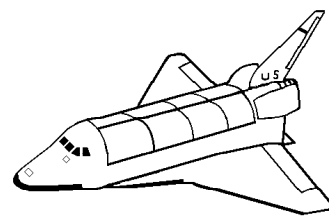


The



SHUTTLE
May 2007

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 19 May 2007
at the Regular Time & the New Regular Location*

Watch your email for the Next Concom Meeting

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **Saturday 19 May 2007** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **NEW regular location**. Meetings are at BookMark's new location in the Huntington Shopping Center (2 miles south of their former location) on the southwest corner of Memorial Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive — 11220-J South Memorial Parkway SW, Huntsville AL 35803.

The May program is TBD at press time. The location of the May After-The-Meeting Meeting is also TBD at press time.

Watch your email for an announcement of the next Con+Stellation concom meeting.

Announcements and Info

SPACE CAMP HOF ANNOUNCES DETAILS

The first Space Camp Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, previously announced, has been set for 7–10P Wednesday 13 June 2007 at the North Hall of the Von Braun Center (700 Monroe Street, Huntsville AL 35801). The MC will be William Shatner and attendees are expected to include astronauts Jim Halsell and Story Musgrave. Tickets can be purchased online — look for the tickets button at <www.spacecamp.com>.

(continued on page 2)

NASFA Baseball Outing

Saturday afternoon before the May meeting NASFA members and friends are invited to take part in a baseball outing. The Huntsville Stars are playing the West Tenn Diamond Jaxx 19 May 2007; 2:05P first pitch.

The game is on "Salute the Troops" day, sponsored by "Team Redstone" (Civilian Welfare Fund), and free tickets to the game are available. The plan is to enclose tickets in *Shuttles* sent to Huntsville-area recipients. Additional tickets may be available (ask Mike Kennedy), if needed.

The tickets are General Admission; look for other NASFAns down the third base line. The General Admission section starts about where the infield dirt ends.

Joe Davis Stadium, home of the Stars, is located off South Memorial Parkway. Exit the Parkway at Drake Avenue. If you're going North on the Parkway you'll have to U-turn under the overpass to head South on the Parkway frontage road. Watch for the large stadium sign and turn right onto Don Mincher Drive at the sign. Parking at the stadium is \$4 so you may want to carpool to reduce cost. If you get to the game early enough you can get one of the Stars Camouflage Baseballs being given away to the first 1500 attendees.

Barring rain delays or the like, the game should be over around 5P, giving you time to grab a bite (if you haven't overindulged at the concession stand!) on the way to the meeting at 6P.

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Deadline for the June 2007 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 1 June 2007.

Executive Committee meeting (if scheduled) is at 5P. The business meeting is at 6P. The program is at 7P. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings. There is usually an after-the-meeting meeting with directions available at the program.

April Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The April meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, April 21, 2007 in the BookMark meeting room at 6:20:34P by President Mary Ortwerth. The crickets still live! We welcomed two visitors that night, Sunn and Jennifer. Doug named everybody else around the table.

OLD BUSINESS

Some unpaid dues were still due, including from Treasurer Sam, ironically enough.

Joking about Huntsville and NASFiC is *Not Allowed*. There was a discussion about whether Huntsville has any ability to host a NASFiC or Worldcon. The verdict was *NO*. [Your editor isn't so sure that mentioning this in the minutes is Allowed... but at least it's clear from context that no one should ever take any such joke seriously. -ED]

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Kennedy proposed appointing the Treasurer as a committee of one, to find out the cost of buying half a dozen folding chairs for the BookMark meeting room. The motion was seconded. The motion carried, with only Sam opposed.

As the chocolate eggs were being thrown around, Manda commented that "this is chocolate, not footballs." Doug moved that the chocolate be used as footballs, and a chorus of voices seconded.

