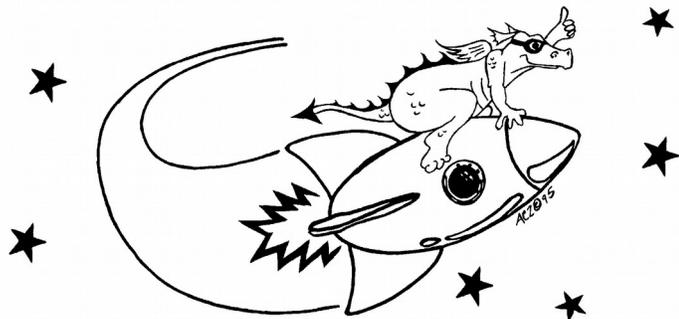


Saturday : Saturday

Balticon 54 Rocket Mail

The Vital Newsletter for a Virtual Con



Saturday, May 23, 2020 Edition

Virtual Con-Suite Report

The Virtual Balticon 54 Con-Suite is an area in Second Life where people can interact as personal avatars in a Balticon dedicated huge area with a video lounge, dance club and chill our lounge all spaced around a central plaza with water features including a fountain. Using the arrow buttons to move your avatar around takes a bit of getting used to, but can quickly be picked up. Just don't fall into the water like I did while learning how to move as you sink below the surface and let me tell you it is a bear to get back out of the water once in there. The food in the con-suite is a little bland this year, but the people are just as friendly as ever. Next year we should get on of those big screens like in the new TV show UPLOAD to put in the con-suite so the virtual people and physical people can look through back and fourth like a window.

Discord Server Report

At least one person has said you get more of a con-feel during participation with stuff over at the Discord Server. There you have Fan tables, Dealers tables and many hang out areas of the con reproduced as "channels" where the people who would normally be at such a physical area at a con can hang out to chat back. It is a bit like the old style Internet relay chat with a more inclusive and graphic interface. You need to register with the Discord Management system, but it is free to do so and they don't ask many questions. Remember the first time use <https://discord.gg/baltimorescifi> but after you have accepted the invite, then use the URL----->

<https://discord.com/channels/455225854012686358> to zip over to Virtual Balticon 54 Channel without having to search for it.

Noted Science Item on Sunday:

The science program track manager recommends the item at 6:00 PM on Sunday by John Lapolla PhD titled "Life on a Little Known Planet: The Ant Kingdom, The Update" focusing on the crazy ants (genus *Nylanderia*), so-called because of the way they move about in a seemingly erratic fashion. Learn how these crazy ants have achieved near global domination!



Room Party News

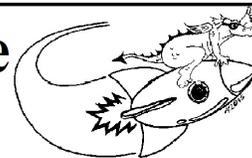
All of the standing and bidding Worldcons (Worldcons: CoNZeland and DisCon III) and all the current Worldcon bids (Chicago 2022, Chengdu 2023, Glasgow 2024, and Seattle 2025) will be in the same Zoom party with different breakout rooms for each group. AND It'll be on both Saturday and Sunday nights from 8pm – midnight. Stop on by to learn about the Worldcon in Washington DC in 2021 and all near future Worldcons. The Zoom link for this historic event is:

<https://zoom.us/j/99487554963?pwd=TG5nVjBsUXdtenIrRzFzeWtRa3U3UT09>

GoFundMe Report

For the record as of 10:41 AM the total GoFundMe donations are at \$9,710.00 gifted by the generous fans that are making Virtual Balticon 54 possible.

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