

Progress Report #3

www.westercon69.org

Writer GoH:

John Scalzi

Artist GoH:

Theresa Mather

Science GoH

Bobak Ferdowsi

Fan GoH:

David Levine

Filk GoH:

Alexander James Adams

Special Guest:

Charlie Stross

Letter from the Chair

Wow - it's been quite a year. With the passing of the gavel at Westercon 68, we've kicked into high gear to create the best Westercon ever! If you were at Rustycon, Radcon, Norwescon, Baycon, Westercon 68, Sasquan, OryCon or Loscon, chances are that you saw us at a fan table or a party. You might even have seen me, hawking chocolate as fast as I could go. :) It's been a busy year!

And with all the busy, comes the fun. We're up to 449 members already, and we've already filled almost half of our room block at the Doubletree Portland. If you haven't made your hotel reservation, sooner is better than later! Also, Westercon memberships make lovely holiday presents, and the current prereg price of \$50 is good through January 15th.

In case you haven't noticed, we've added a few more guests of honor. It's going to be a very good con!

Author: John Scalzi, author of *Old Man's War* and winner of the 2013 Hugo for Best Novel, *Redshirts*.

Artist: Theresa Mather, painter extraordinaire of dragons, cats and dirigibles.

Science: Bobak Ferdowsi, also known as Mohawk Guy from the Mars Rover Curiosity landing.

Filk: Alexander James Adams, Celtic Bard for the ages.

Fan: David D. Levine, Hugo award winner and long-time volunteer in the Portland con-running community.

And, Special Guest, thanks to a grant from Renovation, the Reno Worldcon: Charles Stross, winner of seven Hugos for Best Novel.

Read through the rest of this Progress Report to find out more of the things we have in store for July. To keep up with our goings-on, follow us!

Facebook Official Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Westercon69/>
Facebook Group Discussion

Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Westercon69/>

Twitter: @westercon69

Hope to see you in July!

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>

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. For advertising information please contact Linnea Thompson at adsales@westercon69.org.

Progress Report 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

Souvenir Book Advertising Pricing:

We are now accepting advertisements for the Westercon69 publications. The deadline for reserving ad space is **MAY 16, 2016**. For more information and ordering contact adsales@westercon69.org. For submitting ad art files contact pubs@westercon69.org.

Ads may be submitted in TIFF or PDF formats with files flattened and all fonts embedded. The document (canvas) size must be the same as the ad size. All graphics should be CMYK color mode (no spot colors) at 300 dpi/ppi at 100% images size (with no crop marks).

	Pro/Commercial	Fan/Non-Profit Rate
Premium Full Page (Inside Front Cover or Inside Back Cover) <i>7.5"w x 10"h or 8.75"w x 11.25"h with bleed</i>	\$300	\$300
Full Page <i>7.5"w x 10"h or 8.75"w x 11.25"h with bleed</i>	\$150	\$100
Half Page <i>wide 7.5"w x 4.5"h or tall 3.25"w x 10"h</i>	\$120	\$60
Quarter Page <i>3.25"w x 4.5"h</i>	\$90	\$45
Business Card <i>wide 3.5"w x 2"h tall 2"w x 3.5"h</i>	\$50	\$25

Memberships (rates good through Jan 15, 2016)

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

Reserve Your Room Now

Standard Single Queen rooms are \$124 a night, and Premium rooms (Double Queen, King) are \$139 a night (not including tax).. Pets are allowed for a \$25 pet deposit. The deposit is waived for service animals. Sleeping rooms include free WiFi.

Go to www.westercon69.org/hotel and follow the link to the Westercon 69 Group Reservation page or make reservations by calling the hotel directly at 503-281-6111 (M-F, 8am – 4pm) or by calling Toll-Free at 800-996-0510. Use the group code “W69”.

The reservation deadline is Friday, June 3rd, 2016.

What is the difference between "standard" rooms and "premium" rooms?

There are two wings to the hotel, built decades apart. The standard rooms in the older wing are smaller, and can only comfortably fit a single queen bed. (Take my word for this - during the first OryCon there in 1979, when these rooms were the only ones there, we tried to fit three people in the room and the person in the sleeping bag on the floor was constantly getting stepped on.) The premium rooms, in the newer wing, are much larger. Each room contains either two queen beds, or one king bed plus a sleeper sofa. For \$10 more a night, it's easy to fit in two more

people. There are separate elevator banks for the two wings, but they interconnect on each floor. Because of the larger size of the premium rooms, the party rooms will all be in the premium rooms.

