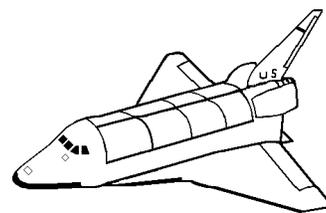


The



SHUTTLE  
November 2006

## The Next NASFA Meeting is 18 November 2006 at the Regular Time and Location

### 🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **Saturday 18 November 2006** at the **regular time** and **location**. The program is TBD at press time, but may be a showing of *The Call of Cthulhu* — a modern-day silent film (with original music) produced by the H. P. Lovecraft Historical Society.

The November After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at Mike Kennedy's house, in honor of November birthdays. (Mmmm... chocolate cake...)

The December ATMM (aka Christmas Party) will be at Sue Thorn's house. There will be a New Year's Eve party at Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka's house.

### TAFF Nominees Announced

Nominees for the 2007 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund have been announced. TAFF alternates between sending a North American fan to Europe (as for 2007) and a European fan to North America.

Candidates for the current race are **Chris Garcia** and **Mary Kay Kare**. The deadline for voting is midnight PST 6 January 2007. Ballots (including statements from the nominees) can be found online at <[taff.org.uk/ballots/taff2007.html](http://taff.org.uk/ballots/taff2007.html)> and can be mailed to the North American Administrator (Suzanne Tompkins, P. O. Box 25075, Seattle WA 98165 USA) or the European Administrator (Bridget Bradshaw, 103 Rustat Road, Cambridge, CB1 3QG UK).

Voting is open to anyone who was active in fandom prior to April 2005, and who contributes at least \$3 or £2 to the fund (to be sent along with your ballot). TAFF also raises money for the fund through contributions, auctions, and other fannish sources.

### NASFA Calendar

#### NOVEMBER

- 02–05 World Fantasy Convention 2006 — Austin TX.
- 07 Election Day.
- 09–12 NovaCon — Huntsville AL. **NovaCon has been**  
(continued on page 2)

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**Deadline for the Month 2006 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 1 December 2006.**



For the program, Mike brought more shorts to show. In "Last Girlfriend," the Last Man on Earth is sitting in a room, and there's a knock at the door. How can that be, and why am I alluding to one of the infamous cliché plots of SF? It's the Last Woman, and the Last Man's about to try and break up with her. How do you break up with your girlfriend when you're surrounded by zombies? In "Mr. Dreamer," a computer-generated purple blobby guy chases an imaginary rabbit through a real city scene. In a similar vein, "Mr. Sunken" shows a tall, blue, depressed-looking blobby guy slumping through a real city scene. "Viking Kittens" is a silly take on Led Zeppelin's *Immigrant Song*. "Icon's Story" shows the secret, all-out war on your Windows desktop. "Muppet Matrix" is fun, and pretty much what it sounds like.

The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at Adam Grim and Mia West's house.

## World Fantasy Awards

The 2006 World Fantasy Awards (for works published in 2005) were presented at a banquet Saturday evening 4 November 2006 during the World Fantasy Convention in Austin TX. This year's World Fantasy Convention was sponsored by the Fandom Association of Central Texas <www.fact.org> and was held 2-5 November 2006 at the Renaissance Hotel at the Arboretum, Austin TX.

Full information on the awards, including all the nominees, can be found online at <www.fact.org/wfc2006/awards>. Judges for this year's awards were Steve Lockley, Barbara Roden, Victoria Strauss, Jeff VanderMeer, and Andrew Wheeler. The winners are:

- Life Achievement** ..... **Stephen Fabian** and **John Crowley**
- Novel** ..... *Kafka on the Shore*, Haruki Murakami (Harvill; Knopf)
- Novella** ..... *Voluntary Committal*, Joe Hill (Subterranean Press)
- Short Fiction** ..... **"CommComm,"** George Saunders (*The New Yorker* 1 August 2005)
- Anthology** ..... *The Fair Folk*, Marvin Kaye, ed. (SFBC)
- Collection** ..... *The Keyhole Opera*, Bruce Holland Rogers (Wheatland Press)
- Artist** ..... **James Jean**
- Special Award, Professional** ..... **Sean Wallace** (for Prime Books)
- Special Award, Non-Professional** ..... **David Howe** and **Stephen Walker** (both for Telos Books)

