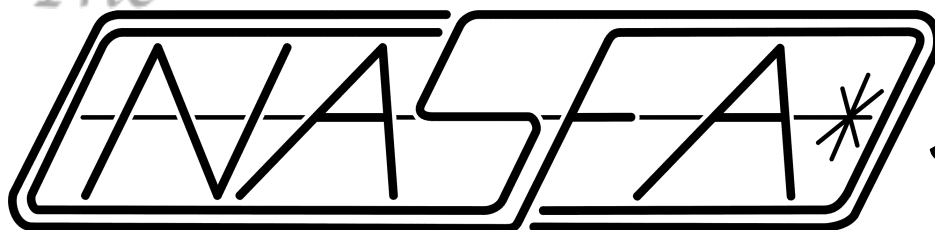


The



Shuttle
October 2011

The Next NASFA Meeting is 15 October 2011 at the Regular Time and Location

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be Saturday **15 October 2011** 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.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

The October program will be "The Fannish Inquisition," a postmortem discussion of Con† Stellation XXX. What worked? What can we do better?

OCTOBER ATMM

The October ATMM will be hosted by Wyman Cooke at the bank building. Folks are asked to bring their preferred drink and a dish to share.

CONCOM MEETINGS

Con†Stellation XXXI concom meetings have not yet been scheduled. Look for the first meeting around the beginning of 2011 plus or minus a month (or even two).

EARLIER SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The deadline for the *NASFA Shuttle* is still in the process of changing due to an altered production schedule. Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

- Programs are set for the rest of the year.
- November: "What about Bob?" Magic and mayhem with Darryl Osborn.
 - December: "An exchange of gifts." Annual Christmas gift

Get the *Shuttle* via Electrons

by Mike Kennedy, Editor

With ongoing changes in production schedule, the time couldn't be better to start getting the *Shuttle* in PDF form and help take the burden off your dead-tree mailbox. All you need to do is notify us by emailing <nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org>.

exchange. Program Director Wyman Cooke has requested that each person who wants to participate bring one gift, up to a \$25 limit. See the September Minutes in this issue for further details.

- January: A "Things to Come" panel on coming conventions is in work, but it may have to be delayed from January depending on panelist availability.

The November ATMM will be at Mike Kennedy's house. The December ATMM (cum Christmas Party) will be at Sue Thorns house. Expect a non-ATMM on New Year's Eve at a place still TBD.

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Remaining 2011 NASFA meetings are scheduled to be the usual 3rd Saturday. The January 2012 meeting has been moved to the 2nd Saturday to accommodate a potential scheduling issue for programming.

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.

Continuing Our 31st Year of Publication

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Deadline for the November 2011 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 31 October 2011

News & Info

DSC SERVICE AWARDS

DeepSouthCon 49 (held in conjunction with FenCon VIII) announced that the 2011 Rebel (fan) and Phoenix (pro) Awards for service to Southern Fandom went to Brad W. Foster and Selina Rosen respectively. The Rubble Award (for disservice; not an official convention award) went (tongue in cheek) to Bill Parker for bringing the 2013 Worldcon (and two years of work) to Southern Fandom in general and Texas in particular. Further details can be found in the DSC review elsewhere in this issue.

HUNTSVILLE TOP RETIREMENT SPOT?

CNN Money has picked Huntsville as number 12 on their list of the top 25 places to retire <tinyurl.com/CNN25Ret>. According to the *Huntsville Times* <tinyurl.com/Times25Ret> this is the second year in a row that Huntsville has made this list.



HUNTSVILLE

The Star of Alabama

TRANSATLANTIC FAN FUND SLATE ANNOUNCED

The ballot for the 2012 TAFF race is now available at <taff.org.uk/ballots/taff2012.pdf>. Three candidates, Warren Buff, Kim G. Kofmel, and Jacqueline Monahan, will be vying for the nod to take the trip from North America across the Atlantic to attend the 2012 Eastercon (UK natcon), to be held in Heathrow, London 6–9 April 2012.

Voting is open to “active fans” and requires a small contribution to TAFF (minimum \$3 or £2. The ballot includes further instructions including a way to pay (and vote) through PayPal. The deadline is 9 December 2011 at 23:59 (GMT in Europe, MST in North America).

BFA BROUHAHA

Winners of the British Fantasy Awards were recently announced, and a hailstorm of criticism broke out. The *Shuttle* will not try to recapitulate all of this ongoing situation, but curious readers are invited to Google “British Fantasy Awards controversy 2011” and read about the mudslinging, returned award, and generally bad press this is generating. One of the more thoughtful pieces available at press time was posted by Cheryl Morgan on her blog *Cheryl's Mewsings* <www.cheryl-morgan.com/?p=11772>.

AMAZING STORIES MAY BE REVIVED

Amazing Stories, which began its history in 1926 under Hugo Gernsback, has been in and out of publication several times in recent years <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazing_Stories>, with the last printed issue being February 2005. One further online issue dated March of that year also appeared.

Now it looks like *Amazing* may be in for a revival. Steve Davidson has recently been granted the trademark for “Amazing Stories” (which had been abandoned) and has announced plans to start it back up as an online magazine. To that end he has registered the URL <www.AmazingStoriesmag.com>. Davidson can be reached at <steve.davidson33@comcast.net>.

GRRM HITS A MILLION

Online retailer Amazon has announced that George R.R. Martin recently hit the 1,000,000 mark in sales of digital books on their Kindle Store <tinyurl.com/GRRM10e6>. Other sources have pegged him as being the 11th author to join this club. Martin is quoted as saying “Groucho Marx once said, ‘I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member,’ but even Groucho might have made an exception for the Kindle Million Club.”

B&N, DC, AMAZON IN LOVER'S TIFF

Bookseller Barnes & Noble has stopped selling 100 DC Comics titles in its brick and mortar stores. Reportedly this is to honor a prior promise to customers “to make available any book, anywhere, anytime.”

Huh?

Well, DC has inked an agreement with Amazon for first digital rights on the subject titles in conjunction with the launch of the Kindle Fire, the first color version of that e-reader. B&N's policy is that they will not carry paper copies of publications for which digital versions are available to other sellers but not to Barnes & Noble.

DC has expressed “disappointment” over the B&N decision. It is not entirely clear from available sources if digital versions of the titles will eventually be released in non-Kindle digital formats (for iPad, Nook, etc.) though it seems likely they will. Reportedly Amazon's exclusive window is 4 months.

NIMOY SAYS ADIEU

Apparently 45 years is enough.

Leonard Nimoy announced at a recent Star Trek con, put on by for-profit juggernaut Creation Entertainment in honor of the 45th anniversary of the Trek universe, that he will no longer be attending cons. Further details can be at <tinyurl.com/NoMoNim>.

September Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The September meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday September 10, 2011 in the Renasant Bank meeting room at 6:16:36P by President Mary Lampert. After some effort, the crickets eventually chirped, then faded.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Judy announced that Maria had her baby, Thane Allan Fenris Grim, a few days before.

Sam announced that he had no spammish emails to read. He observed that the spam filters are much better now.

Programming Director Wyman proposed some ground rules for the Christmas gift exchange, which will be the program for the December NASFA meeting. (1) We will emphasize quality over quantity. (2) There will be a \$25 maximum gift limit, excluding taxes and shipping. (3) If you bring large numbers of cheap gifts, you will be responsible for distributing them.

