



Progress Report #2

www.westercon69.org

Writer GoH:

John Scalzi

Artist GoH:

Theresa Mather

Science GoH

Bobak Ferdowsi

Fan GoH:

David Levine

Special Guest:

Charlie Stross

And other guests to be named later ...

Questions and Answers with the Chair

We are pleased to announce that GEAR Con 2016 will be part of the extended programming of Westercon 69. GEAR Con is Portland, Oregon's annual festival of steampunk literature, art, music, and culture. Lea Rush (W69 Chair) and Stephen Couchman (GC Chair & head of GEAR Con programming at W69) answer some of the frequently asked questions about our Con-Within-A-Con happening in 2016.

Q: Con-Within-A-Con? What is happening with Westercon 69 and GEAR Con 2016?

In order to make a viable bid for Westercon, the "Portland in 2016" team had to have a hotel contract in place for the first weekend in July. GEAR Con already uses the optimal hotel for Westercon's needs over Independence Day weekend. There was a general desire to accommodate all parties, to expose a larger combined audience to more facets of science fantasy, and to preserve GEAR Con's continuity. We checked, and Westercons are frequently held jointly with a local annual con if it is held during the same time slot, so Lea and Stephen agreed that GEAR Con's traditional programming and entertainments would be brought under the Westercon 69 umbrella.

Q: Will a separate membership need to be purchased for each convention?

There are no additional memberships or passes to buy.

Administratively, there is only Westercon 69, and your membership grants you access to all programming and events, including those on loan from GEAR Con. This also means that there is no discounted rate if you "only want to attend GEAR Con".

Q: What is GEAR Con? And what does that mean to the programming of Westercon 69?

The Gaslight-fantastic Explorers', Adventurers', & Romantics Convocation (GEAR Con) is Portland's annual steampunk fan convention and arts & music festival, founded in 2011 by Stephen Couchman in the wake of community response to the inaugural Steampunk Film Festival.

Westercon 69 will cover a broad range of programming topics, and GEAR Con is a natural fit to join us. Prime GEAR Con content, like Tesla coil demonstrations, the Steampunk Scrapheap Challenge, Victorian martial arts programming, and the performing arts showcases will all be represented.

Q: Are there two ConComs? And will panelists, staff or volunteers be handled differently between the two conventions?

There is only the Westercon 69 ConCom, and all volunteers are Westercon volunteers. ConCom volunteers and on-site staff (committing to 15 hours or more) receive a complimentary membership to Westercon 69/GEAR Con.

GEAR Con's chair is volunteering on Westercon 69's ConCom as a programming department second. Stephen will help Westercon incorporate & schedule GEAR Con's assets and assist GEAR Con presenters to submit their workshops, etc., through Westercon's intake process. GEAR Con staff and crew are encouraged to volunteer wherever Westercon needs them. In fact, everyone is encouraged to volunteer! Send an email to volunteers@westercon69.org, and let Di know what you're interested in. On-site staff committing to 15 hours or more will receive a complimentary membership.

About the Westercon 69 Theme

"Bridging Science and Imagination"

The theme for Westercon 69 is "bridging science and imagination." With a heavy influence of science being a goal for Westercon 69, it is also very relevant to look at the imagination that inspires science. For decades, sci-fi authors have been a major influence in what technologies are sought out in the lab. Our imaginations dream of the impossible, and our application of science helps to make those dreams a reality. Equally, the more we understand of science's complexities, the deeper we can delve into science fiction and fuel our imaginations.

Email or Hard Copy? Misspelled Name?

If you voted at Westercon 67, we don't have an email address for you. If you purchased your membership on the website in the early days, we don't have your address! If you'd like to change your Progress Report delivery preferences, please send a note to chair@westercon.org.

If your name is misspelled on the address label, please let us know so that we can fix it! Drop a note to reg@westercon69.org, and let them know.

