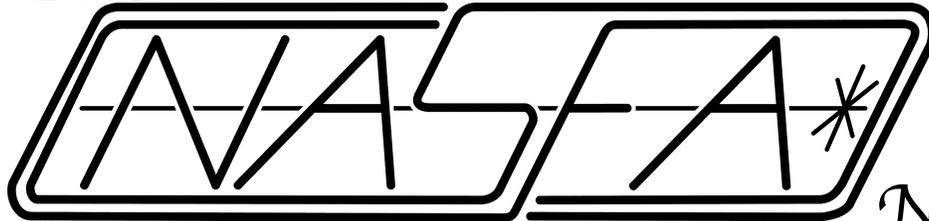


The



Shuttle
November 2014

The Next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 15 November 2014 at the Regular Location

Effective This Month, the Business Meeting Starts at 6:30P

▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be **6:30P Saturday 15 November 2014**, at the regular meeting location—the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church (old Wilson Lumber Company building) at **7105 Highway 72W** (aka University Drive). Please see the map at right if you need help finding it.

PLEASE NOTE that per a vote at the October meeting, the start of the Business Meeting has changed from 6P to 6:30P. Programs are still scheduled to start at 7P. In the past, Business Meetings have usually started about 20 (sometimes more) minutes past the nominal start time. However, with only 30 minutes allotted before the Program, it is likely that future Business Meetings will begin much closer to the nominal time—perhaps even on time!

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The program for the November meeting will be a talk by author and NASA scientist Les Johnson. He'll mix science fact and science fiction, discussing both Mars Exploration and one of his latest books, *Rescue Mode* <tinyurl.com/RMBBLJ>. Les has another release, a new edition of *Solar Sails: A Novel Approach to Interplanetary Travel*, coming out just in time for Christmas <tinyurl.com/SSANA>.

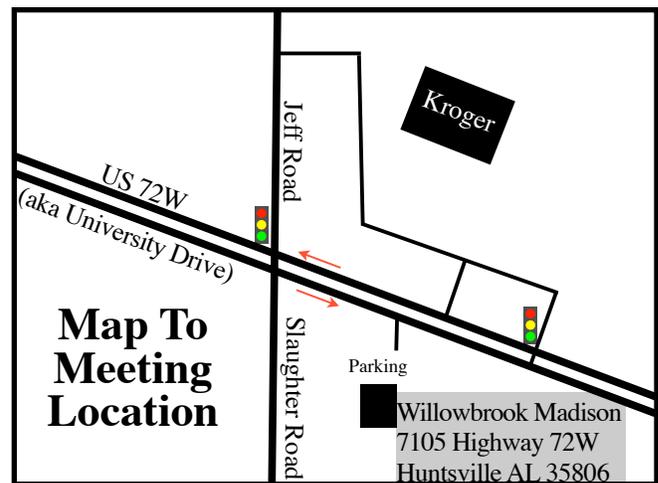
NOVEMBER ATMM

The After-The-Meeting Meeting will be hosted by Mike Kennedy at his house—7907 Charlotte Drive SW in Huntsville

<goo.gl/maps/horME>. Yep, this is not at the church... there will be champagne (or some such) to go with the chocolate cake and even a lapsed Baptist like Mike wouldn't bring that former into a Baptist church. Other than the cake and sparkles, the usual rules will apply—that is, please bring food to share and your favorite drink.

CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The latest tweak to the NASFA *Shuttle* schedule shifted the usual repro date somewhat to the right (roughly the weekend



Continuing Our 34th Year of Publication

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Deadline for the December 2014 issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Monday 1 December 2014

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 for 2014 and 2015 are TBD at press time.

We need ATMM volunteers for December 2014 and all months in 2015. In a similar vein, we could use a host for a New Year's Eve party.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

All further NASFA meeting dates for 2014 are scheduled on the normal 3rd Saturday. Club meeting dates for 2015 have not yet been determined.

