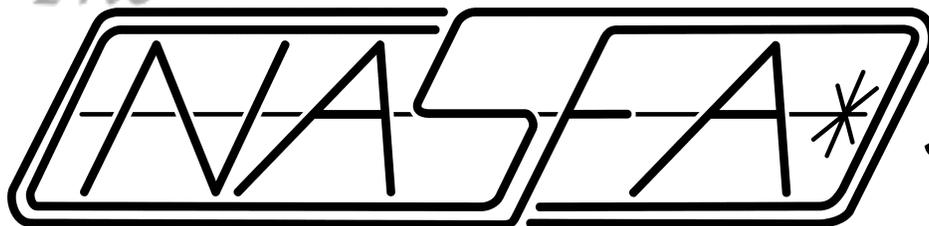


The



Shuttle

July 2011

The NASFA Meeting is 9 July 2011 at the Regular Location (a week earlier than usual)

Con†Stellation XXX ConCom Meeting 3P, 9 July

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next NASFA Meeting will be Saturday 9 July 2011 at the regular time (6P) and the regular location. PLEASE NOTE that the day is the second Saturday, one week earlier than usual

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.

JULY PROGRAM

The July program will be a presentation (with video) on "Hugo Award Winning Time Travel Stories."

JULY ATMM

The ATMM for July will be at Sue Thorn's house—147 Garden Brook Drive in Madison AL. See the map on page 7.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The July concom meeting will be at 3P on the same day as that month's club meeting, but not at the same location. (The bank meeting room is not available at that time.) The meeting will be at Mike Kennedy's house—7907 Charlotte Drive in south Huntsville. There will be a dinner break between the concom meeting and the club meeting.

Dates for the remaining Con†Stellation concom meetings are being decided. Some may still be on the same day as club meetings but there may also be additional meetings. Please stay tuned for dates and places.

EARLIER SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The deadline for the NASFA Shuttle will be changing over the next several months. Part of this is that the July–September meetings will be a week earlier than usual and part of it is that the production schedule is changing. Details are still firming up but we anticipate needing to move things to the left a week or more over the long run.

Help Wanted

The Shuttle is in urgent need of one or more intrepid reporters to brave the wilds of Reno NV in search of Fan On The Street. At The Con information for Renovation, this year's Worldcon. While we can get Just The Facts stuff from sundry sources (around the Web, Twitterverse, Blogosphere, and more), we always like to run more personal coverage from an individual fan's perspective.

So, if you're going to Worldcon this year and can send some reportage our way, please contact the Shuttle at <nasfa.shuttle@ con-stellation.org> or by any means listed in the colophon, on the back cover.

Continuing Our 31st Year of Publication

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Deadline for the August 2011 issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Friday 29 July 2011

### FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

The More-or-Less Annual NASFA Auction will be in August. Please continue saving “stuff” for it—genre books, moves, collectables, etc. are always good, but all merch is welcomed. Programs for September and further months are being developed.

We are seeking ATMM volunteers for August and most months beyond.

### FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

2011 NASFA meetings are scheduled to be the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday *except* for July, August, and September. In each of those months the meeting will be moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday to avoid conflicts with various conventions (including Con+Stellation).

### 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

### HUGO PACKET UPDATED

Members of the Reno Worldcon who have already downloaded the Hugo packet may want to recheck the website <hugos.renovationsf.org/packet/> as new material was added in late June. You’ll need your membership number and Hugo PIN, both of which you should have received either in an email from Renovation or along with a printed Progress Report.

Remember, the material is only available until Hugo voting closes at the end of July 2011.

### IO9 PICKS 10 BIGGEST SF/F FLOP FILMS

OK, this type of list can be argued over endlessly... but pop culture website <io9.com> has their own idea about what it takes to make a flop sf/f film. Their methodology is said to meld both critical and popular disclaim (as opposed to acclaim). See how many you can pick out from the illo they posted.



