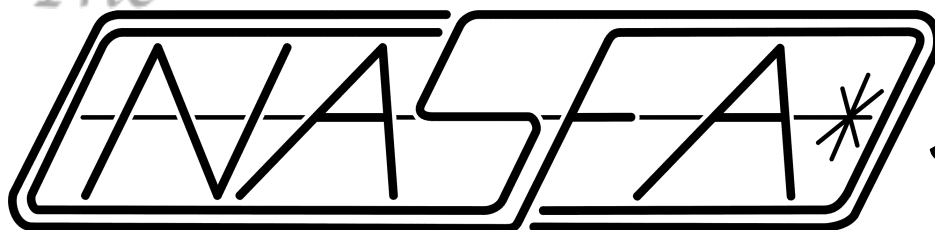


The



Shuttle  
March 2012

## The Next NASFA Meeting is 17 March 2012 at the Regular Time and Location

ConCom Meeting 3P, 17 March at Renasant Bank

### ¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be Saturday **17 March 2012** 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.

#### MARCH PROGRAM

The March program will be "Building Props for the Challenge," a talk by David Reimer of 2StoryProps <2storyprops@gmail.com>. He's expected to present completed props and costumes, as well as an in-progress replica Dalek.

#### MARCH ATMM

The March After-the-Meeting Meeting will be at Sue Thorn's house—147 Garden Brook Drive in Madison. See the map at right for directions. The usual rules apply—that is, please bring food and drink to share.

#### CONCOM MEETINGS

The next Con+Stellation XXXI concom meeting will be at the Renasant Bank meeting room on Saturday 17 March 2012—the same day as the club meeting—at 3P. There will be a dinner break between the concom and the NASFA meeting. The following meeting will be Saturday 21 April, at the Renasant Bank meeting room (if it's available at that time) or

Mike Kennedy's house (as a backup).

The general plan is for future concom meetings to be on club meeting Saturdays. When possible, they will be at the bank

**Directions**

- From the bank, take Memorial Parkway north to I-565 west
- Take Exit 8/9\* (Wall Triana Highway) off I-565
- \* Exit is marked Exit 8 on some signs and Exit 9 on others
- North for 2-plus miles, past the railroad tracks & Mill Road
- NOTE: Wall Triana changes name to Sullivan Street
- Left on Browns Ferry Road (aka Madison Pike)
- Right on Park Meadow Drive; quick right on Garden Brook
- Follow Garden Brook Drive around a left-hand turn
- House is on the right, before the next cross street

**Map To ATMM Location**

### Get the Shuttle via Electrons

by Mike Kennedy, Editor

It's still a great time to start getting the *Shuttle* in PDF form. All you need to do is notify us by emailing <nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org>.

## Continuing Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Year of Publication

#### Inside this issue...

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**Deadline for the April 2012 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 2 April 2012**

meeting room. When that room is not available early enough, the concom meeting will typically be at Mike Kennedy's house. Due to oddities in the club meeting schedule for May, June, and July, concom meetings for those months *may not* be held on those club meeting Saturdays.

#### EARLIER SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The deadline for the *NASFA Shuttle* will generally be earlier than in the past, due to an altered production schedule. Also we will need to more strictly enforce the deadline than in the past. Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents each month to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material.

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

Future programs include:

- April: Paul Weiland speaking on "The Future of Space Exploration."
- May: The More-Or-Less-Annual NASFA Cookout/Picnic (at Peggy Patrick's house) will take the place of both the meeting and ATMM for this month. Stay tuned for more details.
- June: No program, the club meeting will be at DeepSouthCon 50.
- July: Stephanie Osborn, topic TBD.
- August: Les Johnson speaking on his book *Going Interstellar*.

We need volunteers for ATMMs for April, June (in your hotel room?), and almost all months past.

#### FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

All remaining 2012 meetings are currently scheduled for the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday *except* the July meeting, which will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday due to a conflict with LibertyCon.

The June meeting will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, but will be held at DeepSouthCon 50 (in Huntsville). Whether or not that means an actual meeting will take place is left as an exercise for the reader.

#### 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. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

## News & Info

#### PULPS FETCH PRETTY PENNY

Per online reports, the auction of the first lot (of 12) of Frank M. Robinson's pulp collection <adventurehouse.com/robinson/?p=3> took in a quarter million dollars. The second and third lots are currently up for bids and will go under the final hammer on 9 and 10 March respectively.

