

The Maryland Regional Science Fiction Convention

Balticon 43

Guest of Honor
Charles Stross

Art Guest of Honor
Kurt Miller

Music/Filk Guest of Honor
Mary Crowell

Special Guest of Honor
Scott Sigler

2008 Compton Crook Award Winner
Mark L. Van Name

2009 Compton Crook Award Winner
TBA at Balticon 43



May 22-25, 2009
Memorial Day Weekend

Ghost of Honor
**Edgar Allan
Poe**

Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn
just north of Baltimore, MD on I-83 – Free Parking

Convention membership rates:

\$48/\$24 Jan. 1-Feb. 28 \$53/\$26 March 1-April 30 \$60/\$30 after Apr. 30/at the door
Group rate available, buy 10 memberships and get 11th free (not avail. online). Email registration@balticon.org for details.

Hundreds of authors, publishers, artists, scientists, musicians and
over a thousand fans at the area's largest & longest running Science Fiction/Fantasy convention!

Author panel discussions, readings, podcasting/new media, live SF theater, childrens' programming, Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) charity auction, science briefings, concerts, dances, Masquerade, writers' workshop, poetry contest and workshop, and our Sunday Night Film Festival! Art show, dealer's room, anime, video and tabletop gaming, skill demonstrations and other special events.



Sponsored by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society,
a 501(C)(3) non-profit educational organization.
P.O. Box 686
Baltimore, MD 21203-0686

WWW.BALTICON.ORG
Email: balticoninfo@balticon.org
Phone: 410-JOE-BSFS (563-2737)

Have you ever wanted to see the intersection of science fiction and stand-up comedy? Been curious to learn how Pavlov's dogs got their revenge, or how to cure cockroach problems through religion? Wondered about the real differences between the genders? To satisfy all of these urges and laugh in the process, come see an hour of spoken word, storytelling, and comedy by 2008 Compton Crook Award winner and SF novelist Mark Van Name at Balticon 43.

Live in or near Maryland? Visit a BSFS meeting sometime and check out our free SF lending library.
Check out www.bsfs.org for details - or contact volunteers@balticon.org to find out how you can help!
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR BALTICON 43!

The Baltimore Science Fiction Society (BSFS) is proud to present Balticon 43, its 43rd Science Fiction & Fantasy convention. Balticon 43 will be held in Baltimore, MD over Memorial Day weekend, May 22-25, 2009 at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, just outside the Baltimore Beltway. The Balticon 43 ConCom is working hard to bring you a wide variety of live events, program items and activities, along with the opportunity to meet authors, artists, costumers and other members of the SF&F community. In these pages are all the details required to register for the convention, reserve your hotel room and begin planning to attend Balticon 43!

EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND

OPENING CEREMONIES: At 8:30 p.m. Friday in the Main Tent, Balticon 43 officially kicks off with introductions of the Guests of Honor and program participants. Doors open at 8:00 PM. Meet the participants afterwards in the Con Suite.

GUESTS OF HONOR (GoH) APPEARANCES: During the course of the weekend, attendees will have the opportunity to spend some quality time with our Guests of Honor. These sessions will include events for each GoH in the Main Tent, program panels and signings.

CONFIRMED PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS: Danielle Ackley-McPhail, Tristan Alexander, Brick Barrientos, Danny Birt, Patricia Bray, Lillian Cauldwell, Robert Chase, Ariel Cini, Carl Cipra, Brenda Clough, Caroline Cox, **Mary Crowell**, Charlene Taylor D'Alessio, Bill DeSmedt, Tom Doyle, Scott Edelman, Doug Fratz, Charles E. Gannon, Haley Elizabeth Garwood, Laura Anne Gilman, Jo Graham, Nancy O. Greene, Kelly Harmon, John G. Hemry, Thomas R. Holtz, Michael Kabongo, Robert I. Katz, Beatrice Kondo, Yoji Kondo, L. Jagi Lamplighter, Grig Larsen, R. Allen Leider, Jeff Lyman, Thomas Marshall, Clayton McNally, Mike McPhail, **Kurt Miller**, Earl Newton, Eleanor A. O'Rangers, Joshua Palmatier, Mike Pedersen, Ally Peltier, K. T. Pinto, Peter Prellwitz, Angela Render, James Daniel Ross, Tony Ruggerio, Lawrence Schoen, Darrell Schweitzer, Eric Schulman, J. Andrew Smith, Maria Snyder, Bud Sparhawk, **Charles Stross**, **Mark Van Name**, Jean Marie Ward, Steve White, David Williams, D. C. Wilson, Gene Wolfe, Richard White, John C. Wright. Check the website for periodic updates.

