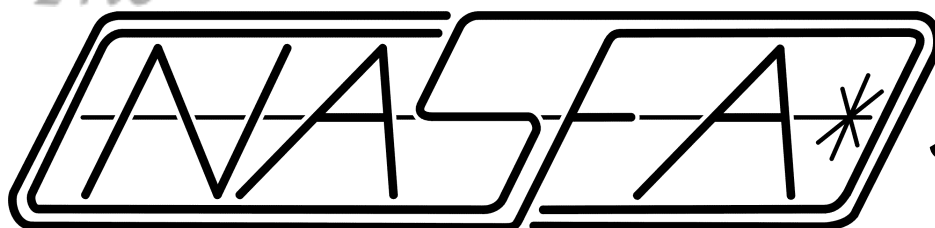


The



Shuttle

June 2009

*The Next NASFA Meeting is 20 June 2009 at  
the Regular Time and New Regular Location*

*Con†Stellation XXVIII Concom Meetings Sunday 14  
June and Sunday 5 July, 2P, Mike Kennedy's House*

### ! Oyez, Oyez !

The next **NASFA Meeting** is Saturday **20 June 2009** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **new regular location**. Meetings are at the Renasant Bank's Community Room, 4245 Balmoral Drive in south Huntsville. Exit the Parkway at Airport Road; head east one short block to Balmoral Drive; turn left (north) for less than a block. The bank is on the right, just past Logan's Roadhouse restaurant. Enter at the front door of the bank; turn right to the end of a short hallway.

#### PROGRAM

The June program will be a presentation by David Hitt <[www.davidhitt.net](http://www.davidhitt.net)>, writer for NASA and co-author of *Homesteading Space: The Skylab Story*. He'll be talking about his book and "homesteading" in space. The book is currently available at Barnes & Noble, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, and online at Amazon. Note: We ask that all attendees be respectful of our presenters by holding their questions and comments until the end of the presentation.

#### ATMMs

The June After-The-Meeting Meeting will be a pool party at Russell McNutt's house — 902 Drake Avenue SE in Huntsville. Please enter thru the garage door and straight through to the pool area. The main part of house is off-limits due to his parent's early bedtime. The door to Russell's apartment in the lower level of the house can be accessed from the pool area.

We need ATMM volunteers for July and forward, though we

have a nibble for August.

#### CONCOM MEETINGS

The June Concom Meeting for Con†Stellation XXVIII will be Sunday 14 June (past by the time this sees print) at 2P at Mike Kennedy's house — 7907 Charlotte Drive SW in Huntsville. After that the next meeting is Sunday 5 July, again at Mike Kennedy's house. A full calendar of Concom Meetings for the year is included in the NASFA Calendar on page 2.

#### NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to the calendar and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f events) are added or changed. Contact Bill S. for details.

#### PED RETURNS — SORT OF

After a long hiatus we're *almost* ready to restart his latest tale. However, after such a long hiatus it has been correctly pointed out (hi, Lloyd!) that a recap might be in order. One of PED's friends stepped in with just such a summary, which we include in this issue.

## News and Info

#### YES, WE HAVE NO MINUTES

Since the May NASFA meeting was the more-or-less-annual

#### Inside this issue...

NASFA Calendar.....	2
Special DeepSouthCon Review Section	
Review of DeepSouthCon 47/Hypericon 5.....	3
Sidebar: Future DeepSouthCons.....	3
Sidebar: Business Meetings.....	4

Sidebar: DSC Awards.....	5
DeepSouthCon Photo Collage.....	6
Awards Roundup.....	6
No Need for a Ring: Recap.....	8
Letters of Comment.....	9

**Deadline for the July issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 26 June 2009**



# DeepSouthCon 47/ Hypericon 5

a convention review by Mike Kennedy

Back in the day (approximately before the most-recent ice age), I discovered sf fandom in large part because of DeepSouthCon. DSC was at that time the largest convention anywhere close to me any given year and a “must go” for a diverse, but cohesive, group of southern fans.

In the intervening time convention fandom has grown greatly in many places and in much of the country (not just the Deep South) when most people say “large science fiction convention” they’re thinking of a long list of other things before working their way down to DSC. Nonetheless, for many of us old(er) farts and for a notable few younger fen (hey, Warren!) there’s still something special about DSC.

Back in the day (again), DSC was usually a standalone convention, run by a group that might not host an annual con but would bid for and win the rights to host DSC every few years. In recent decades DSC has mostly been held in conjunction with a preexisting annual con. This year the 47<sup>th</sup> DeepSouthCon was held in conjunction with Hypericon 5, at the Days Inn Stadium in Nashville TN, 5–7 June 2009. Invited guests included Author GoH Brian Keene, Artist GoH Steven Gilberts, Fan GoH Bob “Outsidecon” Embler, Special Filk Guest Kathy Mar, and Special Author Guests Glen Cook and Jonathan Maberry. Almost 40 other guests were listed — authors, editors, artists, indie filmmakers, podcasters, and musicians. The attendance estimate from chair Fred Grimm was 270.

The two-hour trip up was fairly painless, other than getting away from Huntsville later on that Friday morning than I intended and trying to make up some of the time by eating “lunch” in the car. McDonald’s is one of my least favorite fast-food joints but they were handy at lunch time and I knew I could eat Chicken McNuggets and fries while driving without making a mess. (Yeah, I had to skip using mustard, which I’d normally use so the chicken parts would have *some* flavor — such is life.)

This was my first Hypericon but I’d researched the hotel location on Google before starting out so I found it easily and was unsurprised that it existed in a retail desert. There were no restaurants closer than 4–6 blocks and the part of town was not one that encouraged walking even had any been a bit closer. Con-related shopping (grocery stores, liquor stores, etc.) were even further away. Since I knew about this I came prepared and made my one shopping trip out shortly after checking in to the hotel and before I really settled into “con mode.” The lack of restaurants was ameliorated somewhat by the con suite, of course, and the hotel breakfast — an expanded continental breakfast (about which more later).

