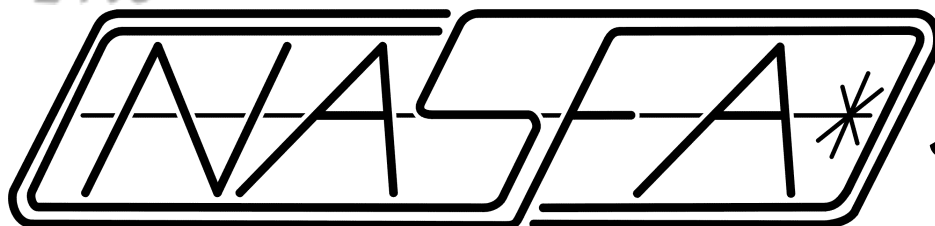


The



Shuttle

August 2008

The Next NASFA Meeting will be 16 August 2008, at the Regular Time and Location

There will be a Concom Meeting at Mary & Doug's House, 7:30P, Thursday 14 August 2008

Future Concom Meetings Tentatively Scheduled for 4 & 18 September and 2 & 16 October

▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next NASFA Meeting will be Saturday 16 August 2008 at the regular time (6P) and the regular location. Meetings are at BookMark, 11220-J South Memorial Parkway — at the corner of the Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive.

Note that this issue of the Shuttle is going to press about two weeks earlier than usual due to your editor attending Worldcon. At press time it's undetermined exactly when the issue will be mailed, but it should be in people's hands more than a week earlier than usual. Don't be fooled into showing up at BookMark a week before the actual club meeting.

PROGRAM

The August program will be a presentation by Dr. William J. (Bill) Cook of the Marshall Space Flight Center Meteoroid Environment Office entitled "Garbage Dump in Space" <tinyurl.com/5uyfnx>. Learn just how deadly a paint chip can be!

ATMM

The After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at Russell McNutt's house (and pool) — 902 Drake Avenue SE, Huntsville AL 35802-1035. From the Parkway head east on Drake, past

Whitesburg, and over the hill. Russell's house is the second one on the right past Barcodey Road (which goes off Drake only to the right). This will be the last pool party of the year, so it's your last chance to go for a dip while schmoozing with the rest of us nerds, er, fans.

Enter through the garage, then go straight through to the pool in the back. Please do not go in the upper level of the house (where Russell's elderly parents live). The lower level of the house is accessible from the pool area; if you want to swim you'll be able to change there.

CONCOM MEETINGS

Concom meetings will happen about twice a month from now until the con. A meeting (past by the time you receive this) was announced at the last NASFA meeting for Tuesday 29 July 2008. The next meeting will be Thursday 14 August. Projected meeting dates (subject to change) after that are 4 September, 18 September, 2 October, and 16 October. All but the last of these meetings will be at Doug and Mary Lampert's house (127 Autumn Glaze Drive in Meridianville) at 7:30P. The final meeting will be at the Holiday Inn Express for setup and last-minute details. Dinner plans for that final meeting will be announced later.

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Page Number. Includes 'Inside this issue...', 'News and Info', 'Minutes of the July Meeting', 'NASFA Calendar', 'Review: LibertyCon 21', 'Awards Roundup', 'International Horror Guild Awards Nominations', 'No Need for a Ring - Chapter 24', and 'Letter of Comment'.

Deadline for the September issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Friday, 5 September 2008

Stay tuned to your email for announcements (changes to the schedule, directions to meetings, etc.). If you get lost on the way to a meeting at Mary and Doug's house, call their home phone (256-829-9195) or Doug's cell (256-527-2879) for directions.

FUTURE ATMMs

Mike Kennedy has laid claim to the ATMM for November. We need volunteers for all other future months.

OCTOBER MEETING DATE

The regular third-Saturday date for the October NASFA meeting falls during Con†Stellation. There appears to be some disagreement in people's memory about whether or not the date was officially changed to the fourth Saturday (25 October) — if not we need to take care of this detail.

SHUTTLE TRANSITION PLANS

The transition of *Shuttle* production to different (newer) hardware and software is still ongoing. We're still squashing bugs in the process but hope to have all significant problems ironed out by or before the end of the year. In the meanwhile the fit and finish of the *Shuttle* may suffer a bit. We continue to ask your forbearance during the transition.

News and Info

RIP, BILL PAYNE

Nashville-area fan William R. (Bill) Payne died Friday 11 July 2008, of natural causes, at age 64. His funeral and burial was 14 July. Bill had been a fixture in Nashville fandom and indeed in Southern Fandom in general for many decades. His activities had been curtailed in recent years by family obligations and an ongoing illness, but he was honored with the Rebel Award (for service to Southern Fandom) last year at the OutsideCon DSC. Many felt the award was overdue.

FANS PRESENT AT CHURCH SHOOTING

Knoxville-area fan Chloe Airoidi and family (including her granddaughter Amira, son Jamie, and a younger granddaughter) were in the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church sanctuary when gunman Jim Adkisson opened fire with a shotgun, injuring several and killing two church members.

Amira was on stage, but the other family members were just a pew away from some of the victims. Chloe and the younger granddaughter were splattered with blood from those victims.

Chloe reports via email that all of her family is physically well. The *Shuttle*, and all of fandom, wishes Chloe, her family, and their church the best in recovering from this trauma.

MAJOR SF/F ESTATE IN DISPUTE

Andre Norton's literary estate is embroiled in a quarrel over who controls what. Caretaker Sue Stewart and long-time fan (and friend) Victor Horadam are named in Ms Norton's will in ambiguous ways — in particular as to who controls the copyrights and royalties for reprints of her works. The dispute is also delaying publication of collaborative works that were to have been published posthumously, including a collaboration with Mercedes Lackey.

