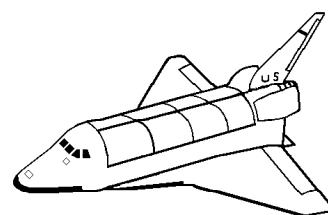


The



SHUTTLE January 2003

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 18 January
2003 at the Regular Time and Location*

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be on **18 January 2003** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Call Book-Mark at 256-881-3910 if you need directions.

The **January program** (7P) will be "Books and Movies in a Minute." Sharpen up your wit and prepare to describe — or recognize — sf and fantasy classics abbreviated to the ultimate.

The January **after-the-meeting meeting** will be at at Mike Kennedy's house. We *need* ATMM volunteers for future months.

The NASFA E-Mail List

by Samuel A. Smith, Webmaster

E-mail, the final frontier... no, no, no.

E-mail. Nearly everyone has it, and nearly everyone relies on it. Of late, NASFA has had the need more and more for a "mailing list" — a means of e-mailing everybody in the club with announcements or for discussion of impromptu get-togethers (for movies and such) or for whatever.

Recently, I had the need to build such an e-mail mailing list for another project. Once I was finished, it occurred to me
(continued on page 2)

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Deadline for the February 2003 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 31 January 2003.

that such a list would be useful for NASFA. At the December NASFA club meeting, I proposed the creation of just such a NASFA e-mail mailing list, and my motion was seconded, voted, and approved.

Here is how it has been set it up: There are now two "magic" e-mail addresses associated with the Con†Stellation (and NASFA) domain on the Internet (<con-stellation.org>). One address is for administrative requests to the list, and the other is for postings to the list. The list is open and automatic — anyone can subscribe to the list at any time, and anyone can unsubscribe from the list at any time, without human intervention. Only list members are allowed to post to the list (to keep the spammers out). The list is fairly low security, and low volume. It cycles on five minute intervals. It is intended for the use of NASFA members and other interested parties.

To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail to <nasfa-list-request@con-stellation.org> with the subject line set to "Subscribe". Send this e-mail from the account that you wish to be subscribed to the list. Within about five minutes, you will get a confirmation e-mail back that you are now subscribed. To unsubscribe from the list, send an e-mail to <nasfa-list-request@con-stellation.org> with the subject line set to "Unsubscribe". Send this e-mail from the account that you wish to be unsubscribed from the list. Within about five minutes, you will get a confirmation e-mail back that you are now unsubscribed.

While subscribed, you can send e-mails (from the account that you used to subscribe to the list) to <nasfa-list@con-stellation.org> and they will be automatically forwarded to every subscribed member of the list (including a copy sent back to the e-mail address you posted from). Keep in mind that you don't know who all is and isn't subscribed at any time, nor where they subscribed from (i.e., a work e-mail address). (In other words, keep it clean and try to avoid flaming anybody — I can blacklist you if you annoy *me* enough!) Note that the list does not give very good diagnostics, and if you aren't subscribed it will just bounce your e-mail back at you. E-mails that have actually gone out to all of the list members will have "[NASFA]" added to their subject line. E-mails that have been bounced back to you in error will have their subject line unchanged.

If you have any problems, forward the problem e-mail to the listkeeper address: <constell@con-stellation.org>.

Happy E-mailing!

December Minutes

by Samuel A. Smith, Lister

The December meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, December 21, 2002 in the upstairs meeting room at BookMark at 6:23:58P by President Mary Ortwerth, who once again was only able to gavel us to order.

OLD BUSINESS

Doug Lampert: We need to reopen nominations for officers for next year. (Quote: "We'll teach you to show up on time." Unquote.)

There were many nominees, some of which were too scary to list here. After the dust settled, the officers for NASFA for 2003 are:

President Mary Ortwerth
 Vice-President Mike Kennedy

Secretary Sam Smith
 Treasurer Ray Pietruszka
 Publicity Director Doug Lampert
 Programming Director Karen Hopkins

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Kennedy: We need to set the meeting schedule for next year. Do we want to move any meetings to avoid conflicts with any conventions?

