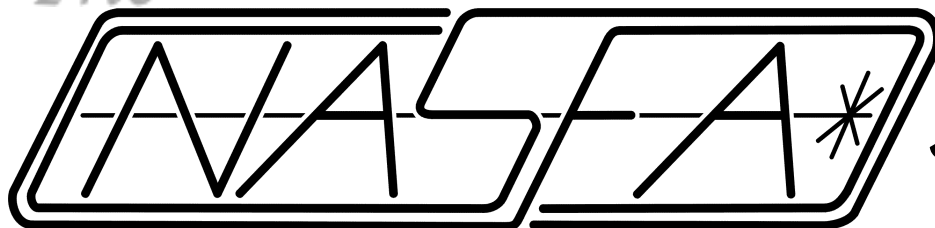


The



Shuttle

April 2013

The Next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 13 April 2013 at the Regular Location Please Note that this is one week earlier than usual

ConCom Meeting 13 April, 3P; see below for details

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next NASFA Meeting will be at 6P, Saturday 13 April 2013. Please note that this is one week earlier than usual to avoid a conflict with JordanCon/DSC. We will be at the regular meeting location—the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church (old Wilson Lumber Company building) at 7105 Highway 72W (aka University Drive). Please see the map at right if you need help finding it.

APRIL PROGRAM

The April program will be Kevin “Fritz” Fotovitch running one of his famous fan games, though it wasn’t clear at press time whether it would be Fan Jeopardy or Fan Family Feud.

APRIL ATMM

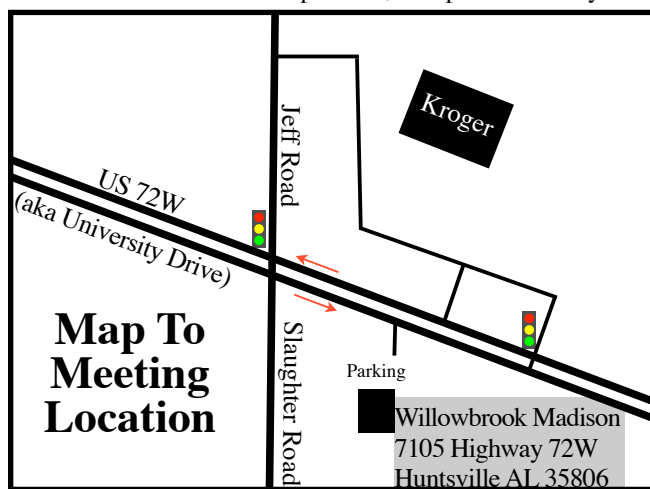
Mary and Doug Lampert will be hosting the April After-the-Meeting Meeting at the church. The usual rules apply—that is, please bring food to share and your favorite drink. Also, please stay to help clean up. We need to be good guests and leave things at least as clean as we found them.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The next Con+Stellation XXXII concom meeting will be 3P Saturday 16 March 2013—the same day as the club meeting. At press time the plan is to meet at the church, but that could

change if an availability issue crops up. Please stay tuned to email, etc., for possible updates.

The general plan going forward will be to have a concom meeting each club meeting Saturday, until we get close enough to the con to need to accelerate that schedule. Generally these will be at the church when possible, except for the May con-



Continuing Our 33rd Year of Publication

Inside this issue...

Table listing contents: News & Info, Minutes of the March Meeting, NASFA Calendar, 2013 Hugo and Campbell Awards Nominations, Awards Roundup, Letters of Comment, Art by Alan F. Beck.

Deadline for the May 2013 issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Monday 29 April 2013

com which will likely be held in conjunction with the More-or-Less Annual NASFA Picnic/Cookout at Sam and Judy Smith's house.

#### **CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES**

The latest tweak to the *NASFA Shuttle* schedule shifted the usual repro date somewhat to the right (roughly the weekend before each meeting) but much of each issue will need to be put to bed as much as two weeks before the monthly meeting.

Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents *each month* to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material. We will generally need to enforce that deadline strictly.

#### **FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs**

Future programs include:

- May: The program and club meeting will be subsumed into the More-or-Less Annual NASFA Cookout/Picnic at Judy and Sam Smith's house. Stay tuned for details on the start time, directions, etc.
- June and forward: A planetarium visit is being scheduled for some time later this year.

We need ATMM volunteers for June and almost all future months. (November is tentatively spoken for, but otherwise it's pretty much wide open.)

