

Half Dome Happenings



*The Progress Report for AhwahneeCon: A Bid
to bring the 2009 Westercon Back to Nature*

Welcome to the Valley!



You're probably asking yourself 'What is this madness?', but now you're gonna know. You've got it in your mind that Yosemite Valley is only for families driving from Ohio or German tourists who are more than willing to tell you exactly what's wrong with America. You're not wrong, but the Yosemite Valley has every possible thing you'd want from a site for a Westercon. From a spacious hotel (the lovely Ahwahnee) to delightful dining options and wonderful programming spaces that no other location could possibly match.

Yes, Yosemite Valley is the ideal location for Westercon 2009. From an experienced committee that is dedicated to bringing you the best possible con in the highest possible location. The Yosemite Valley

Formed from millions of years of erosion and glaciation, Yosemite Valley was naturally formed into the ideal location of fannish activities. The large granite walls allow for ample space to post flyers and other notices. There is a shuttle bus service that runs all day on a fast schedule to get fen from poitn to point for programmes that will cover all the stations of the SF cross. There are so many possibilities for active fans, including recreating Capt. Kirk's climb and Spock's Rocket Boot routine. There's a huge selection of food stops, from the high end Ahwahnee Dining Room to the low end, fighting with the squirrels for left-over peanuts thrown by those Mid-Westerners who don't know not to feed them. Yosemite allows

for a full plate of FANAC in an area which is best described as FANTastic.

Half Dome Happenings is brought to you by the the AhwahneeCon 2009 Bid committee. Any comments or questions? Well, keep 'em to your damn self...or you could put 'em up on <http://community.livejournal.com/ahwahneecon/profile> for folks to see and comment on.

This issue is dedicated to Galen Clark, the Guardian of Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoia for more than 21 years. He totally would have been into holding Westercon at Yosemite. There's no question.

Our Con Charity

Sometimes, nature is far crueler than man. Whether it's providing gravity that sucks down the top scoop of ice cream to the ground or typhoons which destroy the sweat shops that produce my favourite pants. Nature sucks. Sometimes, it becomes necessary to affect a reversal of the effects of the evil that is wrought by the unkindest of mistresses. One such thing that must be reversed is the halving of Full Dome into the completely unkind Half Dome. As such, the AhwahneeCon committee has decided that we will be supporting the Society for the Restoration of Half Dome!

You'll hear some "geologists" say that Half Dome isn't really a half-dome, but they're all a part of the evil plot that hopes

to keep Half Dome a half a dome.

The Society for the Restoration of Half Dome has dedicated itself to bringing Half Dome back to the shape that it was meant to be and to fly in the face of nature itself!

Proving that man can bend nature's will inspite of the over-whelming odds will give children of future generations the feeling that they can do anything!

The AhwahneeCon committee proudly supports the Society for the Restoration of Half Dome and the Society's heads have agreed to present many presentations on the plans at the convention itself once we win: and let's face it, who wants to go to Phoenix in the middle of Summer? We're shoe ins!

So, please give the SftRoHD (pronounced SeftRoad) your full support and love!

The plans to restore Half Dome include-

- 1) Building a giant scaffold around the entire mountain.
- 2) pouring a thin layer of shellac over the entire granite beast to prevent further erosion of the granite
- 3) gathering granite tiles from various bathroom/kitchen supply stores and slowly apply them to the removed dome.
- 4) Offer Sponsorship opportunities for each slab of granite.
- 5) the Purchase of a large number of clubs to beat back those environmentalists who will foolishly try and stop us!!!





This is the Jeffrey Pine on top of Sentinel Dome that stands proudly above Yosemite Valley.

While the tree is no longer living, there are plans to host the ConSuite here. What ConSuite Head wouldn't want to have a Granite Counter in their suite?

While it is out of the way, it does provide great views, has a nearly unlimited capacity and is probably already better than the recent SMoFCon ConSuite.

Here's a strange fact: Every Year, more Americans visit the Yosemite Valley than attend all American Cons put together, which may make you think that the park will be crowded, but think about that con you went to a few years ago where you had to share the hotel with that Shriner's group of the Soccer Hooligans. Weren't those good stories you could tell to your various fannish friends? Didn't you have a great time explaining about the drunk guy who wandered into the masquerade wonderin' what the hell was going on?

Now, wouldn't it be even better to have the story of the attendee who was mauled by a bear because he was wearing a Sheep fur suit? Or the fact that you couldn't find a hotel room so you hid out in the Ahwah-neechee village's sweat lodge and lost seven pounds? Or the fact that you had an argument about Anime with an entire busload of Japanese School girls that led to an all-out brawl? Now, don't those sound better?

