

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

TIME	TRACK 1 (Seneca Room)	TRACK 2 (Salon A)	TRACK 3(Treaty Room)
5:00 PM	Opening Ceremonies		
6:00 PM	The Perils of Art	Gateway Reading	Fermi's Paradox
7:00 PM	GoH Presentation: Allen Steele	When A Fandom Refuses to Die	Writing Inspired By Dungeons and Dragons
8:00 PM	Meet the Pros (con suite)	Meet the Pros (con suite)	Meet the Pros (con suite)
9:00 PM	Meet the Pros (con suite)	Meet the Pros (con suite)	Meet the Pros (con suite)
10:00 PM	Tom Smith / Worm Quartet Concert	Torture Cinema on: 1998 Godzilla	
11:00 PM	Astronomicon Tonight	Torture Cinema Continues on: 1998 Godzilla	

SUNDAY

TIME	TRACK 1 (Seneca Room)	TRACK 2 (Salon A)	TRACK 3(Treaty Room)
10:00 AM	The State of Science Fiction and Fantasy	Poe vs. Dickens	Jobs in Science Fiction
11:00 AM	Genre Shows You Should Be Watching, But Probably Aren't	Star Trek: The Revival	Corsets: What, When and How
NOON	Publishing Your Novel or Short Story in this New World of Self Publishing	Babylon 5	Naval Metaphors in Science Fiction
1:00 PM	Writing Humor	Online Learning	The Future of Science Fiction is International
2:00 PM	The Toys That Didn't Kill Us: Yes We Really Played With These 40+ Years Ago	Earth: We're Stuck Here	Strange New Worlds: The Demographics of Exoplanets
3:00 PM	Science Fiction Poetry: Open Mic	So You Want To Be An Internet Content Creator	
4:00 PM	Closing Ceremonies		

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

TIME	TRACK 1 (Seneca Room)	TRACK 2 (Salon A)	TRACK 3(Treaty Room)
10:00 AM	Convention Preparedness	From Dr. Frankenstein to Dr. Horrible	Creative Writing Aerobics Workout
11:00 AM	So, You Want To Be A Writer	The Connection Between Alternate History and Science Fiction	Science Fiction in China
NOON	GoH Presentation: Wendy and Richard Pini	Welcome to the Silver Age	Our Vampires, Ourselves
1:00 PM	Creating New Worlds and Civilizations	Computers in Science Fiction	The James Webb Space Telescope
2:00 PM	Believing, Becoming and Belonging	Guilty Pleasures	Meet the Star Wars Costuming Clubs
3:00 PM	GoH Presentation: Neil Clarke	Two Hearts and A Blue Box	What the U.S. Navy Taught Me About Starfleet
4:00 PM	What Line's Mine	GoH Presentation: Sara Felix	The Robot Before Asimov
5:00 PM	GoH Presentation: Adrienne Kress	The Next 10 Years in Space	Ecology of the Batmobile
6:00 PM	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER
7:00 PM	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER
8:00 PM	Masquerade	The Skiffy and Fanty Show present: Into the Wardrobe on Back to the Future	
9:00 PM	Cosplay Ball	Art Auction	
10:00 PM	Cosplay Ball	Binge Watching	
11:00 PM	Cosplay Ball	Galactic Champions	

Friday Readings:

Time	Author
6:00 PM	Adrienne Kress
7:00 PM	Mary Vibbert

Saturday Readings:

10:00 AM	Walter Hunt
11:00 AM	Shirley Meier
Noon	Shannon Yseult
2:00 PM	Allen Steele
3:00 PM	Daniel Kimmel
4:00 PM	Christie Meierz
5:00 PM	Herb Kauderer

Sunday Readings:

