

Rocket City NerdCon Saturday Panel Descriptions

- 9:30 a.m. **Cyber Huntsville** – Cyber security expert, Jeremy Conway, will discuss what you may not know about securing your information. There will be demonstrations of simple data thefts hackers use to steal your information and tips on how to protect yourself from data theft. Once the session is over, there will be hands on activities with various technology gadgets and tools used for ethical or mobile hacking.
- 9:30 a.m. **Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Roundtable** – We will discuss how we feel about the new Boy Who Lived adventure.
- 10:00 a.m. **Prospero Clydesdale O’Shaughnessy and the Pan-Cultural Hero Myth** – Using the YA/Middle-Schooler fantasy series *The Curse of the Dullahan* as an example, we will discuss the concepts of Campbell’s pan-cultural hero myth, how they influence fantasy and adventure works written for younger audiences, and how their inclusion helps authors tackle social issues within the structure of fantasy adventures.
- 10:00 a.m. **The Essential Doctor Who** – Across more than five decades, the BBC’s *Doctor Who* has turned into an iconic series. Join us on a journey across the show’s epic history & the stories that have defined it.
- 10:30 a.m. **Author Q&A: Daniel Boyd** – Daniel Boyd is the author of the graphic novel *Chillers 1*, the 2012 Shel Dorph nominee for Original Graphic Novel of the Year, and Ghastly nominee for Best Horror Anthology. *CARBON*, 2014, was an Original Graphic Novel Ghastly nominee. *SALT* completes his *CARBON* epic eco-horror saga.
- 11:00 a.m. **Painting Cosplay Props and Armor** – Learn the basics on how to paint props and armor for cosplay along with shading and highlighting techniques.
- 11:00 a.m. **Carnegie Writers Group: The Connection between Brain Science & Written Expression** – Writers will learn how understanding the brain’s cognitive processes will improve their comfort with expression within writing.
- 11:00 a.m. **Medieval Merriment** – An interactive and hands-on glimpse into recreating the best parts of the Middle Ages: knights and ladies, fighting, swordplay, calligraphy, weaving, dancing, and more!
- 11:30 a.m. **Night Vale Returns!** – (teens+) Another year, another 19 episodes of weirdness and floating cats. “Night Vale” has gotten even crazier and we’re here to discuss just what happened this season!
- 12:30 p.m. **DIY Bundle Bow** – An informative presentation on how anyone with limited skills, tools, and \$5 worth of parts can build an effective bundle-type bow for cosplaying or target shooting purposes.
- 1:00 p.m. **How to Break into Niche Podcasting** – Are you an aspiring podcaster? Do you have a podcast in a niche and want to grow your audience? Let Bald Move’s Jim and A.Ron give you some advice; two regular guys who are making a living podcasting about TV & Movies.
- 1:00 p.m. **Carnegie Writers Group: Playwriting** – Activities will include learning how to create an inspirational file, developing monologues, and take home idea worksheets that can be used to the springboard ideas in the future.

- 1:00 p.m. **Disney Sing-Along** – A sing-along featuring music and videos from popular Disney movies. Magical fun for all ages!
- 2:30 p.m. **Cosplay Contest**-Show off your costumes and battle it out for some cool prizes! Check the rules on page 8 of your program and be sure to register by noon!
- 3:00 p.m. **Carnegie Writers Group: A Sense of Wonder - Why every creative writer needs one** – As writers, we seek to explore the impact of works of art and music, the impetus of creation, inherent qualities of the works that engender an aesthetic and/or spiritual response in the viewer. This can lead to the realization that a core experience of inspiration may be shared in relation to the writing of prose and poetry.
- 5:00 p.m. **Q&A with Chris Harrelson** – Chris Harrelson shares his experiences working on films and TV shows and offers insight on how to get involved in the industry. Chris has worked on nearly 3 dozen productions with such talented individuals as Liam Neeson, Donald Sutherland, Jennifer Lawrence, Vince Vaughn and many others.
- 5:00 p.m. **Carnegie Writers Group: Fan Flash Fiction** – Fan fiction is not just a genre for people wishing to extend the story lines of their favorite shows; it is also an effective writing exercise that streamlines cultural influence. Once you're familiar with a character, writing them into new situations can be very fruitful for original character development.
- 5:00 p.m. **Fates of Akalon: Tribes Tournament** – Test your skill at the newly released tactical card game by Huntsville company Foursight Games. Learn how to play on the day of the event in gaming area or at our intro at 4:30. Tournament entry is free with convention admission, and includes a shot at great prizes for the winners. Discounted food available for purchase, provided by Old Black Bear Brewery & Taproom.
- 6:00 p.m. **Moon Zero Two: The Origins of the Space Western** – Long before *Firefly*, *Moon Zero Two* introduced the idea of the Western set in space. Bring your food and enjoy this groundbreaking 1969 film starring James Olsen and Catherine Schell.
- 7:00 p.m. **Cordial Invitation to a Red Wedding** – Special Collections (18+): A.Ron & Jim will dress up as Lord Walder Frey & Lord Roose Bolton and invite 10 audience members up to the dais where a table will be laid for a "feast." We will lead the selected volunteer players through a re-themed version of the classic party game, "Werewolf." Nine of the invited guests will be from the noble houses of Stark and Tully, who are gathered to celebrate the wedding of their lord. But one of the guests will be a craven and cowardly Frey, who will murder one guest in between each course of the meal. Can the Starks ferret out the murderer, or will he or she be able to eliminate them one by one?

