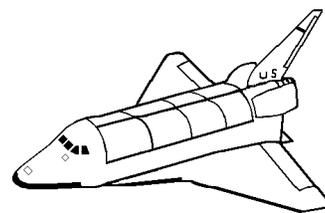


The



SHUTTLE
March 2001

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 17 March
2001 at the Regular Time and Location*

Oyez, Oyez

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **17 March 2001** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location** — BookMark on South Memorial Parkway. Call the store at 256-881-3910 if you need directions.

The **program** at the **March meeting** will be short sf/fantasy films selected by Randy and downloaded from the web. The **After-The-Meeting Meeting** will be at Mike Kennedy's house. We need ATMM volunteers for future months.

RAH, RAH — Again

The Aerospace Engineering Department at the United States Naval Academy has announced the establishment of the Robert A. Heinlein Chair in Aerospace Engineering. As many *Shuttle* readers will know, Heinlein was a Naval Academy graduate (1929). The Academy has also announced that they are taking applications for the chair, which may commence as early as August 2001. The position is intended to "provide

(continued on page 2)

Inside this issue...

Minutes of the February Meeting	2	Book Review	3
NASFA Calendar	2	NASFA Receivables	4
<i>Battlestar Galactica</i> Revisited	3	Letters of Comment	4

Deadline for the April 2001 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 30 March 2001.

vision and direction for the USNA's astronautical engineering curriculum, our small satellite program, and our satellite ground station."

Announced requirements for applicants include "a strong background in designing, building, testing, launching, and operating spacecraft, along with demonstrated research ability, a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching, and excellent communications skills. An earned doctorate is desirable, but applicants with strong industrial/laboratory experience will be considered."

Further information is available at <<http://web.usna.navy.mil/~aeroweb/admin/HEINLEINCHAIR.htm>>. Applications — including "a resume, transcripts, description of research/scholarly interests and three references (with email and postal addresses, and phone numbers)" — should be sent to:

Heinlein Chair Search Committee
Aerospace Engineering Department - Stop 11B
590 Holloway Road
United States Naval Academy
Annapolis MD 21402-5025

February Minutes

by Samuel A. Smith, Sacked

The February meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, February 17, 2001 in the upstairs meeting room at BookMark at 6:18P by President Mary Ortwerth. Between chocolate oranges and the gavel, the meeting kept coming in and out of order.

OLD BUSINESS

Anita Eisenberg found the Ewoks (for the plinth) in her old car. (The booby trap didn't go off.)

We need a new Board of Directors member (after voting Mike Stone out last month). After much discussion, the nominees were: Doug Lampert, Mike Stone, and Mike Cothran. When called to question, the vote was 10-2-2 with 2 abstentions, in favor of Doug Lampert.

Randy Cleary is still soliciting programming ideas for future meetings.

Randy Cleary reminds everyone about the regular 4th Saturday dinner and a movie. The plan for February is to meet at the Barnes and Noble coffee shop between Noon and 12:30.

NEW BUSINESS

2001 - A Civitan Space Oddessy, audience participation dinner theater, will be Saturday, February 24, 2001 at six P.M. at the VBC (now past).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patrick Molloy and Naomi Fisher have won the DUFF. (Yay!)

Sam Smith got the sack and is looking for a job. He brought resumes and also has them on-line at <<http://www.smithuel.net/>>.

Anita Eisenberg's husband is home from the hospital and is getting cranky — he must be getting better.

The next DSC 40 meeting will be Wednesday, February 21, 2001 in the meeting room at BookMark (now past).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48P. The program was on by Randy Cleary on *Hobbies*. The After-The-Meeting-Meeting was the annual February birthday party at the Cucci-Pietruszka-Peters.

NASFA Calendar

MARCH

- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
- 08 BD: Bill Payne.
- 09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
- 10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
- 13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
- 15 BD: Carlo DeShouten.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day.
- 17* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. ATMM at Mike Kennedy's house.
- 22 BD: Jayson Woosley.
- 21–25 22nd International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts — Ft. Lauderdale FL.
- 22–25 AggieCon 32 — College Station TX.
- 23–25 GalactiCon 2001 — Chattanooga TN.
- 23–25 MidSouthCon 19 — Memphis TN.
- 30 BD: Maurine Dorris.