The hotel is a mid-rise, with convention spaces distributed from top to bottom. The top (9<sup>th</sup>) floor was the site of the Con Suite and the largest function room. It also had two large patios that, due to the good weather all weekend, got a good bit of use for socializing, smoking, impromptu musicmaking, and even sunbathing. The con did a good job of booking all the parties on the top residential floor (the 8<sup>th</sup>) and some fans did use the stairs to go between those and the Con Suite and evening functions. The con used several suites and sleeping rooms, suitably cleared of some furnishings, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for gaming and two video rooms. A few programs also ended up in one or another of these rooms but I didn’t make it to any of them (or the gaming or video) so I don’t know much about those setups.

The ground (1<sup>st</sup>) floor was the site of convention Registration, the Art Show and Dealers Room, a smallish function room, and the hotel breakfast area which was used for programming during the afternoon and some evening hours. This latter worked OK, but there was some extraneous traffic as it was also on the path to the swimming pool — used somewhat by fans and more by non-fans staying at the hotel.

Speaking of Reg, the con made a couple of, um, odd choices there. It was located at something of a choke point, in the pre-function hallway outside the Dealers Room/Art Show — a logical location but one that led to some extra crowding and milling about during peak Reg hours on Friday. Much odder was that the con did not separate pre-reg and at-the-door; to the extent that pre-reg badges were not prepared in advance. I don’t know if they ever had a list of folks who had already registered, but I heard no comments that led me to believe that ever materialized. When I registered (somewhere around 1–2P) they simply took my word that I’d preregistered. But... since they had no paperwork on pre-registered folks I still had to fill out a reg form and wait for my badge to be created. I got a printed badge, but later prereg folks ended up with a handwritten one. With only a few people in line there was still a considerable wait for the badge to be first printed (on both sides separately), then cut, then laminated. It wasn’t the most fubared Reg system ever, but if they’d had twice as many people registering I suspect it would have collapsed completely.

The Art Show and Dealers Room shared a ballroom with no division between them and the entrance through the latter. This is not completely unlike the setup we use at Con†Stellation though in our case calling the space we use a ballroom would be overly generous. It worked fine for DSC/Hypericon but was really more space than they needed. I failed to inventory the Dealers Room, though I did spend a lot of time there (about which more later). I’d guess there were 7–10 dealers and maybe 20 tables. A set of about 3–4 more tables were set aside for autographing. The Art Show used the equivalent of just over 20 4’x4’ panels (but had almost twice that much space set up) and about two full tables of 3-D art. There was also a print

## Future DeepSouthCons

DeepSouthCon 48 will be held 4–6 June 2010 in conjunction with that year’s ConCarolinas at the Hilton University Place in Charlotte NC. Their Literary GoH will be Jerry Pournelle and their Artist GoH will be Tom Fleming. A Music GoH, Media Special Guests, and a Special Writer Guest are listed as TBD. Memberships are currently \$30. Their room rates for 2009 were \$95 for standard rooms, \$149 for one-bedroom suites, and \$199 for two-bedroom suites. For more information see their website at <[www.concarolinas.org](http://www.concarolinas.org)> or email <[contact@concarolinas.org](mailto:contact@concarolinas.org)> or call 803-517-3928 or write ConCarolinas, PO Box 26336, Charlotte NC 28221-6336.

DeepSouthCon 49 will be held 23–25 September 2011 in conjunction with FenCon VIII at the Crowne Plaza North Dallas in Addison TX. They have not announced guests for 2011, though they did mention during this year’s DSC that they have an Artist GoH lined up. Memberships were sold for \$20 after the vote in Nashville and are probably still available for that rate. Their room rates for the upcoming FenCon VI are \$92 for regular rooms and \$112 for suites. For more information see their website at <[www.fencon.org](http://www.fencon.org)> or email <[info@fencon.org](mailto:info@fencon.org)>, or write FenCon, PO Box 701448, Dallas TX 75370-1448.

shop in the back of the show that I never got around to visiting.

Somewhere north of 25% of the hanging art was priced in the low 4 figures; none of it had attracted any bids when I toured the room midday Saturday. The 3-D art featured a large display of stunning knotwork jewelry, also pricey by my taste though none into 4 digits as I recall. Other than that jewelry there were maybe 10 pieces (all hanging) that caught my eye but none that called out to me to bid. Outside the mentioned spread of expensive art, most of what was on display was prints and, as usual, a lot of it was fantasy. The Art Show did not have a voice auction as far as I could tell, so I suppose that all the pieces that sold were either immediate purchase or went to the highest written bid. They were also the venue for a “silent auction” (that is, written bids only) for charity — featuring mostly books, both printed and audio.

Programming isn’t my number one interest at cons (outside, perhaps, Worldcon) but DSC/Hypericon did a respectable job and did lure me to a few items — mostly fannish in nature. They ran three tracks much of the time, with a fourth program in one of the video rooms and/or signings in the Dealers Room part of the time.

Friday was particularly light on programming for me since I had to spend so much time getting ready for the Con+Stellation party that night. I did make part of the panel on past Nashville

DSCs entitled “Welcome to Music City.” The panel ran from 6P–7:15P but I got called out by some friends well before it ended. (Hypericon ran all their program in 75 minute slots, which a number of people — myself included — found a bit odd.) I would have gone to the Opening Ceremony but it started just 15 minutes before the scheduled start of our party. (We began early to steal a march on the other parties that night.)

On Saturday I made it to a panel on the failed Nashville (later Louisville) 1994 Worldcon bid. There were lots of great “war stories” told involving such things as duct tape (by the case), smuggling party supplies, and using spit to remove permanent marker from walls were it bled through two layers of paper. I missed an interesting-sounding panel on Dark Matter that was scheduled opposite that Worldcon bid panel. I also went to the DSC Awards ceremony that day, for details see the awards sidebar on page 5. I *intended* to go to the Costume Contest that evening but got sucked into the party scene (about which more later) and missed it. Sam Smith tells me that there were five entries, plus a Fred Grimm lookalike contest. The setup for the contest as reported to me was, um, unusual. They had no pre-judging so each contestant would do their presentation followed by *turning their back* on the audience to talk to the judges — who were sitting behind them from the audience point of view — about the costume. I wasn’t there so I can’t really say how well it worked but it sounds, well, *wrong* to me. Sunday I went to three panels — the SFC and DSC Business Meetings (see the sidebar at left for details) and most of the Closing Ceremony.

