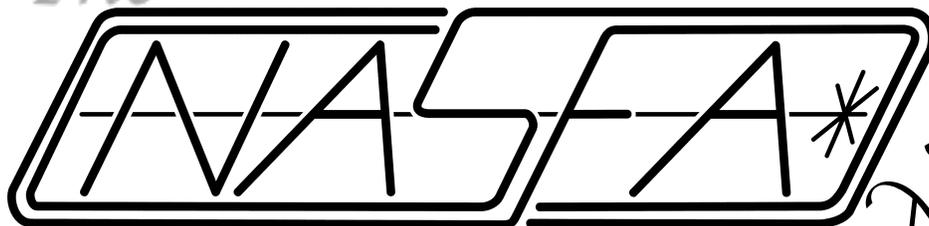


The



Shuttle

November 2011

The Next NASFA Meeting is 19 November 2011 at the Regular Time and Location

À Oyez, Oyez À

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be Saturday **19 November 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.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The November program will be "What about Bob?" featuring the magic and mayhem of Darryl Osborn <www.afterdinnermagic.com>.

NOVEMBER ATMM

The November ATMM will be at Mike Kennedy's house. There Will Be Cake, but folks are still 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

This month was screwier than usual, but the deadline for the *NASFA Shuttle* is in the process of changing due to an altered production schedule. Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents—we may need to more strictly enforce this than in the past.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

- Future programs include:
- 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 a single gift, up to a \$25 limit. See the September Minutes in the previous issue for further details.

- January: "Things to Come," a panel on coming sf/f/h-related conventions in the Huntsville area.
- February: "Short Attention Span Theater," a collection of sf/f/h short videos from around the web, presented by Mike Kennedy.

The December ATMM (cum Christmas Party) will be at Sue Thorn's house. All NASFANS are invited to the annual New Year's Eve party at the Cucci-Pietruszka household. We need volunteers for ATMMs from January forward.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

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 participants in the scheduled program.

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

Continuing Our 31st Year of Publication

Inside this issue...

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Deadline for the December 2011 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 28 November 2011

calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f events) are added or changed.

News & Info

BID FOR 2014 DSC ANNOUNCED

A committee (which includes Warren Buff, Curt Phillips, and Gary Robe) has been formed to seek the 2014 Deep-SouthCon. Reportedly they are considering facilities in the “tricity” area that includes Kingsport TN, Johnson City TN, and Bristol VA.

Selection of the site for the 2014 DSC will occur at DSC 50 <www.dsc50huntsville.com> in Huntsville AL next summer. If the bid is successful they plan to name their convention Con-Trails. Further, if they select a site in VA, the resulting DSC would be the first in that state.

FAN FUND NEWS

Voting has opened for the 2012 Get-Up-and-over Fan Fund (GUFF)—to send an Australasian fan representative to Europe to attend Eastercon. You can get a PDF copy of the ballot at <tinyurl.com/DUFF2012> and cast your ballot for Grant Watson or Kylie Ding. To vote, you must have been active in fandom prior to August 2009 and must contribute at least £5 or \$AUS10. Voting ends 22 January 2012 at 23:59 GMT.

Meanwhile, all three TAFF (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund) candidates have been interviewed by Jim Mowatt in a podcast <tinyurl.com/TAFF2012PC>. Among other things, candidates Buff, Kofmehl, and Monahan, address the issue of why they believe TAFF is still relevant. If you’d rather read than listen you can see a transcript of the ‘cast at <historyzine.com/jim/Pips08.pdf>.

USS&RC HONORS VON BRAUN

On 21 October 2011 the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville AL opened a new exhibit celebrating Dr. Wernher von Braun. The exhibit, “100 Years of Von Braun: His American Journey,” was inspired by the 100th anniversary of von Braun’s birth, which will occur on 23 March 2012.

According to the news release, the “exhibition covers Dr. von Braun’s American experience, beginning with his surrender to U.S. forces and continuing through his passing in 1977” including his work with the Army, private industry, and NASA.

For those whose Huntsville history is a bit weak, you may want to know (or be reminded that) he and his team of other Germans moved to Huntspatch in 1950 from Fort Bliss TX. He joined NASA after its inception in 1958.

