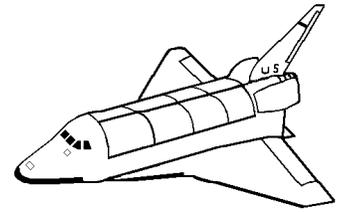


The



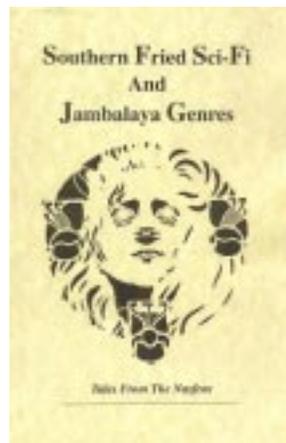
# SHUTTLE November 2001

*The Next NASFA Meeting is 17 November  
2001 at the Regular Time and Location*

*DSC ConCom Meeting 15 November at Sam Smith's Place*

## **Southern Fried Sci-Fi Signing Announced**

The North Alabama Science Fiction Writers and Cake Appreciation Society has announced publication of their chapbook anthology *Southern Fried Sci-Fi and Jambalaya Genres* by SURSUM Publishing. *Southern Fried Sci-Fi* is an eclectic collection of science fiction and fantasy stories from one of the most diverse SF writers groups in the South. Collectively, their credits include sales to the *Sword and Sorceress* and the Clarion anthologies and publication in magazines such as *Silver Web* and *Wicked Mystic*. Tempting samples of chapbook stories can be found on the Southern Fried Sci-Fi web site at <<http://nasfacas.topcities.com>>. The chapbook can be ordered for \$5.00 (via Amazon.com) directly from the Southern Fried Sci-Fi web site, or from SURSUM Publishing. Questions? Email <[friedsf@hiwaay.net](mailto:friedsf@hiwaay.net)> or call Scott Hancock at SURSUM (256) 880-7210.



On Saturday 1 December you can join them for a chapbook signing at Shaver's Bookstore, 2362 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville AL. Members of the NASFCAS will be there all during the day. They invite you to come by to look at great books or to chat about writing.

## **🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔**

The next NASFA meeting will be 17 November 2001 at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Call Book-Mark at 256-881-3910 if you need directions. Nominations for NASFA's 2002 officers corp will be in order at this meeting.

### **PROGRAM**

The **November program** will be the more-or-less annual fund-raising **NASFA auction**. It's time to clean out your closets, bookshelves, and storage units for all that ~~junk~~ good stuff you no longer need. Bring it all (as well as money!) to the NASFA meeting and we'll swap hostages.

### **ATMM**

The November after-the-meeting meeting will be at Mike Kennedy's house in honor of all November birthdays. (Including his ;-)

### **DEEPSOUTHCON CONCOM MEETINGS**

Sam Smith sends word that the next DSC convention committee meeting will be at his place Thursday 15 November at 7:00P. This will not be an eating-meeting.

Sam also mentioned that, for the time being, he's planning on having these meetings regularly on the Thursday before each monthly NASFA club meeting.

### **Inside this issue...**

NASFA Calendar .....	2
Minutes of the October Meeting .....	2
Special Con†Stellation Review Section	
Review by Mike Kennedy .....	3

Art Show Report .....	3
Masquerade Winners .....	3
Fiction: <i>No Need for a Dragon!</i> , Part 8 .....	4
Letters of Comment .....	4

**Deadline for the December 2001 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 2 December 2001.**



# Con†Stellation XX: Camelopardalis

by Mike Kennedy

Con†Stellation XX took place 19–21 October 2001 at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel at the Huntsville Alabama airport. Guests included Guest of Honor John Ringo, Toastmaster Jack McDevitt, Artist Guest of Honor David Mattingly, and Fan Guests of Honor Steve and Sue Francis. Baen Books editor Toni Weisskopf was also in attendance. There were also giraffes (or should that be camelopardali?) spotted around the hotel.

Writing a con report for a convention one worked on is always tricky. My view of the con was much more restricted than that of a typical attendee since I spent so much time on my duties (programming) and correspondingly less time doing other things around the con. For instance, I never set foot in the dealers room at all and saw the art show only when I dropped by to talk to people. Despite this, I did manage to spend some money on art by being at the art auction at the right time and practically stealing a Mattingly original for way under \$100!