#### **FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES**

Scheduled NASFA meeting dates for 2013 are all the normal 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday *except* for this month. The meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday (13 April 2013) to avoid a conflict with JordanCon/DSC.

The May meeting will be on the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, but will be incorporated into the More-or-Less Annual NASFA Picnic/Cookout.

#### **JOINING THE NASFA EMAIL LIST**

All NASFANS who have email are urged to join the NASFA email list, which you can do online at <[tinyurl.com/NASFAEmail](http://tinyurl.com/NASFAEmail)>. The list is usually low traffic, though the rate is rather variable. Generally the list is limited to announcements about club activities plus the occasional message of general interest to north-Alabama sf/f/h/etc. fans. Non NASFANS are welcome to join the list, but please only do so if you're interested in the above restricted topics—posts unrelated to the those purposes are strongly discouraged and could result in you being asked to leave the list.

#### **NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE**

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to it 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](http://tinyurl.com/NASFACal)>.

## **News & Info**

#### **WORLDCON MEMBERSHIP RATES RISING**

Both sitting Worldcons (San Antonio, 2013, and London, 2014) have announced the next jumps in their membership rates are to take place 1 May 2013.

An Adult Attending membership in LoneStarCon 3 <[www.lonestarcon3.org](http://www.lonestarcon3.org)> will go from \$200 to \$220 as of 1 May 2013. All other rates (Supporting, Kid-in-Tow, Child (0–16), YA (17–21), Family, and Military) will not change.

An Adult Attending membership in Loncon 3 <[www.loncon3.org](http://www.loncon3.org)> will go from £95 to £105 (\$170/€135) as of 1 May 2013. Family membership rates will also rise and the discount available to London bid presupporters will end. Other

rates (Supporting, Infants (0–5), Children (6–15), and YA (16–25)) will not change. It's also worth noting that Loncon 3 has an installment payment plans for Adult, YA, and Family memberships.

#### **WORLDCON & NASFiC BIDS FILED**

LoneStarCon 3 has received official filings for the 2015 Worldcon and the 2014 NASFiC site selection votes—with an unusual dual contested bid.

The three filed 2015 Worldcon bids are:

- Helsinki, Finland. Proposed dates—6–10 August. Proposed facilities—Helsinki Exhibition and Conference Centre and the Holiday Inn Helsinki Exhibition & Convention Centre. Website—<[www.helsinkiin2015.org](http://www.helsinkiin2015.org)>.
- Orlando FL, USA. Proposed dates—2–6 September 2-6. Proposed facility—Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. Website—<[www.orlandoin2015.org](http://www.orlandoin2015.org)>.
- Spokane WA, USA. Proposed dates—19–23 August. Proposed facilities—Spokane Convention Center, the Double-tree Spokane, the Red Lion at the Park, and Red Lion River Inn. Website—<[www.spokanein2015.org](http://www.spokanein2015.org)>.

Because the 2014 Worldcon is to be held out of North America, a NASFiC may be held that year. The two filed 2014 NASiC bids are:

- Detroit MI, USA. Proposed dates—17–20 July. Proposed facility—Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. Website—<[detroitin2014.org](http://detroitin2014.org)>.
- Phoenix AZ, USA. Proposed dates—30 July–3 August. Proposed facility—Tempe Mission Palms Hotel and Conference Center. Website—<[phoenixin2014.org](http://phoenixin2014.org)>.

You must be an Adult Attending, Young Adult Attending, or Supporting member of LoneStarCon 3 to be eligible to vote in either or both site selections. There will be an Advance Membership (Voting) fee for each election—\$40 for the Worldcon and \$35 for the NASFiC. This gives each voter a Supporting membership in the winner of the corresponding election, no matter which bid they vote for.

Ballots must be submitted either by postal mail or in-person at the convention—no web-based voting is allowed per the WSFS convention. Postal ballots must be received by 18 August 2013. Voting at the convention will run through 6P Saturday 31 August 2013. These ballots may be hand carried to the convention if you are not able to attend.

Stay tuned to the LoneStarCon 3 website [www.lonestarcon3.org/wsfs/wsfs-site.shtml](http://www.lonestarcon3.org/wsfs/wsfs-site.shtml) for full information, or email <[siteselection@LoneStarCon3.org](mailto:siteselection@LoneStarCon3.org)>.

#### **FUTURE WORLDCON BID FOR PARIS?**

Though details are sparse, it appears that a bid to hold the 2019 Worldcon in Paris (that's the French one the Arkansas or Kentucky, or the... one).

