

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT AUTUMNQUEST 2016

AutumnQuest 2016 is being held at the Emerald Queen Ballroom and Conference Center located at 5580 Pacific Highway East, Fife, Washington. It is the first building past the U.S. Bank, going east. The event entrance will be clearly marked with a sign provided by the casino. There are no offices open in the building that day, so there won't be any competition for parking spots except among ourselves. There are two rows of parking between the entrance and the highway, more along the east side of the building, and then a very large parking lot. The conference center is completely smoke-free, and there is no gambling or drinking going on in it. There will be a CPR-trained security guard on duty at all times during the event. Free Wi-Fi is available. If you are going to bring a laptop, make sure it is charged. There are only 16 outlets available; and I have no idea where they are.

FOOD FOR THE EVENT:

- **NO** outside food or drink may be brought in. A granola bar or protein bar is OK, but you can't bring food from home or go to a fast food place and bring the food back into the convention center. If you are dissatisfied with the menu below, there are plenty of alternate eating choices within minutes of the event. However, the price of lunch is included in the registration fee and, if you leave the center to eat, you **do not** get a reduction in the price of AutumnQuest. The price is based on bodies in seats, whether you eat somewhere else or not. The casino staff will do a head-count during the program and that is what our final cost will be based on.
- Diabetic accommodations – Sugar free desserts can be provided. Be sure to mark your registration form so we can tell the casino how many to plan for.
- Gluten free – Again, the registration form has a place to check for this. The casino staff will be notified of the number of guests requiring this accommodation.
- MENU – (there will be servers)
 - Soup of the day
 - Meats
 - Sliced Roasted Beef
 - Cured Ham
 - Turkey Breast
 - Pastrami
 - Assorted sliced cheeses
 - Salads
 - Broccoli salad
 - Cole slaw
 - Red Potato salad
 - Assorted sliced breads
 - Served with all appropriate condiments
 - Desserts
 - Assorted brownies, lemon bar and cookies
 - Coffee and assorted teas

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CASINO HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

- Address: 5700 Pacific Highway East, Fife, WA 98424
- Phone: 1-253-922-2000
- 109 total rooms available
- Conference rate \$89 + hotel tax per night (normally \$119) – no sales tax
- Smoking rooms and non-smoking rooms – specify when registering
- We **are not** reserving a block of rooms, because we'd have to pay ahead for a minimum of 10 rooms and we're not going to do that; but we get the \$89 conference rate even if we don't reserve a block. Say you're with **AutumnQuest 2016** to get the reduced rate. (Will you be attending the Friday and/or Sunday offerings at Heritage Quest Research Library?)
- Reserve rooms directly with the casino **as soon as possible!** October is one of their busiest months because of class reunions.
- Must walk through "smoking" casino to access all rooms, smoking and non-smoking.

CASINO DINING

- The casino has two dining options located in the southeast corner of the main building. The Tatoosh Grill Restaurant on the third floor serves breakfast from 6am to 2pm, lunch from 11am to 4pm, and dinner from 4pm to closing (whatever that means.) It is totally smoke free. The food is excellent and varied. The prices are very reasonable. The most expensive thing on the dinner menu is a rib eye steak for \$28, unless you want the twin lobster tails at market value (\$52 the night we were there.) The service was excellent and there is a great view of Mt. Rainier (and I-5.)
- The Pacific Rim Buffet is open for lunch @ 11am and dinner @ 4pm, no breakfast. There is an excellent variety and the food is good. There are many salad choices plus Chinese food, sushi, cooked-to-order pasta dishes, BBQ, carving stations for turkey, ham and roast beef, soups, breads, fruits, and desserts. The main difference between lunch and dinner is the addition of pounds of boiled shrimp with a delicious cocktail sauce. I ate there three times in two weeks doing "research" and was never disappointed. There are smoking and non-smoking sections, but I never got a whiff of smoke while eating in the buffet.
- Getting to either dining facility, however, means that you are exposed to smoke near the entrances. They are at the very southern edge of the smoking casino and getting to them exposes you to second-hand smoke. You can come in from the Parking Garage B entrance and miss most of it, but, if you are staying at the casino, you either walk through the smoking casino or go outside and around the worst of it. If you are extremely smoke sensitive, you might want to avoid the casino entirely.

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SOME ALTERNATE LODGING LOCATIONS

There are motels of varying quality in Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, Federal Way; and, of course, in Fife. Here are the three closest.

Quality Inn & Suites

- Address: 5805 Pacific Highway East, Fife WA 98424
- Phone: 1-253-922-2500
- Website: www.choicehotels.com/washington/fife/quality-inn-hotels/wa169
- Price: \$89 + taxes
- Advantages
 - Base price is the same as the casino
 - No smoke-filled atmosphere to go through to get to your room
 - Has a complimentary breakfast that opens at 6:30am
 - Directly across the highway from the casino parking garage
 - Connects to Pacific Highway with a traffic signal and a controlled crosswalk
- Disadvantages
 - No on-site restaurant or eateries within walking distance
 - Unless you're in very good shape, you'd need to drive to the venue. It's a long walk.

Days Inn

- Address: 5601 Pacific Highway East, Fife, WA 98424
- Phone: 1-253-926-2301
- Website: <http://www.daysinn.com/hotels/washington/fife/days-inn-fife/hotel-overview?WID=LC:DI:20160226:RIO:Local:SM-dipaci>
- Price: 69.99+ for a single king bed, 79.99+ for two queen or double beds
- Advantages
 - Base price is less than the casino
 - No smoke-filled atmosphere to go through to get to your room
 - Has a complimentary breakfast that opens at 6:00am
 - Directly across the highway from the casino parking lot
- Disadvantages
 - No on-site restaurant or eateries within walking distance
 - No controlled access to Pacific Highway
 - No crosswalk of any kind. This motel is actually closer to the venue than the casino's own hotel, but you'd take your life in your hands to try to cross 5 lanes of a very busy highway on foot. Drive to the venue.

King's Motor Inn

- Address: 5115 Pacific Highway East, Fife, WA 98424
- Phone: 1-253-922-3636

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- Website: www.kings-motor-inn.com
- Price: 1 person, 1 bed \$56.76+ (there are limited kings available), 2 people, 1 bed \$61.13+, 2 people, 2 beds \$69.86+, 3 people, 2 beds \$69.86
- **Advantages**
 - Base price is less than the casino
 - No smoke-filled atmosphere to go through to get to your room
 - There at least a dozen places to eat within a 5 to 10 minute drive, both full service and fast food
- **Disadvantages**
 - No controlled access to Pacific Highway
 - No complimentary breakfast, just coffee
 - Must drive about 4 blocks to the venue
 - Seems to be a slightly lower quality than the first two

If none of these strike your fancy, use your Google. This is the extent of our involvement in the lodging issue. When making reservations, please keep in mind that we do have learning activities at Heritage Quest Research Library on the day before and the day after Mr. Witcher's appearance. See the registration brochure for details.

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