

# The Next NASFA Meeting is 16 January 2010 at the Regular Time and Location

# Con†Stellation XXIX ConCom Meeting 2P, 17 January 2010 at the Meteor Chinese Buffet

# A Oyez, Oyez A

The next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 16 January 2010 at the regular time (6P) and the 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. See the map on page 7. Enter at the front door of the bank; turn right to the end of a short hallway.

### JANŬARY PROGRAM

The January program will be Stephanie Osborn speaking on "The Cresperian Series and the Science Behind the Science Fiction, or, How to Make a Disintegrator Ray Work."

### **ATMMs**

The January After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at Adam and Maria's house—2117 Buckingham Drive SW, Huntsville AL 35803. See the map on page 6.

We need ATMM volunteers for all future months.

### **CONCOM MEETINGS**

The first Con†Stellation XXIX concom meeting will be 2P Sunday 17 January at the Meteor Chinese Buffet, 751 Highway 72 East Huntsville AL 35811. That's a block east on Sparkman

Drive off of North Memorial Parkway—see the map on page 7. People are encouraged to eat at the restaurant; some will be showing up early enough to eat before the meeting itself starts.

According to Doug and Mary, the main—or at least first—order of business will be deciding on department heads. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of future meeting dates and locations.

### 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.

# **News and Info**

### **HUGO NOMINATIONS OPEN**

Promptly on 1 January the 68<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention (Aussiecon 4, to be held 2–6 September 2010 in Melbourne Australia) announced that the nomination period for the Hugo Awards has begun. Nominations will close 13 March. The 2010 Hugo Awards (for work in 2009)

# Beginning Our 30th Year of Publication!

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Deadline for the February issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Friday, 5 February 2010

will be presented at Aussiecon.

Members of both this year's Worldcon and last year's Worldcon (Anticipation, Montreal) are eligible to nominate. Full information, and a link to both printable and online ballots can be found on Aussiecon's website at <www.aussiecon4.org. au/index.php?page=66>.

### JOE HALDEMAN — IN AND OUT

Continuing a theme from the past several issues of the *Shut-tle* we have more news on Joe Haldeman. In our last update, he and Gay had returned home in early December after a long hospitalization and a month of recov-

ery before being cleared to travel.

With excellently-bad timing, Joe went back in the hospital (albeit in Gainesville this time) 21 December and was released 2 January. Lest one pity him too much for missing both Christmas and New Year's Eve, it should be noted that visitors on that latter day included Jennifer Johnson



(vocals) and Bill Hutchinson (guitar) of the group Amusica, who performed a private concert for Joe and his visitors

This admission was to diagnose and treat symptoms that included weakness and fever. In the end no procedures were performed, but Joe was given heavy-duty antibiotics—with Gay tabbed to continue the twice-daily IV antibiotic treatments at home. Further surgeries are still in the future.

### **MERRY BAEN-MAS**

If your muse moves you, you might have time to enter a contest sponsored by Baen Books to rewrite the lyrics from a holiday standard so the staff of Baen Books can make fools of a



video of themselves singing it to post online. Songs should reference Baen authors, books, or characters.

The contest runs through "mid-January" and multiple entries are allowed. Send yours to <info@baen. com>. Entries will be judged by the editors of Baen Books based on originality, "sophisticated word play" (read as "puns") and overall fun factor. For

more information, contact Editorial Assistant Laura Haywood-Cory at 1-800-ITS-BAEN, or <a href="mailto:slaura@baen.com">slaura@baen.com</a>>.

### LOOKING FOR A SKIFFY PINUP CALENDAR?

The Website At The End Of The Universe <a href="www.teotu.com">www.teotu.com</a> has a 2010 calendar available for you to print for yourself. Each month features a classic pulp cover adorned by a beautiful weapon-toting and/or scantily-clad damsel. Go to <a href="www.theendoftheuniverse.ca/node/1603">www.theendoftheuniverse.ca/node/1603</a> for the link to the PDF and fire up your color printer.

Oh yeah, the calendar also lists the birthdays of many notable sf authors, artists, editors, and others.

