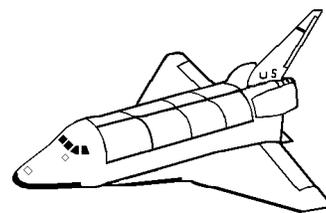


The



SHUTTLE
July 2005

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 16 July
2005 at the Regular Time and Location*

*The next Con+Stellation XXIV Con Committee Meeting
will be 4 August 2005 at Marie McCormack's House*

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **16 July 2005** at the **regular time and location**.

The **July program** will be an **auction** to determine what/who will take the place of the Ewoks and Barney pictures currently on the plinth. Bring your "favorite" candidate (well... a *picture* anyway) and money to "promote" your candidate. The exact format of the auction will be determined by our new Program Director, Doug Lampert.

The **July after-the-meeting meeting** will be at Kevin and Dawn Pulliam's house; 266 Ita Ann Lane, Madison. **Directions** and a **map** can be found elsewhere in this issue.

The penultimate chapter in PieEyedDragon's current adventure should appear in this issue. The final chapter may have to be held for a few months as Worldcon and NASFiC coverage will take up a lot of space in the next two issues.

June Minutes

by Steve Sloan, One Confused Secretary

The June meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, June 18, 2005 in the BookMark upstairs meeting room at 6:20P by President Mary Ortwerth. The usual Crickets were out sick with a dead battery.

OLD BUSINESS

Mia informed the club that last month's Rocket City FurMeet was a blast, wonderful, and neat. There were some jokes about hotel damage. Kevin is negotiating a contract to replace part of the hotel's sprinkler system, but it had nothing to do with the Furrries. It's his regular job. Plenty of room for jokes, though.

Doug was nominated to be Con Chair. He hasn't done it
(continued on page 2)

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Deadline for the August 2005 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 5 August 2005.

Our 25th Year of Publication!

before, so he nominated Mary as Co-Chair... but she hasn't done it before, either. K. O. (Kevin Omel) was nominated next. Two problems: that would give him a second con to run, and he's not a NASFA member. Mary asked if Anita and Marie might want to do another year. Anita was there, and they called Marie on the cell phone. Mia isn't volunteering, but she's happy to help with upcoming cons.

One of K.O.'s two problems ended soon after, because Sam paid his membership dues. He is now a member in good standing, but completely without his knowledge.

NEW BUSINESS

Karen has a very time-consuming new job that's been interfering with her duties as Program Director. So, she has resigned, and we need a replacement.

Mary opened the floor for nominations. Mia said she was interested, although it would be an extra job in addition to Publicity Director. Doug officially nominated Mia for the office of Program Director, and Mike Kennedy seconded. Sam nominated Doug. "So there, nyah." Mike seconded. There were no other candidates, so Mary closed nominations.

Doug wanted the candidates to make long, boring speeches before the vote. Mary started to open voting, until Doug objected to skipping the speeches. He asked that we call the question, which requires a two-thirds majority vote. The vote failed, even after Doug attempted to recruit Jack, who had just walked in. The entire incident took at least as much time as the actual speeches would have taken.

Mary called the vote. Doug won the open position of Publicity Director. His valiant two-handed voting technique didn't hurt.

Mary was getting confused at this point. It seemed a little late to everybody else.

Mary reminded us that we should be thinking about the summer picnic, and when and where we want to have it, before it gets too late in the year.

Mary would like to replace the old pictures on her plinth, aka gavel plate, with new ones. It's about time for a change, because she's been hitting Barney and Ewoks for a long time. As Doug's first official act as Publicity Director, he decreed that for next month's program, we should all bring in new pictures we'd like hit with a hammer. Bring plenty of money, too, because we'll auction off the right to use the picture of your choice. Bribing other people to vote your way is another fine use of your money.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

According to Anita, we're still going to have a convention. The people rejoiced. Mike Cothran was looking for contact information on a particular guest. An email came in to Mike Kennedy, asking to do a party. He will reply to it. Mia will be preparing more bunny cookies.

Sam read the web hit counts into the minutes. During April 2005, the Con†Stellation site had 593 hits, NASFA had 115, and DeepSouthCon 40 had 34. During May 2005, Con†Stellation had 699 hits, NASFA had 135, and DSC had 44.

There was talk about putting ads on the Con†Stellation site, particularly Amazon links and click-throughs. We could endorse books by upcoming convention guests.