At the time of her death Ms Norton was receiving \$70,000 to \$80,000 a year in royalty payments. Horadam says he's not concerned about the money but wants to preserve Norton's literary legacy.

Initial judgments have gone to Horadam. Ms Norton herself "testified" (via a video recorded a few months before her will was executed) in a way that some people believe favored Stewart. The case is under review by the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

July Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The July meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, July 19, 2008 in the BookMark meeting room at 6:16:23P by President Mary Lampert.

OLD BUSINESS

Steve noted the domain renewal and certificate of deposit from last month. Sam has already renewed the domain for another year, at the old rate. There was a digression about updating the web site. Sam has bought the CD, so the club has liquid money again.

NEW BUSINESS

The concom has been looking at really nice bookmarks by Quality Quick Printing. They're thinking of printing some to promote the con and the club, one on each side. Bill passed out draft copies for us to look at. Various suggestions were given. In particular, they need to say somewhere that this is a science fiction and fantasy convention, because they are aimed at people who have no idea what a convention is.

There was a discussion about why we prefer to use the printer's dagger instead of an asterisk for the name "Con†Stellation," but only in fonts where the printer's dagger is more decorative than a simple cross shape. It was originally intended to look like a stylized star with a tail. Asterisks are also fairly common in convention names, so the printer's dagger helps make our con more unique.

Doug moved that we authorize Bill to spend up to \$75 for the club's side, for up to 1000 bookmarks. (The con will pay separately for its side of the bookmarks.) Mike K. seconded, and the motion passed with none opposed. [I think Doug voted against. -ED]

Anita noted that there will be a large number of new people moving into town, thanks to the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure). She asked us to brainstorm about how we can get to those people, and let them know we exist. Mike C. suggested that we will find them where they spend their money. Bookstores would work. Mia suggested handing the bookmarks to school kids via schools or the Huntsville Art League, where they hold a lot of kids' classes. Mike S. suggested leaving bookmarks at the Sparkman Center, where he and Ray Pietruszka work. It has cafeterias, bulletin boards, and all sorts of other advertising possibilities. Martin suggested going after college kids. According to Mike C., if we want to reach college kids, the bookmarks should have our web site's address in a bigger font, and also give our Facebook and MySpace addresses. Mary wondered if we could bribe Nancy Renee to leave bookmarks at UAH when she starts there next fall.

Sam read some spammish emails, about an upcoming B Movie Celebration, and a "D'Ark Night" Film Festival.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Mike C. asked if we're advertising at just science fiction conventions, or are we advertising at other kinds of conventions. We've taken stuff to local conventions, including the anime and furry cons. Con†Stellation flyers were recently left at Play On Con, a gaming convention in Birmingham.

Henry's Notion is a Celtic band that will be playing at the Burritt Museum in Huntsville on Friday. They are very well received at science fiction conventions, and they have played at quite a few of them in the past. There was discussion about why science fiction conventions and Celtic music seem to go together so well. According to Doug, Celtic bands are like filk, except they actually know how to play and sing. Anita quipped,

“Slide a saucer of milk to Doug!” Anyway, we may be able to get help from Henry’s Notion, or leave flyers at their events.

Mike S. asked whether Publications or Registration designs the con badges. We typically go to Randy Cleary, David Miller, or the artist guest of honor for the artwork on the badges. We’ll probably go with Randy this year. As for who designs the overall layout of the badges, it’s traditionally a toss-up between Publications and Registration. So, deciding who does the design will be between Mike K. and Mike S. They will talk about it one-to-one later.

Doug asked if moving the concon meetings to every two weeks will cause any conflicts for people. After some discussion of people’s schedules, the next concon was set for Tuesday, July 29th at Doug and Mary’s house, probably starting at 7:30P. The following meeting will probably be the usual Thursday before the third Saturday.

Doug talked about the possibility of buying a portable speaker system for about \$150. We currently rent one for about \$50 per year for the con. According to Mike K., the system is not that big. It has wheels and a pull-up handle like a roll-around suitcase. It has one wireless microphone and more inputs for other stuff. It’s rated at 200 W peak power, but is probably more like 50 W. It’s manufactured by Pyle. It gets mostly good reviews, other than a minor squelch problem with the wireless microphone. It’s typically used for small outdoor auctions, so it will probably work well in a medium-sized room. It has an internal rechargeable battery, and standard threads for use on a speaker stand. It also has a short and very badly translated manual. The PA system will be used for Main Programming and Masquerade, but not for the dance.

There is no motion required to purchase this PA system. As con director, Doug has the authority to buy whatever he deems necessary, without asking us people squat.

We have letters from various guests.

Adam asked if we should add a ride-shares bulletin board to the Con†Stellation website. Mike K. suggested that we don’t need anything that specific. The job could be handled by a LiveJournal community, something typical of other conventions. Bill is thinking about adding some sort of bulletin board software to the website. LJ would be easier, because we wouldn’t have to host it on our own server.

For the 2009 Con†Stellation, we have booked Gary “The Fish” Shelton as fan guest of honor. He has come to Con†Stellation a lot, and he’s somewhat local to this area, because he was originally from Scottsboro. He plans to move back to north Alabama after he retires in about ten years or so, and we plan to really put our hooks into him then. Our con is capable of long-term planning. [Gary, if you’re reading this we really aren’t that Machiavellian... well maybe we are but only in a nice way. -ED]

Doug moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:59:20P.

