

The



Shuttle

November 2013

The Next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 16 November 2013 at the Regular Location

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be **6P Saturday 16 November 2013** at the regular meeting location—the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church (old Wilson Lumber Company building) at **7105 Highway 72W** (aka University Drive).

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The November program will be a presentation by Max Rosenthal, a former manager on the Hubble program. He will share personal stories and highlights of the Hubble development and its remarkable pictures.

NOVEMBER ATMM

The November After-The-Meeting Meeting will be hosted at the church by Mike Kennedy (health permitting). The usual rules apply—that is, please bring food to share and your favorite drink. Also, please stay to help clean up. We need to be good guests and leave things at least as clean as we found them.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The first Con†Stellation XXXIII concom meeting has not definitely been scheduled yet, but Craig says they will probably start in January and will likely be held on the afternoons of club meetings.

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:
- December: Holiday Party (volunteer host(s) needed). See

below for tentative information.

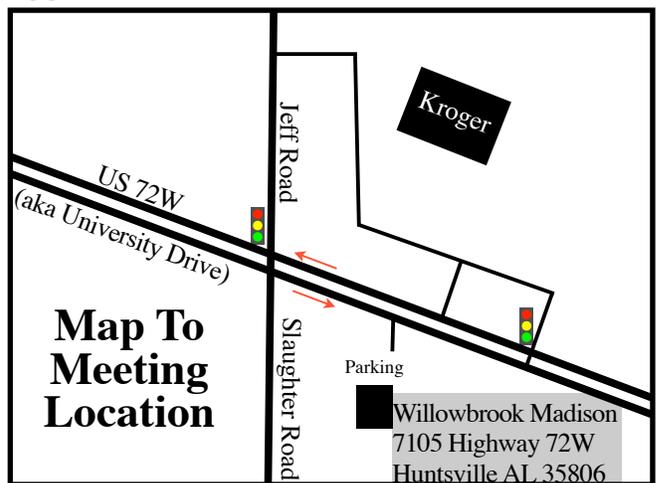
- January and forward: TBD.

We need ATMM volunteers for all months in 2014. We also need a volunteer for a potential New Year's Eve party.

DECEMBER MEETING AND HOLIDAY PARTY

The December 2013 NASFA meeting is scheduled for the normal date, but will start at 2P instead of 6P. The location will *probably* be moved from the church to the home of the Holiday Party host. The party will start after the business meeting as it will subsume both the Program and ATMM. We have a tentative host identified with the plan to be definitized at the November NASFA meeting.

The party will include a gift exchange. Each party guest who wants to participate should bring one significant gift for a trading game. There will be more details next month.



Continuing Our 33rd Year of Publication

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Deadline for the December 2013 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 2 December 2013

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

NASFA meeting dates for three months in 2014 have been shifted off of the normal 3rd Saturday.

- The February 2014 meeting was moved one week earlier to 8 February to avoid a church conflict.
- The March 2014 meeting was moved one week earlier to 8 March to avoid Tennessee Game Days.
- The May 2014 meeting was moved one week later to 24 May to avoid DSC 52.

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 announcements about club activities plus the occasional message of general interest to north-Alabama sf/f/h/etc. fans. Non NASFANs are welcomed and encouraged to join the list, but please only do so if you're interested in the above restricted topics.

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

NO YA HUGO THIS YEAR

Many *Shuttle* readers may be aware that there's a study committee currently looking at how a Young Adult Hugo might be structured. There's no guarantee they'll even come up with a proposal supported by the committee itself, much less that the Worldcon Business Meeting will pass it. Nonetheless, there was sentiment expressed by some that Loncon 3 could use their Constitutional power to create a special Hugo category to do a trial for the 2014 Worldcon. Now it's clear that won't happen. Steve Cooper, co-chair of Loncon 3 made the announcement and asked that their reasoning for the decision be quoted in full:

"As there is currently a business meeting sub-committee in place to bring forward proposals for a YA Hugo/Award to the WSFS business meeting at Loncon 3, we believe it would be wrong for Loncon 3 to pre-empt the workings of this committee, especially as they do not have a draft proposal we could test. So any such move would be seen as Loncon 3 giving an opinion that we believe X is the solution to the YA award, and as the administrating convention for the business meeting where the proposals will be tabled this would be inconsistent with the due impartiality the WSFS membership would expect of us."

