



# Michael Schulkins

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Humor and sci-fi novels full of phantasmagorical fun!

## Contact

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Website

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## Bio

Michael Schulkins writes humor and science fiction novels full of phantasmagorical fun!

His new steampunk alternate history bestseller, *Mark Twain on the Moon*, brings the wit and wonder of Mark Twain's travel writings to a whole new planet. This year he has been a guest author at BayCon, Writer of the Day on Reddit's Fantasy community, and featured on the Steampunk Explorer and Alternate History Fiction websites. His other novels include the out-of-this-world political satires *Up A Tree: A Jobs and Plunkitt Galactic Adventure*, *Beltway*, and the comic crime capers *Mother Lode* and *Sting Suite*.

Michael was born and raised in California, and although he has checked out repeatedly, he has of course been unable to leave. He lives with the love of his life in a classic mid-century modern house in Silicon Valley.

Michael attended several universities and eventually emerged with two degrees in physics, one in music composition, and minors in math, political science, philosophy, and poker. He subsequently spent twenty years teaching physics, and now writes full time.

## Social Media

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## Q & A

### **What prompted the idea for *Mark Twain on the Moon*?**

The idea was inspired by Mark Twain's travel writings, and Jules Verne, and I wanted to see if I could "do Twain." You'll enjoy it if you like 19th century writing and sensibilities, alternate history, steampunk, guys in space suits, a good story, and a good laugh.

### **So, how do they get to the moon in the 19th century?**

I love the idea of the 19th century in space, so I 'invented' a device called the resonance engine that uses interfering magnetic fields to dissociate molecules (of, say, water) with almost no energy expended. Then I used that to make a water fueled rocket engine, which is how Mark Twain gets to the Moon. The same technology allows people to live on the Moon, since they can easily liberate oxygen from water, or even from rock.

### **Got any favorite quotes to share from *Mark Twain on the Moon*?**

Yes! In fact, here they are as handy shareable images: [www.imgur.com/gallery/LAB7gFZ](http://www.imgur.com/gallery/LAB7gFZ)

### **What's the best thing about being a writer?**

For me, writing is an adventure, an excursion into unknown lands where anything can happen, and usually does. I may start out with some idea about where I am going, but the trip is always full of surprises. And of course, the most exciting part is meeting and getting to know the strange and wonderful characters I encounter, which is why dialog is my favorite part of writing. My characters say the darnedest things.

### **What's your advice for aspiring writers?**

Write, write, write, and then write some more! You won't know what kind of a writer you are, and whether you even want to write at all, until you've written 50 to 100 thousand words. And here's some more explicit advice: Until you get as good as Patrick O'Brian, everything you write should be set in a recognizable place (a scene), have the consistent viewpoint of a single character, and show people doing things and talking together. Sounds obvious, but many beginning writers fail to do this.

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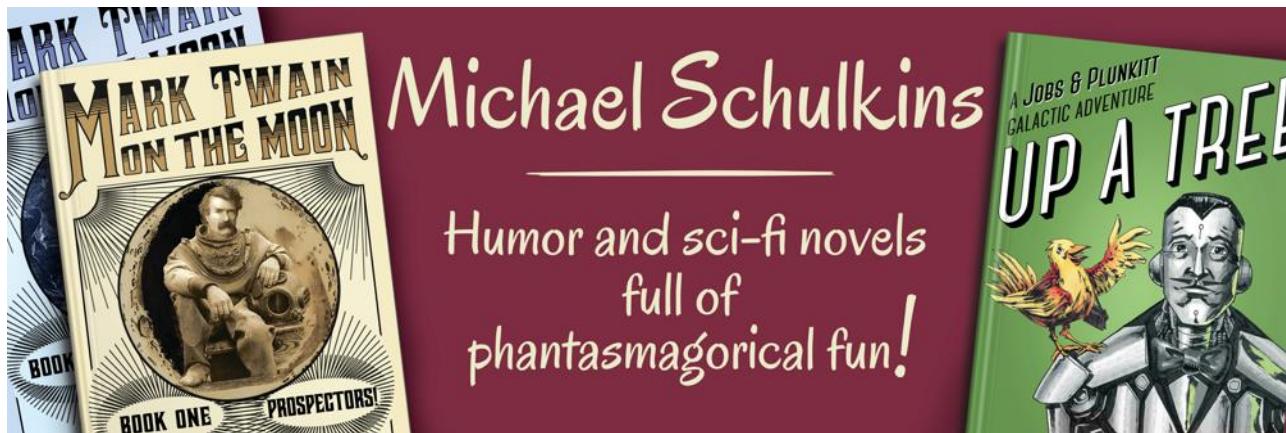
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Candid Convention Photo