The exhibit is open to all attendees of the USS&RC. The center is open 9A–5P every day. For more information check <www.ussrc.com> or call 1-800-63-SPACE.

VBAS UNVEILS UPGRADE

The Von Braun Astronomical Society’s planetarium has received a renovation, which was recently christened at a “grand reopening” at its location in Monte Sano State Park. In addition to VBAS representatives, Tommy Battle (mayor of Huntsville) and Todd May (NASA Discovery and New Frontiers Program Manager) were expected to participate in the ceremony.

Improvements in the facility included a new roof, an upgraded star projector, and new computer control room equipment. Some of these changes will enable display of images from the planetarium’s historic 21-inch telescope on a large computer screen in the lobby.

Future planned work includes an expanded lobby, updated restrooms, and “astronomy friendly lighting” in pedestrian areas.

IS SUPERMAN NAMED MIKE? OR IS HE CROWDSOURCED?

Earlier this year Mike Meyer, a 48-year old mentally disabled man from Illinois, had a large collection of Superman memorabilia and comics worth several thousand dollars stolen. When his plight hit the intertubes, an equally-large number of folks stepped up to replace many of the items out of the goodness of their collective heart.

Later, the collection was recovered and returned while investigating a suspect (one Gerry Arville Armbruster) for an unrelated crime involving theft from a 76-year old man.

Now blessed with an excess of Superman riches, Meyer has pledged to donate the excess items to the St. Louis Children’s Hospital. Online reports have six boxes of goodness going to the hospital for the hospital’s sick and injured kids. Meyers is quoted as saying “I’ve been blessed with a lot of things, so I wanted to share them.”

WIRED “GETS” EATON

Website <wired.com> recently published a list of a dozen “Geeky Destinations and Smart Side Trips” and has shown the academic side of sf/f/h some love. The J. Lloyd Eaton Collection <eaton-collection.ucr.edu> of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror and Utopian Literature (University of California, Riverside) came in at number 2 on their list, though the list may actually be unranked.

Per the Eaton website, the collection “is the largest publicly-accessible collection of science fiction, fantasy, horror and utopian fiction in the world. It consists of hardback and paperback books, pulp magazines, fanzines, film and visual material, comic books, and ephemera.”

VICTORIAN HUGOS?

Jess Nevins, on website <io9.com>, has started a series of Think Pieces discussing what his retroactive picks would be for “Hugo Awards” for works from the Victorian era. The first year covered is 1885 in the article <io9.com/5851505> for which his picks were *Mathias Sandorf* (Jules Verne) in the novel category and “The Open Door” (Mrs. Oliphant) in the short fiction category. Nevins lists five items in a shortlist for each category and spends some little space discussing each.

At press time, the series has expanded to encompass 1886 with the article <io9.com/5855784>. Nevins has announced his intention to not only take the series through the year of Queen Victoria’s death, but also to publish the “Edwardian Hugos” (1901–1910) and the “Pulp Era Hugos” (1911–1930).

ANOTHER BOOKSTORE BITES THE DUST

Specialty book, comic, and art dealer DreamHaven <www.dreamhavenbooks.com> of Minneapolis MN will be closing its physical store, at the end of January 2012. They plan to stay in the business on the mail order end and live at conventions. For now, at least, the store itself will remain intact; after they close in January it will be used primarily for storage and a “home base” for the mail order and con activities. It’s said to be possible the store will open for special events or sales.

Owner Greg Ketter stated on his LiveJournal blog that “Things were going quite well until the end of 2010. From January 2011 to mid April, nearly 50% of the walk-in business just disappeared. While business has picked up slightly since then, it’s still way off. I blame A) The Economy B) Changing Dynamics of Retail (online shopping) [and] C) E-Books.”

AND SPEAKING OF E-BOOKS

Ketter’s opinion C above seems to be shared by *Publishers Weekly*. In their online article <tinyurl.com/MMPBvsEB> covering the creation of a new e-book imprint (InterMix—a subsidiary of Berkley/NAL) *PW*’s editors use the phrase “[w]ith demand for mass market paperbacks withering” to explain the

reason for the new imprint.

