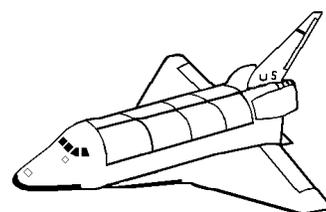


The



SHUTTLE March 2004

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 20 March
2004 at the Regular Time and Location*

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **20 March 2004** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Call BookMark at 256-881-3910 if you need directions.

The **March program** is "P.D." [No, I don't understand it either. Ask Karen. -ED]

The March **after-the-meeting meeting** will be at Mike Kennedy's house — 7907 Charlotte Drive, Huntsville. We need volunteers for future ATMMs.

As of press time there is **not** a Con†Stellation XXIII: Delphinus **concom meeting** scheduled for April. Future concom meetings are tentatively scheduled for the Sunday after the first Saturday each month.

NASFA Calendar

MARCH

- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
- 07 Con†Stellation XXIII ConCom Meeting.
- 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 BD: JoAnn Parsons.
- 19–21 Galacticon — Chattanooga TN.

(continued on page 2)

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Deadline for the April 2004 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 2 April 2004.

Nominations for Retrospective Hugos (for work done in 1953) share that deadline. In order to nominate, you must either have joined Noreascon 4 before 31 January 2004, or you must have been a member of Torcon 3, the 61st Worldcon, in Toronto in 2003.

To nominate online, see <www.noreascon.org/hugos/index.html> for general information and links to the online nomination forms. Online nomination requires a Personal Identification Number, which was printed on the address labels of Noreascon 4's Progress Report 5. Torcon 3 members were sent postal cards with their Hugo PIN. Online nominations close at midnight, 25 March 2004.

To nominate by mail, use the printed Hugo/Retro-Hugo nomination forms from Progress Report 5 or download printable versions at <www.noreascon.org/files/HugoNomination.pdf> and <www.noreascon.org/files/RetroHugoNomination.pdf>. All nominations sent by postal mail must be *received* by 25 March 2004 and should be mailed to Noreascon 4 Hugo Administrator, P. O. Box 1010, Framingham MA 01701 USA.

Information about the work done in 1953 (and eligible for nominations for the Retrospective Hugo Awards) in science fiction and fantasy writing, art, dramatic presentations, and fandom can be found at <www.noreascon.org/files/Retropub.pdf>.

The final Hugo and Retrospective Hugo ballots will be released in April 2004 and will be included in Noreascon 4's Progress Report 6.

DUFF Update

Rosy and Guy Lillian – DUFF winners and last year's Con†Stellation Fan Guests of Honor — sent an update on the current incarnation of the Down Under Fan Fund.

DUFF alternates between sending fan representatives from the US to Australia/New Zealand and ANZ fans to the US. Guy and Rosy attended Australia's national convention last April; this year's ANZ winner will attend the worldcon, Noreascon 4, in Boston 2–6 September 2004. The candidates are Norman Cates, Erika Maria Lacey, and Danny Oz (née Heap). You can get more information about them, including their platforms, at <www.DUFF2004.com>.

As the immediate past DUFF winners, the Lillians are the current North American administrators for DUFF. Anyone active in fandom on or before 1 January 2003 may vote. You can download a ballot from <www.DUFF2004.com/vote/ballot.shtml> and send it either to Guy and Rosy Lillian, P. O. Box 53092, New Orleans LA 70153-3092 or to the current Australian administrator, Julian Warner, at 13 Frederick Street, Brunswick Victoria 3056, Australia. DUFF requests a voting donation of \$4 U.S. or \$6 Australian — more is welcome. Make your checks and money orders out to one of the administrators, marked "DUFF vote." The deadline for voting is 1 May 2004.

Meanwhile, Guy and Rosy remind us that you can find chapters of their DUFF trip report, in progress, at <www.challzine.net>. They also want to invite everyone to the reception for the DUFF winner that they'll be hosting at Noreascon. Additionally, Noreascon 4 will be the site of the annual DUFF auction — toys, artwork, books, and tuckerizations will be available.

Robert Silverberg Named Grand Master

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America has announced that Robert Silverberg has received the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award. SFWA notes that Silverberg, a writer, editor, and past president of SFWA, has given many years of service to the organization in both elected and appointed positions.