Wyman was waiting on emails from people for the January program, “Things to Come,” which will include DeepSouthCon 50 and other upcoming Huntsville conventions.

CON BUSINESS

There was going to be a con this year. According to the *Huntsville Times*, it would be squished into the Renasant Bank meeting room and cost \$45 for the whole weekend. They apparently got the NASFA meeting and Con†Stellation confused.

Con†Stellation XXX announcements were made for the upcoming week. Art show load-out was at Randy's on Sunday, September 11th. Con†Stellation setup was Thursday, September 15th. The Con†Stellation XXX dinner at Lone Star was that same Thursday at around 6P.

Con†Stellation XXXI con chair Mike K. had looked at two more hotels since the August meeting, but he hadn't made an agreement with any yet.

Mike K. announced that Con†Stellation XXXI will be

Sam moved to adjourn at 6:26:43P.

NASFA Calendar

01-02 Comic & Horror Fest—Nashville TN.
06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Feed*, M.T. Anderson; 6P.
07-09 SIEGE—Atlanta GA.
10 Columbus Day (Observed).
10 Thanksgiving Day (Canada).
12 Columbus Day (Traditional).
14-16 Capclave 11—Gaithersburg MD.
14-16 Comic and Fantasy Con—Memphis TN.
15 BD: Robert Buelow.
15* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renaissance Bank. Program: “The Fannish Inquisition,” aka Con+Stellation Postmortem. ATMM: Wyman Cooke (at the bank building).
21-23 Necronomicon—St. Petersburg FL.
21-23 Geek Media Expo—Nashville TN.
24 United Nations Day.
25 BD: Marie McCormack.
28-30 HallowCon—Dalton GA.
31 Halloween.

03 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *October Country*, Ray Bradbury; 6P.
04-06 CONtraflow—New Orleans LA.
06 Daylight Savings Time Ends.
06 Atlanta Comic Convention—Atlanta GA.
08 Election Day.
11 Veterans Day.
19* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renaissance Bank. Program: “What about Bob? Magic and mayhem with Darryl Osborn.” ATMM: Mike Kennedy’s house.
22 BD: Nancy Renee Peters.
23 BD: Mike Kennedy.
24 Thanksgiving Day.
29 BD: Howard Camp.
30 BD: Joshua Kennedy.
30 BD: Richard Gilliam.

01 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Hogfather*, Terry
Pratchett; 6P.
02–04 SMOFcon 29— Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
09 BD: Maria Grim.
12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.
15 Bill of Rights Day.
17* NASFA Meeting— 6P Business, 7P Program, at Re-
nascent Bank. Program: Gift Exchange. ATMM: Sue
Thorn's house.
17 BD: Robin Ray.
19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.
22 BD: Wolfie Freeman.

JANUARY 2012

16 BD: Bruce Butler.
16 BD: Martin Luther King.
20 BD: Larry Montgomery.
20–22 Chattacon 37—Chattanooga TN.
28–29 Wizard World—New Orleans LA

Awards Roundup

The British Fantasy Awards <www.britishfantasysociety.co.uk/category/British-Fantasy-Awards> are presented annually by the British Fantasy Society <www.britishfantasysociety.co.uk>. The selection process is somewhat complex and includes votes from members of both BFS and the annual Fantasycon, held this year <www.fantasycon2011.org> at the Royal Ablion Hotel in Brighton, UK.

Winners of the 2011 BFAs were announced Sunday 2 October at Fantasycon. Following the awards, some furor arose over the domestic relationship between Ms Stone, the winner in both the Novel and Short Story categories, and BFS chair David Howe. Also in play was the fact that Mr. Howe is one of the owners of Telos, a small press that figured prominently among the winners. Subsequently, Ms Stone announced on Wednesday 5 October that she is returning the Novel award. Expect further palpitations in the heartbeat of the British Blogosphere. Disregarding the return of the novel award, the winners are:

Novel (August Derleth Fantasy Award)***Demon Dance***,
Sam Stone (The House of Murky Depths)... but see remarks
above about the award being returned

Novella *Humpty's Bones*, Simon Clark (Telos)
Short Story "Fool's Gold," Sam Stone

(*The Bitten Word*. Ian Whates, ed., NewCon Press)
Collection *Full Dark, No Stars*, Stephen King
 (Hodder & Stoughton)
Anthology *Back from the Dead:*
The Legacy of the Pan Book of Horror Stories,
 Johnny Mains, ed. (Noose & Gibbet)
Non-Fiction *Altered Visions: The Art of Vincent Chong*,
 (Telos)
Artist **Vincent Chong**
Small Press **Telos Publishing**
Magazine/Periodical *Black Static*, Andy Cox, ed. (TTA Press)
Comic/Graphic Novel *At the Mountains of Madness*,
 Ian Culbard (Self Made Hero)
Film *Inception* (Christopher Nolan/Syncopy Films)
Television *Sherlock* (Steven Moffat/BBC)
Karl Edward Wagner Special Award **Terry Pratchett**
Sydney J. Bounds Award for Best Newcomer **Robert**
Jackson Bennett, for *Mr. Shivers* (Orbit Books)

SUNBURST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The 2011 Sunburst Awards <www.sunburstaward.org> for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic were presented on 14 September at an event hosted by the Harbourfront Reading Series in Toronto ON. The award is juried—for 2011 the jurors were Kate Freiman, Mark Leslie, Christopher Roden, and Alison Sinclair. The award is named after a novel by Phyllis Gotlieb, an early Canadian speculative fiction author. Winners receive CDN\$1,000 and a hand-crafted medallion incorporating a Sunburst logo designed by Marcel Gagné. The winners were:

Adult *Under Heaven*, Guy Gavriel Kay
Young Adult *Bookweirder*, Paul Glennon

ROBERT A. HEINLEIN AWARD RESULT

The Robert A. Heinlein Award <www.bsfs.org/bsfsheinlein.htm>, for “outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings to inspire the human exploration of space,” is awarded by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society. This year’s winner is **Connie Willis**. The juried award includes a sterling silver medallion with an image of Heinlein, pendent from a red-white-blue lanyard. Two similar lapel pins are also provided, as is a plaque.