Predictably, objections to this reasoning are already hitting teh interwebs. Ask Mr. Google about "YA Hugo London" and you'll likely find examples.

TAFF, GUFF, DUFF SEEKING A FEW GOOD FEN

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund <www.taff.org.uk>, the Get Up and over (or Going Under) Fan Fund <www.taff.org.uk/guff.html>, and the Down Under Fan Fund <www.taff.org.uk/duff.html> are each seeking candidates for their respective fan fund trips.

TAFF is in an Eastbound year for 2014 and GUFF a Northbound year. Thus both will expect the winning candidate to attend that year's Worldcon—Loncon 3 <www.loncon3.org>, to be held in London UK 14–18 August 2014. Other conven-

tions of interest in that timeframe include Shamrokon <www.shamrokon.ie>, the 2014 Eurocon in Dublin, Ireland (22–24 August) and Nine Worlds <nineworlds.co.uk> in London (8–10 August).

DUFF is in a Southbound year for 2014 and will be sending a North American winner to the 53rd Australian natcon, Continuum X <www.continuum.org.au>, to be held 6–9 June 2014 at the InterContinental Hotel Melbourne The Rialto in Melbourne Australia.

HELSINKI RISES AGAIN

The committee, late of the failed 2015 Worldcon bid for Helsinki Finland, has announced a bid <www.helsinkiin2017.org> for the 2017 Worldcon. That is shaping up to be a very crowded year, with bids also in various stages of development for Montreal, Japan, and the Northeast Corridor of the US (Washington D.C. and Baltimore, among other cities, are under consideration).

NEW YORK COMIC CON CROSSES A FRONTIER

This year's New York Comic Con <www.newyorkcomiccon.com> was a Brave New World, at least in one respect.

Each attendee's badge at the Reed Exhibition owned con included a unique Radio Frequency ID chip, used for entry and exit of the building holding the con. Further, NYCC provided digital bennies for members who linked their RFID to their social media accounts.

Hmm... what could go wrong here.

What went wrong was that NYCC started sending promotional tweets in the names of the attendees without their permission: "So much pop culture to digest! Can't. handle. the. awesome. #NYCC" for instance.

Many. People. Were. Not Amused. By. The. Assumption. Of. Their. Identity.

THUNDERBIRD IS GO

One cast member from the original show will be returning for the new production of *Thunderbirds Are Go!* David Graham, the voice of Lady Penelope's chauffeur Parker will join the new show.

The new show has started production—it will be a mix of CGI animation and live-action miniature sets. It is scheduled to air on ITV in 2015 <www.itv.com/news/topic/thunderbirds>.

DC TO BE MORE FICTIONAL?

An Indiegogo fundraising campaign <www.indiegogo.com/projects/museum-of-science-fiction-preview-location> has begun to fund a 3000 ft² "preview location" for a proposed "Museum of Science Fiction" to be located in Washington DC.

They apparently have pledges for art and artifacts to display in the preview location, but money is another matter. At the time this article was being written they had about a month left on the Indiegogo campaign but had raised only about 1/8 of the desired \$160,000.

PENGUIN E-BOOKS HIT OVERDRIVE AGAIN

Penguin has announced that they will again be making e-books available via Overdrive, the e-book lending service for libraries. Terms of the deal are somewhat complex but appear to include licensing titles for a year rather than buying them. Full details are available via *Publishers Weekly* <tinyurl.com/PenguinOverdrive>.