APRIL

- 01 April Fool's Day.
- 01 Daylight Savings Time begins.
- 03 BD: Kevin Ward.
- 08 Palm Sunday.
- 12–15 Fantasm 2001 — Atlanta GA. Adults only.
- 13 Good Friday.
- 14* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. ATMM TBD. **NOTE that this meeting was moved a week earlier to accommodate Kubla Khan.**
- 15 Easter.
- 15 BD: "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo.
- 16 Income Taxes due.
- 20–22 Kubla Khan 30 — Nashville TN.
- 21 BD: Randy B. Cleary.
- 22 Earth Day.
- 26 BD: Chloe Airoidi.
- 27–29 Nebula Awards Banquet Weekend — Westwood CA.
- 30 BD: Mark Maxwell.

MAY

- 03 BD: Martha Knowles.
- 13 Mothers' Day.
- 14 BD: Debbie Hughes.
- 16 BD: Linda Bolgeo.
- 18–20 Roc*Kon 2001 — Little Rock AR.
- 19 BD: David O. Miller.
- 19 Armed Forces Day.
- 19* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. ATMM TBD.
- 20 BD: Mike Glicksohn.
- 24–27 SFRA 2001 — Schenectady NY.
- 25–27 LibertyCon 15 — East Ridge (Chattanooga) TN.
- 25–27 Oasis 14 — Orlando FL.
- 25–28 World Horror Convention — Seattle WA.
- 27 BD: Kathy Paulk.
- 28 Memorial Day.

JUNE

- 01 BD: Glenn Valentine.
- 14 Flag Day.
- 16* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at

how serious the world situation is as the book begins. But, all in all, this is a very well conceived and executed book.

In writing this review I deliberately chose not to discuss the characters involved so as to avoid pointing out which ones may be “more important” than others. Don’t be misled by who is the viewpoint character at any particular time — Haldeman advances the main plot (and more than one “b-line”) with indirection as well as direct action. I was strongly tempted to make a chart of the characters and their relationships, but that temptation did not set in until I was well into the book. You may wish to consider this. For myself, I just settled for flipping back to previous “chapters” to refresh my memory on details of previous interactions. This is *not* a simple book.

I also chose not say who, or what, sent the message — who is coming. Speculation about that, in fact, occupies some of the “main” characters as well as the public at large within the book. Speculation about that will probably also occupy you while reading it.

And I strongly recommend that you do just that. If you must wait for the paperback, well, you must. Publication of the paperback is not yet scheduled, but will probably not be much before the end of 2001. If you can manage it, though, don’t wait. Buy it, borrow it, or check it out of the library. I think you’ll be glad you did.

NASFA Receivables

by Randy B. Cleary

Here are some zines received of late:

De Profundis 337, Marty Cantor, c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood CA 91601 — Issue 337 had 10 goldenrod pages of club happenings with Rotsler illos.

File 770: 137, Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia CA 91016; 626-305-1004; <Mglyer@compuserve.com> — 36 pages of news of, about, and from fandom and several convention reports; with a computer graphics front cover and line art back cover.

MidSouthCon flyers, P. O. Box 11446, Memphis TN 38111.

OASFiS Event Horizon 162, January and 163, February 2001, Leslie R. Hammes, The Orlando Area Science-Fiction Society, P. O. Box 940992, Maitland FL 32792-0992; 407-263-5822 — January had 4 pages of club information and a Necronomicon report. February had 4 pages of club information and a short fiction piece.

Science Fiction Chronicle flyers from DNA Publications, P. O. Box 2988, Radford VA 24143-2988.

Letters of Comment

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

Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown MD 21740

16 February 2001

Jim Woosley’s article on the Harry Potter books is the most detailed, most readable article on the Rowling phenomenon that I’ve seen anywhere. It should help me to understand a lot of other writing about the book[s] I’ll encounter from now on. I notice that the American editions are published by “Scholastic.” I wonder if this is the firm of the same name or a similar name that has published books and magazines for school-aged children for so many years. If so, its owners or stockholders must have experienced a financial bonanza such as they’d never seen from any of their other output, most of which I suspect sells to public and school libraries.

Someone should write a book about women like J. K. Rowling who burst into literary fame and riches without any previous warning. In the English language, they seem to appear only a couple of times per century with the magnitude of Harriet Beecher Stowe for *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and Margaret Mitchell for *Gone with the Wind*. Maybe there is some common factor in their lives or backgrounds that helps to explain this phenomenon.