The award will be presented at the Nebula Awards banquet 17 April 2004 in Seattle WA. The weekend will start with the opening of the SFWA suite at 6P on Thursday 15 April. There will be a full schedule of panels Friday and Saturday, along with the SFWA business meeting Saturday afternoon. A mass signing will take place Friday night, and the banquet will be Saturday night. Sunday afternoon will feature a pre-opening hard-hat tour of Experience Science Fiction, the first SF hypermuseum, scheduled to open during the summer of 2004.

Tickets for the full weekend (panels, parties, and awards banquet) are \$100 until 20 March 20 then \$120 through 5P Wednesday 14 April. There will be no at-the-door banquet tickets available. All mail-order ticket purchases should be sent to Astrid Anderson Bear, 506 Lakeview Road, Lynnwood WA 98037. Checks should be made to SFWA, Inc. Additional information, including hotel reservation links, can be found at <www.sfwaw.org/awards/2004>.

Oscars and Raspberries and Awards, Oh My!

Most *Shuttle* readers already know about the 11 Oscars won by *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*, including Best Director and Best Picture. *LotR:RotK* tied the record for total wins (previously held by *Titanic* and *Ben-Hur*) and set the record for the most Oscars won by a film that swept all categories in which it was nominated. *Gigi* and *The Last Emperor* (both 9-for-9) previously held that record. Possibly adding to the glow for sf/fantasy fans watching the Oscars, *Finding Nemo* took Best Animated Feature Film.

Meanwhile, sf/fantasy films did, perhaps, better than usual at another set of awards by taking home relatively few of them. At the 24th annual Golden Raspberry Awards, Ben Affleck's Worst Actor award was due in a 1/3 share to *Daredevil* and Worst Excuse for an Actual Movie went to *The Cat in the Hat*. Most of the "major" awards, though, went to non-genre movies.

NASFA Receivables

by Randy B. Cleary

Here are the items received by NASFA since last time.

ASFA Future Times, Volume 6, Numbers 11–12, November–December 2003 and Volume 7, Numbers 1–2, January–February, 2004; Editor: Jayne Rogers; Publisher: Atlanta Science Fiction Society, P. O. Box 98308, Atlanta GA 30359-2008 — These four club zines have con reports, book reviews, movie reviews, author interviews, event listings, and

club information.

ConNotations, Volume 13, Issue 6, December/January 2003/2004 and Volume 15, Issue 1, February/March 2004; Editor: Stephanie L. Bannon, Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society, P. O. Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082; <Editors@casfs.org> — These news zines have 24 newsprint pages each of SF media news, reviews, and club and convention listings.

De Profundis, 371–372, December 2003–January 2004; Editor: Marty Cantor, c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood, CA 91601; <www.lasfs.org> — These club zines have club minutes, event calendars, and info.

Galaxy Press, 7501 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 200, Hollywood CA 90028; 323-466-7815; Fax 323-466-7817; <www.galaxy-press.com>; <info@galaxy-press.com> — Flyer for the latest anthology *L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future*, Volume XIX.

Minicon 39 Progress Report 2, 9–10 April 2004; P. O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis MN 55408; Millennium Hotel Minneapolis; WGoH: Walter Jon Williams, EGoH: Sharyn November, FGoH: Deb Geisler.

Nice Distinctions, 4, Editor: Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers NY 10704-1814; 914-965-4861; <hlavaty@panix.com> — This personal zine has six pages of discussion and essay style writing.

OASFiS Event Horizon, Volume 16, Number 1, Issue 197, December 2003 and Volume 17, Numbers 1–2, Issues 198–199, January–February 2004; Editor: Leslie R. Hammes; The Orlando Area Science-Fiction Society, P. O. Box 592905, Orlando FL 32859-2905; <lhammes@cfl.rr.com>; 407-263-5822 — These three small club zines have club minutes, events, and info.

Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin, Volume 8, Number 4, December 2003; R. B. Cleary, 138 Bibb Drive, Madison AL 35758-1064; <rbcleary@bellsouth.net>; <www.southernfandom.com>; 256-772-3826 — This 22-page organizational zine has convention reports, book reviews, fanzine listings, news, convention listings, club roster, and letters of comments.