# **December Minutes**

by Doug Lampert, filling in for the Secretary [but edited by Steve because Doug is, well, Doug -ED]

NASFA Minutes were taken by Doug in the absence of Steve Sloan, who couldn't be bothered to show up for the actual meeting time, just for the party. The disorder was called a meeting at 18:13:32 CST 19 December 2009. There were crickets, or at least a rather feeble electronic facsimile thereof.

Nominations for offices were reopened. There was some

discussion of just who was actually nominated already. Mike Cothran attempted to nominate Sunn Hayward for some office, but she declined prior to him specifying any particular office. Anita moved to close nominations, Mike Cothran seconded. Nominations for offices were closed.

Candidates for Programming were Sue Thorn (AKA Mistress Susan Thorne), Gary Shelton (AKA "The Fish"), and Wyman Cooke (no known alias). Votes were Sue (4), Wyman (8), Gary (1).

Candidates for Publicity were Alice Scanland (AKA Ali), Margaret Patrick (AKA Peggy), and Bill Savage. Bill was stricken from the ballot on the grounds that he'd resigned the office, this despite the fact that he had not actually declined nomination for next year. Votes were Peggy (7) and Ali (3).

Candidates for all other offices were unopposed and won many to two.

- Mary Lampert, President and Chief cat herder
- Mike Kennedy, Vice President [and Shuttle slave -ED]
- · Sam Smith, Embezzler in Chief
- Steve Sloan, Secretary
- Anita Eisenberg, Sucker Con Chair for 2011

Mia brought up the possibility of doing a Scarecrow for the Botanical Garden display. This was tabled 'till next month.

Next year's Con Chairs next reported that they hadn't even thought about just when in January to hold the first ConCom meeting. After some discussion, 2 PM on 17 January 2010 was picked as the time, location TBD. [Later, Meteor Chinese Buffet, off North Parkway, was chosen as the site. -ED]

Sam had no spammish Email. This was declared to be Uncle Timmy's fault. There was applause.

The disorder was admitted to not actually be a meeting at 18:42:53 CST.

The combined program and After-the-Meeting Meeting was a Christmas party held at at Renasant Bank, the same location as the meeting.

# **NASFA Calendar**

### **JANUARY**

- 01 New Year's Day.
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Somewhere in Time*, Richard Matheson, 6P.
- 07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
- 08–09 ShadowCon XIV Memphis TN.
- 08–10 GaFilk 12—Atlanta GA.
- 16\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: Stephanie Osborn. ATMM: Maria and Adam's house.
- 16 BD: Bruce Butler.
- 17 Con†Stellation XXIX ConCom Meeting—2P at Meteor Chinese Buffet.
- 18 BD: Martin Luther King.
- 20 BD: Larry Montgomery.
- 22-24 ChattaCon 35—Chattanooga TN.
- 22–24 Siege Of Augusta—Augusta GA.
- 28–31 Game Fest 15—Atlanta GA.
- 29-31 Creation Twi/Tour-Nashville TN.

### **FEBRUARY**

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Groundhog Day.

- 04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: Oryx and Crake, Margaret Atwood; 6P.
- 05–07 AggieCon 41—College Station TX.
- Atlanta Comic Convention—Atlanta GA. 07
- BD: Lin Cochran. 80
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
- 11 BD: Jeanna Woosley.
- 12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
- 14 Valentine's Day.
- 15 President's Day.
- BD: Nancy A. Cucci. 17
- 19–21 ConNooga—Chattanooga TN.
- NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 22 BD: George Washington.
- 26–28 SheVaCon—Roanoke VA.