Attendance was a little down this year, I think the final count was 252 (not counting guests). I didn't find a dropoff particularly surprising since some people may have wondered about attending a convention at an airport hotel (and the Four Points is actually *in* the airport) with the current atmosphere of unease in the nation. I mean, the pucker factor is pretty high for some people. As it turned out, there was very little effect from the increased security at the airport. Probably the worst effect was that the dealers (at least some of them) had to unload their merchandise quite a bit further from the door. There was also one party that was closed early because of concerns about noise (they weren't actually making much the way I heard it) and the dance was asked to turn down the volume, but those could have happened at any con.

One of the keys to a good convention, especially a small one, is the accessibility of the guests and in that respect I think Con†Stellation XX excelled. All the guests were wonderful, but I'd give especially high marks to GoH John Ringo. His behavior during the entire con (including the party he gave!) rates an A but his attendance at the FoPA meeting (yes, it's an in joke) during the dead dog gets enough extra credit to merit an A+.

I did manage to do a few things besides kick off programs, schlep ice water, and rearrange tables and chairs. In addition to making most of the art auction (see above) I participated in opening ceremonies (where the concom all wore silly hats with giraffes on top), got to see the masquerade (results elsewhere in this issue), made it to a number of room parties (all of which were great), and played in the killer cutthroat spades tournament (though I lost miserably in the first round). All in all I had a great (and extremely tiring) time and I think the vast majority of attendees did too. You can see one other viewpoint (from Carlo



T-Shirt Art by David O. Miller;  
Photo by Sam Smith

DeShouten) in the LoCs column.

Con†Stellation XXI: Pavo (the Peacock) will be 18–20 October 2002 at the Tom Bevell Center in Huntsville AL. The Bevell Center is a hotel with wonderful convention facilities and the improved parking and elevator situation should be welcomed by all. Memberships currently cost \$25 (through the end of the year). More info can be found on line at <www.constellation.org>, by emailing <constell@con-stellation.org>, by writing Con\*Stellation XXI: Pavo, P. O. Box 4857, Huntsville AL 35815-4857, or by calling Marie (no collect calls please) at 256-880-8210.

## Art Show Report

excerpted from a report by Randy B. Cleary

Con†Stellation's art show consisted of 307 pieces from 19 artists, displayed on 35 panels and 4 tables. Mail-in participation was up this year, with 15 artists mailing in their works. There were 99 pieces sold for a total of \$2153, thus the average sales price was \$21.75 per piece. The average total sales per artist was about \$113.32. The most sales for a single artist was \$384. Twenty-nine pieces of art went to the Saturday voice auction, which was well attended. Overall, participation and sales were up this year over last year's \$1672 for 13 artists.

### AWARDS

The following awards were given by the Art Show jurors:

**Best Amateur Science Fiction** ..... Beth Willinger,  
*Double Moon Bow*

**Best Amateur Fantasy** ..... B. J. Staehlin,  
*You Know They Do When You're Asleep*

**Best Professional Science Fiction** ..... David Mattingly,  
*Wind Commander*

**Best Professional Fantasy** ..... Alan M. Clark,  
*Halloween Man*

**Judges' Choice** ..... Lisa Snellings, *Blue*

**Best in Show** ..... David Mattingly, *Wolf in Shadows*

## Masquerade Winners

And Hall Costume Awards, Too!

**Best in Show:** William Poole as the Mad Scientist in "Does Cats Have Nine Lives?"; Certificate, Medal, and \$50

**Best Science Fiction:** April Wilhelm for "Sci-Fi Bar Maid"; Certificate

**Best Novice:** Nancy Peters and Michele Townley for "Red Neck Rocky Horror Picture Show"; Certificate, Medal, and \$10

**Best Fantasy:** Stacie and David Helphand for "Diva Diablo"; Certificate

**Best Costume:** Dan Thompson for "Commander Comet"; Certificate, Medal, and \$10

**Best Presentation:** McKaela Keller for "The Advertiser"; Certificate, Medal, and \$10

**Mike Ray Wacky Costume Award:** James McClelland aka German for "Sister Mary Frances Flagellant"; Certificate, Medal, and \$10