No Need for a House Call!

No Need for a Dragon with a Migraine — Chapter 13
by PieEyedDragon

(*Skipbladnir* glides in over the ice, and lands with a gentle scrunching noise.)

Dragon: Hhhail, visssitorssss. Hwelcome to Jotunheimmm; I am your hhhosst: Missster Lissard.

Puck: Oh, knock off the serpent act, PieEye. I know you can speak without hissing.

Dragon: Old Thing, you know I can even speak without making any sound at all. I had an audience here who expected to be terrorized. So, I obliged them. *You* ought to understand schmaltz.

Puck: Schmaltz? Smells more like *ham* to me!

Dragon: Speaking of smells; I smell something yummy! (Thor appears, dropping several large bags over the side of *Skipbladnir*. He waves a ham-sized fist in the air.)

Thor: I want to see him *eat* some of these. They were burning my hands until I put on my iron gloves!

Dragon: Bird Peppers!

(Puck looks long at the figurehead of *Naglfar*.)

Puck: A junior medical officer aboard a deep space vessel rarely gets to see much of the outside. (He gestures at the huge eyes looming over them both.) Relative of yours?

Dragon: *That*, as they say, is a very good question!

Mihoshi: Excuse me. I'm investigating a kidnapping. Can you give a statement?

Puck: This dragon was the victim, Officer. The situation has been resolved (I hope).

Mihoshi: I remember you. Were you in fact kidnapped? (Recording everything on her multi-purpose control cube.)

Dragon: Yes, Officer; all true. I am free, now; and in command of my erstwhile captors.

Mihoshi: What happened to the perpetrator who ordered this action against you?

Dragon: He, ah, ate something that disagreed with him.

(Officer Mihoshi continues recording the surroundings, taking multi-level scans of the *Naglfar* Artifact and the ambient radiation levels.)

(Meanwhile, two of the Brownies have wandered over toward Puck, with a pleading look on their faces.)

Puck: I know, I know. I'll do what I can, and keep trying to cure you all.

Dragon: What is their problem, Old Thing. They seem to know you.

Puck: I was the psycho-therapist aboard that ship; until the Jotunns spaced me and the rest of the officers. I alone survive. The Brownies experienced psychic burnout in bringing the ship to safe landing. I help them as I can. Some few have recovered from their madness, but such healing is a slow process.

Dragon: I have experience with madness. Let me try something.

(PED shrinks down and down, and forms himself into a circlet like an Egyptian crown. Puck places the dragon-crown on the head of one of the Brownies, and waits. PED glows faintly as he concentrates his essence within the circle of himself. Some of the glow takes root in the Brownie's eyes, and he looks up at Puck in calm exultation.)

Puck: No charge for this housecall, friend. You are "covered" by a government health benefit.

Brownie: Quite literally. Always the Joker, Doc?

Puck: Laughter *is* the best medicine!

(All laugh.)

— O — O — O —

(PED has been out on the glacier, motionless, for hours: staring up into space. Puck approaches and speaks.)

Puck: It's never safe to be a king; especially of a conquered people. Who will watch your back?

Dragon: Yes, I've been thinking about that, too.

(The low Arctic sun sets; having spent bare minutes above the horizon. A star appears against the auroral backdrop of *Bifrost*.)

Puck: Oh, well. Why not?

"Star light, star bright; first star I see tonight;

I wish I may... I wish I might..."

Have the wish I wish tonight!"

(The star seems to twinkle and move, slightly. Brightening; it is definitely approaching and exhibiting a rapid flickering. The flickering resolves into several separate bright points, rotating together. A distant roar can now be heard; rising like mighty waterfalls.)

Puck: Looks like I'm about to have a "Close Encounter!"

Dragon: Sorry, Old Thing. This wish was mine.

(A titanic object descends on four pillars of fire, which throw up snow and steam as it lands.)

Dragon: I never had a home like this one before. I passed-up my last chance at royalty. I've invited Mother to stay here a while. Have you ever met her?

(Gamera extrudes her massive head, and gazes at the crowd.)