HWA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Horror Writers Association <www.horror.org> has announced two new scholarships, to be available annually beginning in 2014. The HWA Scholarship is open to all members of the organization, while the Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley Scholarship is open to female members. Each scholarship will provide \$2,500 for "approved writing education over the two years following the granting of the scholarship."

October Minutes

by Steve Sloan

The October meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, October 19, 2013 in the Madison satellite location of Willowbrook Baptist Church at 6:15:24P by President Mary Lampert. Sam has an agenda and the crickets are loud again.

OLD BUSINESS

According to the previous month's minutes, "Squat."

NEW BUSINESS

Elections are coming up. Be here or be elected!

Co-Program Director Judy proposed that the NASFA Christmas party be held in the afternoon at Sue's house. We would also have the club meeting at Sue's. Judy moved to move the December NASFA meeting and Christmas After-the-Meeting Meeting to December 21 at 2P at Sue's house. Maria seconded, and the motion passed many to three.

Each party guest should bring one significant gift for a trading game. There will be more details next month.

Doug nominated Thane Grim for President but nominations had not been officially opened.

Doug moved to open nominations, Craig seconded, and the motion passed many to one. Doug nominated Thane as President and Jim seconded. There was a digression about how to bribe Thane.

Sam nominated the entire existing slate of officers and Doug seconded.

Doug nominated Shelly and Jim for 2015 Con†Stellation con chair. Jim declined. Sam nominated John for "chopped liver." Doug nominated Shelly and Jenny Breitbach-Leach for con chair.

Sam moved to close nominations, and the motion was seconded, but it didn't pass because there were too many contrarians at once voting against it. Maria moved to nominate Thane as official mascot. Doug moved to allow the club a mascot. Judy seconded Thane as sergeant at arms. Closing nominations passed this time. [Nominations are normally reopened before the actual election. -ED]

Sam brought up the subject of scheduling. Willowbrook has an event February 15, and the church suggested that we move the meeting to February 8. The May meeting conflicts with DeepSouthCon. The May meeting was moved to May 24, i.e., Memorial Day weekend. The March meeting will be moved from March 15 to March 8 to avoid Tennessee Game Day. Ultimately, Sam moved to move the following NASFA meetings: February 15 to 8, March 15 to 8, and May 17 to 24. Craig seconded, and the motion passed many to one.

CON BUSINESS

2013 Con†Stellation co-con chair Doug asked 2014 con chair Craig to consider the following changes: Take the guests to the armor museum at the airport instead of the usual Space and Rocket Center visit. Move the date away from Columbus Day.

Sam asked which memberships will be moving, i.e., rolling over, to next year. Mike K. stated that memberships should not roll over unless the person specifically asked to roll it over ahead of time. [Um, Mike K. wasn't at the meeting so someone else must have said this. Nonetheless it is our normal convention policy. -ED]

Sam asked co-con chair Mary to check for the hotel bill so he can pick it up.

About \$1700 was charged to the convention credit card this year.

Sue couldn't make it to the meeting, but her report was read. According to Sue, registration went fine, and having registration also distribute the convention T-shirts was not a big problem. Registration by credit card went well and the credit card minions gave good service.

Doug moved to adjourn at 6:39:51P.

The October program was the Con†Stellation Post-Mortem. The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at the meeting location at Willowbrook Madison.

NASFA Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 01-03 Eyecon: Vampire Diaries—Atlanta GA.
- 01-03 Fangcon—Nashville TN.
- 01-03 Geek Media Expo—Nashville TN.
- 02 Día de Muertos.
- 03 Comic Book & Anime Con—Marietta GA.
- 03 Daylight Savings Time Ends.
- 07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *At the Mountains of Madness*, H.P. Lovecraft.
- 08-10 Anime Blast—Chattanooga TN.
- 09 Hamacon Minicon—Huntsville AL.
- 11 Veteran's Day.
- 11 Remembrance Day (Canada).
- 15-16 Nerdacon v8—Columbus GA.
- 15-17 Comic Convention—Memphis TN.
- 16* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: Highlights of the Hubble development and its remarkable pictures, Max Rosenthal. ATMM: Mike Kennedy will host at the church.
- 18 Día festivo en conmemoración de la Revolución Mexicana.
- 20 National Child Day (Canada).
- 20 Revolución Mexicana.
- 22 BD: Nancy Renee Peters.
- 23 BD: Mike Kennedy.
- 27 Hanukkah (sundown).
- 28 Thanksgiving Day.
- 29 BD: Howard Camp.
- 30 Atlanta Anime Day—Atlanta GA.
- 30 BD: Joshua Kennedy.
- 30 BD: Richard Gilliam.