*The Postman, Pluto Nash, Battlefield Earth, Catwoman, Leonard Part 6, Jonah Hex, The Last Airbender, Howard the Duck, Red Planet, Transformers 2.*

### BORDERS BUYER?

Associated Press has published info that bankrupt bookseller Borders has tentatively agreed to sell itself to private investment firm Najafi Cos. for \$215 million plus the assumption of \$220 million in debt. Najafi already owns the Book-of-the-Month Club, opening the possibility for an odd sort of synergy.

Higher bidders could still overtake this deal, or a court hearing set for 21 July 2011 could nix the idea of a sale/auction of Borders assets, potentially leading to full liquidation.

### WORLDCON HOTEL BLOCK CLOSING

The Reno Worldcon long ago sold out their room blocks in two of their three hotels. The block for the remaining hotel—the Peppermill—closes on Friday 8 July. Full info is available at <www.renovationsf.org/peppermill.php>.

## Get the *Shuttle* via Electrons

by Mike Kennedy, Editor

With the ongoing changes in production schedule, now’s the time to start getting the *Shuttle* in PDF form and help take the burden off your dead-tree mailbox. All you need to do is notify us by emailing <nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org>.

## June Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The June meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, June 18, 2011 in the Renasant Bank meeting room at 6:09:32P by President Mary Lampert and the crickets.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

Sam mentioned that at the concom (convention committee meeting) earlier, they had discussed who handles renewing registration for the Con+Stellation domain name and web site. He asked if anyone at the club knew. No one did.

A representative of Georgia Tech’s Bud Foote Science Fiction Collection emailed NASFA. They want to document fan activities in the region, so they asked for any pointers to fanzines. Mike K. will take the action to respond.

Jack, our recently elected Head of Publicity, announced that he’s making slow progress updating the NASFA web site.

Jack announced that the Bailey Cove science fiction book club will discuss *The Stars My Destination* on the first Thursday in July.

Sam announced that our regular meeting room at Renasant Bank will only be available after 5P on the day of the July NASFA meeting, which will be on the second Saturday of the month rather than the usual third Saturday, so we’ll have to reschedule the concom, which is usually held in the same meeting room on the afternoon of the club meeting. [The 3P concom meeting that day will be at Mike Kennedy’s house. -ED]

Wyman doesn’t have a program set up for next month yet, but he’s asking Doc Taylor. The August program may be the auction.

### CON BUSINESS

According to Con+Stellation XXX con chair Anita, everything is on schedule.

Mike K. looked into accepting credit cards at the con for registration and art show purchases. It would cost \$50 a year to accept credit cards, in addition to transaction fees. For the art show, we might be able to pass on the fees for art show purchases to the selling artists. The credit card system Mike K. investigated still won’t allow online payment for con registration, only payment at the convention itself. The system requires a portable electronic device, generally a smart phone, instead of a computer on a wifi network, so we may need someone to loan the convention a smart phone for the weekend. Accepting



# Awards Roundup

## CARNEGIE MEDAL

This year's Carnegie Medal <[www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/carnegie](http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/carnegie)> (for an outstanding children's book) as won by **Patrick Ness** for genre *Monsters of Men* (last of the Chaos Walking trilogy). You can read his acceptance speech at *The Guardian* <[tinyurl.com/CarnMed](http://tinyurl.com/CarnMed)>. This prestigious award is judged by a panel of children's librarians.

## SF & F TRANSLATION AWARDS

Results of the inaugural Science Fiction & Fantasy Translation Awards <[www.sfftawards.org](http://www.sfftawards.org)> were announced at the 2011 Eurocon <[www.eurocon2011.se](http://www.eurocon2011.se)>, held 17–19 July at the Tekniska Högskolans Studentkår in Stockholm. The awards (styled as for 2011, for work published in 2010) honor sff translated from another language into English.