10:00 AM	Dr. David DeGraff
Noon	Nick DiChario

Hotel Maps

Anime Room.....Keating Room

Secondary Programming.....Salon A

Art Show.....Salon B & C

Track Three.....Treaty Room

Con Suite.....Concierge Lounge 5th Floor

Dealer's Room.....Cayuga & Mohawk & Fitzhugh Rooms

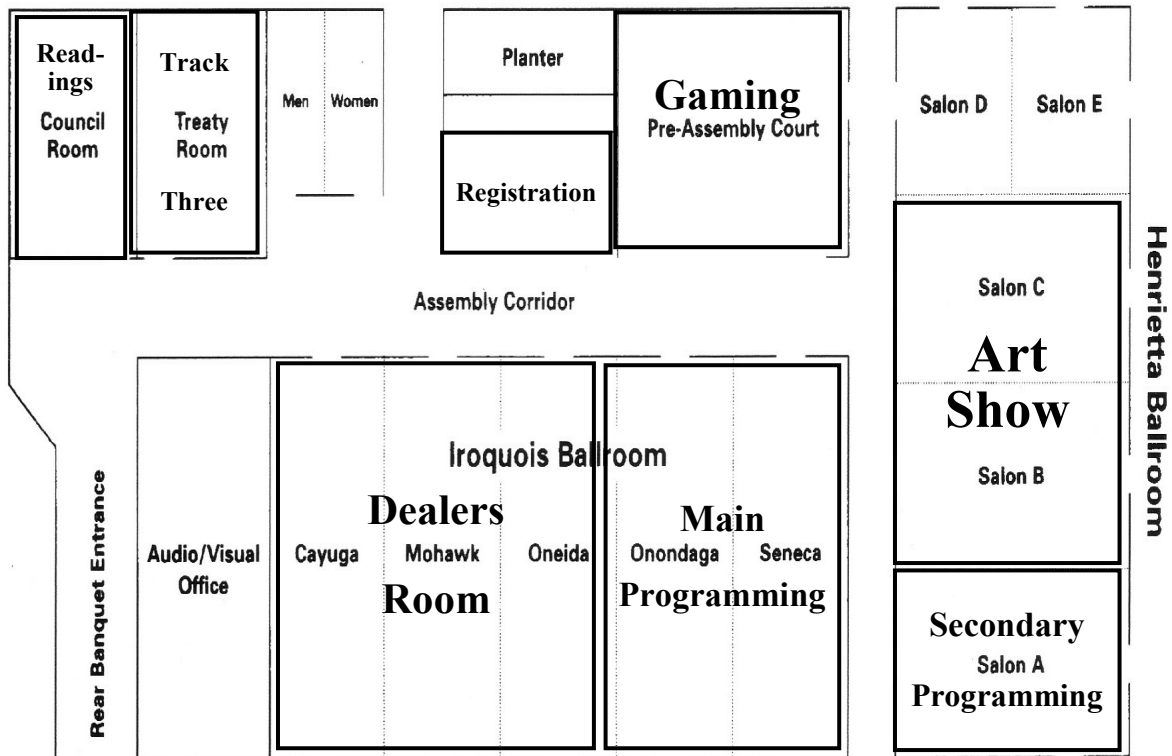
Fan Club Tables.....Pre-Assembly Court

Gaming Rooms.....Pre-Assembly Court

Main Programming.....Onondaga & Seneca Room

Reading Room.....Council Room

Registration.....Pre-Assembly Court



Friday:

The Perils of Art

Making art seems like a lovely pastime, but it can be hazardous to your health! Learn about chemical, physical, and environmental health hazards, proper ergonomics, and more.

Lisa Hertel (Mod), D Cameron Calkins, Dagnir Dragon, Sara Felix, Shirley Meier

Gateway Reading

Getting New People into Science Fiction and Fantasy: What are the approaches you can use to engage new readers to our genre? What are some of the books that are good entry points?

Walter H. Hunt (Mod), J.S. Craig, John Caligiuri, Shaun Duke

Fermi's Paradox

Fermi's Paradox - by the author. Fermi asked the question "Where is everybody" (interstellar visitors) in 1950. The two words 'Fermi's Paradox' first appeared together in my 1976 paper for the Journal of the British Interplanetary Society. Its history and my current opinion.