Sam Smith had a list of conventions in our area (taken from the Con†Stellation web site) which have already announced dates for next year. After some discussion, it was decided to *not* move (at this time) any of the NASFA meetings for next year. The current schedule is that all NASFA meetings for 2003 will be held on the third Saturday of the month.

Sam Smith proposed the creation of a NASFA e-mail mailing list. Said list would be open to all NASFA members and other interested parties. Only list members would be allowed to post to the list (to keep the list from being spammed). After some discussion (which descended rather heavily into geekdom at times) the motion to create the list was seconded, voted, and approved. [See elsewhere in the *Shuttle* for Sam's article on the NASFA e-mail mailing list and how to access it.]

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Mike Kennedy: There are no significant changes at this time. Word is that last year's hotel bill still has not been paid, due to problems communicating with the hotel. There is no hotel contract for 2003 yet.

Sam Smith: The Con†Stellation web site received 663 visitors in November, the NASFA web site received 120, and the DeepSouthCon 40 web site 136. We show Google and Baen's Bar as our top referring URLs, with Yahoo and something called "CannabisCulture" (?) third and fourth top referers, respectively.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57:25P. The program was "Random Acts of Gifting," which Doug Lampert took over and completed in record time (12 minutes). The After-The-Meeting Meeting was a Christmas party held at Mike Kennedy's place.

NASFA Calendar

JANUARY

- 01 New Year's Day.
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
- 10–12 GAFilk 2003 — Atlanta GA.
- 16 BD: Bruce Butler.
- 17–19 Chattacon XXVII — Chattanooga TN.
- 18* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. ATMM at Mike Kennedy's house.
- 20 BD: Martin Luther King.
- 20 BD: Larry Montgomery.

FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Groundhog Day.
- 08 BD: Lin Cochran.
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.

No Need for a Dragon with a Migraine — Prolog

by PieEyedDragon

(The headache finally passes. My eyes clear, but every scale is still quivering. I look around. Only three more trees pulverized.)

The kami: Bad one, Payayto?

PED: Yes, very bad.

The kami: You were striking out at a man, seen only vaguely.

PED: Probably Kagato, against whom my wrath fell most strongly. Other human-types felt my ire, too.

The kami: You were making so much noise, “Doctor Washu” came out and examined you. She said there was nothing *physically* wrong.

PED: So, it’s all in my head? That’s what hurts the most.

The kami: Your soul is unbalanced. Water is the same, while the other parts are stronger.

PED: Is there water, stronger than mine?

The kami: Yes, but not here. Nor can I give you exact directions; only a clue.

PED: What is this clue?

The kami: “Neither near nor far; you follow the north star.

The Dew falls in a Line; keep that in mind!

On the frozen land; run those hunted by Man.

Near the river, a fairy lake; there the Waters of Life, await.”

PED: Suitably vague. Too many aircraft overhead just yet, to leave as I am?

The kami: Then, “Look thou to the ant!”

PED: A wise suggestion. Farewell!

(I shrink, smaller and smaller. Ant-sized, the light breeze lifts me up and away, Northeast.)

— O — O — O —

(A closed- (and magically sealed with chalk, wax, and symbols) door meeting within the East Asia Ministry of Magic; representing the:

Office of Misinformation;

Department for the Regulation and Control of Magical Creatures — Beast Division — Dragon Research and Restraint Bureau;

Department of Magical Catastrophes;

Department of International Magical Cooperation)

“Gone! *Where?*”

“We don’t know yet, sir.”

“Don’t you keep in touch with all the kami?”

“Sure, but there are eight million. It takes a while to make the rounds, and that’s a minor shrine.”

“Minor? With extra-terrestrial beings, *and* the only known dragon of Atlantean Daikaiju descent; hoarding not gold but a personal nuclear arsenal greater than the whole rest of the world? Did the Norwegian Ministry ever tell us everything about him?”

“Living in Japan for the last nine centuries; he’d been taken off their books. He was our problem.”