The program was a dry run of the *Name That Movie* panel Mike K. is developing for this year’s Con†Stellation. Russell McNutt hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting/Pool Party at his house.

NASFA Calendar

AUGUST

- 06–10 Denvention 3 (66th World Science Fiction Convention) — Denver CO.
- 07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Dead Until Dark*, Charlaire Harris; 6P.
- 08 BD: Jim Woosley.
- 08 Movie in the Park — *Dr. Strangelove*, sundown.

- 12 BD: Sue Thorn.
- 14 BD: Edward Kenny.
- 15–17 Armadillocon 30 — Austin TX.
- 14 Con†Stellation Concom Meeting — 7:30P at Doug and Mary’s house.
- 16* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Dr. William J. (Bill) Cook, “Garbage Dump in Space.” ATMM: Russell McNutt’s house.
- 19 BD: Khen Moore.
- 21 BD: Deborah Denton.
- 22 Movie in the Park — *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, sundown.
- 29–31 Mephit FurMeet — Memphis TN.
- 29–01 Dragon*Con 2008 — Atlanta GA.

SEPTEMBER

- 01 Labor Day.
- 03 BD: David K. Robinson.
- 04 Con†Stellation Concom Meeting — 7:30P at Doug and Mary’s house. **DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**
- 04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Eyre Affair*, Jasper Fforde; 6P
- 05–07 OutsideCon 21 — Burns, TN.
- 09 BD: Mike Cothran.
- 11 BD: Ray Pietruszka.
- 12 BD: Pat Butler.
- 17 Grandparents Day.
- 17 Citizenship Day.
- 18 Con†Stellation Concom Meeting — 7:30P at Doug and Mary’s house. **DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**
- 19–21 Anime Weekend Atlanta 14 — Atlanta GA.
- 20* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: 501st Legion. ATMM: TBD.
- 26 BD Jenna Victoria Stone.
- 27 Games Day Memphis 2008 — Memphis TN.

OCTOBER

- 02 Con†Stellation Concom Meeting — 7:30P at Doug and Mary’s house. **DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**
- 02 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Startide Rising*, David Brin; 6P.
- 03–05 Archon 32 — Collinsville IL (St. Louis MO area).
- 10–12 Necronomicon ’08 — St Petersburg (Tampa area) FL.
- 10–12 Classic Movie Monster Con — Kingsport TN.
- 10–13 Gaylaxicon 2008 — Bethesda MD (Washington DC area).
- 12 Columbus Day (Traditional).
- 13 Columbus Day (Observed).
- 15 BD: Robert Buelow.
- 16 Con†Stellation Concom Meeting — at the hotel.
- 17–19 Con†Stellation XXVII — Huntsville AL.
- 25?* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Con†Stellation Postmortem. ATMM: TBD. **NOTE:** Date changed due to Con†Stellation (but see Oyez Oyez for details).
- 23–26 Atlanta HorrorFest — Atlanta GA.
- 24–26 HallowCon ’08 — Chattanooga TN.
- 24–26 Wicked Harvest 2008 — Norcross (Atlanta area) GA.
- 24 United Nations Day.
- 25 BD: Marie McCormack.
- 30–02 World Fantasy Con 2008 — Calgary AB.
- 31 Halloween.

NOVEMBER

- 02 Daylight Saving Time ends.

- 02 Atlanta Comic Convention — Atlanta GA.
04 Election Day.
06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Land of Laughs*,
Jonathan Carroll; 6P.
11 Veterans' Day.
15* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at
BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: Mike Kennedy's
house.
22 BD: Nancy Renee Peters.
23 BD: Mike Kennedy.
27 Thanksgiving Day.
29 BD: Howard Camp.
30 BD: Joshua Kennedy.
30 BD: Richard Gilliam.

OoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoO

The North Alabama Science Fiction Association meets on the third Saturday of each month. (Unless there is a large nearby convention being held that weekend — in which case we often move the meeting to the second or fourth weekend.) The regular meeting location is the meeting room at BookMark on South Memorial Parkway. The Executive Committee meeting (if scheduled) is at 5P. The business meeting is at 6P. The program is at 7P. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings. There is usually an after-the-meeting meeting with directions available at the program.

Give Me Liberty, or...

a Convention Review

by Mike Kennedy

LibertyCon 21 <www.libertycon.org> took place 11–13 July 2008 at the Comfort Inn and Suites (Ringgold Road) in Chattanooga TN. Invited guests included Literary GoH Harry Turtle-dove, Artist GoH David Mattingly, Special Guest David B. Coe, and MC Eric Flint. Mr. Flint was sadly absent due to the recent death of his mother; Stephen Euin Cobb was tapped to be the MC in his stead. There were a dozen or so additional sf/f pros (authors, editors, artists) listed as expected to attend, plus assorted scientists and organizations. Attendance was reported to be 379 paid and 400+ total (including various comps). This year's LibertyCon was dedicated to the memory of Sandy McDade and of Hank Reinhardt.

As has been my habit fairly often over the last few years, I made the trip to LibertyCon in coordination with Sue Thorn who, among many other things, is their at-con guest liaison. Sue drove her car this year which meant I was pretty much confined to the hotel (no great hardship, as you'll see) though she did let me borrow it for a round of errands on Friday morning. Overall the trip lasted from Thursday (leaving home after work) through Monday (back in Huntspatch early that afternoon).

My habits at most cons do not, alas for some readers, tend to large participation in the formal program items and at Liberty-Con, despite them running up to 3 tracks, I mostly followed that trend. I attend, and can thus review, much more programming at Worldcons, NASFiCs, Costume-Cons, and some other long-format cons. At three-day-weekend cons I find that other things I want to or need to do crowd out programming. YMMV in your con-attending priorities, of course.