We rented out some of our art show equipment to Frolicon in Atlanta, which was returned with a moderate amount of damage. They lost one panel, and broke three more. Sam had deposited their damage check the day before. We won't be renting to them again. [The editor notes that this was an opinion voiced by a number of people but since no vote was taken it's not official club policy. -ED]

Mike Cothran suggested that we send people along with the art show equipment. According to Jeff, you should never rent people to Frolicon! He knows how they'll interpret that.

Sam announced the final club balance from 2006. We are \$306.52 to the good. Sam still hasn't been able to close the books on last year's convention, because the Read Assist check was finally returned by the post office the week before. Apparently, it was lost in the mail for six months.

The Red Cross sent mail asking us for money, because we donated to Katrina relief two years ago.

We received a few more spammish emails.

According to an email from C. S. Pothitt, *The Genre Traveler* is hosting a photo contest for SF/F/H fans, "whatever His," with celebrity judges. The only judge I've heard of is Bob Eggleton. They want photos of science fiction, fantasy, and horror travel destinations.

Shelby Vick sent out two emails announcing new content at *Planetary Stories*, his pulp-style webzine located at <planetarystories.com>.

A fourth spammish email came from Mike Kennedy. He says he only forwarded it from the SMOFS mailing list, but that's what they all say. Anyway, there are many gamers

servicing in Iraq, and now they have their own gaming convention. Ziggurat Con will be held at Camp Adder, Tallil Airbase (near An Nasiriyah), on June 9, from 1200 to 2100 hours. They will have various gaming-related activities and an anime room. (Anime tent?) The con is open to "all allied military personnel and civilian contractors in Iraq." They are looking for donations of games, dice, and items for prizes and giveaways. For more information, go to <<http://jaegamer.livejournal.com/30529.html>>.

For the final spammish email, the MSSFFA newsletter (what an acronym!) is begging for articles for their upcoming Star Wars edition, about people's first time watching the original Star Wars movie, and what it meant to them and the SF world.

Jeff asked Sam if he was expecting all of the questions about those emails. When the answer was no, he quipped that "nobody expects the Spammish Inquisition."

Sam printed the current list of subscribers to the NASFA email list, and asked everyone to look at the addresses he didn't recognize, and see if we knew any of them.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

According to Manda, we need snakes! She found a big box of ten 5-foot rubber snakes at a Dollar Tree in Tuscaloosa. She asked everybody to check their local Dollar Trees, and similar places, for more snake stuff. We need as many snakes as we can get. "This is Snakes on a Con." We also need a Medusa wig, or something similar, and a barber chair. Indiana Jones-type outfits would be good. There is an Indy hat in one of the catalogs Sam brought.

Mike has already sold the ad space on the inside back cover of the con book, for \$125.

The official date for Con†Stellation is October 12–14. The hotel contract has been signed.

A concom meeting is scheduled for the Thursday following the NASFA meeting, starting at 7P, at Mike and Marie's house.

Jeff has met the games workshop guy, and discussed the tournament he's planning to run.

We don't have any guests yet.

Sam asked what information he can post to the web site. They're ready to post the dates, hotel, and registration fee. Marie will get him the room rate soon.

The hotel name is confirmed. The room rate will be close to last year's rate.

Registration will cost \$30 until Memorial Day, \$35 after that, and \$40 at the door.

Sam moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52:48P.

The program was a discussion of the Hugo and Campbell nominees, and a mock election demonstrating the Australian Rules method used to vote for the winners. The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at Doug and Mary's new house.