Jim Butcher can't attend Con†Stellation this year. This reminded Mike Kennedy of Robert Sheckley, who has become seriously ill. He won't be able to be the Worldcon Guest of Honor, as planned. He got sick while touring Ukraine, without any foreign insurance, so he was in real trouble. He was so sick that he couldn't fly home for a long time, and even when he got well enough to fly, he still needed a doctor to fly with him, just

in case. We hope he'll get better soon.

Mike Kennedy contacted a local [public] radio station, to submit an ad for the June NASFA meeting. We know the radio station read the ad at 5:30 in the morning, because Marvin heard it. We got diverted into a discussion of who would be up at that time of morning, and why.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55:10P. Because of the Program Director change-over, we skipped the program, and left early to go to Mike Kennedy's house for the After-the-Meeting Meeting.

NASFA Calendar

JULY

- 01 Canada Day.
- 01-04 Gaylaxicon 2005 — Boston MA.
- 02 BD: Deb Stone.
- 04 Independence Day.
- 06 BD: Mary Axford.
- 07 Concom Meeting: Marie McCormack's house.
- 15 BD: Jay Johns.
- 15-17 Trinoc*coN 2005 — Durham NC.
- 16* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Plinth Auction. ATMM: Dawn and Kevin Pulliam's house.
- 22-24 ShowMeCon 3 — St. Louis MO.
- 24 Parents' Day.
- 29 BD: Mark Paulk.
- 29-31 LibertyCon 18 — Chattanooga TN.

AUGUST

- 04-08 Interaction (63rd Worldcon) — Glasgow Scotland.
- 04 Concom Meeting: Marie McCormack's house.
- 05-07 Crescent City Con XX — Metairie (New Orleans) LA.
- 08 BD: Jim Woosley.
- 11-15 Tolkien 2005 Conference — Birmingham England.
- 12-14 ConGlomeration 2005 — Louisville KY.
- 14 BD: Edward Kenny.
- 19-21 Armadillocon 27 — Austin TX.
- 19 BD: Kehn Moore
- 20* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 21 BD: Deborah Denton.

SEPTEMBER

- 01 Concom Meeting: Marie McCormack's house.
- 01-05 Cascadia Con (8th NASFiC) — Seattle WA.
- 02 BD: David K. Robinson.
- 02-04 Mephit Furmeet 9 — Memphis TN.
- 02-05 Dragon*Con 2005 — Atlanta GA.
- 05 Labor Day.
- 09 BD: Mike Cothran.
- 09-11 Outside Con 18 — Dickson TN.
- 11 Grandparents' Day.
- 11 Patriot Day.
- 11 BD: Ray Pietruszka.
- 12 BD: Pat Butler.
- 13 Yom Kippur.
- 15 Possible Concom Meeting: Stay tuned.
- 17 Citizenship Day.
- 17* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.

convinced that I could reach out and create my own wormhole to anywhere if I only tried. I've shed my skin twice here, now, and eaten it. The water shows my face. My eyes have changed and are now completely blue. The vision comes again, stronger than ever. I rise up through the atmosphere to the edge of space. Reaching out, I take hold of space and make a certain twist in the gravity band. A wormhole opens. I enter and fly.

Though the far side wavers, I can see in my vision the Land of Oz. I exit the wormhole and reenter normal space. Elphaba wakes up and identifies the land beneath us as Ix, just northeast of the Gillikinland quadrant of Oz. I adjust course and glide easily back west toward Winkieland.

Elphaba: You have mastered the *key*. Defying gravity, you have conquered.

PED: And I can return home now to *whenever* I please. Just now, I have unfinished business.

(After a while, I land normally in a blackened, blasted place that once was a haunted forest.)

PED: I wonder if they are already calling this "The Desolation of the Dragon"? There are a few windblown seeds among the sterile ashes, now. Life shall come again.

(Noting a slight tingle in my magic sense, I face the direction of Emerald City.)

PED: A little Privacy just now if you please, Your Majesty.

(The tingle stops.)

PED: Thank you... This place has seen *fire* and *wind*. Now comes a less usual application of my abilities.

(I put my chin on the ground, raise my tail, and unseal my cloaca. A veritable dust storm of small granules is released; coating the area in a layer of new soil that is indistinguishable from the castings of common earthworms. No one would suspect they were evidence of the presence of a dragon. I've been "holding it" for two years now. Elphaba seems dumbfounded by this unexpected secret.)

Elphaba: Perhaps, I should have called you... "Auntie"?

PED: No matter. I have no present need for either gender. Let them think me male. Now for the *fourth* element.

(A pool of water appears nearby. A stream begins trickling away amongst the new soil.)