A website <<https://sites.google.com/site/parisin2019>> has been parked on the internet, but as this article was being written access was blocked unless one can obtain permission from the owner. A bare announcement was sent to Chaz Boston-Baden who maintains a semiofficial list of bids at <[Worldcon.org/bids](http://Worldcon.org/bids)>. It reads: "We wish to inform you that a fledgling bid for Paris to host the 77<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention in 2019 has been born. We plan to officially launch the bid next year at Loncon3 in London."

#### **CUFF OPENS NOMINATIONS PERIOD**

The Canadian Unity Fan Fund annually sends a fan from one side of Canada to the other, to attend that year's CanVention, the Canadian natcon. In 2013, that will be in conjunction with Can-Con <[can-con.org](http://can-con.org)>, to be held 4–6 October 2013 at the Minto Suite Hotel in Ottawa ON.

That makes this a West-to-East year for CUFF, so nominees

are sought from western Canada (Manitoba and parts west). To submit nominees, use the form at <bit.ly/14wjpMP> or contact <2013.cuff@gmail.com>. The nomination deadline is 21 April 2013 (midnight EST). Voting will run 1 May — 10 June.

### **BAEN SELECTS B&T TO DISTRIBUTE EBOOKS; STARTS PODCAST**

Baen Books has been adding ebook distribution channels left and right the last few months. Their latest move is adding distro through Baker & Taylor <www.baker-taylor.com>. Baen publisher Toni Weisskopf is quoted as saying “We are excited for the chance to take advantage of Baker and Taylor’s unique market reach and have our ebooks distributed by their distinctive channels. Now it will be easier than ever to download your favorite Weber, Ringo, or Correia ebook to your ebook reader. The [digital rights management]-free model will not change, and you can be sure we will always maintain our famous ebook pioneering spirit and customer-first orientation.”

Separately, Baen’s started a weekly Baen Free Radio Hour <www.baen.com/podcast/podcast.asp>. Head over and you’ll find the initial chapters of *Shadow of Freedom* (David Weber). A new chapter will be added weekly. The ‘cast will also have news features, discussions, writing and reading suggestions, plus fiction and drama based on the works of Baen authors.

### **AMAZON GETS MORE SOCIAL**

Amazon.com is expanding further into the social side of the book biz by purchasing Goodreads <www.goodreads.com>. The site allows individuals to catalog their library (and want-list), but also hosts member-written reviews and other social features. Amazon already has stakes in other sites with similar features. Current Goodreads members have reportedly expressed mixed feelings about the sale.

### **AMAZON GETS MORE ANTI-SOCIAL**

In other news, Amazon is drawing flack for seeking sole control of a slate of new Top Level Domains. (If you’re not sure what a TLD is, think “.com” or “.net”.) Amazon would like to be the one to say who gets access to several domains including “.book”, “.app”, “.movie”, “.read”, “.author”, “.movie” and “.wow”.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is currently in the process of deciding which new names will go to what companies. Non-English TLDs are expected to be awarded in mid-2013 followed shortly by new English TLDs for which there is only one bidder. The timeframe for awarding disputed English TLDs is not as certain.

### **CONTRIBUTE TO SF TIMELINE**

Website Technovelgy has compiled a “Timeline of Science Fiction Ideas, Technology and Inventions” <www.technovelgy.com/ct/cntlistPubDate.asp> that makes amusing reading. If you click the Contact Us link at the bottom of their page, you can use a web form to send them your suggestions of what should be added to the timeline.

### **SUNSET FOR NIGHT SHADE?**

Indy publisher Night Shade Books is apparently sliding to oblivion. They’ve been delisted as a “qualifying market” for SFWA membership. They’ve closed their online magazine *Eclipse Online*. Now they’re in negotiations to sell all assets to Skyhorse Publishing and Start Publishing LLC—though they say they need a “sufficient number” contracted authors to agree to contract mods for the novation. Barring that agreement, bankruptcy seems likely.

### **ELLISON PLAYS ELLISON**

Harlan Ellison recently announced that he’s recorded the audio for an appearance (as himself) on *The Simpsons*. Look for him in a scene with Milhouse and the Comic Book Guy.

