

M: "Well I'm a new mom to our little girl born in November 2023 and I'm currently a pet sitter by trade. I've always volunteered in a lot of different aspects throughout my life and I think that's why I love being in the clubs besides it being about Star Wars. I'm a huge Harry Potter fan along with loving Star Wars I'm originally from Minnesota but have been living in New Mexico since 2005 and definitely love the

temperature difference I get here versus up there!”

BC: What is your most meaningful event that you have done while in the Mercs?

M: “There has been many that have been meaningful to me but one that stands out the most that more have heard about is the Snowball Express. A few years back we had been requested along with the local 501st and Rebel Legion to come out and help surprise the kids and tell them that they were going to Disney World during Christmas time. Being able to be a part of something like that knowing that this put a smile on their faces even knowing they have lost a family member/parent in the military meant a lot.”

BC: What advice would you give to future MMCC members?

M: “To have fun with their armor and to remember this is a costuming club here to do good. To remember that we are here for the kids and the kids at heart and to raise money for the kids.”

BC: Do you hold any other positions besides from Rally Master?

M: “I don’t currently hold any other positions in the club as being a part of the clubs cabinet I’m only allowed to hold one. I have held other positions in the past including Alor’ad of my clan, PRXO, App Team, Ed Team, and Supply Team.”

BC: What clan are you currently apart of?

M: “I’m a part of Vhe’rang Clan which has Southwest Texas and all of New Mexico.”

BC: What are you most excited about concerning MercsCon?

M: “I’m excited for the get together, to hopefully see a lot of new faces and to let Cerar Clan show off their city. We’re trying some new things this go around and hope the attendees who have joined us in the past like the changes we’ve made.”

BC: Are there any snippets that you can tell us about concerning MercsCon?

M: “Cerar Clan has a huge part in this MercsCon including outings with clan members and more.”

BC: In a few sentences, tell us what MercsCon is about (for our readers who may not know)?

M: “MercsCon is a “conference” where we get together as a club and get to know each other from around the world along with getting new information from panels or having discussions about aspects of the club. But I think Mandalore sums it up the best, “MercsCon is a gathering for members to celebrate themselves, the club, and their Mandalorian fandom with people who feel the same way.”

MERCSCON

FAQ

WILL WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE ROOMS BE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE ROOM BLOCK? WHAT ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE CANTINA CRAWL?

Yes we will have a few wheelchair accessible rooms available to us. If someone will require one as such when they make the deposit for the room they can add that to the note where they are putting down how many nights and who will be in the room.

We will also have access to a few hearing accessible rooms as well.

As for the after hours events we will try our best to choose accessibility friendly locations with the help of the Cerar clan.

TO LOOK FOR ROOMMATES. DO YOU NEED TO RESERVE THE ROOM FIRST? WHEN DOING THE DEPOSIT THE SYSTEM ASKS FOR NAMES.

You do not need to reserve a room first unless you want to. If you were to reserve a room just mark down how many people and how many nights you're looking to get and once to get those other roommates you can create a help desk ticket for the events team to add those people.

IN ORDER TO ATTEND OR BUY A TICKET, IS THE ONLY OPTION TO GET THE ROOM AT THE HOTEL FROM THIS SITE OR CAN I FIND MY OWN HOTEL/RENTAL. EVEN WITH 4 PEOPLE IN A ROOM I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SWING THE ROOM COST.

There will be day tickets offered closer to the event.

We secured the cheapest hotel rate in a 10 block radius (Union Station & Ball Park districts), but there is a hostel about 6 blocks away if you don't mind sharing a bed.

IS THERE MORE THAN ONE AIRPORT? IF SO, WHICH IS THE CLOSEST TO THE RESORT?

Denver International Airport (DEN) is your best bet. The light rail runs from the airport directly to Union Station, the hotel is 2 blocks from there.

DO I NEED PAY PAL TO BE ABLE TO BUY TICKETS?

No PayPal is not required but you will need to pay with a credit or debit card.

I HAVE SEEN THAT I NEED A FORUM ACCOUNT AND A STORE ACCOUNT. HOW DO I SET UP A STORE ACCOUNT?

To access the store you can find it under the dashes on the right hand side of the forums. You will then make an account filling out all the necessary information and then you'll be set to go.