The jury for the awards was Terry Harpold, University of Florida (Chair); Abhijit Gupta, Jadavpur University, India; and Dale Knickerbocker, East Carolina University. They selected the winner and an honorable mention in each category. In addition to those, the underlying organization's Board of Directors presented a special award to Brian Stableford in recognition of the excellence of his translation work. The winners and runners-up are

**Long Form Winner** ..... *A Life on Paper: Stories*, Georges-Olivier Châteaureynaud, translated by Edward Gauvin (Small Beer Press); original publication in French (1976–2005)

**Long Form Honorable Mention** ..... *The Golden Age*, Michal Ajvaz, translated by Andrew Oakland (Dalkey Archive Press); original publication in Czech as Zlatý Věk (2001)

**Short Form Winner** ..... "Elegy for a Young Elk," Hannu Rajaniemi, translated by Hannu Rajaniemi (Subterranean Online, Spring 2010); original publication in Finnish (*Portti*, 2007)

**Short Form Honorable Mention** ..... "Wagtail," Marketta Niemelä, translated by Liisa Rantalaiho (*Usva International* 2010, Anne Leinonen, ed.); original publication in Finnish as "Västäräkki" (*Usva* (*The Mist*), 2008)

## BRAM STOKER AWARDS

The Horror Writers Association <[www.horror.org](http://www.horror.org)> has presented the peer-voted 2010 Bram Stoker Awards. Some of these awards had been previously announced. The winners are:

**Novel** ..... *A Dark Matter*, Peter Straub

**First Novel** (tie) ..... *Black and Orange*, Benjamin Kane Ethridge and *Castle of Los Angeles*, Lisa Morton

**Long Fiction** ..... "Invisible Fences," Norman Prentiss

**Short Fiction** ..... "The Folding Man," Joe R. Lansdale

**Anthology** ..... *Haunted Legends*, Ellen Datlow and Nick Mamatas, eds.

**Collection** ..... *Full Dark, No Stars*, Stephen King

**Nonfiction** ..... *To Each Their Darkness*, Gary A. Braunbeck

**Poetry Collection** ..... *Dark Matters*, Bruce Boston

**Specialty Press Award** ..... *Dark Regions Press*

**Silver Hammer Award** ..... *Angel Leigh McCoy*

**Richard Laymon Award** ..... *Michael Colangelo*

**Lifetime Achievement Awards** ..... *Ellen Datlow* and *Al Feldstein*

## LOCUS AWARDS WINNERS

The winners of the Locus Awards (sponsored by *Locus Magazine* <[www.locusmag.com](http://www.locusmag.com)>) were announced 25 June 2011 at a banquet in Seattle, as part of the Science Fiction Awards Weekend. The awards are selected by a weighted popular vote, with more weight attached to votes by *Locus* sub-

scriber. The winners are:

**SF Novel** ..... *Blackout/All Clear*, Connie Willis (Spectra)  
**Fantasy Novel** .... *Kraken*, China Miéville (Macmillan UK; Del Rey)

**First Novel** ..... *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms*, N.K. Jemisin (Orbit UK; Orbit US)

**YA Book** ..... *Ship Breaker*, Paolo Bacigalupi (Little, Brown)

**Novella** ..... *The Lifecycle of Software Objects*, Ted Chiang (Subterranean)

**Novelette** ..... "The Truth Is a Cave in the Black Mountains," Neil Gaiman (*Stories*)

**Short Story** ..... "The Thing About Cassandra," Neil Gaiman (*Songs of Love and Death*)

**Magazine** ..... *Asimov's*

**Publisher** ..... **Tor**

**Anthology** ..... *Warriors*, George R.R. Martin and Gardner Dozois, eds. (Tor)

**Collection** ..... *Fritz Leiber: Selected Stories*, Fritz Leiber, Night Shade)

**Editor** ..... **Ellen Datlow**

**Artist** ..... **Shaun Tan**

**Non-Fiction** ..... *Robert A. Heinlein: In Dialogue with His Century: Volume 1: 1907–1948: Learning Curve*, William H. Patterson, Jr., (Tor)

**Art Book** ... *Spectrum 17*, Cathy Fenner and Arnie Fenner, eds. (Underwood)

## GEMMELL AWARDS

Winners of this year's David Gemmell Legend Awards <[www.gemmellaward.com](http://www.gemmellaward.com)> (for Epic Fantasy) were announced at a ceremony held 17 June 2011 at The Magic Circle in London. Voting is open (in two rounds) each year on the awards' website. The winners are:

**Morningstar** (newcomer) ..... *Darius Hinks*, *Warrior Priest*, (Black Library).

**Ravenheart** (cover artist) ..... *Olof Erla Einarsdottir*, cover of *Power and Majesty* by Tansy Rayner Roberts (Harper Collins Australia)

**Legend** (novel) ..... *Brandon Sanderson*, *The Way of Kings* (Gollancz/Tor US)

## SIDeways AWARD NOMINEES

Nominees for the Sidewise Award for Alternate History <[www.uchronia.net/sidewise](http://www.uchronia.net/sidewise)> (for works published in 2010) have been announced. The awards (for excellence in alternate historical fiction) are presented in two categories, Short-Form (less than 60,000 words) and Long-Form Award.

Judges for this year are Stephen Baxter, Evelyn Leeper, Jim Rittenhouse, Stu Shiffman, Kurt Sidaway, and Steven H Silver. Winners will be announced at Renovation, the 2011 Worldcon on Thursday 18 August. By category the nominees are:

### Sidewise Short Form Noms

Eleanor Arnason, *Mammoths of the Great Plains*, PM Press  
Barry B. Longyear, "Alter Kameraden," *Asimov's*, April 2010  
Ken MacLeod, "Sidewinders," *The Mammoth Book of Alternate Histories*, Ian Watson and Ian Whates, eds., Robinson Publishing/Running Press

Alan Smale, "A Clash of Eagles," *Panverse Two*, Dario Cirillo, ed., Panverse Publishing

William F. Wu, "Goin' Down to Anglotown," *The Dragon and the Stars*, Derwin Mak and Eric Choi, eds., DAW Books

### Sidewise Long Form Noms

Adam Chamberlain and Brian A. Dixon, *Columbia & Britannia*, Fourth Horseman Press

Robert Conroy, *Red Inferno: 1945*, Ballantine Books

Jay Lake, *Pinion*, Tor Books

Eric Swedin, *When Angels Wept*, Potomac Books

## BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS NOMS

The British Fantasy Society <[www.britishfantasysociety.org](http://www.britishfantasysociety.org)> has announced finalists for their 2011 British Fantasy Awards. Voting is open to BFS members plus members of FantasyCon 2010 and FantasyCon 2011 <[www.fantasycon2011.org](http://www.fantasycon2011.org)>. Winners will be announced at this year's British Fantasy Convention, to be held 30 September – 2 October 2011 at the Royal Albion Hotel in Brighton, UK. By category, the nominees are:

### BFA Novel Noms (The August Derleth Fantasy Award)

*Apartment 16*, Adam Nevill (Pan Macmillan)  
*Demon Dance*, Sam Stone (The House of Murky Depths)  
*The Leaping*, Tom Fletcher (Quercus)  
*Pretty Little Dead Things*, Gary McMahon (Angry Robot)  
*The Silent Land*, Graham Joyce (Gollancz)

### BFA Novella Noms

"1922," Stephen King (*Full Dark, No Stars*)  
*Humpty's Bones*, Simon Clark (Telos)  
*Ponthe Oldenguine*, Andrew Hook (Atomic Fez)  
*Sparrowhawk*, Paul Finch (Pendragon)  
*The Thief of Broken Toys*, Tim Lebbon (ChiZine)

### BFA Short Story Noms

"The Beautiful Room," R.B. Russell (*Nightjar*)  
"Fool's Gold," Sam Stone (*The Bitten Word*)  
"The Lure," Nicholas Royle (*The End of the Line*)  
"Otterburn," Jan Edwards (*Estronomicon*, December 2010)  
"Something For Nothing," Joe Essid (*Catastrophica*)

### BFA Collection Noms

*Full Dark, No Stars*, Stephen King (Hodder & Stoughton)  
*The Gravedigger's Tale: Fables of Fear*, Simon Clark (Robert Hale)  
*Last Exit for the Lost*, Tim Lebbon (Cemetery Dance)  
*One Monster Is Not Enough*, Paul Finch (Gray Friar)  
*Walkers in the Dark*, Paul Finch (Ash-Tree)