#### ARTIST CHOSEN FOR HUGO BASE

In keeping with modern tradition, this year's Worldcon (Chicon 7 <www.chicon.org>) ran a contest to select an artist to design and fabricate the bases for the Hugos. Deb Kosiba, who previously designed the 2005 and 2006 Hugo bases, is the winner.

#### CHEWIE GOODNESS

The last couple of years has seen the rise of a new krewe at New Orleans' Mardi Gras festivities—the Intergalactic Krewe of Chewbacchus <chewbacchus.org>. None other than the venerable *New York Times* ran a story <tinyurl.com/ChewieGras> (registration required) on the 2-year-old group which has



become perhaps the fastest-growing krewe in the Crescent City.

Far from being dedicated to *just* the Star Wars canon, Chewbacchus includes subgroups like the Space Cadets Marching Corps, the Krewe du Who, and their own redshirt Security Forces. Annual dues for the KoC are \$42, far less than the more traditional krewes. Also unlike other krewes, there's no waiting list. Co-founder Brett Powers is quoted as saying "We're open source. If you can think about it, and you have the energy to do it, you're in."

#### IFAWOL?

In the UK, TimeScale Productions (Christel Dee) is trying to raise crowdsourced funding for a documentary "exploring the world of Fandom Culture and what it truly means to be a Fan." TimeScale has a site on pleasefund.us <tinyurl.com/FIAWOLDoc> soliciting pledges, with an overall goal of £300 (yes, that's three *hundred*, not thousand or million).

Dee is a fan, albeit one whose experiences seem to tend toward anime cons (starting at age 14), cosplay, and mega-pop-culture events. In addition to the fundraising site, you can find more about this project on Facebook (@fandomisawayoflife) or Twitter (@FiawolDoc).

#### NEW GRANT FOR MIDLIST WRITERS

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) has teamed up with author Jane Yolen to create the Jane Yolen Midlist Author Grant <tinyurl.com/MdLstGrnt>. A \$2000 winner and two \$500 runners up will be selected to "help raise awareness about their current works in progress." Nominees must be a member of SCBWI, must have at least two "Published and Listed" books, but must not have sold anything for at least two years.

#### NOOK E-READER DROPS IN PRICE

After posting a strong holiday quarter, Barnes & Noble has announced a drop in the price of its Nook Color e-book reader and introduced a new Nook Tablet—possibly in reaction to the Amazon's Kindle Fire that became available a few months ago. The new 7" (diagonal) 8 G-byte Nook Tablet lists at \$199; the Nook Color now goes for \$169.

#### E-BORROW A POTTER

E-book distributor OverDrive has struck a deal to distribute all seven Harry Potter books (as both e-books and digital audiobooks) to school and public libraries worldwide. While not all libraries use OverDrive, it's worth checking with your librarian if you're interested in borrowing the books.

#### LOOKING FOR FREE FICTION?

Your editor just stumbled across <www.freestonline.de> which aggregates links to free (and *non*-pirated) speculative fiction posted online. Despite being based in Deutschland, the site is predominantly in English. Listings vary from the Golden Age (want to read the February 1930 issue of *Astounding*?) right up to the present. Authors both famous and obscure are linked. Listings are sliced and diced several ways, including a set of nominees for major genre awards.

#### CLIMBING THE BEANSTALK? PACK HEAVY

Japanese construction firm Obayashi Corp. has started plans for an elevator to geosynchronous orbit. They say that the ascent would take a bit over a week, so don't plan to go if being in an elevator car makes you antsy.

Don't start packing just yet, though—their target date for completion is 2050. Plans, if you can call them that at this conceptual stage, are for a cable roughly 60,000 miles long, extending from the Earth's surface to well past geosynchronous altitude (for balance, if you will). The projected cab would travel 125 mph and hold up to 30 people.

#### BRING BACK BIG STEEL

Calculations documented on centives.net <tinyurl.com/

DthStrStl> show that just the steel to build the Death Star (from the original *Star Wars*) would cost \$852 quadrillion (that's \$852,000,000,000,000—claimed to be about 13,000 years of the entire world's GDP).

The calc was based on assumptions including (1) the steel density would be similar to modern oceangoing warships, (2) the Death Star in question is 140km in diameter, (3) steel is priced at 2012 prices per <www.worldsteelprices.com>. Other details are left as an exercise for the reader.

One last tidbit from the article—the amount of steel they calculate as needed (1.08x10<sup>15</sup> tones) is about 833,315 years worth of worldwide production.