Elphaba: This is a nice start for a garden. What now?

PED: Garden... garden... that reminds me of something I haven't thought of in millennia.

Elphaba: Do I sense a *story* coming on?

PED: I was still young; not quite out of my first millennium. I had finished my magic studies and my flight training. The first time I left the area of Iceland, I headed toward the action in the middle east, near the headwaters of the Tigris river. I saw this sort-of Afrit and tried to chat him up. He wouldn't say a word; just swung a flaming sword in front of anyone who came near. This kind of company I could have found among the Jotuns of Iceland. I wandered off a ways and studied bugs for a few days. I remember a couple of dung beetles doing their jobs. After they were gone, I examined what they had left behind. It was a seed; unlike any seed I had yet studied. It was similar to an apple seed; but it wasn't. I decided to take it with me for later research.

Elphaba: So, what did you find out?

PED: That's the point. One thing led to another, over the next six thousand years, and I never did. I quite forgot about it until now.

Elphaba: Too late now, I suppose.

PED: I wonder. (I close my eyes and rummage around in my stomachs with no luck. Then I check my appendix and there

it was. I spit it onto the ground.) There it is.

Elphaba: You're a bit of a pack-rat, aren't you?

PED: Most dragons who go in for hoarding pick stuff like gold and gems. That usually leads to trouble and bad ends. I don't always know *why* I pick what I do.

Elphaba: Well, I'm glad you picked *me*. I've seen some sights because of it. What now?

PED: Well, I suppose the best way to learn about a seed... is to *plant* it. Welcome to my garden, little seed. (I cover the seed with new earth, and splash new water upon the area.) Where shall we go now? Emerald City?

Elphaba: Not there! If you wouldn't mind, I'd like to visit an old friend down South, in the Quadling country.

(So I rise and fly south, to finally circle (nine times widdershins, of course) the palace of the Sorceress: Glinda the Good. *Style* can be important.)

— O — O — O —

Conditions were finally within the very narrow range for viability. It softens and begins to swell, preparing to send forth a taproot and a tender stem. Far, and far again, from it's origin the only extant seed of the Tree of Knowledge dies as it gives birth to an infant plant.

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of Frank Herbert, Gregory Maguire, and Stephen Schwartz.]

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

19 June 2005

Hi — I am convinced that if I sort through the zine pile I have right here that I'll come across another *Shuttle* — oh well — I'd rather go ahead and reply while I can and just be a "bit" (well, a whole lotta bit) late on a previous ish — so on with the show!

I have the Hugo ballot sitting right here, still need to find the fiction and read same or not vote — did see all the long dramatic presentation nominations so I am at least started...

I have not seen the new Star Wars movie yet, but everything I have heard has been positive. It seems most likely that I'll just add it to my NetFlx list and see it when it come out on video — movies are just too expensive!

My sister's idea of sf is Star Wars and Star Trek — she could not understand that I did not know all the background stories in the SW world... or that I have not seen this latest movie at least several times. Not to name names, but I was poking around some sites on the internet and saw what a few sf writers/fans thought of this #3 film — um... er... less than stellar. At least there is a total spectrum of thoughts!

I am taking advantage of the NetFlx subscription to take a look at some of the TV shows from cable — just watched the miniseries *Five Days to Midnight* — which I thought was nicely done. So far I have not been too taken with the *Dead Like Me* series, but it's an interesting premise.

Hope your visitor from the North decides to make your meetings a routine addition to his calendar.

I did okay on the number of zines I receive that are in your receivables pile — 4/8 — seems I've been running about 50%

lately — which keeps me thinking I ought to try harder, but also makes me feel that the pubbing arena is still fairly well filled.

I've watched the AFI's list of the 100 top films, but this weekend there is a similar [special] about movie quotes, and I suspect I will not do nearly as well in that venue — we'll see.

Well, I don't see another ish of the *Shuttle* lurking around so I guess I'll call it quits for tonight — as always, thanks!