DoubleTree by Hilton Portland

1000 NE Multnomah Street

Portland, OR, 97232

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

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.

Supporting Conventions

These are the conventions which graciously support Westercon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ApolloCon(www.apollocon.org) - June 2016

OryCon (www.orycon.org) Portland, OR – Nov 18-20, 2016

Loscon (www.loscon.org) Los Angeles, CA - Nov 25-27, 2016

ConAlope (www.westercon70.org) Tempe, AZ - July 1-4, 2017

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

In order to create a balanced and varied Dealers' Room, Westercon 69 will have a juried selection of dealers. Your application must be complete, legible, and signed. NOTE: no fees will be due until you are notified of your selection. You will be notified whether or not your application has been accepted.

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/.

Key Dates for Dealers:

January 15, 2016: Applications are due. This is the latest postmark that will be accepted for the first round of selections.

February 15, 2016: Final selections made and dealers notified of selection status.

March 15, 2016: payments due from selected dealers.

Any dealers who miss the deadlines or are not among the first selected to receive tables will be placed on a waiting list and will be notified if any tables become available. Any tables for which a dealer fails to properly pay within a month of acceptance (and before July 1st, 2016, regardless of acceptance date) will be immediately released, and the application will have to be re-submitted. Subsequent selections will be made on a space-available basis.

If you purchase a table in the Dealers' Room and find that you cannot attend the convention, please let us know as soon as possible. In most cases, you will only get a refund if we can sell your table(s) before the convention. Exceptions may be made for emergencies at the discretion of the Dealers' Liaison.

If you are a "no show," you forfeit all money paid to the convention. Westercon69 is not able to assist with trying to sell your table the week of the convention. All payments and issues must be brought to our attention no later than Friday, June 25th, 2016.

Writer's Alley

Located within the Dealer's Room and Art Show exhibit hall, a row of tables is dedicated to authors to display and sell books, meet with readers, and sign copies. Like the Dealer's Room, Westercon 69 will have a juried selection of authors in the Alley. If you're interested in the Writer's Alley at Westercon 69, please send an email to dealers@westercon69.org or download an application from the website, www.westercon69.org/writers-alley.

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/program-activities.

Program areas and tracks currently under development include Art, Autograph Sessions, Children's Programming,

Costuming, Filk, Kaffeeklatsches and Literary Beers, Readings, and the Writers Workshop. Events will include concerts and dances, and of course the Masquerade .

Gaming

Westercon 69 will have gaming, with a well-stocked game library provided by GameStorm (www.gamestorm.org).

There will be scheduled gaming as well as open play; if you're interested in running a game or two, or if there's something gaming-related that you'd like to see, please send email to gaming@westercon69.org.

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.

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.

Writer's Workshop / Open Readings & Critique

Workshops provide an opportunity to get your work critiqued by writers, editors, and other professionals that can assist you in putting the polish on your work that can make the difference between accept and reject.

Submissions should be sent to orc@westercon69.org. NOTE: orc@westercon69.org is for submissions ONLY. Please contact writersworkshop@westercon69.org with any questions.

Submissions will open on February 1, 2016 and remain open until April 1, 2016.

We will accept electronic submissions of short stories or novel excerpts in the science fiction, fantasy, and horror genres. Please

no scripts or erotica. We are looking for manuscripts that you feel are your best work. If you have taken it as far as you can, and need outside review to move your writing forward, send it to us.

You may submit up to two pieces per author, totaling no more than 10,000 words only one of which may be a novel excerpt, and which together total no more than 10,000 words. Whenever feasible, we accept all submissions that meet our guidelines. However, we reserve the right to reduce the number of long submissions accepted into the workshop, or the total number of manuscripts. We will reject manuscripts that don't meet our guidelines. Second manuscripts will be placed into sessions to best match the reading preferences and availability of our critiquers and rooms. In all cases, our goal is to workshop as many manuscripts from as many authors as possible. Please contact writersworkshop@westercon69.org with any questions.