InterMix will pub a mix of women's fiction, romance, mystery/thriller, and science fiction/fantasy—both new titles and reprints. Perhaps ironically (given DreamHaven's announced timing above) the line launches in January 2012.

ON THE OTHER HAND

Meanwhile, online bookseller Amazon is taking a different tack—going to paper and ink.

Amazon was already the publisher for some printed books but is adding an sf/f/h line with its own new imprint; 47North will be their 7th publishing line. The initial announcement listed 15 titles, at least one of which (*The Mongoliad*, Neal Stephenson, Greg Bear, et al.) is appearing as a serialized book online before it will be committed to paper.

ANOTHER MAGAZINE BITES THE DUST—AGAIN

Magazine *Realms of Fantasy* <www.rofmag.com> has ceased publication for the third time in about as many years. Owners William and Kim Gilchrist (Damnation Books LLC) stated that the October 2011 issue will be the last <www.rofmag.com/2011/11/02/farewell-2>. The closure is blamed on the 'zine losing money.

ZOMBIES DEAD, AGAIN

For the third time the movie adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* (from the novel by Seth Grahame-Smith) has lost its head. Well, its director, anyway. Potential helmer Craig Gillespie (*Lars and the Real Girl*, *Fright Night*, *United States of Tara*) is the latest out the door, following Mike White who followed David O. Russell.

The Internet Movie Database lists *P&P&Z* <www.imdb.com/title/tt1374989> as projected for 2013, but without a director or a star attached—and without a finished script—that date seems somewhat doubtful. Some other online resources project it for a 2012 release, which seems ridiculously optimistic.

"HARRY" TAKES HAIRY ROLE

Daniel Radcliffe is saying goodbye to playing Harry Potter by making a star turn in horror thriller *Woman In Black*. The movies is said to be "a period flick in which he plays a lawyer who encounters the ghost of a not-so-happy woman out for revenge."

DON'T IT MAKE MY BROWN EYES BLUE

It looks like singer Crystal Gayle and songwriter Richard Leigh had it right, though they had to wait for Dr. Gregg Homer (of Laguna Beach CA) to make it so. Clinical trials are ongoing for a laser procedure to permanently alter the color of brown eyes to blue. The iris is mapped then repeatedly zapped with a laser tuned to alter or destroy the dark pigments.

The current goal is to have the procedure available commercially by about 2014. Reports vary, but the consensus seems to be that several treatments will be included in the overall process. Some online articles have estimated that it will set you back about \$5000. One wonders if that's per eye.

October Minutes

from the memory of Doug Lampert

The meeting was called to disorder at about 6:19P.

Nominations were opened for officers for 2012.

Anita nominated the usual slate of suspects; this was seconded.

Many other nominations were made and either declined, not seconded, or ignored by the chair.

Nominations were closed.

The meeting was adjourned at about 6:39P.

NASFA Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 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 Renasant 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.

DECEMBER

- 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 Renasant 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.
- 25 Christmas Day.
- 26 Christmas Day (Federal Observed).
- 26 BD: Michael R. Stone.
- 31 New Year's Eve Party at Ray and Nancy's house.

JANUARY 2012

- 00 No Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion in January.
- 01 New Year's Day.
- 02 New Year's Day (Federal Observed).
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 06–08 ShadowCon XVI—Memphis TN.
- 06–08 InstaCon 9—Dallas TX.
- 06–09 GaFilk 14—Atlanta GA.
- 07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
- 13–15 illogiCon—Raleigh NC.
- 14* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: "Things to Come." ATMM: TBD. **PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting is **one week earlier than the usual schedule** to accommodate a potential programming conflict.
- 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.

FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Little, Big*, John Crowley; 6P.

€100,000. (That's over \$135,000 at current exchange rates.) Nominations are by participating libraries worldwide. The judges for the current year are Mike McCormack, Elizabeth Nunez, Tim Parks, Evelyn Schlag, Eugene Sullivan, and Dubravka Ugresic.