Westercon Contact Information

Westercon 69

PO Box 5703

Portland, OR 97214

<http://www.westercon69.org>

Committee Members

Chair: Lea Rush

Vice Chair: Elizabeth Vann-Clark

Accessibility Coordinator: Jacob Engstrom

Ad Sales: Linnea Thompson

Ad Swaps: Beth Holley

Advisor: Lisa Hayes

Advisor: Patty Wells

Advisor: Ruth Sachter

Art Show Director: Lacey Axmaker

Art Show Staff: Stu Axmaker

Art Show Staff: Sam Axmaker

Artifacts: Robert LaCosse

Business Meeting: Kevin Standlee

Community Relations Director: Joel Spector

Henchthing to the Chair: Greg Halleck

Hospitality: Myz

Hotel: Arthur Aldridge

Info Desk: Howitzer

Masquerade: Don Glover

Off-Site Excursions: Marc & Patty Wells

Office: Tony Davis

Online Schedule Updates: Cymry Reardon

Opening/Closing Ceremonies: Pat Steed

Ops Co-Directors: Pooh Hester & Devlin Perez

PR Director, Convention Outreach: Alexis Smith

PR Staff (Outgoing Mailroom): Brenda Klein

PR Staff (Press Releases): Muffy Morrigan

PR Staff (Puget Sound Outreach): Karen Junker

PR Staff (Room Party Outreach for other cons): Shauna McKain-Storey

PR Staff (Social Media): Michael Harbour

Programming Director: Helen Umburger

Programming Second: Elizabeth Vann-Clark

Programming Staff (Children's Programming): Shauna McKain-Storey

Programming Staff (Creation Station): Ellen Klowden

Programming Staff (Event Tech Second): Cymry Reardon

Programming Staff (Gaming): Beverly Block

Programming Staff (GEAR Con): Stephen Couchman

Programming Staff (GoH Liaison Lead): DeeAnn Sole

Programming Staff (GoH Precon Liaison): DeeAnn Sole

Programming Staff (GoH Liaison [Theresa Mather]): Sam Axmaker
Programming Staff (Masquerade): Don Glover
Programming Staff (Programming Tech): Rick Lindsley
Programming Staff (Tech): Rick Lindsley
Programming Staff (Writers WorkShop): Bob Brown
Publications Director: Meredith Cook
Publications (Graphic Design Advisor): Samuel Klein
Registration Director: David Turner
Registration (PreReg): D. Stephen Raymond
Registration Staff: Riley Crowder
Schedule Updates: Cymry Reardon
Secretary: Shandra Battern Bauer
Security Staff: Johnn Fultz
Site Selection: Ben Yalow
Treasury Director: Sarah Gulde
Treasury Second: Jacob Engstrom
Volunteers: Diana Cerasin
Volunteers, Precon: Shandra Battern Bauer
Webmaster: Daphne Garrison
Writers' Workshop: Bob Brown

Advertise with Us

Westercon 69 is offering advertising in our Progress Reports. Distribution of Progress Reports include mailed copies to supporting members and an electronic PDF version hosted on the Westercon 69 website. Due to Post Office requirements, we are only accepting ads from non-profit groups for the Progress Reports. For advertising information please contact Linnea Thompson at adsales@westercon69.org.

Advertising Pricing:

Large (7.5"w x 10.5"h, PDF only): \$50

Note: Approximately 80% of the W69 membership opts for digital delivery.

Medium (4.5"w x 7.5"h): \$30

Small (4.5"w x 3.75"h): \$15

Memberships

Attending	
Presupported Friend of the Bid (thank you!)	Free
Presupported AND voted	Free
Presupport Basic OR Voted (thank you!)	\$30
New Attending membership	\$50.00
Child (ages 6-12)	\$25.00
Babe-in-arms (ages 0-5)	Free
Supporting	
Presupported or Voted	Free
New Supporting membership	\$20

Upgrades from Pre-Supporting to Attending Memberships are available. See the Pre-Support Upgrade page for details:
<http://www.westercon69.org/pre-support-upgrade>

Hotel

The Doubletree Portland in the heart of the Lloyd District of Portland will be the location for Westercon 69. The Doubletree Portland is well known as one of the best convention hotels in the city, providing over 38,000 square feet of total meeting space, including four (4) divisible ballrooms and an exhibit hall of 17,000 square feet. This includes the Executive Meeting Center, a wing of the Doubletree dedicated to comfortable and accessible meeting space located directly off the main lobby.

The Doubletree Portland is also located directly on the Max Line, Portland's light rail system. Not only does the system travel to most of the major parts of the city, the Red Line connects directly to Portland International Airport to the east and the Portland Train Station (and Greyhound Bus terminal) to the west. For \$2.50, you can be delivered to less than a block from the main lobby of the Doubletree Portland.