**Most Beautiful:** Laura Dasnoit for "Fortuna's Release"; Certificate, Medal, and \$10

**Best Skit:** Carlo & Co. for "The Black Adder"; Certificate

**Honorable Mention:** Brenda Russell for "Corian Slave"; Certificate

**Honorable Mention:** Amy Allen and Brent Newson for “Sailor Moon and Krillin”; Certificate

**Honorable Mention:** Thomas Dolby and Elaine Benice Demon-Bunny with Demon Bunny Wrangler Anita Eisenberg; Certificate

**Hall Costume Award:** Morgana for “Klingon Bar Maid”; Button

**Hall Costume Award:** Dutch for “Death Summons You to the Party”; Button

**Hall Costume Award:** Anderson (National Guard on patrol); Button and our appreciation for protecting our country and our con

## No Need For Absolution!

Part 8 of No Need for a Dragon  
by PieEyedDragon

SARA: Washu, could you please look at this. TOM is still out.

Washu switches over to scan the data stream from *Absolution's* AI, and looks at the sensor data from the new wormhole. SARA didn't know that Washu had already hacked three separate command authority interfaces to “her,” “just in case.”

Washu: Yeah, I see. Lots of stuff, from big rocks down to some very hard radiation and stripped nuclei. Not as precise as a particle accelerator, but lots stronger. The “illumination” of radiation from the wormhole is fuzzing-up your data, but giving secondary information on the rocks as it strikes and scatters. If this is a shotgun, I wouldn't wanna be standing downrange. Hmmmmm, mostly carbonaceous chondrite, some are nickel-iron. Object one seems to be carbo-silicon: a fingernail shape between fifty and sixty meters long. Coming out now is, ummm. (Rechecking the secondary-radiation scattering: this one has a mix of elements with atomic numbers higher than 450! The only natural source of such would be a supernova! Twelve *tonnes* of Illyrion! I could buy some *really* great equipment with *that!* And a first-class starship!) (Washu quickly wipes the data on this rock from SARA's memory.) Good thing they're all headed outward, this comet stream could become dangerous!

(Washu, distracted, does not notice that “object one” now displays a small rocket blast and begins non-ballistic motion as it slowly vectors away from Kagato's Shotgun, and toward the blue planet.)

## Letters of Comment

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

Jim Woosley  
Jimwoosley@aol.com

12 October 2001

I wanted to thank Toni and Harry — and you! — for the extremely kind words in the last *Shuttle* about “Pandora's Box Revisited.”

Frankly, I'm surprised nobody appears to have had the idea of doing it before, since the predictions were “dated” for the year 2000. I frankly expected that someone would gather a collection of “experts” (the contributors to *Requiem*, for example) who would each give their opinions on the state of the

different predictions, reprinting Heinlein's original with the comments added following each one as he did in his 1965 and 1980 updates.

But I'm glad to have struck such a chord, and I certainly have no objections should someone wish to reprint the essay somewhere, given of course proper attribution. (I'd even accept pay if such were offered ;)

Thank you again.

(Now if I can find my notes for the essay about Doc Smith...)

[The circulation of the *Shuttle* includes a few sercon zines whose editors might be interested in reprinting your Heinlein article, but if you really want to see it in print elsewhere you'd probably be well advised to seek out the publications yourself, Jim. You've mentioned the prospective Doc Smith article to me before and it's still one I'd be interested in seeing in print — in the *Shuttle* if possible, of course. -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead  
25509 Jonnie Court  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

18 October 2001

Greetings Once Again.

I don't get cable (so I don't get their TV guides) but I have been taping a plethora of “wrong” shows lately. I know part of it is the networks shifting after 9-11, but lately I wonder if some of the new shows have *already* hit the scrap heap.

I saw most of the *Smallville* premier — taped *it* and didn't know it went over — interesting and much darker characterization than I recall from *Superman*, and it seems to have created a lot of storyline background. I did *not* check to see if any credits were given to *Superman*.

