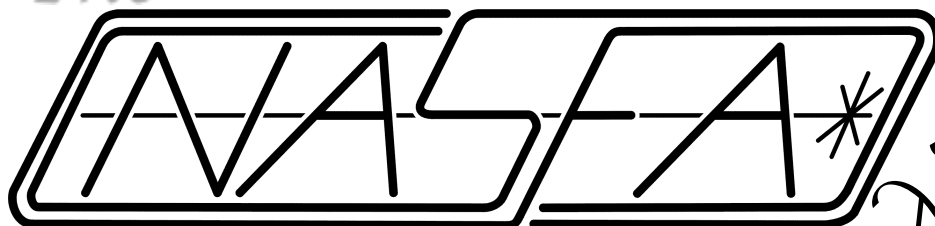


The



Shuttle

November 2009

The Next NASFA Meeting is 21 November 2009 at the Regular Time and Location

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** is Saturday **21 November 2009** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **new regular location**. Meetings are at the Renasant Bank's Community Room, 4245 Balmoral Drive in south Huntsville. Exit the Parkway at Airport Road; head east one short block to Balmoral Drive; turn left (north) for less than a block. The bank is on the right, just past Logan's Roadhouse restaurant. Enter at the front door of the bank; turn right to the end of a short hallway.

PROGRAM

The November program will be *Short Attention Span Theater*—a collection of short (mostly sfnal) videos presented by Mike Kennedy.

ATMMs

The November After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at Mike Kennedy's house—7907 Charlotte Drive SW, just off of Memorial Parkway. From the bank, head back to the Parkway, turn left (south) for a bit over 2 miles. Charlotte is the 3rd light after the controlled-access part of the Parkway ends; turn right on Charlotte for about a block. After you pass several business, Mike's house is the 2nd house on the left.

The December ATMM and the New Year's Eve party are spoken for. We need ATMM volunteers all months in 2010.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

In a change of plans from previous announcements, the NASFA Christmas Party will take place at the bank meeting room following the December club meeting. The *Shuttle* is informed that an *ad hoc* cabal has decided that this room works well for parties, so the change was made. The cabal will take care of decorations, but everyone should bring food and drink to share at the party.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

The New Year's Eve Party will be at Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci's house—211 Evalyn Street in Madison. Bring your fave drink and a food item to share.

CONCOM MEETINGS

Con†Stellation XXVIII is over so concom meetings are on hiatus for a while. Next year's chairs, Doug and Mary Lampert, have announced that Con†Stellation XXIX concom meetings will probably start in early 2010 but stay tuned for updates.

NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to the calendar and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f events) are added or changed. Contact Bill S. for details.

News and Info

JOE HALDEMAN OUT OF HOSPITAL

Noted sf author Joe Haldeman (Con†Stellation II GoH) has been released from the hospital. He made his escape good on 10 November after 52 days in various Cincinnati-area hospitals. He and his wife, Gay, are still in Cincy where they will remain until Joe is medically cleared to travel. Gay and, more lately, Joe have been posting daily updates on his progress at <webnews.sff.net/read?cmd=xover&group=sff.people.joe-haldeman>.

SF FAN CONFRONTS BLOWHARD

Guy Lillian III had a close encounter of the scary kind on 29 October when he was caught in the middle of an EF2 tornado

Inside this issue...

Minutes of the October Meeting.....	2	Awards Roundup.....	3
NASFA Calendar.....	2	<i>No Need for a Ring</i> — Chapter 28.....	4
World Fantasy Awards.....	3	Letters of Comment.....	5

Deadline for the December issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 4 December 2009

<en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enhanced_Fujita_Scale> while driving home from work. Stealing some of Guy's quote from *File 770* <file770.com>:

"A trashcan lid spun over my hood like a giant frisbee. The rain turned white. The white became opaque. I couldn't see the road. I hit my emergency blinkers and pulled over, hoping I wouldn't find a ditch..."

Fortunately, Guy was unharmed and his car only minimally so (a small crack in the windshield).

HUGO SERIES TO START

It has been announced that Prime Books <www.prime-books.com> has entered into a licensing agreement to publish the first volume of a projected Hugo Award Showcase series. This first volume will be edited by Mary Robinette Kowal and is expected to feature Hugo-award-winning stories from 2009. Those winners will be announced at the 2010 Worldcon in Australia.