Locus Awards Finalists

Voting in this year's Locus Poll has closed. Winners have thus been determined, but *Locus* has announced the top five in each category as "finalists." Winners will be announced 16 June 2007 at the Locus Awards Ceremony in Seattle, during the Science Fiction Museum's Hall of Fame weekend. Finalists are listed alphabetically. Info about tickets for the weekend (minus the actual award ceremony) is available online at <<https://secure.locusmag.com/About/2007LocusAwardsAd>>.

html>. Tickets for the award ceremony will be available through the SF Museum at <www.sfhomeworld.org>. The finalists are:

SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL

Blindsight, Peter Watts (Tor)
Carnival, Elizabeth Bear (Bantam Spectra)
Farthing, Jo Walton (Tor)
Glasshouse, Charles Stross (Orbit/Ace)
Rainbows End, Vernor Vinge (Tor)

FANTASY NOVEL

The Jennifer Morgue, Charles Stross (Golden Gryphon Press/Ace)
The Last Witchfinder, James Morrow (Morrow)
The Privilege of the Sword, Ellen Kushner (Bantam Spectra)
Soldier of Sidon, Gene Wolfe (Tor)
Three Days to Never, Tim Powers (Subterranean Press/Morrow)

FIRST NOVEL

Crystal Rain, Tobias S. Buckell (Tor)
The Glass Books of the Dream Eaters, Gordon Dahlquist (Bantam/Viking UK)
The Green Glass Sea, Ellen Klages (Viking)
The Lies of Locke Lamora, Scott Lynch (Gollancz/Bantam Spectra)
Temeraire: His Majesty's Dragon, Throne of Jade, and Black Powder, Naomi Novik (Del Rey/Voyager); as *Temeraire: In the Service of the King* (SFBC)

YOUNG ADULT BOOK

The Keys to the Kingdom: Sir Thursday, Garth Nix (Allen & Unwin/The Chicken House)
Magic Lessons, Justine Larbalestier (Penguin/Razorbill)
Spirits That Walk in Shadow, Nina Kiriki Hoffman (Viking)
Voices, Ursula K. Le Guin (Orion Children's/Harcourt)
Wintersmith, Terry Pratchett (Doubleday UK/HarperTempest)

NOVELLA

"Botch Town," Jeffrey Ford (*The Empire of Ice Cream*)
"Lord Weary's Empire," Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's* December 2006)
"Map of Dreams," M. Rickert (*Map of Dreams*)
"The Mars Girl," Joe Haldeman (*Escape from Earth*)
"Missile Gap," Charles Stross (*One Million A.D.*)
NOVELETTE
"I, Row-Boat," Cory Doctorow (*Flurb* 1, Fall 2006)
"The Night Whiskey," Jeffrey Ford (*Salon Fantastique*)
"Pol Pot's Beautiful Daughter (Fantasy)," Geoff Ryman (*F&SF* October-November 2006)
"The Singularity Needs Women!," Paul Di Filippo (*Forbidden Planets*)
"When Sysadmins Ruled the Earth," Cory Doctorow (*Baen's Universe* August 2006)

SHORT STORY

"How to Talk to Girls at Parties," Neil Gaiman (*Fragile Things*)
"In the Abyss of Time," Stephen Baxter (*Asimov's* August 2006)
"Nano Comes to Clifford Falls," Nancy Kress (*Asimov's* July 2006)
"Sob in the Silence," Gene Wolfe (*Strange Birds*)
"Tin Marsh," Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's* August 2006)

MAGAZINE

Analog *Asimov's* *Interzone*
The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction
Strange Horizons

PUBLISHER

Baen **Del Rey** **Night Shade Books**
Subterranean Press **Tor**

ANTHOLOGY

One Million A.D., Gardner Dozois, ed. (SFBC)
Salon Fantastique, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds. (Thunder's Mouth Press)
The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror: Nineteenth Annual Collection, Ellen Datlow, Kelly Link, and Gavin Grant, eds. (St. Martin's)
The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twenty-Third Annual Collection, Gardner Dozois, ed. (St. Martin's)
Year's Best SF 11, David G. Hartwell and Kathryn Cramer, eds. (Eos)

COLLECTION

The Best of Philip José Farmer, Philip José Farmer (Subterranean Press)
The Empire of Ice Cream, Jeffrey Ford (Golden Gryphon Press)
Fragile Things, Neil Gaiman (Morrow/Headline Review)
Galactic North, Alastair Reynolds (Gollancz)
The Ladies of Grace Adieu and other stories, Susanna Clarke (Bloomsbury)