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 both *encouraged* and *welcomed* 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/h/etc. events) are added or changed. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

News & Info

WORLDCON ANNOUNCES HUGO HOSTS & MORE

Sasquan <sasquan.org>—the upcoming worldcon, to be held 19–23 August 2015 at the Spokane Convention Center and surrounding hotels in Spokane WA—has announced that Tanagerive Due and David Gerrold will host the Hugo Awards ceremony. Additionally, Sasquan has announced that the (now traditional) online streaming of the ceremony on Ustream <www.ustream.tv/hugo-awards> will be expanded with new pre- and post-ceremony shows collectively titled *The Road to the Hugos*. Those will be hosted by Chris Burgess, Warren Frey, and Steven Schapansky.

A NEW BREATH OF LIFE FOR FRENCH 2023 BID

The *oui ou non* of a France/Paris worldcon bid has swung back to *oui*. After the collapse of the Paris worldcon bid that was to launch at Loncon 3 (the 2014 worldcon), a new French bid has formed <worldconinfrance.org/?lng=en> with much the same goal. Though they haven't *quite* declared Paris as the bid city, they do state it's the most likely one. In addition to their website (above), the bid has established beachheads on Facebook, Twitter, and even Google+.

AND SPEAKING OF CONTINENTAL BIDS...

Are you ready for a 2019 San Marino worldcon? Yes, there's a bid to hold the worldcon in the entire *country* of San Marino—all 24 square miles of it. (And it would take the entire country plus parts of surrounding Italy to host a worldcon.)

Not ready? You're not alone. The bid for the Most Serene Republic of San Marino <www.serene2019.com> is on the one hand a hoax bid in the grand tradition of such and on the other hand a chance to (effectively) buy books than no one else can get. The bid plans to publish "at least three volumes of an an-

thology series, *Cream of San Marino: Stories by Campbell Award Nominees*," and give them to presupporters of the bid—and *only* presupporters. The higher your pre-support level the more volumes you get.

The "bid" has apparently already negotiated rights for works from 22 Campbell winners and is working on more. They plan an official kickoff with a party at Philcon 2014 <2014.philcon.org>, to be held 21–23 November 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Cherry Hill in Cherry Hill NJ (Philadelphia PA area).

And, oh yes, the bid promises cake. Specifically, Torta Tre Monti—it sounds delicious but finding one is left as an exercise for the reader. Or, you could go to a San Marino in 2019 bid party.

COMING UN-CUFFED

Well, the Canadian Unity Fan Fund is having a run of somewhat ill luck. First they had only one candidate stand for the 2014 selection. Then that led CUFF to not hold an election, which doubtless affected their fundraising.

Then the delegate, Travers Milo of Halifax NS (and Hal-Con <hal-con.com>), was unable to make the trip to this year's Convention—held in conjunction with VCON 39 <www.vcon.ca/vcon-39>, 3–5 October 2014 at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford in Surrey BC (just southeast of Vancouver).

And now, sigh, Mr. Milo has had to resign as administrator of the fund for the coming year. It sounds like a case of over-commitment [something that has plagued your editor from time to time -ED] as he cites "volunteer and other personal commitments, as well as circumstances outside of [his] complete control."

On the bright side, the previous administrator, Debra Yeung, has indicated she is willing to take up that mantle again; so CUFF lives on.

HEVELIN FANZINE COLLECTION LIVES ON

After his death in 2011, Rusty Hevelin's collection of over 10,000 pulps, fanzines, and more was donated to the University of Iowa Libraries. Now, in a major announcement by Peter Balestrieri (curator of UIL's science fiction and popular culture collections) the library will be digitizing the fanzines.

Though the full scans will not be available online (to respect "copyright and privacy" concerns) the intent is to have a full set of transcriptions incorporated into a searchable database. It appears that the ability to search the database may be available to the public. More info can be found at <hevelincollection.tumblr.com>.

