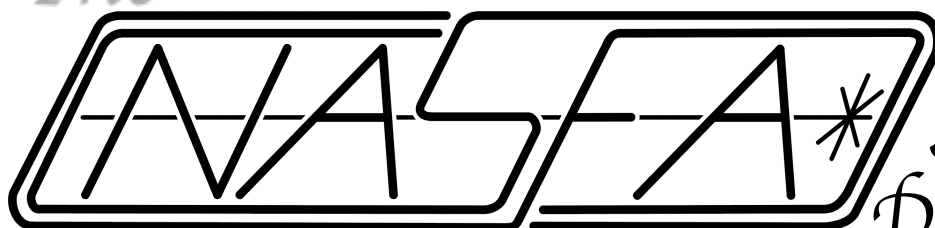


The



Shuttle  
December 2009

# The Next NASFA Meeting is 19 December 2009 at the Regular Time and Location

## ▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next **NASFA Meeting** is Saturday **19 December 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 AND ATMM

The December program will be a random gift swap—if you wish to participate bring an inexpensive gift (some people bring more than one). The After-The-Meeting Meeting will be a Christmas Party at the meeting room. The *ad hoc* cabal that arranged this combo will take care of decorations, but everyone should bring food and drink to share at the party. The gift exchange and the party may or may not be combined (ask Sue ;-)

### NEW YEAR'S EVE AND FUTURE ATMMs

There will be a NASFA New Year's Eve party at Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka's house—211 Evalyn Street in Madison. Bring your fave drink and a food item share. Stay tuned to email and the grapevine for any further details.

We need ATMM volunteers all months in 2010.

### CONCOM MEETINGS

Con†Stellation XXVIII is well past, so concom meetings have been on hiatus for a while. Next year's chairs, Mary and Doug Lampert, have announced that Con†Stellation XXIX concom meetings will probably start in early 2010. Stay tuned to the abovementioned grapevine 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.

## News and Info

### JOE HALDEMAN HEADS HOME

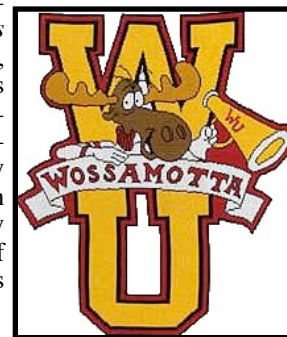
The health woes of Joe Haldeman (Con†Stellation II GoH) aren't over but things are looking up. We noted in the last issue that he had been released from the hospital. On 4 December he announced he'd been cleared for travel and he (and wife, Gay) would be flying home on 9 December—almost a month after his release from the hospital.

Haldeman's announcement also included the somewhat-cautionary note: "Still a couple of surgeries to go, but at least I'll be able to recuperate in the sunshine. And I'll recover much faster, surrounded by my telescopes and art stuff."

### MOOSE AND SQUIRREL TURN 50

Jay Ward's creations Rocket J. Squirrel and Bullwinkle J. Moose debuted on TV 19 November 1959 in *Rocky and His Friends*. The voices of Rocky, Bullwinkle, and many of Ward's other madcap miscellany (including Boris Badenov, Natasha Fatale, Fearless Leader, Mr. Peabody and his boy Sherman, and even the narrator of *Fractured Fairy Tales*) still echo in the memory of those of us whose formative years overlapped the shows.

Happy Quinquenary!



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**Deadline for the January issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 1 January 2010**

## WHAT DO THE HUGO CHANGES MEAN?

Some people have expressed confusion on whether and other websites are eligible in the Best Related Work, Best Fanzine, and Best Semiprozine categories given the recent changes in the Hugo rules. In something of a break with tradition Vincent Docherty, the administrator for the upcoming Hugo Awards, has spoken up on the matter at *File 770* <file770.com/?p=2383>. (Administrators are normally mute on questions of eligibility of specific items, preferring to leave it to *vox populi* in the nomination phase. However, since such questions normally pertain to individual works rather than a whole class, tradition hasn't quite been broken.)

The Short Answer? Quoting from the article:

"In summary, unless I feel very certain a work is technically ineligible, (which includes having only a trivial amount of new material [in the year of nomination]), I will accept the will of the nominators. It is therefore up to the electorate to act as the jury on the facts and answer the question: 'Is this work a [F]anzine (or [S]emiprozine or Related Work) or not?'"



## November Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The November meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, November 21, 2009 in the Renasant Bank meeting room at 6:22:35P by President Mary Ortwerth. The crickets were barely alive.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

NASFA officer nominations were reopened.

Bill Savage's recent resignation as Publicity Director was discussed. Sam read Bill's resignation email aloud, and read a list of the tasks Bill performed for NASFA. Perhaps the tasks could be spread over multiple people. There was a digression on exactly what Twitter is and its uses.

Nominations began in earnest. Anita nominated Ali for Publicity Director. Mike C. nominated Peggy for Publicity Director. Doug nominated Mike K. for Vice President. Anita nominated Mary for President. Anita nominated Steve for Secretary, for "whatever he's doing." Mike C. nominated Wyman for Programming Director. Randy nominated Gary Shelton for Programming.

