

The



Shuttle
December 2012

The Next NASFA Meeting will Saturday 15 December 2012 at the New Meeting Location

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be **Saturday 15 December 2012** at the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church (old Wilson Lumber Company building) at **7105 Highway 72W** (aka University Drive). This is our new regular location. Please see the map at right if you need help finding this location.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

The December program will be the More-or-Less Annual NASFA Gift Exchange. Per Program Director Wyman Cooke, if you want to participate please bring only one gift; "if you bring extras, you will have to hold on to them. I will bring a numbered sign-in sheet and the box of numbers for the drawing. Please sign in when you arrive."

DECEMBER ATMM

The December After-the-Meeting Meeting will be hosted by Mary Lampert (and probably Doug, too) at the meeting place. The usual rules apply—that is, please bring food to share and your favorite drink.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka will be hosting a New Year's Eve party and all NASFans are invited. See the map on page 6 of this issue if you need directions.

CONCOM MEETINGS

At this writing no concom meetings have been scheduled yet for Con†Stellation XXXII.

PIEYEDDRAGON RETURNS

After a long hiatus, we are picking up with occasional chapters of PED's adventure in Middle-Earth. A summary of the last

several chapters appears before the current one. In future, we hope to publish a chapter every few months.

CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES

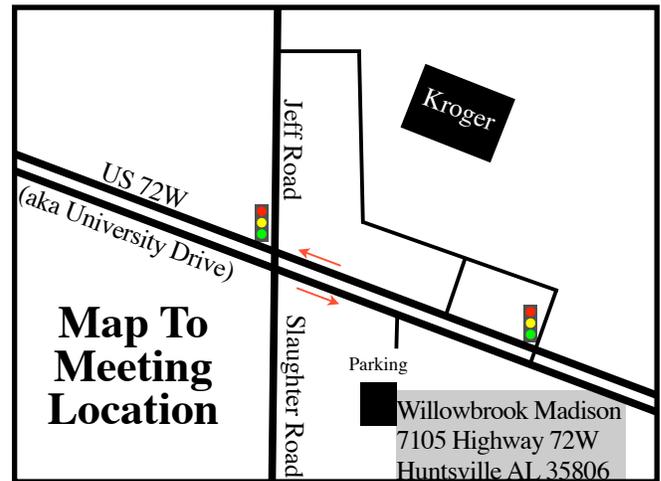
The latest tweak to the *NASFA Shuttle* schedule shifted the usual repro date somewhat to the right (roughly the weekend before each meeting) but much of each issue will need to be put to bed as much as two weeks before the monthly meeting.

Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents *each month* to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material. We will generally need to enforce that deadline strictly.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

Future programs include:

- January: Writer Alex White will talk about his new project,



Completing Our 32nd Year of Publication

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Deadline for the January 2013 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 31 December 2012

Disasterpiece Theatre.

- February and forward: TBD.
We need ATMM volunteers for all months in 2013.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

Meeting dates for 2013 have not yet been officially established, but will default to the 3rd Saturday absent a major conflict.

JOINING THE NASFA EMAIL LIST

All NASFANs who have email are urged to join the NASFA email list, which you can do online at <tinyurl.com/NASFAEmail>. The list is usually low traffic, averaging about three messages a week over the first six months of 2012 (though the rate is rather variable). Generally the list is limited to announcements about club activities plus the occasional message of general interest to north-Alabama sf/f/h/etc. fans. Non NASFANs are welcome to join the list, but please only do so if you're interested in the above restricted topics—posts unrelated to the those purposes are strongly discouraged and could result in you being asked to leave the list.

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>.

News & Info

THE 'PATCH IS GROWING

Pitney Bowes Software recently completed a “Metro Magnets Index” study and predicts that Huntsville will grow their number of households almost 6% by 2017. That makes it the fastest growing city in Alabama by that measure, and among the top 50 nationwide.

SERLING HAUNTS CHRISTMAS

Rod Serling's 1964 adaption of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol—Carol for Another Christmas*—will be shown twice this season. You can see it <<http://tinyurl.com/TCM-RS-CC>> on cable channel Turner Classic Movies Sunday 16 December at 7P (Central) or Saturday 22 December 22 at 3:15P (C).

IT'S IN THE BAG (END)

Utah resident Jeremy Telford had an idea... and 2600 balloons. The result was a balloon-sculpture recreation of the living room at Bag End inside the Telford house. You can see more details (and a video) in a *Daily Mail* article at <tinyurl.com/DM-BE-Bal>.



CHICON 7 VIDEOS AVAILABLE

Lisa Hayes and Kevin Standlee have become almost indispensable to those who want to see what went on at Worldcons and other events they missed. Their latest postings (on YouTube) are the Opening and Closing Ceremonies from Chicon 7. (Though Kevin notes that part of the latter is missing when “someone jiggled Lisa and the fixed camera, causing it to turn off without her noticing.” They had previously posted video from the Business Meetings. The latest videos can be found at:

Opening Ceremony.....www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWKFOBcK2II

Closing Ceremonywww.youtube.com/watch?v=N2HJGPYNIAM

Links to fanish (and other) video posted by Kevin can be found at <www.youtube.com/user/kastandlee>.

BAEN EBOOK & BUNDLES RELEASED

Baen Books <www.baenebooks.com> has released several ebooks by Gardner Dozois and John Kessel which are available either individually or in single-author bundles. The seven-book Dozois bundle is \$25 (or \$5 each); the Kessel bundle has three books for \$15 (or \$6 each). Many further bundles are available at <www.baenebooks.com/c-89-book-bundles.aspx>.

DC GOES E-DISTRO

DC Comics has announced <tinyurl.com/DCE-Comics> that henceforth its entire comics line will be available from the three leading e-book sites (Amazon, Apple, and Barnes & Noble). They will also still be distributed via other already-established means including the DC Comics and Vertigo apps.

DC Graphic Novels had already been distributed by the same three external sites.

THE DISC WILL SPIN ON

Sir Terry Pratchett—who has been very open about his declining health—has announced that his daughter (and video game writer) Rhianna Pratchett will take over the Discworld series once he's unable to write. Full details can be found in a November *New Statesman* article <tinyurl.com/NS-Pratchett>.

Pratchett is already depending on text-to-speech software as he can no longer use a keyboard.

THREE CHERRIES AND ONE RING

The estate of J.R.R. Tolkien is not happy, and Warner Bros. is feeling its ring-wrath.

According to a *Hollywood Reporter* article <tinyurl.com/HR-Tol-WB> an \$80 lawsuit has been filed against WB (and related entities) over abuse of the rights they hold relevant to *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. The estate disputes WB's right to create digital products and in particular the *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring: Online Slot Game*.

HARPERTEEN IMPULSE IMPRINT STARTS

HarperCollins has announced another all-digital imprint, one oriented to low-cost (impulse buy?) short fiction for the YA market. The mix of short stories and novellas will be priced from 99¢ to \$2.99 and will include genre fiction.

WHEN IS BAD SEX NOT BAD ENOUGH?

Some bemusement has been evident online that neither J.K. Rowling nor E.L. James (for *The Casual Vacancy* and the *Fifty Shades* trilogy, respectively) made this year's shortlist for the *Literary Review's* annual Bad Sex in Fiction Award. The award is intended “to draw attention to the crude and often perfunctory use of redundant passages of sexual description in the modern novel—and to discourage it.”

Described as “Britain's Most Dreaded Literary Prize,” the 2012 version went to **Nancy Huston** for *Infrared* (Atlantic Books). The *Shuttle* is unaware if any genre work (or author know for such, like Rowling) has made the shortlist or “won” the award.

WHY A D&D MUSEUM? WHY NOT?

Or at least that may be what the originators of the fundraising appeal at <www.indiegogo.com/MoDD> are thinking. As this article was being written, there were 37 days remaining in the appeal but less than 1% of the %150,000 goal had been raised.

BETTER RED (PLANET) THAN DEAD

Elon Musk (SpaceX founder) wants to send you to Mars, but not bring you back. And, oh yeah, it'll cost you a half mil.

Committee meeting (if scheduled) is at 5P. The business meeting is at 6P. The program is at 7P. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings. There is usually an after-the-meeting meeting with directions available at the program.

November Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The November meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, November 17, 2012 in the Madison satellite location of Willowbrook Baptist Church at 6:23:09P by President Mary Lampert, shortly after Wyman demonstrated his fancy phone crickets.

OLD BUSINESS

Doug moved to reopen officer nominations, and was seconded.

Doug nominated Sue for President, and Sunn seconded.

Doug nominated Judy for Treasurer, and Mike C. seconded.

Doug nominated Peggy for Programming, and Mike C. seconded.

Anita nominated Craig for 2014 Con†Stellation Con Chair, and was seconded.

Randy moved to close nominations, and Ray seconded.

Wyman reported that Kenneth Waters, the 2000 Con†Stellation Artist Guest of Honor, died recently.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CON BUSINESS

According to Sam, Con†Stellation XXXII actually made a small surplus of money this year, despite the smaller attendance.

Con†Stellation XXXIII co-con-chair Doug reported that we have a guest. Larry Correia is coming, but he recently moved from Huntsville to Utah, so it won't be as convenient to have him as Doug originally thought.

Con†Stellation XXXIII co-con-chair Mary currently has two potential hotels. The Holiday Inn Express where we've held the con for several years will actually still be open in October 2013, so we may end up at the usual hotel again next year.

Randy noted that long-time Con†Stellation T-shirt artist David O. Miller lives in Long Island, in one of many areas hit by Hurricane Sandy. Has anyone heard from him?

Doug moved to adjourn at 6:40:15P.

The program was the more-or-less annual NASFA auction. Dave Watson hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at the meeting location at Willowbrook Madison.

Awards Roundup

ROTSLER AWARD WINER PENCILED IN

The 2012 Rotsler Award <www.scifiinc.org/rotsler> (for long-time artistic achievement in amateur sf/f publications) went to **C. Ross Chamberlain**. The award is sponsored by Southern California Institute for Fan Interests and includes a \$300 honorarium. It is named for the late Bill Rotsler.

The award was announced Saturday 24 November 2012, at Loscon 39 <loscon.org>, held at the LAX Marriott Hotel in Los Angeles CA. The current judges for the award are Claire Brialey, Mike Glycer, and John Hertz.

NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS

One of the National Book Awards <nationalbook.org> (pre-

ented by the National Book Foundation "to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America") went to a genre work. The **Young People's Literature Award** went to **William Alexander** for *Goblin Secrets* (Margaret K. McElderry Books, Simon & Schuster). Winners in other categories (Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry) were not genre. The awards were presented a dinner held 14 November 2012 at Cipriani in New York City.

GULLIVER TRAVEL GRANT GIVEN

The 2012 Gulliver Travel Grant (given by the Speculative Literature Foundation <www.speculativeliterature.org> "to assist writers of speculative literature... in their research") was won by **Shuchi Saraswat**. Per the press release, "Saraswat plans to use the \$800 grant to travel to elephant sanctuaries to research the relationship between elephants and their caretakers" in support of a novel she's writing that "traces a family curse from Hindu mythological times as it weaves through generations of one family."

SUNBURST AND COPPER CYLINDER AWARDS

The Sunburst Award Society <www.sunburstaward.org> has announced winners for both the Sunburst Awards and the Copper Cylinder Awards. This is the first year for the latter.

The Sunbursts honor "Excellence in Canadian Literature of the Fantastic" and are adjudicated. (Judges for 2012 were Douglas Barbour, Zsuzsi Gartner, Daniel Justice, Lorna Toolis, and Halli Villegas.) The Copper Cylinders are a member's choice awards for similar Canadian fiction. The winners were:

Sunburst Adult*Paradise Tales*, Geoff Ryman (Small Beer)

Sunburst Young Adult*All Good Children*, Catherine

Austen (Orca)

Copper Cylinder Adult*Among Others*, Jo Walton (Tor)

Copper Cylinder Young Adult*Once Every Never*,

Lesley Livingston (Penguin Canada)

The Thing Goes South, Recap

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: It has been quite some time since a chapter in the adventures of PieEyedDragon appeared in the *Shuttle*, so I asked PED for a recap. Apparently, PowerPoint has reached Middle-Earth... the result is below. It does recap, if somewhat tersely, the most recent parts of PED's adventures.]

Synopsis of Part 3 (*The Thing Goes South*) of *No Need For A Ring*

1. PED enters Moria, hunting Mithril, begins sealing the mountains and calls the water to start rising.
2. PED encounters goblins, leads them on, then kills them.
3. PED climbs the Endless Stair, clears the collapsed exit to Durin's Tower, ignites the flammable mine gasses, absorbs residual mana from the deaths of a balrog and a wizard.
4. PED delayed by estrus cramps, bathes in Mirrormere, enters LothlÛrien, consults a watery mirror for what *is*, what *was*, and what *may be*; someone fires an arrow at her.
5. PED swims down river, goes over the Falls of Rauros... three times, up the Entwash, climbs Halifirien to the beacon, sheds skin and becomes dark green, flies to Stone of Erech, return to Halifirien.
6. Captain Bergil's very large surprise, panic among the beacon crew, seeing-stones revealed, meeting of minds.
7. Mind-speech, many secrets told, sends two palantiri and the Oin ring to Gondor.
8. Back to the Vale of Morthond, Paths of the Dead, the

- Ghost Prince of Rohan... duty-bound by the Oath of Eorl.
9. Agent of Morgoth, the Woman of Secret Shadow: Thuringwethil, Vampire (0), running water (1), dead man walking to Dunharrow daylight.
 10. Surrounded by the Army of Rohan, the old king speaks, the *rest* of the Story, a long-delayed funeral.
 11. Night flight to Mindolluin, taking sightings, landing in the city, dragon and tree, falling man gets a ride, Bergil again, inquiring minds want to *know* and get in line.

A Pearl of Great Price

No Need for a Ring—Chapter 39

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This is the twelfth chapter in the third part of the NNFAR series—*The Thing Goes South*—and is thus numbered as Chapter 12 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

Bergil: (Continuing) There seems to be an... impediment... to Her Majesty's need for information. The advisors won't let her come to you, and the guards won't let you in.

PED: Perhaps an intermediary, then. (Holding up my clawed fingers.) I can write, but my size and form are ill-suited for such. Some matters might best be left unwritten. Alternatively, the silent method we used at Amon Anwar could also be employed.

Bergil: I will convey these matters. What shall you be doing, today?

PED: I shall go... fishing.

Bergil: Fishing?

PED: I grow hungry, and Anduin has many fish. I shall also dig around and, perhaps, bring back something for the Kingdom.

Bergil: Then, the best of luck; with your... fishing.

Bergil heads back toward the keep. I step away from the Tree a short distance, and begin to stretch my wings... warming the muscles. After a few minutes, I start galloping toward the point of the promontory and launch outward with a mighty flapping of wings. Now airborne, I turn slightly and wing toward Osgiliath, which is about fifteen miles to the northeast.

After about thirty minutes I reach the river and make a wide turn to come in northbound over the water, heading upstream. I land thereon like a duck, furl my wings, and use my tail to swim. I snatch a few fish now and then and swallow quickly.

Watching the landmarks on the river banks, I slow my progress, grasp a sunken column, and stop. Most of the people near the banks have moved quickly away; some screaming, some cursing about nets and fisherman's luck. Two people dive off a raft that floats down beside me and away.

When the area is clear, I begin thrashing my tail vigorously. I stir up fountains of muddy water; the stain of which is carried down by the current. Once the mud is cleared from the debris of fallen buildings, I begin reducing shattered walls and columns to dust; thrashing to aid the river in removing this from the immediate area.

I wallow, dig, and pull at fragments of this and that until I touch something with a different feel. A spherical surface is reached, very smooth, very cold, larger than the Stone of Amon Sûl. I dig around and under this, and begin lifting it out of the sucking mud.

After more than seventeen hundred years, the Stone of Osgiliath—the master of the Seven Stones—is borne up out of its muddy bed.

— O — O — O —

Awkwardly, with the large stone in my mouth, I climb up the west bank between a boatyard and a warehouse. I set the stone down and think.

To fly with this in my mouth I would have difficulty not diving to the ground. Carrying it in my claws would make for a very awkward takeoff and landing. I cannot carry it by one or both forelimbs, and hop back to the citadel. Should I hire a teamster to transport it, or commandeer an army wain? Time is slipping away.

I place the stone on my back and raise my wings close up beside it, with only a moderate straining of muscles. I start walking, then canter, and finally a gentle gallop. The stone rocks somewhat, but stays contained. I stay on the main road, heading toward the mountain shadow. The people and animals I meet or overtake exit the road hurriedly.

In less than half an hour I have reached the main gates. They are closed.

I transfer the stone to the ground and stretch my wings back into normal positions. Taking the stone in my mouth, I make a short run and leap into the air. I maintain a steep ascent to keep my center of gravity close.

I climb higher and higher, then start a semi-steep, curving descent. I bend my neck to keep the stone close, and I land on the grass beside the tree.

I set the stone among the branches of the tree, and then gaze into it.

Three stones were under the supervision of this one. I key the stone to review all. One in the far north is active, the stone of Orthanc; one nearby is semi-covered, showing an image imprint of burning hands, the stone of Minas Tirith.

Is there another? The third channel is dark, but does exist. The Ithilstone, formerly used by Sauron, still exists!

Is it buried in the debris of Barad-dûr, or does someone have it and is keeping it covered? I cannot yet tell. The Red Mountains are too far, yet, so I sweep the nearer eastern lands, examining Rhûn and Khand; then southward for Near and Far Harad, and Umbar. Mûmakil (oliphants) I see, and elephants. I also see horses, sheep, cattle, large kine, and ships of various kinds, including warships. Far away I see a desert of red sand with a box canyon surmounted by guard posts sporting ballistae, with glittering sharp-pointed bolts. These are aimed inward toward a set of posts and... a black dragon. The dragon is feeding on something, or someone.

I believe I have urgent business in the south.

The active reviewer on the stone of Orthanc, now located at Annúminas, has just changed. King Eldarion is on-line. He cannot perceive that he is watched, until I make contact.

— O — O — O —

The king had just begun his evening scan of points of interest, when an image of two large eyes fills his sight!

Dragon (chorus of voices): King of Men, you are restoring the Tower of Amon Sûl. That is well. Do not forget, also, the Dome of Stars. Your south kingdom has received four recovered palantiri; a gift of the Valar. Others may yet be restored, but I have business in the south. There is a war fleet about to sail from Umbar. It shall not... prosper.

Eldarion: Who are you, and why did Ulmo not mention you?

Dragon: I am sent forth as the Sickle of the Valar, though the Goblins believe otherwise.

The Lord of Waters, by his silence, spoke very loudly.

[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?)]

Letter of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

21 November 2011

Tomorrow is T-day—hope yours was “full-filling.”

Sigh—there for a very short period I was almost caught up on zines, then I lapsed...

Okay—since I need something small to carry with me and write “you” win—jump to the head of the line!

Guess I need to take an (online) look at New Zealand's mintings—interesting topics for national coinage. Can we say geared to collectors?

Wow, you're right—Vader goes to Disney“land”!