### MARCH

- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
- 04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: Tinker, Wen Spencer; 6P.
- 05–07 StellarCon 34—High Point NC. 05–07 CoastCon XXXIII—Biloxi MS.
- 05-07 Twilight Convention Atlanta GA.
- BD: Tracey Kennedy.
- BD: Kerry Gilley. 10
- 12-14 MidSouthCon—Memphis TN.
- BD: Anita Eisenberg. 13
- Daylight Saving Time begins. 14
- St. Patrick's Day. 17
- 17-21 International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts 31—Orlando FL.
- 19-21 FantaSciCon—Chattanooga TN.
- NASFA Meeting 6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 20-21 MomoCon—Atlanta GA.
- BD: Jayson Woosley.
- 25–28 Furry Weekend Atlanta Atlanta GA.
- 27-28 Joelanta Toy Show—Atlanta GA.

### **APRIL**

- Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, Mark Twain; 6P.
- 01 April Fool's Day.
- 01–04 Frolicon—Atlanta GA.
- Good Friday. 02
- 04 Easter Sunday.
- 07 BD: Mary Lampert.
- 09–11 Conglomeration—Louisville KY.
- Atlanta Anime Day 2.0—Atlanta GA. 10
- 15 BD: "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo.
- 15 BD: Manda Freeman.
- 15 Income Tax Day.
- 16–18 KampingKon—Calhoun GA.
- NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- BD: Randy B. Cleary. 21
- Administrative Professionals' Day.
- 22 Earth Day.
- 23–25 JordanCon—Atlanta GA. 24–25 Dicehead Siege—Chattanooga TN.
- 26 BD: Chloie Airoldi.
- 30 BD: Mark Maxwell.
- 30 Arbor Day.
- Tennessee Game Days—Nashville TN.
- 30–02 MTAC Odyssey—Nashville TN.

30-02 OutLantaCon—Atlanta GA.

30-02 Anachrocon - Atlanta GA.

30-02 Twilight Convention—Charlotte NC.

The North Alabama Science Fiction Association meets on the third Saturday of each month. (Unless there is a large nearby convention being held that weekend—in which case we often move the meeting to the second or fourth weekend.) The regular meeting location is the Community Room at the Balmoral branch of Renasant Bank (off Airport Road, near the Parkway). The 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 afterthe-meeting meeting with directions available at the program.

# **Awards Roundup**

### HALDEMAN NAMED GRAND MASTER

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <www. sfwa.org> has named Joe Haldeman as their latest Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master. The presentation will take place at the SFWA Nebula Awards Weekend at a time and place to be announced.

### DWARF STAR NOMS

The Science Fiction Poetry Association has announced nominees in their short speculative poetry (10 lines or less) awards, the Dwarf Star Awards. These



awards have a built-in delay due to the restricted distribution of many such poems, so the 2009 Award will given in 2010 for poems published in 2008.

The full list of nominees (all 50(!) of them) can be found on SFPA's website at <www.sfpoetry.com/dwarfstars09.html>. SFPA will publish all of these (pending rights clearance) in *The* 2009 Dwarf Stars Anthology: The Best Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Short Poetry of 2008.

### HEINLEIN MEMORIAL AWARD STARTS PROCESS

Balloting for the 2009 Robert A. Heinlein Memorial Award <www.nss.org/awards/heinlein award.html> has



Members of the National Space Society <www. nss.org> bestow award to honor "individuals who have made a significant lifetime contribution to the creation of a free, space-faring civilization." The winner will be announced at the 2010 International Space

Development Conference <isdc.nss.org/2010>, to be held 27-31 May 2010 at the InterContinental Chicago O'Hare in Rosemont IL.

### WFA JUDGES ANNOUNCED

Judges for the 2010 World Fantasy Awards <www. worldfantasy.org/awards> have been announced. Greg Ketter, Kelly Link, James Minz, Jürgen Snoeren, and Gary K. Wolfe will do the honors this time around for material published in 2009 (based on publication date for books and cover date for



magazines).

The WFAs cover all types of fantasy. Entries should be sent to all five judges no later than 1 June 2010. A copy should also go to Peter Dennis Pautz, President, World Fantasy Awards Association, PO Box 43, Mukilteo WA 98275.

Regular category winners will be announced at 36<sup>th</sup> World Fantasy Convention <www.worldfantasy2010.com>, to be held 28–31 October 2010, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus OH. Life Achievement nominees will not be released and the winner will be announced in advance of the banquet.