Reservations will be available in late summer of 2015. Watch for the announcement on Facebook, Twitter and the website.

DoubleTree by Hilton Portland

1000 NE Multnomah Street

Portland, OR, 97232

<http://www.doubletreeportland.com/>

Supporting Conventions

These are the conventions which graciously support Westercon.

RadCon (www.radcon.org) Pasco, WA - February 12-14, 2016

Potlatch (www.potlatch-sf.org) Seattle, WA – February 2016

All-Con (www.all-con.org) Dallas, TX – March 17-20, 2016

GameStorm (www.gamestorm.org) Vancouver, WA – March 17-20, 2016

ConDor (www.condorcon.org) San Diego, CA – February 26-28, 2016

BayCon (www.baycon.org) Santa Clara, CA - May 2016

OryCon (www.orycon.org) Portland, OR – November 22-25, 2015

Convention Information

Art Show

We expect to sell out all our space, so get your reservations in early. Lacey's already been receiving form requests by email. On the website (www.westercon69.org/westercon-art-show) are the Westercon 69 Art Show reservation form, release & waiver, and the Art Show rules. Please read the rules carefully. There will be about 140 panels and 20 tables available for artwork. The space will be filled as we receive the reservation requests. Prices for panel and/or table space is still only \$15 per space. All Art Show space must be reserved and paid for in advance. Westercon accepts mail-in artwork but must limit the total to what we can handle-so get your reservations in early. Upon receipt of your completed reservation, release forms and fees, we will confirm and send you links to the Art Show inventory control forms and bid sheets. These must be completed, and brought or shipped with your artwork to Westercon.

We encourage you to enter our Art Show, join Westercon 69 and participate in programming. You need not be a member of Westercon 69 to enter artwork in the Art Show, but you must purchase a membership if you want to attend the convention. Westercon 69 will feature art-related programming with panels, workshops and demonstrations.

If you need any further information or have any questions, please contact Lacey Axmaker at artshow@westercon69.org.

Dealers Room

The Westercon 69 Dealers Room will begin accepting applications on August 15th, 2015. If you're interested in vending at Westercon 69, please send an email to dealers@westercon69.org or download an application from the website, www.westercon69.org/dealers/.

Programming

Westercon 69 programming will be large and diverse, with lectures, debates, workshops, and of course multitude of panel discussions. Please visit often as we update our website: www.westercon69.org/node/50.

Program areas and tracks currently under development include Art, Autograph Sessions, Children's Programming (see below), Costuming, Filk, Kaffeeklatsches and Literary Beers, Readings, and the Writers Workshop. Events will include concerts and dances, and of course the Masquerade (see below even farther).

Children's Programming

It's early days, but we're starting to brainstorm and organize ideas for children's programs. We are planning a wide range of activities, including gaming, crafts, science, costuming, readings and more. We want to include some activities for younger kids aged 3-6, others for ages 7-13, and some that might appeal to all ages.

Masquerade

The Westercon 69 Masquerade will be held Saturday night, July 2, in the Multnomah room at the hotel. The Masquerade is an event where members of the convention have the opportunity to present their costumes on stage for the entertainment of the other members. There will be at least one Pre-Masquerade Meeting. Each entry must be represented by at least one person, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Masquerade Director. At the meeting, you will turn in your entry forms, along with any music or soundtrack and documentation. The Masquerade staff will review your paperwork with you, and will inform you about Green Room times and procedures.

Participating in the judging aspect of the Masquerade is purely voluntary. If you don't like competing, or if your costume doesn't actually qualify for competition, you are still welcome and encouraged to appear on stage as an Exhibition entry. Judged categories will be Presentation and Workmanship, with entries divided into classes based on the skill and experience of the entrants.

Young Fan: Entrants no older than 16 who participated in the design and/or construction of their costumes enter here. Children wearing costumes designed and made for them by adults should enter in the Novice or Open categories.

Novice: The Novice class exists to give Masquerade newcomers a chance to compete without being judged against more experienced entrants. Entrants must have not won a major prize in any other Masquerade. (A "major prize" is an award that doesn't involve the words "Honorable Mention.") This category is ideal for first-time entrants, and for those with limited experience. Professional costumers, however, can't enter as a Novice, even if it's a first Masquerade for him/her. (A professional costumer is a person who made more than 50% of his/her living in the last year off of costuming.)