I’ve mentioned our party a couple of times, so I suppose I should get around to discussing the overall social scene at the con. The Con Suite had a selection of canned soft drinks and bottled water on ice; the selection worked for me (Diet Dr. Pepper, yea!) and didn’t get slim until Sunday. They had real food out from time to time (the chicken salad sandwiches saved my life Friday) and a variety of snacks. Breakfast on Saturday was cereal and milk but the milk was left out too long and the cereal tended to over-sweetened types. They closed their doors late Saturday afternoon for over an hour to prepare for dinner-time, which irked a few people — but at least they did advertise that fact in the program schedule.

The Con+Stellation party was one of at least four on Friday. We started an hour and a half before the others, perhaps most notably a Xerps in 2010 Worldcon “bid” which is now “campaigning” for a “recount.” Their skippy is a powerful draw, but we held our own for the four hours we were open in part by giving away a series of stuffed foxes as door prizes. I did make it into their party for a little while in the wee hours after we closed, I played a game of spades, and the post-party clean up. There were also at least four parties Saturday evening, though I made it to only three — the Texas DSC bid party (2011), the Reno Worldcon bid party (2011), and the Zielkie and Associates party. There was one final party Sunday morning when Chattacon hosted breakfast in the Con Suite. I enjoyed their breakfast (scrambled eggs, various sweets and breads, fruit of many kinds) better than the hotel breakfast bar the previous morning (too-thin “homemade” sausage gravy, commercial biscuits, an indifferent donut, and over-watered OJ) though the people who like cook-your-own waffles might disagree since that was the feature item from the hotel.

But my biggest socializing took place around the card table, which will surprise few of you. I played Killer Cutthroat Spades, or kubitized on games, each day — in my room as I mentioned above but mostly in the Dealers Room. Kerry Gilley and Karen Boyd were both there and brought an extra table with them that became Spades Central. I even sat with

## Business Meetings

The DeepSouthCon is host to two Business Meetings, that for the DSC itself and for the Southern Fandom Confederation. Many people confuse the two, thinking perhaps that the SFC is somehow the governing organization of DSC but — though there’s a lot of overlap in interest — the two are completely separate.

### SFC MEETING

The Southern Fandom Confederation exists to promote fannish interests and activities across the southeast. All the sitting officers, except VP (and Archivist) Julie Wall were willing to stand for reelection. Julie would have done so if necessary — she had someone else lined up to take over the archives — but Mike Rogers saved her from that by stepping into the breach.

Mike is also heading up the effort to get together material for a new *SFC Handbook*, the last edition of which was put out under Toni Weisskopf’s editorship (technically T.K.F. Weisskopf since she uses that *nom de plume* for fannish activities) in 1997 (online at <[www.smithuel.net/sfchb](http://www.smithuel.net/sfchb)>). I came away from this meeting with a task too; put on a committee to run a contest for the design of a new SFC T-shirt.

### DSC MEETING

Most years the only business at the DeepSouthCon Business Meeting is selection of the host/site for the DSC two years in advance. The 2011 honor went to FenCon in Dallas, unopposed. Most years there is at least a last-minute hoax bid and there might have been this year but we may never know since any such move was cut off by a motion to select FenCon by acclamation.

There was one other bit of business conducted, the appointment of a committee-of-one (it was your idea Warren!) to investigate whether Missouri fandom would be amenable to having that state added to the list of states that may host DSC. Presumably he’ll report back next year.

And the meeting ended well for me, with a piece of Naomi Fisher’s key lime pie for dessert to celebrate the Texas victory.

Huntsville-area sf author Stephanie Osborn and helped her with her first game of KCS. She left for her signing leading the game but when I took over for her I managed to blow her lead. Perhaps we'll be able to corrupt her further at LibertyCon or

## DSC Awards

The DeepSouthCon presents two awards annually, the Rebel Award to a fan for service to Southern Fandom and the Phoenix Award to a professional for service to Southern Fandom or whose work reflects positively on the South. The nonofficial Ruble Award is also traditionally presented at DSC, to a fan who has done the most to Southern Fandom. Both the Rebel and Phoenix were presented at a Saturday evening ceremony by con chair Fred Grimm. The Ruble was presented at that same ceremony by Gary Robe.

The Rebel went to Huntsvillian Randy B. Cleary, who I'm proud to call my friend. Randy's fannish resume is packed. He's best known to many Huntsville-area fans as the perennial Art Show director for Con†Stellation, but it hardly ends (or begins) there. He's an accomplished fan artist who generously contributes artwork to a number of zines. He was the president, for many years, of the Southern Fandom Confederation and in that capacity the editor of the *SFC Bulletin* over that period. He was a regional director for the Association of Science Fiction & Fantasy Artists for many years before moving to a Director-at-Large post. He was also one of the founders of GaFilk — the Atlanta-area filk con.

Randy was attending DSC but was not at the ceremony because he was attending a Coldplay concert at the time. Toni Weisskopf of Baen Books (and an ex-Huntsvillian herself) accepted the award on Randy's behalf. She happened to be texting him at the time about the concert.

The Phoenix Award was won by Robert "Rick" McCammon of Birmingham AL (a good year for Alabamians!). McCammon is known for his horror fiction, for mentoring many younger authors, and for being one of the founders of the Horror Writers Association. He was not attending the convention but his webmaster, Hunter Goatley, was there with a prepared acceptance speech from McCammon.

Between the Rebel/Phoenix presentation and the Ruble there was some levity with a piñata. The intent had been for the Rebel winner to bash at it (a disc-shaped 5<sup>th</sup>-birthday version in honor of Hypericon *Five*) so Toni gamely took a number of swings but the thing seemed to be armored. Gary Robe took over for her and eventually scattered the candy to the four points of the compass; though it looked for a while as if the piñata might win the battle. It turned out that one had to stab the rim rather than hit the sides.

