

Star Thru the Silicon Galaxy

החל מ-2005 יתקיים הקונגרס הבינלאומי של הקהילה הישראלית של סיליקון גלקסי

Official News about the 2005 IAGSDC Convention for Intergalactic Readers

March 2005, Volume 2

Translated From the Original Standard Silicon Galactic

Silicon Galaxy Prepares

The Silicon Galaxy continues to prepare for your arrival. Our website is updated regularly with the latest news, information, and offerings for the convention.

The convention website contains a link to Volume 1 of this newsletter. There you can read about Silicon Valley, typical weather, and local attractions.

Since we published Volume 1, many events have taken place:

- A registration price increase has taken effect. If you have not yet registered, register now to be sure you get a spot. If you don't know if you're registered, see the address label instructions later in this newsletter.
- Hotel rooms are going fast. **We really mean it.** We have increased the number of rooms already for some nights, but can't keep doing this. Be sure to reserve a room using the convention codes.
- The Weather Control Board approved our request for wonderful warm weather during the convention. It pays to have low friends in high places. After all, many of our best friends are human.
- Pre-convention tours are now available and orderable!
- Travel information has been updated and discounts on some fares are available.

You can visit the convention website at www.SiliconGalaxy.org.

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 next price increase is on 5/1/2005. Save money and secure your passport now, while you still can.

Check out our tour packages! A detailed description of all the pre- and post-convention tours is included in this newsletter, along with an order form. You can also order tours online with our technically advanced, state-of-the-art PayPal option. Sign up early to get your tour reservations!

Decide on arrival and departure dates. The San Francisco 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.

Set your travel plans. Airfare and travel options and discounts are listed in a separate article on page 4.

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!

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Schedule

This year the convention will be held from Friday, July 1 through Monday, July 4. Here's the schedule of events for the convention. See the fine print afterward.

Friday July 1

Trail-in Dance

Saturday July 2

Dance all day at all levels
IAGSDC Delegates' Meeting
Grand March
Opening Ceremonies
Honky Tonk Queen Contest

Sunday July 3

Dance all day at all levels
Fun Badge Tour
Banquet

Monday July 4

Dance all day at all levels
Brunch and General Meeting
Closing Ceremonies

Fine Print: This schedule subject to change. And isn't this print fine? All the letters are turning out exactly as expected.

Santa Clara Marriott Welcomes IAGSDC

Repeated from Vol. 1 of the newsletter

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. 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. For an additional charge, you can get a room with a good view of the Great America fireworks, but book soon

as these rooms are running out. 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 held on the evenings of July 2nd and 3rd, but the date sometimes changes. On those evenings, all streets near the hotel will be extremely crowded with humans 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 on those evenings, 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 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 fireworks-view rooms. To request fireworks-view rooms, please call the hotel directly at 408-988-1500.

Close Encounters of the Nerd Kind?

The 2005 Fun Badge Tour...

coming soon to a Silicon Galaxy near you!

Make your reservations now —
only 71 spaces left!



החל מ-100\$ ללילה (כולל ארוחת בוקר) - חדרים זמינים במספר מוגבל. חתום על טופס ההזמנה ושלח אותו למשרד המכירות, או חתום על הטופס ושלח אותו למשרד המכירות. חתום על הטופס ושלח אותו למשרד המכירות. חתום על הטופס ושלח אותו למשרד המכירות.

Dance Invaders Prepare

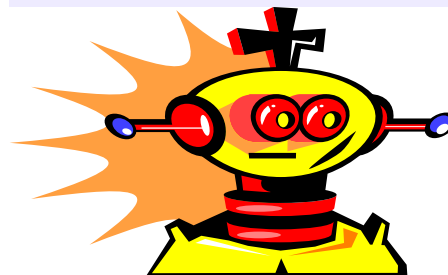
The excitement continues to build at all dance levels for the 2005 convention at the Silicon Galaxy!

As of March 1, 2005, the dance invasion force has grown alarmingly:



Number of Dancers, by Level	
Non-dancer	21
Mainstream	33
Plus	186
A1	25
A2	212
C1	116
C2	69
C3A	25
C3B	35
C4	24
/ 132747 /	6.47

General Statistics	
Registrations	758
Sex	Female: 152 Male: 599 132747: 7
Fun Badge Tour	Only 71 spots left for the FBT!
Federation worlds represented	7



Star Thru the Silicon Galaxy Important Information: Convention Dates Friday, 7/1/2005 through Monday, 7/4/2005

Passports

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

Dancers

Through 4/30/2005 \$180
After 4/30/2005 \$195

Non-Dancers

\$90

Cancellations and Refunds

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

Convention rates are guaranteed for reservations made through 6/6/2005, subject to room availability. Don't wait! Reserve now!

