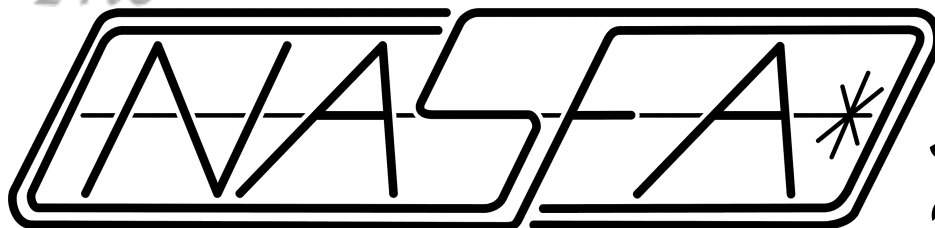


The



Shuttle

January 2012

The Next NASFA Meeting is 14 January 2012 at the Regular Time and Location

Con†Stellation XXX ConCom Meeting 3P, 14 January

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be Saturday **14 January 2012** at the **regular time (6P)** and the **regular location**. Please **note that this is one week earlier than usual**—on the 2nd Saturday rather than the 3rd Saturday.

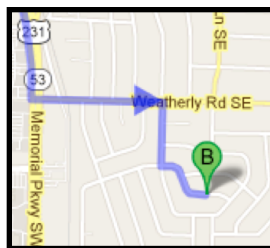
Meetings are at the Rensasant Bank's Community Room, 4245 Balmoral Drive in south Huntsville. Exit the Parkway at Airport Road; head east one short block to the light at Balmoral Drive; turn left (north) for less than a block. The bank is on the right, just past Logan's Roadhouse restaurant. Enter at the front door of the bank; turn right to the end of a short hallway.

JANUARY PROGRAM

The January program will be "Things to Come," a panel on coming sf/f/h-related conventions in the Huntsville area.

JANUARY ATMM

The January After-the-Meeting Meeting will be at Dave Watson's house—417 Curtis Drive in south Huntsville. From the bank, head south on Memorial Parkway for about 3 miles to the Weatherly/Whitesburg exit. Continue south on the access road past the light at Whitesburg then turn left (east) on Weatherly. Go about 5–6 streets and turn right (south) on Louis Drive. (Dave says "You won't see the sign until you are almost on



Get the Shuttle via Electrons

by Mike Kennedy, Editor

With an increase in postage rates (tentatively) scheduled for early 2012, the time is better than ever to start getting the *Shuttle* in PDF form. All you need to do is notify us by emailing <nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org>.

top of it.") Turn left (east) on Curtis Drive (it's the 3rd left). Follow Curtis about 0.2 miles as it curves right, then left. Dave's house will be on the left. (Dave says "It's the one where the mailbox is tied to the pole.") The usual rules apply—that is, please bring food and drink to share.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The first Con†Stellation XXXI concom meeting will be on Saturday 14 January 2012—the same day as the club meeting—at 3P. The plan is to have a dinner break between the concom and the NASFA meeting. The first order of business for this meeting will be the selection of department heads. Also on the agenda will be discussing ways to close the persistent gap between revenues and expenses.

Future concom meetings may or may not be on club meeting Saturdays, though the sentiment (of everyone but the chair) seems to be leaning in that direction.

EARLIER SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The deadline for the *NASFA Shuttle* is earlier than the past,

Beginning Our 32nd Year of Publication

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Deadline for the February 2012 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 30 January 2012

due to an altered production schedule *and* we will need to more strictly enforce the deadline than in the past. Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents each month to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material.

In related news, your editor would like to apologize for the late appearance of this month's issue despite folks cooperating with the requested deadline.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

Future programs include:

- February: "Short Attention Span Theater," a collection of sf/f/h short videos from around the web, presented by Mike Kennedy.
- March: David Reimer of 2StoryProps <2storyprops@gmail.com> will present completed props and costumes, as well as an in-progress replica Dalek.

