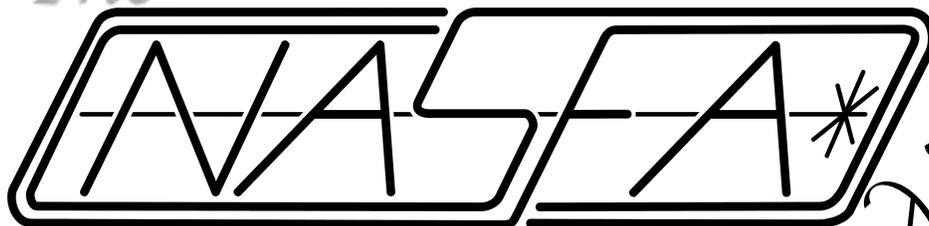


The



Shuttle

November 2010

The Next NASFA Meeting is 20 November 2010 at the Regular Time and Location

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be Saturday **20 November 2010** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**.

Meetings are at the Renasant Bank's Community Room, 4245 Balmoral Drive in south Huntsville. Exit the Parkway at Airport Road; head east one short block to the light at Balmoral Drive; turn left (north) for less than a block. The bank is on the right, just past Logan's Roadhouse restaurant. Enter at the front door of the bank; turn right to the end of a short hallway.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

NASFA's November program will be "Podcasting Your Book—a Primer," presented by Alex White, author of *The Gearheart* <www.thegearheart.com>.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The first Con+Stellation XXX concom meeting will 18 December 2010, at 3P—that's the same day as the NASFA club meeting that month. The meeting will be at the Renasant Bank's Community Room—the same room used for the club

meeting. There will be a dinner break between the concom meeting and the club meeting.

The likely plan going forward will be to continue to have concom meetings the same day as club meetings. As we near the con and need to go to more than one concom meeting a month, the concom schedule will have to adjust.

ATMMs

The November After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at Mike Kennedy's house—7907 Charlotte Drive in south Huntsville. See the map below. The usual NASFA rules apply, to wit, please bring your preferred drink plus a food item to share. Chocolate cake and a champagne toast will be provided.

The December ATMM (cum Christmas party) will be at Sue Thorn's house. The New Year's Eve party will be at Nancy

Get the Shuttle via Electrons

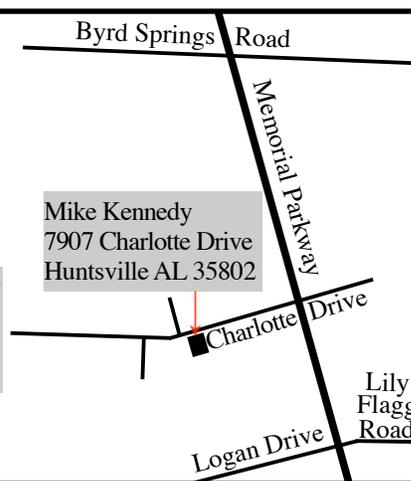
by Mike Kennedy, Editor

Do you already have enough paper stacking up in your house to be a fire hazard? The *Shuttle* is available in PDF form if you'd prefer to receive it in your email inbox instead of your dead-tree mailbox. All you need to do is notify us by emailing <nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org>.

Map To ATMM Location

The turn onto Charlotte Drive is about 2 miles south of the turn from Airport Road onto Memorial Parkway

Mike Kennedy
7907 Charlotte Drive
Huntsville AL 35802



Continuing Our 30th Year of Publication!

Inside this issue...

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Deadline for the December issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday 3 December 2010

Cucci and Ray Pietruszka's house. We are seeking ATMM volunteers for all months in 2011.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

The December program will be a Radom Gift Exchange (just the thing to get one in the mood for the ATMM/party later that evening). Programs for January and beyond are still in work.

NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to the calendar and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f events) are added or changed.

News & Info

SCOOBY DOO MEETS LOVECRAFT & ELLISON

In their 18 October episode, *Scooby Doo! Mystery Incorporated* did their take on author "H.P. Hatecraft." In addition to Hatecraft and his monster (which for some odd reason resembles popular depictions of Cthulhu), the episode <popculturezoo.com/archives/713> features one "Professor Ellison"—voiced by Harlan himself.



WE'RE NUMBER 3!