After his exertion with the piñata, Gary got down to business and presented the Ruble Award to the Chattacon Registration Department for (a) botching a new reg system last year resulting in an hours-long registration line then (b) not learning from their mistakes and having an hours-long reg line again this year. The award included the traditional Krystal Happy Meal (long cold) as well as a "Plan B" reg kit that included 3x5 note cards, a box of same, pens for filling out same, blank name badges, and a sharpie for filling out same — all bundled into an "attractive" dirty-laundry bag. The award was accepted (reluctantly, but in good grace) by Chattacon vice chair Regina Kirby. She promised (or was that vowed?) to pass along the "award" to the proper parties (the chair and reg head are a couple).

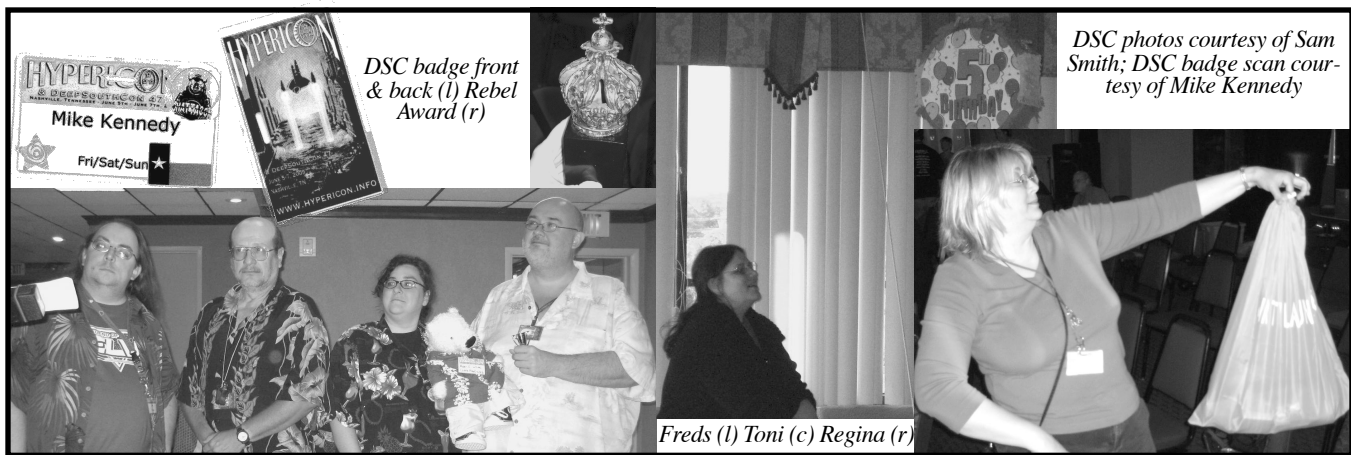
Con†Stellation. I also saw cards being played elsewhere around the con (mostly in the hotel breakfast area — even off to one side during programs) but that was Hearts more often than not.

There's much more I could say about the weekend, much of it unrelated to the con per se. The hotel setup — with function space on both the top and bottom floors — was begging for problems but the elevators stood up to the challenge amazingly well. The hotel has seen better days and there were issues (such as only one working ice machine, on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and mold/mildew in some of the rooms) but there may be hope that the trend is upwards instead of downwards as I heard comments that some of the public areas have been refreshed (e.g., new carpet) since last year. I had some issues with my room (very flakey wireless internet service, a phone that didn't work, the clock radio being across the room from the bed), and the hotel tried to tack on a charge for the in-room safe that I didn't use... so there are things they clearly need to work on.

I have to confess that I didn't completely obey the 5-2-1 rule. I made my five hours of sleep each night, probably more like six actually asleep (though for me seven or eight would be a better minimum), and I certainly had my one shower a day — but two real meals was something of a challenge. Depending on how you define "real meal" (snacks or low-nutritional-value "junk" don't count for this rule) I may have only had one on Friday and Saturday. That Saturday meal, though, was delish. I recommend Jamo's to anyone who is in the downtown Nashville area. Sunday I get to count both the Chattacon-sponsored breakfast as pretty real (mmmm, eggss my precious) plus the mid-afternoon meal at Famous Dave's BBQ on the way home. Both of my restaurant meals were in the company of Sam and Judy Smith, and were pleasant interludes.

I know in writing con reports that it's easy to point out the glitches and Hypericon did have some of those, but all in all I think they did a very credible job. Straightening out Reg and finding a way to keep the Con Suite open even while doing big prep jobs would go a long way to removing things that might irritate the typical attendee. As a DeepSouthCon, they did a reasonable, if not perfect, job. There was a fair amount of fannish programming, some of it relating directly to DSCs and some of it relating to Nashville fandom — both good topics for a DeepSouthCon. The Program Book contained the basic info on DSC history and the required printing of the DSC bylaws. Too, better than some recent DSCs the badges and PB cover did at least acknowledge this was a DSC as well as another year of a standing annual con. I *would* have liked to see the con itself promote the traditional Hearts championship — there was one, but it appeared to happen more-or-less spontaneously.

For details of upcoming DeepSouthCons see the sidebar on page 5. Hypericon will, despite earlier chatter, be back in Nashville next year. In fact, Nashville fandom may be seeing something of an explosion. The same group running Hypericon has announced they'll be sponsoring an additional convention — focused on gaming only — the first of which will be held in the fall of 2010. There was also a significant presence at the con of a group promoting "gmx" (GeekMediaExpo), a "multi-genre" con to be held in early October of this year. Neither of these two new cons would be my cup of tea, but I'll certainly add Hypericon to my list of cons to go to when time, money, and energy permits. Unfortunately, I make only 2-3 out-of-town cons a year these days so I don't know when the next Hypericon might be for me, but you'll almost certainly find me at DeepSouthCon in North Carolina next year.