DECEMBER

- 01 Comic Con—Columbus GA.
- 05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Golden Compass*, Phillip Pullman.
- 05 Hanukkah ends.
- 06-08 SMOFCon 31—Toronto ON.
- 06-08 Yama-Con 2—Pigeon Forge TN.
- 07 SukoshiCon Prime—Birmingham AL.
- 08 Atlanta Comic Convention—Atlanta GA.
- 09 BD: Maria Grim.
- 12 BD: Toni Weisskopf,
- 12 Virgen de Guadalupe.
- 17 BD: Robin Ray.
- 19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
- 20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.
- 21 Winter Solstice.
- 21* NASFA Meeting—2P Business, 3P Program, probably at the Holiday Party host's house. Program/ATMM: Holiday Party (volunteer host(s) needed).
- 24 Christmas Eve.

to a popular vote, using a weighted preferential vote. The winners are:

Hall of Fame**Leslie A. Croutch** (for 1940–50s fanac and the fanzine *Light*)
Fan Artist**Taral Wayne**
Letter of Comment Writer**Lloyd Penney**
Fan Writer**R. Graeme Cameron**
Fanzine*Space Cadet*, R. Graeme Cameron

BBC SHORT STORY AWARD

The winner of the 2013 BBC National Short Story Award has been announced as **Sarah Hall** for her fantasy story “Mrs Fox.” Ms Hall was awarded the £15,000 prize at a ceremony at BBC Broadcasting House in London by the 2013 judges’ chairwoman, Mariella Frostrup.

WSFA SMALL PRESS AWARD

The winner of the 2013 Washington Science Fiction Association <wsfa.org> Small Press Award for Short Fiction <www.wsfasmallpressaward.org> is “**Good Hunting**” by Ken Liu (*Strange Horizons*, October 2013). The award, for “best original short fiction published by small presses in the previous year” is selected by a blind vote of WSFA members.

The award, which included \$250 for the author as well as recognition for the publisher, was presented at Capclave 13 <www.capclave.org>, held 11–13 October 2013 at the Hilton Washington DC North in Gaithersburg MD.

BARD FICTION PRIZE

The winner of the 2014 Bard Fiction Prize <www.bard.edu/bfp> has been announced. The award, which includes \$30,000 and a one-semester appointment as writer-in-residence at Bard College, is intended “to encourage and support promising young fiction writers.” This year’s winner is **Bennett Sims** for his debut novel *A Questionable Shape* (Two Dollar Radio).

WORLD FANTASY AWARDS

Winners of the 2013 World Fantasy Awards <www.worldfantasy.org/awards> were announced at a ceremony during this year’s World Fantasy Convention <www.wfc2013.org> held 31 October–3 November 2013 at the Hilton Brighton Metropole and the West Pier in Brighton UK. The winners are:

Novel*Alif the Unseen*, G. Willow Wilson (Grove, Corvus)
Novella“**Let Maps to Others**,” K.J. Parker

(*Subterranean* Summer 2012)

Short Fiction“**The Telling**,” Gregory Norman Bossert
(*Beneath Ceaseless Skies* 11/29/2012)

Anthology*Postscripts #28/29: Exotic Gothic 4*, Danel Olson, ed. (PS Publishing)

Collection ..*Where Furnaces Burn*, Joel Lane (PS Publishing)

