

Welcome to August! And smOdyssey has a lot going on.

The nominations period is now open for the smOdyssey Board of Directors. Each year we elect five members to the board and we need your help. It takes people to make a community and we need board members and committee chairs to plan events, find speakers, book rooms, count money, write newsletters, etc. Visit our website at www.smodyyssey.com/election for the elections timeline and contact us at secretary@smodyyssey.com with any questions about what's involved.

*We are currently sending out a series of **very quick** surveys to determine what the community wants and to give smOdyssey a more modern and targeted direction. Take the first one here: <https://forms.gle/1fxHsZgn75U98ra9>. The second one, focusing on our mission, will be coming out soon.*

The big news is that smOdyssey will be supporting SCCLA by hosting the Leather Land space at Silicon Valley Pride this year. And WE NEED YOU!! It's happening Saturday and Sunday, August 24th and 25th, in downtown San Jose. We need people who can help us staff the space, sharing what we do and what we are about and doing demos with and on the play equipment. Volunteers will work two-hour shifts between 2-11pm on Saturday and 11am-7pm on Sunday. Volunteering will get you free admission to the festival! If you are interested, please contact us at secretary@smodyyssey.com.

Of course we have our usual events:

First Monday Munch—Monday, August 5th, 7-9pm—Our casual, monthly get-together for kinky folk.

*Cover to Cover Book Discussion—Sunday, August 11th, 2-4pm—This month we're reading/discussing *Tales of Neveryon* by Samuel Delany, a science fiction novel about a boy who finds the collars and chains of slavery arousing. Imagine that!*

D/s in the Middle Discussion Group—Sunday, August 11th, 4-6pm—We had so many great questions last month that we weren't able to get through them all. Join us to share the hows and whys of D/s.

New Member Orientation—Sunday, August 11th, 6-7pm—Not a member yet? What are you waiting for?

Mos Eisley Brunch—Sunday, August 18th, 11:30am-1:30pm—Come to smOdyssey's most popular event, our geek and nerd munch at the Star Wars bar. Games and cosplay welcome and encouraged!

Etiquette and Protocol Society—Thursday, August 22nd, 6:30-8:30pm—Join us to explore the allure and enigma of etiquette and protocol.

Board of Directors Meeting—Monday, August 26th, 7:30-9pm—Recap the month's activities and plan the future.