The official Hugo Awards site <www.thehugoawards.org> has more information, including a cover mockup with art by Donato Giancola, winner of this year's Best Professional Artist Hugo.

A GUFF QUICKIE

Candidates for the coming Going Under (or Get Up and Over) Fan Fund have been announced as James Shields and Douglas Spencer. An online ballot is expected to be available by the time this *Shuttle* arrives in our reader's hands. This year the race is from north (Europe) to south (Australasia) and the winner will attend Aussiecon 4, the 2010 Worldcon.

Voting will run through 5 April 2010, the closing Monday of Eastercon. Further information can be gotten on the web <pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~lister/guff> or by contacting Ang Rosin, 26 Hermitage Grove, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 6DR, UK, <lister@liv.ac.uk>.

CON DISASTER GOES TO COURT

Shane Senter, organizer of the ill-fated (and over-promised) JumpCon series of conventions is to appear in court 23 November to enter an arranged guilty plea for two violations of New Hampshire's Consumer Protection Act and two theft charges. Reports are that the state will recommend a suspended sentence, 5 years probation, and an agreement to pay restitution to victims.

None of the JumpCon events ever happened and Senter ended up owing massive debts to hotels, other suppliers, invited guests, and prepaid convention attendees. He has already filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy, but that would apparently not discharge his repayment obligations under the criminal plea deal.

Many longtime sf convention runners had expressed deep skepticism when JumpCon's ambitious plans—and sketchy business model—were announced for a series of cons across the US starting in July 2008. Nonetheless, many fairly-high profile actors signed up as guests and apparently quite a few tickets were purchased at various price levels up to several hundred dollars.

October Minutes

by Judy Smith—Volunteer

The October meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday October 17, 2009 in the Renasant Bank meeting room at 6:15P by President Mary Lampert.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Election—nominations in November, consider running for club office! Programming is willing to back down, (the rest of us are willing to let Sue continue, she's doing a great job)... crickets chirped....

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Attendance was up, but we still managed to lose approximately \$196.28. Final amount is an estimate as some lagging funds have not been recorded, only estimated.

2011 convention chair to be appointed soon—Anita threw a hat (straight from Mike's head) into the ring.

The hotel has discussed potentially turning the Patriot Room into a fitness center. If that happens a hotel discussion will have to happen. On the chance they don't do it, the hotel has already saved the dates for us but no contract is in place. Discussion was held about the 2011 dates being the third weekend in September.

Anita had a guest suggestion for the 2011 con. Discussion was held offline.

Nomination was made by Doug to have Mike Cothran talk to the potential guest to feel out their availability in September 2011 for either the weekend of the 10th or the 17th since an official date has not been set. Anita seconded it, 13 Ayes, 1 Nay. Mike will contact them.

No more con business.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Mia has a chocolate chess set she wants to make for the con next year. Winner gets to eat the pieces.

Confirmed that the Christmas party would be at Sue's (later discussion is that it may in fact be at the meeting place—keep watch for more details). [The plan has changed. The Christmas Party will be at the bank after the December meeting. See elsewhere in this issue for more info. -ED]

Confirmed that the New Years Eve party would be at Nancy and Rays.

We need volunteers for the ATMMs for next year—volunteer!

Discussion on the November meeting date—leave it as is.

Motion to adjourn by Sam at 6:41P. All approved.

The program was by Les Johnson discussing his book *Paradise Regained: The Re-greening of Earth*. He did a PowerPoint presentation showing the environmental impacts faced today and how extraterrestrial resources may be the answer to this crisis.

NASFA Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 01 Daylight Saving Time ends.
- 03 Election Day.
- 05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Beguilement (Sharing Knife)*, Lois McMaster Bujold; 6P.
- 06–08 MACE—High Point NC.
- 07–08 Weekend in the Realms—Atlanta GA.
- 11 Veterans' Day.
- 14 OutLantaCon—Atlanta GA.
- 15 Atlanta Comics Convention—Atlanta GA.
- 21* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: *Short Attention Span Theater*. ATMM: Mike Kennedy's house.
- 22 BD: Nancy Renee Peters.
- 23 BD: Mike Kennedy.
- 26 Thanksgiving Day.
- 27–29 Darkover Grand Council—Timonium MD.

- 28 Atlanta Anime Day 1.5—Atlanta GA.
- 29 BD: Howard Camp.
- 30 BD: Joshua Kennedy.
- 30 BD: Richard Gilliam.