In *Forbes Magazine's* 10th annual ranking of the top-earning dead celebrities <www.tinyurl.com/TopDead>, the sf/f/h genre got some props with J.R.R. Tolkien coming in 3rd—behind only Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley. Almost a half-million copies of Tolkien titles sold in the period counted, possibly spurred by the run-up to the movie adaptation of *The Hobbit*.

Two other arguably-genre-related figures also placed on the list. Charles Schulz (*Peanuts*) came in 4th, in part because an 80% share of the cartoon archive and character rights changed hands during the year. Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, took the 7th spot, with income from such sources as iPhone apps and an attraction at Orlando's Universal Studios theme park.

AMAZON TOP 10 OF "2010"

Rushing the end of 2010 by about 2 months, Amazon has published Top 10 lists in a number of categories <www.tinyurl.com/AmTop10s>, including sf/fantasy. These editors' picks are often interesting; sometimes controversial. This year's honors go to:

- The Golden Age*, Michal Ajvaz (Dalkey Archive)
- The Fixed Stars: Thirty-Seven Emblems for the Perilous Season*, Brian Conn (Fiction Collective 2)
- The Half-Made World*, Felix Gilman (Tor)
- The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms*, N.K. Jemisin (Orbit)
- Kill the Dead: A Sandman Slim Novel*, Richard Kadrey (Eos)
- The Orange Eats Creeps*, Grace Krilanovich (Two Dollar Radio)

- Redemption in Indigo: a novel*, Karen Lord (Small Beer)
- Who Fears Death*, Nnedi Okorafor (DAW)
- The Dream of Perpetual Motion*, Dexter Clarence Palmer (St. Martin's)

How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe, Charles Yu (Pantheon)

ANNUAL E-BOOK SALES NEAR \$1,000,000,000

Forrester Research has released their latest report on the state of eBook sales. Combing info from a published excerpt <www.tinyurl.com/eBooks1Bil> and news reports, notable Forrester's poll findings and projections include:

- 2010 US sales of eBooks are expected to reach \$966 million
- 2015 US sales of eBooks are projected to rise to \$2.8 billion.
- Only 7 percent 7% of *online adults who read books* read eBooks, and nearly 50% of those don't own a dedicated eBook reader.
- The average eBook reader consumes 41% of books in digital form. For those that own a dedicated eBook reader (Kindle, etc.), that jumps to 66%.
- The top devices used for reading eBooks are (in order) laptop computers, the Kindle, iPhones, the Sony eReader, and net-book computers

October Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The October meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, October 16, 2010 in the Renasant Bank meeting room at 6:17:06P by President Mary Lampert. The crickets were coaxed to life yet again this month.

Shop and Save at the "Plea" Market
to benefit the
North Alabama Spay-Neuter FREE to the Public
A High Quality Low Cost Clinic

Saturday, November 20, 2010, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Huntsville Jaycees Building, John Hunt Park, Airport Road
No early birds, please!

Special Preview Sale and Silent Auction
Friday November 19, 2010, from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Shop early while enjoying coffee and desserts.
\$10 Donation requested

We Need A Transport Van
Please help us raise the money to buy a van.
We need it to transport animals from rural areas to the clinic.

Find some Treasures and Help a Great Cause!
Holiday Items, Home and Garden, Furniture, Collectibles, Jewelry,
Art, Antiques, Household Items, Tools, Electronics and more*

Sponsoring Organizations

The Ark	Greater Huntsville Humane Society	No Greater Love
Challenger's House	Huntsville Animal Services	SNAP Spay Neuter Action Project
Dixie Dachshund Rescue	Madison Animal Rescue Foundation	Southern Alliance for Animal Welfare
For Cats Sake (S.Dog) Rescue	Madison County Animal Services	TLC
Forgotten Felines, Inc.	A New Leash on Life	

Donation of saleable items (see above list!) welcome on Thursday, November 18, 2010 from 10a.m. - 6 p.m.
For more information, call Susan at 256-534-4566 or Brenda at 256-459-0418
Pick up of large donations available. Donation receipts will be provided.
All contributions are tax deductible to the amount allowed by law.

OLD BUSINESS

Maria has looked into using a room at the Huntsville Art League as an alternative place to hold NASFA meetings. Using the room would cost \$20 per month, and someone would have to arrive early for table and chair setup.