We need volunteers for ATMMs for all future months.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

Other than January, all 2012 meetings are currently scheduled for the usual 3rd Saturday.

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. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

News & Info

HUNTSVILLE FIRM PLANS PRIVATE SPACEFLIGHT

A new Huntsville AL company, fronted by Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen and aerospace pioneer Burt Rutan, is planning a new space launch system. Stratolaunch <www.stratolaunch.com> is something of a virtual company—they are farming out all the work to already-existing companies. That includes the design and production of each component of the system (the booster and a large purpose-designed airplane from which the booster will be launched) as well as the system integration. Tests are expected to occur in the 2015–16 timeframe.

HUGO NOMINATIONS OPEN

Chicon 7<www.chicon.org>—the upcoming (and 70th) Worldcon, has opened the nominations period for the Hugo (and Campbell) Awards. All ballots must be received by 11 March 2012, 23:59 PDT. There is a modest amount of controversy regarding this deadline. It may be a bit earlier than usual, but the "big deal" is that some early emails from Chicon identified a later (but now disavowed) deadline.

You're eligible to nominate if you are/were a member (Supporting or Attending) of last year's (Renovation), this year's (Chicon 7), or next year's (LoneStarCon 3) Worldcons. For the latter 2 cons, you must hold membership status by 31 January to nominate. You can submit only one nominating ballot regardless of how many memberships you hold/held in those cons.

More info about the Hugo Awards and how to submit a nominating ballot, is available at www.chicon.org/hugo-awards.php. Nominations may be submitted by postal mail or online. The final ballot resulting from this nomination round will be announced 7 April 2012, at several conventions being held over the Easter weekend.

Chicon 7 will be held 30 August–3 September 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in Chicago IL.

TAFF ANNOUNCES WINNER

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund has announced that Jacqueline Monahan won the 2011/12 vote and will be traveling to Eastercon (the UK natcon)—this being a west-to-east year.

At press time no vote totals have been announced though it is said to have been an extremely close race. Warren Buff and Kim G. Kofmel were also on the ballot.

HUGO BASE DESIGN CONTEST EXTENDED

Chicon 7 has extended its deadline to enter their Hugo base design competition but you'd better hurry. You must submit an initial drawing, sketch, and/or fabricated sample by 15 January 2012. Entrants will need to arrange for fabrication of the full set of up to 30 bases if selected, with a target price of no more than \$150 per individual base. All bases will need to be delivered no later than 30 June 2012. More info about the competition can be found at www.chicon.org/hugo-base.php.

CHICON HOTEL RESERVATIONS OPEN SOON

Reservations for the Chicon 7 hotel (Hyatt Regency Chicago) will be available beginning 16 January 2012. The Hyatt will host all hotel rooms and all con function space. The announced room rate is \$145 plus tax; single-quad occupancy. That rate will be good for the official convention dates and 3 days before and after. Suites must be reserved through the committee. Suite rates vary from \$200 to \$850 (plus tax, of course) per night.

NEW SF/F PUB ANNOUNCED

Science fact mag *New Scientist*, is expecting a new baby to drop in February 2012. *Arc* <www.newscientist.com/arc> will be a digital publication for "cutting-edge science fiction and forward-looking essays by some of the world's most celebrated

RIP Rusty Hevelin

by Mike Kennedy

James "Rusty" Hevelin, age 89, died 27 December 2011. In addition to his actual family, Rusty is survived by innumerable fans and pros who loved him. His loss will be particularly felt in the community of pulp magazine collectors.

I probably first met Rusty when he was a dealer (or, as they were generally known at the time, huckster) at a number of early Con†Stellations... though I may have run into him earlier at one the double handful of cons I attended before we launched our effort here in Huntsville. Rusty stepped in (with no prior notice) for Frank Kelly Freas and acted as MC at Con†Stellation II when Kelly couldn't make it due to, as I recall, doctor's orders following dental surgery. That really saved out bacon. We later had Rusty as Fan GoH at Con†Stellation V in 1986. I hope that wasn't too much of a letdown from his FGoH gig earlier that decade—at Denvention 2, the 1981 Worldcon.

