

## *Albacon 2016 Progress Report*

We look forward to seeing you at Albacon 2016! We have a fun and interesting convention for you. We'll have **ice cream** on Friday night, a Hall Costume contest with cash prizes on Saturday, fascinating Guests of Honor and other program participants, gaming, an excellent art show, and dealers who are eager to sell you the stuff you want. The convention takes place from March 4th through 6th at the Best Western Albany Airport Inn on Wolf Road in Albany, New York.

We have four Guests of Honor:

- David Weber, creator of the Honor Harrington and Safehold stories, as well as other SF and fantasy tales, as our Author Guest of Honor;
- Heidi Hooper, the “dryer lint lady,” as our Artist Guest of Honor;
- Dawn “Kaijugal” McKechnie, of costume and cosplay fame, as our Costuming Guest of Honor; and
- Ramsey Campbell, described by the Oxford Companion to English Literature as “Britain’s most respected living horror writer,” as our Horror Guest of Honor.

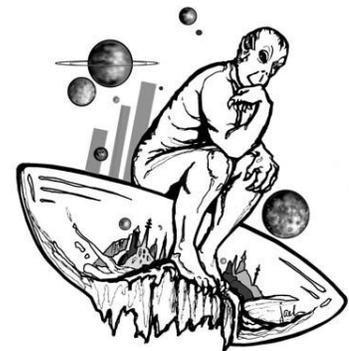
Other interesting authors, artists, and fans will be there, too!

Our hotel has space for our program as well as comfortable guest rooms (including breakfast!). You can dine in-house or at one of a large number of nearby restaurants. Some of them are in walking distance.

We're easy to reach by car, with lots of free parking, by Amtrak to Albany, or by air — the airport is a very short drive from our hotel. You'll find more information about the convention, the hotel, and memberships in this progress report. If you can't make the whole weekend, you can come on Saturday only for just \$10 at the door, and full weekend memberships will also be available at the door.

On behalf of the entire convention committee, we look forward to seeing you at Albacon in 2016. Bring your friends!

— Byron Connell, Chair, Albacon 2016



### **WHAT IS ALBACON?**

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Albacon is a gathering of fans and creators of science fiction, fantasy, games, anime, web comics; pretty much anything geek related. We are not limited to literature, but include movies, games, costumes, and almost anything else you can think of! Come for one day or all weekend. There will be panel discussions, art exhibits, dealers, interviews, films, games, readings, autographs! Plus lots of just hanging out with other people who share your interests, individual discussions, and maybe even some debates (did Han Solo really shoot first). We're small enough to afford a personal experience, and big enough to offer variety.

### ***Our Guests***

#### **DAVID WEBER, AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR**

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David Mark Weber is an American science fiction and fantasy author who was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1952. He started writing poetry and short fiction in the fifth grade, and a lifetime of reading, writing, and studying — particularly of history — has given him a love of storytelling that clearly shows in his work. In his stories, he creates a consistent and rationally explained technology and society. Even when

dealing with fantasy themes, the magical powers are treated like another technology with supporting rational laws and principles.

Many of his stories have military, and particularly naval, themes, and fit into the military science fiction genre. He challenges current gender roles in the military by assuming that a gender-neutral military service will exist in his futures. By frequently placing female leading characters in what have previously been seen as traditionally male roles, he has explored the challenges faced by women in the military and politics. His fantasy novels are also marked by strong female protagonists and supporting characters, who more often confront the straitjacket imposed by muscle-powered societies on the rights and prerogatives of women.



His most popular and enduring character by far has been Honor Harrington, whose story, together with the “Honorverse” she inhabits, has been developed through 26 solo and collaborative novels, including the *Crown of Slaves* series with Eric Flint; a young-adult series co-authored with Jane Lindskold; a newly launched “historical” series (set 300 years before Honor Harrington’s time) written with Timothy Zahn and Tom Pope, six multi-author anthologies; and the *Honorverse Companion*, written with BuNine, an organization composed of Honorverse fans who have become friends and collaborators.

In addition to the Honorverse, his series from Baen Books include the Multiverse novels, co-authored with Linda Evans and (upcoming) Joelle Presby; the *Mutineers’ Moon* series; the StarFire series (with Steve White); the War God series; and the Empire of Man series (with John Ringo). With Tor Books, he has released one stand-alone novel (*Out of the Dark*) and the Safehold series. His most recent release, *The Sword of the South*, is the fifth novel set in the War God universe and begins a new cycle in the ongoing war between Kontovar and Norfressa, and the eighth novel in the Safehold series (*Hell’s Foundations Quiver*) is scheduled for an October release.

In total, counting books currently in the production queue and/or scheduled for release, he has authored or co-authored a total of 62 novels and eight anthologies since 1990, not counting omnibus rereleases.