## International Horror Guild Awards

The 2006 International Horror Guild Awards (for works published in 2005) were presented at a ceremony Thursday evening 2 November 2006 during the 2006 World Fantasy Convention in Austin TX. The full list of nominees can be seen online at <www.ihgonline.org>. Artist John Picacio was the MC.

The IHG Awards, for outstanding achievement in the field of Horror and Dark Fantasy, are in their twelfth year. The

award process includes public recommendations, followed by a jury. This year's judges were Edward Bryant, Stefan R. Dziemianowicz, Ann Kennedy, and Hank Wagner. Paula Guran is the award administrator. The 2006 winners are:

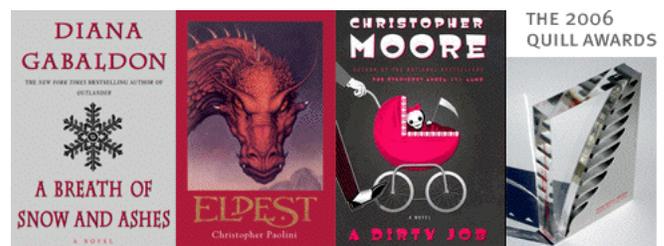
- Novel** ..... *Lunar Park*, Brett Easton Ellis (US: Knopf, UK: Macmillan/Picador)
- Short Fiction** ..... **"There's a Hole in the City,"** Rick Bowes (*SciFiction* 06.15.05)
- Mid-Length Fiction** ..... **"La Peau Verte,"** Caitlin Kiernan (*To Charles Fort, with Love*)
- Long Fiction** ..... **"Kiss of the Mudman,"** Gary Braunbeck (*Home Before Dark*)
- Collection** ..... *20<sup>th</sup> Century Ghosts*, Joe Hill (PS Publishing)
- Periodical** ..... *Postscripts*, Peter Crowther, ed.
- Illustrated Narrative** ..... *Memories*, Enki Bilal (Humanoid/DC)
- Nonfiction** ..... *Supernatural Literature of the World: An Encyclopedia*, S. T. Joshi and Stefan Dziemianowicz, eds. (Greenwood Press)
- Art** ..... *Visions of Heaven and Hell (and Then Some)*, Clive Barker (exhibition at Bert Green Fine Art, Los Angeles CA)
- Living Legend** ..... **Chelsea Quinn Yarbro**

## Quill Awards Announced

The second annual Quill Awards (for books published August 2005 through June 2006) were announced at an awards banquet 10 October 2006, with the ceremony broadcast on NBC 28 October 2006. Nominations were made by librarians and booksellers; final voting was open to the public.

There are 20 categories for the Quills. A full list of winners can be seen online at <www.thequills.org/2006.html>. Genre-related winners include:

- SF/Fantasy/Horror** ..... *A Breath of Snow and Ashes*, Diana Gabaldon (Dell)
- Young Adult/Teen** ..... *Eldest*, Christopher Paolini (Random House)
- General Fiction** ..... *A Dirty Job*, Christopher Moore (William Morrow)



## Publishers Weekly Best Books of the Year

Trade publication Publishers Weekly has released a set of lists of Best Books of the Year in 13 categories. All of the works on the SF/Fantasy/Horror list are shown below. Additionally, genre works appear on several other lists, including in the General Fiction, Comics, and Children's Fiction categories. All of the lists can be seen online at <www.publishersweekly

.com/article/CA6388182.html>.