IS THE \$250 DEPOSIT PER ROOM OR PER PERSON?

This is per room. One person who will be the lead for the room needs to make the non-refundable deposit, then after that, payments can be made by anyone listed for that room.

WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR DEPOSIT, IT ASKS FOR YOUR NAME, FORUM NAME, AND MMCC NUMBER FOR EACH PERSON IN THE ROOM. WHAT IF YOU ARE ATTENDING WITH YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER, WHO IS NOT A PART OF THE MMCC AND SO LACKS A FORUM NAME?

If they do not have a forum account we will still need their first and last name for the hotel. The hotel requires names for each person in the room

WHAT IS THE DUE DATE FOR YOUR FINAL PAYMENT?

Final payment will be due by August 15th, 2024

DO WE NEED TO BRING OUR KITS (ARMOR)?

No kit is required to attend, if you would like to bring yours or just your bucket (helmet) you can, we might have a photo op during the event. Even unofficial members can bring their kits as well or just their bucket.

If you have any other questions, please visit the MercsCon section on the Forums. If you can't find the answer there, you can leave your questions in the MercsCon Q&A form in that same section and the organizers will get back to you as soon as they can.

Hope to see you all there.



FOR THE FOUNDLINGS WHERE DO I START?

Article by Cassidy “Aldwyn Kass” Buckland

So you want to build some Mandalorian armor of your own? Well, you’ve come to the right place! Maybe you saw *The Mandalorian*, or maybe you’ve been a fan of Boba Fett since you were a kid, or maybe (like me and many others) you got your hands on the *Republic Commando* novels by Karen Traviss and fell in love with the picture of Mandalorian culture that she painted, and now you’re looking to find your place in that world.

However it was that you found yourself here, welcome.

But now what? You’ve decided you want to build your own armor, and found your way to the MMCC, but where do you go from here? Where do you start?

This is perhaps the question I hear the most often from folks who are looking to get started with the MMCC, and so today, we’re going to answer that very question.

Forums

Perhaps the most important step any newcomer can make when getting started with the MMCC is to create a forum account, find your clan, and introduce yourself.

The forums are the primary and most important way that the MMCC communicates and does business. Beyond that, they are the source and home of all the countless resources, gathered knowledge, and encouragement that the MMCC community can provide. Getting connected to your local clan or stronghold, and getting guidance from those who have traveled this path before you can be the difference between getting burned out, and actually achieving your goals.

Finding your local clan or stronghold and introducing yourself can be the most important first step you take, since it’s primarily these folks close to you who will be able to provide the most help and best guidance as you start this armor building journey.

Additionally, the Jaad Halls of Knowledge is a vast online library of tutorials, how-tos, and basic guides to everything and anything related to Mandalorian costuming creation and building. Years of accumulated knowledge and experience from members all over the world has been gathered and sorted into an incredible stockpile of resources available at the fingertips of anybody with a MMCC forum account. Elsewhere on the forums, you can find the Trading Post, where members sell and purchase props, armor pieces, soft goods, weapons, and more.

And that’s just the beginning! There’s so much available on the forums, and so many good people willing to help, or point you in the right direction, or just offer a word of encouragement. Connection to the wider community can be the lifeblood that keeps a new builder going.

Introduction

Once you’ve created a forum account and found your local clan using the Clan Locator page, it’s time to introduce yourself, set up a WIP (Work In Progress) thread, and share your ideas/concepts/progress. Share any ideas you have, reference and inspiration pictures, and ask your questions! Your local clan is



your window to the wider world of the MMCC, and those closest to you (geographically) are those who will be best equipped to provide guidance and help as you work through the build process.

Seeking feedback from official members, clan officers, and other builders like yourself is a crucial step, especially in the early stages of the build. This initial advice and feedback can be anything from suggestions on changes and improvements you could make, to warnings about elements of your concept that won't meet the CRLs (Costume Requirements List). And sometimes it's just nice to hear some words of encouragement!

Having some other eyes on your ideas and build progress can save you a lot of time and effort. Members who have walked this path before you can catch mistakes before you make them, suggest the quickest and easiest way to accomplish your goals, and provide helpful resources (and sometimes even an extra set of hands!) to help you meet your goals, finish your build, and earn those Official Member killstripes in no time.