I was saddened by the news of the deaths of two pros in this issue, which is the first place I’ve seen the sad information. I confess that I’ve probably never read any of the fiction of Rick Shelley and know little or nothing about him. But Gordy Dickson was such a household name, both for his splendid fiction and his frequent appearances in fanzines, that his death was a genuine shock. This makes at least two famous science fiction authors who have been fatally stricken while at conventions in recent years.

I can sympathize with Sheryl’s exasperation at her new

computer. In early January, I decided to subscribe to some of a large quantity of new channels the local cable company was offering. I wanted only one of them, Ovation, because it runs daily at least two or three serious music programs, but I had to take simultaneously a number of other new channels as part of a package deal. The cable people supplied me with a new black cable box because the old one was limited to 100 channels. A remote came with it. Five or six weeks later, I’ve learned how to do only two things: change channels and get a list of programming for the next 24 hours, with about 75% success. The remote has 46 buttons plus a ray gun that shoots red for some unknown reason. Two leaflets with instructions came with it, neither of which is compatible with the remote itself. I have no idea what the buttons on the dashboard of the box are supposed to do and I’ve been afraid to touch any of them. The other 25% of the time I get such messages as whether I want to lock something or a query about whether I reside in the United States or Canada or more personal and impertinent messages. Maybe Sheryl should inquire at a nearby community college about their short courses in computer learning. The local institution has dozens of them on all levels of proficiency at low cost and lasting only a dozen hours or so.

[I was particularly pleased to run Jim’s article last month. While I have no strong interest in the Potter books myself, I recognize they are quite a phenomenon both among children and adults. Rick Shelley was far from the first — and doubtless far from the last — personality to be taken from us at a con, though one usually thinks of a much older person being so stricken. He published at least 17 books starting (I believe) in the early- to mid-90’s. His sf was mostly in a military vein, though he also wrote fantasy. It’s possible that Cheryl could get some help at a community college, but most such don’t even recognize that the Macintosh exists so I have my doubts of her success. It sounds like the interface design for your new cable

box leaves a lot to be desired. It's amazing how poor such interfaces can be — I suspect they let the same people who design the software and/or hardware do the interface design. And that is often a bad idea. -ED]

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

Carlo R. DeShouten 19 February 2001
506 3rd Court SE
Cullman AL 35055

When I got the [February] *NASFA Shuttle* I was pretty shocked to hear Rick Shelley passed away. And that was pretty surprising and I was saddened to hear about this. I remember Rick Shelley when he came to Con†Stellation and I met him while he was judging the masquerade contest. And he *loved* my performance during my Hawkwind song. And he got a big trip out of it. And I gave him my *Jamming the Dragon* demo tape and he really enjoyed it.

Plus he [...] talked about old concerts, one of them he went to was Jefferson Airplane that the band was so loud his ears were ringing for days. Which I can't blame him.

Also, during the retro-psychedelic 60's-70's I also gave him a copy of *Van der Graff Generator* which he told me it was quite different but he loved it.

In conclusion it's not going to be [the] same without Rick but I'm sure he'll be missed and I'll be playing lots of space-rock/psychedelic music in tribute for him at Con†Stellation.

[Yes, we were all taken aback by Rick's death even after hearing of his condition. I'm glad that so many people have good memories of their time with him. Would that it could have been longer. -ED]

POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC

Sheryl Birkhead 20 February 2001
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

Eventually I'll figure out the new computer and be able to afford software (since the old won't work).

Interesting — I've "read" all the Potter books "on tape" — so this is the first time I've seen most of the names in *print*.

I don't understand the Ethernet idea. So far the Freehand 8 upgrade (a degradable copy good for 30 days) took time but [worked]. *However* the purchased upgrade to 9 would *not* open any of the 8 files. I think I have gotten around it but still haven't hooked up the printer. I was stunned when I was told there really *wasn't* any way to connect a zip drive (etc.) to the old LC.

[It] seems that fandom is "fairly" quiet now.

[If you've never done any sort of networking then starting an Ethernet network from scratch might seem daunting. The actual steps aren't too difficult but it would take a good bit of research or (better) someone who knew what they were doing to help you. It sounds like you're making progress, though, in getting things running — I hope that keeps up. By the way, I ran across a web site that has bibliographies for a large number of sf writers, including one for Greg Bear. The address for the Bear page is <<http://scifan.com/writers/bb/BearGregoryD.asp>>. The list does contain only books, no listing for individual works of short fiction. There are links for each to various places they can be purchased. -ED]





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