CANADIAN FANED AWARDS DEBUT

R. Graeme Cameron had announced his intent to award has unilaterally created Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards. He even created the nickname “Faneds” for the award. Now he’s announced the first set of winners—on 2 October 2011 at VCON 36 <www.vcon.ca>, held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport in Vancouver BC. Winners received a *Faned* figure sculpted by Lawrence Prime and a certificate designed by Taral Wayne. The winners are:

Fan Artist **Taral Wayne**
Fan Writer **Garth Spencer**
LoC Hack **Lloyd Penney**
Fanzine *WARP*, Cathy Palmer-Lister, ed
Life-Time Achievement *“The Unknown Faned”* who

published Canada’s first sf fanzine (1936), *The Canadian Science Fiction Fan*—in his still extant review of the zine

Donald Wollheim failed to mention the editor’s name

WSFA SMALL PRESS AWARD FINALISTS

Finalists have been announced for the 2011 Washington Science Fiction Association <www.wsfa.org> Small Press Award for Short Fiction. The winner is selected by vote of WSFA members in a blind judging process. The award will be presented at Capclave <www.capclave.org>, to be 14–16 October 2011 at the Gaithersburg Hilton in Gaithersburg MD. The nominees are:

“Enid and the Prince,” R.J. Astruc, (*Worlds Next Door*, Tehani

Wessely, ed., FableCroft Publishing, June 2010)
 “The Cassandra Project,” Jack McDevitt, (*Lightspeed Magazine*, June 2010, John Joseph Adams, ed.)
 “After the Dragon,” Sarah Monette, (*Fantasy Magazine*, January 2010, Cat Rambo and Sean Wallace, eds.)
 “The Days of Flaming Motorcycles,” Catherynne M. Valente, (*Dark Faith*, Maurice Broaddus and Jerry Gordon, eds., Apex Book Company, May 2010)
 “Amaryllis,” Carrie Vaughn, (*Lightspeed Magazine*, June 2010, John Joseph Adams, ed.)
 “Lord Bai’s Discovery,” Jean Marie Ward, (*Dragon’s Lure*, Danielle Ackley-McPhail, Jennifer Ross, and Jeffrey Lyman, eds, Dark Quest Books, June 2010)

DSC 49 Trip Report

by Mike Kennedy

DeepSouthCon 49 was held 23–25 September 2011, in conjunction with FenConVIII <www.fencon.org>, at the Crowne Plaza North Dallas in Addison TX. Invited guests included GoH Gail Carriger, Music GoH Joe Bethancourt, Fan GoH Steven H Silver, Artist GoH Vincent Di Fate (via video conference only), Science GoH Les Johnson, and Toastmaster Bradley Denton. Two Special Guests—Lou Anders and Stephan Martiniere—were also on the list of headliners. Di Fate was unable to attend due to professional commitments. In many ways Martiniere acted as Artist GoH, in Di Fate’s (physical) absence. A bit over 100 additional program participants (pros, fans, and groups) were listed on the con website.

DSC 49 came rather later in the year than is usual for DeepSouthCon—but on FenCon’s normal weekend. That also placed it on the weekend after Con†Stellation, in which I was deeply involved (as most *Shuttle* readers might expect). I was reluctant to go to cons two consecutive weekends, especially when one of those was Con†Stellation. (The lack of travel tiredness for it is *more* than made up for by working the con.) But, I’d missed a few DSCs in the past several years. That, plus it being the first DSC in Texas, swung my decision to go.

I considered driving to Dallas (well, the burbs), but upon consideration it made more sense to fly. Between saving gasoline and room nights on the road, it was pretty much a wash on cost. I did decide to fly out on the day before the con so I could leave the airport (HSV) at a reasonable time. Otherwise I’d have had to get up in the wee hours to catch an unforgivably early flight on Friday morning. (That, or miss much of the day Friday.)

THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER—DAY 0 (TRAVEL DAY)

So, having decided to eliminate the tedium and rigors of a road trip in favor of the indignity and pain of air travel, I managed to get up early enough to have a reasonably leisurely morning—finishing packing, having breakfast, etc. I arrived at the airport right at an hour before the scheduled 11:50 departure, which turned out to be a good thing. Normally an hour is excessive at HSV, but the line at security was longer than usual. Not long by big airport standards, mind you, but it did take several minutes more than normal.

I barely had time at the gate to catch my breath before boarding began. As I was boarding I realized I’d forgotten to put any reading material in my luggage, so I was faced with a trip reading only the in-flight magazine. Sigh. There’s barely room in a coach seat for me, let alone opening my laptop to read any of the novels or other material available there. I did end up with much more seat room than expected, though. American Air-

lines' website had indicated the middle seat was to be occupied, but that turned out not to be the case. So, with my legs splayed—one knee well out into the aisle and the other in front of the middle seat—I managed to get to Dallas/Fort Worth International (DFW) with only a minor level of physical abuse. Well, minor compared to what it would have been had that middle seat been occupied. We got to the gate at about 13:36, quite a bit early.

Two Huntsvillians—Science GoH Les Johnson and his wife Carol—were on the same flight, one row forward and across the aisle from me. They had a driver meet them at the airport—being an ordinary member I didn't have that luxury. I had prepaid for the SuperShuttle, which should have made for a smooth trip. Instead, I had to wait for the 3rd shuttle to come around, then sit at the curb in a full van while we waited on... well, on nothing as far as I could tell. At least my hotel turned out to be the first stop.

I got to the Crowne Plaza a bit before 14:45 but had to wait a while for my room. The second time I tried to check in (after the requested 20 minute wait) I was offered a drink coupon and told it would be a few more minute. Having missed lunch, I welcomed the rather-too-salty nibbles more than the Jim Beam I ordered. I nursed the drink for a while, finishing maybe half of it (or less)—I'm a cheap drunk and I didn't want to get to that state. The desk clerk did come over to the bar to let me know my room was ready, for which he gets full points.

I'd been unable to check email (and such) while waiting to check in as the "free in public areas" wireless internet was not working for me. So, one of the first things I did once in my room was to set up my computer. That's when I noticed I didn't pack the power brick. Crapola. I'd be stuck working on a few hours battery charge for the whole weekend... dribbled out a few minutes at a time. Fortunately the package deal I'd gotten for my flight and hotel included a room on the Executive Club "level" (about which more shortly) so I had ready access to a computer there all weekend to pick up the slack.

The EC level at this hotel wasn't actually a *level*. The Crowne Plaza is a sprawling 4-story affair, with seemingly fractal corridors. They have so many rooms on each floor that they need 4-digit room numbers. The EC "level" seemed to be a couple of corridors on part of the 4th floor's fractal. As I worked on catching up on my notes for this trip report, the attendant set up the evening hors d'oeuvres and the smell eventually tempted me away.

The spread was not lavish, but it was satisfying. I spent about 30 minutes demolishing hot wings (not very spicy, which was fine by me), cheese and crackers, fruit, and more. Just access to Diet Dr. Pepper (DDP) made a big difference in how I felt. I skipped the pasta salad, the broccoli salad, the liquor, and a couple more things, but I did have two giant cookies. One of them was nearly big enough to make a half-mask for *Phantom of the Opera*. Hmm... I wonder if there's a costume idea in there somewhere? Probably not.

By the time I finished (a bit before 18:00) I'd forgotten all about missing lunch and was pretty sure supper wouldn't be needed. That latter would later be confirmed. Thursday would be my only chance to take advantage of the evening food as the hors d'oeuvres aren't available in this EC Friday or over the weekend. The Continental breakfast—for which I'd had some high hopes—was slated to be open only Tuesday–Friday, so I would only be able to take advantage of it one morning. Bummer.

I spent some time in my room, unpacking and (finally) winding down from what already felt like a long day. That didn't last *too* long—I was back in the EC lounge by 19:30 to surf the

web (while shaking my head sadly about the Atlanta Braves September Swoon, later completed) and chomp a few more goodies.

Another aspect of the EC upgrade—free internet in the room—proved to be moot not only because of the missing power brick but also because it turned out that all Priority Club members (that's the InterContinental Hotels Group "Frequent Guest" program) got free access, regardless of room type. This is something neither the hotel website nor the FenCon website mentioned as far as I can tell. Further, the username/password combo ("priority"/"club") is so guessable that I'll bet many folks who are not PC members glom on.