David Stephenson

Reading: Adrienne Kress

GoH Presentation: Allen Steele

Steve Davidson interviews Allen Steele about his Captain Future series and will take Q&A from the audience.

Steve Davidson(Mod), Allen Steele

When a Fandom Refuses to Die

On June 3rd, 1969 the last episode of Star Trek the original series aired. But the fans of the show stuck with it. Star Wars had its last hurrah in 1983 and fans stuck with it. Doctor Who was sabotaged by the BBC so they can cancel it in 1989, but the fans kept it alive. Firefly didn't have a complete season but the fans kept it alive. We will talk about what stays with the fans even when the powers that be stop supporting it, and how it can get a new life in other mediums (comics and paperbacks) or make a comeback.

Elektra Hammond(Mod), Richard Pini, Wendy Pini, Chuck Rothman

Writing Inspired by Dungeons and Dragons

Use techniques inspired by tabletop gaming to bring life and adventure in to your creative writing. Workshop will include an interactive lecture, time to practice writing strategies, and opportunities to share your work.

Alison Lyke

Reading: Marie Vibbert

Crafting With Wine

Join our artist Guest of Honor for a little crafting time.... bring your drink of choice and a craft you are currently working on. If you don't have one Sara will have a few small projects you can work on as well.

Sara Felix

Meet the Pros

In the con suite come to a meet and greet with our pros.

Tom Smith/Worm Quartet Concert

Two funny musicians of nerdy content. Opening is Worm Quartet is Shoebox's one man comedy synth-punk that can be described as putting Frank Zappa, The Ramones, and a Casio Keyboard into a blender. (**Warning: Explicit Lyrics**) Then our headliner Tom Smith, a.k.a. The World's Fastest Filker, will bring you all of his classic filk tracks you know and love, and hopefully a few new ones.

The Skiffy and Fanty Show Presents Torture Cinema: Godzilla (1998)

TC is our bad movie discussion show and tends to be on the lighthearted side.

Shaun Duke

Astronomicon Tonight

This is Astronomicon's own late-night talk show. Be part of the studio audience, and join Rob Sawyer as he interviews some of our honored Guests!! It's more fun than you can shake a sonic screwdriver at.

Rob Sawyer (Host)

Saturday:

Convention Preparedness

First time at a con? Seasoned con-goer? Just planning on going? Dressing up in costume? Taking pictures? Want to do some gaming? We are going to cover all the tips and tricks you will need to be prepared for an enjoyable convention. What to bring, how to fight con crud, con etiquette and much, much more.

Chris M. Barkley (Mod), Steve Davidson, Sara Felix, D Cameron Calkins, Dagnir Dragon

From Dr. Frankenstein to Dr. Horrible

The mad scientist has been a major trope in popular fiction. Bent on world domination or going into areas man wasn't meant to know. What makes a good mad scientist and will help shape future mad scientists.

Chuck Rothman (Mod), David DeGraff, David Stephenson, Deb Lieven

Creative Writing Aerobics Workout

Wake up your creative writing muscles with Nick DiChario. During this 45-minute workshop, Nick will provide a few writing prompts for you to play within ten- to twelve-minute "sprints." Write flash fiction, poetry, meditations, or nonsense, whatever you fancy, in this no-pressure, just-for-fun, creative space. Bring your morning coffee and inner child! At the end of the session, you'll leave with a few of your own original writings to do with what you will.

Nick DiChario

Reading: Walter H. Hunt

So you want to be a writer?

You have an idea for a book, but you have no idea how to get started. This panel of authors will show you how to start and what pitfalls to avoid.

Allen Steele (Mod), Adrienne Kress, Alan Vincent Michaels, John Caligiuri

The Connection between Alternate History and Science Fiction

It's commonly used for time travel stories but there are other uses for it. And is it science fiction?

Darrell Schweitzer (Mod), Elektra Hammond, John Caligiuri, Walter H. Hunt

Science Fiction in China

In this PowerPoint presentation I will introduce the history and recent progress of Science Fiction in China.