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. Instructors from Academia Duellatoria offer classes in bartitsu, English pugilism, cane and umbrella, suffragists' self-defense. This year in blending with Westercon 69 they will offer a variety of classes on Medieval and Renaissance weapons as well. In addition, Academia Duellatoria's sister program Swords For Scribes will offer several writers workshops on writing fight scenes based on these weapons systems. Explore more information at duellatoria.com and www.swordsforscribes.com.

The Power Station

Ever wonder what you can do with 350,000 Volts? Westercon69, in conjunction with Portland's Steampunk convention GEAR Con 2016 is pleased to present mad scientist emeritus Don Anderson

and the amazing Tesla Coil, an Extreme High Voltage Demo unlike anything you've ever seen before! Physicist, safety consultant, educator and imagineer of exotic high voltage devices for over 30 years, Anderson takes you to the dawn of the electrical age with an overview of the life and creations of Nikola Tesla--inventor, immigrant, quixotic genius and rival to industrialist Thomas Edison--in a lecture styled after the learned societies of the Gilded Age. The centerpiece of this presentation (a sneak preview of a talk to debut at GEAR Con later this summer) will be a working replica of Tesla's signature device and a guided tour of its breathtaking coronal displays and three foot electrical arcs!

The Cabaret of Curiosities

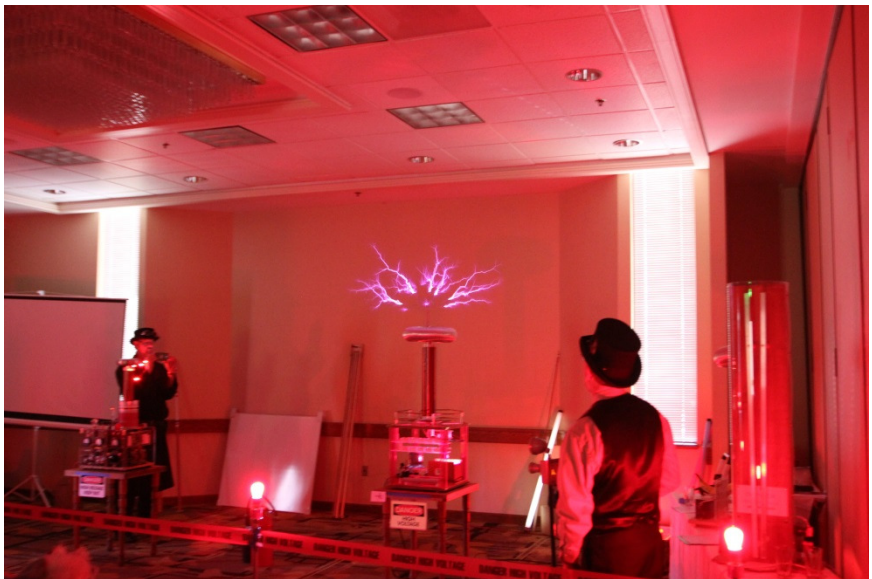
Friday night's concert and ball with steampunk bands and dark cabarets.

Variety Showcase of Vaudeville Acts

A variety of acts that is sure to entertain.

Live Action Role Playing

A variety of L.A.R.P. events will be taking place around the con. Come and join us!



The Power Station Tesla Coil

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 Ferdowsi 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.



Filk GoH: Alexander James Adams

An accomplished singer, songwriter, and musician, Alexander James Adams learned to read sheet music before he learned to read and has been making music since childhood. He frequently accompanies his vocals with guitar, fiddle, mandolin, and a variety of percussion. Alec may be singing with his guitar and fiddle at a pub one night, playing rock with Tricky Pixie another, and fiddling at a wedding on a third. He frequently performs at pubs, Renaissance Faires, conventions, and private parties.

Alec is also the appointed heir to Heather Alexander. Heather, who was actually a changeling, was called back to faerieland in November 2006; at the same time, Alexander, the child in whose place she had originally been left and who had been raised in faerieland, was released after beating the faerie queen in a fiddling contest. Thus, Alec now carries on Heather's musical legacy.



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.

The Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI)

Five unique exhibit halls, eight hands-on science labs, the USS Blueback submarine, Kendall Planetarium, the Empirical Theater and much more! OMSI is a great place to spend an afternoon. On the last Wednesday of every month, they host OMSI After Dark, a 21+ night of childfree, adult beverage-fueled fun. Mixing science and alcohol, what could possibly go wrong?