MASQUERADE: On Saturday night Balticon hosts one of the oldest masquerades on the East Coast. Marvel at the participants' crafting of fabric and other materials into imaginative and extraordinary costumes. The Masquerade is not just for experienced costumers either—Hall Costumes and first-timers are encouraged to get up on stage and share their work. The masquerade competition will be judged on the experience skills division system to give beginners a chance to go home winners. Masquerade rules are available on the website. Info: email masq@balticon.org or check "Masquerade" on the registration form.

NEW MEDIA: There's a whole wonderful world of non-traditional media available and, like last year, we're bringing you more than just podcasting. Come and meet local artists and writers from the world of web comics and many other fascinating people leading the new media explosion. Learn more about what's available in independent new media and how to turn it to your advantage. Don't let your work be lost in the shadows: find your audience! Balticon was the first con to run new media programming and have its own dedicated podcast, which makes ours the longest running new media track.

HALL COSTUMES: Each year we look for the most colorful, unusual and imaginative hall costumes. Whether novice or expert, Balticon wants you to dress up. Entries will be photographed and posted in a gallery at the con, **allowing you, the membership, to vote** for best costume.

COMPTON CROOK AWARD: At Friday's Opening Ceremonies, BSFS will present the **2009 Compton Crook Award** for the best first SF/fantasy/horror novel of 2008. As is tradition, last year's winner, **Mark Van Name** (*One Jump Ahead*), returns to Balticon to present the annual award.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP: Balticon 43 will once again host the annual

Writers' Workshop on Saturday morning. Each participant should bring a sample of their writing (at most, one page), to be read aloud at the workshop. Authors may read their own work, or have the workshop coordinator read for them. Each participant will have a turn, with feedback provided by other participants. This is your chance to hear how your words sound, and to fix those problems (grammar, dialog, setting, etc.) you've been having. Constructive criticism is one of the hallmarks of SF/F fandom. Take this opportunity to help yourself and others. Rules are available on the website. Info: email writers@balticon.org or check "Writers' Workshop" on the registration form.

POETRY WORKSHOP/CONTEST: Poetry programming at Balticon 43 explores the arena of verse from inspiration and writing to submitting for publication and an overview of small press publishing. There will be a poetry workshop and reading featuring winners of the Balticon 43 SF&F Poetry contest, Edgar Allan Poe dramatic readings, and open mic. Calling all poets who want a chance at fame, glory, publication in the *BSFAN* and a cash prize (deadline: April 1, 2009). Contest rules are available on the website. Info: poetry@balticon.org or check "Poetry Track/Workshop" on the registration form.

ART PROGRAM: Our art programming features demos and classes with several popular artists. Bring your sketchbook!

CHARITY AUCTION: For the 13th year in a row a charity auction to benefit **Reading is Fundamental** (RIF) will be held during the halftime break of the Masquerade on Saturday night. There will be SF&F collectibles, memorabilia and other exotic items put on the block. If you have something to donate, bring it to the con. RIF is a terrific organization working nationwide to teach kids to read by getting them hooked on reading at an early age and distributes free books to many children who cannot afford books of their own. Info: email rif@balticon.org or check "Reading is Fundamental" on the registration form.

SUNDAY NIGHT FILM FEST: You Be the Judge! Aspiring filmmakers have submitted their work hoping you will vote for them as "Best Film Award Balticon 2009." They want a plaque and a leg-up on their career and you have control. Entries have been pre-judged so only the finalists go before you, the jury. Think of it like the masquerade only with films rather than costumes **and you vote for the winner!** All this on a 12-foot by 12-foot screen! Stay tuned for another exciting film premiere by producer Earl Newton, *Stranger Things: Singularity*, as well as all the great programming you expect from Balticon.

LIVE THEATRE AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES: No Balticon would be complete without live theatre and musical performances in the Main Tent, and Balticon 43 is no exception. Starting with the Opening Ceremonies on Friday night, weekend performances include our Music GoH **Mary Crowell**, Comedy and Storytelling by 2008 Compton Crook Award Winner **Mark Van Name**, a special appearance by the **Chromatics**, and theatrical presentations still in the works.

BOOK LAUNCHES: More book launches than ever!—*Wicca Girl* by R. Allen Leider; *Buffalito Destiny* by Lawrence Schoen; *The Halfling's Court: A Bad-Ass Faerie Tale* by Danielle Ackley-McPhail; *So It Begins*, an anthology edited by Mike McPhail; and *Nina Kimberly the Merciless* by Christiana Ellis.