Artist**Vincent Chong**

Special Award, Professional**Lucia Graves**
for the translation of *The Prisoner of Heaven* (Weidenfeld & Nicholson; Harper) by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

Special Award, Non-Professional**S.T. Joshi**
for *Unutterable Horror: A History of Supernatural Fiction*, Volumes 1 & 2 (PS Publishing)

Lifetime Achievement Award**Susan Cooper** and **Tanith Lee**

BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS

Winners of the 2013 British Fantasy Awards, presented by the British Fantasy Society <www.britishfantasysociety.co.uk>, were also announced during the World Fantasy Convention in Brighton. The winners are:

Novel (August Derleth Fantasy Award)*Some Kind of Fairy Tale*, Graham Joyce (Gollancz)

Horror Novel (August Derleth Award)*Last Days*, Adam Nevill (Macmillan)

Novella*The Nine Deaths of Dr Valentine*,

John Llewellyn Probert (Spectral)
Short Story ..“**Shark! Shark!**,” Ray Cluley (*Black Static* #29)
Collection*Remember Why You Fear Me*, Robert Shearman (ChiZine)

Anthology*Magic: An Anthology of the Esoteric and Arcane*, Jonathan Oliver, ed. (Solaris)

Small Press (PS Publishing Independent Press Award) **ChiZine Publications** (Brett Alexander Savory and Sandra Kasturi)

Non-Fiction *Pornokitsch*, Anne C. Perry and Jared Shurin, eds.
Magazine/Periodical*Interzone*, Andy Cox, ed. (TTA)

Artist**Sean Phillips**
Comic/Graphic Novel*Saga*, Brian K. Vaughan and Fiona Staples (Image)

Screenplay*The Cabin in the Woods*, Joss Whedon and Drew Goddard

Newcomer (Sydney J. Bounds Award)**Helen Marshall**, for *Hair Side*, *Flesh Side* (ChiZine)

LEGEND AWARD WINNERS

Winners of the 2013 David Gemmell Legend Awards <www.gemmellaward.com> were also announced during the World Fantasy Convention in Brighton. The winners are:

Legend Award (Fantasy Novel)*The Blinding Knife*, Brent Weeks (Orbit)

Morningstar Award (Fantasy Newcomer)*Malice*, John Gwynne (Pan Macmillan UK)

Ravenheart Award (Fantasy Cover Art)**Didier Graffet** and **Dave Senior** for the cover of *The Red Country* by Joe Abercrombie (Gollancz)

IMPACT OF IMAGINATION AWARD

The winner of the 2013 Arthur C. Clarke Award for Impact of Imagination on Society, sponsored by the Arthur C. Clarke Foundation, is **Ursula K. Le Guin**. The award was presented 22 October 2013 by Clarion Writers’ Workshop director Shelley Streeby at a Washington DC ceremony.

Grounded

No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 1
by PieEyedDragon

[Editor’s Note: PieEyedDragon’s adventures in Middle-Earth will resume in these pages later. In the meantime, we take you to another time and location. PED spends less time “on camera” as this adventure develops, but still plays a part. The Prologue appeared in the August 2013 issue. This part was scheduled to appear last month (October) but circumstances forced a delay.]

Puck (Ensign Hrobben Gud Fiello) comes to visit me and make me laugh with a joke.

PED: Don’t pull my leg, Puck, It might come off. Old Thing, we have a problem with these monsters. If they are coming in from outer space, that is too much territory to search. Can you sense a course of action for us?

Puck: What am I, an oracle?

PED: Sometimes...

Puck: Well, nothing definite yet, but your answer lies in islands.

PED: What islands?

Puck: Well, not this one, or not entirely. If you had a watchtower above the atmosphere, you could maybe see them coming. I have a star-cruiser here, but no means to launch it without scorching a large part of Western Civilization. The tertiary engines you and Gamera managed to ignite are providing enough energy to do simple maintenance and diagnostics... slowly. No

go on long or even intermediate range sensors, and forget about weaponry bigger than a catapult. The one surviving lifeboat, *Skipbladnir*, is likely too small for the job, though her accumulators are charged. Do you have any friends “out there”?