Ready, set, build!

Once you've found your clan, introduced yourself, and have created and refined your armor concept, it's time to start the real work.

There are various opinions about the best practice for starting your build, what pieces to work on first, and how to go about it. Generally, I think there are basically two main strategies people go with.

1.) Bucket first.

The approach I see most often and the advice I hear folks give new builders a lot is to start with the helmet. As the focal point and arguably most recognizable and essential piece of a set of Mandalorian armor, the helmet seems the most obvious place to start, and I think for good reason. A finished helmet can provide fantastic motivation for finishing the rest of a kit, and it makes a great decoration in the meantime!

2.) Foundation.

The second strategy I see regularly is to start with the flight suit since it's the foundation of everything else. This is always my encouragement to new builders. Start with the base layer. If you get that right, and build up from there one layer at a time, working off that solid base, you can save yourself a lot of struggle later on.

While it's tempting to start with the armor plates, if you go through all the trouble of shaping and fitting those without the layers that go underneath (flight suit and vest) you will more than likely end up having to remake, reshape, and probably repaint ill-fitting plates once you get that flight suit and vest in place. BUT, if you build from the bottom, take your time, and ensure each piece is right before you move on to the one above it, you'll find you have far less in the way of changes and fixes to make later.

Wherever you choose to start, lean on your clan for guidance and help, and don't forget to update your WIP thread often along the way!

We hope this guide has been helpful to all the newcomers looking to get started with the MMCC. As always, your local clanmates and officers are available to help, and always willing and ready to answer questions and lend a helping hand. You're not alone!

With all that said, let's get out there and get started!

FAMILY IS MORE THAN BLOOD

MENTAL HEALTH

Article by Wayne “Get’al Ruus” Marper

What a time to be alive this is! The year is 2024, the world is burning – quite literally, and here I am dressing up as a plastic spaceman and going out to play with my friends. Why though?

It sounds simple enough, I love Star Wars, I love making things so building a Star Wars costume to a pretty high standard seemed like the perfect fusion of things I love to do. But is it that simple really?

Well, no. It isn't. Everyone in the club from the newest foundling to Mandalore the Uniter himself has their own reasons for being here, but if I use the mindfulness that I was taught in my therapy sessions all those years ago and look inwards there's quite a lot to unpack.

This isn't a “reveal all” piece, by any means but the long and the short of it is, I'm a Veteran from the British military, and as a result - not just from service but other factors too, I was discharged from service with PTSD, acute anxiety and depression. I demobbed back in 2015 and honestly, despite my new positive career change and some, frankly, pretty cool hobbies (scuba diving, off roading, shooting, blacksmithing etc) I wandered around the world pretty lost.

When I first stumbled across the forums, I'd already decided to make myself a Mandalorian costume. I thought “I'll make one from steel” no one will have done that! I tentatively signed up and made a post saying “Hi” with a rough plan of what I was doing, and quickly learned that quite a few people have done metal Mandos, but alongside that, was quite simple; honest, yet positive communication from the Clan Officers. I didn't know if I'd hang around, but I figured that these people seemed like pretty good eggs! Over the course of my build, friendships were forged, and more learning occurred. These people are like me, in different ways of course; but when you find “your people” you know that no topic is off the table, especially when it comes to understanding that you are supported, and not just in the context of building a kit. “Aliit ori'shya tal'din” or family is more than blood for me, at least, definitely rings true.

In the Social Societies, we have the VABS (Vode Against Black Shrills) social society, another excellent support network where people from all around the world can connect in a safe space. If emotional support is needed, it's there. If people need to sound off, that's the space for it. Sometimes having an ear without judgement can be of more help than offering people “solutions” or “advice”. It took me a long time to learn that.

According to “Mind”, Britain's leading Mental Health Charity, on average, one in four people have mental health problems, and most don't get the help they need, for many reasons. I for one, can't stand by and knowingly do nothing to help those numbers.

So, how can we help? That's a great question, but I'm going to start with a caveat. Unless you have



appropriate professional training, please don't try to counsel anyone. It's simply not safe. Mental health covers a broad spectrum of issues and dips in and out of neurodiversity too, it would be unwise at best to assume that even if you have personal experience, that you can fully grasp someone's Health in any way. No two people's experiences of the world are the same.