### BFA Anthology Noms

*Back From the Dead: The Legacy of the Pan Book of Horror Stories*, Johnny Mains, ed. (Noose & Gibbet)  
*The End of the Line*, Jonathan Oliver, ed. (Solaris)  
*The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror*, Volume 21, Stephen Jones, ed. (Robinson)  
*Never Again*, Allyson Bird and Joel Lane, eds. (Gray Friar)  
*Zombie Apocalypse!*, Stephen Jones, ed. (Robinson)

### BFA Non-Fiction Noms

*Altered Visions: The Art of Vincent Chong*, Vincent Chong (Telos)  
*Cinema Futura*, Mark Morris, ed. (PS Publishing)  
*Fantastic TV: 50 Years of Cult Fantasy and Science Fiction*, Steven Savile (Plexus)  
*M.P. Shiel: The Middle Years 1897–1923*, Harold Billings (Roger Beacham)  
*The Shrieking Sixties*, Darrel Buxton (Midnight Marquee)

### BFA Artist Noms

Ben Baldwin  
Paul Mudie

Daniele Serra

Les Edwards  
Vincent Chong

### BFA Small Press Noms

Atomic Fez, Ian Alexander Martin  
Gray Friar Press, Gary Fry  
Pendragon Press, Christopher Teague  
Telos Publishing, David J. Howe & Stephen James Walker  
TTA Press, Andy Cox

### BFA Magazine Noms

*Black Static*  
*Shadows & Tall Trees*

*Cemetery Dance*

*Murky Depths*  
*Strange Horizons*

### BFA Graphic Novel Noms

*CLiNT*, Mark Millar (Titan)  
*Grandville Mon Amour*, Bryan Talbot (Jonathan Cape)

*Neonomicon*, Alan Moore and Jacen Burrows (Avatar)  
*At the Mountains of Madness*, I.N.J. Culbard (SelfMadeHero)  
*The Unwritten*, Volumes. 1 and 2, Mike Carey and Peter Gross (Titan)

### BFA Film Noms

*Alice in Wonderland*, Tim Burton, Walt Disney  
*Inception*, Christopher Nolan, Syncopy Films  
*Kick-Ass*, Matthew Vaughn, Lionsgate  
*Monsters*, Gareth Edwards, Vertigo Films  
*Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*, Edgar Wright, Universal Pictures

### BFA Television Noms

*A History of Horror With Mark Gatiss*, Mark Gatiss, BBC  
*Being Human*, Toby Whithouse, BBC  
*Doctor Who*, Steven Moffat, BBC  
*Sherlock*, Steven Moffat, BBC  
*True Blood*, Alan Ball, HBO

## SUNBURST AWARD SHORTLIST

The shortlist for the tenth annual Sunburst Awards <[www.sunburstaward.org](http://www.sunburstaward.org)> (for Excellence in Canadian Literature of the Fantastic) has been announced. The awards will be presented 14 September 2011 as part of Authors at Harbourfront Centre's weekly reading series. The event will include brief readings from each of the nominated works.

Winners will receive a cash prize of CDN\$1,000 and a hand-crafted medallion featuring a sunburst logo designed by Marcel Gagné. Jurors for 2011 are Kate Freiman, Mark Leslie, Christopher Roden, and Alison Sinclair. The nominees are:

### Sunburst Adult Noms

*Under Heaven*, Guy Gavriel Kay (Penguin Canada)  
*WWW: Watch*, Robert J. Sawyer (Penguin Canada)  
*Chimerascope*, Douglas Smith (ChiZine)  
*A Taint in the Blood*, S.M. Stirling (New American Library)  
*Stealing Home*, Hayden Trenholm (Bundoran Press)

### Sunburst Young Adult Noms

*Shapeshifter*, Holly Bennett (Orca)  
*Plain Kate*, Erin Bow (Scholastic)  
*The Painted Boy*, Charles de Lint (Penguin)  
*Bookweirder*, Paul Glennon (Doubleday Canada)  
*Dust City*, Robert Paul Weston (Penguin Canada)

## SHIRLEY JACKSON AWARDS NOMS

The Shirley Jackson Awards <[www.shirleyjacksonawards.org](http://www.shirleyjacksonawards.org)> (for outstanding achievement in the literature of psychological suspense, horror, and the dark fantastic) have announced the nominees for their 2010 award year:

### SJ Award Novel Noms

*The Reapers Are the Angels*, Alden Bell (Holt)  
*Mr. Shivers*, Robert Jackson Bennett (Orbit)  
*Feed*, Mira Grant (Orbit)  
*The Silent Land*, Graham Joyce (Gollancz)  
*Dark Matter*, Michelle Paver (Orion)  
*A Dark Matter*, Peter Straub (Doubleday)

### SJ Award Novella Noms

"Mysterium Tremendum," Laird Barron (*Occultation*, Night Shade)  
*The Broken Man*, Michael Byers (PS Publishing)  
*One Bloody Thing After Another*, Joey Comeau (ECW Press)  
*Subtle Bodies*, Peter Dubé (Lethe Press)  
*Chasing the Dragon*, Nicholas Kaufmann, (Chizine Publications)  
*The Thief of Broken Toys*, Tim Lebbon (Chizine Publications)

### SJ Award Novelette Noms

"— 30 —," Laird Barron (*Occultation*, Night Shade)  
"The Broadsword," Laird Barron, (*Black Wings*, PS Publishing)  
"The Redfield Girls," Laird Barron (*Haunted Legends*, Tor)  
"Holderhaven," Richard Butner, (*Crimewave 11: Ghosts*)

“Truth Is a Cave in the Black Mountains,” Neil Gaiman (*Stories: All New Tales*, William Morrow)

#### **SJ Award Short Story Noms**

“Six Six Six,” Laird Barron (*Occultation*, Night Shade)

“Booth’s Ghost,” Karen Joy Fowler (*What I Didn’t See*, Small Beer Press)

“The Foxes,” Lily Hoang (*Haunted Legends*, Tor)

“As Red as Red,” Caitlin R. Kiernan (*Haunted Legends*, Tor)

“The Things,” Peter Watts (*Clarkesworld*, Issue 40)

#### **SJ Award Single-Author Collection Noms**

*Occultation*, Laird Barron (Night Shade)

*What Will Come After*, Scott Edelman (PS Publishing)

*What I Didn’t See*, Karen Joy Fowler (Small Beer Press)

*The Ones That Got Away*, Stephen Graham Jones (Prime Books)

*The Third Bear*, Jeff VanderMeer (Tachyon)

#### **SJ Award Edited Anthology Noms**

*Black Wings: Tales of Lovecraftian Horror*, S.T. Joshi, ed. (PS Publications)

*Haunted Legends*, Ellen Datlow and Nick Mamatas, eds. (Tor)

*My Mother She Killed Me, My Father He Ate Me: Forty New Fairy Tales*, Kate Bernheimer, ed. (Penguin)

*Stories: All New Tales*, Neil Gaiman and Al Sarrantonio, eds. (William Morrow)

*Swords and Dark Magic: The New Sword and Sorcery*, Jonathan Strahan and Lou Anders, eds. (Eos)

## **The King and I**

### **No Need for a Ring—Chapter 37**

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor’s Note: This is the tenth chapter in the third part of the NNFAR series—*The Thing Goes South*—and is thus numbered as Chapter 10 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

September twenty-fourth dawns with light rain. From under the trees ahead and on both sides of me, I hear the snuffling of horses. I also hear the occasional creaking of leather harness or the click of metal on metal. I stand my ground as they move a few feet out from the cover of the trees.

I look them over; the horses and their riders. The horses appear nervous; all except two. These are mostly white. One is directly before me and an old man sits on it. A younger man, off to my right, sits on the other.

These horses would be of the Mearas, then, who will only bear a king or the son of a king. The imprint of Gimli identifies the old man as the king: Eomer’s son Elfwine the Fair. I stare briefly at all the men and all the horses and then settle my gaze on the king, and wait.

Growing restive, the old king speaks, in the tongue of Rohan, to one of his aides; “What is it waiting for?”

Before the man can answer, I speak up in the same tongue, so all can hear. “It is the custom among Men that a king, in his own land, has the right to speak first. The king has spoken first, now we may hold converse.”