PED: Maybe, but these monsters have their origins on Earth. That would involve interstellar regulations against interfering in “local problems,” though these actually worked in my favor not so long ago. “Politics” are not strictly a Terran parasite.

Puck: Start with what you know, and work toward what you don’t know. Are you particularly familiar with any certain islands?

PED: Aside from this one? Well, there would be Greenland, New Zealand, Borneo, Madagascar, Palua Tiga, Honshu, and Ireland. That is a handful to choose from.

Puck: (Looks into his hand, slowly closing most of the fingers, and mutters) Northern Hemisphere, not frozen and not tropical.

PED: That cuts it down to three: Iceland, Ireland, and Honshu.

Puck: “H” comes before “I,” and you spent most of a millennium there. Start with Japan.

PED: I think that is a good choice. And, I know someone there who may be able to provide additional directions: my old “employer” in Okayama.

Puck: I think... you should travel by water, and stay near water.

PED: That I can do, and thank you.

Puck: Remember, leave ’em laughing.

My magic-using abilities have mostly returned, so I need not try to walk on my three damaged legs. I levitate myself from the floor of the medical ward, and glide with purpose. I seek out the ramps and tunnels under the glacier Skeidarárjökull, and so on until I reach the cold waters of Lake Grænalón. There are a couple of smaller, sub-glacial lakes I could visit, but a lake not open to the air would not give full advantage to my quadr elemental essence. I slide out from behind a big chunk of ice, taking a quick peek to see if there are any human hikers or aircraft in view. Then, I slide down under the surface and consider my next move. This lake has no permanent outflow. When high enough, the water flows over a ridge down into the River Núpsá. The mantle plume brings Fire and Earth power up from deep down. From these cold waters, then, I phase out of the material world and into the Plane of Water, where all bodies of water (and Ice and Steam) touch. I navigate a seemingly short distance to a spot that has different, but familiar, properties. From here, I reenter the material world into another lake, thousands of miles away. The ancient, non-terrestrial Tree still stands quietly on it’s small island. The scents of this place are very familiar. I resided hereabouts for almost a thousand years. The red torii gate stands like a Greek letter Pi.

Spirit: Hello, Payato. I have been expecting you.

PED: I am not very surprised at that, Master.

Spirit: No longer your master, but still a friend. We shall have Tea together, now.

PED: (Not a request, but that is how things are done, here.) Have you managed to do that physically, then?

Spirit: Actually, no. There is someone here who will supply the hands and mouth.

PED: Do I know this person?

Spirit: Yes, and no, but you *have* met her.

PED: One of the Juraian crowd, then? Speaking of them, are any of them here?

Spirit: Only my priest for sure, at present. Doctor Washuu entered her workshop two weeks ago with orders to not be disturbed. I cannot tell at present if she is nearby. Our server today,

Lady Oka, is a “local.”

We reach the small residence. I shrink down to more-or-less human size so as to fit in the room. Within, the floor is covered with large tatami mats laid down with auspicious “T” shaped junctions. There is a low Tsugaru lacquer table to one side of the seating pads and silk cushions. A young woman in full geisha ceremonial dress, hairdo and makeup, eyes downcast, is already seated. She seems not in the least remarkable, except for the five fox tails arrayed behind her; obviously connected. Also seated is the “old priest” Katsuhito Masaki. Beneath his illusion of age, he is still young Crown Prince Yoshō of Jurai. I knew the table was there for my convenience, since the “human” (and the kitsune) would not use such at Tea. No one speaks. Lady Oka begins the formal ritual of hand wavings and structured movements. The rest of us know what to do, and when. After about two hours, the ceremony is complete. I recognize, by taste and smell, that the tea is a particular blend of local green and also... oolong.