### PWSF/FANTASY/HORROR

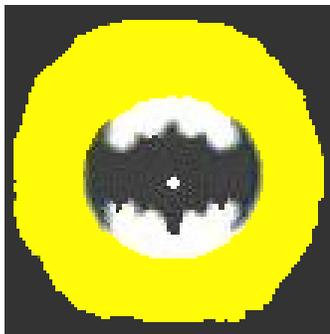
*The Armies of Memory*, John Barnes (Tor)

*Pretender*, C. J. Cherryh (DAW)

*The Empire of Ice Cream*, Jeffrey Ford (Golden Gryphon)

*Dark Harvest*, Norman Partridge (Cemetery Dance)

*No Present Like Time*, Steph Swainston (Eos)



## Dragon Fire on the Mountain

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 9  
by PieEyedDragon

I stand down below the mine entrance, setting the spells in my mind. Invoking the Law of Contagion, I slowly lift the water bottles. A strong breeze begins blowing out of the mine, carrying a faint echo of gurgling. The torch flames flutter. A cold wind comes down off the mountain to mix with the stale air from the mine flowing to me. The air begins to change. A boiling gray cloud of coal dust, carbon monoxide, methane, water vapor, silicate grit, and carbon dioxide belches forth from the mine.

I crouch and dig all my claws deep into the rocky ground, open my mouth, and close my eyes. The leading edge of the fuel-air cloud reaches the line of torches, and...

— O — O — O —

Ranger Walker, face and hands blackened with charcoal, looked down to replace the dwarven far-seer in its leather case. Just then a brilliant flash tore a hole in the night; lighting-up the hillsides and the bottom of the cloud deck. Luck had kept him from being blinded. Bad luck was often due to bad judgment or bad information. For centuries upon centuries, the forces and agents of the Dark Lord had reduced the Dúnedain of Arnor to a small remnant of their former numbers. Those remaining had typically been the strongest, toughest, healthiest, smartest... and luckiest. Like steel in a forge, the Enemy had created the weapon that brought him down.

Walker stared back out from his spy-hole in the rocks. He had been trying to see what the goblins were up to these days. After the flash from the mountain he began counting. He heard the thunderclap at fifty seconds. That agreed with the distance to the old dwarf mine. A rumble went on, and on, and on — like the wheels of the wainriders.

His real name was Elcordolan. As a young man, he had followed his kinsman, the Lord Aragorn, through Dunharrow and the Paths of the Dead; and so on to lift the siege of Minas Tirith. Afterwards, he also followed and fought before the Towers of the Teeth where orc arrows had wounded both his legs. He was never again able to jump or run, and sitting on a horse pained him. He recovered well enough to walk, though.

The King had been pleased with his service, and — being proud of his own “Strider” nickname — called him “Walker.” That had been over 120 years ago. Walker was now old, but still hale enough to do the tedious duties needed here in the north by the new King: Aragorn’s son Eldarion Telcontar.

The Dúnedain of the north were mostly descendants of those who peopled the kingdom of Arthedain — north of the Shire. There were few left from the Dúnedain of Rhudaur; near Rivendell. The plague and the agents of Angmar had hit the Dúnedain of Cardolan especially hard. Most of the remnant had fallen in the barrow downs and the Old Forest. Only Walker’s family still survived. They had been guardians of the Stone of Amon Sûl. When Angmar had overrun the Tower Hills, they had evacuated the Stone westward with the men of Arthedain. Later, when King Arvedui fled north, an accident had separated Walker’s people from him. Thus, they did not die with their King when his rescue ship was crushed by the ice.

There was still light on the mountain. Walker took out his far-seer to have another look. He saw a short river of orange flame near the mine entrance. Something moved at the lower end, rising up.

Walker went stiff, and took a very careful look. Wings fluttered slightly, like those of the Fell Beasts ridden by the Nazgûl. Walker counted four legs. This was therefore not one of those others.

It was a dragon — a *fire* dragon.

— O — O — O —

The old Ranger braced the far-seer and began to take measurements. These were a recent purchase from the artificers of Erebor. It and its fellows had cost the King’s treasury very nearly a King’s ransom.