After satisfying my news-junkie nature (local, national, international, fannish)—and that can take a while to do when I've been away from the web for half a day—I stumbled back to my room. It was still before 21:00 but I'd gladly have made an early night of it. Unfortunately for my sleepy eyes, the season premier of a TV show I like came on then. Fortunately for my sleepy eyes, I didn't *need* to get up at any particular time the next morning. Nonetheless I set a wakeup call for 08:30 so I wouldn't miss breakfast.

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER—CON DAY 1

I woke up a bit before my scheduled time. It took me about 30 minutes to limber up enough to make my way down to the EC lounge. I ran into Judy Bemis and Tony Parker there. They'd flown into Love Field (DAL) Thursday night. The question of when con reg opened came up so I did a quick surf to find out that would be 11:00. I also asked them to keep an eye out for someone who might be willing to lend me a MacBook-compatible power brick—they couldn't since they don't speak Mac. (That didn't yield any fruit, but I did get some good news on this front later.)

Breakfast was high on sugar (juice, fruit, pastries) but some protein (egg and cheese burritos) was available. I stoked up on all of it, then headed back to my room to finish getting ready to face the day. As I was doing that, Sam Smith called to say that he and Judy were in town (after their oh-dark-thirty flight that morning) and wanted to know if I was interested in an early lunch. Well, not lunch for me, but I was happy to go with them. The hotel shuttle van provided transportation both ways and the van driver was happy to suggest an alternate location (J's Breakfast & Burgers) when the first place (Snuffer's) wasn't open at 10:30. (Having that shuttle available proved invaluable over the weekend. There were very few restaurants in even marginal walking distance, but the shuttle opened up a host of alternatives.)

We got back to the hotel before 12:00, when the hotel had said S&J should be able to check in, but after convention registration opened at 11:00—so we headed to the latter. Fortunately there weren't too many people in line at that time, since reg was still struggling to its feet. At-the-door reg wasn't staffed yet and the alphabetically-split pre-reg pickup had only one person available until just before the three of us made it to the head of the line. Still, it didn't take that long and they seemed to be more organized later. (One nit: their setup, in a busy corridor across from the freebie tables, guaranteed a choke point for traffic.)

The con materials handed to me were my badge, a necklace/pouch-type badge holder, a "pocket" program (extensive!), and a digest magazine sized, perfect bound, souvenir program book. People who had kicked in more bucks to be a "Friend" of the con also got a tote bag. Later in the con I saw a number of folks with generic plastic badge holders. I don't know if they ran out of the higher-grade one I got or if those were limited to pre-reg members only.

The “pocket program” looked to be made from ledger sized paper, split lengthwise and folded to make a 5.5”x8.5” staple-bound book. It ran to 48 pages... so not really pocket sized (though it did *just* fit in my front jeans pocket). In addition to 6 general tracks of programming (with a mix of science, sf/f, fandom, concerts, and other events) there was a track of readings, a fairly full track of workshops, a children’s track, autographs, and a video track. The concerts ran in the largest of the general programming rooms, taking advantage of the sound and light tech there. Many of the other tracks closed during certain main events in that same room. The Fanzine Lounge didn’t host any programs (and was closed at night so the room could be used for parties) but almost acted as an additional programming track since anyone interested in zines could find like-minded folks ready to chat most of the time during the day.

After con reg, S&J and I made our way to the EC lounge and looked over the program, each highlighting items of interest to us and making some use of the computer there to look up specifics. That broke up sometime before 12:45, at which point S&J went to register for their room. I spent a few minutes in my room catching up on notes, then a few more wandering around the 2nd floor of the hotel where the vast majority of con activities were confined. (The only major exception was gaming—which was on the 1st floor. Some attendees were saying on the 3rd or 4th floor, but most con members had 2nd floor rooms.)

Before 13:00 the Con Suite (or, as FenCon styled it, the Admiral’s Club) was already going, with hot dogs, chips, veggies, cookies, soft drinks, and more available. I chose to forgo any of that (save one baby carrot) until after the first panel I attended, “Dystopia’ed to Death,” at 13:00. Sarah Hoyt, A. Lee Martinez, and Bradley Denton mostly stayed on topic and the audience didn’t pull them too far off either. I heard what could possibly be the best line of the weekend from Ms Hoyt who opined that zombie romances (which do exist <tinyurl.com/ZombRom>) were a really bad idea—“I mean, if it’s going to throb and fall off...”

I visited the Con Suite again, this time making myself a chili dog with what seemed to be a quarter pound sausage. I also found a cold can of DDP, some chips, and a chocolate covered snack cake. Check off lunch as accomplished.

Interspersed among all the above, I’d exchanged a couple of emails with Tim Morgan, Vice Chair of FenCon, about possibly scaring up a Mac power brick. He’d suggested I check with Convention Operations to see if they could track down a staffer, Michael Braun, who might have one. After I noshed, I stopped by Ops again and they had located it. May the ghods bless *all* of them. So, after I caught up on my notes, I took my MacBook down to Ops to top off the battery. That proved to be enough for me to ration my electrons and get through the con.

I had the better part of an hour before the next panel I wanted to see, so I hung around the Fanzine Lounge with Fan GoH Stephen Silver, recent Hugo winner Chris Garcia, Southern Fandom Confederation prez Warren Buff, and Glug. Other folks also dropped in from time to time. We all talked zines and whatever else came to mind. With 3 fast talkers in the group, I only got in a few zingers, but was satisfied nonetheless. (And yes, when the subject of odd names came up I had to share that of the most recent bundle of joy to grace Huntsville fandom.)

The panel at 16:00 was “Fanzines: Birthplace of Professionals” with Brad Foster, Guy Lillian, Libby Smith, Mel. White, and Steven Silver. The panel was split, with those whose idea of a fanzine was oriented strictly to fanfic saying “yes it still happens” and those whose idea of a fanzine was oriented to non fiction saying “not so much, though more in the moderate

to distant past.” The non-fic-fans did allow that some pro critics still are springing up from the world of fanzines. When the discussion strayed onto slash—or more generally to crossover fanfic—mention was made of a crossover between *Twilight* and *Mr. Ed*. Um, that’s a little disturbing. If it’s slash instead of just a general crossover perhaps it’s a *lot* disturbing.

I ran into Judy in the hall after that panel and brought up the idea of dinner. She called Sam, who had been taking a nap, and a plan was hatched. I rescued my now-charged MacBook from Ops and took it to my room then met Judy in the hotel lobby. Sam came up very shortly thereafter and we took the hotel shuttle to Sawgrass Steak House, a chain but one not available in Huntsville. I had the sirloin and shrimp special. The fried shrimp were OK (though I should have hesitated to order seafood so far from the gulf)—the steak was really good. The sides (salad, baked sweet potato, bread) complemented the meal. I was happy that the server brought 1-liter carafes of our drinks to the table so we didn’t have to wait for refills. Between the several large glasses of tea I drank at the meal and the caffeinated DDP I was consuming at the con (I normally drink decaf) I had to wonder about my ability to sleep that night.