The good news is, you can be the support network that someone needs. I know who my people are, and I hope they realise that it's a two-way street! Do you know who yours are though? What would you do if one of your Vode called you in the middle of the night, in extreme crisis?

Well there's a few things we can do to help each other but remember, although I've had very limited training in this sector, I am NOT a professional. This is solely about supporting people, not medical advice.

One (or actually, two) of the most basic things we can offer each other is compassion and understanding. Some people may, when in crisis, behave erratically or lash out at things or people. Negativity, hostility, irritability and things like excessive substance/alcohol abuse can all be linked back to depression and other such concerns. It's important that you try not to take things personally. Be as encouraging and reassuring. Remember what I touched on earlier, Listening is key. Sometimes good people make bad choices for reasons they aren't even aware of.

Patience. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. It took me 12 years to realise I had a problem. At one point, I even cut my family out. But they gave me time, and love. That time allowed me to realise what path I was on and rectify my course. Change and improvement doesn't happen overnight.

Time. Giving someone your time, for no other reason than that can be worth more than anything. We're quite unique as an organisation, because we're not all local to each other, but with all the Tech we have, the world is a small place. A video call, or even a standard phone call, an occasional "how are you?" text message, can really go a long way to help someone know that they aren't alone and someone else is giving them a thought. Things like online social events for clans can be really beneficial. These are three relatively simple ways in which we can help each other that can seriously make a positive impact to another person.

We, as Mandalorians, use the phrase, "Family is More than Blood" a lot. I don't think that it's unreasonable that we all take the steps to make sure all of our members feel supported on a grass roots level, and each and every one of us that dons their armour or aspires to; for all of the many reasons out there, take a moment of self-reflection and ask "how can I support my vode?"

Over here in the U.K., Vok'Chi Clan are planning to support "Mind" by creating a fundraising patch for us to wear with honour. To wear our mind on our sleeve, so to speak. If it's something you're interested in supporting, like me, keep your eye on the Marketplace.

If you, or someone you know is in a life-threatening crisis, PLEASE call your local emergency number or Mental Health Crisis Team if you have one. Google is your friend in this matter. If this piece makes a difference to one person, it has done its job.

THE BESKAR CHEF

Got a recipe you'd like to share? Send it to PR@mandalorianmercs.com

TIP YIP FRICASSEE

INGREDIENTS

1 tbsp peanut (groundnut) oil	1 tbsp cornflour, blended with a little water
4 lean smoked back bacon rashers, chopped and rind removed	250ml carton Soya Dream
6 skinless tip yip (chicken) breast fillets	2 tbsp chopped flatleaf parsley
1.5 lb new potato, thickly sliced	
1/2 lb asparagus spears, trimmed and diagonally sliced (keep tips whole)	
1 cup dry fruity cider (or 1/2 a can)	

METHOD

STEP 1

Heat the oil in a large frying pan, then fry the bacon for 5 mins on a medium heat until golden. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside. Add the chicken to the pan, then lightly fry for 4-5 mins to brown on both sides (you may need to brown the chicken in two batches if your pan is not large enough).

STEP 2

Meanwhile, cook the potatoes in a pan of salted boiling water for 10 mins or until tender. Cook the asparagus in a steamer over the potatoes for 6-8 mins or microwave in a covered dish with 2 tbsp water for 4-5 mins.

STEP 3

Pour the cider over the chicken, bring to the boil then reduce heat. Put the bacon back in the pan and simmer for 10-15 mins until the chicken is cooked through. Stir in the cornflour paste until lightly thickened, then add the Soya Dream and season. Stir in the drained vegetables and sprinkle with chopped parsley before serving.

Note: Soya Dream is UHT dairyfree alternative to cream, if you can't find it at your local grocery it can be found on-line, as can the back bacon.

Got a recipe you'd like to share with us? Get in touch!

"One doesn't quit because they were made to; one quits because they choose to."

- Mandalore the Uniter

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GET IN TOUCH

Got something you want to tell the club about? Got an interesting new build in progress or been to an amazing troop or event?

We want to hear about it!

Send your feature to pr@mandalorianmercs.com or by PM to mporter on the forums



You Can Do It!



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