International Rose Test Garden

Located in Washington Park, Portland Parks and OSU Master Gardeners offer free guided tours daily at 1:00 p.m., meeting at the Rose Garden store. Founded in 1917, Portland's International Rose Test Garden – overlooking downtown – is the oldest official, continuously operated public rose test garden in the United States. Currently, the garden features over 10,000 rose bushes representing over 650 rose varieties.

The Lovecraft Bar

A horror themed dance bar complete with tarot readings, sci-fi theme DJ sets, and horror movie nights. The Lovecraft Bar pays tribute to the world of horror in all of its forms with Lovecraft and classic horror inspired local art and decor. They have been voted several times over as being one of the top 10 unique theme bars found in fantasy and sci-fi literature and film.

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 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

Committee Members

Chair - Lea Rush

Chair's Advisers - Lisa Hayes, Ruth Sachter, Patty Wells

Chair's HENCHTHING - Greg Halleck

Vice Chair - Elizabeth Vann-Clark

Secretary - Shandra Battern Bauer

Accessibility Coordinator - Jacob Engstrom

Site Selection - Ben Yalow

Business Meeting - Kevin Standlee

Business Meeting Secretary - Linda Deneroff

Treasurer - Sarah Gulde

Treasurer Second - D. Stephen Raymond

Hotel - Arthur Aldridge

Registration - David Turner

Pre-Registration - D. Stephen Raymond

Registration Staff - Riley Crowder

Public Relations/Communications

PR Director - Elizabeth Vann-Clark

Unconventional Outreach - Joel Spector

Public Relations Staff - Karen Junker (Puget Sound Outreach);

Brenda Klein (Outgoing Mail Room);

Shauna McKain-Storey (Room Party Outreach for other cons);

Muffy Morrigan (Press Releases)

Ad Sales - Linnea Thompson

Ad Swaps - Mark Neiman-Ross

Publications Director- Meredith Cook

Publications Staff - Samuel Klein (Graphic Design Adviser)

Online Schedule Updates - Cymry Reardon

Social Media - Michael Harbour

Webmaster; Postmaster (Email Aliases) - Daphne Garrison

Programming - Helen Umberger (Director)

Elizabeth Vann-Clark (Programming Second)

Children's Programming/KidCon - Shauna McKain-Storey

Costuming - Andrea Letourneau

Creation Station - Ellen Klowden

Event Tech Lead - Sabrina McCoy

Event Tech Second - Cymry Reardon

Gaming - Beverly Block

GEAR Con - Stephen Couchman

GoH Liaison-Artist (Theresa Mather) - Samantha "Sam" Axmaker

GoH Liaison-Filk (Andrew James Adams) - Andrew Nisbet

Filking Lead - Linnea Thompson
Filking Second - Lynn Gold
Programming Tech - Rick Lindsley
Writers Workshop - Bob Brown
Writers Workshop Staff - Alaina Ewing

Special Events/Convention Activities

Art Show - Lisa "Lacey" Axmaker
Art Show Staff - Samantha "Sam" Axmaker, Stu Axmaker
Dealers Room - Dale Imbleau
Hospitality - Myz
Masquerade - Don Glover
Off Site Excursions - Marc and Patty Wells
Opening/Closing Ceremonies - Pat Steed
Writers Workshop/Open Read & Critique - Bob Brown

Convention Operations

Operations Co-Directors - Sheryl "Pooh" Hester, Devlin Perez
Operations Staff - Lamont Jones
Artifacts - Robert LaCosse
Info Desk - Jon "Howitzer" Foster
Info Desk Second - Monica Olsen
Info Desk Staff - Leslie "Skye Selky" Wills, Andrea Barr
Office - Tony Davis
Security Staff - John Fultz
Volunteers - Diana Cerasin

Credits

This progress report is Copyright © 2015 Oregon Science Fiction Conventions, Inc. It was edited by Lea Rush Meredith Cook, and Brenda Klein.

Westercon 69 is sponsored by Oregon Science Fiction Conventions, Inc., a tax-exempt and non-profit corporation.

"Westercon" is a registered service mark of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. "Westercon 69: Portland" is a production of Oregon Science Fiction Conventions, Inc. (OSFCI), a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. Copyright © 2015. All Rights Reserved.

*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