MONICA HUGHES AWARD LAUNCHING

The Canadian Children's Book Centre <www.bookcentre.ca>, with sponsorship from HarperCollins Canada <www.harpercollins.ca>, has announced a new award for Canadian children's literature—the Monica Hughes Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy <tinyurl.com/MHafSFaF>. The award is named for Ms Hughes (1925–2003) who has been called “Canada's finest writer of science fiction for children” (Sarah Ellis, *The Horn Book*). The inaugural award will be given in 2012 and will carry a cash award of \$CAN5,000. Eligibility is limited to “original work in English, aimed at readers ages eight to 16 and written by a Canadian or a Permanent Resident of Canada.”

Taking Sightings

No Need for a Ring—Chapter 38

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This is the eleventh chapter in the third part of the NNFAR series—*The Thing Goes South*—and is thus numbered as Chapter 11 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

On the evening of October first it has begun to thunder and rain in earnest. I reach the Snowbourn and slither in, looking for fish. I deliberately did not ask permission of the king to wander about here as I pleased. Such permission could have given him a political problem. I really must concentrate on strengthening my wing joints. Fish will help, for now. The road east follows this river, more or less. Thus near to Edoras, the riverbank is relatively populated. The road is not entirely devoid of traffic. I shall take the river eastward for a time, fishing as I proceed downstream. Some of the traffic seems to be keeping pace with me.

Two hours after midnight, I climb out of the river up to the road, take a few galloping steps, and launch myself up into the cloudy night. Once among the clouds, I turn southeast and fly. Just before dawn, with a thin crescent moon rising, I circle Halifirien, watching for signs of men or others. Landing upon the western part of the Hallow, I sniff around and make an examination before curling up and going to sleep.

October fifth dawns still, or again, overcast. I stretch and then deposit some high-grade fertilizer near the barrier. I inventory my “cargo” and, so prepared, gather myself together at the western precipice, unfurl my wings, and leap! The flying is rather easy. I turn round Halifirien and go east and a little south. After nearly four hours, I bear to the south of Eilenach and it's beacon site, follow Stonewain Valley eastward a bit, then turn due south. With Eilenach to my rear, I cross the White Mountains at the relatively low place here thirty miles west of Minas Tirith, continue south twenty miles to Lossarnach, turn east for twenty-five, and eventually alight on a southeastern, very high peak of Mindolluin. I rest here, surveying the mountains and distant river, before selecting a high knob that will suit my purpose.

The next morning, the sky is reasonably, mainly, clear. I bring forth the Stone of Amon Sûl, and set it to “ping” mode. I can see the Anduin for about one hundred fifty miles, from

Osgiliath down to Pelargir. Bit by bit, I look at the river through the Stone. I eventually get a vague glimmer very near Osgiliath.

I wait until nightfall, pack up the Stone, and once more take wing. Just a short trip this time. I glide around east and north. Dipping low, I pass over the lower city of Minas Tirith and ride the updrafts to the uppermost level. Overtopping the great promontory of stone, I glide over the park and alight very quietly beside a large, solitary Tree. The locals will hesitate before aiming siege weapons in this direction, thus I avert hasty actions. Setting the Stone among the middlemost branches, I can just see the river below Osgiliath.

October twenty-seventh near dawn, the earliest of early risers go about their business without noticing me. This does not last very long. An alarm rings out. I go about my business, surveying the near Anduin through the Stone of Amon Sûl. A small crowd of soldiers and... others... take positions in the near distance. I ignore them and continue surveying. Suddenly, a hoarse scream rings out and trails away. I leap away from the Tree to the edge of the promontory and look down. There are several armed soldiers clinging to the rock face below the safety wall, and one man falling toward the lower city. I think very quickly. No, I cannot reach him physically in time; and there is not enough time to lasso him with the magic I used on the Watcher.

I cry out “*Wings Over The Worlds!*”

The great sails burst forth from my natural wings. I sweep them around and down. One forming a curving slide under the falling man, the other a supporting base between that and the city below. It is semi-fortunate for him that this city is built like a stepped pyramid. The soldier strikes the slide at a shallow angle. He is already so near the next street that I cannot directly route him over the city wall of that level. I route him down within inches of the cobblestones before turning him upward just enough to flip through an embrasure between two merlons. Now with plenty of altitude to clear the lower levels, his slide becomes a rapid scooting out and over the next city wall. He continues outward until the slide levels out just above ground level. He slows down and is eventually deposited into a haystack, which is half demolished as he comes to rest. After a few minutes, a very wobbly man staggers out of the hay, looks around, and vomits.