I did, however, make it to both the GoH Speeches (mostly a not-terribly-exciting audience-Q&A format) and the Art/Charity Auction on Saturday (about which more later) and a pair of back-to-back programs on Sunday. The first of those

was entitled “Editing: The Necessary Evil of Publishing” — Toni Weisskopf of Baen Books took the role of editor/publisher (though she also has some nonfiction author credentials — see ISBN 0874834449); Turtledove (standing in for Flint) mostly took the role of author (though he also has some editorial credentials for several anthologies); Cobb mostly took the role of moderator, though he stepped in to the author side from time to time. All in all it was an informative panel. My second Sunday program was a “live” podcast — well, live in the sense that it was being recorded with no re-takes, albeit for use later. Podcasts (for the two or three of you who might not know) are recorded (usually audio, sometimes video) programs that can be downloaded over the internet. The most usual sense of the word applied here in that this was one episode of an ongoing series; in this case Stephen Cobb's “The Future and You.” Cobb interviewed Turtledove, Coe, and Weisskopf and did a bang-up job of it. One of the folks from the Atlanta Radio Theater Company (ARTC, about which more later) ran the technical side in a commendably unobtrusive manner.

In addition to programming, LibertyCon has all the aspects you'd expect in a local general-interest sf/f con including Gaming, an Art Show, assorted Dealers, a Con Suite, and a fairly-active social scene. I typically buy little, if anything, in con Dealers Rooms and LibertyCon's setup (a Dealer's Alley with each dealer selling out of his/her own hotel room in a grouping close to the function space) makes it less convenient to look around. I never made it to any of the dealers this year (an even dozen — six or seven with books as their main stock — were listed); it seems faintly rude to wander into some-one's hotel room when there's essentially no chance you'll buy their books, or comics, or jewelry, or t-shirts, or collectables, or whatever. I also know little about the scheduled gaming (other than glimpsing a half dozen or so laptops in use and seeing a number of tabletop games of several sorts going on) — well unless you count spades (about which more later).

I did, however, make good use of the Art Show, Con Suite, and social scene (which in LC's case includes a lot of spades, including, but hardly limited to, a tournament).

Since they've been in this hotel, Liberty's Art Show has been in the hotel fitness center (temporarily cleared of equipment, of course). The show is pretty typical in size for a weekend con, though I believe this year they covered a few more panels than last year. Subject matter was mostly fantasy, with some media-oriented pieces and a small admixture of sf; perhaps more media art and less sf than I would have expected given the hard science bent of LibertyCon (compared to Generic Con). Most of the items were prints, with a few original pieces and a fair amount of 3-D mixed in. Among the 3-D, two or three artists has some interesting metal sculptures (the rebar snake was a hoot) and one had a nice display of painted boxes.

I was tempted to bid on several pieces but resisted; so, apparently, did most other people — only seven pieces got the necessary three bids to make it to the voice auction Saturday. (I don't know, however, how many pieces were bought at immediate purchase or with only one or two bids.) The auction, however, more than filled the 90 minutes allotted because of the large number of charity pieces. (LC's charity this year was the Orange Grove Center for the Developmentally Challenged, for whom they raised nearly \$1500 Saturday night, with a few items remaining to be sold on Sunday.)

The Con Suite — and the hotel breakfast area — are the heart of LibertyCon's social scene. LC is somewhat like Con+Stellation in that the Con Suite itself is more of a reload-

ing station than a social area per se. The major exception to that is their bar; Liberty does serve beer and people often hang around to talk to the bartender or to one or two other patrons there at any given moment. Soft drinks and food, though, are mostly either consumed on a quick flyby or taken back out to the hotel breakfast area for socializing (thus much like the “Lobby II” area at Con†Stellation).

The Comfort Inn serves a limited-menu breakfast buffet for guests (scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & other bread, gravy, and some sweets including the usually-popular cook-your-own waffles). The tables are a hub of activity all day, though, with people playing games or just talking. It isn’t located particularly close to the Con Suite (just like Con†Stellation again) but the breakfast area certainly acts as a Con Suite extension.

Before leaving this subject, I should mention that the Con Suite crew did Liberty — and the late Sandy McDade, long time mistress of that department — proud. Being pretty much hotel-bound I depended perhaps more than I should have on the Con Suite for sustenance. While I missed out on several of the more-substantial meals due to bad timing, I could almost always pick up a peanut butter or egg salad sandwich; and I did make it in time to get some not-quite-gone soup, hot dogs, and pasta on separate occasions. Between the hotel breakfast two of the four mornings, the parties two evenings, and the Con Suite, I didn’t miss having my own transportation in terms of meals. My only quibble with the Con Suite was that they closed a couple of times during hours when a number of people would have liked access. They apparently learned from the first such time (when the whole suite was closed) and left the front part of the room open for access to the soft drinks when they closed the back part where the food was prepared and served.

Then there were the parties that helped round out the social scene at LibertyCon. There may have been fewer than usual, but they certainly weren’t absent. Con†Stellation threw a party Friday night which kept me occupied essentially that entire evening. Liberty sponsored an ice cream social that night too, and there was a Xerps in 2010 <www.xerps.net> party as well. We opened our party more than an hour before Xerps because we knew they would draw well. (In a side note, it will be interesting to see what happens with the Xerps “worldcon bid” at this year’s Worldcon in Denver since this is *finally* the year that the 2010 site selection will take place. As a hoax bid, Xerps is of course not on the ballot but they may still draw a non-negligible number of votes.)