[The Hugo voting deadline has passed, with all the accompanying online discussion about finding lost PIN numbers and other such administrivia. That happens every year but it may be getting more frequent as a larger percentage opt to vote online. I, too, occasionally get the obscure sf-media question from folks who know I'm a fan. The one that sticks in my memory from the past several months is the guy at work who asked for the formula relating Star Trek's "warp factor" to multiples of the speed of light. I had no clue. A few minutes search on the web turned up what seemed to be a fairly authoritative source which related multiple formulas, depending on which "era" of Trek was involved. I seem to get around to viewing DVDs too seldom to make something like NetFlix at all practical. I do buy movies from time to time — if I like it well enough I want to keep it. I caught only a little bit of the American Film Institute's 100 quotes show, but I did look at the complete list online. If one is slightly generous in categorizing, sf/fantasy/horror films account for around a quarter of their list. *The Wizard of Oz* alone had three quotes on the list. -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney 24 June 2005
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Etobicoke ON
Canada M9C 2B2

Many thanks for June *Shuttle*. I'm inside where it's safe... the predicted temperature for today is 34 degrees Celsius, which is about 94 Fahrenheit. The air condition is working overtime, and this will be a busy weekend for us, so let's get some writing done before the temperatures make it too oppressive to move.

I enjoyed [*Star Wars*] Episode III, mostly because it wound up the whole series of movies, and it looks like Episode III moves into Episode IV fairly well. Yet, there isn't the excitement for me there was for the original episode because I am 28 years older. All six movies together look pretty good, a legendary oeuvre from George Lucas. But, there are so many problems with the background of the story, it is difficult to get het up about it. I think it would take something mindblowing for me to get excited about a science fiction movie these days. The reviews have been mixed... the best phrase I've seen is "Sith happens." I am waiting for a true movie marathon, with all six SW movies shown in sequence. I'll probably go, and watch out for an impacted backside for sitting for more than 12 hours.

Another great awards list... I will not be attending the Westercon/Convention in Calgary, but I will try as soon as I can to find out the Aurora winners, and relay that information to you. Neither one of us is on the ballot this year, but we are interested in the results nevertheless.

The Canadian local... our wedding anniversary has the coincidental timing of usually being on or near to the Glicksohn/Harper birthday celebrations, so the end of May/beginning of

June is party time for the Penneys. Birthdays, anniversaries... the wallet takes a beating, but it's a great way to bring in the summer.

Hello to PieEyedDragon... looking forward to more adventures. I should check out the Oz website to catch up on this detailed universe of stories. Just never grew up with them, I guess.

Time to go... hope everyone has a great weekend, and a busy, fun summer. The July 1st weekend we have reserved for us, and things we want to do, and I can't wait for it. Stay cool, and party on!

[With a hurricane on the way, our predicted high temperatures are a bit moderated for the next few days, but 90 Fahrenheit and above is pretty routine in the summer here. Heck, it's over 80 out there as I type this at nearly 10P Saturday night. I did finally see the last/third Star Wars movie earlier this week. I'm glad I went but I can't say it would ever be on my list of favorite movies. A list of the Aurora Awards should appear in this issue, copied from the Westercon 58 web site. -ED]

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

Chris Garcia 29 June 2005
<garcia@computerhistory.org>

Since I recently became VP of the Bay Area Science Fiction Association (BASFA), I figured it was time to start searching out what various other groups are doing. I must say, ya put out a fine publication there. BASFA has an official organ (*Justifying the Neans*) without an official editor (though I fear every time I bring in one of my own zines, they inch me ever closer to filling that role).

I haven't seen many folks talking about the *Time* list in fanzines yet. I didn't mention it in *The Drink Tank*, which is odd since it's exactly the type of thing that I regularly talk about. The *Time* list isn't bad, if unimaginative and pretty much what we would all expect. The biggest errors were errors of omission, like *The Day The Earth Stood Still*, *Dracula*, and *2001*. Also a few of the inclusions (*Drunken Master 2?*) and the choice of one film from a particular director or star (*Aguirre: The Wrath of God* over *Fitzcarraldo*?) also left me high and dry at times. There was a list of the Best Bad Movies of All-time that I thought was perfect. I think it was in *Maxim*. It had *Roadhouse* in first place, which is my thought. I put *Jaws: The Revenge* a close second personally.

Lots of awards coverage makes my heart happy. China winning the Clarke is one of those things that gives me hope that we'll get more and more from Mr. Miéville in the coming years. He produces far too slowly for my taste! I also love that he's got a story up for the *Locus* that first appeared in the *Socialist Review*. That made me smile (though his story in *McSweeney's* was far better).

The awards that I'm always interested in are the Sidewise Awards. This year's crop is great, with the obvious front runner for the short form being "Ministry of Space" by Warren Ellis. As an alternate history guy (I put together a zine called *Alternate Wildly* for eAPA that's largely about Alt Hist and the like) I'm glad to see the genre has it's own reward. As a working historian, I'm glad to see that Alternate History is thriving because it gives me a chance to write rebuttals to them in fanzines!