I dismiss the wing extensions, furl my natural wings, and return to work at the Tree. Everyone still seems frozen in shock. Half the people are staring at me; though most nearer the safety wall had been watching the fate of the falling soldier. One old fellow in the crowd walks over to me and stops pretty close.

Bergil: Well, you told me you would come to the city. I made the deliveries you requested. The Dwarves were actually hopping with excitement. They confirmed the ownership of that ring. They have some cautious questions about the state of Moria.

PED: I am willing to answer, but not right now.

Bergil: They will have to wait in any case. Her Highness Princess Celebriel, Regent of Gondor, has questions that must take precedence. Queen Finduilas may look in, too, but with her husband and daughter in the north, she has little energy for anyone other than her niece and nephew these days.

PED: With but a little patience, I may be able to give them more than words.

[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

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Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

14 October 2011

Until I catch up totally I can still claim my mess of a zine backlog—so I think I’ll stick with that excuse. I suspect I have misplaced at least one ish and since I only see May and August I think I’ll just peruse...

Ah, somewhere around here... well, can’t find it... I had Klingon in the font list, but since I never used it I have no idea where it ended up.

The TAFF statistics are a wonder leading to a win that was not obvious. Wow, I never noticed the mention of a New Orleans bid for a worldcon—need to pay more attention. For the moment the cost, \$60, for a supporting membership has me in limbo. I just got my supporting membership packet from Reno—which was the program book—and that is all (other than nominating, voting, and PRs as they came out). So, I need to see if I can save up that much extra (since the supporting rate doesn’t go up), but I am not going to hold my breath.

I am (um...) *negotiating* with Verizon to get DSL since they *now* say I can have it (after three years of saying no so I did an end run and they still had to install a separate line solely for DSL and I pay my ISP who pays them). Anticipating that they will—as they have been vocal about—stop supporting DSL within 5 years (and perhaps copper landlines also!) forcing a switch to something like their FiOS. If you already have a high speed internet with them, they will give a discount since they are forcing you—or you can totally jump ship. Of course the problem that squirrels are now munching on that standalone DSL line and knocking out connection has a bit to do with it too. The company cannot get its act together. I have two phone numbers on one line. They said they had moved the phone over and would get to the DSL as soon as they had a computer glitch (yeah... sure) solved. Turns out they only moved the house number over and left the other number (used for business calls) behind, with a now unpublished number message. I wondered why it had been quit for so long. Not a whole lot of progress.

Any new update on the stolen art by Brent Anderson?

Will you be carrying information on the World SF Travel Fund? This is the first I have heard anything about it. You say the goals are similar to other funds—does that mean it sends a fan to a Worldcon? Does it rotate through varied geographical regions or what?

Since this is so out of date, I figure I’ll cut it short and get it mailed—one small step closer to getting caught up... yeah... RSN!

[If (and I emphasize *if*) Worldcons continue to make all or most of the written word (and related) Hugo-nominated works available in a voter packet, then one could make the purely economic decision that “buying” them for the price of a supporting membership is a fair trade. Some people see evidence of a spike in Worldcon supporting memberships and attribute it at least in part to that effect. As yet I am not convinced one way or the other. I had’t seen any updates on Anderson’s art in the blogosphere so I checked his website. In mid August he updated the list of items stolen, but has posted no news since then. As for the World SF Travel Fund, keep in mind that only a minority of trips funded by Fan Funds involve Worldcons—most

involve natcons or even regionals. Both the DUFF and TAFF representatives this coming year will be going to Eastercon in the UK, for instance. The first WSFTF representative (Charles Tan, Philippines) was funded to attend the World Fantasy Convention in San Jose CA. Their mission statement says they are “devoted to helping international members of the sf, fantasy, and horror community travel to major genre events.” I would suspect that could include Worldcon from time to time, but I also read it to be orientated toward being awarded to folks from countries with a currently-weak connection to world (read as “Western”) fandom. -ED]

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Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

14 October 2011

Greetings—seems as if only earlier today... (yeah, found the October *Shuttle* in the mailbox just after mailing a loc). I still have a lot to figure out with software and all the changes the will *have* to take place eventually. Ugh.