## Awards Roundup

### COMPTON CROOK WINNER

The winner of the 2008 Compton Crook Award <www.bsfs.org/bsfscnu.htm>, for a first sf/f/h novel, was announced by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society <www.bsfs.org> as **Paul Melko** for *Singularity's Ring*. The award was presented Friday 22 May 2009 at Balticon and included a plaque, a \$1,000 prize, and a trip to to Balticon. Melko will also be a guest at next year's Balticon.

### LAMBDA LITERARY AWARDS

The Lambda Literary Awards, for literary works that address gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender themes, were announced Friday 29 May 2009. The awards are sponsored by the Lambda Literary Foundation <www.lambdaliterary.org>. There are numerous categories, each with it's own jury. The winner in the Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror category was *Turnskin* by **Nicole Kimberling** (Blind Eye Books).

### 2008 URSA MAJOR AWARDS

Winners of the 2008 Ursa Major Awards <www.ursamajorawards.org/UMA\_2008.htm>, for anthropomorphic literature and art, were announced at a ceremony on Saturday 16 May 2009 at All Fur Fun in Spokane WA. The winners are:

**Motion Picture**.....*Bolt*  
**Dramatic Short Work or Series**.....*There She Is*  
 Episodes #3-#5  
**Novel**.....*Waterways*, Kyell Gold  
**Short Fiction**.....*"In Between,"* Kyell Gold  
**Other Literary Work**.....*Dog's Days of Summer*, Blotch  
**Graphic Story**.....*Heathen City*, Alex Vance,  
 illustrated by Ayato, Distasty, Krahnos, Charha, and Fel  
**Comic Strip**... *Fur-Piled* #220-271, Leo Magna and A. Husky  
**Magazine**.....*Heat*  
**Published Illustration**.....*"Suhl,"* Blotch (Eurofurence 14  
 program book cover)  
**Game**.....*Spore*

### AUDIE WINNERS

Winners of the Audies, for audio books, were announced 29 May 2009 with several genre and related works scoring wins. **Robert J. Sawyer** (read by Jonathan Davis for Audible, Inc.) took home the trophy in the **Science Fiction/Fantasy** category for *Calculating God*. **Kurt Vonnegut's** *Armageddon in Retrospect* (read by Rip Torn and Mark Vonnegut for Penguin Audio/Blackstone) was honored in the **Short Stories/Collections** category. **Neil Gaiman** (read by himself for Harper Audio/ Recorded Books) got the nod in both the **Children's Titles (Ages 8-12)** category and for **Audiobook of the Year** for *The Graveyard Book*.

### STURGEON AND CAMPBELL NOMS

Finalists for the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award and the John W. Campbell Memorial Award have been announced. The Sturgeon (for English language short sf) and the Campbell (for English-language novel-length sf) are juried awards sponsored by the J. Wayne and Elsie M. Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction <www2.ku.edu/~sfcenter> at the University of Kansas. The awards are presented at the Campbell Conference in Lawrence KS. The nominees are listed below by category.

#### Sturgeon Award Noms

"The Gambler," Paolo Bacigalupi (*Fast Forward* 2)  
 "Exhalation," Ted Chiang (*Eclipse* 2)  
 "The Political Prisoner," Charles Coleman Finlay (*F&SF*, August 2008)  
 "True Names," Cory Doctorow and Benjamin Rosenbaum (*Fast Forward* 2)  
 "The Ray Gun: A Love Story," James Alan Gardner (*Asimov's*, February 2008)  
 "Memory Dog," Kathleen Ann Goonan (*Asimov's*, April/May 2008)  
 "26 Monkeys, Also the Abyss," Kij Johnson (*Asimov's*, July 2008) [Withdrawn by Johnson, who is a juror]  
 "The Tear," Ian McDonald (*Galactic Empires*)  
 "Special Economics," Maureen McHugh (*Del Rey Book of Science Fiction and Fantasy*)  
 "His Master's Voice," Hanu Rajaniemi (*Interzone* 218)  
 "From Babel's Fall'n Glory We Fleed," Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's*, February 2008)

#### Campbell Award Noms

*City at the End of Time*, Greg Bear (Del Rey)  
*Valley of Day-Glo*, Nick Di Chario (Robert J. Sawyer Books)  
*Little Brother*, Cory Doctorow (Tor)  
*Song of Time*, Ian MacLeod (PS Publishing)  
*The Philosopher's Apprentice*, James Morrow (William Morrow)  
*Anathem*, Neal Stephenson (William Morrow)

### MYTHOPOEIC AWARD NOMS

The Mythopoeic Society <www.mythsoc.org> has announced the finalists for their annual awards for works concerning the "Inklings" (J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams). Winners will be announced during Mythcon XL, to be held 17-20 July 2009, in Los Angeles CA. By category, the nominees are:

#### Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature

*Flesh and Spirit and Breath and Bone*, Carol Berg  
*Pandemonium*, Daryl Gregory  
*Lavinia*, Ursula K. Le Guin  
*The Bell at Sealey Head*, Patricia A. McKillip  
*An Evil Guest*, Gene Wolfe

### **Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature**

*Graceling*, Kristin Cashore  
*The Graveyard Book*, Neil Gaiman  
*House of Many Ways*, Diana Wynne Jones  
*Savvy*, Ingrid Law  
*Nation*, Terry Pratchett

### **Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies**

*Charles Williams: Alchemy and Imagination*, Gavin Ashenden  
*Tolkien on Fairy-Stories: Expanded Edition, With Commentary and Notes*, Verlyn Flieger and Douglas A. Anderson, eds.  
*The History of the Hobbit, Part One: Mr. Baggins; Part Two: Return to Bag-End*, John Rateliff  
*Planet Narnia: The Seven Heavens in the Imagination of C.S. Lewis*, Michael Ward  
*The Evolution of Tolkien's Mythology: A Study of the History of Middle-earth*, Elizabeth A. Whittingham