Weber lives in Greenville South Carolina with his wife, Sharon Rice-Weber, their three children (Megan, Morgan, and Michael Paul), three dogs, and three cats (who, in the ancient conspiracy of feline-kind, actually rule the household). Between soccer league practices (with twin daughters who are not on the same team), middle school volleyball games, middle school soccer games, and baseball practice and games, he continues to steal time to write the occasional book. He says the publishers won’t pay him unless he does. They’re funny that way.

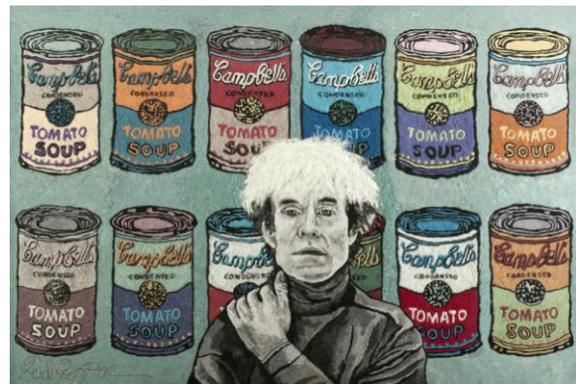
## HEIDI HOOPER, ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR

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Heidi Hooper is the Dryer Lint Lady — Believe it or Not.

A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University’s sculpture department, she later studied for her master’s at the University of California Long Beach and the Massachusetts College of Art (where she also taught for a year). After cancer ate most of her upper arm, she had to find new ways of making art, and has become the nation’s leading dryer lint artist.

Her work is showing in Ripley’s Believe it or Not museums around the world, and Heidi was featured in their books. Her work is also currently showing in galleries in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



After Consumer Reports called her “The Andy Warhol of Dryer Lint” she made a piece called “Andy Warhol in Dryer Lint,” which won her the prestigious Niche Award for recycled art. She was just nominated for the 2016 award as well, which will be her 4th such nomination.

Heidi is also one of the founders of modern live action role-playing games in North America, running Alliance LARP with her husband, writer Michael A. Ventrella.

Her web page is [HeidiHooper.com](http://HeidiHooper.com).

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## DAWN MCKECHNIE, COSTUMING GUEST OF HONOR

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Dawn McKechnie, also known as “Kaijugal,” has been involved in the Canadian costuming community and international costuming fandom for over twenty years. Although she has won numerous awards throughout the years for her unique costume creations, in the past fifteen years Dawn was heavily involved with organizing, administration, and education at costume events.

She currently not only coordinates the Cosplay Events Department for Anime North, but is also the director of several masquerades including FANEXPO and Otakuthon . She has participated as a judge at many cons such as, Anime Next, Phoenix Comicon, ConBravo, Costume-Con, and Worldcon. Occasionally, Dawn has served as the Canadian News Editor at [cosplay.com](http://cosplay.com), and currently she is serving as President of the Fibre Fantasy Artists of Canada.

In 2013 Dawn was bestowed with the honor of receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Costumers Guild.

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## RAMSEY CAMPBELL, HORROR GUEST OF HONOR

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Ramsey Campbell is proud to write horror; that’s how he introduces himself at readings and on panels, and in conversation too if the opportunity arises. He enjoys being told that people don’t like horror, which they don’t read (how they can know?). He believe he's in a minority of writers who say that they write horror.

Some of those who made their name with it seem eager to show they’ve moved on. Some might even like to convince us that they never entered the field, and seek to erase all traces of their presence as they flee the scene of the crime. Campbell won’t be doing either. He started with the classics of the genre first — anything that found its way between hard covers and into the public library — but has never faltered in his conviction that horror is a branch of literature, however much of it lets that tradition down. He started writing horror in an attempt to pay back some of the pleasure the field has given him, and hasn't finished — nor ever expects to. (Photo © Andrew I. Porter)



## ***Program***

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In addition to the above guests, the following people will be on our program:

Ken Altabef  
Anatoly Belilovsky  
James Cambias  
Susan Hanniford Crowley  
Debi Chowdhury  
Tony Daniel  
Amalia Dillin  
J.A. Fludd

Carl Frederick  
Shuvom Ghose  
Llallania Ghose  
Elektra Hammond  
Richard Herr  
Herb Kauderer  
Kate Laity  
Andre Lieven

Chuck Rothman  
Jim Rudnick  
Alex Shvartsman  
Ryk E. Spoor  
Michael Ventrella  
Keith Willis

## ***Happenings***

### **COSTUME PRIZES**

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Wear your best hall costume! We'll be awarding prizes Saturday evening around 4pm!

We'll award \$100, \$50, and \$25 for the top three hall costumes at Albacon! Hall costume? Something you can wear comfortably around the halls of the hotel. There will also be an additional prize, donated by our Costuming Guest of Honor—a CostumeCon 35 membership. CostumeCon 35 will be in Mississauga, ON, Canada, April 20-24th, 2017.

### **WRITERS' WORKSHOP**

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Once again, there will be a Writer's Workshop in conjunction with Albacon on Friday. Authors will discuss various aspects of publishing and, if there's interest, we will look into having aspiring authors submit work for critiquing by published authors (time permitting). Get advice on how to polish and market your work.

