



Westercon 70

LepreCon 43 | ConAlope

Press Release - April 2017

We are pleased to bring Westercon, the most prestigious science fiction and fantasy convention in the west, to the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, from July 1st to 4th, 2017.

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Attendees of **Westercon 70**, an annual regional convention, will learn the truth about the massive government cover-up behind the alien visitation at Roswell, NM, seventy years ago... or maybe not. Fans of science fiction, fantasy, filk, gaming and art will converge upon the **Tempe Mission Palms Hotel** in Tempe, AZ over the **4th of July weekend, 2017**.

The convention, branded **ConAlope** after the legendary creature that arose from the imaginations of lore-bearers of the southwest, will commemorate the 70th anniversary of both Westercon and the crash landing of a UFO (or military surveillance balloon) in Roswell, NM on July 8, 1947. "We suggest that the stranded aliens wrangled a horde of frisky jackalopes and rode west to Tempe," says chair **Dee Astell**. "They may well make an appearance at Westercon!"

Westercon moves around the western region and is sponsored in 2017 by Leprecon, Inc., a science fiction and fantasy non-profit in Arizona with a focus on art. We are therefore combining Westercon 70 with **LepreCon 43** and bringing a strong art show to this event.

LepreCon is also known for its gaming track, named CONflagration, which will invade the Abbey room at Westercon 70.

Memberships are priced at just \$85 for adults; \$55 for serving military and teens (aged 13 to 17); and \$35 for kids age 7 to 12 for this four-day event, with a preview night on the preceding Friday. Other options are available on our website, westercon70.org.

Our Guests of Honor include:

- Artist **Julie Dillon** (California), winner of two Hugo Awards and four Chesley Awards.
- Artist **Tom Deadstuff** (Arizona), creator of unique works in paper mache.
- Artist **Larry Elmore** (Kentucky), famed for his art for Dungeons & Dragons and the *Dragonlance* book series.
- Author **Connie Willis** (Colorado), winner of eleven Hugo and seven Nebula awards, more than any other writer.
- Author **Gini Koch** (Arizona), of 15 books in DAW's Alien/Katherine 'Kitty' Katt series, plus others under a variety of pseudonyms.
- Fans **Val and Ron Ontell** (California), experienced conrunners, originally from New York, who have organized Worldcon cruises since the mid-eighties.
- Filker **Tim Griffin** (California), award-winning teacher, musician and storyteller.
- Scientist **Henry Vanderbilt** (Arizona), founder of the Space Access Society.
- Sci-fi diplomats **Bjo and John Trimble** (California), conrunners, art show pioneers and fans. They are also the reason why *Star Trek* had a third season.
- Toastmaster **Weston Ochse** (Arizona), Bram Stoker Award-winning author of horror and military science fiction.

Westercon 70 will feature many events over the four day weekend including two dances, multiple concerts, a masquerade, a film festival, a filk room and many panels and workshops. It will end, of course, with Tempe's traditional fourth of July fireworks.

A charity auction will be held to benefit the **Challenger Space Center** in Peoria, AZ. The WesternSFA, a local non-profit, will be holding a book drive to benefit homeless children attending **Children First Academy**. A traditional blood drive will also be held.

Room rates at the Tempe Mission Palms are just \$109 per night (plus taxes), the same rates as when Arizona last held Westercon at this venue in 2009. Reserve your room now by visiting <http://westercon70.org/hotel> or call (800) 547-8705 and mention 'Westercon 70'.

For more information, please visit our website, westercon70.org, or contact our publicity coordinator, Debra Krol, by e-mail at publicity@westercon70.org.