— O — O — O —

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

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

25–31 October 2013

Well, the laptop (it is late 2007) continues to work after a fashion, even with the gaping huge hole where the battery (nasty little bugger) used to live. It runs Snow Leopard (and hence FreeHand) nicely which is as far as I can go to be able to use that old software, but stumbles over the Internet a bit compared to the external hard drive for the desktop that holds Mountain Lio—so I have both worlds, just very cumbersome. I still cannot remember to save as often as I should and every movement may cause the connector to shift and there it all goes!

I have had so many other things going wrong that I have not had the opportunity to baby it and try to make sure things do what they are supposed to. I vacillate on a daily basis between thinking I can make the repairs myself and risk destroying it to thinking I can wait the ___ months/years to save up the money to buy one a bit newer. Right now I am back to thinking I’d rather save up the \$225 and accept an old (but whole) laptop as the minimum of \$500 for the newer used one is a bit unrealistic. So, on with the show!

Part of the ongoing issues (that have escalated) is the TV—so, while hopefully taped, I have not had the time/capability of watching any of them... yet.

I still have not taken out that supporting membership for Spokane. RSN.

I don’t think I mentioned it, but I tried to watch the online videos for the bids this last voting season and was sad that the Finnish one had too much audio trouble to stick with trying to make it out. I kinda thought they might have a chance. After looking at the (don’t think they actually call it a National con but...) big (*really big*) convention there I thought it might be interesting. Wow, getting academic credit for...

Hopefully Lloyd will let us know how the job interview

went; fingers crossed.

I was tempted to use the “Sensa Wondah” letterhead using the illo I contributed to Brad Foster’s collection of (coffee?) pots for a previous LoneStarCon, but that takes too much thought.

Your flight plans to Worldcon sound a bit convoluted, but well thought out so you could move with the changes (Boy Scout?). I laughed at myself when I read that you had a chicken salad sandwich and chips as I automatically envisioned chips—aka French Fries—just jumping the gun on London...

The ribs combined with broccoli and sweet potatoes sounds like a terrific combination! I hesitate to ask the monetary damages the menus you describe (ahem) racked up.

Seeing the comments about the Art Show reminds me I *do* miss that—been a loong time. Wish you had been able to repeat the visit and include it in the report.

It sounds as if the Worldcon was pretty much the way it ought to be—tiring, over a bit too soon, but a relief to be home!

Despite being told that dry heat is easier to handle than humid, I suspect that is less true when you hit triple digits!

Mine was one of the computer that had trouble with the Hugo ceremony broadcast and I kept thinking I would try to go back later and watch it *in toto* when whatever glitch there was had been fixed. I haven’t found enough free time in a lump to do that. If it is still available, I may get to it—just no idea when.

Wow, looking at the site voting just emphasizes how important it is to rank your choices. Helsinki came sooo close! For NASFiC, despite only one round of vote counting, the spread was still very tight.

For the opt in/opt out of format for Worldcon information, I *still* have not figured out how the heck I got buttonholed at electronic receipt. Since I had not gotten any information for several of the Worldcons, I tracked down the format for London and was told mine was electronic. I asked if it was possible to change it (back?) to paper. I don’t think I got any reply and in any case [if] there have been any PRs “recently” I still have not gotten a copy. However it happened, I have no idea how I ended up with the choice of electronic format.

I understand but am saddened to hear about the Fan Artist [Hugo] category definition, regardless of whether it is finalized or not. I wondered how long it would take for a filker or a stage actor (as two stretches a bit) to qualify as a fanartist. I wonder if there is any point in trying to split off the “traditional” fanartist on its own... but that would seem to beg for each (and every) other artist category to have its own award category—limited only by the imagination. Hmm.

I just Googled Worldcon 2013 Masquerade photos—interesting results! One close and personal photo of the Hugo base is great! Now I’ll go back and see what other sites are on the list. I finally found a slideshow of 8 costumes—wow—the Blue Lady of the Lake...

Okay, I think I am at the end of the zine—at least I have now lost and recovered (well, sorta) text for far too long. When things work they work great, but when they don’t they go wrong bhig time!