### **Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies**

*Four British Fantasists: Place and Culture in the Children's Fantasies of Penelope Lively, Alan Garner, Diana Wynne Jones, and Susan Cooper*, Charles Butler  
*Folklore and the Fantastic in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction*, Jason Marc Harris  
*Rhetorics of Fantasy*, Farah Mendlesohn  
*One Earth, One People: The Mythopoeic Fantasy Series of Ursula K. Le Guin, Madeleine L'Engle and Orson Scott Card*, Marek Oziewicz  
*Oz in Perspective: Magic and Myth in the Frank L. Baum Books*, Richard Carl Tuerk

### **GAYLACTIC SPECTRUM AWARDS NOVEL NOMS**

The Gaylactic Spectrum Awards <[www.spectrumawards.org](http://www.spectrumawards.org)> have released a partial long list — for the Novel category only. Long Lists of Short Fiction and Other Work nominees will be released later after reviews for eligibility are completed. The novel-category nominees are:

*Jawk, Tales of the Chosen*, Kayelle Allen  
*The Archer's Heart*, Astrid Amara  
*The Magician and the Fool*, Barth Anderson  
*Adijan and Her Genie*, L-J Baker  
*Dragon & Fenyx: Called By Power*, Auburnimp and Michael Barnette  
*Dragon & Fenyx 2: Swordbrothers*, Auburnimp and Michael Barnette  
*The Love We Share Without Knowing*, Christopher Barzak  
*All The Windwrecked Stars*, Elizabeth Bear  
*Hell and Earth*, Elizabeth Bear  
*Ink and Steel*, Elizabeth Bear  
*My Hero*, Tristram Burden  
*City of Ashes*, Cassandra Clare  
*Blood Magic*, Matthew Cook  
*Nights of Sin*, Matthew Cook  
*Santa Claus Conquers the Homophobes*, Robert Devereaux  
*Shadow's Return*, Lynn Flewelling  
*Havemercy*, Jaida Jones and Danielle Bennett  
*Seti's Heart*, Kiernan Kelly  
*Turnskin*, Nicole Kimberling  
*On Azrael's Wings*, D. Jordan Redhawk  
*Face Your Fears*, Jeffrey L Stoddard  
*Alliance in Blood*, Ariel Tachna  
*Covenant in Blood*, Ariel Tachna  
*Half A Crown*, Jo Walton

### **SCRIBE AWARDS NOMS**

Nominees for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Scribe Awards have been announced. The awards are presented by the International Association of Media Tie-in Writers <[www.iamtw.org](http://www.iamtw.org)> for “excellence in licensed tie-in writing.” Not all of those tie-ins are

genre related, but a number are — including the two Speculative Fiction categories (Original and Adapted), listed below. Nominees in other categories (especially the Young Adult categories) often include genre or related works. The full list is available online at <[sfscope.com/2009/05/2009-scribe-award-nominees-ann.html](http://sfscope.com/2009/05/2009-scribe-award-nominees-ann.html)>. Winners will be announced at Comic-Con <[www.comic-con.org](http://www.comic-con.org)> in July.

### **Scribe Speculative Fiction, Original Novel Noms**

*Ghost Whisperer: Revenge*, Doranna Durgin  
*Ravenloft: The Covenant, Heaven's Bones*, Samantha Henderson

*Stargate SG-1: Hydra*, Holly Scott and Jaime Duncan  
*Star Trek: Terok Nor: Day of the Vipers*, James Swallow

### **Scribe Speculative Fiction, Adapted Novel Noms**

*Underworld: Rise of the Lycans*, Greg Cox  
*The Mutant Chronicles*, Matt Forbeck  
*Hellboy II: The Golden Army*, Bob Greenberger  
*Star Wars: The Clone Wars: Wild Space*, Karen Miller

### **BFA SHORTLIST**

Nominees for the British Fantasy Awards have been announced. The awards are voted on by members of the British Fantasy Society <[www.britishfantasysociety.org.uk](http://www.britishfantasysociety.org.uk)> plus members of the past and current year's FantasyCon. Winners will be announced at the 2009 FantasyCon to be held 18–20 September at the Britannia Hotel Nottingham. By category the nominees are:

### **BFA Anthology Noms**

*Subtle Edens*, Allen Ashley  
*The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror 19*, Stephen Jones  
*Cone Zero*, D.F. Lewis  
*The Second Humdrumming Book of Horror*, Ian Alexander Martin  
*We Fade To Grey*, Gary McMahon  
*Myth-Understandings*, Ian Whates

### **BFA Novel Noms**

*Thieving Fear*, Ramsey Campbell  
*Midnight Man*, Simon Clark  
*The Victoria Vanishes*, Christopher Fowler  
*The Graveyard Book*, Neil Gaiman  
*Memoirs of a Master Forger*, William Heaney and Graham Joyce  
*Rain Dogs*, Gary McMahon

### **BFA Small Press Noms**

Elastic Press, Andrew Hook  
Newcon Press, Ian Whates  
Pendragon Press, Chris Teague  
Screaming Dreams, Steve Upham  
TTA Press, Andy Cox

### **BFA Collection Noms**

*Bull Running for Girls*, Allyson Bird  
*Just After Sunset*, Stephen King  
*How To Make Monsters*, Gary McMahon  
*Islington Crocodiles*, Paul Meloy  
*Glyphotech*, Mark Samuels

### **BFA Novella Noms**

“The Narrows,” Simon Bestwick  
*Cold Stone Calling*, Simon Clark  
*Gunpowder*, Joe Hill  
*The Reach of Children*, Tim Lebbon  
“Heads,” Gary McMahon

### **BFA Short Fiction Noms**

“The Caul Bearer,” Allyson Bird  
“N,” Stephen King  
“Winter Journey,” Joel Lane  
“All Mouth,” Paul Meloy

"The Vague," Paul Meloy  
 "Do You See," Sarah Pinborough  
 "Pinholes in Black Muslin," Simon Strantzas  
 "The Tobacconist's Concession," John Travis