Sounds as if Randy enjoyed the Worldcon. I agree on the costliness — and I only took the train.

[Yes, several of the fall crop of TV shows have already been dropped, and some others have had their time slot changed. Things were shuffled around, too, to allow for the later baseball playoffs and other things delayed in the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Worldcons are indeed expensive to attend — compared to other sf conventions, that is. The facilities requirements drive them to be at downtown hotels, inherently more expensive than the suburban facilities more common for smaller cons. Compared to things like professional conferences, though, Worldcons are a relative bargain — with *much* lower attendance fees and generally better hotel rates. -ED]

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

Carlo R. DeShouten  
506 3<sup>rd</sup> Court SE  
Cullman AL 35055

27 October 2001

I had to take a bus and a cab to get to the hotel for Con†Stellation and to be honest it was a tad too much trying to find transportation due to everybody couldn't find ways to go. Plus I notice the buses are so late and drivers can be mean but cabbies are nice and friendly to talk to.

When I arrived at the hotel, there was lots of security/national guards there checking everything out. Gladly they didn't check out the con†staff or they'd be freaked out.

But it was nice to see some old friends and just to hang out.

And I set up the “music room” on the usual 6<sup>th</sup> floor and sadly I got a few listeners. Plus I was also trying to get people interested in the strange trips: space rock concert I was setting up this October 29<sup>th</sup> and so far I got a few interests.

I didn’t get much into a hotel room due to the hotel was invaded by a troupe of space campers and they didn’t know what [to] think of us.

Some of us wanted to try and scare them off but we told them no.

I didn’t know what went on Friday night but I did manage to stay up as much as I can and I hung out with a pair of Irish musicians and we were jamming in the smoking lounge and everybody joined in and sang throughout the night.

The convention finally had a video room although it was run by the anime club. No problem, it helps me kill the time.

There was also the live-action Ragnarok and Roll and it was in [its] 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. The scene was the same as a couple of years ago: a giant cue ball will hit the earth into the black hole and the cult Pool was there to see us through the other side. I was the lead guitarist for the punk-metal band Thunder Skulls and though we had a concert and everybody was freaking out! Then they left the scene due to an unknown incident which they can’t handle me screaming. (Wusses!)

In the end of the game, it got so confusing I don’t know [if] Pool succeeded or the aliens took over the world. Either way it was fun.

The masquerade contest: There was the usual Columbia doing the *Time Warp* [this time] in redneck form, German (who sank really low) in his nun look, a scientist [...] doing [an] experiment on his cat Boo-boo, and me as the Black Adder defeating a hideous creature that brainwashes children into zombies (a.k.a. Barney) and I won best skit.

I finally got a ride home with some group from Birmingham and we hung out at my place and tried to get stoned.

The convention went OK but I wish we had more people and I’m told that next year it’ll be held at the Tom Bevill Center.

I just can’t wait until DeepSouthCon comes.

[Yes, the plan is for Con†Stellation XXI to be at the Bevill Center/hotel. We’ve used the Bevill Center before and really like their facilities. The DSC will be at the Huntsville Hilton. I’m glad you overcame your transportation difficulties and made it to Con†Stellation this year, Carlo. Attendance was down a little at about 252 — not too surprising given the current climate and our airport location I suppose — but the hotel (and indeed the airport) did a good job. Hassles were at a minimum (though some of the dealers did, unfortunately, have a pretty long trek unloading their merchandise). Still, we’ll not be at all unhappy to have the better parking and elevator situation at the Bevill Center next year. -ED]

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

Harry Warner, Jr.  
423 Summit Avenue  
Hagerstown MD 21740

29 October 2001

Many apologies for my failure to respond to the September issue of the *Shuttle* before the October issue arrived, and then not attending to the latter with promptitude. My problems grow ever more bothersome. I long for the future when fandom will undoubtedly create an official senior citifan [sic] category. The fan who reaches a certain age will receive only one-quarter of the pages of each fanzine, he will not be expected to use any

word of more than one syllable when responding to them, and he will be completely exempt of all obligation to take sides in fannish fusses.