DECEMBER

- 03 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Stolen Child*, Keith Donohue, 6P.
- 04–06 CatchupCon—Atlanta GA.
- 05–10 Furry Cruise—Miami FL.
- 09 BD: Maria West Grim.
- 11–13 WeddingCon—Atlanta GA.
- 11–13 ~~ParaNooga~~—Chattanooga TN—**Canceled**.
- 11–19 Hanukkah.
- 12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.
- 15 Bill of Rights Day.
- 17 BD: Robin Ray.
- 18 Islamic New Year.
- 19* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: Random Gift Exchange (unofficially). ATMM: Christmas Party at the bank.
- 19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
- 20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.
- 22 BD: Wolf Freeman.
- 25 Christmas Day.
- 26 BD: Michael R. Stone.
- 26 Boxing Day.
- 31 New Year’s Eve Party at Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka’s house.

JANUARY 2010

- 01 New Year’s Day.
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Somewhere in Time*, Richard Matheson, 6P.
- 07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
- 08–09 ShadowCon XIV—Memphis TN.
- 08–10 GaFilk 12—Atlanta GA.
- 16* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 16 BD: Bruce Butler.
- 18 BD: Martin Luther King.
- 20 BD: Larry Montgomery.
- 22–24 ChattaCon 35—Chattanooga TN.
- 28–31 Game Fest 15—Atlanta GA.
- 29–31 Creation Twi/Tour—Nashville TN.

FEBRUARY 2010

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Groundhog Day.
- 04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Oryx and Crake*, Margaret Atwood; 6P.
- 05–07 AggieCon 41—College Station TX.
- 08 BD: Lin Cochran.
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
- 11 BD: Jeanna Woosley.
- 12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
- 14 Valentine’s Day.
- 15 President’s Day.
- 17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
- 19–21 ConNooga—Chattanooga TN.
- 20* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 22 BD: George Washington.
- 26–28 SheVaCon—Roanoke VA.

OoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOo

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.) As of April 2009, **the regular meeting location was changed** to the Community Room at the Balmoral branch of Renasant Bank (off Airport Road, near the 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.

World Fantasy Awards

Winners of the 2009 World Fantasy Awards (for works in 2008) were announced at a ceremony Sunday 1 November 2009 at this year's World Fantasy Con <www.worldfantasy2009.org>, which was held at the Fairmont Hotel in San José CA from 29 October to 1 November. The winners are:

- Lifetime Achievement**..... **Ellen Asher** and **Jane Yolen**
- Best Novel** (tie)..... **The Shadow Year**, Jeffrey Ford (Morrow) and **Tender Morsels**, Margo Lanagan (Allen & Unwin; Knopf)
- Best Novella**..... **“If Angels Fight,”** Richard Bowes (*F&SF* February 2008)
- Best Short Story** **“26 Monkeys, Also the Abyss,”** Kij Johnson (*Asimov’s* July 2008)
- Best Anthology**..... **Paper Cities: An Anthology of Urban Fantasy**, Ekaterina Sedia, ed. (Senses Five Press)
- Best Collection**..... **The Drowned Life**, Jeffrey Ford (HarperPerennial)
- Best Artist**..... Shaun Tan
- Special Award—Professional**..... **Kelly Link and Gavin J. Grant** (for Small Beer Press and Big Mouth House)
- Special Award—Non-Professional**..... **Michael Walsh** (for Howard Waldrop collections from Old Earth Books)

The judges for 2009 were Jenny Blackford, Peter Heck, Ellen Klages, Chris Roberson, and Delia Sherman. The Life Achievement Awards were previously announced.

Next year's WFC will be held 28–31 October 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus OH. Memberships are \$100 as this is being written, but will be \$125 as of 16 November 2009 and will go up again mid-June 2010. The judges for the 2010 World Fantasy Awards will be Greg Ketter, Kelly Link, Jim Minz, Jurgen Snoeren, and Gary K. Wolfe.