A NEW MAGAZINE COMES ALIVE

The first issue of a new sf/f magazine—*Uncanny Magazine*—is now available. Some content can be viewed online <uncannymagazine.com>, but with a significant delay from the published 'zine. The magazine itself is not available in physical format, but *is* available in several e-book formats for \$3.99 an issue or \$23.88 for a 12-month subscription. Issues will contain a mix of original and reprint fiction, poetry, editorials, interviews, and audio/podcast material.

PW ANNOUNCES S&S-AMAZON DEAL; HBG FUMES

According to *Publishers Weekly*, publisher Simon & Schuster and uber-bookseller Amazon have reached an agency-pricing type deal <tinyurl.com/SSAmazonDeal> that gives S&S a significant amount of control over the price of its books "with some limited exceptions." This deal would appear to put even more pressure on S&S competitor Hachette Book Group in their long-simmering feud with Amazon over discount and other terms for e-books—especially as the holiday buying season commences. HBG declined to comment to *PW*.

October Minutes

by Steve Sloan

The October meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, October 18, 2014, at the new Holiday Inn Express near the usual meeting place at 6:22:03P by President Mary Lampert. This meeting was held during “Not-a-Con,” a party in lieu of the 2014 Con†Stellation that didn’t happen. Mary used “warning crickets” before gaveling the meeting to order, then started the meeting with more crickets.

OLD BUSINESS

Squat. (Because last month’s old business was “diddly.”)

NEW BUSINESS

Doug moved to open 2015 officer nominations, Steve seconded, and the motion carried. Doug moved to nominate the current slate of officers, Anita seconded, and the motion carried. Doug moved to close nominations for this month, Judy seconded, and the motion carried.

Nancy Cucci wants to borrow Con†Stellation folding tables for a personal event. She would need four six-foot tables. We usually charge a nominal fee for loaning Con†Stellation equipment. Doug moved that we loan Nancy four six-foot tables for \$20, Adam seconded, and the motion carried with the usual two opposed.

CON BUSINESS

Shelly signed the hotel contract for Con†Stellation 2015. She needs to pass the official event date to the web master.

This year’s constellation will be Coma Berenices, Bernice’s Hair. [And this, along with dates and basic hotel info, is now on the Con†Stellation website <www.con-stellation.org>. -ED]

Shelly is now looking for volunteers to serve as convention officers. Sam volunteered as Treasurer—or was that “volunteered”?

Sam has renewed Con†Stellation’s state business license, so we’re in good shape.

Adam and Maria would like Con†Stellation flyers to leave at Outside Con.

IS THIS NEW OR CON BUSINESS? IT PROBABLY DOESN’T MATTER

Dave asked why we don’t start meetings at 6:30. Dave moved that we start NASFA meetings at 6:30P until convention business starts making meetings longer, and Doug seconded. The first vote was a tie of 3 to 3. A recount had 5 in favor, 3 opposed, and a bunch of abstentions. The motion carried.

Doug moved to adjourn at 6:36:30P.

The October program and After-the-Meeting Meeting were a continuation of “Not-a-Con.”

NASFA Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 01 Día de Todos los Santos.
- 02 Daylight Saving Time ends.
- 02 Día de Muertos.
- 04 Election Day.
- 06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Fevre Dream*, George R.R. Martin; 6P. Per the library website <hmcpl.org/bookclubs/bailey_cove_scifi>, this book club is currently inactive.
- 07–09 Anime Blast—Chattanooga TN.
- 07–09 Fanboy Expo—Knoxville TN.

- 07–09 Fangcon—Knoxville TN.
- 11 Veterans Day.
- 11 Remembrance Day (Canda).
- 14–15 Nerdacon v9—Columbus GA.
- 15* NASFA Meeting—6:30P Business, 7P Program, at Wil-lowbrook Madison. Program: Les Johnson mixes science fact and science fiction with Mars Exploration and *Rescue Mode* <tinyurl.com/RMBBLJ>. ATMM: Mike Kennedy hosts at his house. **PLEASE NOTE** both the changed start time for the Business Meeting and that the ATMM is not at the church.
- 15 Hamacon Minicon—Huntsville AL.
- 17 Aniversario de la Revolución Mexicana.
- 21–23 Comic Convention—Memphis TN.
- 22 BD: Nancy Renee Peters.
- 23 BD: Mike Kennedy.
- 27 Thanksgiving Day.
- 29 BD: Howard Camp.
- 29 Atlanta Anime Day—Atlanta GA.
- 30 BD: Joshua Kennedy.
- 30 BD: Richard Gilliam.