The big September issue gave me lots of information about the worldcon I hadn’t seen elsewhere. Your decision to have a large number of reports on it was a good one, something like *The Seven Samurai* in a way. The general opinion I got from these pages is that Philadelphia didn’t produce anything very memorable but it also lacked any calamitous turn of events and I suppose that’s the best one can hope for in a worldcon nowadays.

The results of the retro-Hugo voting were somewhat disappointing to me. But how many of those who voted were active readers of science fiction in 1950? It’s hardly fair to blame younger fans for not knowing about a lot of good fan writers who could have been nominated for the retro trophy. I haven’t heard if the convention people provided in advance to con members this year a list of some of the eligibles in each retro category. If they did, maybe a few names and stories were accidentally left out, accounting for their failure to me nominated.

Your newspaper-like format must have caused you extra problems with jumps from one page to another, but you seem not to have left out the ending of any of the articles. Maybe it would have been simpler for both the editor and the reader to have published each item complete on successive pages if they ran to more than one, then started another immediately below its end, and lumped all the lists at the end of the con reports.

In the October issue, you interested me in *Smilla’s Sense of Snow*, something that doesn’t often happen when I read a movie review in a fanzine. Maybe it will be televised on a channel available in Hagerstown before too long.

And yet another good report on the Millennium Philcon, this one from Randy Cleary. Apparently the science goofs panes was particularly interesting to your writing staff. I wonder if anyone on the panel mentioned *The Moon Waits*, by a forgotten author, which I believe appeared in *Amazing Stories* in the mid-1930s. The problem of traveling between Earth and the Moon was solved in this story by the construction of a rigid tube extending between the two heavenly bodies with landing and departure stations at each end, where this ingenious device was anchored on both Earth and Luna.

Randy also enlightens me on a real life phenomenon, the proper spelling of the Waawaa establishments. One of them has opened not far from Hagerstown and it has been advertised incessantly over the air but not in the newspapers. Alas, we still don’t have a Kinko’s within shouting distance here.

I’ll try to do better in the future with responding.

[Hey, there’s no one here who’ll fault you for missing the occasional issue, Harry. We love hearing from you but it is your choice, after all. Thanks for the good words regarding our Worldcon coverage. I did hesitate a bit before deciding on the “newspaper-like” technique of continuing the main Worldcon review articles in the September issue. In the end, though, I really wanted to give all three of them as close to equal prominence as I could and the best way to do that was to start them all in the same two-page spread, continuing them later in the issue. As for interspersing the sidebars, I’ve tended to do that most years. It’s not a great deal of trouble for me and, while I realize it might be a little harder to follow for the readers, my opinion is that it ends up with better overall balance. I did do it differently this year, though, as I didn’t enclose the side articles in boxes. The choice was necessary because the boxes

(continued on back cover)



P. O. Box 4857  
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

\*\*\*\*\*

*The NASFA Shuttle* is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the November 2001 edition (Volume 21, Number 11). NASFA Officers for 2001: President Mary Ortwerth; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Sam Smith; Treasurer Ray Pietruszka; Program Director Randy Cleary; Publicity Director Karen Hopkins. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy.

Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by email to: [nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org](mailto:nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org) — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (EMAIL)

Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by snailmail to: Mike Kennedy, 7907 Charlotte Drive SW,  
Huntsville AL 35802-2841 — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (SNAILMAIL)

Dues (\$), subscriptions (\$), and Official Mail to: NASFA, Inc., P. O. Box 4857,  
Huntsville AL 35815-4857 — OFFICIAL ADDRESS

Contents Copyright, © 2001. All rights revert to contributors. All opinions are those of the individual authors and do not reflect club policies other than by coincidence. LoCs subject to edited printing.

NASFA Dues = \$15/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$10/year Single copy = \$1.50 each.

\*\*\*\*\*

do slow down the layout process and use up space I needed for all the stuff I was trying to cram into the issue. In retrospect, that choice probably made it harder on the reader. Regarding preparation for the retro-Hugo vote, I suspect it would be a violation of numerous rules for a convention to send out a list

of possible nominees. The administering committee is not supposed to influence the vote in any way, after all. Such a list could, of course, be produced by a third party but distribution to potential nominators/voters is problematic since third parties wouldn't have had access to Philly's mailing list. -ED]