### DGA NOMS ANNOUNCED

The director of one genre film made it to this year's nominee

list for the Directors Guild of America's <www.dga.org> annual awards— and he's a former winner. James Cameron received a nod for *Avatar* (having previously won for *Titanic*, duh). The other four (non-genre) nominees Kathryn Bigelow (*The Hurt Locker*), Lee Daniels (*Precious*), Jason Reitman (*Up in the Air*), and Quentin Tarantino (*Inglourious Basterds*).



The winner will be announced at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DGA Awards Dinner, to be held Saturday 30 January 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles.

### THE PEOPLE SPEAK

The annual People's Choice Awards <www.peopleschoice.com> were announced 6 January 2010 live on CBS TV. The winners for these awards are selected by a web-based popular vote. Many People's Choice categories are not related to a specific movie/TV show so they do not lend themselves to genre/



non-genre determinations. (Think things like "Favorite Movie Actor/Actress" or "Favorite Web Celeb.") Nonetheless, several potential genre/related winners stand out, with vampires

really taking the day.

The *Twilight* behemoth took three awards: Favorite Franchise, Favorite Movie, and Favorite On-Screen Team. Favorite TV Obsession went to *True Blood* while *The Vampire Diaries* was proclaimed Favorite New TV Drama. One supposes that Favorite Sci-Fi/Fantasy Show was a shoo in for a genre winner, but it's still worth noting that it was *Supernatural* that took home the trophy. Favorite Family Movie was won by *Up*.

There were two categories in which a genre/related nominee lost to a non-genre entry. In the Favorite Independent Movie category both *District 9* and *Paranormal Activity* lost to *Inglourious Basterds*. For Favorite Comedy Movie, *The Proposal* beat out borderline fantasy *17 Again*.

### GLOBES GLOW GOLDEN

Winners of this year's Golden Globe Awards <www.goldenglobes.org> will be announced Sunday 17 January 2010 during a live telecast on NBC. The GGs are awarded by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the 90 members of which are international journalists based in Southern California.

A number of genre/related works garnered nominations, led

by *Avatar* with four — in the Motion Picture, Drama; Director, Motion Picture (James Cameron); Original Score, Motion Picture (James Horner); and Original Song, Motion Picture ("I See You") categories. Among other movies, only *Up* scored multiple noms—in the Animated Feature Film and Original Score, Motion Picture (Michael Giacchino) categories. One TV series also got nods in two categories: *True Blood* for Television Series, Drama and Actress in a TV Series, Drama (Anna Paquin).

Several genre/related movies and one TV series got a single nomination. Stanley Tucci was recognized for his work in *The Lovely Bones* with a Supporting Actor, Motion Picture nod. A Best Screenplay, Motion Picture nomination went to Neill Blomkamp and Terri Tatchell for *District 9*. The Original

Score, Motion Picture category included recognition for *Where The Wild Things Are* (Karen O and Carter Burwell). *Lost* (Michael Emerson) was nominated for Actor in a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series, or



Motion Picture Made for TV. And, besides *Up*, four other movies got a nod in the Best Animated Feature Film category: *Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs, Coraline, Fantastic Mr. Fox.*, and *The Princess and the Frog.* 

# I Made It, Ma! The Top of the World

No Need for a Ring—Chapter 30 by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This is the third chapter in the third part of the NNFAR series—*The Thing Goes South*—and is thus numbered as Chapter 3 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

At the top of a mountain, there is a bare, windswept chamber that faces northwest. It is blackened in some places and broken in others. At the back there is a jumble of broken rocks and dust. Something stirs the dust. In places, it puffs out like a geyser. The larger rocks begin shifting. Something is happening to the rocks that support them from below. They begin falling down into an ever-growing hole. The plumes of dust grow more intense as the hole widens. Teeth appear, surrounding a rock that turns instantly to more dust-again and again, until the hole is quite large. A large scaly head thrusts through, pushing more of the stones out of the way. The head is followed by neck, and shoulders, and clawed legs. A serpentine body follows, surmounted by folded wings that brush more stones from the ceiling of the old passage. The dragon's body is not much smaller that Durin's Tower. A steady stream of gas blows out of the passage and past the dragon, out into the night sky. The creature sniffs at the gas from time to time, as though testing an oven for signs of doneness.