\*\*ping\*\*

According to the device, the monster was five and one half feet tall at the shoulder, and eighteen feet long. The Nazgûl mounts had been bigger. That was some bit of good news. He looked again and tried to determine what the beast was doing over there. The flame ran between the beast and the mine entrance. There was something... *odd*... about its motions; and why was the dragon trying to burn an old mine?

He kept looking; and the incredible truth finally dawned upon him: The flames were not coming *from* the dragon... they were going *into* the dragon! It was also... possibly... beginning to glow! After about an hour, the flames died out. Dawn came and the dragon still just stood there. Finally, it started moving. It began by rubbing its chin against the rocks. Then, slowly, it reached up and started pulling bits of scaly skin loose and popping them into its mouth. This was familiar territory to Walker, even if he had never heard of anyone witnessing a dragon shedding its skin, like a snake.

This looked like it would take some time; so Walker moved further down in his cleft, ate some dry food, took care of other necessities, and slept for a while. His black and white furry door-guardians down below had been somewhat aroused by the nighttime noise, to judge by their freshened stink.

Walker was in a quandary. The kingdom needed to know about this as soon as possible. Even if he could leave a message at the nearest supply cache today; it would be several days before the supply detail came by to pick it up. If he could even get it there, with a dragon out in the open. Walker elected therefore to wait for the time being. He could collect more information and meet his support crew personally.

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J. R. R. Tolkien (But you already knew that, didn’t you?)]

# Letters of Comment

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Sheryl Birkhead  
25509 Jonnie Court  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

14 October 2006

I wonder if I have already commented on the September ish, but since I am not certain and there are no marks on it, I will presume I am just terribly tardy — sorreeee!

This is the first year that I have seen announcements for the Quill Awards on TV — letting the viewers know where to locate the voting site. We shall see...

Interesting — I actually have *Star Trek* (the original series) on right now — and this is the first time I have stopped channel surfing long enough to actually take a look. Hmmm — we never had a color TV when the show came out and this is the first time I can remember watching it in color — gads, such bright and clean colors (of course it probably helps that I have a nice Sony for the watching) — even if the sets do look like a child's playground setup. Ah, but I digress.

Have you heard whether LA considered the “taster” membership to be a success? I cannot imagine that those walk-ins would have actually purchased a full membership if this variation had not been available, but one never knows.

Thanks for the voting stats. I need to update the information I have (been remiss over the past few years) and with the numbers at hand there is no excuse not to (other than laziness!).

I haven't heard anyone take a guess at what the cost might be to attend the Japanese Worldcon... including airfare from one of the US coasts. I ought to dig out the PR that arrived a while ago and see if there is any mention of what the costs might be. I remember there was a piece about possible tours — but I do not recall any prices mentioned. I am just guessing that it is going to be way up there... but then again, that is what the rest of the world has to deal with coming to the US when the Worldcon is here.

Gary (Shelton) — what was the drawing that you won? Just curious.

The Hugo from LA looks interesting, but I haven't seen a detailed image up close to see what is actually on the base.

Whew — the site selection *was* a very close three-way race. Now all the hard work begins — congratulations to Denver. I need to remember to do fillos for them, but the pattern over the past 3 or 4 years has been that the worldconcoms don't seem interested in them. I'll keep trying!

Ah... forensic wizardry... I like that concept! Fantastic *CSI*!

I am guessing that the Shatner roast ran on a cable network... so I had no shot at catching it. I can't help but hope things remained at least in slightly ghod taste. I am not sure if my memory is faulty or not — but I think there was some sort of *ST* reference on *Boston Legal*. I am not at all sure what the legalities are of such mentions, but I believe it was indirect, so that may have gotten around any (ahem) legal hassles. Of course I may have imagined all of this, too.

I am looking for a small food processor... wouldn't you know it the one I am checking out lists making fresh peanut butter as one of the features — agh. That would mean no excuse not to... sigh.