Because of concerns about availability of the Holiday Inn Express (our current Con†Stellation hotel) on desired dates after 2011, certain officers were asked to form a committee to look for a new hotel to hold Con†Stellation starting in 2012. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to serve on the committee. [We are firm there for 2011 so no worries for Con†Stellation XXX. -ED]

NEW BUSINESS

Officer elections are coming up. Nominations will be opened in November, and the election will be held in December.

Maria recently met an engineer who has written a space book, and he would love to speak at a NASFA program.

Sam asked for convention-related receipts for reimbursement.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Sam reported that Con†Stellation lost a total of \$1970 this year. All checks have been written, except for the charity check to the USO.

Con†Stellation XXX con chair Anita reported that we have signed on Gay Haldeman as Fan Guest of Honor for next year. Gay asked if we could also cover her husband Joe Haldeman's travel as well. We have agreed to do so.

Anita asked for contact info to get in touch with Matthew, to see if he'd be willing to run the Dealer's Room next year. Mike K. provided.

The Con†Stellation XXX convention committee (concom) still has a few positions open. Anita asked Doug if he'd like to serve as head of Registration, and he agreed. There a couple more people she will ask individually.

Mary L. reported that Mary at the Holiday Inn Express would like to know when we will set up next year's contract. Mary L. will take the contract to Anita to sign.

Anita reported that the first concom meeting will be held in December, on the afternoon of the NASFA meeting.

Jack announced that the Science Fiction Book Club at Bailey Cove Library will be discussing *The Fifth Head of Cerberus* by Gene Wolfe in November. He is planning to announce that Gene Wolfe will be next year's con Guest of Honor, and to hand out Con†Stellation bookmarks.

Anita wants flyers for Con†Stellation XXX put up in as many places as possible, as soon as we can get them.

Sam moved to adjourn at 6:36:10P.

For the program, Mike K. presented a new set of fan films. Adam and Maria Grimm hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at their house.

NASFA Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 02 Election Day.
- 04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Fifth Head of Cerberus*, Gene Wolfe, 6P.
- 05–06 Comic & Fantasy Convention—Memphis TN.
- 07 Daylight Saving Time ends.
- 11 Veterans' Day.
- 12–14 MACE—High Point NC.
- 15 BD: Robert Buelow.
- 20 "Plea" Market Fundraiser for low-cost spay/neuter clinic

—9A–4P; at Jaycees Building.

20* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: Podcasting Your Book—a Primer, Alex White. ATMM: Mike Kennedy's house.

22 BD: Nancy Renee Peters.

23 BD: Howard Camp.

23 BD: Mike Kennedy.

25 Thanksgiving Day.

30 BD: Joshua Kennedy.

30 BD: Richard Gilliam.

DECEMBER

02 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Way Station*, Clifford Simak, 6P.

03–05 Smofcon 28—San Jose CA.

03–05 Atlanta Comic Con Wizard World—Atlanta GA.

09 BD: Maria West.

12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.

15 Bill of Rights Day.

17 BD: Robin Ray.

18 Con†Stellation XXX Concom Meeting—3P; at Renasant Bank. Dinner break between the concom meeting and the club meeting.

18* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: Random Gift Exchange. ATMM: Sue Thorn's house.

19 BD: Yvonne Penney.

20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.

21 First day of winter.

22 BD: Wolf (Wolfie) Freeman.

24 Christmas Day (Federal Observed Holiday).

25 Christmas Day.

26 BD: Michael R. Stone.

26 Boxing Day (Canada).

31 New Year's Day (Federal Observed Holiday).

31 New Year's Eve Party at Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci's house.

JANUARY 2011

01 New Year's Day.

03 BD: Jim Kennedy.

03 BD: Karen Hopkins.

TBD Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: TBD; 6P.

06 BD: Rich Garber.

07 BD: Doug Lampert.

07–08 ShadowCon XV—Memphis TN.

07–09 GAFilk 13—Atlanta GA.

14–16 MarsCon—Williamsburg VA.

15* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.

16 BD: Bruce Butler.

17 BD: Martin Luther King.

20 BD: Larry Montgomery.

21–23 Chattacon 36—Chattanooga TN.

FEBRUARY

01 National Freedom Day.

02 Groundhog Day.

TBD Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: TBD; 6P.

08 BD: Lin Cochran.

09 BD: Jack Lundy.

10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.

12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.

14 Valentine's Day.

17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.