### SFWA FEUDS WITH AMAZON

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <www.sfw.org> is in the process of removing all links to Amazon.com from SFWA's website. Amazon has dropped listings for 4000 e-books distributed by Independent Publishing Group (over a pricing dispute), at least some of which are by SFWA authors. SFWA's news release acknowledges Amazon's right to make their move, but SFWA's countering by redirecting book links to indiebound.org, Powell's, and Barnes and Noble.

### WHO'S THAT CAPTAIN?

It's the Borg and Cybermen versus Doctor Who and Captain Picard when the Whoverse and ST:TNG are merged in an upcoming comic series. The IDW pub starts in May. Credits include Scott and David Tipton (writing), Tony Lee (consultant), and J.K. Woodward (art).



## NASFA Calendar

### MARCH

- 01 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Catching Fire*, Suzanne Collins; 6P.
- 02–04 StellarCon 36—High Point NC.
- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
- 03 KampingKon—Cochran GA.
- 09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
- 09–11 Madicon 21—Harrisonburg VA.
- 09–11 Game Days 7—Nashville TN.
- 09–11 Days of the Dead 2—Atlanta GA.
- 10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
- 11 Daylight Saving Time begins.
- 13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
- 15–18 Furry Weekend Atlanta—Atlanta GA.
- 16–18 CoastCon 35—Biloxi MS.
- 16–18 MomoCon—Atlanta GA.
- 16–18 FantaSciCon—Dalton GA.
- 17\* Con+Stellation XXXI Concom Meeting—3P at Renasant Bank.
- 17\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: Costuming & props with 2Story-Props. ATMM: Sue Thorn's house.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day.
- 18 Mother's Day.
- 20 First day of Spring (19<sup>th</sup> MST and westward).
- 22 BD: Jayson Woosley.
- 23–25 AggieCon 43—College Station TX.
- 23–25 MidSouthCon 30—Memphis TN.

### APRIL

- 01 April Fool's Day.
- 05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Briar Rose*, Jane Yolan; 6P.
- 06–08 MTAC Omega—Nashville TN.
- 06–08 Frolicon—Atlanta GA.
- 07 BD: Mary Lampert.
- 07 Collectors Showcase—Knoxville TN.
- 08 Easter.
- 13–15 ConGlomeration 2012—Louisville KY.
- 15 BD: "Uncle Timmy."
- 15 BD: Manda Freeman.
- 16 Federal Income Taxes due.
- 20–22 JordanCon 4—Roswell GA.
- 20–22 TrekTrax—Atlanta GA.
- 21\* Con+Stellation XXXI Concom Meeting—3P at Renasant Bank (if available) or Mike Kennedy's house (backup).
- 21\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: Paul Weiland "The Future of Space Exploration." ATMM: TBD.
- 21 BD: Randy B. Cleary.
- 21–22 Toy & Hobby Show—Gray TN.
- 22 Earth Day.
- 25 Administrative Professionals' Day.
- 26 BD: Chloe Airoidi.
- 27 Arbor Day.
- 30 BD: Mark Maxwell.

### MAY

- TBD\* Con+Stellation XXXI Concom Meeting—date and time of the May Concom meeting are TBD.
- 01 BD: Russell McNutt.
- 03 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Robopocalypse*, Daniel H. Wilson; 6P.
- 04–06 Outlantacon—Atlanta GA.
- 05 Cinco de Mayo.
- 13 Mothers' Day.
- 16 BD: Linda Bolgeo.
- 17–20 Nebula Awards Weekend—Arlington VA.
- 18–20 Mobicon—Mobile AL.
- 19\* NASFA Picnic—at Peggy Patrick's house. This will substitute for the NASFA meeting, program, and ATMM. Stay tuned for start time and other details.
- 19 BD: David O. Miller.
- 19 Armed Forces Day.
- 19 Collectors Showcase—Morristown TN.
- 25–27 Rocket City FurMeet—Huntsville AL.
- 25–27 Timegate—Atlanta GA.
- 25–27 Oasis 25—Orlando FL.
- 25–27 NashCon—Franklin TN.
- 27 BD: Kathy Paulk.
- 28 Memorial Day.