#### **BFA Comic/Graphic Novel Noms**

*The New Avengers: Illuminati*, Brian Bendis, Brian Reed, and Jim Cheung  
*Hellblazer: Fear Machine*, Jamie Delano  
*Hellblazer: The Laughing Magician*, Andy Diggle, Leonardo Manco, and Daniel Zezelj  
*Locke and Key*, Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez  
*Comic Book Tattoo Tales Inspired by Tori Amos*, Rantz A. Hoseley, Tori Amos, et al.  
*The Girly Comic Book 1*, Selina Lock  
*All-Star Superman*, Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely  
*30 Days of Night: Beyond Barrow*, Steve Niles and Bill Sienkiewicz  
*Buffy Season Eight Vol. 3: Wolves at the Gate*, Joss Whedon, Drew Goddard, and Georges Jeanty

#### **BFA Artist Noms**

Vincent Chong  
 Les Edwards  
 Dave McKean, *The Graveyard Book*  
 Edward Miller, *Vault of Deeds*  
 Lee Thompson, *The Land at the End of the Working Day*

#### **BFA Nonfiction Noms**

*Basil Copper: A Life in Books*, Basil Copper and Stephen Jones  
*Doctor Who: The Writer's Tale*, Russell T. Davies and Benjamin Cook  
 <journal.neilgaiman.com>, Neil Gaiman  
*What Is It We Do When We Read Science Fiction*, Paul Kincaid  
*Mutant Popcorn*, Nick Lowe

#### **BFA Magazine Noms**

*Black Static*, Andy Cox  
*Interzone*, Andy Cox, et. al.  
*Midnight Street*, Trevor Denyer  
*Postscripts*, Peter Crowther and Nick Gevers  
*SFX*, Dave Bradley

#### **BFA Television Noms**

*Battlestar Galactica*  
*Dexter*  
*Doctor Who*  
*Dead Set*  
*Supernatural*

#### **BFA Film Noms**

*Cloverfield*  
*The Mist*  
*Iron Man*  
*The Dark Knight*  
*The Orphanage*

## **No Need for a Ring: Recap**

Elphaba says: Hello. PED went to Scotland, and points much further away; and Puck is busy with the *ship*. Please excuse me if I make a few errors, I was not there after all. (Not now, Baldur; I'm busy learning this board of buttons. Go play with your brother, but *no weapons!*)

PED alleges that she told the story of Middle-earth (a planet south in the direction of the constellation Toucan) to a three-year-old John Tolkien in South Africa.

[Here begins the actual recap, at the beginning of *The Fellowship's Ship And The Thing*. -ED]

Well, Gimli was considering the troubles of his people (decline in general, and dragons in particular); had an *idea* and called in his friends. The Valar sent Earendil across the *void* to a small, yellow star between The Sickie and The Dragon.

PED visits North America during summer break from magic school and finds raging forest fires. After imbibing a healthy

portion of flame, she calls forth rainstorms by spreading sonic booms (at mach 7) thru the valleys of the Appalachians. The Archetype *raven* names her "*Thunderbird*."

Back at school, PED is released for advanced studies "abroad." Earendil the Mariner (who had long ago slain the great flying dragon, Ancalagon the Black) lands looking for a "*Thunderbird*." PED departs on his wooden sky-ship.

Losing sails en-route, most of the remaining voyage to Middle-earth is carried on the augmented wings of a dragon who is slowly freezing from radiant heat loss.

Revived by the heat of Vasa, PED shields the now sun-charred ship and brings it down to Valinor.

Picking up massive amounts of information and memories by mind contact with Galadriel, Elrond, Gandalf, Gimli, Legolas, and even Bilbo Baggins; PED follows the great eagle across the waters toward Eregion but dives into the sea to finish the journey under water. Here, she meets *Ulmo*, Lord of Waters.

This Vala shows her where to find two of the Palantiri and also the sunken plunder that dwarves took from Menegroth after the death of King Thingol Greycloak.

(This was about another story involving the great necklace, Nauglamir, and it's attached Silmaril gem.)

PED comes ashore at midnight on the turning of the year; near a colony of goblins who still look for the return of Melkor; and takes on a new *name*... of power!

PED moves into an old dwarven coal mine and fires the accumulated methane to replenish her internal flames.

An old Ranger, in service to King Eldarion (Aragorn having been dead about five years), observes this new "threat" to the Reunited Kingdom. The Ranger carries word to the king at the rebuilt northern capitol at Lake Evendim.

PED meets the goblin's prisoner, Princess Mee (Menathoris), the last(?) of the Green-Elves of Ossiriand. She had escaped the ages ago drowning of her home by running upriver toward the Blue Mountains — while all her friends, one by one, fell behind and were lost.

PED carries Mee aloft during a snow storm and, over a period of days, carries her to the Bombadil's. She tries to avoid being spotted but enough faint traces were seen that plotted her course southeast over The Shire.

The Willow attacks them and, in due course, is reduced to Ash.

PED goes down the Baranduin and back to her mine.

Later, flying toward the Bay of Forochel, she is surprised and crippled by an ancient dragon who, because of a geas placed by Melkor (Sauron's boss), cannot kill her.

Crawling on toward the bay, she is picked up by a more-or-less-decent giant. Thinking PED is a baby bird, he gives her a fish and carries her west to a cave home.

PED recovers her injuries and, going entirely underwater, finally makes it to the Ice Bay of Forochel undetected and retrieves two Palantiri of the old North Kingdom.

Returning to the coal mine for a time, she brings in all the treasures from Menegroth and departs south, along the coast. After a brief encounter at the mouth of the Greyflood; she swims upstream past Lond Daer, Tharbad, Swanfleet, and Ost in Edhel to reach the Stair Falls and the West Gate of Moria... and it's Watcher.

Devouring the Watcher tentacle by tentacle, PED uses the flesh to fuel her own growth to a much greater size. She traps some nosy Elves but releases them; allegedly not out of mercy but because it was Midsummer's Day and happened to be her one thousandth Birthday.

Her physical growth has a side effect. Adolescent for centu-



ries, she finally begins to mature and goes into estrus. West winds carry the pheromones toward the East.

Her facade as a Terrible Monster is beginning to wear a bit thin. She has not attacked any farms, towns, or people at all (except for a few goblins).