18–20 ConNooga—Chattanooga TN.

18–20 TrekTrax—Atlanta GA.

19* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Re-

Duty and the Beast

No Need for a Ring—Chapter 33

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This is the sixth chapter in the third part of the NNFA series—*The Thing Goes South*—and is thus numbered as Chapter 6 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

Captain Bergil was not exactly old, not like his uncle Iorlas who was not expected to survive another winter. Like his father, Beregond, his strong Numenorian bloodline had given him more than just a little more height than most men. Nearing seven score years of age, he could still ride the paths that linked the beacon sites, though no longer ride to battles far afield from his family's place in Ithilien.

Now once more at Halifirien, most northwestern of the ancient beacons, he was eager to see again The Anomaly. The shimmering curtain had appeared at midwinter, bisecting the green Hallow of Amon Anwar beyond the Mound of Elendil. Bergil was one of few who had dared to touch it. It was neither hot nor cold, nor particularly hard, but he could not put so much as a fingernail through. Nor even a stick of the pitch-soaked firewood of the beacon, though he left one leaning against the near-nothingness of the Veil.

He left his horse with the station crew and climbed the long path to the watch post and then on to the top. He started by checking the placement of the beacon-wood and then took a few steps toward the Veil before stopping dead! There was an unfamiliar mound of something on the other side! As he watched, a long neck raised upwards and two large glowing eyes looked straight at him!

Bergil bolted! Running down the path as safely as urgency permitted, he reached the station and commanded the men to scatter for their lives. The one word, "Dragon!," put all their questions on hold. King's messengers from the far north had recently ridden through Rohan bearing news from Annúminas to Minas Tirith. That news included reports of sightings of a small, green dragon; an uncharacteristically benign one, too! One who ate fish and burned neither fields nor homes. One who even, unbelievably, had turned the old story lines sidewise and rescued an Elven princess! This beast was darker too, maybe.

He was suddenly reminded of the old King, Elessar. Bergil was one of few remaining who remembered the end of Sauron and the Return of the King. The greatest heroes of that tale were also most unlikely; being Halflings. Or, as they called themselves, Hobbits. Bergil had spent much time with one of them, Master Took, who had ridden into the city with the Wizard. Who had brought him there to keep him away from something found at Orthanc, a Seeing-Stone!

Bergil paused before mounting his horse. He had seen something else on the mountain, besides the beast. Three somethings. Two at least matched the description of the Palantír of Orthanc. The third had looked much the same but was... larger. He stepped away from his horse, breathing slowly to gather that inner calm. The others would spread the word. He was a Captain of the Royal Signal Corps. On the chance that those really were seeing-stones he had a duty to try and get a better look and report, if he could. Maybe the Veil would keep the dragon away.

— O — O — O —

It is now the twenty-second of September. Happy birthday to the late Bilbo and Frodo Baggins. Time to wake up. An old

man is staring at me. He then runs away. I stretch and take thought on my next tasks. Some time later, I become aware of being watched. At the far western edge of the hilltop I notice grey hair and a pair of bright eyes. The man keeps very still. I give him a highly exaggerated wink. He slowly rises and walks as far as the edge of the veil. His eyes dart back and forth between looking at me, and looking at the Stones. I've been wondering how to get the Stones into the hands of the Gondorians. Only the two smaller ones for now. I need the larger one for a final task. Was this meeting simple chance, or had the Valar sent him up here?

This man surely knows, as do I, that speaking is forbidden up here. But I have at hand means for communication without it, and without tearing out all of his memories. He looks vaguely familiar. Not the fellow I saw in the snowstorm, no. Since he does seem to be human, I examine my most up-to-date memory sets. Skipping Legolas for now, I look for this man in the Dwarf's memories... and find him! I crosscheck with the memories of Legolas and obtain a "probable" corroboration. (Elven memories are so long and different, and most humans look alike to them.) The name is Bergil, son of Beregond of Minas Tirith... later of Ithilien, when Beregond was appointed Captain of Prince Faramir's guard. Given the name, Gandalf also briefly knew him, but only as a boy of ten.

