

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 3 PM –

Up, Up and Away! Developments in Rocketry

Panelists: Karl K. Gallagher (M), Adrian Simmons, Paul Black, Ken Ruffin

Due to the advent of commercial spacecraft and competing companies, we now are seeing reusable rockets and more modern technology. Our space panelists talk about where rocketry is going, and who is doing it.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 4 PM –

What Do You Fear?

Panelists: Charlaine Harris, Rhonda Eudaly (M), Bret McCormick, Seth Skorkowsky

There are so many ways to scare a person. Let us count the ways. Let the fear flow through you. Show us the way to true horror, and we will show you mastery of the genre. Our fear mongers compare notes and talk about the things that scare us.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 5 PM –

Finding Humor in Odd Places

Panelists: Dusty Rainbolt (M), KB Bogen, John DeLaughter, Jimmy Misfit, Amber Royer

Sometimes a joke will sneak up behind you and hit you with a Nerf bat. For instance, "Circuses struggling to find clowns as top prospects keep going into politics." Enough said. Our panelists talk about where they have found their muse and why.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 6 PM –

The Best Books Nobody Ever Heard Of

Panelists: Patricia Burroughs (M), Amber Royer, Teresa Patterson, Julie Barrett, Barbara Ann Wright

We bring back a useful panel from last year! The primary rule of this panel is this: NO SELF PROMOTION. Bring examples, and audience participation is welcome as well! Be prepared to be grilled ruthlessly on why you like the book, of course! Bring paper and pen so you can take notes, and hopefully you'll find some great reads.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 7 PM –

Opening Ceremonies!

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 9 PM –

Talking During the Movies

Panelists: Dantzel Cherry, John DeLaughter, David Doub, Wil McCarthy

The world (or at least the Con) is ending. What better way to mark the occasion than with laughably terrible cinema about the apocalypse? We start off with *Warriors of the Wasteland* (1983), which is set in the nightmare future world of 2019, and conclude with *Fatal Future* (2018), a movie that is only occasionally fatal but definitely not from the future. Come revel in the ruins while con guests give live commentary and maybe even join in yourself. You've survived the end of the world but can you survive TALKING DURING THE MOVIES?

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM –

New Tropes For Old

Panelists: Mel White (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Julia S. Mandala, Patricia Burroughs

We all know the Hero's Journey. The Hero must find the Magic MacGuffin™ that will save the world, but only after he/she finds his/her scrappy companions who compass every nationality in the area... It is easy to dismiss a trope. But these masters take the trope and make it look fresh again. Our panelists talk about authors and methods to take the trope and make it fresh and new again.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 4 PM –

It Was A Dark and Stormy Night

Panelists: Julie Barrett (M), Michael Baldwin, Patricia Ferguson, Gloria Oliver, T. M. Hunter

Whether a classic noir or modern day mystery, the weather must usually need to be accounted for. If it rained, footsteps could be lost or found. If it snowed, evidence could be missed. Our panelists debate the weather and how it affects shots ringing out.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM –

Interstellar Archaeology: Part One – Initial Findings

Panelists: Mel White (M), Charlaine Harris, Patricia Burroughs, Rhonda Eudaly, T. M. Hunter, Wil McCarthy

The first of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin and our esteemed (and indeed, TRAINED) archeologists in turn tell us what the artifacts are. Light hearted fun, and bring ear plugs! This year we will take a post-apocalyptic slant and see what story they come up with!

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 6 PM –

Dystopian Utopia

Panelists: William C. Seigler (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Jimmy Misfit, Ethan Nahté, John DeLaughter

An interesting description of Dystopia versus Utopia is this: Utopia portrays the setting that agrees with the author's ethos, but Dystopia portrays the setting that complete disagrees with the author's ethos. Note that neither dystopia nor utopia have any basis in fact or moral code – an author can portray current society as a dystopia, but others who LIKE that society would portray it as utopia. Both can be correct. Our panelists debate this and other topics.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 4 PM –

Self-editing err0rs

Panelists: Michelle Muenzler (M), Steve Sanders, Julia S. Mandala, KB Bogen

A popular panel for the past several years, our panelists discuss ways of catching those pesky errors. Remember, the more eyes on your work, the better – each different perspective helps catch things you miss! And watch out for Autocorrect...

Programming 3 (Courtright), 5 PM –

Self-Promotion for Fun and Profit

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Barbara Ann Wright, Terry Gene, Charlayne Elizabeth Denney

It's time to get your book out to the world. But how do you get people interested in what you wrote? Our publishers talk about how to get your name and work out into the world in ways that won't get you arrested.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 6 PM –

Still Not Ginger: Dr. Who

Panelists: Mel White (M), Stephen Patrick, Dusty Rainbolt

So is the new Dr. Who a game changer or simply a passing fancy? Our Whovians discuss this and more!

Programming 3 (Courtright), 8 PM –

Polishing your Prose and Poetry [2 hours]

Panelists: Patricia Ferguson and Pat Hauldren

Once you have your prose or poetry written, before you look for those elusive typos and errors, what do you do? You polish. This is a workshop in ways to make your prose or poetry shine. Subjects covered: alternate word choices, bringing all the senses, beginning with a hook and ending with a bang. Plus, what to do in between.

Programming 4 (Parker), 4 PM –

Research 101: Finding Content

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Tex Thompson, Adrian Simmons, Need to find out something specific? Trying to come up with names of fish that are not often seen? Need to know what fish can be found in what oceans? To do this, you need to know how to research, and where to research. Our panelists give tips and tricks on where to find those tidbits of information you desperately need.

Programming 4 (Parker), 5 PM –

Feel the Love: Paranormal Romance

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Paul Black

Admit it, the line has really blurred between Urban Fantasy and Paranormal Romance. There are definite signs of friction between the two sides, however...but why is this? Where is the love? Our panelists talk about the differences which are plain to see.

Programming 4 (Parker), 6 PM –

Where is the Limit in Young Adult?

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Dantzel Cherry, Michael Baldwin, Stephen Sanders

When writing YA stories, where is the limit for age? What topics should never be discussed, and why? It increasingly seems like there are no limits in this day and age. Should there be? Our YA authors talk about these and other topics.

Programming 4 (Parker), 8 PM –

Open for Filk!

Reading (Pickett), 5 PM – Dantzel Cherry, William C. Seigler

Reading (Pickett), 6 PM – Paul Black, Michelle Muenzler

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 5 PM – Larry Atchley Jr., Seth Skorkowsky

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 6 PM – Blaise Ramsay