EDITOR

Jim Baen **Ellen Datlow** **Gardner Dozois**
David G. Hartwell **Gordon Van Gelder**

ARTIST

Bob Eggleton **Donato Giancola** **John Picacio**
Charles Vess **Michael Whelan**

NON-FICTION

About Writing, Samuel R. Delany (Wesleyan University Press)
Blood & Thunder: The Life & Art of Robert E. Howard, Mark Finn (MonkeyBrain Books)
The Darkening Garden: A Short Lexicon of Horror, John Clute (Payseur & Schmidt)
James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon, Julie Phillips (St. Martin's)
Myths for the Modern Age: Philip José Farmer's World Newton Universe, Win Scott Eckert (MonkeyBrain Books)

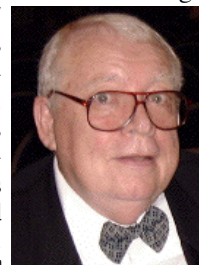
ART BOOK

Amphigorey Again, Edward Gorey (Harcourt)
Cover Story, John Picacio (MonkeyBrain Books)
The Fabulous Women of Boris Vallejo and Julie Bell, Boris Vallejo and Julie Bell (HarperCollins/Collins Design)
Origins, John Jude Palencar (Underwood Books)
Spectrum 13: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art, Cathy and Arnie Fenner, eds. (Underwood)

Awards Roundup

SFRA AWARDS WINNERS

The Science Fiction Research Association <www.sfra.org> has announced winners of their 2007 awards. **Algis Budrys** will receive this year's **Pilgrim Award** (for lifetime contributions to SF and fantasy scholarship). **Michael Levy** will receive this year's Thomas D. Clareson Award (for Distinguished Service). **Amy J. Ransom** has been selected for the 2007 **Pioneer Award** (for the best critical essay-length work). The awards will be presented at the 38th



Algis Budrys

Annual SFRA Conference (this year's theme, Celebrating the Golden Age of Science Fiction) to be held 5–8 July 2007 at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City MO, in conjunction with the Robert A. Heinlein Centennial <heinleincentennial.com>. The award ceremony is currently expected to be 7P Friday 6 July. Guests include “distinguished guest author” Fred Pohl and “featured guest authors” James Gunn and Allen Steele.

CLARKE AWARD WINNER

The winner of the 2007 Arthur C. Clarke Award <www.clarkeaward.com> (for best sf novel first published in Britain in 2006) was announced at the opening of the Sci-Fi-London Film Festival <www.sci-fi-london.com> Wednesday 2 May 2007. The winner is M. John Harrison's *Nova Swing* (Gollancz). Harrison will receive a prize of £2007.00 and a commemorative engraved bookend.



Judges for the award were Niall Harrison and Claire Weaver (representing the British Science Fiction Association), Pat Cadigan and Graham Sleight (representing the Science Fiction Foundation) and Dave Palmer for the Science Museum. The panel was chaired by Paul Billinger representing the Arthur C. Clarke Award.

URSA MAJOR AWARDS WINNERS

Winners of the 2006 Ursa Major Awards <www.ursamajorawards.org> (for anthropomorphic literature and other arts published in 2006) were presented Friday 4 May 2007 at CaliFur III, held at the the Costa Mesa Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa CA, 4–6 May 2007. The awards are administered and presented by the Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Association (ALAA), an organization dedicated to promoting anthropomorphic literature and arts both within and outside of the fandom. The winners are:



