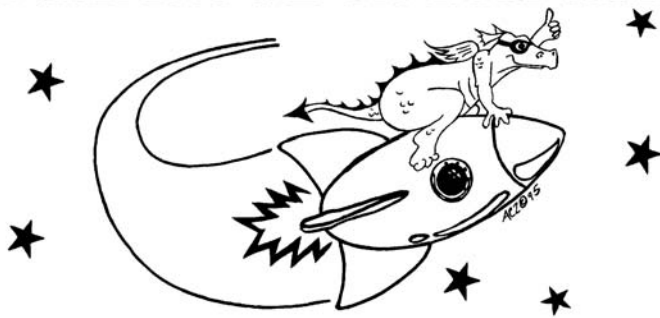


# Balticon 52 Rocket Mail



## Saturday, May 26, 2018 Edition

### OPENING CEREMONIES

Catharine Asaro was recognized as the Balticon Guest of Honor. Dr. Asaro is an author, singer, and physicist.

Galen Dara is the Artist Guest of Honor. She is also the 2016 World Fantasy Award winner.

Nicky Drayden is the 2018 Compton Crook Award Winner. Ada Palmer is the 2017 Compton Crook Award Winner. Ada is also the 2017 Campbell Award winner.

Neil Stephenson is the 2018 Robert Heinlein Award Winner.

Tim Griffin is the Filk Guest of Honor. Come see his concert at 1pm Saturday in MD Ballroom CD.

Neil Clarke is a Special Guest. Larry Niven sent his regrets, and we wish him a speedy recovery. Filthy Pierre (Erwin Strauss) is our Fan Guest of Honor.



### Balticon Program Updates

### ERRATA

Jennifer Logsdon was accidentally misspelled as Jennifer Logson in BSFan. We apologize for the error.

### ITEM CHANGES

**NEW ITEM!** Sunday 7 PM "Concert: Sara Henya" Harpist and singer Sara Henya will sing fantasy-themed tunes and songs from her album "Small World Alchemy."

**NEW ITEM!** Friday 6 PM "My God, It's Full of Stars: Let's Talk About Astronomy"

CANCELLED ITEM Friday 6 PM "Saving Our Fisheries"

TIME CHANGE "Dinosaur Dig" is now at 3 PM Saturday (was 1 PM Saturday)

TIME CHANGE "Pirates!" is now at 1 PM Saturday (was 3 PM Saturday)

There are slight changes to the time of the video track throughout the weekend. The order remains the same, but there is a printed correct schedule available at Registration.

CANCELLED ITEM Saturday 2 PM "Larry Niven Kaffeeklatsch"

ROOM CHANGE Sunday 10 AM "Sentience vs. Sapience" is now in Homeland (was Kent)

CANCELLED ITEM Sunday 10 AM "Space Weather and Its Implications for Space Travel"

### LINEUP CHANGES

Leigh Targaryen REMOVED from "Be a Superhero: Working with Spandex"

Neil Clarke ADDED to "Dangerous Voices Variety Hour"

Eric Hardenbrook ADDED to "Reading Outside Your Genre"

Keith Hughes ADDED to "Introduction to Brewing & Distillation"

Lonnie Ingram ADDED to "Impossible Possibilities of Wire"

Moonlight ADDED to "Traveling Through Time With Early Childhood Programs"

Nuchtchas REMOVED from "Crowdfunding New Media"

Tee Morris REMOVED from "Daily Podcasting"

Tee Morris is now the moderator for "What Good is an Agent?"

Carole Parker ADDED to "Introduction to Costuming"

Jennifer R. Povey ADDED to "Broad Universe Rapid-Fire Reading"

Ken Schrader ADDED to Reading 11AM Saturday

Ken Schrader REMOVED from Reading 7PM Saturday

Chad Eric Smith REMOVED from "Being the Target Audience"

Erwin S. (Filthy Pierre) Strauss ADDED to "What is Science?"