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

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

Room Reservations by Phone

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

Fireworks-view rooms:
\$130/night + state & local taxes
Code SSGC

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

Room Reservations Online

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

Fireworks-view rooms:
\$130/night + state & local taxes
Code SSGSSGC

Contact the Minions of the Silicon Galaxy

Online www.SiliconGalaxy.org
Email registration@SiliconGalaxy.org
Phone 650-747-0622

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

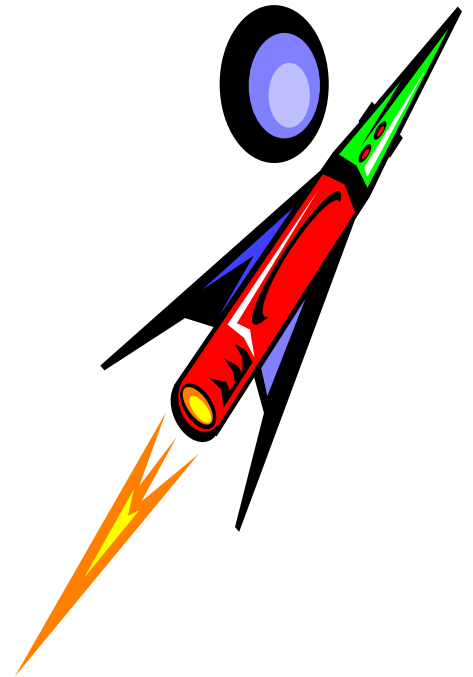
Fabulous Callers!

Note: Dancing at this convention is restricted to humanoid life forms who occupy a single time stream. **We really mean it.** The organizers assume no responsibility for unplanned momentum changes, mixed-gravity accidents, or brain spills. Teleports between and among squares are strictly prohibited. We will continue to deny passports to multidimensional entities, the horribly boring, and those

who can't match their belts and shoes (callers are excepted, as usual).

The Silicon Galaxy will feature some of the finest callers in the universe...

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



Travel

Silicon Valley is served by three major airports: Oakland International (OAK), San Francisco International (SFO), and the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC). SJC is by far the closest and most convenient airport to the convention hotel.

Star Thru the Silicon Galaxy, in cooperation with Travel Destinations of Phoenix, can provide very special airfare discounts. Call John Faulds at 1-800-443-4644 for reservations. Please note that the San Jose airport has a limited number of flights a day and therefore mileage seats on any airline will go very fast.

American Airlines. San Jose is a minihub for American. Year-round discounts are available to all fly-ins and for travel to Star Thru The Silicon Galaxy. A 10% off most fares if purchased at least 60 days prior to travel, or a 5% off most fares within 30 days of travel, is available. The meeting code is **Star File 8765AI** (the last character is an *i*, not a one).

United Airlines. A 10% off most fares if purchased at least 60 days prior to travel is available. The meeting code is **531CJ**.

Southwest Airlines. Southwest Airlines does not provide convention discount fares. However, they frequently have special internet-only fares to San Jose. These fares change often and are usually only available for short times, so you might want to sign up for their weekly email newsletter at www.southwest.com.

Need a car? The airport is a short cab ride from the convention hotel, with an approximate fare of \$US 12.00 to 15.00. There are no airport shuttles provided by the Marriott. If you need a car for touring, John Faulds can help there too. Hertz has provided a special discount; please call John to have him compare all rental car rates for you. The Marriott provides free parking to registered guests.

Airport-to-Host Hotel. There are several airport limousine/van services available. Check at your arrival airport for the best price/service. SuperShuttle is offering a \$2.00 off coupon to all Star Thru the Silicon Galaxy travelers arriving at any of the three Bay Area airports. Catch SuperShuttle from the upper level at San Francisco International airport; check signs for

van departure locations at either Oakland or San Jose International Airport. Most van services will be happy to drop off passengers at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel. If you're traveling with a friend, it's almost surely less expensive to take a cab from San Jose airport than to use a shuttle service.

Reservations can be booked online at www.supershuttle.com and don't forget to use the code **JMKKP** to receive your \$2.00 discount.

For more information, please visit www.SuperShuttle.com. Print the \$2.00 off coupon from this web address:

<http://www.supershuttle.com/Coupons/SFO/stars.pdf>

More information about shuttle and ground transportation options will be on the convention website soon. Be sure to check the website for updates!

Note: Prices are subject to change. Book early with the Star Thru The Silicon Galaxy travel agent John Faulds. John can be reached at 1-800-443-4644 in Phoenix, AZ or send email to john@traveldestinationsinc.com and enjoy a worry-free trip through the universe to Star Thru The Silicon Galaxy. John is always happy to answer questions by email.

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.

Your address label 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.

Your address label might look like this:

Incomplete registration

[reg not complete: nopmt]
Patsy Stone
c/o Oddbins
2 Denbigh Street
London, England, UK
SW1V 2ER

If you see an incomplete registration message, it means that you registered online but we have not received your payment; you are not registered for the 2005 convention.

Contact us for questions or updates.

Pre- and Post-Convention Tours

From Pride Weekend through convention, we have fun tours to show you what the San Francisco Bay Area offers. See the Tour Information and Order Form for more details about each tour and how to sign up!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					June 24	June 25 Pink Saturday SF Dyke March (on your own)
June 26 San Francisco Pride Parade Tour Our trip is 8:30 am to 5:30 pm	June 27 Santa Cruz Tour: see the redwood forests and the Boardwalk! 9:30 am to 4:30 pm	June 28 Filoli Gardens and Mansion Tour 10 am to 2 pm	June 29 Yosemite National Park Tour 7 am to 9 pm	June 30 Monterey Peninsula and Aquarium Tour 9 am to 6 pm	July 1 Winchester Mystery House Tour in Santa Clara 10 am to 2 pm Trail-in Dance (Evening)	July 2 IAGSDC Delegates Mtg Grand March Honky Tonk Queen Contest
July 3 Fun Badge Tour Banquet	July 4 Brunch and General Meeting Closing ceremonies	July 5 San Jose Tour 10 am to 4 pm				

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