- Motion Picture** *Over The Hedge*
(Dreamworks Animation)
- Dramatic Short Work or Series** *Hammy's Boomerang Adventure* (Dreamworks Animation, on *Over the Hedge* DVD)
- Novel** *Pendant of Fortune*,
Kyell Gold (Sofawolf Press)
- Short Fiction** “*Jacks To Open*,”
Kyell Gold (*Fur Rag*, June)
- Other Literary Work** *A Doemain of Our Own*,
Susan Rankin (Plan Nine Publishing, comic strip collection, Volume 1)
- Comic Book** *i.s.o.*, Vince Suzukawa
- Comic Strip** *Ozy and Millie*, D. C. Simpson
- Fanzine** *Anthrolations* (Sofawolf Press)
- Published Illustration** *Cover painting* by Sara Palmer for *Pendant of Fortune*, Kyell Gold (Sofawolf Press)
- Game** *Okami* (Clover Studios/Capcom)

SIDWISE AWARDS NOMS

Finalists for the 2006 Sidewise Awards <www.uchronia.net/sidewise> (for works of alternate history) have been announced. Winners will be announced at this year's NASFiC <www.archonstl.org/31/index2.html>, aka Tucker-Con, to be held in conjunction with Archon 31 in Collinsville IL (St. Louis area) 2–5 August 2007. The nominee lists (for the Short-Form and Long-Form categories) are listed below.

Sidewise Short-Form

“**The Pacific Mystery**,” Stephen Baxter (*The Mammoth Book of Extreme Science Fiction: New Generation Far-Future*

SF, Constable & Robinson/Carroll & Graf)

“**O, Pioneer**,” Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff (*Paradox* #8)

“**Counterfactual**,” Gardner Dozois (*The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*)

“**History Lesson**,” Chris Floyd (*The Moscow Times*)

“**Palestina**,” Martin Gidron (*Interzone*)

“**The Plurality of Worlds**,” Brian Stableford (*Asimov's*)

“**The Meteor of the War**,” Andrew Tisbert (*Paradox*)

Sidewise Long-Form

1862, Robert Conroy (Presidio Press)

The Tourmaline, Paul Park (Tor)

The Family Trade, The Hidden Family, and *The Clan Corporate*, Charles Stross (Tor)

The Disunited States of America, Harry Turtledove (Tor)

Farthing, Jo Walton (Tor)

QUILL AWARDS TO CONTINUE

The Quill Awards <www.thequills.org>, a mixed juried/industry/popular award covering a variety of literary categories, will continue for a third year, albeit with some changes to the process.

The 2007 Quill Awards will cover original books published in North America and marketed between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007. A selection committee (including a panel of editors from *Publishers Weekly*) will nominate five titles in each of the 19 categories. Generally the titles must have had a starred review in *PW* or appeared on the *PW* bestseller list, though the committee may also make special selections. Category voting will occur 18 June–31 August 2007 by a “voting board” of over 6000 invited booksellers and librarians. Winners in the 19 categories will be announced 10 September 2007. Popular voting in a 20th category — Book of the Year — will occur via the web at <www.quillsvote.com> from then until 10 October 2007. All of the awards will be presented, and the Book of the Year announced, at a ceremony to be televised by NBC-TV's Universal Stations Saturday 27 October 2007.

Quill categories of particular interest to the sf community include Graphic Novel and Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror, plus likely overlap in the Children's Illustrated Book, Children's Chapter Book/Middle Grade, and Young Adult/Teen categories.

MTV MOVIE AWARDS NOMS

The 2007 MTV Movie Awards will be broadcast live Sunday 3 June 2007 at 7P (Central) on MTV. The full list of nominees is available online, voting will be by the public at <www.mtv.com/ontv/movieawards/ma07/vote.jhtml>. Winners take home the “Golden Popcorn” award in their category. Genre (and related) films did fairly well, taking noms in all categories except Breakthrough Performance and Best Kiss.