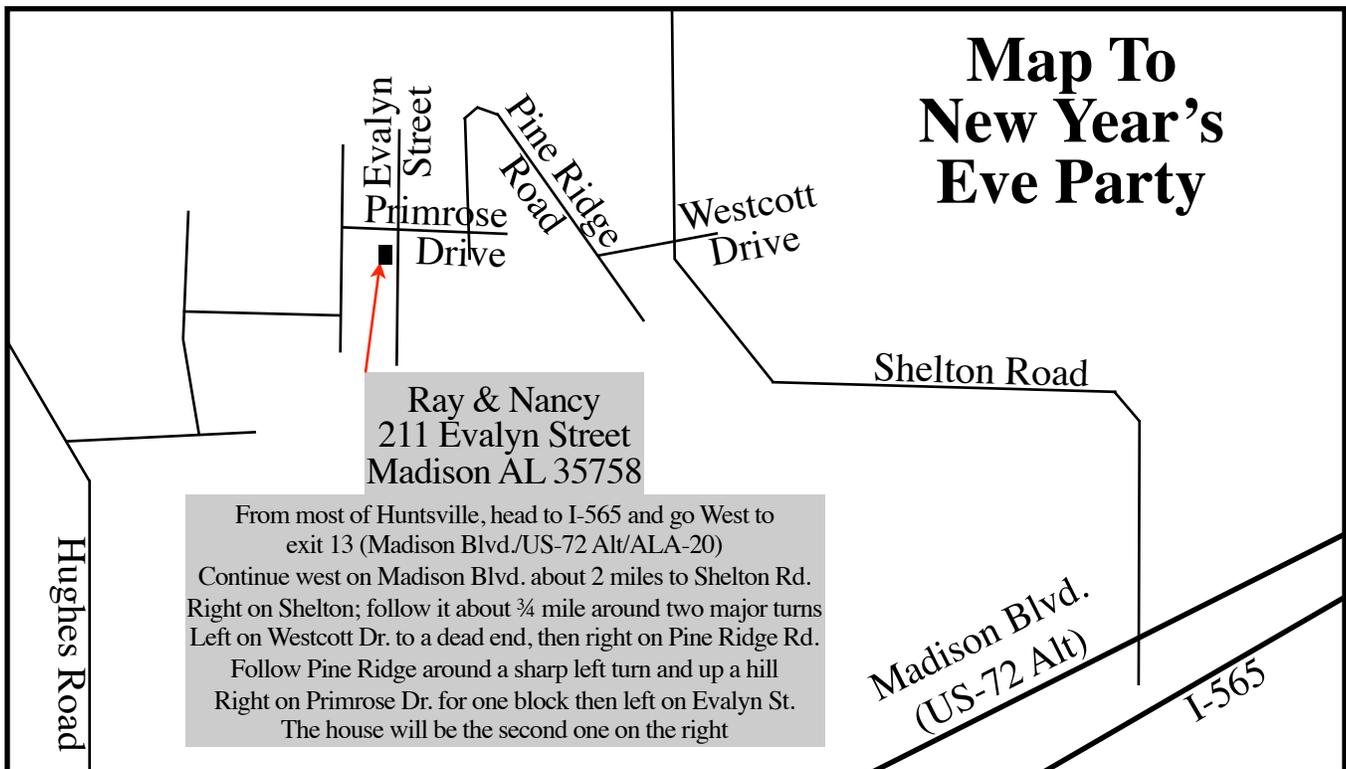
I'm torn (even if I'm *not* going)—I think Phoenix would be a

terrific venue, but I think Detroit could use the “business.” By the way—I'm *that* far out of the loop that this is my first “hearing” about the Detroit NASFiC bid. Hmm... (Thank you.)

I need to rev up the locs. It is truly embarrassing to see the dates on some of these. That being said, maybe tomorrow I can make another attempt. Well, I can dream!

Thanks! (Glad the con was, probably, in the black.)

[I think Thanksgiving was mostly good for NASFiC. I spent much of it at Mom's bedside in the hospital. The good news, though, is that she came home the next day and we had our Thanksgiving just two days late. There are lots of reasons to vote for one NASFiC (or Worldcon, or DeepSouthCon, or Westercon, or...) bid over another and I suppose that believing the con would be good for developing fandom in an area is as reasonable as most. That said, I'm not convinced that's a highly probable side effect. I'd put the committee, site (hotels, etc), city, ease and cost of travel, dates, and probably several other things before such a possible effect. -ED]



Lizard
Wizard



A Beck

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