Elfwine: Why are you here in our land?

PED: Your kinsman, Baldor son of Brego son of Eorl, desires to be laid to rest beside his father. I promised him I would see that this was done. What does the King recommend as fitting?

Elfwine: For his kinship, we shall conduct him with honor; though he was an arrogant braggart who broke his father’s heart.

PED: That is not even half the tale. The Oath of Eorl lies most heavily upon the kings... and their heirs. Baldor saw need to scout an unwatched entrance to your country. What he found there is why he did not return. To protect Gondor, and Rohan; he set himself to block an evil from coming forth... unto the end of his life, and beyond. Unlike others in that dark place, *he* broke no oaths.

Elfwine: Of what evil do you speak? The Dead Men who haunted these lands were a blight, but not potential invaders. They are gone.

PED: Gone, but not forgotten. This land still knew unease. Something remained after they left.

Elfwine: And what was that?

PED: This place has been called Dunharrow since before the coming of Eorl. The word means “Place of Worship.” The Men of the Mountains worshipped darkness. They swore an oath to support Isildur against Sauron, and did not so. Thus, they became accursed. Their worship survived beyond them. They did not worship Sauron directly. Sauron was once but lord of werewolves and vassal to the original Dark Lord, Morgoth. There was a fearful messenger that bore news and instructions between these. She was Thuringwethil, the Woman of Secret Shadow. All manner of monsters could not bear her presence, for she was a vampire and could prey upon all. Morgoth sent her to abide here until his return. Baldor found the door, and blocked it with his fingers, his life, his courage, and his spirit. Long did he stand watch until help could arrive. You must now take up the watch as on any other border, for any now may pass thru the mountain.

Elfwine: What have you done?

PED: I destroyed her. (More importantly, I destroyed that which she was guarding.)

The horsemen talk quietly among themselves. Finally, someone pushes a small cart halfway to my position and withdraws. I place the bag of bones upon the cart and step back. The men roll it away.

Elfwine: We shall form a funeral march for the fallen, and bear him to the second mound of the western nine. What will you do now?

PED: I must remain near the remains until I see them buried properly. I, too, fulfill my oaths.

Elfwine: King Théoden had notable company on his way to the burial mounds. A dragon would look out of place, for we are of dragon-slayer stock.

PED: And I might know a thing or two about Scatha the Worm that even your people have forgotten, or never knew.

— O — O — O —

(During the seven days of official mourning, a somewhat nervous bard extracts the details of Baldor’s long watch. He then asks an unrelated question.) Elfred: Why do you have sticks lodged amongst your horns?

PED: Eh? Oh, I had forgotten them. I’m not sure why I picked them up from that deep pool in Moria.

Elfred: The Black Chasm? What about the orcs?

PED: I cleansed the ancient city of the Dwarves with water. There are no living orcs nor trolls there now. These are the remains of the staff that Gandalf broke in order to break the great stone bridge and stop the Balrog.

Finally, the bones are interred. As the men begin re-closing the barrow, I make my way out of the crowd and begin loping east. I have grown rather hungry, and will try the fishing in the River Snowbourn.

[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

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

Lloyd Penney  
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Etobicoke ON  
Canada M9C 2B2

24 June 2011

Time for a letter on the June *Shuttle*, and by coincidence, it is also the deadline day. Here come some comments on another fine issue.

Yvonne and I hadn't made a firm decision to actually go to the Reno Worldcon until a short time ago. She got herself a fairly good job a few weeks back, so with that, we are definitely going. We also have some programming to do, and we have some other responsibilities as well, so I hope you are able to find some reporters. I am not sure what else to say on that, other than detail what you would want for future issues, and I would see if I could relay the Hugo winners. I wouldn't be able to do that until I got home, though; I do not have a smartphone or anything Bluetooth-enabled.

Thank you for announcing the CUFF results. Kent Pollard is totally into this fan fund, and is already making moves to ensure that Canadian fandom is more aware of the fund. I look forward to meeting Kent at the CanVention in Toronto in November.

And there I am at the top of the calendar. I turned 52 that day, and am trying my best not to live up to that number. No one says you have to be or act your age, so I won't. So there! Nyeaaahh! You can't make me! MOOOOOOOOM!