Genre/related noms were dominated by *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*, which received nods in the Best Movie, Best Performance (separately for Johnny Depp and Keira Knightley), and Best Villain (Bill Nighy) categories. The Best Comedic Performance category features two genre films, *Night at the Museum* (Ben Stiller) and *Click* (Adam Sandler). *My Super Ex-Girlfriend* was recognized in the Best Fight category for the Uma Thurman versus Anna Faris showdown. The odd Best Summer Movie You Haven't Seen Yet category has four genre noms, for *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, *Evan Almighty*,



Host Sarah Silverman and the Golden Popcorn

Transformers, and *Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix*. The nominees in the Best Filmmaker on Campus category are harder to categorize but at least one of them (*Southwestern Orange County vs. The Flying Saucers*) seems to be genre.

Sticks and Stones

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 14

by PieEyedDragon

Since the moon is getting closer to full, I decide to stay put for a few weeks. I do not yet want my flying to be generally observed. One morning I amble north around the hill behind Tom's house; then east and south. I go down to the upper waters of the Withywindle and immerse myself to think: What do you do with a Wicked Willow, what do you do with a Wicked Willow, what do you do with a Wicked Willow early in the season?

The pure waters, having no taint such as Ulmo had spoken of, help me to think clearly. It would be excessive to burn the entire forest, and burning that one tree might start a conflagration. I decide on a more surgical approach, with a bit of misdirection.

I climb out of the river and on up to the top of the hill. Looking west, I can see much of the river valley in the forest, below the falls. This view includes the offending willow tree. I launch back off the east side of the hill, gain a little altitude, and circle around and out over the forest. The air is quiet today: no cross winds, no feather touches of power, nothing. At a reasonable altitude I circle the willow tree nine times... widershins, of course. It seems to ignore me completely; asleep, or acting like it to try and sucker me in. I'm not so gullible. I expel a few small puffs of flame now and then, just so the forest will pay attention, and then retrace my course back to the hill and land there. I wait there, not moving a muscle, all the rest of the day and all night... watching.

The next dawn is cold and clear. Something has changed. The tree is now surrounded by a wide pool of water which also encloses a dry area beside the tree. The river, near the tree and downstream, is very muddy. It wants me to land there and meet it on its own turf. I reject the invitation. Now, I act.

I balance on my hind legs and tail, and spread my wings forty-one feet wide; with the rising sun behind me. I am not in direct line between the sun and the willow tree but it does not matter. I speak the words:

WINGS OVER THE WORLDS

and the great black sails blossom once more from my own wing membranes; spreading out and up, until their shadow covers all the nearby forest valley. The wing extensions have no weight, but the slight breeze threatens to tumble me from the hill until I anchor them to the ground. I modify the sails from black to shiny and flex them backward until all the now-concentrated light and heat fall on and around me. The hilltop steams and dries as I track the rising sun; blocking its energy from the forest. This forest is a place of old shadows, anyway. It remembers the ancient darkness of Morgoth in the First Age. As noon approaches, I tilt my wings backward. Light falls on the valley normally. I tilt further and cup my augmented wings into two tremendous concave mirrors, directing the sunlight into two points, focussed upon Old Man Willow!

WITH THE KNIFE OF FIRE, I SEVER THE NET OF AIR

In a flash, literally, all the limbs are severed from the trunk. I continue to pour it on. The light that gave this tree growth and

life... now takes it all away. The failed moat is dry and cracked. The hollow trunk is a pillar of fire. I withdraw my extended wings, fly down, and land beside the fire. I go forward and embrace the flames; doing battle with the remnant of this tree on a more subtle, elemental, level. I drink the flames as the willow tree becomes ash, and draw up all its remaining vitality out of the ground; until the ancient one is completely dead down to the last root-tips (which stretch far and wide under the entire forest): a warning to the other trees to mind their business as a forest and not as a goblin-wood.