Ruhan Zhao

Reading: Shirley Meier

Paper Weaving (Art Show)

Learn how to weave paper and make a pretty mat to hang in a window. All materials provided, no extra fee. Suitable for ages 8+.

Lisa Hertel

GoH Presentation: Wendy & Richard Pini

Guilty Pleasures

They're terrible movies but so much fun to watch: Creation of the Humanoids, Robot Monster, Message from Space... What are your favorite guilty pleasures?

Tom Smith (Mod), Elektra Hammond, David Clink, Wendy and Richard Pini

Meet the Star Wars Costuming Clubs

Learn about the main international Star Wars costuming clubs directly from their local representatives. We'll be talking about The 501st Legion, The Rebel Legion, The Galactic Academy, Droid Builders, and more.

Learn how we make our costumes and what types of appearances we make in support of charities and Lucasfilm/Disney.

Nicky Blum and the 501st.

Reading: Allen Steele

GoH Presentation: Neil Clarke

Does Science Fiction Still Affect How We Think About the Future

Does Science Fiction continue to inspire young scientists and technologists today?

Shaun Duke (Mod), Craig DeLancey, Marie Vibbert, Neil Clarke

Two Hearts and Blue Box

Doctor Who the British Sci-Fi series that took the world by storm. With the strange characters, cheesy special effects, and strong writing. Why has this series have a lasting legacy?

Andre Lieven (Mod), Chuck Rothman, Ted Wenskus, Christie Meierz

What the U.S. Navy Taught Me About Starfleet

On the surface, Starfleet looks like a navy — the US Navy, to be specific. But looks can be deceiving. Come hear the similarities and differences between the two, from someone who works as a naval analyst in his day job.

Christopher Weuve

Reading: Dan Kimmel

What's My Line

A tradition in Western New York con circles. We take the author guests at the con and see if they recognize their own writings. Amy Kauderer will quote lines from the panels' books and see if they can recognize who wrote it. You'll be surprised what they get right and what they get wrong.

Amy Kauderer(Mod), Shannon Yseult, Shirley Meier, Darrell Schweitzer, Chris M. Barkley, Robert Sawyer, Adrienne Kress

GoH Presentation: Sara Felix

The Robot Before Asimov

A slide presentation detailing the weird and wild history of robots from the Steam Man of 1868 to the Percy comic strip of 1911, Houdini's robot movie, a robot cocktail shaker, the "iron monster" that shot its maker, and zillions of comic strips, comic books, and pulp stories that featured robots before Isaac Asimov wrote a single word about them.

Steve Carper

Reading: Christie Meierz

GoH Presentation: Adrienne Kress

Welcome to the Silver Age

This is when the superhero genre re-surfed after its decline in the late 40s. From 1956 to circa 1975 comics had new heroes and revamped golden age heroes. More superheroes had their own books, superhero team-ups, and a shared universe became the norm. Art styles changed to that of pop art of the time and more sophisticated stories having heroes with character flaws and self-doubt.

Chris M. Barkley (Mod), James Clukey, Shirley Meier, Chuck Rothman

Our Vampires, Ourselves

Whether in mythology, folklore, poetry, or prose, tales of vampires can be found in the oldest recorded civilizations around the world. Yet, despite their differences across time and geography, they all have one thing in common: vampires themselves are always changing, reinterpreted by each generation, even down to folkloric traits such as casting reflections in mirrors ... or not.

Our presenter, Ted Wenskus, examined the evolution of vampire fiction for his graduate thesis and will take us through a guided tour of vampires in English literature. How have they developed over the centuries? How have they stayed the same? And how do they reflect the times in which their tales were told?

Ted Wenskus

Reading: Shannon Yseult

Tiara Workshop (Art Show)

Join our artist guest of honor Sara Felix in making a simple tiara you can take home with you. All materials will be provided for a small fee of \$15.