Mike C. moved that we close nominations. Mia seconded, and the motion carried.

Nominations for 2011 con chair were discussed. Anita is currently the only nominee. Doug nominated Randy for 2011 con chair, but he refused. Sam moved to close 2011 con chair nominations. The vote carried, with only Doug opposed.

Sam had "a wad of crap" to read. We got a thank you card from Mullins for renting the stage. We also got a thank you card from the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

Sam read various spammish emails. <Alltern8.com> is hiring writers and bloggers to provide content related to gaming, Ren Faires, comics, cosplay, memorabilia, and indie music and film. Gary Caplan wants to promote his science fiction novel, *The Phoenix Rising*, by giving away *Star Trek* Hallmark ornaments, and wants to help promote other people's electronic products.

### CON BUSINESS

Doug will send out emails for Con†Stellation 2010 soon.

There will be no Masquerade next year, because things work better without one. As an alternative, Adam might be interested in running a hall costume contest. Jack also might be interested in helping out.

According to Sam, last year's convention lost only \$63.92 this year.

We need at least one gaming dealer, because Steve Jackson will be Master of Ceremonies next year.

Sam moved to adjourn again at 6:50:36P.

For the program, Mike Kennedy showed video shorts from the internet in his *Short Attention Span Theater*. My personal favorite involved a young man singing John Williams songs using *Star Wars*-themed lyrics, in four-part *a cappella* with himself. Mike Kennedy hosted the After-The-Meeting Meeting at his house.

## NASFA Calendar

### DECEMBER

- 04-06 CatchupCon—Atlanta GA.
- 04-06 Kajonk-A-Con—Knoxville TN.
- 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.
- 16 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Stolen Child*, Keith Donohue, 6P. **Note date change.**
- 17 BD: Robin Ray.
- 18 Islamic New Year.
- 19\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: Random Gift Exchange. ATMM: Christmas Party at the bank. (Bring food and drink, y'all!)
- 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 Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci'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.
- 22-24 Siege Of Augusta—Augusta GA.
- 28-31 Game Fest 15—Atlanta GA.
- 29-31 Creation Twi/Tour—Nashville TN.



hand and foot; and gagged.

A scout approaches the edge, peeps over, and hastily withdraws; nodding. A taller Goblin approaches the chasm. His limbs are almost steady. He draws breath and shouts out: "Dragon! Dragon! Do you hear me? Are you the *one* we were told of, the new dragon who came to this land at Midwinter?"

Dragon: (Rumbling in the common speech that the goblin used) *Yes! And yes, again!*

Dragon: *I see all the world in a shadow of horror! And so, that is my name: Palantíri Eä Daedeloth!*

(The dragon emits a long, trumpeting, brassy call that echoes off the cavern walls. **\*\*trumpeting sound\*\***)

(PED then calls up the trapped memories of Smaug for the return question:) **\*\*Who are you?\***

— O — O — O —

Goblin: I am Gronakh! I am the Chief of Moria's Orcs!

PED: Did you come here *after* the fall of Sauron, or were you hiding here when the Red Eye needed you?

Gronakh: We served the Dark Lord, and retreated here after his fall. If you come from the *greater* Dark Lord, we shall serve you!

PED: Do you *dare to doubt me? Serve me you shall! To seal the deal, we shall share a meal! What meat have you brought?*

Gronakh: I bring my unworthy servant who dropped a stone on your nose.

PED: *It is well. Set him forth!*

(There is a noise of gouging, falling rocks, and hissing. Then the dragon's head and neck appear, followed by the rest. The goblins draw back. This monster is much, *much* larger than they had been told! The dragon stares down at the terrified prisoner. Their eyes lock. The bound figure emits a series of muffled shrieks that decline to nothing as he goes limp. All of Fiafror's memories had been ripped away.)

(The dragon turns slightly away and says, now in the tongue of the Orcs of Mordor:) I have devoured his spirit. You can have the flesh!

(Other goblins nervously drag the body away.)

Gronakh: Err, ah...

PED: Try again! I told you my name. If it is too hard for you, then call me "PED."

Gronakh: Yes! O PED. We have lately been having troubles with too much water here. We have had to move up out of the deeps. Can you do something about all this water?

PED: Perhaps. I will investigate the matter. Meanwhile, lead me to the treasuries.

Gronakh: Yes, but they have long been under water. We have had little success in retrieving anything worthwhile from them.

PED: Lead on. Water is no bar to me!

— O — O — O —

The deep water, that had for ages protected the Dwarven treasuries, is finally overcome. Within seven days, PED finds and consumes more than enough Mithril to make her next set of scales all but impenetrable! PED next descends into the Mithril mines under Redhorn—named partly for the iron-bearing minerals in the outer faces. Communicating with this mountain from its roots, she seals it like Cloudyhead and Silvertine. The Mountains of Moria are now closed!

— O — O — O —

Gronakh: PED! O PED!

PED: (Knowing the trouble, she starts exhaling quantities of colorless, odorless, Carbon Monoxide.) What?