It sure is awards season again. Alex von Thorn tells me that the Spokane Worldcon bid is one of the few current bids he is not connected with. I can see why Seattle fans would bid for Spokane, seeing how much difficulty they've had in carrying out a proper Seattle bid. I read Petrea Mitchell's article on the Con News website... it's good to see the number of bids out there, but none of them are competing against each other. The bid process costs so much these days, I would hate to see any one bid unsuccessfully. I think I might know something about another Canadian bid, but I am in no position to speculate

openly. The Montreal Worldcon was quite successful, so I expect another bid at some point.

I am done for the day... I have to head out shortly to get some errands run. Take care, many thanks, and see you with the July issue.

[I envy y'all the trip to Reno, Lloyd—maybe I'll make it back to Worldcon next year. A few people have dropped hints here and there (online and in mailing lists) that a small number of additional Worldcon bids are in the near-term offing and that some existing bids may well end up with a competitor. Competition could also happen if an existing bid moves off the expected year—firm-ish bids go out the better part of a decade now but I'd be willing to place a small wager that one or more may be less than fully firm on their year. (If you're thinking Boston may be a bidder, don't hold your breath *too* long. Several NESFA members have said nothing is in the works. Though... it is *theoretically* possible some other group could eye the city for a bid. Again, I'd be willing to place a small wager that would go nowhere, if attempted at all.) -ED]

PCOC-PCOC-PCOC-PCOC-PCOC-PCOC-PCOC -PCOC

Sheryl Birkhead  
25509 Jonnie Court  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

27 June 2011

I'm determined (well...) to *not* let the zines pile any taller. No internet (um, at least no DSL)—long story. I *hope* this will be fixed in another week... or two...

If I haven't sent it before—Terry Jeeves R.I.P.

I *think* I have my Hugo voting packet downloaded (now to *find* it)—if not, I'm stuck (see note above about internet). I looked at the cost for supporting membership '12 and may finally have to drop membership—*sigh*—we'll see.

Pern to the big screen—I'll need to watch for it.

Congratulations to Lloyd and Yvonne on their 28<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Hope quite a few of the *Shuttle* readers—uh—"step up" as reporters from Reno. I gave up on even imagining making that trip since I will be ignoring the cardiologist and "negotiating" with the dermatologist, ophthalmologist, and hand specialist to see just how much I can pay now that my deductible had to go to \$5000 to be able to afford the increased monthly premium—so that imaginary budgeting (Worldcon) has been relegated to *total* fantasy. I'll look forward to reading what others have to pass along.

[That's quite a deductible, Sheryl. Do you have it paired with a Health Savings Account so at least you can pay part of that with pre-tax dollars? As I type this, no one has stepped up (as you put it) to report on Reno. I know several people who are going, but many of them (including Lloyd) have one significant handicap or another toward being a reporter. I may have to wheedle or bribe a few people to send me at least a little something each to put together as much as I'd like to have... and time is short. I too downloaded the Hugo packet... but, if you're not aware, Renovation recently updated some of the components. They added three more novels (the second part of the Willis Best Novel entry plus one each from two of the Campbell nominees) and some more material for one of the Semiprozines. -ED]

**Directions**

- From the bank, take Memorial Parkway north to I-565 west
- Take Exit 8/9\* (Wall Triana Highway) off I-565
- \* Exit is marked Exit 8 on some signs and Exit 9 on others
- North for 2-plus miles, past the railroad tracks & Mill Road
- NOTE: Wall Triana changes name to Sullivan Street
- Left on Browns Ferry Road (aka Madison Pike)
- Right on Park Meadow Drive; quick right on Garden Brook
- Follow Garden Brook Drive around a left-hand turn
- House is on the right, before the next cross street

**Map To ATMM Location**



P. O. Box 4857  
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

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A decorative crown graphic is centered behind the main text. It features intricate scrollwork and a central jewel.

*ConStellation XXX: Corona Borealis*  
*16–18 September 2011*  
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*Check the updated website [www.con-stellation.org](http://www.con-stellation.org)*