DECEMBER

- 04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Roadside Picnic*, Arkady Strugatsky and Boris Strugatsky; 6P. Per the library website <hmcpl.org/bookclubs/bailey_cove_scifi>, this book club is currently inactive.
- 05–07 Yama-Con 2—Pigeon Forge TN.
- 06 SukoshiCon—Birmingham AL.
- 06–07 Farragut Fest—Kingsland GA.
- 07 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- 09 BD: Maria Grim.
- 12 Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe.
- 12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.
- 12–14 GeekonomiCon—Biloxi MS.
- 17 First Day of Hanukkah.
- 17 BD: Robin Ray.
- 19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
- 20* NASFA Meeting—6:30P Business, 7P Program, at Wil-lowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.
- 21 Winter Solstice.
- 24 Last Day of Hanukkah.
- 24 Christmas Eve.
- 25 Christmas Day.
- 26 BD: Michael R. Stone.
- 26 Boxing Day.
- 26 First Day of Kwanzaa.
- 28 Día de los Inocentes.
- 31 New Year’s Eve, party host(s) needed.

JANUARY 2015

- 01 New Year's Day.
- 01 Last Day of Kwanzaa.
- 02–04 Anime Kaiju—Nashville TN.
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen (Hopkins) Omel.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 06 Epiphany.
- 06 Día de Reyes.
- 07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
- 07 Orthodox Christmas Day.
- 09–10 Shadowcon—Memphis TN.
- 09–11 GaFilk—Atlanta GA.
- 14 Orthodox New Year.
- 16 BD: Bruce Butler.
- 16–18 Siege of Augusta—Augusta GA.

Munsey Award (for “the betterment of the pulp community”)**J. Randolph Cox Hevelin Service Award****J. Barry Traylor NEW: HARRIS LITERARY COLLECTION AWARD**

The Brown University Library’s Harris Collection of American Poetry and Plays is sponsoring a new literary award <library.brown.edu/harrisaward> that “celebrates the influence of literature in pop culture.” The inaugural awards were presented at a 23 October 2014 ceremony at the Salomon Center For Teaching on the Brown campus in Providence RI. The winners are author **George R.R. Martin** and Tor publisher **Tom Doherty**.

WASHINGTON STATE BOOK AWARDS

At least two of the category winners in the 2014 Washington State Book Awards went to works with genre connections. The **Fiction** category was won by Nicola Griffith’s *Hild* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). Ms Griffith is known for her genre fiction, though *Hild* is perhaps more aptly classified as historical fiction.

The award in the **Book for Middle Readers** (ages 9–12) category went to *The Sasquatch Escape*, by Suzanne Selfors—the first book in her Imaginary Veterinary series.

Qualifications for the awards include being a “Washington Author,” defined as having been born there or being a resident of at least 3 year’s standing. Winners are selected by jury and receive a \$500 honorarium. A full list of winners can be found at <tinyurl.com/WSBAWin>.

SF&F TRANSLATION AWARDS CLOSE SHOP

The organization behind the Science Fiction & Fantasy Translation Awards <www.sfftawards.org> (for genre works translated into English) is ceasing operation. Their statement says, in part, that “There are many reasons for this, but mostly they are to do with the time and effort required to run the awards on an amateur basis.”

The Dai-Kaiju Declaims

No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 9

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 somewhat less time “on camera” in this adventure, but still plays a major part.]

Luna: (Rapping on the door) Professor, I’ve brought some tea cakes that the House Elves made for us. Are you in there?

Hagrid: (Appearing at the door) Ah, Luna, ah... this might not be the best time for you to be here.