The workshop is held in conjunction with Albacon. A full convention membership is required, as well as registration for the Workshop. There is no additional charge for the Writer's Workshop, but there is a cost associated with Friday's lunch.

This year we are again having a catered, plated lunch on Friday, but it is not limited to the Writer's Workshop attendees. Think of it as a Mini-Banquet for those who arrive early. The cost per person is \$15 in advance, \$17.50 at con (including all taxes and gratuity). We'll post a copy of the menu on our website when available from the hotel. To register for Friday's lunch, visit our website.



### **ART SHOW**

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The Albacon Art Show is both an exhibit and an art sale. Art of all types will be on view, and many of the pieces will be available for purchase via a silent auction. Any piece that receives more than a certain number of bids will go to a voice auction on Sunday of the convention.

Artists currently in the show include Alan Beck, Sarah Clemens, Liana Hertel, Lisa Hertel, Heidi Hooper, Dawn McKechnie, and Carol Salemi.

## DEALERS

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Yes, we will have a dealers' room. It will contain a few select vendors, covering new and used books, board and card games, and fannish items. For information on being a dealer, see our website.

## Attend

### HOTEL

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Albacon is returning to the Best Western Airport Inn (BWA I) on Wolf Rd. in Albany, NY, just south of Latham. The location is convenient to I-87, the Albany International Airport and all the shopping and dining along Wolf Rd. The hotel is two stories, but does *not* have an elevator. All Albacon functions (and parties) are on the first floor, and if you need a first floor room, we can arrange that.

In order to book a room in the Albacon block **you must call the BWA I directly at (518) 458-1000** and tell them you are booking a room for Albacon. If you need a first floor room, mention that, but they will tell you that they cannot guarantee placement. That is their standard script, and we are working with them very closely to insure that all first floor requests are granted. In order to insure that we know you need a first floor room, once you have made your reservation, fill out the Hotel Special Request Form at the bottom of this page: <http://www.albacon.org/2016/index.php/hotel/> Also if you need an accessible room, please fill out the same form and indicate the type of accommodation you need. The hotel has limited number of accessible rooms, each with different accessibility features. As long as we know what you need, we can do our best to insure that you get it.

**The deadline for booking a room in the Albacon Block closes February 11, 2016!** After that date we cannot guarantee the contracted rate or other benefits. Rooms booked outside of the Albacon block are assigned by the hotel, and we have no control over that process. Of course if you miss the deadline, email us at [hotel@albacon.org](mailto:hotel@albacon.org), and we'll see if we can help.

### REGISTER

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In order to attend Albacon, you must register and purchase a membership in the convention. You may register in advance, or at the door. Registering in advance is highly recommended as rates at the door will be higher. *Please note that Albacon has a NO REFUND policy.* If you are unable to attend, you may request a membership rollover to the following year. You must request such no later than 10 days following the Albacon you were not able to attend. Register on our website, [www.albacon.org](http://www.albacon.org).

Full Attending Membership <b>before</b> February 9th, 2016	\$30
Full Attending Membership <b>after</b> February 9th, 2016	\$35
Writers' Workshop & Full Membership (includes Friday lunch)	\$45
Friday Lunch Only (in advance; \$17.50 after March 1st)	\$15
Saturday (March 5th) Only	\$10

### CONDUCT

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Albacon demands that all attendees treat others with respect.

**By accepting your badge for Albacon**, you are indicating your acceptance of this code of conduct. If you do not agree to comply with this code of conduct, please inform Registration prior to accepting your badge, and your membership fee will be refunded.

If someone's behavior makes you uncomfortable, ask them to stop or seek out a staff member for assistance. If you are asked to stop a particular behavior, do so immediately.

Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Stalking
- Physical or verbal intimidation
- Discriminatory comments or actions (including, but limited to, those based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or physical appearance)
- Unwanted physical contact
- Unwelcome sexual attention
- Threats of violence or inciting fear of physical injury

Violations of this policy or refusal to stop an unwanted behavior after being asked to do so will result in censure up to and including, but not limited to, revoking the offender's membership, banning the member from future Albacons, and asking the hotel staff to remove the offender from the property.

If you wish to report an incident, please seek out a staff member for assistance. All reported incidents will be documented and investigated. Please be advised that we need to be informed about an incident in order to take action. Members of the Convention Committee will assess all reported incidents and will respond as appropriate.

If you are accused of misconduct and feel that the Committee Members' response was unjustified, you may appeal to the Convention Chair. The Chair's determination on all incidents will be final.

In summation, please be considerate of others, and let respect and common sense prevail.

Thank you.

## ***Get involved***

### **VOLUNTEER**

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We encourage members interested in helping to put on the con to volunteer by contacting the Operations office during the convention, or by doing so on the web site beforehand. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and make friends! We have jobs for all skills and abilities.

### **CONTACT US**

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Find Albacon on Facebook and Twitter (@albacon2016), or visit our website, [www.albacon.org](http://www.albacon.org).