There's a lot of looking at the latest Star Wars movie all over the place. I even wrote a long look at how the third movie

basically made a punk out of just about everybody by either having them easily murdered, stupidly tricked, or obviously betrayed. Even Anakin/Vader looks like a chump when things end. I liked the film, but there was much that could and probably should have gone other ways.

I've never been to a Huntsville Stars game, but I've been to my share of Minor League games played by the San Jose Giants (formerly the San Jose Bees). I love minor league ball with all of its quirks and fun and beer batters and the like. A friend once told me that Baseball was the Science Fiction of the Sports World, and I can't quite find a way to argue.

[Welcome to the *Shuttle*, Chris. Miéville has always received a good bit of award attention — including the 2001 Clarke Award for *Perdido Street Station* — so I doubt one more award will pump up his output very much. Can't hurt to hope, though. I find "best of" lists and awards interesting, in large part as "recommended reading/viewing" lists, and I hope they're useful to our readers that way. Of course, as with any list of recommendations, one should take the source(s) into account. Although I hadn't thought about the characters in the latest SW movie in quite the way you mention, I can easily see how you could call them "chumps." Lucas' grip on characterization, while a bit better than his take on dialog, has never been one of his strongest suits. -ED]

POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

4 July 2005

...uh...I'm fairly certain the May issue just hid until now so I doubt I commented on it. So since it surfaced...

Gee, I actually know both Fund winners. Joe and Suzle — both are good choices, but any of the runners this year were good choices!

I'm looking — that Panic illo *has* to be by White — can't find the artist.

PED — *go get 'em*. Munchkins and all.

Fingers crossed for Lloyd's continued employment!