Rusty and I last crossed paths at the 2010 NASFiC (ReConStruction in Raleigh NC). He was physically slower than I remembered, but still as sharp as ever. I had been sending him the *Shuttle* all those years since his appearances at Con†Stellation and he made a remark of appreciation for that.

Gay Haldeman, who was shepherding both Rusty and her husband Joe at ReConStruction, helped watch over Rusty in his final days under hospice care. Rusty, though, outfoxed her by holding on to life until shortly after she left for the evening. He was a kind soul; perhaps he simply didn't feel he could burden her by dying while she was there. Somehow, that seems just like him.

authors—backed up with columns by thinkers and practitioners from the worlds of books, design, gaming, film and more.”

ANOTHER NEW SF/F PUB ANNOUNCED

James Gunn’s Ad Astra <adastra.ku.edu>—an existing online resource site for authors and scholars—has a new sibling of the same name. Submissions of short fiction, poetry, scholarly articles, and reviews has gone out for the first issue of *Ad Astra*—to be denoted the Summer 2012 issue—will be accepted through 31 March 2012. Isaac Bell will edit the issue; the announced theme is “Communication and Information.”

Ad Astra (the website and their spinoff zine) is associated with Kansas University’s Center for the Study of Science Fiction.

YEP, ANOTHER ONE

Paint, Pen, and Pixel will be a digital publication of editors Christopher J. Garcia and Steven H Silver to showcase work by fan artists. The editors ask for “a piece of original, unpublished artwork... along with contact information we can run in the ’zine so other faneds can get a flavor for your work and contact you for requests and assignments.”

The deadline for the first issue is 15 February 2012 with a goal to pub the ish on 1 March. For more info contact Chris or Steven at <paintpenpixel@gmail.com>.

WANT TO GIVE AWAY BOOKS?

World Book Night doesn’t cover the whole world, but it does include the US <www.us.worldbooknight.org>. The organization is looking for “50,000 people to go out into their communities on April 23 and give 20 World Book Night editions to people who don’t regularly read to spread the joy and love of reading.” These special editions are available at no cost to the volunteers or recipients.

Sf/f/h and related titles among the 30 chosen for US distro include Octavia Butler’s *Kindred*, Orson Scott Card’s *Ender’s Game*, Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games*, Stephen King’s *The Stand*, and Alice Sebold’s *Lovely Bones*.

OUT OF THIS WORLD S*X

In what some view as further proof that sf/f memes have gone mainstream, a Nye County NV brothel is being remodeled and turned into the Alien Cathouse <tinyurl.com/LGMvsBEMSex>. This will be the 5th brothel owned by Dennis Hof, though the only one known to the *Shuttle* to be so themed. Former “Hollywood Madam” Heidi Fleiss will be in charge of costumes and decor.

WOULD YOU EAT A JEDI BURGER?

French/Belgian burger chain Quick has temporarily added three specialty burgers <tinyurl.com/SWBrgs> to their menu in conjunction with the 3D re-release of *Star Wars: Episode 1*. So, if you’re in France anytime soon you’ll have your choice of a “Dark Burger” (inspired by Darth Maul), a “Jedi Burger” (inspired by Yoda), or a “Dark Vader” (take a guess in the inspiration there). The DV is said to be served on a “jet-black ‘carbonized’ bun.”

BOB’S GUY’S YOUR U.N.C.L.E.

In the latest move in a decades-long saga, Guy Ritchie is the latest director to be “attached” by Warner Bros. to a big-screen version of *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* Producer Lionel Wigram is also said to be part of the package. The previous director, Steven Soderbergh, dropped out last last year over casting and budget issues.

Ritchie’s latest films are *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* and it’s 2009 predecessor.

COMIC HEROES—B**BS AND BU**S

In an odd coincidence, comics superheroes made news twice recently for their body parts. Controversy ensued, at least in one case.