Finally seeming satisfied, it crowds over to one side and snaps its claws together, creating a spark. This it does a second time, and then a third. Third time is the charm. The gasses ignite, sending a plume of red fire out into the night; a plume which curves back again to disappear into the dragon's open mouth.

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Dwarves and men are encamped about the base of Weathertop and down where the track reaches the road. Tents and huts there give promise that a new Inn may not be too far off in being set up. The (Un)Forsaken Inn, back toward Bree, had been back in business for decades; though it kept a portion of its old name.

Elven messengers had ridden westward recently. One had been left here on watch. He sometimes spoke with the Dunedain on this project. The Dwarves pointedly ignored him, and he them. He watched, and listened, day and night. When he would not be in the way of the working-men and -Dwarves, he would climb high up on the scaffolding where they were building the King's new Tower.

The sky was moderately clear this night. It was some comfort that Eärendil's Star, unusually absent for so long, was once more in the sky. Down low, beyond the southern horizon, he saw a dim, flickering light; a red star that had not been there the night before! The elf concentrated his gaze and perception, all his many senses. He muttered charms to clarify his sight and took a long, careful, view. He took a deep breath, relaxing. He considered shouting a warning, but there was no immediate danger to anyone here.

Making his way down the scaffolding and the dim trails, he approached the tent of the Project Leader; which was still showing a light. The elf knocked on a wooden stave, and was invited in. The Man and the Dwarven crew-chief were finishing up the starting plans for the next morning. The elf calmly informed them: "There is red fire, high up on the Silvertine. The dragon has reached Durin's Tower." The Man and the Dwarf tried to outdo each other in swearing.

Later, the man takes a piece of chalk and writes, largely, a brief message on a large slate. He places the slate against a pole outside his tent. Unpacking a cloth banner, he attaches it to a cord and raises it to the top of the pole. The king will look this way at dawn, and read the news. Then, finally, he falls into his bunk.

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After seven days, the fire upon the mountain begins to gutter out, to be replaced by a stream of dirty water that gushes along the edge of the chamber, then out between two stones to cascade down eighty feet before splashing tremendously on the steep mountain face. The spray hitting nearby rocks immediately begins to form frost on the cold mountainside. The widening patch of ice reflects the sunlight far and wide. A long plume of cloudy mist, like smoke, stretches out eastward in the west wind that blows across the mountaintop.

Resting, the dragon watches the water for signs of debris. The flotsam that appears from time to time was mainly composed of bloated Orc bodies and sometimes arrows or bits of leather. Once, even, there was most of a troll. Gradually, the dragon became aware of a flicker of Power over near the broken perimeter wall. Opening her being, she observes the Mana remnants of the birthplace of a wizard, overlaying the similar residual Power from the death of a wizard. This was the spot, according to the borrowed memories of Gandalf, where he had died and been reborn. She draws the mass of Power into herself. Waddling over to the wall, she looks downward and spends the rest of the day scanning the nearby mountainside, meanwhile flexing her wings as well as the cramped location will permit. She rests her head on the most northerly portion of the low wall and sleeps for seven nights and six days.

The hard sunshine hits her in the right eye and she judges that it is time to get on with things. She creeps up to the wall and places her claws carefully. She launches straight outward with a powerful kick of her hind legs and, after a few moments, spreads her wings. She immediately stalls out and spins downward to the left. This was her first actual flight in her new size and configuration. Pulling up, she almost hits the still too-close mountain and overcorrects to the right, but not so badly as before. She eventually settles into a more or less stable glide. With small motions here and twitches there, she gains more control of her flight. Her muscles still need more exercise before she can attempt longer flights.