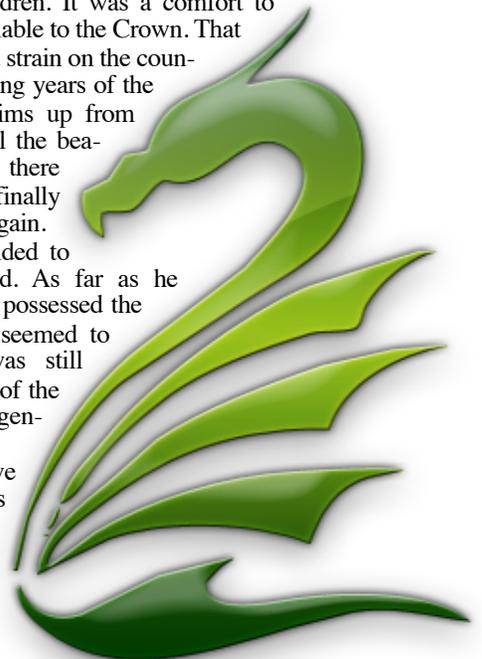
I raise one talon up to my lips and hold it there for a moment. I pick up the Stone of Annúminas and bowl it in his general direction, but it bounces off the Veil. I amble over to it and pick it up. Thinking about what I want to do, I stretch that foot to the Veil, and through it. I drop that stone on the other side and then pick up the Stone of Eryn Beraid and hold it before my face, waiting. The man still hesitates. I turn sideways and lift my right wing, revealing the star-pattern there. He looks, seeming to think, before coming to a decision. Apparently, he gets the idea. He picks up the other stone and looks into it. I gaze into mine and wait for him to make contact.

— O — O — O —

Bergil has a giddy sense as of flying. He sees himself and the hilltop. He thinks of the watch camp and sees that. A thought of his home in Ithilien, his children and grandchildren, and some of them appear. Likewise his birth city of Minas Tirith, with the Regent and her children. It was a comfort to have extra heirs available to the Crown. That lack had been a great strain on the country through all the long years of the Stewardship. He skims up from the city; touching all the beacon stations from there toward Rohan and finally arriving at himself, again.

Well, he had decided to learn what he could. As far as he could tell, this stone possessed the abilities of what it seemed to be. The dragon was still waiting, an attribute of the kind, and reptiles in general.

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J.R.R. Tolkien (But you already knew that, didn't you?)]



Letters of Comment

LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

7 October 2010

Hi—as the seasons change (brrr—but tomorrow it’s supposed to get a bit warmer). Once again my (non) system let me down... or did it?? Since this is just sitting here on the table, but there are no notes, I will guess I scanned but did not loc. So, based on that...

Masters of SF sounds like a book I really should add to my shelves. I don’t see a price but there won’t be any truly freed up dollars for at best 8 months. Ah well—it can go onto my want list.

Hmm—sounds a bit more like *Sofa* would have been better suited to the Parsec Awards.

Voice of the Echidna was, gratefully, available online but I never sorted out anything live. I had intended to see if I could watch the Hugos live but forgot to look for it before I went to work. Then, when I got home and went looking for a replay—nothing. Um, I did watch about ½ hour of the live camera for *Sofa*’s “editor.” I was not impressed when the editor said he did not know what the Big Heart Award was or who any of the fan artists are (or their work)—then went ballistic (his “earned” right) when the fanzine award was announced. Looked as if he only knew about the fanzine [category]... My personal fannish responsibility covers all categories—sounded as if he only voted his category. Oh well... and I could be wrong.

Just for laughs (it will not happen—\$) I searched airfares to Reno, but it’s too early.

My list of presents for me (that will never happen!) is lengthening. Now I’ve put the *Masters of SF* behind *Avatar* (since I’ve seen it and would like to watch it again—at my pace). Ah, nice to dream.

The [new TV show] (I think this is the name) No Ordinary Family reeks of (I think I have this name right too) The Incredibles. I do not pay any attention to media info—so I have no idea how the reviews have been. I did watch one episode and enjoyed it, but wonder how many potentially weekly viewers will peg it as too mild (or perhaps more families will find it less objectionable for family viewing?). ((Heck, I’m still watching taped shows from September 1st—it’ll take me a while to catch up.))

There is an updated (2010 version of media version) Sherlock Holmes which will be available to non-cable viewers too.

Hard to believe that Halloween is just around the corner... then Thanksgiving and we’re off to the holidays.

Hoping everyone weathered the heat and now the storm season.