King Eldarion and his “Uncle Walker” the Ranger, using the Palantir of Orthanc, have actually observed her talking to Tom Bombadil and also to Ulmo!

Eldarion summons a council of Free Peoples, but is uncertain if the Sons of Elrond (bitter about the death of their little sister Arwen) will come.

A talking raven observed PED actually doing something nice for a little boy, and told the dwarves of the southern Blue Mountains; among others. The wizard Radagast the Brown heard of this, too. Being a proponent of beasts and birds, and nature in general, he goes to take a closer look.

After talking to an elf at West Gate, the Brown Wizard goes to get the story straight from the dragon’s mouth.

As so here you are, near the end of *The Two Hairy Towers*. [That being the second main division of the tale. -ED]

(I do rather like my new body. It wasn’t easy being green; but now I am in body debt to Queen Atali. She is a very, very, very big woman.)

(s) Princess Elphaba of Jotunheim (somewhere in southeastern Iceland)  
“Speaking For The Dragon”

## Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead  
25509 Jonnie Court  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

22 May 2009

Well, for a week or two I misplaced the whole stack of zines. Now that I’ve found them, I see two *Shuttles* right there on top — so...

The Netflix sub saves me time, gasoline, and discomfort. I admit it also means I am very far down the curve and don’t see the “current” movies until they no longer are. But — at \$17 a month I am currently watching 6 a week. If my sister decides not to continue the sub I may need to rethink it but I would not spend that much on “real” movie going. It also turns out that if I end up not liking a movie *all that much*, I can do other things as I watch. Two activities for the price of one.

Ah — so the Trek of Sue and Steve culminates.

Congrats to Lloyd.

By now I’m sure we all know the newest Star Trek movie is out. One of the vet crew who helps me on Sundays mentioned his sister had dated Captain Kirk... the new Captain Kirk. He said she had been living in New York while he was there doing theater and had just been offered a small indy film or a Star Trek film. At this point Aldo started flailing around and waving his arms — “I told her to tell him *Star Trek*... *STAR TREK*.” Oh yeah, it’s on my Netflix list (of course).

It appears I won’t have donations for TAFF and DUFF again this year. I usually work up a few pieces based on their logo/mascot — but that hasn’t happened the past few years and will be the same again.

I have not had the opportunity to try to get a look at the Hugo nominations yet (well — download the nominations). I *did* look at the list of fanzines and followed up on the ezine (*Electric Velocipede*) — got sidetracked when contracts with authors

were discussed under how to put out your zine. Somehow I didn’t think that was SOP for amateur pubs. I guess it doesn’t matter since I could not figure out how to look at a representative ish.

Thanks (apologies for being tardy!).

[Glad to have you back in this issue, Sheryl. So you know a guy (one degree) whose sister (two degrees) dated Chris Pine (three degrees) — so you can play Six Degrees of Separation with much of Hollywood now ;-)] Six movies a week? Wow, I’m impressed. I’m currently in a (longish) dry spell of movie watching. (Well, insofar as new movies are concerned — I see a lot of old and some vaguely-this-lustrum films on TV.) I suspect a Netflix subscription would be wasted on me; maybe if they had a \$17 a *year* option where I could watch as many newish films in a year as you do in a month... -ED]

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

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

29 May 2009

Thank you kindly for the May *Shuttle*. I’ve taken a few days off the usual fannish workload to celebrate with Yvonne 26 years of marriage. Neat gifts, a very good dinner, and a happy evening. But, it’s back to the schedule, and it is time for a letter on this newest clubzine.

Hope the cookout/picnic was a good time. The DUFF race has been settled, and Emma Hawkes is the winner. I hadn’t heard anything about the rebirth of Star Trek: The Experience in Las Vegas... when I was there last year, there were a lot of redevelopment at the south end of the Strip, including an extension of the hotel train that would loop and go up the west side of the Strip, but with this current recession, I think some loans have been called in, and some of those developments have been halted or shut down. If there is a new Trek development, it might reflect the new movie and subsequent sequels.

Can you ever tell it’s awards season! More and more awards given out, more nominations for other awards... wish me luck as a nominee for an Aurora Award! They’ll be given out at Anticipation in Montreal as well.

My loc... this weekend is the Ad Astra annual general meeting, and not only have I returned to the committee, Yvonne has placed my name in the running for the board of directors. I am coming back with a vengeance, I guess. Last weekend was Anime North, a 17,000-person convention... we are not anime fans at all, but we still managed to have a good time with running into old friends who have gravitated over to anime, plus working the Ad Astra table, and participating in a steampunk fashion show.

Greetings to Pie-Eyed, and looking forward to your return next issue. Mike, I have a series of stories from various conventions I’ve been to called, to no one’s surprise, *Tales From the Convention*! I am not sure if I’ve ever asked you, but... would you like one of my articles from this series?

All done... take care, see you all soon.

[My congrats to both of you on the anniversary. Lloyd. Sure, I’d love to run one or more installments from *Tales From the Convention* — though it’s hard to predict in which issues I’d have space for such material. (Time-sensitive stuff would get priority in any given issue, of course.) -ED]



P. O. Box 4857  
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

\*\*\*\*\*

*The NASFA Shuttle* is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the June 2009 edition (Volume 29, Number 6). NASFA Officers for 2009: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Sue Thorn; Publicity Director Bill Savage. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy.

Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by email to: [nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org](mailto:nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org) — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (EMAIL)

Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by snailmail to: Mike Kennedy, 7907 Charlotte Drive SW,

Huntsville AL 35802-2841 — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (SNAILMAIL)

Dues (\$), subscriptions (\$), and Official Mail to: NASFA, Inc., P. O. Box 4857,

Huntsville AL 35815-4857 — OFFICIAL ADDRESS

Contents Copyright, © 2009. All rights revert to contributors. All opinions are those of the individual authors and do not reflect club policies other than by coincidence. LoCs subject to edited printing.

NASFA Dues = \$25/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$15/year Single copy = \$2 each.

\*\*\*\*\*