Sara Felix

Merfolk Meet and Greet (Pool)

It's at the pool, where the merfork will gather. A place to be social and flip your flukes.

Creating New Worlds and New Civilizations

Writing sci-fi and fantasy stories are different from writing literary fiction. Worldbuilding is important but how deeply should we go down this rabbit hole to support our story. We will talk about countries, history, social norms, culture, customs, environment and technologies.

Walter H. Hunt (Mod), Christopher Weuve, Darrell Schweitzer, Christie Meierz

Computers in Science Fiction

Ah, computers the thing of the future, or is Science Fiction trying to keep up with it?

Alan Katerinsky (Mod), Alex Pantaleev, Marie Vibbert, Neil Clarke

James Webb Space Telescope

Presentation on the James Webb Space Telescope and the science it will do in its first year

Jeyhan Kartaltepe

Make a Watercolor Sunset (Art Show)

Using simple watercolor wash techniques and a little india ink, you can make a lovely little watercolor sunset suitable for framing. All materials provided and included. Suitable for ages 5+.

Lisa Hertel

Believing, Becoming and Belonging

Join Chris Barkley as he celebrates forty-five years in sf fandom with an in-depth retrospective look at his life, the universe and everything

Chris M. Barkley

The Next 10 Years in Space

Elon Musk wants to colonize Mars in the next 10 years, Jeff Bezos wants the moon, NASA is now jobbing out their manned spaceflight services, and China and a lot of other countries are taking over for what used to be the United States domain. So where will this leave us by the end of the decade?

Christopher Weuve (Mod), Allen Steele, David DeGraff, David Stephenson

The Ecology of the Batmobile

Lots of variants, but what would it really be? Ripping apart the specs on it and find out why the Tumbler's dumb but the '66 might work? (And more serious speculation)

Fingers Delaurus (Mod), Andre Lieven

Reading: Herb Kauderer

Masquerade

The masquerade where people put the most effort in their costumes and for a moment slip into another character. So let's see them strut their stuff.

Hosted by Byron Connell

The Skiffy and Fanty Show Presents Into the Wardrobe: Back to the Future (1985)

DeLoreans, uncomfortable family situations, and Great Scott, oh my! Come join Shaun and Jen on a wondrous journey Into the Wardrobe. In this show about movies from childhood, we'll discuss Back to the Future (1985)! What makes the movie so special? What impact did it have on us as kids? And how does the movie hold up today? Bring your thoughts and questions, too! We want to hear your stories as we travel back in time in a plutonium-powered car!

Shaun Duke (Mod), Jen Zink

Binge Watching

Binge watching is changing the way shows are written and filmed. Panelists will discuss how and predict further changes we can expect for television.

Chris M. Barkley (Mod), Elektra Hammond, Fingers Delaurus, Walter H. Hunt

Galactic Champions

OK we're going to talk about sports. Not the usual stuff the mundane people watch but sports with a sci-fi spin. This is about athletic competition in the future. From Rollerball to Zero-G Football. From the savage to the sublime.

William Horst-Kotter (Mod), Marie Vibbert, David DeGraff

Sunday

The state of Science Fiction and Fantasy What shape is the industry in? Our panel will tell you their insights of it is currently and where they think it's going.

Allen Steele (Mod), J.S. Craig, Herb Kauderer, Sara Felix

Poe vs. Dickens - Two 19th century authors that started modern genre fiction. We will compare their works of both great men and see who was more influential.

Walter H. Hunt (Mod), Craig DeLancey, Darrell Schweitzer, Wendy Pini

Jobs in SF

Marie Vibbert has compiled a list of the occupations of main characters in SF Masterworks and will explore what trends can be found over time and if author day jobs affect character jobs, and what this says about science fiction's general views on class.

Marie Vibbert

Reading: David DeGraff

Genre Shows you Should Be Watching, But Probably Aren't

Finding it hard keeping up with the glut of genre shows and you need us to tell you which ones you should be watching? We will enthusiastically tell you which shows are worthy to binge watch. Then we will ask for suggestions from the audience to tell us (and prove) their favorites are binge-worthy!