SCIENCE PROGRAM: Balticon 43 will offer over 30 hours of original science programming, this year celebrating invention and the anniversaries of Darwin and the *Twilight Zone*. Meet the scientists and attend fascinating panels such as "The 100 Most Significant Inventions of the 21st Century," "Fantastic Voyage: A Trip to Darwin's Galapagos Today," and "The 50th Anniversary of the Twilight Zone... Proto-Science Trends in the Twilight Zone That Were Achieved." Check out heavenly bodies at a Star Party (weather permitting).

FILK: Balticon promises another exciting program of filk concerts and panels, plus open filk all three nights. A new feature this year is that we will be utilizing the George Hrab Stage (off the lobby, outside the bar) as an "open mike/coffeehouse"-type stage, in addition to the formal concert program. Performers interested in signing up for a Hrab Stage set should email filk@balticon.org. For more filk announcements/info,

watch the Balticon LiveJournal Community, email the filk alias, or check "filk" on the registration form.

DEALERS ROOM: If you are interested in selling your wares at Balticon 43, contact: Larry Sands, PO Box 70013, Rosedale, MD 21237, or email dealers@balticon.org.

MAIN PROGRAMMING: Balticon 43 continues the tradition of mixing traditional SF&F literary panels with program items that deal with SF&F topics beyond the printed word. Main program tracks include Anime, Art, Costuming, Filk, Gaming, Literary, Science, New Media and Young Fans. Join us for "**Meet the Participants**" gatherings following Friday's Opening Ceremonies. We will also feature programming commemorating our "Ghost of Honor," **Edgar Allan Poe**. Check the website for updates.

VOLUNTEERS: Balticon is an all-volunteer managed convention and we can always use more help. Show your SF community spirit by volunteering a few hours at the con. Volunteers who work more than 10 hours receive our exclusive volunteer T-shirt. Work more than 20 hours and next year's Balticon membership is comped.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas: **Setup/breakdown (double time!!), Registration, Con Suite, Art Show, Operations, Green Room, Programming, Children's Programming, Info Booth/Sales Table, Volunteer Desk.** Sign up at the con, check "volunteering" on the registration form, or email the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@balticon.org. Detailed job descriptions are available at www.balticon.org.

HOTEL: Balticon will be held at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn in Hunt Valley, MD just north of Baltimore on Interstate 83. Room rates are \$132, plus applicable taxes/fees* for up to four occupants.

Online Reservations: From the Balticon website, click on the link for the hotel. On the Marriott website, look for the "group code" box on the right side of the page (under the "check rates and availability" section-you may need to expand this area). Enter either BCNBCNA (upper/lower case doesn't matter) for a two double bed room or BCNBCNB for a one king-sized bed room. **Phone Reservations:** Balticon members can make their reservations by calling Marriott toll free at 1-800-228-9290. When you call, remember to mention Balticon or one of the group codes above to obtain the convention rate. Alternately, or in case of questions, you can call the hotel directly at (410) 785-7000.

Either method should work routinely for reservations from Thursday 5/21-Monday 5/25, the main convention nights. If the hotel or the website responds that these dates are not available, or if you wish additional nights at the convention rate, please email hotel@balticon.org so we can make arrangements for you. If you are told the hotel is full on any of the days you request, please email hotel@balticon.org because hotels have given out wrong information in the past. Our hotel liaison will let you know if the hotel really is full, or if more space can be made available. The hotel does not guarantee our room block after 19 April, so make your reservations soon. There are only 390 sleeping rooms in the hotel, so please reserve only the rooms you believe you will actually use. If fate prevents you from attending Balticon, call at least 3 days prior to your arrival date to cancel and you won't be charged the one-night cancellation penalty.

*Taxes and additional fees are approx. \$18.48.

DIRECTIONS: From Baltimore-Washington International Airport: Take I-95 or I-295 north. Follow the **from points south** info below.

From Pennsylvania & points north: Take I-95 south to I-695. Take the I-695 exit west towards Towson. From I-695, take I-83 north (exit 24) towards York, PA. Then follow **directions below**. Alternatively, use the Pennsylvania Turnpike to cross Pennsylvania to Harrisburg and take I-83 south to exit 20A, Shawan Road east. You can pick up the turnpike from many spots as it crosses most of southern Pennsylvania.

From Washington, DC & points south: Take I-95 north until you reach I-695. Take the left-lane exit north towards Towson onto I-695. From

I-695, take I-83 north (exit 24) towards York, PA, and then **see below**.

Once you've taken the I-83 north exit from I-695: Five miles north of the I-695/I-83 interchange is exit 20A, Shawan Road east. Take this exit; the hotel is at the bottom of the ramp on the right.