On the high-minded side, an advertising agency in Mozambique created a breast cancer awareness campaign featuring female superheroes performing breast self exams. Reportedly <tinyurl.com/SuperBSE> the ads feature Wonder Woman, Catwoman, Storm, and She-Hulk. Some have criticized the adverts as appealing to male prurient interest. Given how well endowed most superheroines are, such comments may not be *completely* off base.

On the low-minded side, a cheeky bit of fan art <tinyurl.com/AvngrBts> has appeared featuring the best, er, cheeks of the Avengers ensemble. Hulk, Thor, Hawkeye, Iron Man, and Captain America swivel their hips to provide a certain amount of, um, southern exposure. Black Widow, meanwhile, looks on with what may be confusion. It should be noted that this is a remake of the official *The Avengers* movie poster in which only Black Widow turned the other... well, you get the idea. Call the redux a cultural commentary.

December Minutes

by Doug Lampert

The gavel struck the plinth at 18:13:10. This was completely ignored by almost everyone present.

There were crickets.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominations were opened.

Sam nominated Sue for 2013 Con Chair (seconded by Mary despite the fact that she was chairing the meeting); declined.

Anita nominated Mary for 2013 Con Chair (seconded by Judy); accepted. Mike C offered an amendment to add Doug to nomination with Mary (seconded by Mary despite the fact that she was still chairing the meeting). Doug made his usual threat to greatly downsize the con or otherwise change the organization in light of the continuing losses.

Doug nominated Judy and Sue for 2013 Con Chair (seconded by Mary, still ignoring the triviality that she’s chairing the meeting). This was accepted after Judy assured Sue that they would lose.

Nominations were then closed by a vote of 2 in favor, 1 opposed.

The only nomination for any office but Con Chair was the nomination of the usual suspects from two months ago. This slate was passed by many to three.

Voting for 2013 Con Chair was Mary and Doug 10 votes, to Judy and Sue 5 votes.

NEW BUSINESS

Jack Lundy mentioned that on the first Thursday in January the Library book discussion group would discuss the *Hobbit*. This was followed by a number of really bad puns. Defying his usual hobbit Randy did not make any of these puns.

Sam announced that last year’s con has mailed a check for \$1022 to SNAP, and that the check has not yet cleared.

Wyman described a non-dirty Santa gift exchange. A motion to do it as a dirty Santa exchange was ignored by the chair.

Dues are due. Many people paid.

CON BUSINESS

Mike [Kennedy] started a discussion of when the concomes for next year should be, which ended with the first meeting at the Bank on 14 January 2012 at [3]P. Be there or be a department head. [Your editor is not sure if the time was set for 4P as Doug typed, but on reflection the actual concome meeting time will be 3P. -ED]

At about 18:39 the meeting was adjourned.

announced that Rick Hautala and Joe R. Lansdale have been selected to receive 2011 HWA Lifetime Achievement Awards. The awards will be presented at a Stoker Awards <www.stokers2012.org> banquet at this year's World Horror Convention <www.whc2012.org>, to be held 29 March–1 April 2012 at the downtown Radisson Hotel in Salt Lake City UT.

In related news, Karen Lansdale has been announced as winner of the 2011 Richard Laymon President's Award (for service to HWA). This award will also be presented during the Stoker banquet.

WOLFE TO RECEIVE FULLER AWARD

The Chicago Literary Hall of Fame has selected Gene Wolfe as the recipient of their initial Fuller Award (for lifetime achievement in literature). The ceremony on 17 March includes a banquet and a performance of an adaptation of Wolfe's "The Toy Theatre." A number of sf/f/h luminaries are also expected to be present to pay tribute.

Tickets <genewolfesafilippo.eventbrite.com> are \$65 (apparently for the performance only) and \$150 for the entire event (including dinner). (Or, you can save a Benjamin by buying a table for 10 for only \$1400.)

VARIOUS FILM AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Online Film Critics Society announced their 2011 award selections early this year. The only genre films to take a win was *Rango* in the Best Animated Feature category.