Awards Roundup

LAST DRINK BIRD HEAD AWARDS

Winners of the first incarnation of a planned annual series of Last Drink Bird Head Awards (sponsored by Jeff and Ann VanderMeer for service to the genre community) were announced at a party Thursday evening at the 2009 World Fantasy Convention. Future years may use a panel of judges but for this year it was all the VanderMeers. The awards are named for the *Last Drink Bird Head* anthology, a fundraising vehicle for ProLiteracy <www.proliteracy.org>, published by Ministry of Whimsy. Award winners—who received a bird head figurine, a certificate, and chocolate—are:

Gentle Advocacy (for blunt discourse about controversial issues)..... **K. Tempest Bradford**
Tireless Energy (for selfless activities for worthy organizations/causes) **Rina Weisman**
Promotion of Reading (for promotion of reading or reading proficiency)..... **Susan Straub**
Expanding Our Vocabulary (for writers who expose readers to new words/ideas) **John Clute**
International Activism (for work to bring writers from other literary traditions/countries to the attention of readers in North America, the United Kingdom, and Australia) **Charles Tan**
Special Achievement Award (for individuals who are proactive behind the scenes but whose efforts often don't receive public recognition)..... **Neil Clarke**
ANOTHER NEW AWARD

Another new award, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Translation Award <www.sfftawards.org>, was announced during World Fantasy Con. The first set of awards will be for works published in calendar year 2010 and will be presented at the Eaton Conference in the spring of 2011.

The SFFTs will be for “works of speculative fiction translated *into* English from other languages.” The organizers believe that this will be the first continuing awards for such works, though many awards exist for works translated from English to other languages. The awards will be in two categories—long form (40,000 words and above) and short form.

BACK TO THE GRAVEYARD

Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book* has scored yet another award from outside the “mainstream” sf awards. The Elizabeth Burr/Worzalla Award <www.wla.lib.wi.us/yss/BookAward/burrworzallahome.htm> is presented by the Wisconsin Library Association for distinguished achievement in children's literature.

WSFA SMALL PRESS AWARD

The Washington Science Fiction Association has announced the winner of their 2009 WSFA Small Press Award for Short Fiction <wsfasmallpressaward.org>. Eligibility requirements include a length of 17,500 words or less and first English in the previous calendar year. The winner is **Greg Siewert** for “**The Absence of Stars: Part 1**,” published in *Orson Scott Card's Intergalactic Medicine Show* (Edmund R. Schubert, ed., Hatrack Publishing).

A Stroll In The Dark...

No Need for a Ring—Chapter 28
 by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This chapter begins the third part of the NNFAR trilogy—*The Thing Goes South*—and is thus numbered as Chapter 1 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

The dragon waits alone in the deeper darkness of the underground... increasing the glow of her body as her eyes adjust to the dimness. She turns and begins climbing the stairway. One hundred steps later, she reaches the top and pauses at the landing. She coughs and expels the smaller orb and considers it. The light of the rising moon allows her to watch the action outside the doors she just closed behind her. The Brown Wizard and the elf are apparently talking, though the Palantír does not transmit sound. The wizard is seen to pause; and then he places his hands close in front of his mouth. After a moment, the elf

follows suit. Another elf, Rúmil, approaches and embraces his brother. The three seem to be sharing a lot of recent news. Rúmil leads the others to the tethered steeds. They all rearrange the packs and mount. Back they all ride at speed northward in the direction of Rivendell.

After re-swallowing the stone, the dragon sets off at an easy pace down the passageway that Gandalf trod a little over a century before. The wizard's memory imprint helps guide the new intruder... who watches and sniffs and listens continually. This area of the realm was most likely uninhabited, but still there was no need to go carelessly.

Eventually, the forking passages are reached. The dragon pauses and turns aside into the guard room and considers the well. There is no sound therefrom, nor any careless Took at hand to drop in a pebble. The dragon regurgitates the stone and gazes within... back... back and back. Centuries drop away until lights are seen. The Dwarves are active in this area at this era. PED observes their goings and works; especially in and through the three main passageways. She follows working parties back and forth for some time, planning some of her next moves.

Giving up the threads of the ancient past for now, she returns to the present and pauses, thirsty. She considers the well. It is too small for her present size, and there was no point expending energy to become smaller. She therefore bends over the gap and lets fall a single drop of liquid from her mouth. After several seconds there is a tiny plink below, but no other sound.

“Come up” she speaks; with Power.

There is now an answering gurgle from below. After several minutes the water level reaches the top and begins to run over and out away.

She takes a long drink. Then, rubbing her head against the wall, she merges somewhat with the essence of this mountain: Cloudyhead. In a manner more akin to negotiation than command, the mountain accepts some of her power and seals off all outer openings. Nothing can enter or leave without her desire.