Waiting to see if any Trick-or-Treaters show up

[We had windy, rainy weather on Halloween and very few Trick-or-Treaters; even fewer than usual. That’s OK, the leftover candy was mostly things I like. You’re not the only person, Sheryl, that I’ve heard complain about being sent electronic pubs from a Worldcon when they wanted paper. Mistakes happen and it may take patience and perseverance to get one corrected when dealing with volunteers working (very) part time on a con. Regarding the Fan Artist Hugo, the only thing that

would change if the Amendment that received first passage at LSC3 gets ratified at Loncon 3 is to add convention art shows as a qualifying venue art; versus just publications. (At least that’s my strong recollection—AFAIK the minutes of the Business Meeting have not yet been published, so I don’t have an official record to point to.) The performance arts were addressed in the original proposal but that part was gutted before the Amendment was passed. This is not to say that such an expansion won’t be tried again. RE the Hugo broadcast, the whole 2.5 hours are available free at <www.ustream.tv/recorded/38546105>. Also, DVD and Blu-Ray versions of both the Hugos and the Masquerade are said to be available for purchase at <www.sydweinstein.net/DVDs.htm>. And what did I spend on food during Worldcon? I’d estimate it was well less than 25% of what I paid for my hotel room, and that counted a modest amount for treating other people to a meal on two occasions. -ED]

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27 October 2013

Hello!, and hello, Mike Kennedy, sorry you had to spend part of Con†Stellation in the hospital. Got this yesterday, went to a great steampunk Hallowe’en party last night, and I start a two-week trial tomorrow for an extended work contract. And deadline for contributions for the next *Shuttle* is tomorrow? One loc on the October *Shuttle* coming right up! *ding*

Hope the convention went well for organizers and attendees alike. It’s not fair to work so hard on it, and then be forced to miss it.

The local... thank you, Toni, about my job search. I have been looking since March of this year, and as I’ve written above, I start a two-week trial tomorrow. Hope I can ace it and get the full contract. The bidding year of 2017 has gotten even more complex with the unsuccessful 2015 bid for Helsinki, Finland relaunching for 2017. I am still hoping for Montréal for that year, but the odds of it winning has gone way down, in my opinion.

Last night, there was a steampunk Hallowe’en party down the highway in Hamilton, we had ourselves a great time, and there was a wide selection of costumes, including our hosts in full steampunk. Best Hallowe’en party we’d been to in years.

Well, can’t write much about a four-page zine, so this may be it for right now. Happy to help with the next zine, see you then.

[Congrats, Lloyd, on your win in the 2013 Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Best Letter of Comment Writer category. We certainly love hearing from you in our little letter column. Yes, I missed all of Con†Stellation except a little of the setup on Thursday and a dinner with guests and concom that evening. It was the wee hours of Thursday night/Friday morning when it became all too clear I was headed for the hospital. Sue Thorn, who was rooming with me, was our head of Registration this year and I’m afraid she was beginning Friday a bit run down from being up with me for a couple of hours. Yes, 2017 could be the first year in some time to have four serious bidders for that Worldcon. That assumes the Northeast Corridor bid does fully materialize, but the promised an answer on that by SMOF-con, which will be in Toronto the first weekend in December. Perhaps you can send us word on how that goes, eh? -ED]



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The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the November 2013 edition (Volume 33, Number 11). NASFA Officers for 2013: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director “JudySue Thornsmythe”; Publicity Director Dave Watson. Shuttle Editor Mike Kennedy.
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NASFA Dues = \$25/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$15/year Single copy = \$2 each.

Special Statement Regarding the October 2013 Issue

Due to illness, the October 2013 issue was very late and was published in electronic format only. It is available on the NASFA website at www.con-stellation.org/nasfa/shuttle.html. At this time there is no intent to publish a paper version, but if you want one please contact us by email or by snailmail (addresses above) and we'll do our best to get you a copy.