The National Society of Film Critics announced winners of their 2011 awards on 7 January 2012. The (at least somewhat unexpected) winner for both Best Picture and Best Actress (Kirsten Dunst) was *Melancholia*.

The Los Angeles Film Critics Association managed a quarter of an award to *X-Men: First Class* when that was one of 4 films cited in selecting Michael Fassbender in their Best Actor category.

PGA NOMS ANNOUNCED

The Producers Guild of America has announced nominees for its 23rd annual TV and film awards. The presentation will be 21 January 2012 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

In the film categories, *Hugo* made the biggest splash with a nod for the Darryl F. Zanuck Award for best film. The Animated film category selected 5 more-or-less genre films—*The Adventures of Tintin*, *Cars 2*, *Kung Fu Panda 2*, *Puss in Boots*, and *Rango*.

On the TV side of the ledger, *Game of Thrones* was nominated in the Episodic Drama category. In the Children's Programs category, 4 arguably-genre shows made the cut: *Dora the Explorer*, *Phineas and Ferb*, *Sesame Street*, and *SpongeBob Squarepants*.

The PGAs have also added a Web Series category. At least one of those—*The Guild*—has strong genre connections.

GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has announced the nominees for the 69th annual Golden Globe Awards. Genre (sf/f/h and related) nominations include:

- Three for *Hugo*—Best Picture, Drama; Director; and Original Score
- Two for *Game of Thrones*—TV Drama Series and Supporting Actor, TV (Peter Dinklage)
- One each for *The Adventures of Tintin*, *Arthur Christmas*, *Cars 2*, *Puss In Boots*, and *Rango*—Animated Feature Film
- One for *American Horror Story*—Supporting Actress, TV (Jessica Lange)
- One for *Gnomeo & Juliet*—Original Song, Film ("Hello Hello," Elton John)

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

9 December 2011

[This "letter" conflates 2 letters sent in the same envelope. -ED]

Ah... 'tis the season—holiday wishes to all.

Gratitude to Mike Meyer—one would hope all of us would be as generous if the same circumstances were ours.

In days when the small bookstore is an endangered species, a store has opened nearby. I really need to show my support and make a trip up there—to a historic small town and a very historic small building. I called to see if they have gift cards—still trying to nurture reading in a young teen. The guy said he had just ordered them and to call back. Someone else is doing the website and there is no way to order such gifts that way. I keep hoping I can get a card to encourage the pursuit of books. I'm also tossing a few 2-minute mystery books I found—thinking this should handle any short attention span.

I don't know if your readership knows (of) Bob Sabella, but *File 770* tells of his passing away. A shame, he had very recently retired and had great plans for writing sf with the extra time. Yet another reminder to enjoy each day. That may be easier said than done, but remains a worthwhile goal.

The laser eye surgery would not be something I would jump to if I had brown eyes. I try (if at all possible) to adhere to the *seven year rule*. If at all possible I try to wait until a medication or procedure has been out and in use at least that long. By then I figure most glitches will have shown up and either be a part of *take your chances* or have been remedied. Then too, this would be messing with my *eyes* for purely cosmetic reasons. I would have to think several times before pursuing it.

If I have it right the 2011 Rotsler Award was announced... sort of. D. West. I am not too sure of the rest of the details—as in declining the award.

Sounds as if PED takes great physical pleasure in the swimming and then stretching the wings. Um... wing *extensions*. What will they think of next?

I could expound on the car issues or finding out that humans actually have sesamoid bones. One requires a great deal of finger crossing that I have not damaged the transmission and looking for a way to dispose of one used newish tire that does not match the others... the second requires icing one foot and wearing a boot brace to sleep in. Ah yes, trying to deal with one issue at a time (so to speak). Way down the line is hoping to be able to get enough spare money to get that supporting membership for the worldcon—RSN.

Here's hoping that the readership is having a peace-full and pleasant holiday season. I am also hoping that the New Year is more issue-proof than 2011 proved to be!!