Voice from inside: It’s your home, Hagrid. You may invite whom you please. I do not mind.

Luna: Who’s that, Professor?

Hagrid: It’s the dragon Myrtle told us about; an’ verra pleased to accept my invitation to tea. The dog decided he had business outside.

Luna: Oh, do please let me in. I told you I wanted to see it.

Hagrid: Oh, ah, verra well then. [Luna enters the semi-dark hut and doffs her hood. An old tabby cat slips in behind her and curls up in a corner—avoiding the space under the table which largely contains coiled-up layers of something very like a snake. An oddly shaped figure... leans(?) against the wall beside the table, on which there are a couple of bucket sized cups.]

Hagrid: Luna Lovegood, this is PED, the Pie Eyed Dragon. PED, this is Luna. She graduated from here a few years ago,

and is trying to become a naturalist.

PED: Hhhhow do hhyou do, Missssss hhLuffgoodh.

Hagrid: Why are ya talkin’ all hissy-fied, now?

PED: Sorry, people tend to expect me to hiss. How do you do, Miss Lovegood?

Luna: Utterly fascinated, at the moment. Myrtle said you were much bigger. You have the most amazing eyes... solid blue!

PED: Being invited to tea by a complete stranger was a propitious happenstance. I did not wish to embarrass my host for being unable to find any cups of a proper size, so I shrank down to fit his furniture and crockery.

Hagrid: (Sneezing) Sorry. Please have a seat, Luna.

PED: If I may be so bold, what about the other lady?

Hagrid: (Sneezing) Sorry. What other lady?

PED: The one in the corner in the fur coat, curled up and trying to look small.

Hagrid: (staring at the cat in the corner) Perfesser McGonagall, is tha’ you?

Professor McGonagall: (Expanding back into an elderly woman) I apologize for sneaking into your home, Hagrid. The Headmasters and I, and others, were a bit concerned about you and your... visitor; and Miss Lovegood, too.

Hagrid: Ye know yer always welcome, Perfesser. Have a seat if yeh like. There’s room for one more. PED, this is Perfesser Minerva McGonagall, Transfiguration teacher and Deputy Headmistress.

PED: And how do *you* do, Professor? I always liked all my professors when I was at school.

Professor McGonagall: And what school was that, may I ask?

PED: The Erl-king, in Iceland where I was originally hatched, had sponsored a school of magic for those elves, and some others, who wanted to study more complicated abilities. They accepted me as one of the “others.” Some of them had brought naming gifts to me when I was still a wobbly lizard in the nest. Their seers had *seen* that my birth was a Good Thing. Naturally, I fell face-first into their sweet fruity confections. It made them laugh and call me a Pie Eyed Dragon. The rest is, mythology.

Luna: They didn’t make you angry, did they?

PED: No, their laughter was quite pleasant and not at all mean. Mother did not seem to mind, either.

Hagrid: Yer dragon mother was there an’ not angry at the intruders? I wouldn’t try that with a Hungarian Horntail.

PED: She was rather pleased that others accepted me. It would help me in my duties later. Also, mother is not a dragon.

Luna: What is she, then?

PED: I am like her in very subtle ways, though not in form. She is a monster. A very, very large turtle who loves children. Gamera is her name. The Japanese call creatures like her “Dai-Kaiju”—“Giant Monster.” It’s rather unimaginative.

Professor McGonagall: She... eats children?

PED: Oh, never. The Atlanteans created her as a protector of mankind, and especially of children. She was created too late to protect them from the creations of the Mu Empire. So she watched over mankind, and watched for the return of the others. She watched and waited for thousands of years. Even a monster can grow tired. But the Atlanteans had given her as much intelligence and knowledge as they could. She considered her problem and worked on it for some time. When she was ready, she crawled ashore in what is now called Iceland, found the right sort of lava ravine over the boundary of two continental plates, and made a nest. The ravine was about forty yards wide at the time. She could enter but not turn around

without getting up on two legs. She laid her egg and waited. Twelve years later, I hatched on Midsummer's Day. On Earth, surrounded by Water, under Air, with Fires below. I am the dragon of the four elements. That is the shape she chose to give me, one that did *not* look like her. She considered that her enemies might have observers out there. That birth was my original body. It was destroyed a few years ago. This is a newer one, though sorely tried; born on the sandy beach of a small island off the coast of Borneo. My rebirth had... problems. I was spiritually and mentally unbalanced for a time, but it finally all came together.

