

# The Shuttle

December 2010



## The Next NASFA Meeting is 18 December 2010 at the Regular Time and Location

Con†Stellation XXX ConCom Meeting 3P, 18 December

### ¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be Saturday **18 December 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 the light at 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.

#### DECEMBER PROGRAM

NASFA's December program will a random gift exchange. If you want to participate, please bring an inexpensive gift to put in the pile. [Some people bring more than one but other folks have expressed the opinion that so many presents pile up that it takes too long to go through giving multiple presents to everyone. YMMV. -ED]

#### CONCOM MEETINGS

The first Con†Stellation XXX concom meeting will be this month, at 3P on the same day as the club meeting (the 18<sup>th</sup>). The meeting will be at the Renasant Bank's Community Room—the same room used for the club meeting. There will be a dinner break between the concom meeting and the club meeting.

The likely plan going forward will be to continue to have concom meetings the same day as club meetings. As we near

the con and need to go to more than one concom meeting a month, the concom schedule will have to adjust.

#### ATMMs

The December After-The-Meeting Meeting (cum Christmas party) has been moved from the location announced originally due to a conflicting family commitment. The party will now be at Judy and Sam Smith's house—1501 Slaughter Road in Madison. See page 2 for a map. The usual NASFA rules apply, to wit, please bring your preferred drink plus a food item to share.

The New Year's Eve party will be at Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka's house. We are seeking ATMM volunteers for all months in 2011.

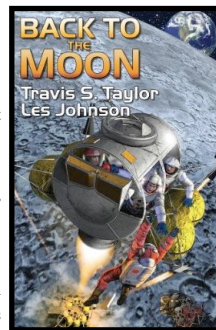
#### FUTURE PROGRAMS

The January program will be "Behind the Scenes with *Back To The Moon*." Les Johnson will be reading from and talking about his most recent book, coauthored with Travis Taylor.

The February program will be "Converging on a Space Program for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" presented by Paul Wieland—the author of *Crossing the Threshold: Advancing into Space to Benefit the Earth*.

#### NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the



## Concluding Our 30<sup>th</sup> Year of Publication!

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**Deadline for the January 2011 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday 31 December 2010**

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 & Info

### ISDC TO BE IN HUNTSVILLE

The 30<sup>th</sup> International Space Development Conference <isdc.nss.org/2011> will be in Huntsville AL 18–22 May 2011 at the Von Braun Center and nearby Embassy Suite Hotel. The conference is hosted by the National Space Society and the Huntsville Alabama L5 Society <www.HAL5.org>, Huntsville's NSS chapter.

[NASFAns of a certain age may recall that HAL5 previously hosted ISDC in 1993. Several NASFA members were “press ganged” into service in various support roles. The '93 conference took place at what was then the Huntsville Hilton (now Holiday Inn) downtown—adjacent to the area that would be later developed for the Embassy Suite Hotel. -ED]

The motto of the 2011 conference is apparently “From the Ground Up!” and the stated focus will be on “Huntsville and Northern Alabama’s high concentration of experts in multiple fields of space, including human space exploration, space science, and new technologies, as well as ‘new space’ entrepreneurs, Earth-based space applications, and biotechnology.”

### CONFEDERATION REDUX

M. Lee (Mike) Rogers and Ron Zukowski have announced a desire to hold an event celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last Atlanta Worldcon (ConFederation) some time in 2011. Both the form and location of that event, though, are very much up in the air. It could be in Atlanta or at the upcoming (Reno) worldcon. It could be anything from a single party to a full weekend con.

If you're interested in this celebration, please contact Rogers at <mleerog@bellsouth.net> with your ideas and preferences before the end of December 2010. Even if you don't have any ideas, they are interested in “market research” to get an idea how many people might like to participate.