Taking up the stone once more, she moves out and follows the left-hand passageway. Down and down toward the coal mines in the Deeps under Cloudyhead (Fanuidhol the Grey). Keeping her mouth and nostrils sealed as before, she pauses only to summon up more waters from the deep places. Clearing areas of fallen stone, she makes sure that as many passages as possible will be available to permit entry of flowing waters into the coal seams and the concurrent exit of the “bad airs” toward the upper world. There they will become very useful to her.

There were no fossil imprints in the coal here, either.

The waters are already pooling in the coal beds when she returns back to the guard chamber and the three branching passages. Water flows out of the chamber from the deep well there, running down toward the coal mines. Turning aside, she follows the narrow, middle passage. This one twists and turns among various different kinds of rocks. Here and there a tiny crystalline chip reflects back some of her glow. Many side passages are too narrow for her to navigate naturally. All bear signs of transport of various gem-bearing ores, but no big, or even tiny, gemstones are left sticking out of the walls of the wider tunnels.

Returning to the “crossroads,” PED now takes the right path. The waters behind her are ankle-deep and rising, though still mainly running down to the left. Plodding steadily along, PED eventually reaches the wider chambers traversed by the Nine Walkers. Dim light slants down from the high windows. The dragon retreats back into the tunnel and settles down to rest a while. Her eyes never completely close. There are faint scents of goblin presence, somewhere ahead.

Day in the upper world gives way to night. A few hours later, PED hears her *name* spoken not terribly far away; ahead. It seems the goblin messengers in the Misty Mountains have finally made it south and around the Redhorn Gate, as the dangerous pass is called, to the East Gate of Moria. Rested, she spends some time communing with this mountain, Silvertine, and sealing it like Cloudyhead before.

Now, having observed the movements of the long-ago Dwarves when this place was plentifully populated, before the release of the Balrog, the dragon makes her way through side passageways until she reaches the great chasm and its broken bridge. Without even a pause, she goes over the edge and heads straight down!

Finally reaching the deep lake, she plunges in and starts swimming around; concentrating on that little ring on her claw. Accidents do happen, and treasures can slip. The Dwarves seem to have been extremely careful of their Mithril, only a few scattered chunks of ore are located here. They are immediately swallowed by the dragon to begin processing. There are plenty of other things that her passage over the muddy bottom reveal. Being useless to her, she leaves them in place. All, that is, except for two halves of a broken wooden staff. A staff that retains some very faint trace of magic. Now, the only tugs from the ring are a general attraction toward the Northeast. That would be from the Mithril lodes under Redhorn.

Finished with the deep lake, PED invokes the *command* once more, and the waters start rising from beneath, and from streams and freshets that start running down the walls. PED rests now on the bosom of the rising waters. They will return her to the upper levels in good time. Gluing the staff fragments to her horns, she begins growing a new set of scales. Rolling onto her back; she begins raising and lowering her wings against the combined resistance of water and gravity. A period of sustained exercise is indicated, to stretch and strengthen the flight muscles in their new, larger configuration. The day will come when she returns to the skies! Then she must learn the patterns necessary for flight with her new body. Meanwhile, the rising waters lift her ever upward through the darkness of Moria.

[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?)]

Letters of Comment

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

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

18 October 2009

Greetings from Toronto, and as zines come in to accumulate, or I go and get them, as the case may be, they may not be there at the appointed time. I have the August *Shuttle* and the September *Shuttle*, and the October issue may not be that far away. I'll start with what I have, and then check to see if the October issue is available.

August... I keep hearing about the *SFC Handbook*, and I think I might like to get a copy. I think I'll wait for the new edition to come out, but I would like to read up, and add it to my fannish reference shelf.

Eric Flint will be our GoH at Ad Astra 2010 this coming April, just in time for *Baen's Universe* to cease e-publication. I hope Eric will bring with him the best memories of this website, and of Jim Baen himself. World Fantasy will be in San Jose soon... if Neil Gaiman wins this one, too, he must wonder if he has the Midas touch, that everything he types up turns to award gold. Many were unhappy with the Best Fanzine Hugo win of John Klima's *Electric Velocipede*, but if he has been nominated for the WFC's Special Award (non-Professional), perhaps the WFC nominators know something the Worldcon nominators don't.

