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December 2004, Volume 1 Translated From the Original Standard Silicon Galactic

In July 2005, an intergalactic portal will open between the Silicon Galaxy and the Silicon Valley. Whether this is your first trip to the region or your billionth, you'll have an opportunity to learn, to have fun, and to enjoy the local culture.

Where is Silicon Valley? Silicon Valley is a collection of cities and communities about 35 miles south of San Francisco, at the south end of the Bay. The Silicon Galaxy convention hotel is located in Santa Clara; other local municipalities include San Jose, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, and Mountain View. There are many others.

Before the advent of high-tech industries, the area was known as The Valley of the Heart's Delight because of the many orchards—prunes, apricots, and cherries were the top crops. Since the 1970s, the growth of high-tech firms has eclipsed the growth of fruit trees. Adobe Systems, Apple Computer, Cisco Systems, Google, Hewlett-Packard, and Sun Microsystems are all headquartered in the area, and thousands of high-tech firms have offices here.

The geography of northern California is as varied as it is beautiful. This leads to weather that can change dramatically within just a few miles.

Inland areas like Silicon Valley average about 84 F during the day in July. The relative humidity stays below 30%, and it almost never rains between May and October. The days are long and hot but at night, the temperature drops to a comfortable 60 degrees.

70 F, with lows around 55 F. It can be windy and, if the sun isn't shining, downright cold.

Be sure to dress for the areas you visit!

A Sampler of Attractions. Silicon Valley and the surrounding areas have a lot to offer:

The Tech Museum of Innovation in downtown San Jose focuses on technology and how it changes how we work, live, play, and learn. The museum includes an IMAX theater.

The *Winchester Mystery House* is a 160-room Victorian mansion built over the course of 38 years and is reputed to be haunted.

Paramount's Great America is a top-notch amusement park, with thrill rides and lots of rollercoasters. Access to the *Crocodile Dundee Boomerang Bay* water park is included with park admission. The park is located next to the convention hotel and discount admissions will be available.

Santa Cruz is located about 35 miles south of San Jose. The town has a boardwalk and beaches and proudly boasts its tolerance of different kinds of people.

Monterey is just south of Santa Cruz. The Monterey Bay Aquarium has a tremendous display of local sea life, and was the site at which *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* was filmed. (We love that film.)

There are many *wineries* throughout Silicon Valley. The local climates are good for growing grapes and California wines are widely regarded as among the best in the world. You don't have to visit Napa Valley to taste good wine or to tour wineries.

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trip to see natural beauty the way Ansel Adams and countless other naturalists saw it.

One of the biggest attractions is the San Francisco Pride celebration, which takes place the weekend before convention!

We would like to know what tours might interest you. Point your browsing device to our website (www.SiliconGalaxy.org) and follow the links to a poll about preconvention tours!

Main Airports. You can get to the Silicon Galaxy through three international airports:

Mineta San Jose International Airport (airport code SJC) is located about 4 miles from the convention hotel. It's about a \$15 cab ride (one way) from the airport. The hotel does not run a shuttle to the airport.

San Francisco International Airport (airport code SFO) is about 30 miles north of the hotel. It's about \$40 by shuttle to the hotel and about \$90 by cab (one way).

Oakland International Airport (airport code OAK) is about 30 miles northeast of the hotel. It's about \$40 by shuttle to the hotel and about \$90 by cab (one way).

Santa Clara Marriott Welcomes IAGSDC

The Santa Clara Marriott hotel is proud to welcome the IAGSDC 2005 Star Thru the Silicon Galaxy square dance convention! This convention is intended for humanoid lifeforms only. No provision has been made for nonhumanoids.

Facilities. The Marriott has 748 rooms distributed across several wings and two towers, with a pool and spa area to help you relax between tips. During the convention, the pool will be open from 5 AM to 1 AM. The fitness center is open 24 hours per day for hotel guests. Spa services, such as massage, require an appointment.

Flooring in the dance halls will be exactly the same as at the 2004 convention: the hard plastic flooring was judged better to dance on than bare wood or carpeting.

Parking is free for registered hotel guests. Nonregistered guests pay a \$6/day parking fee.

The Marriott is located next to *Paramount's Great America*, an amusement park with roller coasters and other thrill rides. While the properties are next to one another, the main entrance to the amusement park is about a ten-minute walk from the hotel lobby.

About 15 to 20 minutes away by foot is the Mercado Shopping Center, which contains several restaurants.

Food. The hotel has a Starbucks coffee kiosk and two restaurants. *Character's Sports Bar* is an informal sports bar and grill. The more upscale *Parcel 104* presents haute cuisine at over \$30/entree.

The hotel is located in a mostly commercial area of Santa Clara. There are plenty of food choices within walking distance, as listed in the table below. Because there are many local food choices, the convention is not offering a meal deal.

Room Amenities. All rooms have either a single king size bed or two full-sized beds. Rollaway beds are available free on a first-come, first-served basis at check-in until they run out; afterwards, they cost \$15/night. All rooms have an iron and ironing board; at check-in, you can request a refrigerator for a tower room. For all who register using the convention group codes, hi-speed internet connectivity is included in the room rate. All rooms have cable TV and on-demand video services. The rooms do not contain DVD players.

Room Choices. Visitors to the Silicon Galaxy have their choice of rooms in the high-rise towers, poolside rooms (the pool is open until 1 AM), and courtyard rooms. In addition, you can get concierge-level or fireworks view rooms. Suites are also available.

Fireworks. The Marriott is next to *Paramount's Great America*, which puts on a large fireworks show each year. We expect the fireworks to be on July 4th, but the date sometimes changes, and a firm date has not yet been announced. On that evening, all streets near the hotel will be extremely crowded with people attending the fireworks show. Road closures may interfere with hotel access. We strongly urge you to plan your stay so that you do not have to leave the hotel between 5 and 11 PM that evening, if you can.