## **March Minutes**

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The March meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, March 16, 2013 in the Madison satellite location of Willowbrook Baptist Church at 6:15:21P by President Mary Lampert. Maria left baby Thane in the room for a moment, leading some to conclude that Thane had been donated to NASFA. Also, because Doug had some... uh... irregularities in the December minutes, Thane was shown winning the Presidency, but that’s now solved. Thane is the king, and Mary is the regent.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Has everybody paid dues?

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Sam had a couple of things.

First, there was a letter from David Robinson, who was trying to get in touch with Jack Lundy. Wyman offered to take the letter to him.

Second, Sam had an advertising mailer for the free Square Reader that allows a smart phone to take credit cards. Sam read information about it, and it may be useful for convention registration. There was a digression about how [and whether -ED] to pass the per-charge fees onto the customer.

Mike K. reported that a *Shuttle* subscription request came in from Europa. Wait, no, it was actually Eupora, Mississippi, in “Deepest Mundania.” Is “Deepest Mundania” the name of the county?

### **CONVENTION BUSINESS**

Doug was trying desperately to find department heads for about half of the departments. [Well, I personally wouldn’t characterize it as desperate. Yep, some positions need to be filled but it’s quite a while until the con. -ED]

Les Johnson will attend this year.

Several moved to adjourn, and it was finally done at 6:30:37P.

For the program, Rob Adams from MindGear Labs gave a talk on 3D printing. Adam and Maria Grimm hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at the meeting location at Willowbrook Madison.

## **NASFA Calendar**

### **APRIL**

- 01 Easter Monday.
- 01 April Fool’s Day.
- 04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Among the Hidden*, Margaret Peterson Haddix; 6P.
- 05–07 Conglomeration—Louisville KY.
- 06 Fluke—Athens GA.
- 07 BD: Mary Lampert.
- 07 Atlanta Anime Day 9—Atlanta GA.
- 13\* Con+Stellation XXXII Concom Meeting—3P, at Willowbrook Madison.
- 13\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: Kevin “Fritz” Fotovitch running a fan game. ATMM: Doug and Mary Lampert hosting at the church. **NOTE: This is one week earlier than the usual date due to a conflict with JordanCon/DSC.**
- 13–14 221B Con—Atlanta GA.
- 14 Atlanta South Comic Con—McDonough GA.





### FANZINE NOMS

(370 nominating ballots cast)

*Journey Planet*, James Bacon, Chris Garcia, Emma J. King, Helen J. Montgomery, and Pete Young, eds.  
*Banana Wings*, Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, eds.  
*SF Signal*, John DeNardo, JP Frantz, and Patrick Hester, eds.  
*Elitist Book Reviews*, Steven Diamond, ed.  
*The Drink Tank*, Chris Garcia and James Bacon, eds.

### FANCAST NOMS

(346 nominating ballots cast)

*SF Squeecast*, Elizabeth Bear, Paul Cornell, Seanan McGuire, Lynne M. Thomas, Catherynne M. Valente (Presenters) and David McHone-Chase (Technical Producer)  
*SF Signal Podcast*, Patrick Hester, John DeNardo, and JP Frantz  
*Galactic Suburbia Podcast*, Alisa Krasnostein, Alexandra Pierce, Tansy Rayner Roberts (Presenters) and Andrew Finch (Producer)  
*StarShipSofa*, Tony C. Smith  
*The Coode Street Podcast*, Jonathan Strahan and Gary K. Wolfe

### FAN WRITER NOMS

(485 nominating ballots cast)

James Bacon  
Mark Oshiro

Christopher J. Garcia  
Steven H Silver

### FAN ARTIST NOMS

(293 nominating ballots cast)

Galen Dara  
Maurine Starkey

Brad W. Foster  
Spring Schoenhuth  
Steve Stiles

### JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD\*\*

#### FOR BEST NEW WRITER NOMS

(476 nominating ballots cast)

Zen Cho\*  
Stina Leicht\*

Max Gladstone  
Mur Lafferty\*  
Chuck Wendig\*

\* Indicates 2<sup>nd</sup> and final year of eligibility.

\*\* The Campbell is for the best new pro sf/f writer of 2011 or 2012 and is sponsored by Dell Magazines. It is not a Hugo Award, but is administered by Worldcon using the same basic rules as for the Hugo Awards (e.g., regarding voting eligibility).

## Awards Roundup

### SFWA ANNOUNCES SOLSTICE WINNERS

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <www.sfwaworld.org> has announced that Carl Sagan and Ginjer Buchanan are to receive the 2013 Solstice Awards. This award may be given by the SFWA president—with the majority approval of the Board of Directors—to individuals who have had “a significant impact on the science fiction or fantasy landscape, and is particularly intended for those who have consistently made a major, positive difference within the speculative fiction field.”