Ah, Montréal was such fun. I could repeat what I've written for other zines, but to summarize... we gave out a Hugo, I came within one nomination of being on the ballot, we attended the Aurora banquet as a nominee (didn't win, but hey), and the fanzine lounge was a great place to be. We partied like mad, and had ourselves a time. We are going to try to go to Reno for the 2011 Worldcon, but how much we can save for it will determine a lot. I am hopeful that bids will rise up for 2015 and 2016, but I must wonder if those days of three or four bids for a particular year are over.

To the best of my knowledge the Palais de Congres was charging megabucks for WiFi access, and at the last minute, dropped all charges. Many of us wish we'd known they were going to do this. I don't know about other venues, like the Delta... there were pre-con discussions about access, and everything was carefully decided and re-checked, given that many on the committee could use that access, too. The Delta may not have been ready for the surging herds of party-frenzied fans. As always, fans criticize the convention for dealers when if the dealers had looked into it, the convention had made it as painless as possible to import their goods. They could have reduced their hassle, and increased the selection.

I had heard about Ben Indick being inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame, and it is a shame that he has recently passed away. At least he received this award before passing, and got to enjoy it award, if only for a short time.

It's been a long time since I've done any masquerade work, but I can happily say that I know about half of the prize-winners at the masquerade. I did not go to the masquerade, but I heard much about it, especially from our local costumers, who we are starting to meet with again after our long absence.

September... More Worldcon. Fine with me, Anticipation was one of my favourite Worldcons to date. We now have supporting memberships to Aussiecon 4, so at least we can vote and participate that way.

Anticipation... we stayed at the Embassy Suites Hotel right beside the Palais de Congres, so we were always a short walk away from the con. I am sure the staff at the Delta doubted your familial heritage as you gave them your best fake French accents, but as Yvonne is fluent in French, her first language, I got to bring my translator along. Con suite was good, but because we were busy, and the Delta was a walk away, we only got into it once. The parties were amazing, especially the British/Irish party, and man, that convention centre was a walk.

Hello to Sheryl... if we ever get all we want out of the Hugos, it will be time for the Apocalypse. The fanzine lounge was small but fun, and we had it all... lots of people, a comfy couch to snooze on, and we even had a manual typer and a Gestetner.

Good to see photographs here. I might need to go and buy myself a copy of the October *Locus* to get more photos.

Well, that's the August and September issues responded to... like I said at the top, I am sure the October issue is a short time away. I will send this off to you, Mike, and will respond to

October as soon as I am able to fetch it. Take care, see you soon.

[The contents of the current *SFC Handbook* are available online at <www.smithuel.net/sfchb>, with minor updates for some bits of the info ongoing (e.g., basic info about sitting and past DeepSouthCons). Nonetheless, if one wants long-term access to the info I'd recommend a physical copy of the *Handbook*—at least if you have a good filing system where you can lay your hands on specific printed material. I don't know that this version will remain online indefinitely after the new *Handbook* is finished. OTOH, in my estimation that update will take a couple more years to come to fruition. I do think something like a wiki would be a better way than a printed book to keep the actual material available and at least semi-up-to-date. (One can restrict who edits a wiki, but even if everyone can muck around in it one of the good things about wikis is that they can be set up to archive an essentially infinite number of past versions. Yes, finding info in those past versions is too hard, but at least a version doesn't get overwritten for all time.) -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead 25 September–18 October 2009
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

Man, you keep your readers hopping if they want to stay up to date on their end of things and get responses back to you.

I have a nice crisp \$100 bill sitting in a desk drawer along with the last passport and a filled out application. Until I think I am actually going to be able to use it, I keep that money handy as a possible last-ditch emergency fund. Every time I think I just *might* be able to take a trip, another emergency crops up and that is the end of that.

October 18—Argh, can't find the *Shuttle* and a new one just arrived—I had hoped... well if I still can't find it, I will just jump to the new ish... (sorry). Two hours later—*found it*. Now back to the regularly scheduled program already in progress...

Hmm, so the bank closed. Um, er, I never had much money in a retirement fund, but I trusted (first mistake) the stockbroker to put it in safe—or at least relatively safe—stocks. Well, when Lehman went toes up I asked him what that meant. I could hear the puzzlement in his voice—what do you mean? It's gone. Yup, gone. As far as I can figure it I cannot even take it as a loss since it was in retirement (an IRA) and was not sold. Double whammy.