For your coffers sake, I hope you have a lot of readers take you up on your *save-a-tree* program. Reminds me that I still have not heard even a peep from Verizon about the DSL There has been a little progress, at least they seem to have restored the original numbers I had. Yeah, they said they had just ported them back in but they... ahem... lied. No one has called me back (as they totally promised to do) or emailed me now for a few days. But, since this is Friday and I already know no one will call me back on Monday (the last rep explained that no one is allowed to return calls on Monday due to the large volume of calls that day—so forget any reply to a previous... um... issue) so any DSL information is still in limbo (and becoming a permanent resident there!).

The Lynches reminded me that this weekend is the local con, Capclave. It is also the annual Dog Walk for the SPCA. Capclave is actually being held in a hotel in Gaithersburg—about 15 miles away, but I still have no desire to face fen in a group. Instead, I think I can make a dinner trek tonight to a local (add in another 3 miles) restaurant that I really like. I just need to get everything lined up for the Walk on Sunday and I should be able to get there. With any luck I may actually be able to get this into the mail at the same time! Whoa, let’s not overdo this trying to get up to date with my zine stash!

I think Nicki Lynch mentioned that Warren Buff might be able to make the dinner sortie—hey, may get to meet a TAFF candidate early on in the race.

A tip of the hat to Leonard Nimoy—it has been along run and his place in history (sf and otherwise) is assured.

(Um, pardon my ignorance, Maria’s baby, is Thane a name or title? Harkening back to Shakespeare I have to ask.) Congratulations.

The BFS awards discussion is interesting for those of us on the sidelines. We shall see how it all settles out.

Than you for the information on the Faneds—that name will take some getting used to I found the mention of the Unknown Faned to be interesting—who knew (so to speak)?

I see a mention of *Phineas and Ferb*—I am guessing that is a (cable?) TV show. Looks as if that also goes on the list of things to do RSN.

Sounds as if DSC was a success and much enjoyed—that is the way a con should be.

Special congrats to Lloyd on the Faned win (somehow that just sounds wrong!). Hopefully he will describe the appearance

of the award.

May just get this to the mailbox on time—thanks!

[We've had slow but somewhat significant progress replacing mailed subscriptions with PDF ones; we're nearing a double dozen on the latter list though a few of those are new subs rather than replacing formerly-mailed copies. I'd love to double that number, or better. I hope that you did meet Warren at the dinner Capclave weekend—a fine fellow he, TAFF delegate or not. Thane is indeed derived from the Anglo-Saxon title, but in this case it's just a name. As you can see elsewhere in this issue, the brouhaha surrounding the British Fantasy Awards is still ongoing. There looks to be a way forward from where they are now to a place that should satisfy most critics (and, of course, the members of the Society), but they're not quite there yet. Yep, *Phineas and Ferb* is a TV show—on the Disney Channel. There was a recent announcement that The Mouse has renewed *P&F* for its 4th season. There's also been a made-for-TV movie; *Phineas and Ferb: Across the 2nd Dimension* came out earlier this year. The movie and some episodes are available on DVD, but full-season sets have apparently not been released. -ED]

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Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

28 October 2011

Hi. Just to be *au courant* even if it is to go back and comment on the September issue that seems to have surfaced without any notations of being locced. I'll keep this very short since it is dated.

For the shortest lived update—Verizon said I could have DSL so I moved my phone number back to their system (including my distinctive ring—meaning I pay extra to have a second “business” number on that one line). They forgot to mention they left of the other number—wondered why the business number had been so quiet. Then, they could not locate any of the orders (etc.) and said there was a computer glitch which made setting up the DSL impossible. Many calls and hours later, they solved the glitch, forced the other number to be ported and... well, the DSL was at 50K. I have that same dry-loop DSL (i.e., I am paying for two separate DSLs on two separate lines) and it zips right along at almost 600K. So much for just moving over. Turns out that the two separate lines originate at different hubs (who would have though?) and the dryloop hub is closer than the other hub—so the dryloop will work better. To drop the DSL will actually double my phone bill, is I am being forced into FiOS—the optical fiber system—along with the stickers that go on phone to warn everyone that, should the current go out and the battery be exhausted it will be impossible to call 911. We shall see. I do not have much faith in this whole mess that has now dragged on for over 3 years. The price I got is about \$64 (phone+distinctive ring and internet 15M—both FiOS) for a year. This is about half the usual price but if this works it will give me a year to figure out what to do next. Please note that I could not find this special and no one else could over the hundreds of representatives I spoke with. I told them I could go no higher than what I was spending (which was already \$15 more than budget) and the DSL scheme (that did not work, but a nice idea) was supposed to be \$53/month. My current budget got pushed to \$70—and there is no more wiggle room. The \$53 was going to be a return to the original budget. At that point someone actually found this