The awards will be presented during the Nebula Awards Weekend, to be held 16–19 May 2013 at the Hilton San Jose in San Jose CA.

### BSFA AWARDS

Winners of the 2012 British Science Fiction Association Awards were announced 31 March 2013 during EightSquared, this year’s Eastercon, the British national science fiction convention. The BSFA Awards are based on a vote of BSFA NS Eastercon members. More details may be found at the BSFA website <www.bsfa.co.uk>. The winners are:

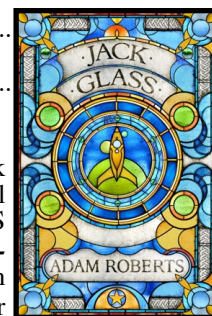
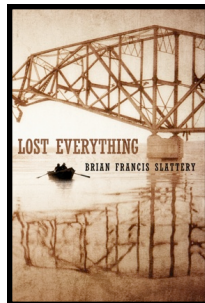
**Novel** ..... *Jack Glass*, Adam Roberts  
**Short Fiction** ..... *Adrift on the Sea of Rains*, Ian Sales

### Artwork

*Blacksheep*, Cover of *Jack Glass*

**The World SF Blog**, Lavie Tidhar. ed.  
**DICK AWARD GIVEN**

The winner of the 2012 Philip K. Dick Award (for sf published as an original paperback in the US in 2012) is *Lost Everything* by Brian Francis Slattery (Tor Books). Additionally, a special citation was given to *Lovestar*, by Andri Snær Magnason (Seven Stories). The winners were announced 29 March 2013 during Norwescon 36 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport in SeaTac WA. Judges for 2012 were Bruce Bethke, Sydney Duncan, Daryl Gregory, Bridget McKenna, and Paul Witcover (chair).



### CROOK AWARD NOMS ANNOUNCED

The Baltimore Science Fiction Society <www.bsfs.org> has announced the finalists for the 2013 Compton Crook Award <www.bsfs.org/CCA/bsfscnu2012.htm>. The award is for a first sf/f/h novel written by an individual author. The award will be presented at Balticon 47 <www.balticon.org> to be held 24–27 May 2013 at the Hunt Valley Inn in Hunt Valley (Baltimore area) MD. Voting for the award is by the membership of BSFS. The nominees are:

*Glitch*, Heather Anastasiu (St. Martin’s Griffin)  
*Shadow Ops: Control Point*, Myke Cole (Ace)  
*Stormdancer*, Jay Kristoff (Thomas Dunne)  
*Fair Coin*, E.C. Myers (Pyr)  
*Scourge of the Betrayer*, Jeff Salyards (Night Shade)

### CLARKE AWARD NOMS ANNOUNCED

The shortlist has been announced for the 2013 Arthur C. Clarke Award <www.clarkeaward.com> (for “the best science fiction novel first published in the [UK]” in 2012).

Judges for the year are Robert Grant (representing the SCI-FI-LONDON Film Festival), Juliet E. McKenna and Ruth O’Reilly (representing the British Science Fiction Association), Nickianne Moody and Liz Williams (representing the Science Fiction Foundation), and Andrew M. Butler (nonvoting chair, representing the Arthur C. Clarke Award).

The winner will be announced and the award (which will include a prize of £2013) presented 1 May 2013 at a ceremony during the SCI-FI-LONDON Film Festival <sci-fi-london.com>. The nominees are:

*Nod*, Adrian Barnes (Bluemoose)  
*Dark Eden*, Chris Beckett (Corvus)  
*Angelmaker*, Nick Harkaway (William Heinemann)  
*The Dog Stars*, Peter Heller (Headline)  
*Intrusion*, Ken MacLeod (Orbit)  
*2312*, Kim Stanley Robinson (Orbit)

### PROMETHEUS AWARDS NOMS ANNOUNCED

The Libertarian Futurist Society <www.lfs.org> has announced the shortlist for the 2013 Prometheus Awards. The awards are intended to “provide encouragement to science fiction writers whose books examine the meaning of freedom.”