[*Masters of SF* has a cover price of \$31.95 (pretty steep for a paperback, I’d say) but can be had for under \$20, not counting shipping. (Amazon lists it at \$23; not quite pricy enough to qualify for their free shipping if bought by itself.) While you’re not alone in your apparent opinion that audio works like *Starship Sofa* may not quite be fanzines, my reading of the Hugo definitions as they stand pretty clearly allow works in any medium to qualify. *Sofa* is clearly about sf and it’s clearly an amateur publication—so in my view the discussion of whether it belongs on the Hugo ballot comes down to quality. For me, I

find my interest in the material uneven, but that’s also the case for most printed fanzines. What I dislike most about *Sofa* is the presentation. The host/editor does come across sometimes as rather self-important and I sometimes find his talk segments irritating in tone. Too, the purely linear structure of a 2+ hour recording makes it hard to find the bits one might be interested in. In a way, it’s the equivalent of a printed zine that might contain some really good stuff but there are no page numbers and the font is difficult to read... the structure gets in the way of the content. By the way, there is a replay of the Aussiecon 4 Hugo ceremony online at <www.thehugoawards.org>. There’s a link on their front page that should stay there for some time since they add new blog entries only occasionally. -ED]

EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC

Lloyd Penney
<penneys@allstream.net>
1706-24 Eva Road
Etobicoke ON
Canada M9C 2B2

27 October 2010

With just a few days keeping us from Hallowe’en festivities, I have here the October *Shuttle*, and a bit of time with which to respond to it. Watch me go!

I like that. Short Attention Span Theatre. It should be for those with ADHD, and that’s not the name of a rock band...

Con+Stellation XXX? Congrats on thirty years of conventions! Our local convention, Ad Astra, will also be staging its 30th incarnation in 2011. (I am certain that the XXX will be everywhere at your convention, including the contents of the con suite.)

Hello, PieEyed! The story continues with your resting up, enjoying a Middle-Earth version of a water park, and a unique way to make sure your valuables are secure. You are your own storage locker. Nice layout of the green and silver scales.

The month of October here has been warm, but that’s about [to] change. Looks like we’re going to have our usual chilly Hallowe’en. SFContario comes around next month, and Futurecon is a one-shot New Year’s Eve convention. The Metro Toronto Convention Centre, for those who might not have been at Torcon 3, has a North building and a South building, separated by a rail corridor and a catwalk. I gather the Fan eXpo has been in the slightly roomier South building for a number of years, but a business group with lots of ready cash bought the South building out from under them, and they wound up with the North building.

I am told the Aurora pin is a two-dimensional version of the Aurora, with curved metal parts meant to suggest the aurora borealis, and a maple leaf through them. I will get mine at SFContario next month. (I should be getting my Hugo pin and certificate soon... soon...)

Short but sweet, folks... enjoy the spooky season, and see you next issue.

[As you may know, but many reading the *Shuttle* will not, SFContario has received mentions lately over on the SMOFS email list as Fan GoH Geri Sullivan <gerisullivan.livejournal.com> is scheming her “All Worldcons, All the Time Bheer Tasting” event on Saturday evening. Looks like it’s scheduled to begin as the charity auction lets out, so maybe there’ll be lots of thirsty people from all the bidding. Were I to be there (which sadly is not going to be the case) I’m sure I’d enjoy the social aspect of the event, though the beer itself is not my cup of, er, tea. (But then neither is tea, when it’s of the hot variety.) Our

group in Huntspatch has been looking forward for some time with a mixture of anticipation and dread to seeing the Roman numerals used in enumerating our cons “roll over” to triple “X”s. When Anita, who is among our past Con†Stellation con

chairs, stood for election as chair for the 2011 con I suspect several other likely candidates breathed a well-hidden sigh of relief. (Of course, some might say Anita is our best choice for anything associated with XXX. ;-)-ED]



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Huntsville AL 35815-4857

The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the November 2010 edition (Volume 30, Number 11). NASFA Officers for 2010: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Wyman Cooke; Publicity Director Peggy Patrick. Shuttle Editor Mike Kennedy.
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NASFA Dues = \$25/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$15/year Single copy = \$2 each.

A decorative crown graphic with intricate scrollwork and a central jewel, positioned behind the event text.

ConStellation XXX: Corona Borealis
16–18 September 2010
Holiday Inn Express, Huntsville AL
Check the updated website www.con-stellation.org