It is now getting dark close to five and not light until about seven... and there was a bunch of snow to the north... yup it's

fall... soon to be followed by winter.

[There were over 400 taster memberships in the mix at L.A.con IV, but because of the way they were structured (one bought a day pass and either came back in time for a partial refund or didn't) there are no hard statistics on how many people *intended* to come only for a taster but “converted” to a one-day membership by not getting the refund — or even went to the con for multiple days. I *think* that L.A.con considered the experiment a success, and the extra income was doubtless welcome. However, without some idea of how many people who “had a taste” and ended up going for more, I don't know how successful it was in terms of finding new fans. Gary tells me he won two books at L.A.con — a hardbound book of Worldcon GoH speeches in a drawing for volunteers and a limited-edition *Star Trek* pop-up book (signed by Shatner) in a raffle where the ticket proceeds benefited Reading is Fundamental and the Los Angeles Public Library. RE *Boston Legal*, I don't watch but Sue Thorn tells me *Trek* references are fairly common. For instance, she mentioned one episode in which Shatner's character misunderstood what another character said and asked “Did you say Klingons?” -ED]

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Chris Garcia  
<garcia@computerhistory.org>

14 October 2006

Another month brings another issue of *The Shuttle*. I've been workin' so hard on *The Drink Tank* issue 100 that I've barely had a chance to LoC any zines, but now that it's done, I'm back to my writin' ways!

I heard about Bob Tucker's passing around 2 am on Friday night. I instantly started looking for more info and I then wrote a brief obit for the *Silicon Newsletter*. I never got to meet him, but I was lucky enough to spend a few minutes chatting with the three recent Bay Area Worldcon chairs and they shared a couple of Tucker stories. Everyone who had been around for a while seemed to have a Tucker story. I wish I'd had the chance.

I love old movie theaters and I've heard of the Alabama Theatre in my various lines of research. I believe that it's one of the most beautiful from that era that are still left. The California and the Stanford out here in Cali are both wonderful. The Castro is in need of a bit of work, but it's still showing all sorts of films all the time. The Stanford still shows silents sometimes too. The California only does during Cinequest. I saw a few Buster Keaton films there this year.

The *Trek* auction was the second in the last year (along with the Movieland Wax Museum Auction) where everything was out of my price range. So much stuff I wanted. So... much... stuff...

I should read *Von Neumann's War*. It's named after John Von Neumann and there's nothing that screams Computer Historian than JVN. Of course, I'm still hearing Val Kilmer's Doc Holiday voice from *Tombstone* saying “Johnny Ringo.”

I liked the Hugo base design, but as you could tell by all the movie theater talk up there, I'm a geek that way. I thought it was the nicer of the five that I've seen (Frank's other one from Boston, the L.A.con 2 one, the Don Simpson designed ConJosé one, and the one from ConAdian). It's very retro-modern.

I'm going to St. Louis for NASFiC, since I go to NASFiC whenever I can because the first NASFiC was my first con and it's a nice way to pay homage to that fact.

Fun readin', as always.

[The Alabama Theatre is used for a variety of events through the year including classic movies, live theater, concerts, etc. They're also one of the venues for the Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival (which, mostly because it's at an awkward time of the year for me, I've never gone to). I have childhood memories of visiting the Alabama once or twice — it was quite a grand thing then but (in retrospect) in significant need of restoration. From what I understand they did indeed do a wonderful job of that. -ED]

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Sheryl Birkhead  
25509 Jonnie Court  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

16 October 2006

Yeah, I figured I was skating on thin ice time-wise with the loc on the September ish. Sure enough, the October ish arrived before I actually could print it out. So, I had a choice — scrap it or go ahead and send it, knowing it is now out of date... I decided to go ahead and send both. *Please*, at the very least, edit the September loc if you use it! Don't feel there is any pressing need to use both.

I hope Tucker's books will be reissued. I'd have to look, but I have at least one of them and would be interested in reading the others — I bet he wrote some terrific mysteries!