This done, I cross over to the river and swim around, washing off the ashes. There is a taint in the water that was not present near Tom's house. It begins almost exactly beside the willow tree's place. I nose around among the black cinders, grey ashes, and red coals, and locate a small, angular, green pebble. It is in the ditch, among the roots, and it smells *wrong!* Pebbles are common near rivers, but this one is not rounded. I look around and consider again the terrain. Rivers do sometimes change their course, even becoming shorter or longer. These lands *did* undergo an upheaval: mostly farther west as Princess Mee had so sorrowfully witnessed. So, it was entirely possible that this spot was the *original* head of the Withywindle and this sickly green shard, bearing the curse of Morgoth, was my first fragment of the Illswater Stone!

MIRRORS, MIRRORS, O'ER THE LAND: DESTROY THIS LUMP OF EVIL SAND!

I raise once more my wing mirrors, and concentrate all the sun's energy upon the pebble. It resists the heat for several minutes. I finally add my own fiery breath to the matter. With a *pop*, the rock vaporizes and blows away. Withdrawing the mirrors once more, I raise my head and look around. The trees shudder slightly as I regard them. With water, I quench the hot spots before taking wing once more. I fly back to the hill and compose myself to think.

[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

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

Chris Garcia

20 April 2007

<garcia@computerhistory.org>

The *Shuttle* arrives at last! Exceptional! I'm always looking forward to a glimpse into the club that puts out such a freakin' fine newsletter.

Sadly, since BASFA has no official organ, we have to work very hard to get the word out about venue changes. In that respect, you're lucky that you can simply bash people over the head with the knowledge with every issue. BASFA was located at a Round Table Pizza for years, and once in a while visitors who are trying to stop by will go there, only to be told that we've moved. It happens about once a year.

Disapproving of the minutes. That's a very fannish thing to do. BASFA's known for our strange methods (such as our treasurer's attempt to establish BASFA Standard Time) but I can't say we've ever tried disapproving of the minutes. I might have to try that one.

Must see *Double Down*. Must see *Double Down*. That's the one thing I love about reviews: they always make me

hunger to see new things that I've never heard of.

Yeah, that whole *Pirates of the Caribbean* thing scared the Dickens out of me. I thought "Hey, they found out that one of the nominees wasn't really nominated. Now they'll look at all of them and I'll be out of the running for the two that I got!" and I moped around a bit. Then a week went by and I realized I was OK. I'm glad they did a thorough accounting, but I understand that these things happen. The FAAn Awards last year announced the wrong winner in Best Fanzine, giving it to *Banana Wings* for an hour or two before announcing the mistake and announc[ing] *Chunga* [as the winner]. These things happen. I love the group of Fan Writers, all of whom I've talked with. The Best Fanzine crowd is strong too. I'll have copies of each of the nominated zines at BayCon and Westercon and I think about 3/4 of us will be at NASFiC, which will be nice. I'm going to finally get to meet John Scalzi when he comes around to read next week.

Can't argue with the SF Hall of Fame choices. Yeah, Gene Wolfe's not exactly my first choice of those not enshrined yet, but he's a good choice. Glad to see Ed Emsh getting recognized. He was such a great artist and his films were fantastic too. *George Dumpson's Place* is one of the true masterpieces of American Short Film.

Nice long look at CostumeCon. My buddies Kevin and Andy were there (and will be running next year's edition of CostumeCon) and I've heard a couple of different reports. I'm looking forward to attending next year when it's at the Double-Tree in San Jose: the site for many of the convention of my youth.

[I was in the audience to witness one of the most infamous mistakes in Hugo Awards history — when the Fanzine Hugo at Magicon was wrongly, albeit briefly, given to *Lan's Lantern* because the envelope with the winner's name had been screwed up. The actual winner, *Mimosa*, was splashed in everyone's view via the supersized visuals the con was providing. The audience had no way of knowing, of course, whether the visuals or the envelope was wrong (or even both). They did fix it fairly quickly — but I'm sure there were lots of red faces backstage. If I'd had a lot more time last month I think I could have improved the CostumeCon review by tightening it up. A lot. I suspect I could have put as much useful (and hopefully entertaining) material in half to two-thirds the length... but writing tight is a lot harder than writing loose. -ED]

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

Ensign Puck
from the bridge of the ice-bound *Naglfar*
c/o <pieeyeddragon@yahoo.com> 1 May 2007

PED is unavailable.