Open: Anyone who has won a major prize at a Masquerade, or a Novice who's feeling extremely confident. Professional costumers desiring to compete would enter in this class.

Exhibition: This category is for those who either don't want to be included in the judged categories or have a costume that doesn't qualify for competition, but still want the chance to show off their costume or presentation in front of a large audience.

For the full rules, definitions of terms, and other info, please see the Westercon Masquerade website at <http://www.westercon69.org/masquerade>, and if you have questions about the process of participating in the masquerade, feel free to email Don Glover, the Masquerade Director, at masquerade@westercon69.org.

GEAR Con

Westercon and GEAR Con will be co-residing in the same space and time in 2016. For regular GEAR Con goers many of the main features will be continuing inside of Westercon, and for folks who've never attended, get ready for a steampunk intensive event. The following GEAR Con favorites will be a part of Westercon:

Victorian Martial Arts Symposium IV

Academia Duellatoria and GEAR Con present Portland's annual Victorian combative intensive. Guest instructors from near & far join the Duellatoria crew for classes in bartitsu, pugilism, sword & stick, suffragists' self-defense, steampunk fantasy combat, and more.

The Power Station

Our resident mad scientist, Dr. Professor Anderson, educates and delights with the assistance of his 500,000 volt Tesla coil, Wimshurst machine, Van de Graaff generator, Jacobs ladder, and Edison only knows what other early high-voltage devices.

The Cabaret of Curiosities

Friday night's concert and ball with steampunk bands and dark cabarets.

Variety Showcase of Vaudeville Acts

A variety of acts that is sure to entertain.

Guests of Honor



Writer GoH: John Scalzi

John Scalzi has been writing professionally since 1991. He is best known as a writer of science fiction, with several novels in the genre published since 2005, including *Redshirts*, the 2013 winner of the Hugo Award for best novel. Scalzi's novel *Old Man's War* is being adapted into film by Paramount Pictures. Scalzi served as the Creative Consultant on the television show *Stargate: Universe* and wrote a column on science fiction film for the FilmCritic.com site. He was elected president of the

Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) in 2010.



Artist GoH: Theresa Mather

A professional artist since 1989, Theresa Mather creates fantasy works featuring a variety of unusual creatures. Theresa is an artist who chooses to work outside of gaming and publication, exhibiting and selling her work at science fiction convention art shows across the country. Theresa exhibits at over 70 shows each year and is the recipient of numerous awards, including Popular Choice Best of Show at ConJose, the 2002 Worldcon.



Science GoH: Bobak Ferdowsi

An American systems engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Bobak Ferdowsi has served on the Cassini–Huygens and Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity missions. Also known as the "Mohawk Guy", Bobak is a flight director on the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity mission in both Cruise/EDL and Surface phases. Since Curiosity's landing, Ferdowsi helped popularize the Mars rover mission with young people and modernize the public's

perception of NASA scientists and engineers. In 2012, Bobak hosted a two-hour online broadcast on Internet radio satellite Third Rock Radio. The show, entitled Getting Curious with the Mohawk Guy, features Ferdowski discussing his experience with the rover's landing, the renewed interest in science and exploration, and NASA's evolving image.



Fan GoH: David Levine

David D. Levine attended his first SF convention in 1977. Since then he's attended over 120 conventions and has worked at many of them in some capacity. He has created many websites including the 1990 Portland Westercon's pioneering website, set up and ran the websites for OryCons 17 through 26 and Oregon Science Fiction Conventions Inc., and still maintains osfci.org and the OryCon and OSFCI mailing lists. He's also a Hugo-

winning SF author.



Special Guest: Charlie Stross

Charles Stross, 49, is a full-time science fiction writer and resident of Edinburgh, Scotland. The author of seven Hugo-nominated novels and winner of the 2005 and 2010 Hugo awards for best novella (*The Concrete Jungle*--free to read online-- and *Palimpsest*), Stross's works have been translated into twelve languages. His most recent novels as of July 2014 are *The Rhesus Chart* (*Laundry Files* #6) and *Neptune's Brood* (a tale of interstellar

banking skullduggery).

About Portland

There is plenty to do in Portland outside of the convention hotel. The Westercon 69 website has a nice list at <http://westercon69.org/about-portland>; here are some of the most-inquired about choices.