We had to wait a little longer than desired for the shuttle back to the hotel, but sill arrived just in time for the (slightly delayed) Opening Ceremony at 19:00. Well, just in time except for Sam who had to fetch his badge from their room. (Hey, at least it was on the same floor.) OC was done in a talk show format, complete with a house band, an opening monologue, witty banter (and yes, most of it was at least *somewhat* witty) between the host and the sidekick (or the host and band leader), and short interviews of guests. That latter group included the con chair as well as all the con’s GoHs (save Vincent Di Fate) and Special Guests. And... they had a Top 10 List, “10 Reasons it’s Better to Live in Texas than in Oklahoma.” One of those (4 US presidents from Texas versus none from Oklahoma) was declared a win for the Okies. Judy gave a shout out from the audience when Boston, her birthplace, was mentioned in the monologue. I gave a whoop when Huntsville and the Marshall Space Flight Center were mentioned in introducing Les Johnson.

The OC ran about 12–15 minutes over; I gathered a little intel on parties for the night and hustled (as best I could on an aching ankle) around to a panel on “What is a Fan Writer, Anyway” with Warren Buff, Guy Lillian, and Cathy Clamp. It got sidetracked many ways, but mostly in considering fan writing predominantly from the fanfic angle. This was partly the fault of the moderator and partly the fault of a couple of audience members who had strong interest in that and zero interest in broadening their understanding. I’m thinking that fanfic must be huge in and around TX.

The few parties I’d been able to find out about were to open shortly after that panel broke up, but I decided that grabbing a quick drink in the Con Suite (I have no idea why I was so thirsty after all the tea at dinner) and resting my ankle with some quite time in the room—and yes, catching up on my notes—took precedence over being there for the start of any party.

After a few minutes of quiet I hobbled back down from my room on 4 to the 2nd floor where all the parties were to be held. My first stop was at what had been the Fanzine Lounge during the day to a party that promised chocolate. (Sorry, I failed to make note of the host group.) Yeah, I was still stuffed from dinner but there’s (almost) always room for a smidge of good chocolate. (“Finally monsieur, a wafer-thin mint.”) There wasn’t anything there that blew me out of the water, but at least I had some Special Dark and good conversation.

From there I made my way down the hall (all the night's parties seemed to be on a single corridor) to the Fanzine Lounge After Dark (in Warren's hotel room, I think), to two other parties for Texas cons (sorry, but I failed to record the names), and to the London 2014 Worldcon bid party. In various of those I ran into numerous friends, but I won't try to report all the names as I'd be sure to leave someone out. I will mention that Sam let me know that Marcia Illingworth was at the con and interested in Spades some time later in the weekend. I ran into Marcia myself, later, and confirmed. With all the programming S&J and Marcia and I variously want to attend—not to mention obligations like helping with Saturday parties—setting up a time proved to be a challenge though not an insurmountable one.

I made it back to my room after my party rounds a little before midnight and fairly quickly took care of the necessities (drugs, teeth brushing, and the like)... plus pounded a few more words into the notes for this report. Bedtime was somewhere around 00:30 or later, with an alarm set for 09:30. There was a program item for 10:00 I'd have liked to've gone to, but I settled for the idea of making the 11:00 panel on "Regional & National Conventions" with the hope of hearing from a bidder for the 2013 DSC.

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER—CON DAY 2

I was up at the planned time, though it took me until 10:45 to get myself together enough to get out the door. Breakfast consisted of two large cookies liberated from the EC lounge on Thursday night (scarfed in the room) plus a can of DDP (from the Con Suite).

I made it to the aforementioned 11:00 panel with representatives from both seated Worldcons, from next year's DSC (Huntsville), from next year's FenCon, from several other Texas cons, and from a few other cons outside the immediate region. Representatives from a bid for DSC 51 (2013) were intended to be on the panel but didn't get the word in time. They were, however, in the audience and did answer questions. That bid is for the DSC to be held in conjunction with JordanCon <www.ageoflegends.net>, an April con in the Atlanta GA area focused strongly (but not exclusively) on Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time series. Those fans seem young (yay!), enthusiastic (yay!), but perhaps a bit disconnected from other fandoms. Reportedly, their major previous involvement was in Dragon*Con before founding JordanCon. Their con is evolving—for instance, the 2012 event is planned to be their first one with a Con Suite. Since they were the only bid I'd heard about, they seemed at the time to be a shoo in.

I ran into Sam shortly after that program. Judy was otherwise occupied, but Sam and I decided lunch was a good idea. We took the hotel shuttle to Spring Creek BBQ—a small local chain as I understand it. I tried the beef brisket sandwich as I wanted the Texas experience. Sliced smoked meats have never impressed me all that much, but this was tender with a good flavor. (Not as good, IMHO, as even moderately-good pulled pork BBQ, but better than any sliced-type BBQ I'd had before.) The sides were pretty good, too... both Sam and I went for the green beans plus the mac and cheese.

We were back to the hotel by about 13:10. I took a tour of the Art Show—not a lingering tour as by that time I was already a bit footsore (more like knee- and ankle-sore). I was impressed by the quantity of art. They had 4'x4' pegboard panels; 24 3-panel bays plus 8 2-panel flats. The only empty panels comprised one 3-panel bay that was marked as belonging to an apparent no-show artist. That made 85 occupied panels if I counted correctly. There was a small print area (small relative to the panels) and about 80 running feet of 18" classroom tables

with 3-D art, jewelry, and the like. (There was also some jewelry hanging on the panels.) Additionally, 50+ charity items (books, CDs/DVDs, small artwork) filled several tables in the corridor outside the Art Show. Then there was a small artist demo area, also in the corridor. My art-buying days are probably not over, but my purchases are strongly curtailed compared to decades past. If it hadn't been for limitations of luggage, though, there were a couple of inexpensive pieces I'd have at least thought about bidding on.

That left me about 20 minutes to hang around the Fanzine Lounge again before heading to the 14:00 "Making a One-Shot Zine—Live!" panel with T.K.F. Weisskopf. About 2 dozen contributors took advantage of the opportunity, including 5–6 artists or graphic designers. We ran the full hour and could have used more but the folks lined up in the hall to start the "Root Beer Tasting" panel eventually shamed us into leaving. The zine (saddle-staple bound and with a color cover) was later distributed to con members via the freebie table. It was even mentioned at the Closing Ceremony.

I went straight from that to the 15:00 panel "Yes, Yes We Are Having a *Phineas & Ferb* Panel." There were a half dozen panelists listed, but a couple more joined, including a young lad in a Perry the Platypus/Agent P costume. (Yes, yes he did steal the show the several times he chimed in.) Other than that young-fan panelist, there were a handful of tween/teen folks in the room, but I'd say easily 90% were adults. I was, almost certainly, the senior member of the group at age 57 years, 10 months, and 1 day. If you haven't seen *P&F*, I strongly recommend you remedy that lack.

In between all the above, S&J, Marcia, and I had been exchanging phone calls to set up a Killer Cutthroat Spades game. We managed to all convene sometime not long after 16:00 in the EC lounge. (Shh... don't tell the hotel I snuck them in. Well, I brazenly invited and let them in. Then again, I felt the hotel owed me something for not mentioning on their website that the advertised EC food functions were not available over the weekend.) We had a fine time until just before 19:00 when Marcia and her hubby Tim (who had joined us along the way) had to leave to make the Art Auction. You'll have to ask Marcia just what she meant as she exclaimed (multiple times!) that "I like it tight!" I failed to win the first game and was a close second when the second game adjourned. How did it take so long to play less than two games? It has something to do with Magic Water™.