Walter Hunt (Mod), Jen Zink, Fingers Delaurus, David Clink

Star Trek: The Revival

With Discovery, Picard and Lower Decks on CBS All Access has this cause for Star Trek to return to form or is it to little, to late?

Daniel M. Kimmel (Mod), Andre Lieven, David DeGraff, Chris M. Barkley

Corsets: What, When and How

Who wore corsets through history, and why? What should you look for when buying a corset? Includes the dos and don't of wearing a lacing a corset featuring the stunt torso of Mary-Jo Kahler-Calkins.

D. Cameron Calkins and Mary-Jo Kahler-Calkins

Publishing your novel, short story, in this new world of self-publishing When is it better to shop your story around to publishers and when is it better to publish it yourself? With the advent of self-publishing, do you really need to go it "traditional"? What are the pitfalls, and problems that happen when you self-publish? What do you look out for? What are the benefits?

Rick Taubold(Mod), Neil Clarke, Shirley Meier, Shannon Yseult

Babylon 5

On February 22, 1993, Babylon 5: The Gathering aired. It was a new spin on the space opera/final frontier subgenre that wasn't Star Trek. It was a less polished and less idealized vision of the future. Now there are rumors of a reboot, will they revisit the IP?

Chris M. Barkley (Mod), Chuck Rothman, Elektra Hammond, Andre Lieven

Naval Metaphors in Science Fiction

Space is not the ocean, but with the exception of Stargate SG-1, science fiction space forces seem to be based on navies. This talk compares several models of real-world naval warfare with science fiction and examines where the metaphors work, and where they don't.

Christopher Weuve

Reading: Nick DiChario

Writing Humor

A panel discussing the art of writing humor, whether as a genre or adding humorous moments to a serious work, and the value and importance that humor adds to any genre.

Adrienne Kress (Mod), Elektra Hammond, Shirley Meier, Ted Wenskus

Online Learning With the recent pandemic everyone thought online learning would be simple. I guess it wasn't as simple as most science fiction stories thought. What are the strengths and weaknesses of online learning?

Alan Katerinsky (Mod), Alex Pantaleev, Ruhan Zhao, Alan Vincent Michaels

The Future of Science Fiction is International

“...our stories are set to large numbers of fans and translators all over the world, while our own authors and fans seldom get even a hint of the work being done in our field by others. We’re in serious danger of becoming the most provincial science-fiction readers—and writers—on earth.” –Lester Del Rey, June 1968.

Using short fiction as a lens through which to view the field, we'll look at how Lester's fear became realized, why, and how things are beginning to change.

Neil Clarke

The Toys that Didn't Kill Us: Yes, We Really Played With These Things 40+ Years Ago

Those of us who grew up in the 1950s-1970s had playthings that, well - didn't exactly follow safety guidelines. These would be such things as chemistry sets, "creepy crawler" makers that involved squirting goo into a hot metal mold, and the ever popular lawn darts.

Deb Lieven(Mod), Paul W. Meyer , D Cameron Calkins , Chuck Rothman

Earth, We're Stuck Here

What are the stumbling blocks to our colonizing the solar system? If we're stuck here how do we make the best of it?

Andre Lieven (Mod), Christopher Weuve, David Stephenson, Steve Davidson

Strange New Worlds: The demographics of Exoplanets

We've found over 4000 planets orbiting other stars. Some of these planets are places that could have life, some of these are unlike anything in our solar system. How can we use our knowledge of the new places to enrich our science fiction?

Dr. David DeGraff

Science Fiction Poetry Open Readings

Come listen to poetry, or bring your own for an open mike reading. Vogons will not be invited.

Carolyn Clink

So you want to be an internet content creator? You have an idea for a podcast or web series but don't know where to start? Our panel of content creators will show you what you need to get started and what to avoid.

Shaun Duke (Mod), Christopher Weuve, Fingers Delaurus, Neil Clarke