“Contact all the other Ministries. No one can afford to let him drop out of sight. Suppose a black Wizard muddled onto him?”

“Good riddance to one less black Wizard; most likely. I read those reports too, before we burned them.”

Goddesses and Oni and Fairies: Oh *my!*

— O — O — O —

(I’m over the north coast of Alaska, too small to be seen by the defense radars of the North American DEW Line...*DEW Line!* The clue was not dew, but D.E.W.! I must be getting close. Now I feel a tingle of magic from far below. I see a frozen river, with mountains and two valleys between them. There are several small feeder streams and lakes. One seems to have no aboveground connection, and from *this* one the magic comes. The ground is surely tundra and permafrost, agreeing with the clue. I start down. I see caribou and wolves. I land beside the small lagoon and smell a faint scent of fairy lands. I duck my head into the water, and feel the power starting to work.) [Some of the above beings, bureaucracies, and situations have been suggested by the works of J. K. Rowling] [The characters of the Tenchi series are property of Pioneer Entertainment]

Letters of Comment

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

Lloyd Penney
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19 December 2002

I finally found the December *Shuttle* on the website, Vol. 22, No. 12 it says, so I’ve printed it out, and I can write a quick response. I’m at work right now, but things are slow, so I might as well look busy and do a loc. It’s worked so far...

One reason I’m writing this at work is because today is Yvonne’s birthday... her 50th, so we will be celebrating tonight. We’ll be going to our favorite steakhouse, and will enjoy a quiet evening together. We had a celebration for her and a friend who turned 40 a few days ago, back in October. Well, the weather was nicer back then. Also, happy birthday to Harry Warner, Jr., who turns 80. Our best to you, sir, and please don’t go away.

Hey, both Mr. Glicksohn and me in the same local. It’s been a while. Yvonne’s wrist is out of its cast, and she is slowly regaining the use of it, and my knees are almost completely back to normal. We’ve only had the car back for a couple of weeks now; parts had to come in from Japan, and the office there kept sending the wrong part. To make up for all the inconvenience of this accident, I now have a new job, a much better one, I should mention, and it’s downtown, where I’ve wanted to be all along. I will pass your good wishes along to Yvonne.

This is the time of year when so much money must be spent on Christmas, so of course, that’s when they release all these great movies, hoping they can grab some of that bottomless pot o’ cash we all have. For me, the three big ones are *Harry Potter*, *ST10* (!), and *The Two Towers*. (As said Mike Glicksohn, I don’t like *LotR* referred to as a trilogy either... it originally consisted of six books, didn’t it? They were collected in three publications only.) I’ll look for some reviews of these movies next issue... I might see them after I have another paycheque in the bank.

The Return of the Pie-Eyed Dragon is nigh... this dragon can travel the cosmos, and seemingly do the impossible, and is kept down by migraines? I’m disappointed, though those must

be mighty migraines. More than seven millennia old? You don't look a day over four! I hope you'll be back regularly.

I will fold it up here, and say that I will look for more in 2003. In the meantime, given the publishing schedule, I will say that I hope all NASFiAns had the best Christmas and New Year's possible, and I hope to meet you when you come up for Torcon 3.

[Yes, the money seems to flow like water during the holiday season — and in my case for a while afterwards. (I try to buy at least some of *next* year's presents during the post-holiday sales. I'm still waiting on one item to arrive but I have over 20 items already in the house.) There are short reviews of two of the movies you mentioned in this issue. I saw *LotR:TTT* myself, but I doubt I'll have time to write a full review before I must put the issue to bed. As for the book itself, many people consider it one novel — albeit a very long one. -ED]

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

Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown MD 21740

24 December 2002

A few Christmas Eve comments on the December *Shuttle* seem to be in order. They might not get to a mailbox until New Year's Eve because it has started to snow much more violently than the weather forecast called for followed by a cold snap, so I may be housebound for a while. There may be eyebrows raised at the SESFA fiction awards. All the authors are male although a female is among the "Live Achievement" honorees, which I assume is supposed to be life honors.