The winners will be announced and the awards presented during LoneStarCon 3, this year’s Worldcon. By category the nominees are:

#### Prometheus Best Novel Noms (for award year 2012)

*Arctic Rising*, Tobias Buckell (TOR Books)  
*Pirate Cinema*, Cory Doctorow (TOR Books)

*Darkship Renegades*, Sarah Hoyt (Baen Books)  
*The Unincorporated Future*, Dani Kollin and Eytan Kollin  
(TOR Books)

*Kill Decision*, Daniel Suarez (Dutton–Penguin)

#### **Prometheus Hall of Fame Award**

“Sam Hall,” Poul Anderson (short story, 1953)  
Falling Free, Lois McMaster Bujold (novel, 1988)  
“Repent, Harlequin!” Said the Ticktockman,” Harlan Ellison  
(short story, 1965)

Courtship Rite, Donald M. Kingsbury (novel, 1982)

“As Easy as A.B.C.,” Rudyard Kipling (short story, 1912)

Cryptonomicon, Neal Stephenson (novel, 1999)

#### **TERRY PRATCHETT PRIZE NOMS ANNOUNCED**

The shortlist for this year’s Terry Pratchett Anywhere But Here, Anywhen But Now First Novel Prize <[www.terrypratchett.co.uk/?p=2522](http://www.terrypratchett.co.uk/?p=2522)> has been announced. The award is for an unpublished first novel “set on Earth, although it may be an Earth that might have been, or might yet be, one that has gone down a different leg of the famous trousers of time.”

The winner—to be announced 31 May 2013—will receive a £20,000 prize as an advance against royalties on a publishing contract. Judges are Lynsey Dalladay, Terry Pratchett, Simon Taylor, Alex Veasey, and Rob Wilkins. The nominees are:

*The Unspoken Death of the Amazing Flying Boy*, Jean Burdett  
*Bloodline*, Sophie Constable

*The Hive*, Alexander Maskill

*The Way Through the Woods*, Robin Pearson

*A Kill in the Morning*, Graeme Shimmin

*The Shadows of Anwn*, Catherine Whittle

#### **LIFEBOAT TO THE STARS NOMS ANNOUNCED**

The Lifeboat Foundation <[www.lifeboat.com](http://www.lifeboat.com)> has announced the nominees for the “Lifeboat to the Stars” Award, to be presented during the 2013 Campbell Conference <[www.sfcenter.ku.edu/campbell-conference.htm](http://www.sfcenter.ku.edu/campbell-conference.htm)>. The award will be for “the best work of science fiction published in 2011 or 2012 that contributes to an understanding of the benefits, means, or difficulties of interstellar travel” and will include a grant of \$1000. The nominees are:

*Tau Ceti*, Kevin J. Anderson and Steve Savile (Arc Manor, 2011)

*Bowl of Heaven*, Gregory Benford and Larry Niven (Tor, 2012)  
“Twenty Lights to ‘The Land of Snow’,” Michael Bishop (*Going Intertellar*, Baen, 2012)

“A Country for Old Men,” by Ben Bova (*Going Intertellar*, Baen, 2012)

“Lucy,” Jack McDevitt (*Going Intertellar*, Baen, 2012)

*Blue Remembered Earth*, Alastair Reynolds (Ace, 2012)

“The First Day of Eternity,” Domingo Santos (translated by Stanley Schmidt) (*Analog*, January–February 2011)

[The *Shuttle* would like to congratulate Huntsvillian Les Johnson, a coeditor of *Going Intertellar*, for placing three stories on this list. -ED]

#### **AUREALIS AWARDS NOMS ANNOUNCED**

Nominations for the Aurealis Awards <[www.aurealisawards.com](http://www.aurealisawards.com)> (for sf/f/h by Australian writers) have been announced. The full list of nominees for the bakers-dozen categories can be found online at <[www.aurealisawards.com/media-release\\_finalists-March-2013.pdf](http://www.aurealisawards.com/media-release_finalists-March-2013.pdf)>.

#### **2013 PKD AWARD JUDGES ANNOUNCED**

Judges for the upcoming Philip K. Dick Award have been announced: Elizabeth Bear (chair), Siobhan Carroll, Michael Kandel, Jamil Nasir, and Tim Sullivan.

Publishers are encouraged to mail copies of eligible books to all judges. Contact info for the judges can be found on the award website <[www.philipkdickaward.org](http://www.philipkdickaward.org)>.

## Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead  
25509 Jonnie Court  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

15–20 March 2013

I’m sure there is a March *Shuttle* around here somewhere. Since the stacks of paper stuff (including, of course, zines) have gotten totally out of hand I am just grabbing one at the top of any pile when I have a moment. Right now I am continually arguing with the typing—no change there. I type and the screen immediately goes to the bottom of the page. So, for now I am just typing and hoping. When I get done I’ll go back and see what a mishmash I have. No idea why this is happening. Since I cannot figure it out I am just wasting time fighting it.

I may not have done the best possible, but I did manage to get a Hugo nomination ballot in. I must admit that I only got around to the fan categories, but I had the best of intentions of getting back to it, but that did not happen. I did not remember getting PRs from LoneStarCon and just forgot... By the time I got around to hunting, I could not locate the email information... I honestly do *not* remember telling the concom to send things electronically, but on the other hand I don’t remember getting any paper copies either. The concom was very helpful and emailed the link to get my password etc.—and I tried and tired and... but the site refused it. Well, it refused it until I contacted the concom and then made one more stab while waiting. Sure enough, this time I got in and started right in. Then, when I remembered I needed to go back and fill in the fiction, the dramatic, etc.... too late. There is always next year! Hoping the *Suttleer*-ship members that are worldcon members did a better job that I did!

Stu Shiffman continues his struggle back from the stroke and subsequent complications. It is difficult to think he has been hospitalized (that includes rehab facilities) about 9 months. The reports indicate his and Andi’s support system is continuing to be there for them.

Let me see... basement flooded (all *three* sump pumps died) as did the neighbor’s basement. They are away in Florida and I’m watching the house. When (at about 11:45pm) I realized my basement was rapidly filling I called a 24-hour plumber and while waiting for him went next door—yup. At 1am I needed to decide if I should call them and decided to go ahead. The plumber left at 3:35am with good news and bad news. The good news was that he was not going to charge me the \$240 emergency fee. The bad news was that while I was right they had no spare sump pumps in their warehouse. So, he was back at 7am with a small replacement. That got installed with the caveat that he could not warranty the little pump since it was not intended to handle such a load and that the big ones needed to be replaced soon so the little one did not burn out. Oh, and by the way, did I realize the pipes, etc., were all done wrong? Luckily I could tell him yes—I had the small one installed and it was done wrong but by the time I had actually seen the work (did not want to micro manage and none of the actual crew spoke English) the damage had been done [and] it was too late. I talked about going to the Better Business Bureau and that got the original foreman out (no problem with English and selling there!) but not much could be done to fix the damage done and I just wanted them *out*. So, the emergency plumber set up a pan to get it redone. So, redone and not pretty, but the water flow is right now. I sent him my tax refund. I worry that the check has

not been cashed...

The, let me see, do yo know about the hawk hitting the car (both hawk and care are fine)? The following week a rock hit the windshield—car not doing fine. Need and electrician out—oops, sorry, plumber already got all the disposable income...

Got my first pair of real glasses and about choked at the price tag. Then, I have only gotten to the point of feeling dizzy when I move—instead of feeling as if I have vertigo or inner ear problems and want to throw up. That is progress, but... The optometrist said I will get used to them but... Again, there is now no money left so nothing requiring payment can happen. I had been wearing el cheapo reading glasses and the ophthalmologist had never mentioned that I had a very minor astigmatism that was now to the point it needed addressing. He suggested I get progressive lenses. The idea was to only have one getting-used-to period. Somehow I don't think this is working.

Lloyd: fingers crossed—keep beating the (figurative) pavement.

Ah—I was just jumping the gun—the March ish arrived, so I hadn't lost it after all!

The Pulp-O-Mizer is ghreat fun to pay with! It is a terrific time sink! Yeah, just what we all need!

Argo will be arriving tomorrow, courtesy of Netflix—so I'll get an idea of how the genre compatibility pertains. Hmm. I was just watching a rerun of *Person of Interest* and it just happened to be the one where the dog (Bear) chews up some first editions and Finch mentions "Asimov—the dog has expensive taste," or something along that line.

I am taking advantage of the pay on demand feature of Netflix and watching the *Merlin* series. I have just gotten to the episode where the last dragon (kept chained in the caverns beneath Camelot) has been freed. The previews of the next episode make it appear a bit ominous. I think of PED as the dragon speaks...

I want to get this in the mail sooner than RSN, so I'll stop here and see if I can print it...