[NASFAns of a certain age—what, that again?—may recall that Nelda and Mike Kennedy headed at-con registration for ConFederation with the assistance of many other Huntsvillians in key positions. -ED]

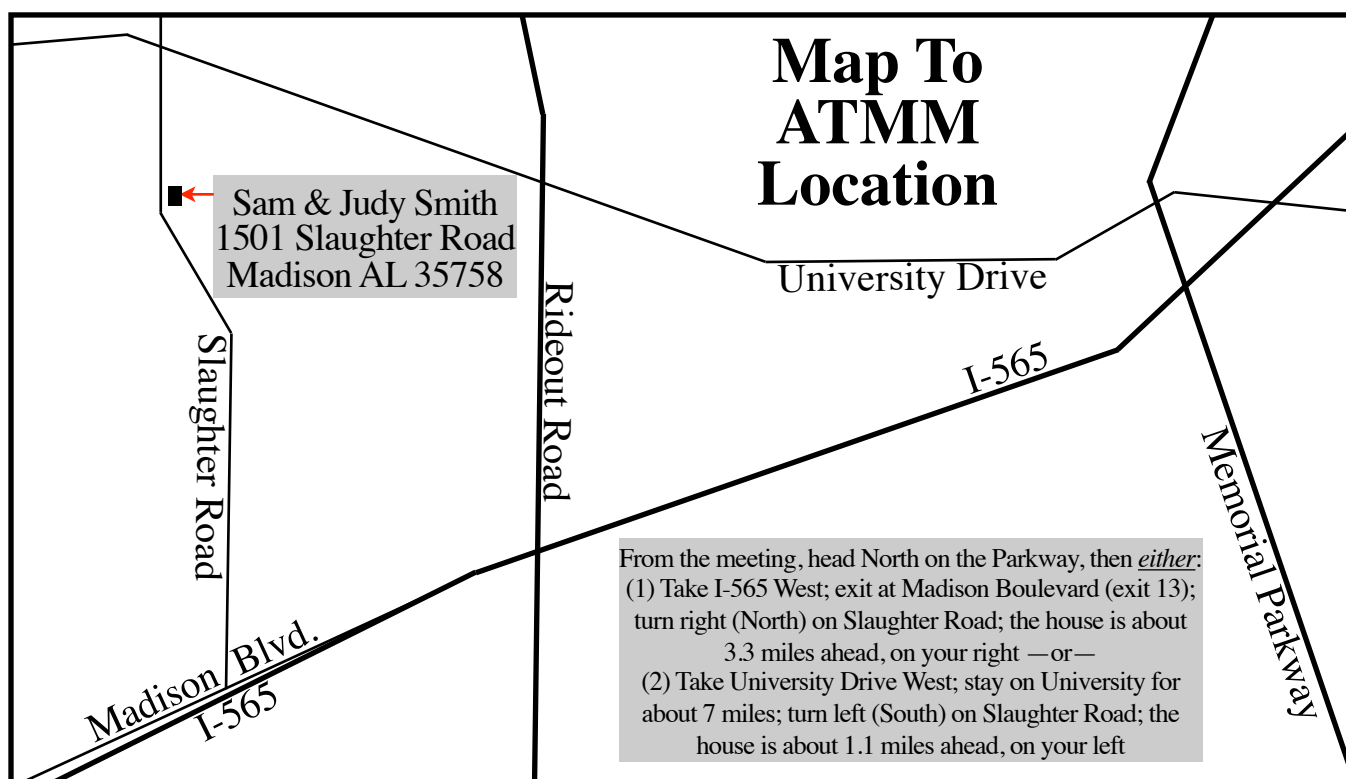
### FRANKENSTEIN'S STITCHES REVEALED

The first handwritten draft of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*—in all its “marked-up, ink-spattered” ~~gory~~ glory—has gone on display at Oxford's Bodleian Library as part of their exhibit “Shelley's Ghost: Reshaping the Image of a Literary Family.” The exhibit will be there through 27 March 2011, after which it will move to the New York Public Library central branch.

### LOCUS TO ADD DIGITAL VERSION

*Locus*—the magazine-of-record for sf/f/h publishing—has announced that they will be adding one or more digital versions to their print magazine beginning with the January 2011 issue. The digital zine will be available both for subscription and as single issues. It is not clear from their announcement at <www.locusmag.com/Magazine/Digital.html> whether the digital edition(s) will be freely available to current print subscribers. [This is a nontrivial question to me as a Lifetime Subscriber to *Locus*. -ED]

The magazine will be available at least as a PDF and *Locus* hopes to also have e-pub and Kindle versions—two of the more popular electronic-only formats. The PDF would presumably be easy to create as it would likely echo the layout of the print zine. The purely-electronic formats would require significant—if not complete—changes to the layout of the magazine and thus require additional labor for each monthly issue. Some, but by no means all, of the content of *Locus* has been available on the <www.locusmag.com> site for many years.



# November Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The November meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, November 20, 2010 in the Renasant Bank meeting room at 6:18:14P by President Mary Lampert. The crickets had to have their circuit closed, but then they chirped the meeting to order. A digression about the hazards of flying cars happened after that.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

Where will we meet next year? The Huntsville Art League suggestion would cost \$20 a month.

The next order of business was officer nominations for 2011. Doug quipped that if Mike C. becomes an officer, he will be even harder to keep quiet. Mary gavelled the meeting to order.

Doug moved to open nominations, and Maria seconded. Three opposed, and four were in favor.

Anita moved to railroad the entire slate of officers from last year, and Mike K. seconded.

However, Peggy declined to be Publicity Director next year, so we needed someone else. Mary nominated Ali for Publicity Director and Anita seconded.

Jim nominated Doug for 2012 con chair.

Sam moved to close nominations, and Anita seconded.

Sam and Judy volunteered to have the NASFA Christmas Party at their house, so it will be there until further notice. [The ATMM as originally scheduled to be at Sue's house that month, but an emerging family commitment took priority. -ED]

Les Johnson will do the NASFA program in January.

Sam read some spammish emails. Galaxiki <www.galaxiki.org> wanted submissions. Greg Arlburl was looking for a science fiction/fantasy writer's group, so Sam forwarded his email to the writers group that meets at Con†Stellation every year. [Well... that group meets throughout the year, but they have done readings annually at Con†Stellation for many years. -ED]

Sam tried to donate last year's charity auction money to the USO, but their site wouldn't take the club credit card, and the only way to donate to them is online. Doug volunteered to use his personal credit card and be reimbursed.

Someone's con registration check bounced, so we needed to know his contact information. Asking Marie was suggested.

## CONVENTION BUSINESS

Con†Stellation XXX con-chair Anita reported that we had a full slate of guests, with Gene Wolfe as Guest of Honor, Lubov as Artist GoH, Gay Haldeman as Fan GoH, and Stephanie Osborn as Master of Ceremonies. We recently added Stephanie Osborn.

Anita instructed guest liaison Steve to ask Joe Haldeman if he wants to be a Special Guest. Steve was also asked to get in touch with Also Attendings.

Anita is looking for a head of Operations.

Mike K. will be head of Publicity, but Anita will also need someone to handle social networking.

Anita and Mike K. discussed the Con†Stellation web site, <www.con-stellation.org>. Mike K. has hand-edited the HTML, and tweaked the look of the site. At this time, the web site is set up for only one person to edit everything. Mike K. would love to make it editable by multiple people, probably as a wiki using the software behind Wikipedia. We would keep the ability to edit the site restricted to a few people who need access, like Randy, the gaming head, the con chair, etc.

Maria suggested a page listing vendors. There was a stub already written for a possible vendors page, but we had only one vendor signed up at the time, so it would be silly to make the site visible to the public until we have more than one vendor to list.

All plausible upcoming con chairs for the next few years approved of the wiki idea. Mike K. will begin playing with the idea before the end of the year to check feasibility.

Sam moved to adjourn at 6:51:23P.

For the program, Alex White presented "How to Podcast Your Book—A Primer," where he described how to create and post an sf novel as a podcast, focusing on how he produces his own podcast, *The Gearheart* <www.thegearheart.com>. Mike Kennedy hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at his house.

# NASFA Calendar

## DECEMBER

- 02 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Way Station*, Clifford Simak, 6P.
- 03–05 Smofcon 28—San Jose CA.
- 03–05 Atlanta Comic Con Wizard World—Atlanta GA.
- 09 BD: Maria West.
- 12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.
- 15 Bill of Rights Day.
- 17 BD: Robin Ray.
- 18 Con†Stellation XXX Concom Meeting—3P; at Renasant Bank.
- 18\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: Random Gift Exchange. ATMM: Sam and Judy Smith's house. **NOTE that the ATMM location is a change from the original announcement.**
- 19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
- 20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.
- 21 First day of Winter.
- 22 BD: Wolf (Wolfie) Freeman.
- 24 Christmas Day (Federal Observed Holiday).
- 25 Christmas Day.
- 26 BD: Michael R. Stone.
- 26 Boxing Day (Canada).
- 31 New Year's Day (Federal Observed Holiday).
- 31 New Year's Eve Party at Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci's house.

## JANUARY 2011

- 01 New Year's Day.
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
- 06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Neverwhere*, Neil Gaiman; 6P.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 07 BD: Doug Lampert.
- 07–08 ShadowCon XV—Memphis TN.
- 07–09 GAFilk 13—Atlanta GA.
- 14–16 MarsCon—Williamsburg VA.
- 15 Tentative Con†Stellation XXX Concom Meeting—3P; at Renasant Bank.
- 15\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: "Behind the Scenes with *Back To The Moon*," Les Johnson. ATMM: TBD.
- 16 BD: Bruce Butler.
- 17 BD: Martin Luther King.
- 20 BD: Larry Montgomery.
- 21–23 Chattacon 36—Chattanooga TN.

01 National Freedom Day.  
02 Groundhog Day.  
03 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Forever War*,  
Joe Haldeman; 6P.  
08 BD: Lin Cochran.  
09 BD: Jack Lundy.  
10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.  
12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.  
14 Valentine's Day.  
17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.  
18–20 ConNooga—Chattanooga TN.  
18–20 TrekTrax—Atlanta GA.  
19 Tentative Con+Stellation XXX Concom Meeting—3P;  
at Renasant Bank.  
19\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Re-  
nasant Bank. Program: “Converging on a Space Pro-  
gram for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Paul Wieland. ATMM: TBD.  
21 BD: Presidents Day.  
22 BD: George Washington.  
25–27 AnachroCon—Atlanta GA.

02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.  
TBD Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: TBD; 6P.  
04-06 .StellarCon 35—High Point, NC.  
09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.  
10 BD: Kerry Gilley.  
11-13 CoastCon—Biloxi MS.  
11-13 Game Days 6—Nashville TN.  
12-13 MomoCon—Atlanta GA.  
13 Daylight Saving Time begins.  
13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.  
15 BD: Carlo DeShouten.  
16-20 International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts  
32—Orlando FL.  
17 St. Patrick's Day.  
19 Tentative Con+Stellation XXX Concom Meeting—3P;  
at Renasant Bank.  
19\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Re-  
nasant Bank. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.  
20 First day of Spring.  
22 BD: Jayson Woosley.  
25-27 MidSouthCon 29—Memphis TN.  
25-27 AggieCon 42—College Station TX.  
25-27 BabelCon—Baton Rouge LA.  
27 British Summer Time begins.

## Two Views of Immortality



start dying, and it seems to be tied to the time machine. Jacob also discovers that the machine has become sentient. (Hey, there's another parallel to *Children*.) Jacob's work to unravel the mystery of whether those two things are related drives much of *Twentieth*'s plot.

The personal life of Jacob stands in stark contrast to Jon's in most ways. In large part that would seem to be because Jacob shares his immortality (albeit provisional in both books) with his peers while Jon is a loner in most senses of the word, keeping secrets even from his closest companion, Lobo. Jacob's love life is not without glitches, but he does dare to have one. I suspect that everyone (both real and fictional) have *some* secrets and Jacob is no exception—but Jon makes keeping secrets into a tortured art form.

Both books are very worthy of being in your library. I think that *Children*—despite being part of a series—is in some ways the more complete book. I love Haldeman's writing and in comparing these two novels find it notably superior to Van Name's; but I find more closure in this slice of Jon and Lobo's lives than that of Jacob and his compatriots, either aboard *Aspera* or back on Earth.

In the case of *Children No More*, there's another good reason to rush out and buy it. Van Name is donating 100% of his proceeds from the hardcover sales of *Children* to a charity working towards rebuilding the lives of child soldiers in the Congo region of Africa.

## Awards Roundup

### ROTSLER AWARD GIVEN

The 2010 Rotsler Award <[www.scifiinc.org/rotsler](http://www.scifiinc.org/rotsler)>—for “long-time wonder-working with graphic art in amateur publications of the science fiction community”—went to Seattle's Stu Shiffman. The award, which includes a \$300 honorarium, was given Saturday 27 November 2010 at Loscon 37 <[www.loscon.org](http://www.loscon.org)> at the LAX Marriott in Los Angeles CA.

Current judges for this adjudicated award are Claire Brialey, Mike Glyer, and John Hertz. The award is named for the late Bill Rotsler, winner of four Fan Artist Hugos and one Fan Artist Retro Hugo covering over 50 years of activity in the field.

### ISFIC WRITERS CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED

Illinois Science Fiction in Chicago—the parent organization of WindyCon <[www.windycon.org](http://www.windycon.org)>—announced the winner of their 2010 ISFiC Writers Contest <[www.isfic.org/Rules2010.asp](http://www.isfic.org/Rules2010.asp)> on 12 November at the convention. The prize (including \$300 plus a room and membership at WindyCon) went to Mary Mascari for her story “Lost and Found,” which was published in the con program book.

The contest is for unpublished sf/f writers who either live in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, or Wisconsin or who were members of the previous WindyCon. Judges for this year were Jody Lynn Nye, Elizabeth Anne Hull, and Roland Green.

Two honorable mentions received a silver coin—Keith Heimpel for “Waiting for the Future” and Kirin Dale for “Clockwork Nightmare.”

### ENDEAVOUR AWARD WINNER

The winner of the 2010 Endeavour Award <[www.osci.org/endeavour](http://www.osci.org/endeavour)> was announced at OryCon 32 <[www.orycon.org](http://www.orycon.org)>, held 12–14 November 2010 at the Portland Doubletree Hotel in Portland OR. The award is for “a distinguished science fiction or fantasy book, either a novel or a single-author collection, created by a writer living in the Pacific Northwest.” The winner

was Alaska's David Marusek for his novel *Mind Over Ship* (Tor). The award includes a \$1000 honorarium and an engraved glass plaque.

### ILLIE AWARD ANNOUNCED

IlluXCon 3 <[www.illuxcon.com](http://www.illuxcon.com)>—held 3–6 November 2010 in Altoona PA—announced the winner of their Illie Award, <[www.illuxcon.com/image/tid/2](http://www.illuxcon.com/image/tid/2)> for the “single best traditionally created painting of the year.” The winner was Mark Zug for “Helium.” The award included a bronze sculpture created by Vincent Villafranca.

### ROMANTIC TIMES AWARD NOMS

*Romantic Times* magazine gives out awards in some sixty Reviewer's Choice categories for specific books and a dozen or so additional Career Achievement awards for authors. An amazing number of those—at least three Career Achievement categories and around sixteen Reviewer's Choice awards—have some sf/f/h genre connection.

Sadly this list is too long for the *Shuttle* to print but the full list can be found online at <[tinyurl.com/RomTimes](http://tinyurl.com/RomTimes)>.

### ANNIE AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The nominees for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Annie Awards <[www.annieawards.org](http://www.annieawards.org)>—for “excellence in the field of animation”—have been announced. The better part of 30 categories cover full productions and individual achievements for films (feature and short), commercials, television, and video games. While most nominees are genre related, the full list is a bit lengthy to print here—it can be found online at <[www.annieawards.org/consideration.html](http://www.annieawards.org/consideration.html)>.

The Annie Awards will be presented at a ceremony on Saturday 5 February 2011 to be held at UCLA's Royce Hall in LA. The ceremony will be webcast on <[www.annieawards.org](http://www.annieawards.org)> at a later date.

## Straight From The Dragon's Mouth!

No Need for a Ring—Chapter 34  
by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This is the seventh chapter in the third part of the NNFAR series—*The Thing Goes South*—and is thus numbered as Chapter 7 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

Bergil takes a deep breath. Closing his mouth against speaking, he issues his obligatory challenge, in thought only.

\*Stranger, who are you; and by what authority do you intrude upon this place?\*

PED: \*For this time and place, my name is Palantíri Eä Dae-deloth! That means: I see all the world in a shadow of horror. Since that is awkward for conversation you may refer to me as PED. Anything I say beyond this, you would do well to *only* repeat, privately, to the royal family of the reunited kingdom. Halifrien belongs to Gondor... all except this level space known as the Hallow of Amon Anwar. The ones who sent me have prepared this western half as a... convenience. I am here by their proper and express permission.\*

Bergil: \*Why would the Valar send a dragon?\*

PED: \*They do not know, except that the will of the One said so. When they came to battle Morgoth, they succeeded in destroying a lot of this world. I should think that that would be sufficient reason for sending a lesser power to deal with a lesser problem.\*

Bergil: \*That is a lot to swallow. Why should I believe any of it?\*

PED: \*Bergil Leaf-bearer, son of Beregond servant of Faramir; your personal belief is unnecessary. Did your great-grandson Gilbert enjoy the spinning toy that the Lord of the Glittering Caves made for him, just before he left with his elven friend for... other shores?\*

Bergil: \*Yes, he... How do you know about that; and how do you know my name?\*

PED: \*Blame the Dwarf, if blame there be. You are well known to the Nine Walkers; though Legolas, being an Elf, has trouble telling one human from another. Gimli knew you better. You are not a loremaster, but do you know the tale of Eärendil?\*

Bergil: \*Yes, mainly.\*

PED: \*Many had tried to reach the Undying Lands. Eärendil, aided by the silmaril, was the only sailor to make it. He asked help for Elves and Men. The Valar had been waiting for one to deliver the request. Aid was granted and Morgoth was overthrown. So, unfortunately, was almost all of the lands west of the Blue Mountains. Men and Elves survived, and had a chance to grow. Dwarves, also, though some of their chief cities were severely damaged. Anyway, Gimli and Legolas made it to the far shores. Gimli is very old. He saw Eärendil and was inspired by his example to ask a boon for all Dwarves.\*

Bergil: \*You are a long-winded dragon; even when making no sound.\*

PED: \*I see in your mind that you want to get these seeing stones for the kingdom. Nothing is simpler. You may take these two smaller ones with you. I have need of the larger one at least once more. I will be bringing it to Minas Tirith myself.\*

Bergil: \*You are going there?\*

PED: \*I have business there relating to these seeing stones; and the disposition of same to the proper owners. I need to send something else, too. Aglarond still has an embassy there, correct?\*

Bergil: \*Yes. What do you want with more Dwarves?\*

PED: (Holding up one claw) \*I found this ring in the lake at the West Gate of Moria. I have determined that it was the property of Gimli's uncle, Óin. Since he had no children, this ring should go to his nearest kin in Middle-Earth. That would be Gimli's son, Balóin. The death of Óin has been avenged in like kind. I have eaten the Watcher in the Water. More, I have begun the cleansing of Moria. Water has filled all the deeps and flows out from Durin's Tower; high up on the Silvertine. No Orcs nor Trolls survive there. You have my express permission to give these tidings, and this ring, to the representatives of Aglarond. Will you undertake this?\*

Bergil: \*I will! But, what business do you have with the other seeing stone?\*

PED: \*Some of the Stones are still lost. I will attempt to recover the others. Also, the Stone of Osgiliath, if it can be recovered, can be used to clear the "problem" that restricts usage of the Stone of Minas Tirith: the burning hands of Denethor the Steward.\*

Bergil: \*How do you know this?\*

PED: \*The Masterstone of the palantíri is held in the Tower of Avallónë on the island Tol Eressëa. That is within sight of the Blessed Realm. The keepers taught me much about these stones that has been forgotten by Man. Knowledge is the only true treasure. Gold and gems make for a hard, cold bed. Treasure that you can easily carry is useful for buying ale and beef. A large hoard is just a prison for it's keeper. Circulating gold is the life blood of a nation. Hoarded gold is like a large clot of blood over a mortal wound. I recently gathered a hoard for

appearances sake, and then abandoned it when I needed to move on. Now, it is time for you to move on.\*

(The dragon lowers the stone and sets it through the Veil. Then removes the ring and sets it with the stone before lying down.)

[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

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

Sheryl Birkhead  
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27 November 2010

Yeah, this hand writing is getting *really* old, really fast... I intend to get that compatible laptop RSN—well, I can dream.

Issues (October & November) here—so I *will* get caught up.

Just for grins I've priced the new Apple (well new-er)—nope—not gonna happen.

In my mind's eye I see Brad Foster's Reno [Worldcon] Mascot sitting there open—with the Hugo Rocket emerging. Now to see what the actual designs are.

I picture PED with a dandy built in GPS for all the nifty diving and soaring... and still "on track."

The Worldcon com *is not* "obligated" to send nominees the nice certificate that many do—as a result I had the pin framed with my Con José certificate. Then too, since I don't really attend cons it is really moot. What does the Aurora pin look like? Does it mean that this is a going forward tradition or only to acknowledge the past nominees?

In a vain effort to prevent over eating at Thanksgiving I scheduled blood work for the following day. Now I know not to bother in the future. I *did* find out the online discount lab price for (who knew?) blood work—at the lab I usually use—is about ¼ what I pay the insurance company *and* (honest!) there was a coupon!

Aside from not being able to listen to "an issue of *Sofa*," I was sad to listen to his live "waiting for the awards" podcast and to hear that the "ed" knew, pretty much, nothing about fandom—only interest (period) seemed to be his category—and no interest in anything else. Um—maybe this sounds wrong, *but*, I can see that mentality more in a professional writer who has *never* been a fan—getting nominated and *solely* interested in his category. Sigh (luckily a lot of "our" pros are *also* fans). Now to see what new entrants to the fanzine category await in 2011.

I'll check out the Hugo awards—I *know* I have checked several times and not seen it listed. Now that I know it exists, I will go slowly and examine the site more closely.

I hope the *Shuttle* can run a picture of the Aurora pin (hint, hint).

The Holidays are now formally (although Christmas stuff was out and about before Thanksgiving around here) in full swing. Remember—Hugo nominations consideration starting in January!



[Yep, the end of the year is fast approaching and Hugo nominations will not be far behind. Progress Report 3 from Reno (which was just published) says that the nomination deadline is 23:59 PDT Saturday 26 March 2011 and that the final Hugo Ballot will be distributed in April or May. (To nominate, folks that weren't members of Aussiecon 4 have to join Renovation by 23:59 PST 31 January.) I *did* manage to find an image of the Prix Aurora pin, albeit not a terribly *clear* one. For what it's worth, I'll run it alongside this lettercol. Sooner or later (possibly sooner than I'd like), I'll be buying my health insurance from the open market... but the concept of discount coupons for medical care (well, tests at least) had not penetrated my mental event horizon until you mentioned it. Interesting. -ED]



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

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1 December 2010

The Christmas season is getting mighty close, and I have already started my Christmas shopping. This early start allows me a little time to get caught up with letters of comment, so here's what I have to say about the November *Shuttle*.