She did tell part of that M.A.N.T.I.C.O.R.E. story. It has nothing to do with Jessica Alba, really. The letters are an acronym, but the words are Atlantean. They were magically charged in their origin. The governmental defense project produced such outrageous and horribly amalgamated creatures that the acronym became a word in foreign languages, and so is known today. Magic users often study spells in esoteric languages to enhance their concentration. PED and her mother are perhaps the only two who know that otherwise-dead language. That makes the words even more potent, though, they don't ordinarily use words to communicate. PED would not tell the words, even to me, as though it would be as

dangerous as naming one of the elder... Aha! I'll bet the words are actually *Names*, like in that Captain Marvel show where "S.H.A.Z.A.M." stood for six Names of Power.

Gotta go. The navicom is asking for a kirlian aural scan in lieu of the lost passwords. I'm a Doctor, not a Programmer!

[Wish PED well from the *Shuttle* when you see her, Puck. I'd intended to run another episode of *NNFAR* in the last issue, but flat ran out of room (see my comments to Chris about not having time to tighten things up). Barring a largish last-minute surprise Chapter 14 will appear in this issue, though. So the dragon and her mom share a "secret language," eh? Sounds more like twins than mother and daughter... but then if I recall correctly they share all their DNA (expressed, er, somewhat differently) so perhaps a "twins language" is not such a stretch. -ED]

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Sheryl Birkhead
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I hope the new location is convenient to one and all!

Eventually I need to check online about the Hugo ballot, since it does not look as if a corrected version is going to arrive, but I see that you say a revised one will be coming with the next PR... so maybe I'll wait a bit longer. This way I can look at a few more of the nominations in various categories online. I need to be sure to get the ballot in and get a site selection ballot along with it. I find that the longer I am away from cons, the more out of it I am as far as the site contenders are concerned — despite any ads in the Worldcon PRs.

Well, I have now also seen *V for Vendetta* — and am also watching the PBS series *Jeeves and Wooster* — and it bothers me long enough to make the connection that Jeeves had a hefty part in *V*. From the blurb I had not expected to like *V*, but was very pleasantly surprised. The last movie I have to see is *Pan's Labyrinth* and it is in the list somewhere.

I heard the weatherman call this month "April on steroids," but did not hear quite what he meant by that. By the time you get this, April will either be history, or about to be, so I hope weather gets back to what passes for normal.

I am at least two weeks behind on watching the VCR tapes I have. Today I just watched the episode of (hope I get the name right) *America at Crossroads* (PBS) — with two spots using Joe Haldeman — from back on April 16th.

Once again — thank you for all the time and effort that goes into each ish — it is appreciated.

[Actually, Sheryl, the new meeting location is not all that convenient for many NASFAns. Think of Huntsville itself as a big rectangle with most of the southwest quadrant cut out — that no-go zone being Redstone Arsenal and the Marshall Space Flight Center. Then add on another big block (the city of Madison) to the west of Huntsville and a number of smaller blocks (other burbs) scattered around in pretty much all directions except south. The old meeting location was already a good bit into the southern part of that irregular combo whereas the new location is a couple of miles further south (though still maybe four miles short of the southern city limits near the Tennessee River). About 7 club members live reasonably near the meeting spot (I'm one of them) with the others tending to
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cluster in more-remote parts of the Hunts-plex. But then, the Huntsville metro area isn't all that large by "real" city standards — even that far south it's only a 30-minute drive (or less) to much of the metro area (at low traffic times) — and the price

is certainly right. You're way ahead of me on watching the Hugo-nominated movies, and ahead of most (if not all) NASFAns judging by responses at the club program last month. I was surprised how few of the movies most people had seen. -ED]