S&J and I decided to skip the Art Auction in favor of dinner at Snuffer's, once again aided by the hotel shuttle. Judy had a hamburger topped with cheese fries, Sam had chili, and I had part of a huge plate of cheese fries. I brought some back to the hotel despite sharing some with S&J (well, mostly Judy). I give Snuffer's a big thumbs up for having DDP on tap.

Back at the hotel a little after 20:00, we went our separate ways. I stopped by the DSC 50 room-party-to-be and helped a bit with setup. Being able to tape decorations to the ceiling while standing flatfooted did speed things along for the rest of the crew—though they all did more work than I did.

The DSC Awards ceremony was scheduled for 21:00, though the start time was delayed a bit waiting for the Art Auction (in another room) to finish. I was pleased with the number of folks who showed up. Some of them were doubtless there to get a good seat for the FenCon Cabaret which was to immediately follow the awards, but I give good marks to the concom in scheduling it this way. It doubtless helped expose some "normal" FenCon attendees to more of what a DSC is. Who knows, this might have gained DSC 50 (or 51, or ...) a few memberships.

The Rebel Award—for the fan who has done the most for Southern Fandom—was presented by Stephen Silver and went to Brad W. Foster, whose illustrations have graced almost every fanzine in the South. One could just as well substitute “North America” or, perhaps, “the World” for “the South.” The Phoenix Award—for the pro who has done the most for Southern Fandom—was presented by Toni (not T.K.F.) Weisskopf and went to Selina A. Rosen <www.selinarosen.com>. Both winners were well received by the audience, though the Phoenix got a significantly bigger reaction. Ms Rosen is obviously a much beloved person in that part of the South.

The Ruble Award—not an official DSC award but given to the fan who has done the most *to* Southern Fandom—was presented by Gary Robe and went to Bill Parker for chairing the bid to bring another Worldcon to the South (2013 in San Antonio <www.alamo-sf.org/lonestarcon3>). This lovely “win” of course comes with *tons* of work now to be accomplished by Southern fen during the next 23 months or so.

I stayed for the beginning of the Cabaret. The first skit/presentation was a steampunk version of *Top Gear*—done as a radio show rather than a television show. Amusing, but not roll-in-the-floor-laughing amusing. By the time the second act got started they were losing my attention so I wandered on down to the DSC 50 party, which had started perhaps 30 minutes before I got there. I later heard about the several costume/masquerade entries interspersed between the comics, musical acts, etc.

The DSC 50 party placement was suboptimal, being near the very end of a corridor one over from the one that had held all the previous night’s parties. However, by the time I left, perhaps 45 minutes later, attendance had picked up. The suite was not crowded, but filling. I was later told that the party picked up a lot more later.

I’d had a busy day with no time to transcribe *any* of my chicken scratches to more fleshed-out notes for this report. So, reluctantly, I headed toward to my room to do that. I missed out on almost all of about a dozen more parties though I did stop for a few second’s conversation outside the JordanCon party. From the outside they seemed to be only promoting their 2012 con and not necessarily their bid for the 2013 DSC. However, Huntsvillian Patrick Molloy was engaged in a hall conversation with a charming young lady (one of the party hosts) on what being a DSC might entail.

I’d though I might go back out for more parties, but my work on this article lasted past midnight. I settled for a bedtime shortly after 00:30. I had to plan to arise early enough to make it to Sunday’s 10:00 Southern Fandom Confederation Meeting. I reluctantly set an 08:45 wakeup call.

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER—CON DAY 3 & TRAVEL DAY

And, yes, that dreaded wakeup call did come. It took me right at an hour to get myself together well enough to get out of the room. Breakfast was leftover cheese fries. I tried dropping by the EC lounge to check in for my flight and print a boarding pass, but was thwarted when the computer there couldn’t connect to the hotel’s network. That was the only time during my stay that the EC computer had let me down.

The first order of business for the morning was the SFC Business Meeting, which started shortly after the 10:00 scheduled time. Several announcements were made and some business that required votes was transacted. SFC Prez Warren Buff will be asking Brad Foster to design a new SFC T-Shirt and will also ask Jane and Scott Dennis <www.fopaws.com> to handle the printing. The plan is for the shirts to debut at DSC 50. Treasurer Patrick Molloy, with an assist from his wife Naomi Fisher, managed to get records and money from the old treasurer and establish a new bank account. Since the emailed

SFC Update has replaced the printed SFC Bulletin there were few expenses this past year, allowing the treasury to grow to a bit over \$1000. Some part of that—and dues collected for the coming year—will be used up as the officers are now authorized to acquire a URL for SFC. (In a related note, they were also authorized to set up a PayPal account to collect dues or donations.) No one was quite sure of the current SFC Bylaws requirement concerning publication of a membership list. A flexible motion was passed to either require that such a list be published (name and city only), or if a more expansive list is already required to limit the list to just name and city. A plea was made by VP (and acting webmaster) Mike Rogers for help updating the city articles in the SFC Handbook (the 3rd edition of which is slowly taking form as a website at <smithuel.net/sfchb3/toc_v3.html>) and for related art. Secretary Tom Feller furiously took minutes. All officers were reelected by acclimation and the meeting was adjourned just past the half hour.

The short SFC meeting gave me a few minutes to supplement my breakfast with a trip to the Con Suite for some DDP and munchies before the 11:00 DSC Business Meeting. That meeting proved, as you will see, resistant to the idea of accommodating anyone who was not present at the meeting. The main order of business was election of the site for DSC 51 in 2013—for which a surprise second bid was announced. Both bids were invited to make a presentation.

The previously mentioned JordanCon bid was first up. Their dates for the DSC would be 19–21 April 2013... yes they already have a hotel contract JordanCon for that year. For the intervening JordanCon 2012 they will be having their first Art Show as well as their first Con Suite. Many questions were asked and the large majority of them were answered. For a couple, the presenter acknowledged that she didn’t know the answer. Cool, that’s *so much* better than making up something or trying to bluff one’s way through.

For the other bid, Warren Buff had agreed to act as proxy to read a prepared statement from TimeGate <www.timegatecon.org>, an ongoing *Dr. Who/Stargate*-oriented con in the Atlanta area. He was of course unable to answer any questions. Their 2013 dates will be 24–26 May, Memorial Day weekend. Part of the prepared statement was to the effect that the bidders had committed to another convention for the FenCon weekend before they found out about the opportunity to bid for DSC.