We're working on conventions, too. I'll be in charge of the fan tables, and Yvonne will be in charge of the green room at Ad Astra 2011, the 30<sup>th</sup> Ad Astra, and we will both be running the green room at the Canadian National Steampunk Exhibition, in late April. The conventions are only three weeks apart, so planning can be made simultaneously, and non-perishable shopping can be done for both.

I will ask a question because I hear so much about them... when it comes to e-books, I will often use my old Palm Tungsten... I had a ton of e-books and e-short stories on its SD card. Now that there seems to be so many dedicated e-book readers, is there one that can read all formats? Is getting an e-reader worth it, or should I just read them on my Palm or a laptop?

The World Fantasy Convention will be held in the Toronto suburb of Richmond Hill in 2012. I know most of the committee, who has local experience. I also know the chairman, and I will not say more than that.

Hello to PieEyed once more. There be a dragon here!, a benign one by all reports. I gather they know not how to handle a benign dragon, and that dragon doesn't quite know how to handle men running away, either. I hope the two can come to some understanding. I do enjoy these stories; any good story makes you ask, "And then what happened?"

Today, I looked out my winter coat and wore it outside for the first time. And, I needed it. The snow from the north keeps coming closer. At SFCOntario, I did receive my Aurora pin. I am still waiting for my Hugo pin, but that may happen soon... I am sure whoever's in charge of the pins would like to get rid of them as much as I'd like to receive it. I did

get to Geri Sullivan's All Worldcons, All the Time bheer tasting party. Yvonne and I represented the 1990 Worldcon by donating some of the leftover bid materials (flyers in English, French and Dutch), and a couple of cans of Heineken.

All done for the moment, and a page is usually what it takes. To all the members of NASFA, Yvonne and I wish you the most enjoyable of holidays, no matter what you celebrate, and wish you fun, health and prosperity for that SFnal year of 2011. Thank you for another year!

[I'm not sure I'd call *any* dragon—even PED—benign (def: having a kindly disposition; gracious; showing or expressive of gentleness or kindness) though I'm not sure what word or phrase I'd use instead (without resorting to double negatives like "not unkind"). I don't own an ebook reader, nor have I done any extensive investigation of them, but what little I know would lead me to doubt that any dedicated reader can handle all formats—mostly because of DRM. If I understand correctly, books sold on iTunes can be read only on Apple products or Windows computers with iTunes installed. I believe that the analogous statement can be made for some other online stores and the readers tied to them. Some portable devices (or computers) can handle multiple types of DRM but I don't think there's a single one that can handle all of them. -ED]

WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF

We also heard from John Mansfield <pgh@mts.net> who sent a note about the Aurora pins mentioned in the last couple of issues of the *Shuttle*:

"The Aurora pins were created by, and paid for by, the Conadian (1994 Worldcon) committee. The Aurora committee has organized the distribution of the pins [...] at various Canadian conventions."



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The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the December 2010 edition (Volume 30, Number 12). 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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Dues (\$), subscriptions (\$), and Official Mail to: NASFA, Inc., P. O. Box 4857,  
Huntsville AL 35815-4857 — OFFICIAL ADDRESS  
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NASFA Dues = \$25/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$15/year Single copy = \$2 each.  
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A decorative crown graphic is centered behind the main event text.

*Con†Stellation XXX: Corona Borealis*  
*16–18 September 2011*  
*Holiday Inn Express, Huntsville AL*  
*Check the updated website [www.con-stellation.org](http://www.con-stellation.org)*