PARKING: There is **free parking** around the hotel on all sides, including huge parking lots on the east side. The lots could hold 3x normal Balticon attendance. Please lock your car and hide valuables; even though we are outside the urban area, please take precautions typical of a suburban shopping mall's parking lot. Did we mention parking is **FREE?!**

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: **Light Rail** runs north to the Hunt Valley Town Centre (across and up the street from the hotel), and south to BWI/Marshall Airport. There are two stations near the hotel. The Hunt Valley station is at the intersection of Shawan Road and York Road, about 3 blocks from the hotel. From there you'll need to walk 3 blocks west on Shawan Road, a 4-lane highway, and cross same to get to the hotel. The Pepper Road station is the stop just before the Hunt Valley station. From there, walk west on Pepper Road for one block. Look northwest and spot the Hunt Valley Inn, the big brick hotel that does not have a sign. Cross Pepper Road, then cross huge parking lots to get to the hotel. This stop is closer and you don't have to cross a four-lane highway. Bring a travel dolly if you have luggage because it is a good walk from either stop. Check with **MTA** for current schedules: phone 410-539-5000, website www.mtamaryland.com.

BALTICON ON THE WEB

www.balticon.org

Balticon's website has the most up-to-date information about Balticon, along with links and all the contact information you need. Check the site for the most current info on: programming tracks, advertising, special events, online registration, hotel information, etc.

www.balticonpodcast.org

Four years ago, Balticon became the first podcasting science fiction convention. Check the site for previous Balticon guest interviews, downloadable to your iPod! As Balticon 43 draws near, we'll be adding pre-con interviews with some of our Guests of Honor, so check back frequently.

<http://community.livejournal.com/balticon/>

Balticon has a "community" on LiveJournal. Join the community to keep abreast of the latest news and developments to the con, and give us feedback, too!

BALTICON & MARYLAND SF NEWS EMAIL UPDATES! If you would like to receive Balticon and Maryland SF News updates, send an email to info-request@bsfs.org with the word "subscribe" (without quotation marks) as the body of the message. An email message will return to you asking to confirm your interest and instructing you about how to un-subscribe. Year-round monthly Maryland SF cultural event information will be sent to this list with Balticon updates, and also posted on the BSFS website at www.bsfs.org under "Balticon News."

CORRESPONDENCE: Send all correspondence and membership fees to the appropriate department at the address below. When sending email, please include your phone number and address so we may respond with the most effective information package.

BALTICON 43	Phone: (410) JOE-BSFS [563-2737]
P.O. Box 686	Email: balticoninfo@balticon.org
Baltimore, MD 21203-0686	Web: www.balticon.org

TELL YOUR FRIENDS! Share this flyer by photocopying the front page and posting it wherever SF/Fantasy fans might see it or give it to your friends. A PDF version can be downloaded from our website. We try to cover as much of the region as we can and are always looking for new friends to visit Balticon. The more SF&F-loving friends we find, the merrier for all of the Balticon family.



Balticon 43: Maryland's Regional SF Convention
 The Baltimore Science Fiction Society
 PO Box 686
 Baltimore, MD 21203-0686

Balticon 43 Registration Form

Name: _____ Badge Name: _____ Adult Child (circle one)
 Name: _____ Badge Name: _____ Adult Child (circle one)
 Name: _____ Badge Name: _____ Adult Child (circle one)
 Name: _____ Badge Name: _____ Adult Child (circle one)

Address: _____ e-mail: _____
 _____ Phone: () _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Country: _____

If postmarked by:	02/28/09	04/30/09	After/at door	Number	Total	
Adult	\$48	\$53	\$60	x_____	\$_____	<i>Notes: Children under 6 are free if accompanied by an adult at ALL times.</i>
Child (age 6-12)	\$24	\$26	\$30	x_____	\$_____	

Group Discount: Buy 10 memberships get the 11th free/ buy 20 and get the next 2 free.
 Must be purchased at same time (*not available online*).

Total \$_____

Online registration: <https://questor.bsfs.org/cgi-bin/regform.pl>

Payment Options: Check or Money Order made payable to Balticon 43

Card Number: _____ Exp (Month/Year) _____ Mastercard Visa
 Cardholder Signature: x_____ Name on card: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Country: _____

Send this form and payment to:
Registration deadlines: Mail-in—May 4th, 2009;
 Online—Midnight, May 20th, 2009.

Balticon 43 Registration
P.O. Box 686
Baltimore, MD 21203-0686

Please copy this page for additional registrations.
 One address per form, please.

For more information, check your areas of interest below.

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handicapped access | <input type="checkbox"/> Party Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Artist Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Writers' Workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> Gaming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry Track/Workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Writers' Contest | <input type="checkbox"/> Masquerade | <input type="checkbox"/> Costuming Track/Workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> Film Festival |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programming | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading is Fundamental | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |