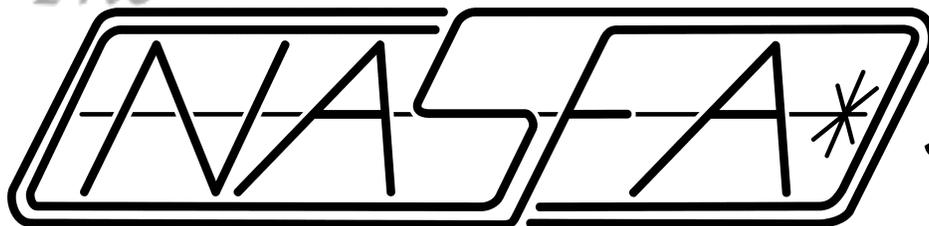


The



Shuttle
January 2013

The Next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 19 January 2013 at the New Meeting Location

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next NASFA Meeting will be **Saturday 19 January 2013** 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.

JANUARY PROGRAM

The January program will be writer/podcaster Alex White talking about his current project, Disasterpiece Theatre <www.disasterpiecetheatre.com>.

JANUARY ATMM

The January After-the-Meeting Meeting will be hosted by Adam and Maria Grim at the church. The usual rules apply—that is, please bring food to share and your favorite drink.

CONCOM MEETINGS

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

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:
- February: UAH professor Jason Cassibry talks about his

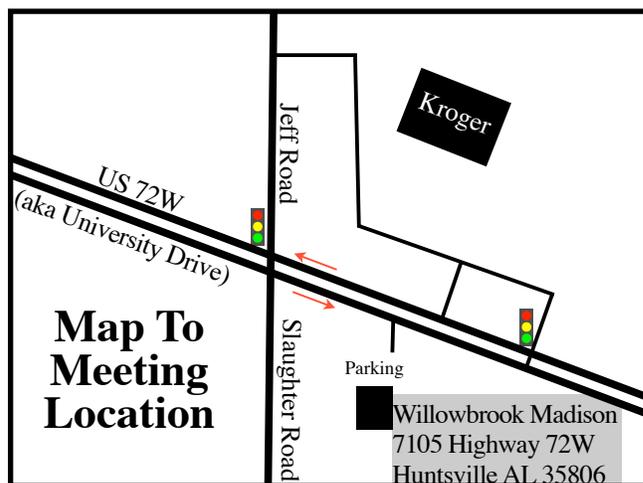
- research into nuclear fusion for rocket propulsion.
- March and forward: TBD.
- We need ATMM volunteers for all future months.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

Scheduled meeting dates for 2013 are all the normal 3rd Saturday *except* for April. That meeting will be the second Saturday (13 April 2013) to avoid a conflict with JordanCon/DSC.

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, though the rate is rather variable. Generally the list is limited to announce-



Beginning Our 33rd Year of Publication

Inside this issue...

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Deadline for the February 2013 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 28 January 2013

ments 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 it 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

HUGO NOMS OPEN

LoneStarCon 3 has officially opened nominations for the 2013 Hugo Awards (covering calendar year 2012). Members (as of 31 January 2013) of the 2012 (Chicago), 2013 (San Antonio), and 2014 (London) are all eligible to nominate for the Hugos and the Campbell Award. More details can be found online at <www.lonestarcon3.org/hugo-awards/index.shtml>. Voting in this round is via the website or a paper ballot. For online voting you will need a PIN. If you didn't receive that—or have misplaced—it please contact Lone-StarCon 3 at <hugopin@lonestarcon3.org>.

Ballots must be received by Sunday 10 March 2013, 11:59P Eastern Daylight Time.

TAFF VOTING OPENS

Voting for this year's Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund <taff.org.uk> race has begun. The candidates are Theresa Derwin and Jim Mowatt. As this is an East-to-West year, the winner is expected to attend LoneStarCon 3, this year's Worldcon to be held 29 August–3 September 2013 in San Antonio TX.

The ballot (available as HTML or RTF) can be found at the website above. Voting ends Friday 19 April 2013, 11:59P British Summer Time. Note that the voting "donation" (minimum \$3 or £2) goes to help defer trip expenses.

CALIFORNIA TAKES A BITE OF HUNTSVILLE

Huntsville-based Rocket City Space Pioneers—a competitor in the Google Lunar X Prize—has been bought by Moon Express Inc. of California. The \$30 mission prize is offered by the Big G for the first private team to land a robot on the moon which is capable of moving and of transmitting data back to Earth—providing that happens by the end of 2015.

BAEN STARTS KINDLE EDITIONS

Specialty publisher Baen Books has announced <www.baen.com/pressrelease122012.asp> they will begin offering its ebooks via the Kindle Store at Amazon.com. The Kindle editions will be DRM-free, just as the ebooks direct from Baen have been. The e-Advanced Reading Copy and limited time monthly discount bundle programs will be continued exclusively at Baenebooks.com.

PENGUIN CAVES

Due, apparently, to a planned merger with Random House, publisher Penguin has settled with the Department of Justice in the e-book pricing antitrust suit DoJ started last spring. Three of the other original defendants (HarperCollins, Hachette, and Simon & Schuster) had already settled. This leaves publisher Macmillan plus Apple as the remaining defendants.

WE ARE ALL IN THE MATRIX

The Library of Congress's National Film Registry has an-

nounced <www.loc.gov/today/pr/2012/12-226.html> that the latest list of inductees includes *The Matrix* (1999). Given the iterative nature of that world (as "explained" in the sequels) is this enshrinement further proof that we are all simulations?

ANOTHER DIGITAL SF/F IMPRINT

Prime Books <www.prime-books.com> has announced they're starting Masque Books <masque-books.com> as an e-book sf, fantasy, and sf/f romance imprint. Their goal is 6 titles a month with twice that many in the first month. Particularly successful books may also see the paper treatment as trade paperbacks.

TZ LIVES AGAIN—MAYBE

News has surfaced that CBS is looking to (re, re) revive *The Twilight Zone* for TV. The Serling original ran 1959–64 and is fondly remembered while the two revivals to date fared less well.

WHO'S ON FIRST (CLASS)?

Britain's Royal Mail will be commemorating the 50th anniversary of Doctor Who with stamps featuring all 11 Doctors and selected villains <tinyurl.com/WhosOnFirstClass> (PDF). The Doctors will be on First Class stamps while the Villains will have to settle for Second Class—though their sheet will include a TARDIS First Class stamp.



TAOS TOOLBOX 2013

A "two-week master class" for sf/f writers has been announced by Taos Toolbox <www.taostoolbox.com>; applications are being accepted. The class will be at the Snow Bear Lodge in Taos Ski Valley NM. The class will be taught by Nancy Kress and Walter Jon Williams along with special lecturer Melinda Snodgrass.

This will certainly be a rarified class in at least one sense—Snow Bear Lodge sits at nearly 10,000 feet in altitude.

ETSY OUTFITS FANNISH B**BS

Your editor is literally forced (by that tiny Gorn-like beast living in his hindbrain) to point out that vendors on handicraft website Etsy <www.etsy.com> have found new ways for fangirls to express themselves through wardrobe; albeit clothing articles that are not normally seen in public. I'll let the pics speak for themselves.



NASFA Calendar

JANUARY

- 01 New Year's Day.
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen (Hopkins) Omel.
- 03 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Cat's Cradle*, Kurt Vonnegut; 6P.
- 03–06 Atlanta Game Fest—Atlanta GA.
- 04–05 Shadowcon XVII—Memphis TN.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 06 Día de Reyes.

nated. I go out to my car and retrieve my Lap-Top, this reveals that the internet is down at the Church, and I hadn't downloaded either *Shuttle* to my Lap-Top. By the power of the Smart Phone, Craig summons up old *Shuttles* and gives us a list of nominees.

NEWFANGLED BUSINESS

In a stunning coup I grab the Gavel from Mary, despite the fact that in theory Mike should do so, and call the vote for president. Then I give the gavel back to Mary and let her run the rest of the meeting.

PresidentSue, **Mary** (9), Thane (15)
 [Your Editor notes that Doug decided to add 10 votes to Thane's total because it amused him (Doug, that is) to "vote in" a babe in arms running against his wife. In actuality, it sufficiently amused 5 (not 15) of those present to so vote. It amused all of us, just not all sufficiently to cast their vote that way. Winner: Mary Lampert. -ED]

Vice President**Mike** (7), Candidate to be named later (1)
 [Winner: Mike Kennedy. -ED]

TreasurerJudy (4), **Sam** (6)
 [Your Editor notes that amusement was again on many minds; pitting husband against wife. Winner: Sam Smith. -ED]

Secretary**Steve** (5), Candidate to be named later (2)
 [Winner: Steve Sloan. -ED]

Programming.....Wyman (3), **JudySue** (8)
 [Winner: A duo consisting of Judy Smith and Sue Thorn. -ED]

Nominations reopened, Dave nominated for publicity, nominations closed.

PublicityJack (1), **Dave** (10)
 [Winner: Dave Watson. -ED]

ConChair for 2014.....Craig (3), **Table 'till next month** (7)
 [Winner: Craig Goodrick, for dodging the bullet—though that seems likely to come to an end at the January meeting. -ED]

Inevitable and unavoidable discussion of the difference in the meaning of "tabled" between English Parliamentary usage and American *Robert's Rules of Order* usage.

Meeting schedule for next year, three potential conflicts: KamiCon in February; JordanCon/DSC in April; Hypericon in June.

Moving the April meeting to 13 April passed 6–1. Not moving June passed 1–7. Moving for KamiCon died due to lack of a motion.

Outgoing Program head Wyman has already found programs for January and February 2013. January is Alex White discussing something called Disasterpiece Theater. February is Jason Cassibry, rocket scientist (like who isn't?).

CONVENTIONAL BUSINESS

In shocking news the 2012 Con showed a surplus, as did the club for 2012. Sam was told to double his salary.

We gave SciQuest \$2¹⁰ (\$1024 for those not big on exponents). They sent a thank you note.

Meeting adjourned at 19:14:53

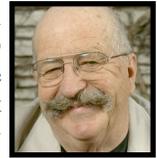
Post meeting: Sam got out the bylaws and checked. Novelty enough if anyone had asked we actually did have a quorum. Program was the annual gift exchange.

Awards Roundup

WOLFE NAMED GRANDMASTER

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America have chosen **Gene Wolfe** for the 2012 **Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award** ("for lifetime achievement in science fiction and/or fantasy"). [And about damned time. -ED]

The award will be presented at the 48th Annual Nebula AwardsWeekend, to be held 16–19 May 2013 at the San Jose Hilton in San Jose CA. More information can be found online at <www.sfwawards.org/nebula-awards/nebula-weekend>.



INAUGURAL A.E. VAN VOGT AWARD ANNOUNCED

The first **A.E. van Vogt Award**—for 2012—has gone to J. Brian Clarke for *Alphanauts* (Edge). The award includes a \$1200CDN honorarium and a certificate.



The AEVVA is sponsored by the Winnipeg Science Fiction Association (WINSFA), Conadian (the 1994 Worldcon), and Science Fiction Winnipeg (SFW). The award is for a first edition full-length science fiction novel or anthology by an author linked to Western Canada by birth or residency.

Two additional finalists were announced: Matthew Hughes for *The Other* (Underland) and Karl Schroeder for *Lady of Mazes* (Tor).

ACADEMY AWARDS NOMS

It's Oscar time again—or at least time for the nominees to be announced. Before listing genre works that got some love from the Academy, it's worth noting two "lovees" that are clearly *not* genre nevertheless have a connection to sf/f. *Argo*, with 7 nods, has a fictional sf script at the core of the true story on which the movie is (loosely) based. Meanwhile the title character in *The Master* (3 categories) is clearly modeled on Scientology founder and former sf author L. Ron Hubbard—though apparently not so obviously as to be actionable.

Bond films should usually not be considered genre, but often are. This past year's entry in that oeuvre, *Skyfall*, gathered five nods (Cinematography, Original Score, Original Song, Sound Editing, and Sound Mixing). In the far-out-there category some have even said 5-time nominee *Django Unchained* is somehow genre or genre related. Hmm... wonder what those folks are smoking? An argument could also be made for *Life of Pi* (11 noms) squeezing in as Magical Realism. Possibly a better argument could be made for triple nominee *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (Best Picture, Actress, and Adapted Screenplay) being a fantasy.

Among fairly undisputed genre films, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* leads the pack with three nods (Makeup and Hairstyling, Production Design, and Visual Effects). *Snow White and the Huntsman* is the only other multi-nominee with honors for Costume Design and Visual Effects.

A slew of genre films have one nomination each: *Adam and Dog* (Animated Short), *Brave* (Animated Feature), *Frankenweenie* (Animated Feature), *Fresh Guacamole* (Animated Short), *Head Over Heels* (Animated Short), *Marvel's The Avengers* (Visual Effects), *Maggie Simpson in "The Longest Daycare"* (Animated Short), *Mirror, Mirror* (Costume Design), *Paperman* (Animated Short), *ParaNorman* (Animated Feature), *Prometheus* (Visual Effects), *The Pirates! Band of Misfits* (Animated Feature), *Ted* (Original Song), and *Wreck-It Ralph* (Animated Feature).

PHILIP K. DICK AWARD NOMS

Nominees for the 2012 Philip K. Dick Award <www.philipkdickaward.org> (for a "distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States") have been announced. The nominees are:

Blueprints of the Afterlife, Ryan Boudinot (Black Cat)
Harmony, Keith Brooke (Solaris)
Helix Wars, Eric Brown (Solaris)
The Not Yet, Moira Crone (UNO)

Fountain of Age, Nancy Kress (Small Beer)
Lovestar, Andri Snær Magnason (Seven Stories)
Lost Everything, Brian Francis Slattery (Tor)

The PKD Award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society <psfs.org> and the Philip K. Dick Trust. The ceremony is sponsored by the NorthWest Science Fiction Society <www.nwfs.org> and the winner (along with any special citations) will be announced at Norwescon 36 <www.norwescon.org>, to be held 28–31 March 2013 at the Double-Tree by Hilton Seattle Airport in SeaTac WA.

AURORA NOMS OPEN

Nominations for the 2013 Aurora Awards <www.prixaurorawards.ca> (for calendar year 2012 genre works and achievements by Canadian citizens or landed immigrants) are open. The Auroras are presented by the Canadian SF and Fantasy Association (CSFFA) and will be presented at CanCon <www.can-con.org>, to be held in fall 2013. Nominations will close 15 April 2013.

BREAKING NEWS—GOLDEN GLOBE WINNERS

The 70th Golden Globe Awards were presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association in a televised ceremony Sunday 13 January 2013. While the HFPA was uncooperative in scheduling this well past the *Shuttle* deadline, we’ve managed to squeeze in the genre/related winners. Please note that only one of these is unambiguously genre and many of them are only *very slightly* related to *sf/f*—see for instance some of the qualifications made in discussing the Academy Awards nominations earlier in this article. The relevant winners are:

Motion Picture, Drama *Argo***
Animated Feature Film *Brave***
Supporting Actor, Motion Picture **Christopher Waltz**
*Django Unchained****
Director, Motion Picture **Ben Affleck**, *Argo***
Screenplay, Motion Picture **Quentin Tarantino**,
*Django Unchained****
Original Score, Motion Picture **Mychael Danna**,
*Life of Pi***
Original Song, Motion Picture “**Skyfall**,” *Skyfall***

Music and Lyrics by Adele and Paul Epworth
* Pretty unarguably genre
** Possibly genre or related by a reasonably direct connection
*** Only genre related in some alternate universe

Many Debriefings

No Need for a Ring—Chapter 40

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor’s Note: This is the thirteenth chapter in the third part of the NNFAR series—*The Thing Goes South*—and is thus numbered as Chapter 13 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

Bergil appears with a couple of guard-types and a horse-drawn sledge. I carefully place the Stone of Osgiliath thereon. The nervous horses, and men, step lively to move away from me. It has been quite a busy day. I curl around the tree and drop off to sleep.

I sleep a day and two nights. Midmorning of October 29, I stretch and rouse. At a moderate distance, there is a picket line of soldiers around me; facing both inwards and outwards. I take this as an effort to keep busybodies from disturbing a sleeping dragon. After a short pause, I see Bergil passing through the line and coming towards me. A young man with him, perhaps a

page or some such, is carrying a portable field desk and a couple of boxes.

Many others are watching, too. A great many, from any vantage point that gives line-of-sight. There are even a couple of children up on the battlements, looking down. They duck out of sight when I glance their way.

Bergil dismisses his assistant and sits upon the ground. We spend a few hours, with me speaking important things and Bergil writing them down. I give particular directions on the higher applications of the palantiri. He has several questions from the Regent, some of which I can answer. From time to time he has to take a break and go off for refreshments and other physical necessities. By mid-afternoon we have covered most issues. He dusts the last parchments and the assistant helps him carry them and the desk back toward the keep.

Two hours later he returns alone, carrying a bag which appears to contain a round object about the size of a lesser palantir.

Bergil: Her Highness wishes to ask about certain matters that, for one reason or another, she did not want to be written down.

PED: I expected some such. Is she waiting for me?

Bergil: Yes.

PED: I need someone to bring some things from the archives.

Bergil: What sort of things.

PED: Maps of Near and Far Harad; and sounding charts of the harbor at Umbar.

Bergil: Most won’t be very recent or reliable.

PED: I understand, but they represent an accumulation of observations. Some things change but slowly.

Bergil: I will get someone right on that.

— O — O — O —

I unwrap the palantir and open my mind to it. Formal, if strained, greetings are exchanged. The Regent-princess is using the Stone of Osgiliath, as I suspected. She is properly focused and businesslike. Skipping trivia, we discuss things I have seen and places I have been. The Undying Lands, Bilbo Baggins and Gimli, the Blue Mountains, goblins, treasure, Princess Mee, Tom Bombadil, dragons of ice and desert, a friendly giant, a lost boy, the unlamented Watcher at Westgate, elves and a wizard, drowned Moria and the Endless Stair, Amon Anwar, Rohan, and the agent of Melkor.

She tells me of political and racial tensions in the Reunited Kingdom and its neighbors, and of embassies farther afield. She will keep an eye on Umbar and report such matters to her brother, the king.

She is somewhat confused that I intend to interfere with the warships, but want to avoid killing humans.

We break off here, as evening is drawing on. Princess Celebriel needs to dine and rest, and confer with other advisors, not to mention her brother by “long distance.” I have need of a bit of rest, myself. Talking and mind-conversing are differently wearing, and I have other “interviews” in the morning.

Bergil returns with the first load of maps and charts. I have him carefully open them one by one. A single glance is sufficient to imprint the information into my memory. We finish quickly and he returns these documents, promising to bring more.

— O — O — O —

Shortly after dawn on October 30, Bergil and his assistant appear, escorting three older, bearded dwarves... who stop at a moderate distance. Bergil and his aide continue on, stopping near the guards at the gate of the keep.

According to Gimli’s memory set two of these dwarves are

local and the third, by his whiskers and hair, appears to be Lofar, of the Firebeard clan from the Blue Mountains.

Of the local Longbeards, one is Handri—a royal advisor to Lord Gimli—and retained that position in the current court of the current Lord of the Glittering Caves, Gimli's son. The other local dwarf is... Gimli's wife, Queen-mother Andat!

[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

16 December 2012

It is rare I get two issues behind, but I do have both the November and December *Shuttles*, and I will tackle them both before the New Year arrives.

November... As you can see, keeping to deadline is something I haven't been doing well lately. I now have some day-time work, in addition to my evening job, so free time has been fairly rare. I will grab an hour here and there to write locs, and try to keep up, at which I am failing miserably. As a result, letters on two or more issues.

Who's seen *The Hobbit*? I would imagine most by now, and we did just last night. Who noticed a certain former Time Lord as the wizard Radagast the Brown? And, who is looking forward to more Star Wars movies? I am of mixed thoughts... more adventures would be good, yet, Episodes 1, 2 and 3 weren't the best. I hope at least Disney will keep hands off Star Wars, and let it progress. I wonder what George Lucas is thinking at heart...

The calendar... Yvonne's birthday is in a few days, and we will be celebrating in style... with some luck, I can get off work a little early, and off we go to celebrate.

World Fantasy Convention. Were we there? No, I am never sure if general attendees are welcome at WFC, depends on the committee, I think. Anyway, seems everyone had a great time, and no doubt a few contracts were signed. Lots of people credited, except for the chairman... hmmm, I wonder...

The local... yes, Sheryl, *Murdoch Mysteries* is a current series, but one reason some seasons may be on Netflix is that as one small chain of television stations (City Group) cancelled the series, it was immediately picked up by the national network, the CBC. The first five seasons are probably available, but the sixth season will be shown soon, just a few weeks away.

My own loc... Chris Garcia was a great guest at SFContario 3, and we had a great time, looking forward to being at the con, and perhaps we may even be a vendor. We did have that huge party celebrating some birthdays, and we even had a Hogwarts-shaped cake.

December... I am waiting to see how much more action the Tolkien estate will take against Warner Brothers re abuse of rights to *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*. Perhaps the Tolkiens are looking for a bigger piece of the billions that will no doubt come from the three *Hobbit* movies? One movie wouldn't have been big enough, two would have been fine, in

my opinion, but three movies... that just says to me they want the same kind of payday they (including WB, WETA, the Tolkiens, and New Zealand) got with *LotR*. I will keep a jaded eye out for what happens.

Greetings, PieEyed! You have been missed. I hope you enjoyed the first *Hobbit* movie... any visit to Middle-Earth is a welcome one.

Thanksgiving was a busy time for us, not because of the event itself (Canadian Thanksgiving is five weeks earlier), but because Yvonne and I were FanGoHs at Loscon 39 in Los Angeles. We were treated like king and queen there, and they also kept us very busy. We attended a meeting of the LASFS, and a great time was had by all. We'd love to return, but this is a very big continent. Maybe one day...

I am done for the moment... many thanks for these two issues. Yvonne and I wish you all a great Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa/Yule/Solstice, and a happy new year. May 2013 bring what you want, and definitely what you need.

[Sounds like life (and specifically work) has gotten in the way of your fanac. I can relate, though in my case it's aspects of life other than work which have made meeting fannish deadlines difficult. I love movies, and would like to have seen several this past year (including the first *Hobbit* flick) but for several reasons a trip to the cinema just isn't going to happen very often at all. ((Hmm... is it proper to call a movie a flick—as in flicker—if it's shot at 48 fps?)) -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

2 January 2013

Well, I am obviously *not* getting any better at time management since the zine pile is not shrinking. This software is nuts—still refuses to stay on the spot where I am typing, so I continue to merrily type away and hope that when all is said and done, I haven't gone crazy on the typos front. It is really quite irritating. The longer I keep trying to figure it out, the worse it gets, so I guess I'll just blunder along blindly and... man this is going to take a long time.