There was a Saturday afternoon party for ChattaCon which I unfortunately missed while enjoying other con activities. Saturday evening saw a combo SFC and NASFiC pre-bid party and a combo FantaSciCon/HallowCon party. Warren Buff, the current Southern Fandom Confederation prez, also happens to be involved in the Raleigh NC group that intends to run for the NASFiC after it becomes officially a possibility — that is, after Australia (or Xerps for that matter) wins the 2010 Worldcon. (A NASFiC can only happen when Worldcon is out of North America. The vote for the 2010 NASFiC will be administered by the 2009 Worldcon in Montreal.) Attendance at the Saturday parties appeared to be impacted by the popularity of ARTC’s 9P–11P presentation of several original audio dramatizations of sf/f works. I skipped ARTC, they’re indeed very good but I preferred to talk to people rather than just listen that evening.

For me, Killer Cutthroat Spades completed the “LibertyCon experience” — it’s one of the primary ways that a fair number of Liberty regulars socialize. I had a terrible weekend at the tables if you look at just the games themselves (I was knocked

out in the first round of the tournament in a very close game; I had lousy cards most of the weekend; I won *maybe* two games the whole weekend) but enjoyed myself immensely — which is 98% of what counts.

Before I wrap up, here are some random notes that didn’t fit elsewhere above:

- The hotel layout is odd due in large part to being built on a hillside. The hotel lobby, function space, breakfast area, and the rooms used for both the Con Suite and Dealer’s Alley are all on the 2nd floor, which is a ground-level entrance in the front on the hotel. The party floor is “downstairs” on the 1st floor so that parties can open onto the pool area. (The 1st floor is at ground level on the back half of the hotel.) For the most part Liberty copes well with this layout, but the area they consistently use for Con Registration is a main cross-roads and their reg never seems to run as smoothly as it should. Separating t-shirt sales from at-the-door registration might help that but they really need to examine their whole reg process; *and* they need more reg space for a con that’s getting larger.
- Our room party ran something over four hours; opening a little before the nominal 7P start time and closing about 11P. By sticker count, we had a bit over 50 people come to the party, several of whom came back multiple times. The Xerps party was still going strong when we closed but by the time I finished cleaning up I just wanted some (relative) peace so I spent the rest of the evening — and into the wee hours — schmoozing in the breakfast area.
- Sue had an upsetting event, but with a happy ending. Several books she had gotten signed for someone else, um, disappeared while she was talking to another person in the autograph area. She posted signs around the con asking for their return and lo and behold they actually showed up.
- The dead dog party food was pizza, salad, desserts, and various Con Suite and party leftovers. Everyone seemed sated.
- I saw more Hearts played at LibertyCon (a Spades con, if you will) than I’d seen at my last few DeepSouthCons (traditionally Hearts cons) *combined*. Part of that was the presence of the Zielke brothers — a hearts-planing clan if there ever was one.

LibertyCon 22 will be back at the same hotel (about which more later) 10–12 July 2009. Invited guests are Literary GoH Ben Bova, AGoH Darryl K. Sweet, Special Guest Toni Weisskopf, and MC Tom Smith. Doubtless many other sf/f notables will attend, just as they did this year. Also just as happened this year, the hotel booked all their available rooms for the con a year in advance; selling out sometime in the wee hours of Sunday morning if I recall correctly.

In my opinion LibertyCon has outgrown that hotel (though there are several reasonably convenient overflow hotels) plus it’s showing some wear and tear that perhaps wasn’t evident last year. (Don’t *ask* about the smell in the elevator unless you’re prepared to be disgusted.) The wear and tear could be addressed by a significant facelift. There are, however, rumors of other troubles (both FantaSciCon and HallowCon had been using the same hotel but have changed facilities now) and there were hints dropped that the 2010 Liberty could be in a different facility. I’m making plans to be back in 2009 (yep, I got a room before they sold out) and will probably be back in 2010 whether they change hotels or not. If you haven’t sampled a LibertyCon, I recommend you put it on your To Do list (after Con†Stellation, of course ;-) and get around to it sooner rather than later.

Awards Roundup

PROMETHEUS AWARDS

The Libertarian Futurist Society has announced the winners (and runners up) for this year's Prometheus Awards <www.lfs.org/awards.htm> (for libertarian sf) in their Best Novel and Hall of Fame categories. The awards will be presented during the 66th World Science Fiction Convention, Denvention 3, to be held the first week in August. Winners are nominated and selected by members of the society.

The **Prometheus Best Novel** (of 2007) vote was a tie — the first time this has occurred in this category. Winners are *The Gladiator*, by Harry Turtledove and *Ha'Penny*, by Jo Walton. Other nominees were *The Execution Channel*, Ken MacLeod; *Fleet of Worlds*, Larry Niven and Edward M. Lerner; and *Ragamuffin*, Tobias S. Buckell. In an odd twist, all nominees were published by Tor. Both Turtledove and Walton are reportedly expected to be at the Worldcon ceremony to accept their awards in person.

The **Prometheus Hall of Fame** award vote went to *A Clockwork Orange*, by Anthony Burgess. *Clockwork* was said to have been previously nominated in 1999, 2002, 2003, 2006, and 2007. Other HoF nominees included *As Easy as A.B.C.*, Rudyard Kipling; *The Lord of the Rings*, J. R. R. Tolkien; *The Once and Future King*, T. H. White; and *That Hideous Strength*, C. S. Lewis.