Luna: How fascinating! Have you ever seen a Crumple-Horned Snorkack?

PED: Perhaps I know it by another name. Can you describe one?

Luna: Well, (goes into a list of probable sightings and habits, along with associated creatures. The others remain politely quiet).

PED: I believe you are referring to the alternate form of what you call a female Erumpent. When conditions are right, the Erumpent will metamorphose into the Snorkack. This was just some odd experiment of the Atlanteans. Project Manticore created many modified life forms, culminating in my mother. One of the earlier semi-successful experiments involved development of a cavalry force. Project name: One hundred-Gold. Or, as translated and re-translated over the millennia: Centaur.

Professor McGonagall: You are saying that the Centaurs were created by the Atlanteans?

Hagrid: Do tha Centaurs know? There's a herd in the forest here an' none o' 'em ever said that; not even Perfesser Firenze.

PED: Perhaps a trifle touchy on the subject. They turned out to be much *too* intelligent to serve as grunt cavalry. So, they have had to make their own way in the world... like most of the rest of us.

Luna: Do you know a lot about them? The Atlanteans, and what kinds of creatures they worked on?

PED: I know what my mother knows. I am her "backup copy" so to speak. And she knows all of it. At the time she was finally decanted, they had imbued her with all the knowledge at their disposal. Every image, word, number, or equation in any reference in any of their libraries: they stored a copy in her. For, knowledge is indeed power. She was their ultimate, defensive, weapon.

Luna: So, you know all of this too? Would you be willing to tell others?

PED: Knowing Mankind, to protect Mankind, there are *some* things that we would never tell Mankind. For the rest, well, now that the monsters have finally reappeared and been met with combat, my "cover" is "blown." It may be time to help Mankind leave their nest, lest destruction of that nest also destroy the species. Mother agrees. Yes, I am willing to talk. About Atlantean science and magic, and my own observations of the elemental planes and the far reaches of outer space.

Professor McGonagall: (Thoroughly overwhelmed by the enormity of it all) Blimey!

PED: Are there any more cookies? You call them "biscuits"? And the tea has grown cold.

Professor McGonagall: If you will excuse me, I think I have several things to do. New school year starting soon, you know.

Hagrid: O' course, Perfesser. Yer welcome enny time.

— 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

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

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

28 October 2014

Thanks for the October *Shuttle*. With lots to do otherwise, I will see if I have the time and the operating brain cells to put together a decent letter of comment on the issue at hand. Wish me luck on this...

Fan funds have had a difficult time raising funds this year, with less and less disposable spare cash to go round. I wish Wolf van Witting the best of luck with running for TAFF, and he will have a nomination from me if he wishes it.

The Aurora Awards results... I think I should do a better job of participating next year. I did not nominate or vote, mostly because I did not know any of the potential nominees. My nominations might have meant that a Fan Publication Aurora might have been given out this year. The Sunburst Awards also did a better job of getting the news of this year's winners out to Canadian prodrom and fandom. The Faned Awards... next year, I should qualify for them again.

Given how vicious and warlike the dragons were in the Harry Potter movies, I can imagine that Hagrid was quite surprised to see someone as civilized as you, PieEyed, especially over a cup of tea. Looking forward to reading more adventures.

My letter... Travers Milo was this year's CUFF winner, but he was not able to go to Vancouver for this year's Convention. I am not sure of the reasons why he wasn't able to go. Our little steampunk business was indeed at Genrecon in Guelph, and we had ourselves a great time, and did some good business there, too. Another Toronto Worldcon? I expect so, and I might know who might be doing the bidding...