Nice Worldcon report by Gary Shelton—although I did have to think a bit about a birthday cake (Taral's) that lasted for days. It seems that elevator problems continue! They must, by now, be a fannish tradition.

Thanks for the pics—I still have no real feel for what that Hugo looks like—it sounds as if the defining difference comes from the blast pit, which (of course) can't be seen.

I'll try to remember—Vulpecula.

Now into October's ish—thought there would be a follow-up about the banking situation. We are all staying tuned for any breaking news...

Congratulations to John Varley and Joe Haldeman for the Robert A. Heinlein Award. Just read that Joe has been moved to a rehab facility from the hospital and news from Gay is positive.

Somehow I have fallen off both the TAFF and DUFF lists and (as you know) I am not sure what is happening online. So, seeing the TAFF information and DUFF nomination informa-

tion was nice. Now, I just need to remember to vote. Up until the last year or so, I always voted—gotta get back into the habit...

Thanks for the thish(es)!

[Bank collapses *can* be chaotic, but in this particular case the system worked fine. As I understand it there was essentially no interruption of service as the new owner took over. (Too, NASFA was never in any danger of having more money in a bank than would be covered by FDIC insurance.) On a smaller scale (than Worldcon's never-ending birthday cake) this year's Con†Stellation saw its own miracle of the ~~leaves and fishes~~ cake. One of the parties was an anniversary party that featured the biggest red velvet cake I've ever seen. People were taking largish slices and not making a dent. After the party, the cake made its way to the con suite where people were taking even larger slices and still not making a very big dent. Even after the dead dog party, the better part of half the cake was left. After the con, we were pushing as much of it as we could on the hotel staff. (I love red velvet cake but had more than enough of it by that Monday.) I've been keeping up with Joe Haldeman's saga online and was happy to see he was on the mend (though he, himself, cautions he has a lot of healing to do and invasive procedures yet to come). -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney 14 November 2009
<penneys@allstream.net>
1706-24 Eva Road
Etobicoke ON
Canada M9C 2B2

Thanks for sending me a .pdf of the October *Shuttle*. Good to see it's on the website now. In the meantime, I will get a quick loc together so you can stick it at the end of the November *Shuttle*, to be ready real soon now.

Now that my conventions are done for the year, too (we spent the first weekend of November in Rochester, New York for Astronomicon 11—had a great time there), we must take care of other important fannish stuff like buying our Reno memberships, and voting for TAFF. Must get it done now, everyone! (CUFF nominations just opened for the 2010 CUFF trip from Eastern Canada to the CanVention, which will be in Winnipeg. Yvonne suggested that we run again... hmmmm...)

The Sunburst Awards committee does a fairly poor job of letting its readers know about the winners... I didn't know about who won until I read it in another US fanzine. (I know three of the judges... don't assume fandom doesn't care, folks.) It's still awards season, so keep notice of the hardware wars coming. (If you got the reference, you're as old as I.)

The locol... Hi, Sheryl! Nope, didn't win the Aurora in Montréal, but boy did we have a good time hobnobbing with the Canadian pro hoi polloi. Handing out a Hugo is a real highlight of my fannish career.

Anyway, must head off to dinner... time to go and freshen up for a meal with friends. Take care, send me that November *Shuttle*, and I'll get on that, too.

[As those on the NASFA email list know, the late appearance of the October *Shuttle* on the club website was my fault—I failed to send it to the webmaster until Lloyd prompted me. Sigh. I'll try to do better with this issue. Awards season, Lloyd? It seems like it's *always* awards season. Even the

Oscars are getting ramped up; earlier than ever. Some three months before the glitzy, televised event for which the Academy is best known, the first little gold men of the 2009 Academy Awards have been awarded. The Governors Awards, (aka Honorary Academy Awards) that in the past have been given out during the televised ceremony, were given Saturday 14 November to actress Lauren Bacall, producer Roger Corman, and cinematographer Gordon Willis, (I figure mentioning Corman makes this comment final enough, given that a fair

amount of his oeuvre is genre.) -ED]

WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF

We also heard from Mike Stone who sends this comment to PieEyedDragon: "PED would like this YouTube video. DragonForce recorded the song "Heart of a Dragon." The video clips are from (where else?) *Dragonheart*. <www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGHRFGolBps>"



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 2009 edition (Volume 29, Number 11). NASFA Officers for 2009: 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.

Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by email to: 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, © 2009. 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 = \$25/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$15/year Single copy = \$2 each.