AWARDS AT READERCON

The 2008 Readercon <www.readercon.org>, held 17–20 June 2008 at the Burlington MA Marriott, featured three sets of awards, the Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award, Rhysling Awards, and the inaugural Shirley Jackson Awards.

Cordwainer Smith Award

The Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award <www.cordwainer-smith.com/foundation.htm> (sponsored by the Cordwainer Smith Foundation) is for a “science fiction or fantasy writer whose work displays unusual originality, embodies the spirit of Cordwainer Smith's fiction, and deserves renewed attention or ‘Rediscovery.’” The award went to **Stanley G. Weinbaum**.

Rhysling Awards

The Rhysling Awards <www.sfpoetry.com/rhysling.html> (sponsored by the Science Fiction Poetry Association) for science fiction poetry announced the winners and runners up in the Short Poem and Long Poem categories. They also announced the induction of their third Grand Master Poet, **Ray Bradbury**. The category awards went to:

Short Poem Winner..... “*Eating Light*,” **F. J. Bergmann** (*Mythic Delirium*, Summer/Fall 2007)

Short Poem 2nd Place..... “*Ice Palace*,” Margaret Atwood (*The Door*, McClelland & Stewart, 2007)

Short Poem 3rd Place.. “*The Oracle on River Street*,” Rachel Swirsky (*Goblin Fruit*, Summer 2007)

Long Poem Winner..... “*The Seven Devils of Central California*,” **Catherynne M. Valente** (*Farrago's Wainscot*, Summer 2007)

Long Poem 2nd Place.. *In Deepspace Shadows*, Kendall Evans (Mythic Delirium Books)

Long Poem 3rd Place..... “*The Engineer*,” Bryan Dietrich (*Istopte: A Journal of Literary Nature and Science Writing*, Fall/Winter 2007)

Shirley Jackson Awards

The first annual Shirley Jackson Awards, for “outstanding achievement in the literature of psychological suspense, horror, and the dark fantastic” were also announced at Readercon. The

full set of nominees is available on the award web site <www.shirleyjacksonawards.org>. The winners are:

SJ Novel Award..... *Generation Loss*, Elizabeth Hand (Small Beer Press)

SJ Novella Award..... “*Vacancy*,” Lucius Shepard (*Subterranean #7*)

SJ Novelette Award..... “*The Janus Tree*,” Glen Hirshberg (*Inferno*)

SJ Short Story Award.... “*The Monsters of Heaven*,” Nathan Ballingrud (*Inferno*)

SJ Collection Award..... *The Imago Sequence and Other Stories*, Laird Barron (Night Shade Books)

SJ Anthology Award..... *Inferno*, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)

SFWA GRAND MASTER ANNOUNCED

On 17 July the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <www.sfwaworld.org> announced that **Harry Harrison** has been selected as the next **Damon Knight Grand Master**. He will be honored at the 2009 Nebula Award Weekend <www.nebulaawards.com> to be held in 24–26 April 2009 Los Angeles CA.

CAMPBELL AND STURGEON AWARDS

The winners and runners up for this year's John W. Campbell Memorial Award (for best science fiction novel of 2007) <<http://www2.ku.edu/~sfcenter/campbell.htm>> and Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award (for best short science fiction work of 2007) <www2.ku.edu/~sfcenter/sturgeon.htm> were announced Friday 11 July in conjunction with both the annual Campbell Conference and the annual meeting of the Science Fiction Research Association.

Campbell Memorial Award..... *In War Times*, **Kathleen Ann Goonan**

Campbell Memorial 2nd Place... *The Yiddish Policeman's Union*, Michael Chabon

Campbell Memorial 3rd Place..... *The Execution Channel*, Ken MacLeod

Sturgeon Memorial Award (tie)..... “*Finisterra*,” **David R. Moles** and “*Tidelines*,” **Elizabeth Bear**

Sturgeon Memorial 2nd Place (tie)..... “*Memorare*,” Gene Wolfe and “*The Master Miller's Tale*,” Ian R. MacLeod

IHG Awards Noms

Nominations for this year's International Horror Guild Awards have been announced. The IHG Awards honor achievements in horror and dark fantasy. In addition to the nominees listed below, the IHG has announced that **Peter Straub** has been selected as this year's **International Horror Guild Living Legend**. Category winners will be announced 31 October 2008 in an online presentation via the web site <www.horroraward.org>.

NOVEL

Grin of the Dark, Ramsey Campbell (PS Publishing)

Generation Loss, Elizabeth Hand (Small Beer Press)

The Missing, Sarah Langan (HarperCollins)

Season of the Witch, Natasha Mostert (Dutton)

The Terror, Dan Simmons (Little, Brown & Company)

FICTION COLLECTION

The Imago Sequence and Other Stories, Laird Barron (Night Shade Books)

Plots and Misadventures, Stephen Gallagher (Subterranean Press)

Shadows Kith and Kin, Joe R. Lansdale (Subterranean Press)

Masques of Satan, Reggie Oliver (Ash Tree Press)

Dagger Key and Other Stories, Lucius Shepard (PS Publishing)

LONG FICTION

“Procession of the Black Sloth,” Laird Barron (*The Imago Sequence*, Night Shade Books)

The Man in the Picture: A Ghost Story, Susan Hill (Profile)

Softspoken, Lucius Shepard (Night Shade Books)

The Scalding Rooms, Conrad Williams (PS Publishing)

MID-LENGTH FICTION

“The Janus Tree,” Glen Hirshberg (*Inferno*, Tor)

“Lie Still, Sleep Becalmed,” Steven Duffy (*At Ease with the Dead*, Ash Tree Press)

“The Bone Man,” Fredric S. Durbin (*Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, December 2007)