Room Rates. The convention room rates are valid from June 24 through July 9, 2005:

- \$110 for tower, courtyard, and poolside rooms, single through quad occupancy
- \$130 for concierge level or fireworks view rooms, single through quad occupancy
- \$595 for suites

State and local taxes are extra (currently 9.5% plus \$0.25 per room).

Reservations. You must make your reservation by June 6, 2005 in order to secure the convention room rate.

To reserve a room by telephone, call 800-228-9290 and mention group Star Silicon Galaxy and/or the following group codes: SSGA for \$110/night rooms, or SSGC for \$130/night concierge rooms. To request fireworks view rooms, please call the hotel directly at 408-988-1500.

Food Choices Near the Marriott Hotel

Within ten minutes by foot of the hotel main lobby:			An outdoor shopping center is about 15 to 20 minutes away by foot:		
A small convenience store		Round Table Pizza		Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream	
Amarin Thai Cuisine		Su Ping Szechuan Cuisine		In-N-Out Burger	
Bennigans		Sushi Express		Jamba Juice	
Donut Den		International House of Pancakes		Mexicali Grill	
House of Bagels		Togo's (submarine sandwiches)		Sushi Lovers	
International House of Pancakes				Taxi's Hamburgers	
Mission City Coffee				Tomatina (Italian)	
Pedro's Mexican Restaurant				World Wrapps	

Dance with Fabulous Callers!

Note: Dancing at this convention is restricted to humanoid life forms. The organizers assume no responsibility for unplanned debranchiations, low gravity accidents, or brain spills.

The finest callers in the universe will
guide your every step...

Saundra Bryant	Michael Kellog
Vic Ceder	Kiyoshi Kikuchi
Andy Finch	Andy Shore
Rob French	Anne Uebelacker
Neil Heather	Dave Wilson
Mike Jacobs	Bronc Wise
⌈⌋⌈⌋ ⌈⌋⌈⌋ (unconfirmed)	

Square Dance Invaders!

As of November 23, 2004, we have sighted the following dance invasion force:

Number of Dancers, by Level	
Non-dancer	6
Mainstream	15
Plus	93
A1	13
A2	141
C1	88
C2	55
C3A	20
C3B	23
C4	21
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Excitement is building for the 2005 convention at the Silicon Galaxy!

General Statistics

Registrations	487
Sex	Female: 96 Male: 388 Unknown: 3
Signed up for Fun Badge Tour	153
Federation worlds represented	6

Plan Now!

As you plan your trip to the Silicon Galaxy, please consider the following points.

Register now. You can obtain your passport to the convention by postal mail or online at the convention website. The rates go up at the end of January 2005. Save money and secure your passport now, while you still can.

Decide on arrival and departure dates. The SF Pride celebration is the weekend before convention; it's an amazing event that you won't want to miss! Between Pride weekend and the convention, there are plenty of activities—museums, tours, wineries—to entertain and delight you. The preconvention tours have not yet been decided; help us by going to the convention website and taking our poll on possible tours.

Make your room reservations. You can either call or use the web to reserve a room. Be sure to use the convention group codes.

Stay informed! Further editions of this newsletter will contain convention news and other helpful information. In addition, we update the convention website regularly.

Talk to your friends! Convention is as much fun as you bring to it!

Check the Address Label

If you received this newsletter in the mail, the address label can tell you about our record of you.

Registration number

Fun Badge Tour

2103 fbt
Anita Mann
1313 Mockingbird Lane
Major, MO 63401-0579

Look at the codes or letters
above your name:

- A registration number above your name means you are registered for the 2005 convention.
- The letters **fbt** indicate you have signed up for the Fun Badge Tour.

Some of the address labels might look like this:

Where we got your name

[phx]
Chris P. Dancer
1701 Janeway Pike
Tellme, WY 82072-1312

If you see **[phx]** above your name, it means that we got your name from the 2004 Phoenix convention and we are sending this newsletter to you as a courtesy. You are not registered for the 2005 convention.

Contact us for questions or updates.

Star Thru the Silicon Galaxy
PO Box 1941
Mountain View, CA 94042-1941



Star Thru the Silicon Galaxy Important Information: Convention Dates Friday, 7/1/2005 through Tuesday, 7/5/2005

Passports

Write to us or register online. All passports are fully transferable. Contact us for details.

Dancers

Through 1/31/2005	\$165
2/1/2005 through 4/30/2005	\$180
After 4/30/2005	\$195

Non-Dancers

Through 1/31/2005	\$80
After 1/31/2005	\$90

Cancellations and Refunds

Through 1/31/2005	Full refund, minus \$30 handling charge
2/1/2005 through 4/30/2005	Full refund, minus \$50 handling charge
After 4/30/2005	No refund

Host Hotel

The Santa Clara Marriott
2700 Mission College Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA 95054
Phone 408-988-1500
Fax 408-352-4353
Rates guaranteed until 6/6/2005

Room Reservations by Phone

Tower/poolside/courtyard rooms:
\$110/night + state & local taxes
Code SSGA

Concierge rooms:
\$130/night + state & local taxes
Code SSGC

Room Reservations Online

Tower/poolside/courtyard rooms:
\$110/night + state & local taxes
Code SSGSSGA

Concierge rooms:
\$130/night + state & local taxes
Code SSGSSGC

Reservations (except fireworks-view):
800-228-9290

Fireworks-view rooms only:
Call 408-988-1500

Marriott Online: <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/SJCGA>

Contact the Minions of the Silicon Galaxy

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