special! Of course I still have to fight over all the installation and setup fees, plus all the routers and filters and... for services that I am not going to use. I cringe at the thought of what the bills will be for the next few months. The Verizon DSL was in actual use for three days.

So, the DSL is still there but I use the dryloop. FiOS to be installed Nov. 1 then I cancel the dryloop and go solo.

Ah, more comments about Reno and the listing of the winners.

So, now I feel I have done my fannish duty —I *cannot* find any more issues in the zine bag—will get this printed out RSN.

I am still (in vain) trying to overcome the software versus operating system problems—but have hope, still.

[Good luck with eventually settling on some internet connection that works at reasonable cost... and congrats on catching up on your *Shuttle* LoCs. -ED]

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

29 October 2011

Hallowe'en approaches after this weekend, and I am sure the weekend will be full of the usual costumes and too much candy, but I am going to try to make it relaxing. Part of it is slaving over a hot monitor, and writing letters of comment, like this one, to the October *Shuttle*.

The TAFF ballot sure looks good... newest candidate Kim Kofmel is best known as being from Texas, but she is originally from up here, around southern Ontario. Once in the south, always in the south, I guess... I also look forward to the revival of *Amazing Stories*. I am glad that Steve Davidson is keeping our past alive and vital.

Got the word from Kobo, it plans to become an e-publisher, and I have some hopes of my own. Kobo's head office is in Toronto, I've been past their front doors, and they have my resume... c'mon, Kobo, give me a call! I'd like nothing better than to edit and proof the e-mss you receive, and learn more about the e-book industry.

The Canadian Faned Awards... well, the winners were announced, but the certificates and sculptured figures are still, to the best of my knowledge, being created for eventual distribution. I look forward to mine, and I look forward to seeing this kind of award taking flight among those in the Canadian fanzine community.

A great report on the past DSC, and of course, I wish I could have gone. Any convention with Chris Garcia in the general vicinity is usually a great time, and a fanzine lounge at a convention not a Worldcon is a pleasant surprise. I am enjoying steampunk costuming these days, so we would have fit right in to Fencon's programming.

In about three weeks is the 2011 Canadian National Convention, or CanVention, held as part of SFContario 2 in Toronto. Can't wait for it to happen... doing some old time radio programming, curating a display of past Canadian SF awards, and I'm up for an Aurora. It will be a great weekend.

I should get moving, hope everyone had a happy Hallowe'en, and I will offer up a report on the CanVention, maybe with some pictures. Take care, all, and see you with the November issue.

(continued on back cover)



P. O. Box 4857
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

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

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

Huntsville AL 35802-2841—EDITORIAL ADDRESS (SNAILMAIL)

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

Huntsville AL 35815-4857—OFFICIAL ADDRESS

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(LoCs—continued from page 7)

[Halloween itself was quite at my house. Sadly, there was a death in the family (my mother's last surviving sibling) that day... but life goes on. Mom is sad, of course, but handling it well overall Thanks for the good words on the DSC review/trip report. It was way too long, but by the time I got everything out of my head and committed to electrons I had run out of steam (pun intended) and wasn't up to editing it for brevity. I think

that the reason the fanzine lounge at the Texas DSC worked as well as it did was that it was located near the heart of con activities. As the con report mentioned, almost everything was on one floor. The report may not have made it clear that all of that "stuff" was located in a pretty-much contiguous group of spaces. The Fanzine Lounge was just a few doors down from the Con Suite so it was easy to drop in there for some food or drink on the way to the Lounge. -ED]