“Closet Dreams,” Lisa Tuttle (*Postscripts 10*, PS Publishing)

SHORT FICTION

“Digging Deep,” Ramsey Campbell (*Phobic*, Comma Press)

“Honey in the Wound,” Nancy Etchemendy (*The Restless Dead*, Candlewick Press)

“The Tank,” Paul Finch (*At Ease with the Dead*, Ash Tree Press)

“Splitfoot,” Paul Walther (*New Genre 5*, Spring 2007)

“The Great White Bed,” Don Webb (*Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, May 2007)

ANTHOLOGY

Inferno, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)

Summer Chills, Stephen Jones, ed. (Carroll & Graf)

American Supernatural Tales, S. T. Joshi, ed. (Penguin)

Strange Tales Volume II, Rosalie Parker, ed. (Tartarus Press)

At Ease with the Dead, Barbara and Christopher Roden, eds. (Ash Tree Press)

NONFICTION

Frankenstein: A Cultural History, Susan Tyler Hitchcock (W.W. Norton & Company)

Mario Bava: All the Colors of Dark, Tim Lucas (Video Watchdog)

Warnings to the Curious: A Sheaf of Criticism on M.R. James, Rosemary Pardoe and S. T. Joshi, eds. (Hippocampus Press)

Sides, Peter Straub (CD Publications)

The Science of Stephen King, Bob Weinberg and Lois M. Gresh (John Wiley)

PERIODICAL

Black Static *Dead Reckonings*
The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction

Postscripts *Weird Tales*

ILLUSTRATED NARRATIVE

Scalped: Indian Country, Jason Aaron (writer) and R. M. Gura (artist) (Vertigo/DC Comics)

The Nightmare Factory, Thomas Ligotti (creator/writer); Joe Harris and Stuart Moore (writers); Ben Templesmith, Michael Gaydos, Colleen Doran, and Ted McKeever (illustrators) (Fox Atomic/Harper Paperbacks)

The Blot, Tom Neely (I Will Destroy You)

The Arrival, Shaun Tan (Arthur A. Levine Books)

Wormwood Gentleman Corpse: Birds, Bees, Blood & Beer, Ben Templesmith (IDW)

ART

Didier Cottier for Exhibit at Utopiales, Nantes France, November 2007

David Ho for his body of work

Elizabeth McGrath for “The Incurable Disorder,” Billy Shire Fine Arts, December 2007

Chris Mars for “New Salem,” Jonathan Levine Gallery, October 2007

Mike Mignola for cover and illustrations for *Baltimore, or, The Steadfast Tin Soldier and the Vampire* (Bantam Spectra)

On The Doorstep

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 24

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor’s Note: This is the eighth chapter in the second part of the NNFA trilogy — *The Two Hairy Towers* — and is thus numbered as Chapter 8 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

I broke the dam that had kept this water pooled up against the wall of Moria for years, and let the drainage begin. The kraken’s main body was somewhat shrunken now. It had begun regenerating a few tentacles. I ate those tender bits of meat and left the body for another day. Actually, when I got down to that part, it took three days to finish the last of the beast. I rested, digesting. My limbs were all awkward and poorly coordinated in their new sizes. One more molting and a days rest. Then I can slow my metabolism down to normal, and stop scorching the shrubbery with my body heat.

Now one more special meal. I carefully cleaned the area, consuming all my shed skins down to the very last scale. On the off chance that there might be some useful mineral content in the dregs of the pool, I started drinking, and finally slurping up a lot of stinking mud. Aside from stones and rotten limbs, there was not much there beyond bits of bone and fragments of gear. There was, however, a tantalizing, metallic taste in the mud. I kept slurping (and disposing of all the processed mud in a fashion you can guess) until I came to the sources. (Do I hear someone out there humming that “Snorky the Mudsucker” song from Beanie and Cecil, and Bob Clampett?) One of them was an angular green pebble very like what I found near the Willow tree. The other was smaller and shiny and thin and round; and tasted of what some hereabouts call mithril!

I could use this to toughen my skin, but I would need much more. Even the molecule-thin amount in the writing on the west gate of Moria would not suffice. This thing, however, might help me find more — in a process some call dowsing. I set out to learn what I could about this tiny ring. Physical examination revealed a tiny mark on the inside. Polling my “shadow library” of Galadriel, Gandalf, Elrond, Bilbo, Legolas, and Gimli yielded varying results. The first four agreed that the mark was dwarven. Legolas was not even sure of that. Gimli, however, gave exact information. The mark was exactly like the one that his father’s older brother Óin, son of Gróin, would put on the works of his hands.

Óin had accompanied Balin in the doomed attempt to recapture Moria in 1389. As another Erebor companion of Thorin Oakenshield, he had been rich enough to be one of the sponsors of the colony. When they had found “truesilver,” it would have been divided according to a formula. Óin had gone to the west gate, here, and been taken by the Watcher in the Water in 1394.

I climb back up and go over to the big palantír, and gaze around the area. At one point I am looking over the shoulder of an elf, who is watching a dragon that is staring into a crystal. The dragon is *me*! One of those three elves stayed behind! Now, I concentrate on looking into What Was.

Eventually, I see the doors open and two dwarves emerge to look around. One, wearing a brown hood, is snatched by tentacles and drawn down into the water. The other flees back into the doorway and the doors close. I nudge my perception back

more, following the little ring. I see, in a lighted chamber, several dwarves. Earlier, I see one, the one taken, hammering at this ring and marking it. Before that, the metal was a wire that had been made from several nuggets hammered into a single lump and drawn out for measuring. The nuggets had been carried up out of darksome tunnels. All before that is darkness. Within me, the shadows of Gimli, Gandalf, and Elrond all identify the ring maker as Glóin's brother, Óin.