Rocket City NerdCon Sunday Panel Descriptions

- 9:30 a.m. **Coffee, Coffee, Coffee: A Gilmore Girls Conversation** — Join those of us that wish we were Stars Hollow townies as we gush over our excitement about *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life*.
- 9:30 a.m. **Big Finish: Doctor Who Beyond TV** – *Doctor Who* might be the world's longest running science fiction television series but it's also had a long life off TV as well. Since 1999, the UK production company Big Finish Productions has produced hundreds of audio dramas featuring the cast from the series including Doctors and a number of companions. Join us as we look and listen to these adventures across space and time.
- 10:00 a.m. **Diversity in Science Fiction** – This panel of diverse creators will discuss how science fiction can help breakdown cultural barriers to bring a brighter future.
- 10:30 a.m. **Kickstarting to life: Tabletop Game Development through Kickstarter** – Weird Giraffe Games is a three-person company from Huntsville that launched their first game, Super Hack Override, on Kickstarter in September. In this panel we'll talk about the process, from the original idea through game development, community building, to the Kickstarter itself.
- 11:00 a.m. **Fan-service and Nerd-rage: Adapting Screenplays in the Digital Age** — (18+): A meta-analysis of different strategies pursued by the creators and screenwriters working to bring novels and graphic novels to our television sets and the silver screen. Bald Move's Jim and A.Ron will be looking at the cheers and jeers that have been generated by different adaptations along the way & the challenges of adapting works into different mediums.
- 12:00 p.m. **Geeky Author Dejour** — Come meet author Angela Blount! She has written two YA memoirs, is currently writing a Young Adult sci-fi series, and she has an extensive knowledge of the sci-fi and fantasy genres. Angela is RWA guild member (Romance Writers of America), staff book reviewer for YABC (Young Adult Books Central), and a Goodreads librarian.
- 12:00 p.m. **Black-Eyed Children Theories: Where Do They Come From and What Do They Want?** — Join us for a discussion on the paranormal phenomenon known as Black-Eyed Children. We will talk about Brian Bethel's story (the first known Black-Eyed Child encounter) as well as theories about what they are and what would happen if you let them in.
- 12:30 p.m. **Hamilton Roundtable (and sing-along)** – (18+): It might be a well-researched discussion of the historical references in the Broadway show, or it might just dissolve into a sing-a-long, but either way it'll be entertaining.
- 1:00 p.m. **Hetalia History** – Welcome to the Hetalia World Conference! Ever wanted to ask your favorite Nations a question? Ever wanted to hear them rant about parts of their past (and maybe needle each other about it too?) Ever wanted to watch as a select group of Nation interacts and see how well (or not) that goes? Well if you have, here's your chance! Come on into our Hetalia panel and see how your favorite Nations get along! Ask them questions, get them to clarify points, or just try to set them off and see how long it takes to get the squabbling again! (Hint: not long). So come on down and enjoy a little time with us! We hope to see you there!

- 1:00 p.m. **Librarians at the Zombie Apocalypse** – Although they never show up in any zombie movie or TV series, librarians would be essential to surviving any apocalypse and we will discuss why we think they're really important to rebuilding civilization. Who needs Darryl anyway?
- 2:00 p.m. **Harry Potter: Fantastic Beasts Roundtable** – Join us to discuss the new Harry Potter movie and how it affects the wizarding world we know and love.
- 2:00 p.m. **The 2017 Nerdy Awards or The Empire Bad Movies Strike Back** – (18+) The Nerdy Awards are back for a second season. Audience members will vote on the "best" sci-fi, fantasy and action movies of all time after being forced to view clips of some of the worst movies ever made.
- 2:30 p.m. **Filmmaking with Daniel Boyd** – Daniel Boyd is an acclaimed filmmaker with dozens of films, including *Chillers*, *Strangest Dreams: Invasion of the Space Preachers*, and *Paradise Park* to his credit. A recently retired media studies professor at West Virginia State University, Boyd also taught around the world including in Tanzania as a three time Fulbright scholar. Producing nearly every genre of film, Boyd's television work has earned three Telly awards and two regional Emmy nominations.
- 2:30 p.m. **Disney Villain Sing-Along** – All the fun of Saturday's sing-along but with all your favorite villain songs!
- 3:30 p.m. **Zombies in Modern Media** – (Teens+): Special Guest Chris Harrelson takes a look at how the shambling undead have risen to the top of the food chain of pop culture monsters. From *The Walking Dead* to *Shaun of the Dead*, we'll discuss modern media's fascination with these thrilling hordes of brain-hungry horrors.
- 4:30 p.m. **Closing Ceremony** Come join us as we wrap-up the con with our special guests, prize drawings, and some big announcements about 2017!