Saturday Market

The mission of the Portland Saturday Market is to provide an environment that encourages the economic and artistic growth of emerging and accomplished artisans. Central to this mission shall be to operate a marketplace. That marketplace, and other market programs, shall honor craftsmanship, design innovation, marketing ethics, and authenticity of product.

Lan Su Chinese Garden

Lan Su Chinese Garden is one of Portland's greatest treasures and most interesting sites to see while visiting Portland. A result of a collaboration between the cities of Portland and Suzhou, our sister city in China's Jiangsu province that's famous for its beautiful Ming Dynasty gardens, Lan Su was built by Chinese artisans from our Suzhou and is the most authentic Chinese garden outside of China.

Spirit Cruise

Five spectacular boats. Two colossal, majestic rivers connecting three great, historical cities. Two immense, lush parks. One breathtakingly scenic cafe. One Grand Pavilion. One unique, stunning island. And so much more...

Multnomah Falls & Lodge

Located just a 30 minute drive outside of Portland, the falls are one of Oregon's most popular tourist destinations. Multnomah Falls offers a very popular 1/4 mile short hike to the Benson Bridge. Many Hikers with a little more time and hiking ability opt to continue to conquer the 1.1-mile trek to the top. The Multnomah Falls trail is paved from the base to the viewing platform at the top. The Multnomah Falls trail also connects with several other gorge trails, offering many different hiking opportunities accommodating a wide variety of time schedules and hiking skill levels. At the base of the falls is the Historic Multnomah Falls Lodge, offering a place of relaxation, a fine meal, the perfect gift, or possibly an espresso and tasty treat to accompany your hike or day trip.

Policies

Naturally we have policies. Full text for our Code of Conduct and policies regarding Children, Masks, Weapons, Parties, Photos, and Signage are available on the Westercon website (www.westercon69.org/convention-policies).

Westercon 69 Smoking and Vaping Policy

By Hilton policy, smoking and vaping are prohibited in all DoubleTree properties, including but not limited to sleeping rooms, meeting areas, and the restaurant and bar. They are also prohibited outside in most areas close to the hotel entrances and air intakes.

You can smoke or vape tobacco products outside the ballroom entrance if you remain more than 25 feet from the doorway. The park across the street is available until it closes at midnight. Please remember there is no smoking at the TriMet station either.

A special note about the Smoking and Vaping Policy:

As of July 1, 2015, personal use of marijuana (for individuals 21 and over) is officially legal in Oregon. Smoking or consuming marijuana in public places remains prohibited. State law defines public spaces as hallways and lobbies of apartment buildings and hotels, on the street, in schools, amusement parks, and public parks. By Hilton policy, smoking and vaping are prohibited in all DoubleTree properties (including sleeping rooms).

Public marijuana consumption is illegal even if you are using a discreet device like a vape pen. Consuming marijuana in public is a class B violation, the equivalent to a traffic ticket. The punishment is a fine of up to \$1,000.

The information above as well as more questions and answers can be found in an article published by The Oregonian/OregonLive:

http://www.oregonlive.com/marijuana/index.ssf/2015/06/qa_everything_you_need_to_know.html

Westercon Site Selection

Westercon 69 will be accepting bids to host Westercon 71. Process details, including the rules for what needs to be filed and the filing deadlines, can be found on the Westercon web page (<http://www.westercon.org/organization/business/how-to-bid-for-a-westercon/>).

To summarize the key points and deadlines:

- (1) You must file the required documents with the Westercon 69 committee, which will be running site selection.
- (2) Your bid site must be in the Westercon area, but cannot be in the North zone, at the moment. If no bid files by Jan 1, 2016, then the North zone will become eligible.
- (3) In any case, you must file by April 15, 2016 to appear on the written ballot; you can run as a write-in by filing after that date, but before the voting completes.
- (4) You can file by sending the documents to site-selection@westercon69.org

Definitions of the zones appear in the Westercon bylaws, online at <http://www.westercon.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/WesterconBylaws-201407.htm>

If there are any questions, you can use the contact page to reach Site Selection.

Ben Yalow
Site Selection Administrator

Credits

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*Congratulations to Tempe, Arizona
for winning the Westercon 70 Bid!*

Leprecon presents...

ConAlope 2017

July 1-4, 2017

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel
Tempe, Arizona

www.westercon70.org