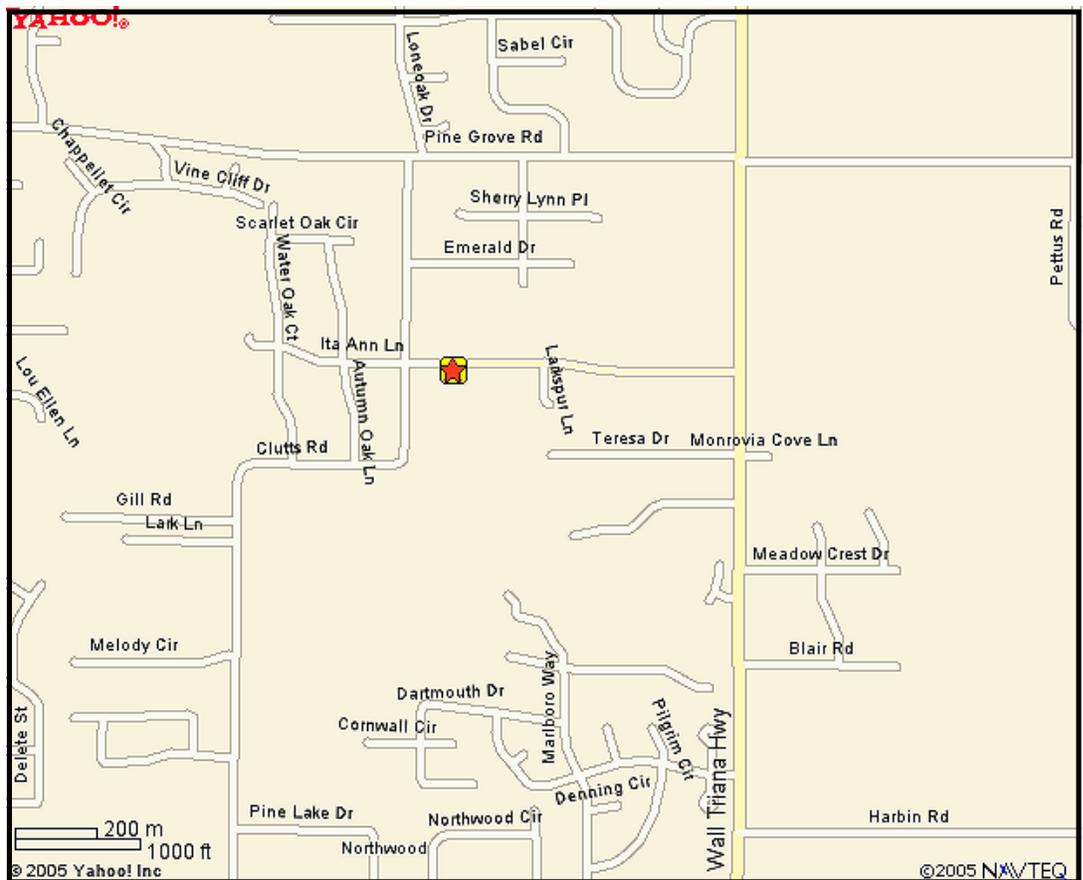
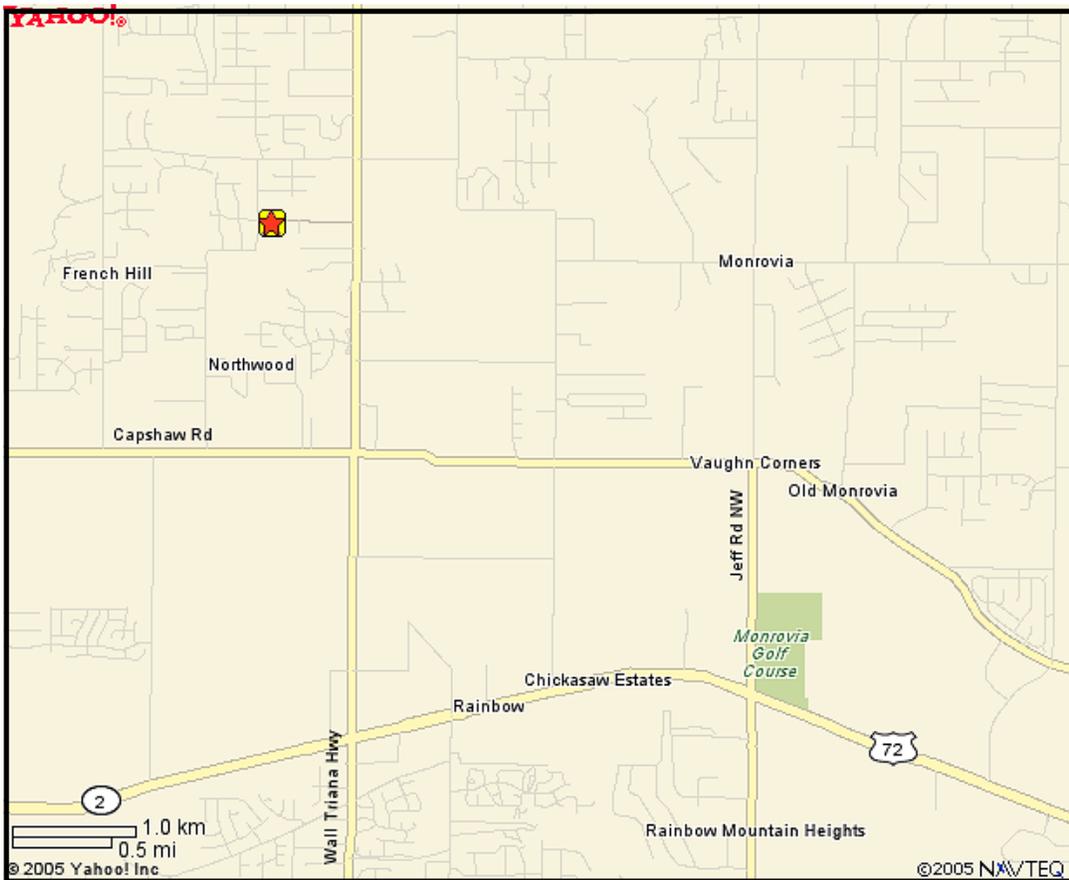
Egoboo is the currency of fandom — be a *bhig spender*!

[The Panic illo was, well, stolen from one of the digital posters I found online for the *Hitchhiker's* movie. Of course, the original said Don't Panic, but I altered it a wee bit — call it editorial license. -ED]

ATMM Directions

Dawn and Kevin Pulliam will host the July After-the-Meeting Meeting. Directions to their house follow. Wide-area and close-up maps are also shown on the next page. Please consider these maps only approximate, given their online source.

Directions: Head West on US 72 (University Drive) in Madison. Turn North onto Wall Triana (between Bruno's and Winn Dixie at the Shell gas station). Drive North on Wall Triana a little less than 3 miles. Turn Left onto Ita Ann Lane (2nd Left after the Wall Triana Animal Hospital, and the last Left before the Texaco at Pine Grove — if you get to the Texaco, turn around and make your first Right). Drive West on Ita Ann Lane. The house is on the Left at the top of the hill. It has Yellow wood siding and a Green mailbox with the house number (266) on it. The driveway is gravel with brick columns on either side.





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