I look forward to information about *10 Sci-Fi Shorts*. I have two minute mysteries sitting on the desk and, so far, I don't have a very good track record figuring things out.

Hey Lloyd, if you see the Trimbles — if you think of it, would you ask Bjo if she would like to be showcased in the fanartist series I coordinate (and which appears in *Challenger*)?

Is *Masters of Science Fiction* a current show or one in a potential lineup? Channel 20, locally, has added some Canadian shows to their listings and I can always hope that a science fiction anthology show might fit into some time slot they need to fill in the near future. Well, I can hope...

It will be interesting to [see] how the personality of the Japanese worldcon develops. I noted that one of the business items for LA was the consideration of costs for converting from supporting to attending. I took a look at the registration costs for some professional conventions (which is the main reason I do not attend) and realized that sf cons are still a lot cheaper — but the professional conventions are tax deductible, for starters. Then too, I look at the freebies that are handed out at professional conventions — and there is no comparison.

So far I have enjoyed *Jericho* and *Heroes* — now I need to look around and see what the critics have to say about them. I often wonder if we have both watched the same show when I hear what they have to say. It all reinforces the idea that is all simply a matter of taste.

[Both *Jericho* (which I don't watch) and *Heroes* (which I do) have been doing reasonably well in the ratings, with the latter doing rather better (including a number of top-20 weekly finishes). I don't know much about how the mainstream critics view the shows, but I've heard a bit of buzz (both positive and negative) about *Heroes* as regards its possible Hugo chances. *Jericho* is going on hiatus, but it has been picked up for a full season so it should resume early in 2007. *Masters of Science Fiction* is advertised as if it will broadcast on ABC in prime time, but I suppose there's still time for Disney to change their mind and go to a cable-type outlet. (Disney owns ABC and part

or all of several cable networks including ABC Family, SOAPnet, E!, Lifetime, and A&E.) -ED]

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

22 October 2006

While you are all at Con†Stellation XXV: Cygnus having a great time, I thought I'd sneak up on you while you're weren't suspecting anything, and whip up a quick letter of comment on the October *Shuttle*. *Boo!* And it's not yet Hallowe'en...

A shame about the death of Bob Tucker. I met Bob only once, and that was at Chicon V in Chicago in 1991 where we were on a panel together, about fannish traditions, if I recall. Bob taught the panel and audience that time how to smooooth. One of the nicest gentlemen you'd ever want to meet, and we are poorer for his departure.

It is an indication of how poor communication can be when I have to learn of the winner of this year's Sunburst Award through this fanzine. Or, perhaps I am simply out of the loop when it comes to these awards. Most of the organizers have little or nothing to do with local fans, anyway, and one or two of them were on the Torcon committee, so local fans will have nothing to do with them. I guess it works both ways.

Greetings to Pie-Eyed! More Middle-Earth tales? I have enjoyed all of Tolkien's writings from Middle-Earth, and I can't possibly be the only one to wonder, "And then what happened?" You can't be the representative of Morgoth, hm? There's got to be more to this story, and I'll wait patiently, I guess... As did JRR himself, long ago...

Just last weekend, we were in Montreal for Con\*cept, the annual convention there. The guests were Bob Wilson, fresh from his Hugo win, and Steve Bacic from *Andromeda*. Had a good time with old friends, and I was on several panels, but this convention is suffering, like so many other conventions, of a shortage of people who are competent enough to run the show, and who are inclined to do so. The chairman thought that this year's convention would be the last one; others aren't so sure, so I wish them luck.

Greetings, Mr. Glicksohn! I'm sorry we haven't been able to get together over the past couple of months, but this darned inconvenient making a living eats up a lot of leisure time. I hope your retirement is all you've wanted it to be.

I have been asked to write up a quick story about our expedition to the Coroners' Department gift shop, so I should whip that up soon. Near the end of the page, so I figure my work here is done. Take care, and keep on going with these great *Shuttles*.