That's all for now, time to get moving on other things. Take care, and see you with the next issue.

[Oh Lloyd, what a tease you are! It sounds a lot like you've picked up on some "vibe" about a potential Toronto Worldcon bid and you're not sharing ;-)] The only statement I personally have seen from Mr. Milo's as to why he couldn't make VCON 39 was slightly vague, citing "volunteer and other personal commitments, as well as circumstances outside of [his] complete control." It may not be quite fair to link that and his non-trip, as that quote is associated with his resignation as CUFF administrator as much as with not going to the con. I hear that Debra Yeung will pick the administrator duties back up for this coming year. I do understand about overcommitting, though. I had to resign from all active participation in DSC 50 a few years ago because of preexisting fannish and family commitments that took more time than I had believed when joining the bidcom. -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

31 October 2014

I already did my due diligence into the Chromecast and Apple TV—boils down to the Mac is not new enough on one

hand and the TV is not new enough on the other hand—so no matter what might work—none will without buying everything new. Ah well. Not going to happen. Sitting at the computer, when I can find something I can actually download is not nearly as comfortable as being able to watch it on the TV—not really a big deal, just irritating. I was thinking a smart TV might answer this until I realized it did not help the VCR issue (unless I buy a recordable DVD-DVR—and find out if it still requires [an] analog signal as the VCR does)—but apparently it still only works with specific sites such as Netflix and [not] just any site the computer is on. I found out a bit about IP TV and Internet TVI—but I still can't locate something that (other than buying the new...) inexpensively will allow me to watch shows they have archived (such as Coke and Popcorn [www.cokeandpopcorn.ch] -ED). Ah well, no point in expending more energy on something I can't fix or afford! The inexpensive Roku has allowed me to watch my on demand Netflix videos—I need to figure out how to go beyond that to the non-subscription sites.

Apparently “Internet TV” (whatever that means—it seem to vary) is a relatively hot topic right now. Googling it says it may be a strong competitor to cable... and news is recent, but it seems to be watching TV shows on the computer—not being able to watch shows that are available on computer, on the TV.

I get the Philatelic catalog and earmarked the Batman stamps page—along with quite a few others that I would like to buy to have a backlog of the forever stamps. So far it appears only to be a wish-for list—unlikely to even be up for consideration until the roof and firewood (yet to arrive!) is paid off.

I will try to remember about the Faned Awards earlier next year and figure out what my fannish duty would be to nominate/vote (or whatever the equivalent would be). I am not accepting bets about my forgetting to do this!

I like the interaction between Hagrid and PED—they seem, somehow, suited!

Just about time (and by the time you get this will have been) to turn the clocks back. Christmas“stuff” is already on the shelves for sale—not even making any pretense of waiting until Thanksgiving (let alone Halloween!). Locally the big stores are