I return back to the scene at the pool and cast back farther and farther... centuries, and millennia. The gates stand open. Dwarves and elves stand in a group. They shake hands. A wagon moves off down the road along Sirannon. I follow the wagon and eventually see Ost-in-Edhil and more high elves. I follow the shipment to see where it goes and what is done with it. I see an elven-smith (the shadow of Galadriel identifies him as Celebrimbor, a maker of the Elven rings and other things). He works by daylight. I see where he keeps his raw materials and what he does with snippets and dust. He seems to be chanting over a ring (Nenya, according to Galadriel, the seeing-stones have no audio). Finishing that, he takes out a small, reddish irregular oval disk; wrapped in a letter. The letter ends with:

Common iron is not suitable for Rings. There is a chance that what Eöl had might work. In a single day, it would have to be heated and pierced; then seven times hammered flat, twisted and folded; before being made perfectly round and adding a polished mineral such as flint or pyrite. The final tempering should only require moderate heat in charcoal for not more than seven years. I look forward to examining the results!

— Your humble teacher, Annatar

My "advisors" inform me that "Annatar," the fair-seeming teacher and giver of gifts, was also known as Thu, Gorthaur, and Sauron!

I withdraw my perception to get a good idea of where the workshop stood in relation to the buildings whose ruins yet remained. I know where to start my dowsing. I have been staring into the crystal all night. It is midmorning and partly cloudy — the beginning of a hot and muggy June day.

There is one very important matter to take care of first. The green rock. Climbing back down to the muddy lake bottom; I wait four hours, until the sun is well past noon.

— O — O — O —

Orophin keeps very still; resisting the urge to investigate the crystals and the box. The dragon is similarly motionless, down in the mud at the foot of the escarpment — staring at a tiny speck of green rock. About an hour past noon, it begins shifting around; putting it's back toward the wall and slowly raising it's wings very high. They take on a dark shimmer and suddenly the shimmer blossoms upward and outward — like an impossibly large moth or flower. The shimmer curls slightly and the mud before the dragon steams and smokes as an unbearably bright patch of light constricts into an ever smaller spot; finally converging on the green rock.

Orophin had wondered if the dragon was a firebreather. The question was resolved as the beast spouted a great blast onto the brightness. After a few seconds there came a *POP* and a smallish green cloud that quickly dissipated. The fire ceases and the light darkens. The wings return to normal size and are furled on the back of the beast. An area of the formerly muddy lake bottom glows redly. The glow dims and finally there is just a black, slick-looking patch where the powers had been concentrated.

The dragon walks away, then. Through the broken dam, past the Stair Falls, and on down the flood-muddied course of

Sirannon. For some reason, it stumbles frequently — often tripping over it's own feet!

Orophin springs into action. This chance must not be allowed to expire. He lightly sprints over to the tantalizing stones and the possibly-elven box. He had to know!

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

Letter of Comment

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

Lloyd Penney
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24 July 2008

Here comes a quick loc on the July *Shuttle*... busy time is here, and I now have two part-time jobs to fill my days and evenings.

I gather that one of the fans injured in that crash reported by the Seattle in 2011 bid was actually from the Vancouver area. We're hoping that future reports about these fans are much more positive.

WALL-E... what a great movie. I rarely say that I'd like to see a movie again, but I'd like to for this one. There's a lot of commentary [in] this movie... we are trashing the planet, and in this movie, we've literally done it. The humans in it are shown to have become lazy, dull, and obese, which is also happening to us. We should wake up before we lose our home and become human-sized slugs. More and more, this Pixar movie is the best they've ever made, and they've got people buzzing. A Google of *WALL-E* shows the Web is buzzing, too. I must check for all the reported Easter eggs.

Hello, PieEyed, more adventures, I see... and still recovering from injuries. I thought you could recover fairly quickly, unless your injuries were severe, and if I recall, they were. More and more of Middle-Earth is revealed, and I could wish that it were real, so that we could physically visit.

My loc... television is taking an interesting turn. Usually, Canadian networks produce a few of their own shows, and then buy shows from the American networks. Almost never does this happen in reverse, until now. One new show on CBS (I think) is *Flashpoint*, which is produced by the Canadian network CTV. CBS purchased the broadcast rights for the USA. *Flashpoint*, a SWAT-style series, is shot almost exclusively on the streets of Toronto.

Some news referred to at the beginning... I now have a second job, and it is with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. I am in training to be their new Membership and Publications Clerk. Add to that my Globe and Mail gig in the evening, and I might say that two part-time jobs make me about full-time employed. I hope I can get the RASC training right.

Anyway, hope this is in time for the August issue. See you then!

[You made it in plenty of time for this issue, even though I had to put it to bed two weeks early because of my Denvention travel schedule. I haven't actively pursued updates on the Seattle bid crash victims, but neither has any significant update grabbed my attention on the blogs (including their bid

blog on LiveJournal) that I check from time to time. As you recall the initial report was one death and one person with serious injuries. I've seen no updates on the latter other than that the initial surgery went well, but that at best he will have

lost several fingers on each hand. I'm sure all of fandom is wishing the survivors, the families and friends of all the victims, and the bid committee the best as they recover from this trauma. -ED]



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The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the August 2008 edition (Volume 28, Number 8). NASFA Officers for 2008: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Sue Thorn; Publicity Director Bill Savage. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy.

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Huntsville AL 35815-4857 — OFFICIAL ADDRESS

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