[Here begins the second letter. -ED]

My sister-in-law asked what I wanted for Christmas and I decided to really tell her in the hope that they might get me something I want/need [personal aside snipped -ED] and asked for RAM for this MacBook. It was worth a try but she said that was something I really needed to by my\$elf. My fallback was simply asking for a copy of the last Harry Potter movie. I had to spell the name since she did not recognize it (no comment). The small box arrived—inside is a DVD shaped package. I am now wonder if it will contain (a) [not] the movie I asked for, (b) actually be a Blu-Ray (which will not play on any Mac and I

do not have such a player), or (c) be a cleverly designed gift card to Apple. Please note that I have left off the option that it just may be exactly what I asked for—there is still hope!

Ah, I see you list D. West as the Rotsler winner, so I had that much right.

Hugo is on my Netflix list—but that list may disappear. With the idiotic changes the made my current plan (still riding the coattails of a year's gift so they honor it) is \$14.99/month—2 DVDs out at a time and unlimited online streaming. With their new pricing, the same thing will cost \$23.97. When you add in the projected changes in the USPS—with the current delivery, on a good week, I can get and view 6 DVDs—that would probably be cut to a maximum of 4 and more likely 3/week. At that point I have to wonder if it is worth it. Netflix has a large library of British shows and one heck of a lot of movies that do not show up in streaming—which I am guessing is not intended to cover non-current shows/movies. Ah well—as the video offering landscape changes it will be interesting to see how the niches mutate and are filled. *Hugo* appears to have an interesting name—right from the first time I saw a promo. Now I just need to wait and actually see it (usually about a year after the release).

[Glad you caught your first missive in time to piggyback a few paragraphs on the December issue. I'd seen the blogosphere's fury about Netflix but I hadn't thought of how future reduced deliveries by the post office could make their new options look even worse. If you think of it, wish the owner(s) of that new indie bookstore best of luck from me. Huntsville history has certainly demonstrated how difficult of an environment they have. -ED]

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

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

15 December 2011

The December *Shuttle* is here, fresh printed off the printer at work, and here come some comments on it. Time is at a premium.

This year's TAFF race has been settled... Jacqueline Monahan from Las Vegas is this year's delegate, and will be heading off to Eastercon in 2012. We are thinking of going for TAFF in 2014 to the London Worldcon, should they win, so I am already looking for nominees, fingers crossed.

Aurora Awards... nope, didn't win the category I was nominated for, Fan Other, but we were in attendance at the ceremonies, and just being there at the Convention was a great time. Next year's Convention will be in Edmonton, Alberta. Wish I could go. Maybe I should start up a fanzine so we will have candidates for the Fan Publication Aurora next year.