The voice vote to select the site was unanimous for JordanCon. [Hint for JordanCon—your website needs work. I don’t hold Con†Stellation’s site up as the greatest, but at least we list the year on our home page. -ED]

Continuing the DSC Business Meeting, DSC 50 made a presentation and took up a slot at the end of the head table to take memberships and conversions. A motion was made at the request of FenCon (in the person of Tim Miller who was chairing the meeting as FenCon’s Vice Chair for DSC) to amend the DSC Bylaws to change the incorrect invocation therein of the word “Constitution” in the requirement to publish the Bylaws in each DSC’s program book. This will have to be ratified at DSC 50 to take effect. The only other substantive business brought up was whether to add Oklahoma to the list of states eligible to host a DSC. Several Okies present at FenCon had expressed an interest in this—possibly looking to a future bid—but none of them made it to the Business Meeting. No one present was willing to make such a motion though some seemed perfectly willing to consider it if there had been anyone from OK there to propose it. While not strictly DSC business, it’s worth noting that DSC 48 (hosted by ConCarolinas <www.concarolinas.org> in Charlotte NC) gave a free ad in their program book to DSC 49/FenCon and they in turn did the same

for DSC 50. The sense of the assembly was that such a Pay It Forward attitude is worthy of continuation, but no business was proposed to enshrine it in the Bylaws. (Heck, not all DSCs have even had program books...)

After that, I headed back to my room to pound on the keyboard before any more details of the two Business Meetings escaped my head, and to pack for the return trip. On the way I had my only encounter of the entire weekend with a full elevator stopping to (unsuccessfully) pick me up, but it was all airline pilots who had apparently just checked in *en masse*. Having most of the con on one floor payed off handsomely in keeping elevator congestion to a *very* low level for the weekend.

I had myself checked out of the hotel and my bags in their bag check by about 13:15. S&J had called a bit before to ask about lunch... they'd checked out a bit before me. Judy had picked our lunch destination so we were shortly on our way to the Magic Time Machine. Based on our experience that day, I can recommend the place. There's a second location in San Antonio, so perhaps I'll give that one a visit during the 2013 Worldcon. The Dallas version was in an ex school building. Our drink order was taken by Rapunzel; our server was Superman. The salad bar was a salad *car*. I ordered what I thought was going to be a light lunch off the Young Adult menu—the brisket was large enough that it could have easily been divided in half. With proper veggies added, it could have been pot roast for a family of 4. The place was obviously pitched toward families with young children but the menu was not “dumbed down”—there was a wide variety of items pitched toward adult palates (and appetites).

The hotel shuttle got us back just in time for “FenCon VIII in Review (Pitchforks & Torches)” at 15:00. (Well, we were a couple of minutes late, but the program was just starting as we sat down.) The con chair and both vice chairs were there and a secretary was taking notes on large flip-chart-like sheets in several categories covering commendations, problems, and things to think about. I contributed my experience with the hotel EC not being open (at least for food) during the weekend. The con, of course, has no control over this (or over whether it's mentioned on the hotel website), but I suggested they add the info to the con website. The program was reasonably well attended and, while some issues always arise during a con, most people seem to agree that it was very well run overall *and* that they did a good job honoring the traditions of DeepSouthCon while still giving previous FenCon attendees what they expected. (I do think they need to expand their staff. In particular, a larger programming ops staff might help keep the programs closer to on schedule and would be able to more quickly address some technology issues they had.)

The next, and last, convention program was the Closing Ceremony scheduled for 16:00. The concert going on in the main programming room before the CC ran over, so setup for the ceremony delayed its start somewhat. The ceremony was fun. Many of the guests said a few words; the on-stage Dalek (ask me later) got a new hat; the total raised for their charity (a local chapter of Habitat for Humanity) was announced as \$2500; a presentation by DSC 50 was made; and FenCon's guests for 2012 were announced. On a sad note, book dealer Zane Melder (Edge Books) announced he will be stepping off the convention circuit.

And that was the end of the con's program, but not the end of the con. Teardown started immediately, with attendees starting to stack chairs even before I was out of the room. (Yeah, that's more of a hotel thing than a con thing, but I applaud the impulse to help.) Not knowing what they needed done, and not having just a *whole* lot of time left, Sam and I adjourned to the

Con Suite to veg. Judy went off to the prep room and helped with dishwashing and the like. Hooray for her!

Various friends came through the Con Suite, giving us mutual chances to say goodbye. Les and Carol were there and confirmed they were scheduled for the same 20:15 flight back home as S&J and I. (Patrick and his daughter, Gracie, were also to be on the same flight.) I suppose L&C got a ride to the airport and I know that P&G were scheduled to ride there with Naomi, who was off to Nashville rather than Huntsville. S&J and I had a SuperShuttle pickup scheduled for 17:50 so it was soon time to head back down to the hotel lobby and rescue our luggage. The SS was there earlier than our scheduled pickup time. The driver hung around a little while to see if anyone else wanted a ride (indeed, he made another pickup then swung back by the Crowne Plaza for one last check).

As I'd expected, the schedule dictated by the SS was a bit earlier than we really needed. Checking in at DFW went pretty quick. Getting through airport security was almost as quick even though airport personnel insisted that we get out of line at the nearest checkpoint and walk out of our way to a different screening line. We were at the gate about 90 minutes before the scheduled flight time. Judy occupied part of that time by going through two local Sunday newspapers to get the coupons—apparently what's available varies regionally. If only couponing were related to sf/f I expect that Judy would be well qualified to lead a panel on that subject at next year's Con†Stellation.

The flight turned out to be (very unusually) only about half full, which allowed quick boarding and a pushback from the gate a little *before* the scheduled time. Flight attendants identified military personnel flying and invited them to move up to first class. One seatmate of mine took advantage of that, which left me with a row of 3 seats all to myself.

The flight was uneventful, though an impressive thunderstorm was visible to our north for part of the flight. We got to the gate at HSV a few minutes before the scheduled 21:55 arrival time. Since I had my car at the airport, I'd volunteered to take S&J home. That took me several minutes out of the way, but I was still home about 22:50... and very happy to be there. Two cons on adjacent weekends is something I hope not to repeat for a long time, but I'm glad I did it this time.

DSC 49 WRAPUP THOUGHTS

FenCon put on a very good DeepSouthCon, and indeed a good con by most any measure. Perhaps their most visible misstep was that a program item scheduled for the Con Suite turned out to be rather more popular than expected and the staff (over) reacted by closing the room for the remainder of the event. The “word on the street” was that they'd closed for a “private event” (which was not true (though I believe attendance was intended to be by advance signup). The committee was aware of this goof and obviously eager to avoid any similar glitch in the future.

The good job FenCon did on DSC seemed to be due in no small part to a modification of their usual committee structure. As I understand it, FenCon deliberately changes their Chair every few years. They also have a Vice Chair (which may be the person who will take over as Chair at the next changeover—I'm unsure of that). For this year, they added a second Vice Chair responsible for just DSC matters. These matters, however, were not kept segregated from the rest of the convention. For instance, though the Opening and Closing Ceremonies were primarily about FenCon they incorporated DeepSouthCon in significant detail.

FenCon's attendance this year was reported to be around 900, which apparently represents a big jump for a con whose attendance was already growing. How much of this jump is due

to DSC is basically unknowable, but based on the number of DSC regulars I saw I'd guess no more than about 100, probably less. Out of their 900, a large percentage seemed to be in programming rooms any given hour. In some ways the programming schedule and the attendance at programs reminded me more of a Worldcon or large (multi-thousand) regional than of the usual con I might attend in my neck of the woods.