Oh... seeing the date reminds me, we are now officially in the Hugo nominating season—*have fun everyone!*

I have not been paying attention on the *Hobbit* movie front—didn't realize they filmed all three movies at the same time with the intention of releasing one a year. When it is all said and done, it will be interesting to see if there are any obvious technological changes missing by the time we get to the last one. True, it helps with continuity, but it may create other interesting issues.

I guess I have not been looking in all the right places for the Rotlser Award results. I only read about it in one place a bit ago—then see it here in the *Shuttle*. Ross Chamberlin is a great choice! Congrats!

Welcome back PED. As you travel around you *do* know how to make an entrance.

As we move into current science fiction—just saw tonight about looking at new technologies to come for the Internet. G'great, I can't keep up know, what is next? I have to admit they did not go into specifics. If I am not mistaken, the internet glasses are in existence, just not to the "for public consumption" stage yet. Sheesh—and we thought there were problems with texting and driving...

Hope all and sundry survived the holiday season rela-

tively unscathed.

Alan Beck's Lizard reminds me of some else's style, but for the life of me I cannot remember who. That also reminds me, for any who have not followed Stu Shiffman's recovery from the stroke and fall in June, he is being moved back to one of the facilities he had been in before and is still not to the speaking stage... yet. Steps forward and back, with forward still winning out.

I have *had* it with this [software]—I need to remember to use the desktop.

[When putting together this issue, Sheryl, I noticed I'd somehow used 2011 in the dateline for your letter in the last issue. That probably means I made a similar mistake many times in the past—but I choose to remain optimistic by not checking. The *Hobbit* movies are all being released in separate years, but not on one-year centers. *The Desolation of Smaug* is scheduled for the holiday season 2013 while *There and Back Again* is slotted for July 2014. The Google Glasses you mention are supposedly shipping (as prototypes) to developers some time in 2013, though applications for them are clearly not expected to even begin to spread this year. -ED]

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

PieEyedDragon
<pieeyeddration@yahoo.com>

13 January 2013

Thank you, Sir Lloyd and Lady Sheryl. I have been rather busy, though not as busy as "Ensign Puck." I *did* see the *Hobbit* movie... in Reykjavik... from a small lighting alcove over the main audience. For most of it I could have been full-sized up there and no one would have noticed me. It was... interesting. I surmise that those actors cast as Dwarves were a lot better looking (to their Human audience) than the ones I saw.

While finishing this Tale (there is plenty yet to go) I am also writing another one, about events *much* more recent. It deals with... ah, but *that is another* story!

[I was pleased to hear from you a few days ago that more chapters of *NNFAR* are available and I hope to fit one into this issue (time and space permitting) and to finish printing the current adventure some time this year. Now, it seems, there will be more to come once *No Need for a Ring* is over. Hobbits, and Dwarves, and Elves, Oh My! -ED]

Breaking News: GUFF Win

Well after deadline, but *just* in time to slip into the pasteup before going to press, results of the Going Under Fan Fund (aka the Get Up-and-over Fan Fund in northbound years) are available. GUFF sends fans alternately from Australasia to Europe and vice versa; this is a north-to-south year.

Per a press release from the administrators, there were 86 votes cast with **Mihaela Marija Perković** winning. The full vote breakdown, and other details, can be found online at <tinyurl.com/GUFF2013Win>. The vote this year raised £715.71 (\$AUS1,098.02) which, along with other fundraising and contributions, will fund the trip.

Congratulations to Ms Perković (who may be the first Croatian to win a fan fund vote) for her win and to Julie McMurray for her participation in the race. Ms Perković will attend Conflux 9 <conflux.org.au>, which is hosting the 2013 Australian National Convention. Conflux will be 25–28 April at the Rydges Capital Hill in Barton, Canberra.



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