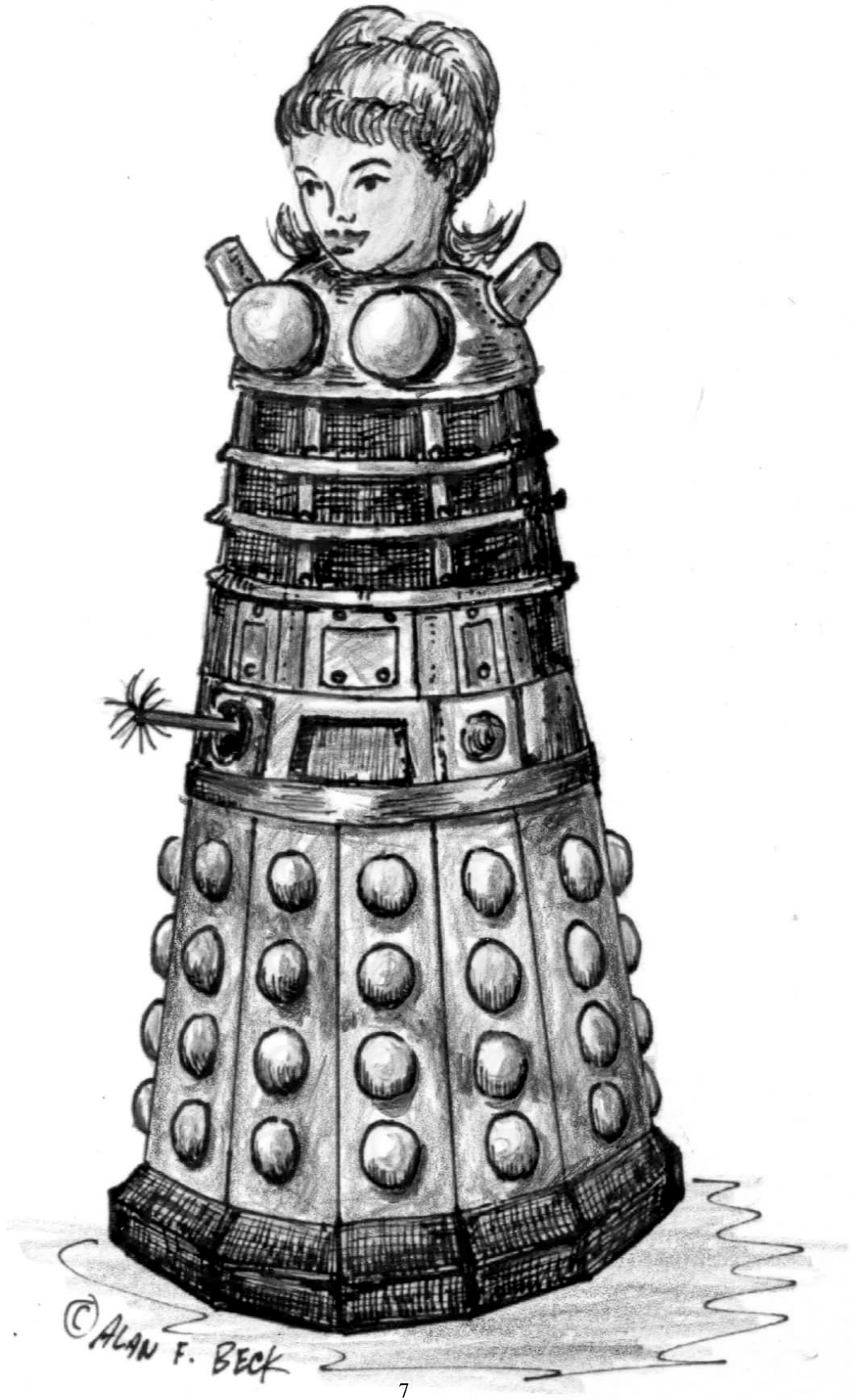
My loc... I keep an eye out to see if there are any developments in the Faned Awards. I have my certificate, but the trophy is still in the works. My last loc was less than three weeks ago, and there's only so much that can happen in a short time.

Plans for next year... local conventions beckon as always, but we are strapped for cash, so our plans may consist of commuting back and forth between convention and home, or simply buying a Saturday only membership. There's a steampunk convention we might like to go to in May, but that is questionable right now. Our biggest plans right now are just to have a good Christmas, and we hope all of you do that.

A short-term assignment with an advertising agency starts this afternoon, so I must get ready for it. It should get me into mid-January, and then we will see what else comes about. Take care all, and see you next year.

[I don't imagine you'll have too much difficulty, Lloyd, in scaring up nominators for TAFF—at least from this side of the Atlantic. (Heck, even I might be persuaded to do it if asked ;-)) I know what you mean about restricted con attendance, though in my case I'll do just about anything rather than commute. Staying in the con hotel—even for a convention just minutes from my house—is so strongly preferred as to cause me to save money any other way I reasonably can rather than cut out room nights. -ED]

Barbie Dollek





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The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the January 2012 edition (Volume 32, Number 1). NASFA Officers for 2012: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Wyman Cooke; Publicity Director Jack Lundy. Shuttle Editor Mike Kennedy.
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