If anyone in the insurance industry gets well acquainted with fandom, it's conceivable that fans might find their life insurance premium rates adjusted a considerable distance upward. For that matter, pro writers in the science fiction and fantasy areas aren't exactly setting longevity records. I can't imagine why so many of us are passing away in middle age or the early stages of senior citizenship.

Kkitd Oebby us oribabkt rug... let's start again with fingers on the correct home keys. Lloyd Penney is probably right about the inflated costs of attending worldcons causing a reduction in turnout eventually. There must also be some people who are so fed up with long waits in airports for baggage inspection and other safety measures that they will be avoiding most cons that are too distant to reach easily by auto.

The return of PieEyedDragon is one of the few cheerful events in fandom in recent months. I hope I remain competent long enough to enjoy the forthcoming narration.

Thank you for the birthday wishes. As far as I know, there was no organized international commemoration of it, but that's just as well.

You shouldn't worry about the mistake in our colophon, which is good evidence that people read the *Shuttle* carefully. It pales before what I have done twice; put the wrong title on an apazine. Both times, I didn't notice it until I picked up the typed sheets to take to the copy shop. For a long while I've produced regular apazines for both FAPA and SAPS and during several years I was also publishing for SFPA. I use the same format, typewriter, and type of paper for all my apa publishing and sometimes I forgot which organization this particular [zine] is meant for.

[I see by the postmark on your letter (26 December) that you

weren't snowed in as long as you feared. I also see you spotted a typo. I could really use an extra pair of eyes for proofing — it's easy to read right over phrases like "Live Achievement," seeing what you know should be there. Ah well, the *Shuttle* chews up enough of my time (one full weekend and several evenings a month) without obsessing about a few residual glitches. If all goes as planned, this issue will see the first part of a new saga from the PieEyedDragon. Other than Worldcons or NASFiCs, I've never flown to a con, but I understand it's not uncommon among some segments of fandom. However, it's not only fans or other leisure travelers who may now avoid air travel. I seldom travel on business, but I've heard of some business travelers who are choosing to drive from Huntsville — at least as far as the Carolinas — rather than flying. Presumably they are not allowed extra paid time for the trip, so at least some of them must be driving off the clock, as it were. -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead
<catsmeouch@yahoo.com>

1 January 2003

Well, ghosts of the crash are still with me — and losing electricity for three days didn't help (even though I had everything turned off and have a surge protector — when I next tried to work I ended up calling Apple — they could help — so I had to pay HP to try to fix the same problem from a month ago — and they said they would just circumvent it — something else is the culprit and they don't know how to figure out what — so far *everyone* has said the fault lies with something else and they don't know how to find it — so I coughed up the \$27 (again) and was told to leave the printer on *all the time* — not the bandaids they gave me last time. Ahem, if they are saying the power loss was part of the problem and now they *want* me to leave it on... I jess doan unnerstan...

Ah, but back to things at hand!

The garage door — yes, there is an emergency release. After the previous loss of power I decided I better figure out about it. I did. The catch is that when power is restored, the opener is supposed to reengage — mine does not. In order to make it reconnect you have to, essentially, climb a ladder and hang from the half opened door, then one of three things will happen — it will reengage, it will reengage and you fall on top of the car, or it will not reengage and you still fall on top of the car. So — knowing that — I chose to wait until I *really* had to get out of the garage... and waited — yes, power took three days, but back it came!

But, I digress — since I am already playing with things technical, thought I would try to send two fillos — we shall (or more hopefully — *you* will).

Happy New Year to all.

This is cute — when I went to attach the file, I got a menu I have *never* seen before — with all sorts of options for files I have never heard of — aha... and the sot plicken...

[I got the fillos - they're very cute but I can't seem to get them to transfer well to the printed page. The contents appear to be very low resolution, though the problem may be on my end. I'll fiddle with various software and see if I can get something without a severe case of the jaggies — though it certainly won't be in time for this issue. I don't envy you your computer/printer problems. Tracing the source of a problem like that can be quite frustrating as so many things are interdependent. -ED]



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