[Your Hugo nomination ballot was one of the record number they received this year. In part that could be due to the change allowing members of next year's Worldcon to nominate. Well, that coupled with that con (Loncon 3) likely having more non-North American members than a typical US Worldcon—yielding a broader base. Sorry to hear about your flooding problem. Around here few houses have a full-underground basement but we do have our share of flooding. Part of my neighborhood sits a good bit lower than near my house and backs up on an area that—if the drainage ditch has overgrown—floods if you look at it wrong. In your next LoC you can let me know if you think *Argo* really has any significant sf connection. I'm skeptical. -ED]

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

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

24 March2013

Thank you for the March *Shuttle*. It's late on a Sunday, and I realized there's some deadlines I need to keep, so it's been a writing day for me.

A planetarium visit is always fun... I remember when Toronto had one. I gather we're the largest city in North American not to have an operational planetarium. We used to have a facil-

ity called the McLaughlin Planetarium, with a state-of-the-art Zeiss optical unit, but that was sold off, the building is torn down, and yet another condominium building is being built there. From time to time, the idea of a new planetarium comes up, but it goes quiet fairly quickly because of the public apathy and lack of money. Treasure the planetarium you have.

I discovered Brad Schenk's great art designs and t-shirts some years ago, but now with his Pulp-O-Mizer, the look of those great pulp days can be recreated. I have voted in the FAAn Awards, just sent my ballot to Andy Hooper in Seattle. I hope there's plenty of participation this year, especially from those who enjoy zines who might not be a part of what many call fanzine fandom.

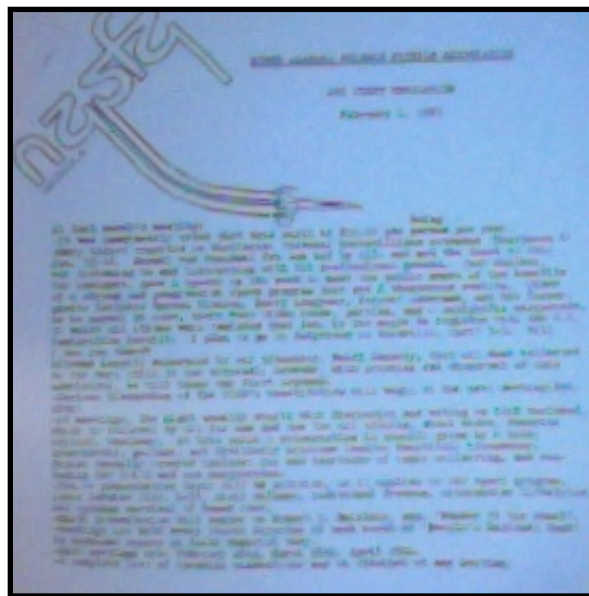
I've nominated for the Hugos and for TAFF, and for the FAAn Awards, too... now comes the Aurora Awards. They will be handed out at CanCon in Ottawa this coming October, and the nomination period ends soon. Gotta get with it.

No letters this time around? I must have gotten my previous one in late. Hope you find this one in time. Many thanks, and I hope for another issue very soon.

[It does seem odd that a city the size of Toronto doesn't have a planetarium. It should be noted that the one in Huntsville is owned and run by the private Von Braun Astronomical Society <www.vbas.org>, not a university or the city/county/whatever. (And yes, Wernher von Braun did have a hand in the founding, though it wan't named after him until some time later.) In addition to the planetarium, the VBAS facility includes two largish traditional telescopes (21 and 16 inch) and a solar telescope. On the other hand, Huntsville lacks a shoe museum ;-)-ED]

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

We also hear from Toni Weisskopf who emailed to say "Got the latest *Shuttle*—33 years?! OMG! Well done, Mike." Thanks for that sentiment Toni, and it stuns me sometimes to see how many years NASFA has been together and pubbing. I am the longest-standing editor but by no means the only one. I do recall, however, the very first issue, the master of which was typed not 10 feet from where I'm sitting now (on the other side of a since-removed wall) by our first editor Cathy Mauk. The archives are not as well organized as they should be, but I managed to find a copy of that first issue and will include an (un-



r e a d a b l e ) thumb-nail pic of it if I c a n . One of t h e s e decades we need to scan in all the b a c k issues to m a k e t h e m a v a i l a b l e e l e c t r o n i c a l l y . -ED]







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 April 2013 edition (Volume 33, Number 4). NASFA Officers for 2013: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director “JudySue Thornsmythe”; Publicity Director Dave Watson. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy.  
Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by email to: [nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org](mailto: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, © 2013. 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.

\*\*\*\*\*