Erwin S. (Filthy Pierre) Strauss ADDED to "SMOFing for Fun (But Probably Not Profit)"

Erwin S. (Filthy Pierre) Strauss ADDED to "Science Questions You Can't Ask"

Erwin S. (Filthy Pierre) Strauss ADDED to "Building The Star Trek Future: Post-Scarcity Utopias and How We Get There"

Steve Wilson ADDED to "Taking Off the Training Wheels: Fanfic to Original Fic"

Jim Beall ADDED to "Contemporary Near Future SF that's not Dystopian"

Marilyn "Mattie" Brahen REMOVED from Useful Rabbit Holes for Writers (and How to Climb Out of Them)

### REGRETS

Lisa Ashton will not be attending. We wish her basement a swift recovery.

Christie Meierz will not be attending. We wish her a swift recovery.

Chris Monroe will not be attending.

Larry Niven will not be attending. We wish him a swift recovery.

Erika M. Pryor will not be attending. We wish her a swift recovery.

Jay Smith will not be attending.

C. Alex Young will not be attending.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Volunteer Needed!** Programming has need of someone to put up signs on rooms in the morning hours. Person should be able to work between 830 and 900 AM. See programming ops located in the fells point room on the 5th floor.

**BSFS Needs Your Help!** We are trying to raise \$16,300 to build an accessible ramp into the BSFS building. Many long-time fans have difficulty getting into and out of the building. Please donate! See the table near the Information Desk.

**Please remember to keep your Con badges on at all times while in the hotel, for everyone's protection.**

There will be a Catholic Mass at 5pm on Saturday in Room 8006.

## BOX OFFICE REPORT

For the past few years during Balticon, Memorial Day weekend has been huge at the box office for movie theaters.

This year is of particular interest for Balticon attendees because of the notable genres of science fiction, fantasy, and superhero themes that are in abundance just for this weekend.

We will be reporting on the box office results each day of the convention in the daily Rocket Mail.

The following figures are from [boxofficemojo.com](http://boxofficemojo.com):

Avengers: Infinity War has been out now for 28 days and is still pulling strong numbers.

Deadpool 2 has been out for seven days, and though it has not had the same numbers as its predecessor, it is still performing strong.

The one that everyone wants to know about is Solo: A Star Wars Story, which debuted this week and has already been released internationally. Solo has a two-day tally of \$11.4 million in 43 markets so far. The film extended in more territories on Friday.

Here are the actual numbers for Thursday, as reported by box office mojo:

1. Deadpool 2: \$6,760,092. Total Gross: \$164M
2. Book Club: \$2,049,298. Total Gross: \$22M
3. Avengers: Infinity War: 1,911,400. Total Gross: \$605M
4. Life of the Party: ~\$620,000. Total Gross: \$33M

5. Breaking In: \$475,985. Total Gross: \$31M

6. A Quiet Place: \$381,704. Total Gross: \$177M

Traditionally, Memorial Day weekend has usually been known as the opening weekend for the summer box office. To take advantage of this occurrence, production companies released big-budgeted films or "tent poles" that flock audience members to the theaters. The released films often set "box office records," and Solo is no different. Industry analysts are expecting Solo to top the previous record holder for the weekend which is Pirates of the Caribbean: World's End, which broke the Memorial Day weekend record four years ago. Solo has already brought in \$14.1M from Thursday Previews, topping Pirates record of \$13.2M. Pirates had a 4-day weekend record of \$139.8M. Solo is headed in the right direction.

Movie Trekker

## ARCHIVOS for Writers, Gamers, and Teachers

ARCHIVOS is a new form of web-based story organization. It uses an online interface to bring story elements together in ways that do not exist in other forms.

Dave Robison, the head of the company that created ARCHIVOS, will be conducting three sessions this weekend to show how ARCHIVOS can be used for story creation and analysis. Saturday at 3pm will be a session on story creation using ARCHIVOS. Saturday at 7pm is a Gamer's Guide to ARCHIVOS, and Sunday at 11am will be an Educator's Guide to ARCHIVOS.

I have been using ARCHIVOS together with Scrivener to organize my stories, and while it has only been a few weeks, I see some connections between story elements I had not seen before.

The software is brand-new and still settling in, so it isn't perfect, but I am very excited by how well it works in conjunction with other tools, such as Scrivener.

Brian Groover

Have something you'd like to see in the Rocket Mail? Please send it to [rocketmail@balticon.org](mailto:rocketmail@balticon.org)