Now she flaps her wings to gain altitude in a more or less straight path. After an hour, she starts attempting fine maneuvers close to the rocks. The prevailing winds make this a problem, but she is determined to succeed. Swooping upward on one pass, she grabs onto a rocky spur sixty feet below Durin's Tower. Stretching upward along the rubble of loose stones and ice, she reaches another area of abandoned Mana and begins to absorb it as well.

The dead Balrog had been a wizard-class creature after all, Maiar: the same "species" as Gandalf, Radagast... and Sauron.

The elf on watch at Weathertop stares curiously southward. It was late afternoon and Silvertine was taking on a different appearance, shining brilliantly. "First fire; and now... ice?"

[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

Lloyd Penney <penneys@allstream.net> 1706-24 Eva Road Etobicoke ON Canada M9C 2B2 17 December 2009

The December *Shuttle* is here, and I'm writing as fast as I can to keep up with the end-of-year flood of zines. With that in mind, let's go get hacking away.

Joe Haldeman's back home in Florida, just in time for Christmas, and he's already got a pretty good present... he is the new SFWA Grand Master. Well-deserved, and that should help with final recuperation.

I have my diploma in safecracking from Wossamotta U.! If there were t-shirts and school sweaters available, I'd be wearing 'em. Most people wouldn't remember the reference, but I sure do. I have some old Rocky and Bullwinkles on VHS tape at home. I should see if I could get them transferred to a DVD.

With Vince Docherty's essay in a supplement to the current *File 770*, I know some people are afraid that a paper fanzine may never again win a Best Fanzine Hugo, with the theory that so many fiction websites and other sites have dedicated mailing lists, they will simply ask for nominations and votes, and get them. Well, paper fanzines have mailing lists, too... this may be an indication of how many people are on the mailing or emailing lists, and how many of them can [go] to Worldcon, and care enough to nominate and vote.

I hope the Bailey Cove readers know that the original title of the Richard Matheson book they will be reading is *Bid Time Return*. Still, after all these years, our favorite fantasy novel and movie is *Somewhere in Time*.

I read a short time ago that based on the success of the Dr.

Horrible video, and the fact it won a Hugo Award, Joss Whedon will soon be working on a sequel. Dr. Horrible Conquers the World, perhaps? A good dose of weird never hurt anyone, so I look forward to it.

Christmas greetings to PieEyed. Goblins and orcs are pesky types, aren't they. And, there seems to be so many of them for PED to munch on. Wonder what goblins and orcs taste like? Chicken? Potato chips? Hey, PED, bet you can't eat just one...

My loc... I am still at the Law Society of Upper Canada, the work is still good, and the pay ensures that our Christmas will be bright this year. One Christmas wish I might have for Santa is that Worldcons and WFCs continue to be bid for and successfully staged.

Time to go... the final presents are purchased, the tree is yet to be decorated, those presents need wrapping, it's Yvonne's birthday on Saturday, we're going out to do some shopping for her and to have a birthday dinner, plus her family is having a birthday lunch for her on Sunday. I hope we can get around to the trivial items, like sleep. Take care all, make it through the crazy holiday season, and we can relax just a little in January, 2010. See you then.

[Yep, I saw news of Joe's selection as Grand Master right after the last *Shuttle* went to press... and not long after *that* news that he was back in the hospital. Well, at least he's once again out and back on the mend. I see that there are current listings for WU merchandise (including t-shirts and sweatshirts) on eBay; though it may not be licensed. Regarding the "conflict" between paper-only zines and those with an electronic presence... I suppose there could be a theoretical advantage to zines with a strong web component but I also tend to trust the voters. And, I'd point out that 5 of the 6 fanzine nominees last year are already available on the web. ((Yes, yes, I know there's a major difference between merely having a zine available

online and having a more-robust web presence. But, at least some traditional zines—see the aforementioned *File 770* for instance—have made the transition to richer web content while still publishing traditional issues.)) A revisit by Dr. Horrible might be good, though it would be a bit sad without Penny (Felicia Day is sooooo cute—and an ex-Huntsvillian to boot!). Though, I suppose the Doctor could create a clone or do a spot of time traveling... oh, wait, wrong Doctor! -ED]

### EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC

PieEyedDragon pieeyeddragon@yahoo.com>

17 December 2009

Sir Lloyd: I am not, nor ever have been, a time traveller. The seeing-stones were used *primarily* to see what was going on at a distance in the current time.