Gamera: *Son, where are your manners? Won't you offer me some refreshment after my trip?*

Dragon: Oh, certainly! (He opens his jaws, and a river of greenish-yellow flame passes from the dragon to the mouth of the great turtle; who drinks it in. This continues for twenty minutes, and then the dragon stops flaming and takes a breath.)

Gamera: *Thank you; but you've been eating peppers, again!*

(Puck, with hands on his sides; throws back his head and laughs.)

Dragon: Physician; are you healing yourself, now?

(Puck laughs even harder, falling down backwards. His arms wave up and down, making snow-fairies.)

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

26 February 2003

Heck — what's one stray poc among friends?

Hopefully all the readers who are Worldcon members are giving some thought toward the Hugo nomination ballot. Spread the egoboo around!

The PED keeps on!!!

I'm sure that, by now, you know Julie Schwartz died.

Aside from having misplaced a pile of zines (which I just found), fanwise it seems pretty quiet right now. Aha — all the better to cogitate.

Hope things are quiet and moving along. (If not mutually exclusive!)

[The Hugo nomination deadline is indeed almost on us, but most *Shuttle* recipients should still get this issue in time for a last-second reminder. -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney
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Canada M9C 2B2

5 March 2003

Just noticed, today's the deadline day, so I'd better get with it, and get a loc written. I have here Volume 24, No. 2 of the *Shuttle*, and the letter goes like this...

I agree with David Miller, the third LotR movie was exactly right, all the farewells at the end were just right, and the movie deserved all 11 Oscars it won. (How's your different universe, David?) I understand why there were changes in the

first two movies, and to be honest, the story was told anyway. The third movie was indeed a thrill ride, especially with some of the steep angle shots — if you have vertigo, you probably had more thrills than you wanted. But, we cared about these characters in the books, and we definitely care about them in the movies. I am still hopeful that McKellen and Holm can be coaxed back to do *The Hobbit*. However, there is still nothing like the actual writing, the true ideas of Tolkien that I don't feel can accurately be translated to film. All one can do, if they truly care, and I believe that Peter Jackson does, is try one's best to translate that work to film in a modern package and length of time. The public has a very short attention span, and limited comprehension of such literature; the movies may not have completely satisfied us, but the public loved it.

My locs — the people who staged the Tolkien convention in Toronto have announced that they plan another Gathering of the Fellowship in 2005, again in Toronto, but in the summer-time during a weekend, as opposed to a cold and snowy December week. Also, this year's Bouchercon will take place in Toronto at the Royal York Hotel and Toronto Convention Centre, just like Torcon. Have a look at <www.bouchercon2004.com> for the details.

Hmmm — sorry this letter isn't longer — with luck, I shall find out later today if an interview I went to on Wednesday will bear fruit. I'll be in an advertising office, and spending a lot less time at home, but then, I'll also be spending no time job hunting. Take care, and see you next issue.

[Good luck on the job search, Lloyd. Speaking of Tolkien conventions, people going to the Glasgow Worldcon next year might be interested in the 50th anniversary celebration being sponsored by The Tolkien Society in Birmingham UK the week after Worldcon. You can find more information at <www.tolkiensociety.info/2005>. I probably won't make it to Worldcon that year, but if that changes I'll certainly be looking into the Tolkien meeting also. -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead
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7 March 2003

I finally went to see the third LotR movie. Unfortunately, I did not bring away the same feeling for the movie as most fans seemed to have had. I wonder how much of this is based on the way I *thought* I was supposed to feel or the way I was "supposed" to see the movie. Sigh — guess I should either have seen it when it first came out *or* ignored (ha!) all the hype until I did see it. But, at any rate, I can check off one movie from the list... and keep "...Butterfly..." on the list.

"Julie" — RIP.

Got the artist forms from Noreascon, but I only put materials onto a paid panel at one Worldcon and it was a total fiasco! At least they are alive and kicking!

[*The Butterfly Effect* was the last movie I went to see and there's nothing currently in the theaters that's tempting enough to get me back. The next few weeks don't look too good either, unless I decide to try *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. I'd happily go to non-genre *Dogville* but it's not bloody likely to play in Huntsville. -ED]



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