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Subject: Re: Reports from LSAF '09

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 27 Jun 2009 04:07:55 GMT

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I always show up Thursday night and am ready to go first thing Friday morning. So I'm good with that. Staying open later Friday night is also cool with me, I usually have my door open Friday evening as long as I can. But Sunday is the harder one to please everyone on, I think.

It's a great idea to have everyone stay open Sunday, as that's a weekend day that most visitors will find convenient. But like I said, the problem is you can't really force exhibitors to stay through Sunday. Then the problem is that if rooms start to close and we've told the public that the show is running all day Sunday, people may be disappointed to find a room they hoped to see has packed up and left. How do we handle that?

The first two years, I personally stayed all day Sunday. Most other rooms didn't. I thought it made the most sense to be open Saturday and Sunday, since that's when most walk-ins will show up. But most other rooms left, I think probably for the reasons I mentioned earlier, Sunday was a travel day for them.

At those first couple shows, there were some people that traveled long distances to come just on Sunday, and they only got to see people loading out. They naturally asked why we had a published schedule showing open Sunday, when really we weren't open that day. I didn't have a good explanation for them except that we planned to stay open, it's just that some rooms couldn't. Trouble was, "some" was actually "most".

I think if we get consensus from everyone that we stay open Sunday, we can put it in the schedule. But the way this show is done, with no real obligations to anyone, I'm not sure how successful we'll be at that. My experience has been you can't even know who will be here at all until the last few days before the show. That makes it hard to honestly commit to Sunday. We have to publish a schedule that the public can count on months in advance, yet we don't know a real count of rooms until days before the show. How do we handle that?

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