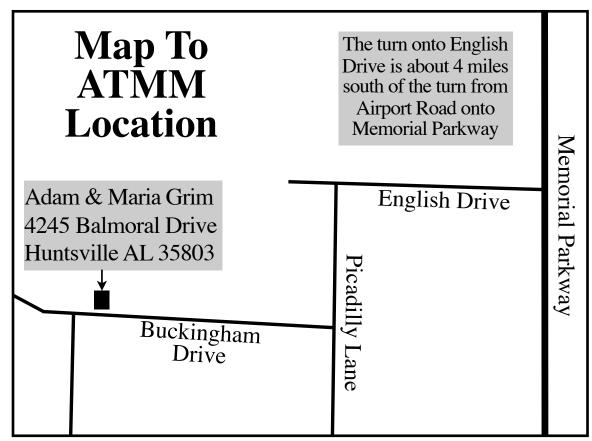
The "range" of the seeing-stones was proportional to the willpower of the viewer. Gandalf spoke of being tempted to use the Stone of Orthanc to view the "unimaginable hand and mind of Feanor at work." Feanor made the Stones and the Silmarilli. He died well before the end of the First Age. Only one of his seven sons, even, survived beyond that age.

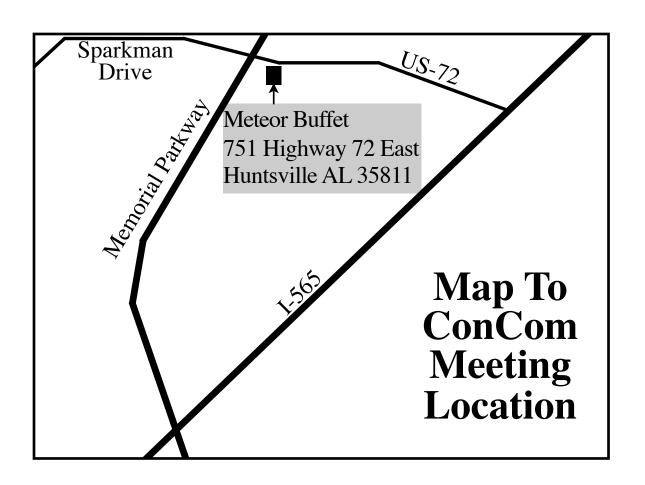
That nosy elf, at the West Gate of Moria, saw the recent past in the Stone he was stuck on.

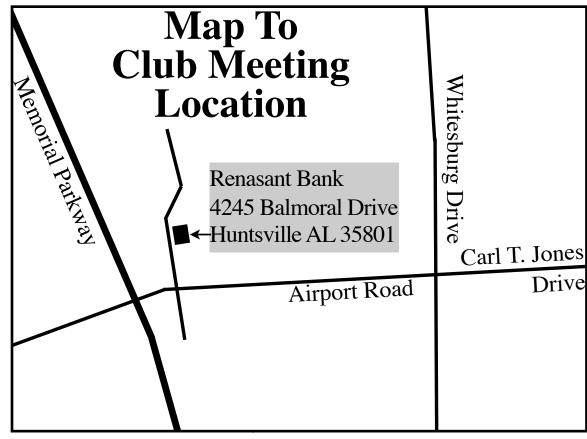
I never said this story was a trilogy; I said it was *at least* a trilogy! Even Tolkien's "version" was originally more than three parts.

My version has four parts, maybe five; maybe even six. Happy Holidays!

[I've corrected the "trilogy" error in the header for the latest episode of NNFAR, PED, and will hopefully carry forward that fix to future chapters. -ED]









The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the January 2010 edition (Volume 30, Number 1). NASFA Officers for 2010: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Wyman Cooke; Publicity Director Peggy Patrick. Shuttle Editor Mike Kennedy.

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