What else did FenCon have besides what I went to? I never mentioned the Dealers Room because the only time I had to set foot in it was the few minutes right before the Closing Ceremony. At a glance the room looked full and fairly diverse. One person in the "Pitchforks" panel said there weren't enough book dealers but my quick peek didn't support that. I mentioned gaming above, but never went to the Game Room. (Yes, I avoided the DSC Heart's Tournament.) Chatter around the con seemed to indicate that the room was adequate, but more space could be used. Given the layout this year, there were two unused 1st floor function rooms, but I'm told the hotel wanted to hold onto them in case they got a high-value booking like a wedding. FenCon ran a writers workshop (with Lou Anders) that started early Friday (before con reg opened, in fact) and had sessions throughout the weekend. This apparently was an extra cost option, open only to those who signed up before the con.

Each year FenCon adopts a theme. This year's was steampunk, for which hall costumes were much in evidence. (The overall amount of hall costuming—not just steampunk—was higher than any cons I've been to lately. This may be due to a demographic that skewed younger than Con†Stellation, or LibertyCon, or the like... but it wasn't nearly young enough to remind me of an anime con.) Their theme for 2012 is "The Future's so Bright..."

I did notice two more items, not specifically related to the con, that I wanted to mention. First, does anyone here recognize the term "wall of books"? Anyone? Bueller? Have you noticed how some authors will pile up their recent (or upcoming) books in front of them when on a panel? Well, for some of them technology is taking over that job. More than one panelist propped up their iPad (or equivalent) showing the book cover... or in some cases a slide show of multiple book covers. I'm not sure this is better. Second, Addison TX is apparently not the place to go to find fully non-smoking restaurants. None of the restaurants I visited had *billows* of smoke clogging the air, but they all seemed to have a smoking section. Perhaps the word hasn't gotten to Texas yet that declaring one section smoking and an adjacent section non-smoking doesn't mean the smoke will honor the boundary.

LOOKING FORWARD TO DSC 50 AND DSC 51

While I very much enjoyed FenCon, and, if circumstances permitted, would happily return someday, I went to Dallas mostly because of DeepSouthCon. So, where can one find this ~~drug~~ con again?

DeepSouthCon 50 <www.dsc50huntsville.com> <www.facebook.com/DSC50Huntsville> <twitter.com/DSC50_HSV> will be held 15–17 June 2012 at the Embassy Suites Downtown in Huntsville AL. Headliner guests are GoH Lois McMaster Bujold, Artist GoH Howard Tayler, Toastmaster Travis "Doc" Taylor, Fan GoHs Larry Montgomery and David Hulan, and Special Media GoH Dr. Demento. The website currently lists about 25 Also Attending program participants—pros and groups. The current registration rate is \$40 (children under 12 free), good through the end of 2011. There are two listed extra-cost items associated with the con, a short story contest with a nominal \$5 entry fee and a writers workshop to be run by Lou Anders and Toni Weisskopf. The cost of the latter event has not yet been listed on the website.

DeepSouthCon 51 will be held 19–21 April 2013 at the Doubletree Hotel in Roswell GA (north Atlanta burbs) in conjunction with JordanCon <www.ageoflegends.net>. Their guests and membership rate(s) for DSC have not yet been announced.

Letter of Comment

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

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14 September 2011

It's another *Shuttle*, the September issue, and I am on a roll, working on lots and lots of zines, and writing letters of comment, and you're next! Be afraid! (Is there an emoticon for rolling the eyes?)

I am glad you got others to report on the Worldcon for you... I know I couldn't have done this for you, we just got too busy. Also, we do plan to run for TAFF, but not for 2012. There are already two candidates for 2012, Warren Buff and Jacqueline Monahan. I look forward to seeing what will happen with Graeme Cameron's Canadian Faned trophies will look like.

Yvonne and I have decided that we will stick with our plans to skip Chicon 7 and LoneStarCon 3 so that we can go to the London Worldcon, should they win, of course. However, such plans are not graven in stone. Some cannot believe that we'd skip Chicon, seeing it's a short train or plane ride away from Toronto. If there is a good reason for us to go to Chicon, then we might treat it as a three-day con, and just go for the middle three days or so.

The Reno reports... yes, the size of the servings at the Atlantis restaurants was so big, I'd take a doggie bag back to our hotel room, and have a full meal the next day. The con suite was perfectly placed between the bulk of the Atlantis and the long walkway to the convention centre, and it was a welcome oasis between the two locations. It was so comfortable, and so well stocked. Yvonne and I spent some time in the Fillory party, celebrating Lev Grossman's win of the Campbell, and as always at a west coast convention, there were ribbons nearly everywhere.

Not a lot of new things have happened since last I wrote, less than two weeks back, so I think I'll have to wind this up early. Take care, all, and seeing that the next month looks busy, there'll be a lot more to talk about next time. See you then.

[Since your LoC, Lloyd, the Faned Awards have been announced and it's no surprise to me that you took the LoC Hack category. I guess that means you should soon have a close look at the trophy. You'll also have noticed that a 3rd person entered this year's TAFF race, so it's probably good that you didn't throw your hat in the ring *this* year. Regarding Reno, Judy Smith—who has run the Con†Stellation Con Suite for several years—made close observation of the Reno operation. She also spent a lot of time in the DSC 49/FenCon VIII Con Suite a few weekends ago. I'm sure she brought back some good ideas from each. You can take a look at a long trip report (in this issue) from that latter con and wonder why you haven't yet made it to a DeepSouthCon. (Or have you?) You can always remedy that next summer in Huntsville. -ED]



Opening Ceremony

DSC 49
photos by
Sam Smith



Freebies



Closing Ceremony



Rebel

EST. 1973

MAGIC TIME MACHINE RESTAURANT

WEEKDAYS

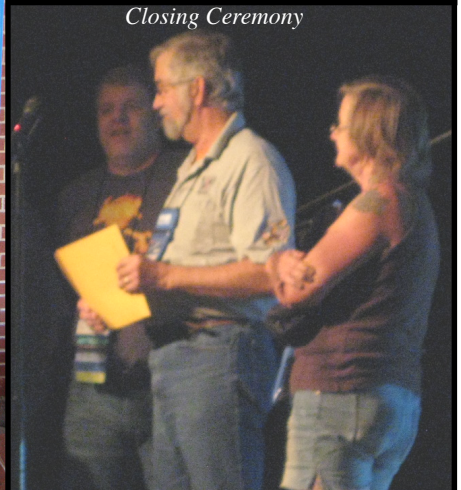
MON - THURS	5:29 - 10:01
FRIDAY	4:29 - 10:31

WEEKENDS

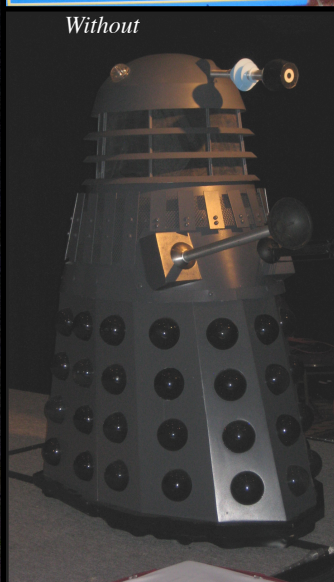
SATURDAY	10:59 - 10:31
SUNDAY	10:59 - 9:01



210-828-1476 San Antonio
972-980-1903 Addison



Phoenix



Without



With



P. O. Box 4857
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

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