[In Bob's honor, I taught quite a few people to smooooth at Con†Stellation. Each night (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) I equipped myself with a bottle of Jim Beam and went around to parties and other venues, where I shamelessly interrupted whatever was going on to initiate a smooooth. Inevitably there were a number of people at the event who had never heard of Bob Tucker, but also a number who had. As I left many of the parties, there was a discussion going on about Bob and his place in fannish history — so I achieved my intent. The next installment of PED's latest story appears elsewhere in this

issue. I'm not privy to just how long the whole story is, so enjoy it while it lasts. -ED]

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

Michael D. Glicksohn  
<mglick@interlog.com>

24 October 2006

Sad though it was to read, I was glad that this issue had a tribute to my very old and very dear friend Bob Tucker. It's been a while since Bob was active as a fan so I wondered if younger fans would realize what a loss we suffered when he passed away. As I've written elsewhere, the fandom we live in today would not exist were it not for Bob but only old pharts like myself and Mike K (who is actually a young old phart but I'll let him into the club) really appreciate that.

When I first encountered fandom forty years ago, Tucker was already a legend. My younger fannish self could not and did not conceive of ever becoming friends with such a star of the world of fandom. But over the years, it happened. Bob used to write that I was the only fan he'd slept with on three continents (we'd shared rooms at cons in the US, England, and Australia) and despite his well-known preference for members of the fairer sex, he got used to me greeting him at cons with a big hug and a kiss (no tongues of course) which opened him up to similar greetings from other male fans who knew just what he'd done to shape the microcosm we dwell in.

I was astounded to find out recently that a very good friend of mine, Don Hutchison here in Toronto, met Bob at the 1948 Torcon and despite the fact that they were both fans for the next half-century-plus, never encountered him again in the subsequent 58 years. It made me realize how lucky I was to share so many moments with Bob over the years.

We shared a room at a Brighton England worldcon (1979 I believe) in a small hotel a block behind the worldcon hotel, the Metropole. Our room rate included breakfast but said breakfast was only served from something like 7 am to 8 am. As Bob and I were used to US conventions, we rarely got to bed before about 5 am so we were never awake for the free food.

On the Monday morning of the con, we did manage to make it to breakfast and Bob never got over the amusement of the fact that the entire serving staff peered around the kitchen door to see what the heretoforth invisible invaders looked like.

When we went to Australia for the 1975 worldcon (I was co-Fan-Guest and Bob was the recipient of a one-off fund to get him to the antipodes) a group of fans left from Los Angeles to fly to Sydney via Auckland. I happened to be behind Bob as we boarded the flight and he stopped halfway up. I knew he'd never flown that far before so I assumed he was nervous. He's always claimed he stopped to admire the view. I goosed him to get him moving again and despite that we remained friends! (At the end of the trip, Bob and I shared a strange purple drink in a bar in New Zealand and the only information we ever got from the recently-imported-from-Canada bartender was that whatever it was it was what the meths drinkers always ordered. Bob told that story frequently.)

Bob Tucker made fandom what it is today and is probably one of the five most important fans ever to work in our field. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have spent time with him. My glass doesn't contain Kentucky bourbon but it is nevertheless very smooth and I know Bob would accept my tribute in his honour. Thank you, old friend, for all that you gave us. You will always be loved and missed.

[I absolutely hate writing obituaries for old friends and acquaintances — which is part of why I limit those in the *Shuttle* to only persons who have directly impacted Huntsville fandom. (I came quite close this month to making an exception on the grounds of his importance to the field, but in the end decided that others would do a better job of eulogizing Jack Williamson, may he rest in peace. I will say about him that he played a not-insignificant role in my own fannish upbringing, as he was a guest at the first real convention I attended and helped make it the enjoyable experience it was. To the extent that first con kicked off many years of my fannish activity — including helping found NASFA — then Mr. Williamson indeed gets some credit. Just another example of how the whole community is interrelated.) -ED]



P. O. Box 4857  
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

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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)

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