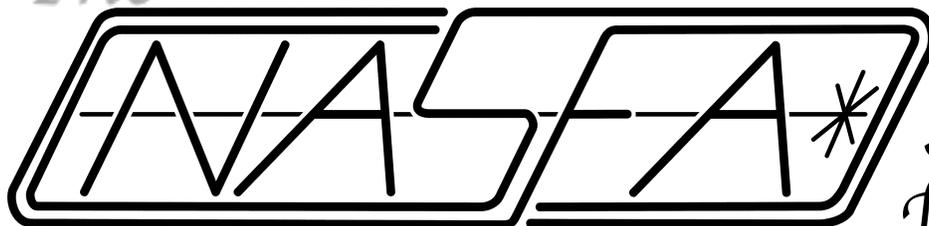


The



Shuttle
December 2011

The Next NASFA Meeting is 17 December 2011 at the Regular Time and Location

▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be Saturday **17 December 2011** 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.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

The December program will be the annual NASFA gift exchange. Program Director Wyman Cooke has requested that each person who wants to participate bring a single gift, up to a \$25 limit. See the September Minutes in the October issue of the *Shuttle* for further details.

DECEMBER ATMM

The December After-the-Meeting Meeting (cum Christmas Party) will be at Sue Thorn's house. The usual rules apply (that is, please bring food and drink to share).

CONCOM MEETINGS

Con†Stellation XXXI concom meetings have not yet been scheduled. Look for the first meeting around the first couple of months of 2011.

EARLIER SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The deadline for the *NASFA Shuttle* is earlier than the past, due to an altered production schedule *and* we will need to more strictly enforce the deadline than in the past. Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents each month to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material.

Get the *Shuttle* via Electrons

by Mike Kennedy, Editor

With an increase in postage rates (tentatively) scheduled for early 2012, the time is better than ever to start getting the *Shuttle* in PDF form. All you need to do is notify us by emailing <nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org>.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

Future programs include:

- January: "Things to Come," a panel on coming sf/f/h-related conventions in the Huntsville area.
- February: "Short Attention Span Theater," a collection of sf/f/h short videos from around the web, presented by Mike Kennedy.

We need volunteers for ATMMs from January forward. All NASFANs are invited to the annual New Year's Eve party at the Cucci-Pietruszka house.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

The January 2012 meeting has been moved to the 2nd Saturday to accommodate participants in the program. All other 2012 meetings are currently scheduled for the usual 3rd Saturday.

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. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

Concluding Our 31st Year of Publication

Inside this issue...

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Deadline for the January 2012 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 26 December 2011

November Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary and
Zombie Computer Impersonator

The November meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, November 19, 2011 in the Renasant Bank meeting room at 6:15:24P by Vice President Mike Kennedy. Because President Mary Lampert was out of town, he “declared a coup.” We had a break from the crickets that evening.

There was good news and bad news. The bad news was, Judy’s minivan was dead after Michael totaled it. The good news was that he got out of it with nothing but a black eye. R.I.P, minivan. You served Con†Stellation well.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Sam received a request from DeepSouthCon 50 for a copy of the Con†Stellation mailing list. Anita moved that we share it with them, Wyman seconded, and the motion carried many to one. (Sam filled in for Doug’s role of voting against any motion.)

Programming Director Wyman was looking for a program for the March meeting. He was considering inviting a costuming guy he met recently from Makers Local.

Sue asked a question about the rules for the upcoming Christmas gift exchange: Is it up to \$25 for a gift, or \$25 minimum? Wyman replied that there will be a \$25 maximum for gifts, not including postage. We won’t be doing a Dirty Santa game this year.

Maria noted that “chocolate is good.”

CON BUSINESS

Mike K. announced that he had a contract in his hands with the usual Holiday Inn Express for Con†Stellation to be held there on the second weekend in October 2012. The price looked the same as before.

[Sam] brought a bunch of Mardi Gras necklaces with crown pendants that were purchased [by Mike K.] for Corona Borealis, and asked that people take as many as possible.

Sam asked if anybody still needed reimbursement for last year’s Con†Stellation, because he would like to close the 2011 books as soon as possible. Sam still needed to write a check to the charity.

Anita’s computer died. Mike K. was shocked that she managed to send email from it anyway. Steve groaned, “RAAAAAM! RAAAAAM!”

Sam moved to adjourn at 6:25:11P.

The program was a presentation on parapsychology by Darrell Osborn, with a focus on tricks used in mentalism. Mike K. held the After-the-Meeting Meeting at his house.

Awards Roundup

ROTSLER AWARD

The winner of the 2011 Rotsler Award <www.scifiinc.org/rotsler>, for “long-time wonder-working with graphic art in amateur publications of the science fiction community” was announced Saturday 27 November 2011 at Loscon 38 <www.loscon.org>. The award is sponsored by the Southern California Institute for Fan Interest and is named for the late Bill Rotsler, fan artist extraordinaire. Claire Brialey, Mike Glyer, and John Hertz were this year’s

judges. The winner was **D. West** of Embsay, Skipton, North Yorkshire, UK. The award includes an honorarium of \$300.

AURORA AWARDS

Winners of the 2011 Prix Aurora Awards <www.prixaurorawards.ca/wordpress> were announced at this year’s Canadian national convention, Canvention 31. That con was hosted by SFCOntario 2 <2011.sfcontario.ca/site>, held 18–20 November 2011 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Toronto ON. The former French-language Auroras have been combined with the Prix Boréal with the name Prix Aurora Boréal and are administered separately. No award was given in the Fan Publication category due insufficient eligible nominees. The winners are:

English Novel **WWW: Watch**, Robert J. Sawyer

English Short Story **“The Burden of Fire,”**
Hayden Trenholm (*Neo-Opsis* #19)

English Poem/Song **“The ABCs of the End of the World,”**
Carolyn Clink (*A Verdant Green*, The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box Press)

English Graphic Novel **Goblins**, Tarol Hunt
<goblinscomic.com>

English Related Work **The Dragon and The Stars**,
Derwin Mak and Eric Choi, eds. (DAW Books)

Artist (Professional or Amateur) **Erik Mohr**,
cover art for ChiZine Publications

Fan Filk **Dave Clement** and **Tom Jeffers** of
Dandelion Wine, for the CD *Face on Mars*

Fan Organizational **Helen Marshall** and **Sandra Kasturi**,
chairs of Toronto SpecFic Colloquium

Fan Other **John Mansfield** and **Linda Ross-Mansfield**,
for conception of the Aurora nominee pins

GAYLACTIC SPECTRUM NOVEL AWARD

The winner and a shortlist of other recommended works have been announced for the novel category of the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards <www.spectrumawards.org>. The awards honor sf/f/h works “which include positive explorations of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered characters, themes, or issues.”

Going forward, the Short Fiction and Other Work categories will be awarded every other year—works from 2010 and 2011 will be eligible for the 2012 awards. Results in the novel category are:

Best Novel **Under the Poppy**, Kathe Koja (Small Beer)

Recommended Short List **The Wolf at the Door**, Jameson
Currier

..... **A Book of Tongues**, Gemma Files

..... **The White Road**, Lynn Flewelling

..... **Stealing Fire**, Jo Graham

..... **Red Hood’s Revenge**, Jim C. Hines

..... **Black Blade Blues**, J.A. Pitts

..... **Bob the Book**, David Pratt

ISFiC WRITERS CONTEST WINNER

Results of the 2011 Illinois Science Fiction in Chicago Writers Contest were announced 11 November at Windycon <www.windycon.org> in Chicago IL. Eligibility rules include residency limits (covering 9 states), a word limit, and a lack of any previous paid fiction pubs. The winner received \$300, a membership and room at Windycon, and publication of the story in the program book. Honorable mentions each received a silver coin. The judges were Bill Fawcett, Roland Green, and Elizabeth Anne Hull.

Winner **“The Pod,”** Mary Mascari

Honorable Mentions **“Dawn Must Come,”** Michael Unger

..... **“The Un-usual Suspects,”** Jeff Byrne

Letter of Comment

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

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

27 November 2011

I have the November *Shuttle* here, and the deadline looms, so some quick writing comes your way on a cold, rainy night.

If the Virginia DSC bid carries on, would it be a standalone convention, or would it be connected with an existing convention? With only one exception, every Convention has been connected with an existing convention. Looks like most DSCs are that way, but I think DSC 50 was a stand alone, if I recall.

A shame that DreamHaven is closing... we bought some books from Greg Ketter's table at the Reno Worldcon, if I recall. Toronto is so lucky that we still have a science fiction bookstore, Bakka-Phoenix <www.bakkaphoenixbooks.com>. One never knows how long that luck will last, though.

The World Fantasy Convention will be in Toronto around this time next year, so it will be interesting to see who comes up to win the coveted trophies. We won't be there, but we do expect to hear the news rather quickly.

I earlier sent to you the Aurora Award winners... I am sure they will grace the pages of this fine fanzine.

Greetings to PieEyed Dragon, it has been a while. Such a recovery from what you've been through takes some time, but the Dwarves seem pleased. I may need to gather together the last few episodes to make the flow of action more intuitive.

The letter column... thanks to Sheryl! The Faned Awards were handed out, literally by Graeme Cameron to act as an award for Canada's fanzine contributors, as few as there may be. Graeme's awards sounded vaguely like a Canadian FAAn Awards, but he used the structure of the British Nova awards, and started this new award by fiat, by giving to those he felt should win. At least now, they are started, and he hopes to be able to set them up further with nominations and votes from interested parties. So far, Sheryl, the award consists of a very nice certificate hand drawn and lettered by Taral Wayne, and coming soon will be a little figurine on a wooden base. The figurine will be a small rocketman blasting off, only his rocket will resemble a stubby pen.

My loc... the Convention for this year has come and gone, and it was a great time. Lots of old and new friends, did the

radio shows (and got an invitation to join a radio show troupe—yes!), got the display of Aurora Awards up and people oohing and aaahing over it, and didn't win the Aurora, but a great ceremony, and a memorable time over all.

Earlier today, Yvonne and I saw *Hugo*. What a wonderful movie, a salute to the beginnings of film making, and a love letter and tribute to George Méliés. The film comes before any credits are given, but the movie stars Sir Ben Kingsley, Jude Law and Sacha Baron Cohen. If any told me a few weeks I'd be enjoying a movie with Sacha Baron Cohen in it, I would have thought them mad. Please go to see this movie, and after you've wiped a few tears from your eyes, please consider this movie for the other kind of Hugo, the one with the silver rock-ets, given out at the next Worldcon. I plan to splurge a little and get the book. Or, Yvonne might get it for me for Christmas, hint, hint...

Given that Loscon 38 is probably just finishing up as I type this, I can make a general announcement... Yvonne and I will be the FanGoHs for Loscon 39 in Los Angeles next year. We are so much looking forward to this, and we have some serious planning to do. We must also correspond further with the committee to see what we can do, and what they would like us to do.

We hope your Thanksgiving was a wonderful time, and with this schedule, the next issues is due probably just after Christmas, so in case it's a little late then, Yvonne and I hereby wish you the happiest of Christmases and New Years, and may 2012 be a great year for us all, in spite of what the Mayans might have had in mind.

[As far as I know, the Virginia DSC bid does not have an existing convention behind it. That doesn't necessarily mean they would run it as a standalone con should they win—they could be thinking of using the DSC to kick off an annual convention. Before about 1990 the majority of DeepSouthCons were standalone but yes, most DeepSouthCons in the past many decades have been held in conjunction with an ongoing con. You're slightly wrong, though, about DSC 50 having been standalone as it rather will be such... it hasn't happened yet. A slightly different version of PED's adventures are available on the web. If you *dare* talk to the dragon you can ask him where via email at <pieeyeddragon@yahoo.com>. The reviews I've seen for *Hugo* have been mixed with some praising it as much as you and some describing it as having good parts but been deeply flawed. I've so seldom been to theatrical-release movies the past many years I doubt I'll see it but if a group goes I may tag along. Congratulations to you and Yvonne on being named FGoH for Loscon. Good choice(s). -ED]



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P. O. Box 4857
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

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Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by email to: nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (EMAIL)

Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by snailmail to: Mike Kennedy, 7907 Charlotte Drive SW,

Huntsville AL 35802-2841 — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (SNAILMAIL)

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