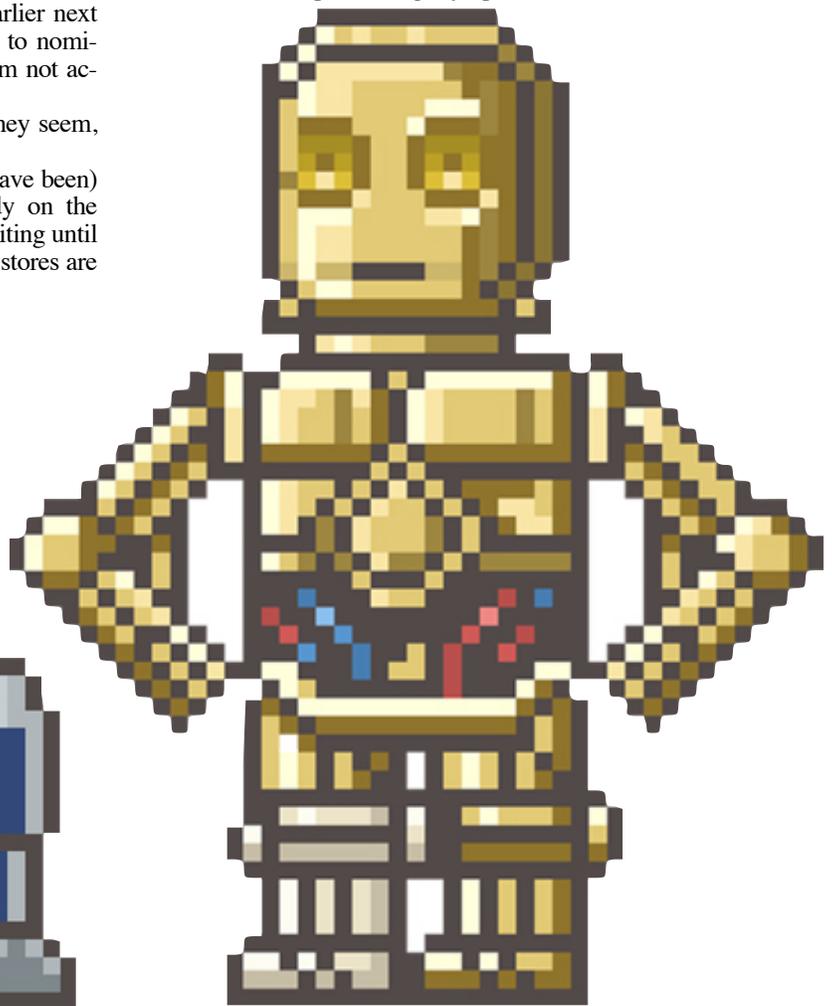
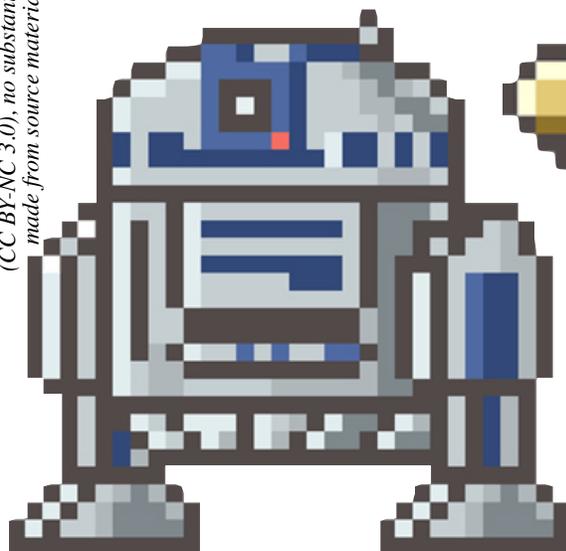
making announcements of whether they will be open on Thanksgiving or not—some are sticking to their choices to let their employees have that day off. We'll see how this tallies at the cash register!

This is going to be short. It would appear I have stumbled over being almost caught up with the *Shuttle*, but no other zines. Aha, maybe this can become a trend!

Get prepared for the change in the season! Snow can't, shudder, be too far behind!

[Snow for you soon, maybe, but surely not for Huntsville, Shery! Mind you, there's already been up to two feet of snow less than 200 miles from here. But, that's at the higher elevations of the Smoky Mountains—at something like 6000 ft. instead of more like 600 ft. such as it is around here. (The highest “mountains” close to Huntspatch top out around 1600 ft.) Yep, at present, the accessibility of video content on different devices is very spotty. Each content provider has their own strategy that they (presumably) think will maximize their financial return. Some of those strategies seem to be intentionally skew (in the mathematical sense) to those of their competitors. I doubt that we'll ever reach the “ideal” of being able to access any content on any device from anywhere we can get sufficient bandwidth (or pre-download a file) but I do expect we'll be much closer to that a few years hence than we are now. I'm in somewhat the same position you are; wondering what I might do to cut one or more of my wired connections and still be able to see the sports and entertainment shows I want to see. Right now I can't quite do that, but I keep checking my options. -ED]

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