Gronakh: The waters are still rising! We cannot get out! The East Gate is wide open. We can see out, but we cannot cross through! **\*cough\***

PED: For protection, I have sealed the mountains so that

none may cross the boundaries without my leave.

Gronakh: **\*Cough\*** But, the waters! We shall be drowned!

PED: Not I.

Gronakh: **\*Cough\*** But I asked you to do something about the waters! **\*cough\***

PED: I have! They are rising quite nicely.

Gronakh: **\*Cough\*** We wanted them to go *down!* **\*cough\***

PED: You did not specify that. So, I kept the waters rising.

Gronakh: **\*Cough, cough\*** Make it go down, then! **\*cough, cough\***

PED: That will take some time. But, very well.

(The Chief's henchmen now are coughing, too. Some appear to have severe headaches and muscle weakness.)

Gronakh: What **\*cough\*** are you **\*cough\*** doing! **\*cough\***

PED: (As the Chief's knees begin to give way) I am clearing rats, and other vermin, out of my nest.

(The Chief's reply is lost in a fit of coughing as he collapses, losing consciousness... shortly followed by all nearby goblins.)

PED: I am hungry, again. I shall save you the trouble of drowning.

The dragon starts eating some of the goblins; and then goes to and fro in the habitable areas still above water. She continues to exhale the deadly gas until the only other sounds in the Dwarven realm are made by water. Now that all of the deeps are full, the water levels rise more rapidly in the more constricted upper areas. PED goes and opens certain doors in passages that lead toward the coal mines, clearing rockfalls as necessary so as to have an unimpeded flow of gasses and water.

Back toward the eastern areas, she moves through tunnels and chambers until she comes to a mid-sized chamber with two other open doorways. She pauses between them and presses against the wall in two spots. With an ancient, grinding sound, a section of wall pivots open to reveal a stairway. The stairway spirals both down and up. PED had seen this fabled place in use, ages before, within the palantiri. Leaving the door ajar, PED begins ascending the Endless Stair!

[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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28 November 2009

Time finally allows, so here's some comments on the November *Shuttle*. The reason I say that is I have daytime work again, this time as a production assistant in the Professional Development and Competence department of the Law Society of Upper Canada. This is a great job with great pay; it's only a six-month contract, but I hope I get to stay longer.

I've been following Joe Haldeman's health news on Facebook. It's amazing that so much wrong can happen in such a short time, but Joe is recovering well, and might be home for Christmas. I'm hoping for Joe and Gay that life will resume its relative normalcy soon.

I've been reading the Shane Senter saga on <File770.com>, and I've seen this story many times now. There's always some-

one who wants to take a small convention and turn it into a huge multi-media extravaganza with absolutely no idea how to do it. Sometimes, it's someone who starts from scratch. They can't figure out that large conventions do not spring up overnight, and that to get to the size they are, they started small, and took many years to grow into the businesses they are. Even the San Diego Comicon started as a small convention. (You saw something I passed along to Mike Glycer... Ken Krueger, one of Comicon's founders, passed away about a week ago now. Ken was living around Buffalo at the time, and over the past couple of years, I was on panels with Ken at Eeriecon, the Buffalo area's local SF/dark fantasy convention.)

I didn't know that World Fantasy will be in Columbus, Ohio next year. We've driven to Columbus for a Smofcon many years ago, so I expect there will be a Toronto contingent there. I have heard the idea of a Toronto WFC through the grapevine here and there, but I doubt anything will ever come of it.

Greetings to PieEyed... it's fun to read something based in a very familiar and well-loved universe like Middle-Earth. We will always ask, "And then what happened?", so being able to see what happens a century after Gandalf, and then be able to look back through that century and more to see dwarves working... didn't know you could time travel at will, or at least look through time that way. For even such a powerful dragon, recovery time is long and slow, but it will happen. Just like that nice Mr. Haldeman, hmm?

My letter... there are times where I wonder about the future of Worldcons, seeing there's so little competition for them now.

Looks like Worldcon will be in Chicago in 2012 and in San Antonio in 2013, and their votes are a long time off. My only little kvetch about the fanzine lounge was a lack of communication between the section head and me, and the fact I couldn't serve any refreshments. But it's done, and a good time was had, and that's all that really matters.

I am done, and so's my bit of free time. Time management is a lifesaver; if I didn't track my time, I'd get nothing done. It is that time of year (already, the local radio stations are playing nothing but Christmas music), so Yvonne and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, and we shall soon be in that SFnal year 2010. See you all next year.

[Congrats on the position, Lloyd... and may it last just as long as you want it to. I've been following Joe's (and Gay's) saga too, and it does look like they've gone home. On 4 December Joe announced that he'd been cleared by the surgeon to travel and plans were afoot at that time for them to fly home to Gainesville on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Presumably that means they're home as I type this (I'll investigate more later). You're right that the story surrounding Shane Senter is not, at its heart, a new one. It is, however, a *particularly* spectacular version of this failure. (And not just his failure. At least some of the celebrities and want-to-be attendees who bought in to his hype should have known better. I despair of people learning from this failure since they don't appear to have learned from past similar ones.) Thanks for the holiday wishes—and right back at you! -ED]



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