### JUNE

- TBD\* Con+Stellation XXXI Concom Meeting—date and time of the June Concom meeting are TBD.
- 01–03 ConCarolinas—Charlotte NC.
- 01–03 Hamacon—Huntsville AL.
- 02 BD: Lloyd Penney.
- 07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Snow Crash*, Neal Stephenson; 6P.
- 08–10 Sci Fi Summer Con—Atlanta GA.
- 08–10 OMGcon—Paducah KY.
- 09–10 Salute To Supernatural—Nashville TN.
- 09–10 Con Kasterborous—Huntsville AL.
- 09–10 Comic & Anime Con—Knoxville TN.





lancz as *Fire and Thorns*)  
*The Boy at the End of the World*, Greg van Eekhout (Bloomsbury USA)  
*Everybody Sees the Ants*, A.S. King (Little, Brown)  
*Akata Witch*, Nnedi Okorafor (Viking)  
*The Freedom Maze*, Delia Sherman (Big Mouth House)  
*Daughter of Smoke & Bone*, Laini Taylor (Little, Brown)

## Awards Roundup

### TOR 2011 READER'S CHOICE AWARDS

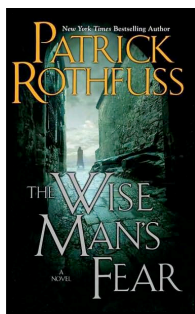
Publisher TOR received about 3000 unique ballots (see <[tinyurl.com/TOR2011RC](http://tinyurl.com/TOR2011RC)> for how they eliminated duplicates) for their 2011 Readers Choice Awards. The winners are:

**Novel** ..... *The Wise Man's Fear*, Patrick Rothfuss

**Short Fiction** ..... "The Shadow War of the Night Dragons, Book One: The Dead City," John Scalzi (Tor.com)

**Cover** ..... *The Seventh Throne*, Stephen Zimmer, cover by Matthew Perry

**Comic** ..... *Across Thin Ice*



### NESFA SKYLARK WINNERS

The New England Science Fiction Association has announced that **Sharon Lee** and **Steve Miller** have separately won the 2012 **Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction**, aka the Skylark Award. The award is for "some person, who, in the opinion of [NESFA] membership, has contributed significantly to science fiction, both through work in the field and by exemplifying the personal qualities which made the late 'Doc' Smith well-loved by those who knew him." You can read more about the award at <[www.nesfa.org/awards/skylark.html](http://www.nesfa.org/awards/skylark.html)>.

### OSCAR WINNERS

[Consider it stipulated that there is disagreement among reviewers—and viewers—about whether *Hugo* is sfnal or not.



The *Shuttle* chooses to treat it as such because (1) at least a significant minority of reviewers believes it is and (2) SFWA chooses to treat it as such for their awards. -ED]

The American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presented the 84<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards <[www.oscars.org](http://www.oscars.org)> during a telecast ceremony Sunday 26 February 2012. Though genre films didn't take home any of the biggest awards, they did score in a number of secondary and technical categories.

Far and away the biggest genre-related winner was *Hugo* which took home 5 little gold men (for Cinematography, Art Direction, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects).

Three further genre films took one award each *Rango* (Animated Feature), *The Muppets* (Original Song), and *The Fantastic Flying Books Of Mr. Morris Lessmore* (Animated Short).

### BAFTAs PRESENTED

The 65<sup>th</sup> British Academy Film Awards, presented by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts <[www.bafta.org](http://www.bafta.org)> were awarded 12 February 2012 (for work in 2011). Genre and

related works didn't score in any of the top categories, but did take home a few trophies.

Two wins went to *Hugo* for Production Design and Sound. *Rango* took the Animated Film prize. The Special Visual Effects nod went to *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2*. Finally, the Short Animation winner was *A Morning Stroll*.

### LFS HALL OF FAME AWARD NOMS

The Libertarian Futurist Society <[lfs.org](http://lfs.org)> has announced the finalists for this year's Hall of Fame Award. The winner, to be selected by LFS members, will be announced at this year's Worldcon. The nominees are:

*Falling Free*, Lois McMaster Bujold

"Repent, Harlequin!" Said the Ticktockman," Harlan Ellison

"The Machine Stops," E.M. Forster

"As Easy as A.B.C.," Rudyard Kipling

### 2012 SATURN AWARD NOMS

The Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Films has announced the nominees for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Saturn Awards <[www.saturnawards.org](http://www.saturnawards.org)>. With 32 categories (covering films, TV, and home entertainment) and almost 200 total nominees the full list is a bit too lengthy for the *Shuttle*. Leading nom counts included *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2* and *Hugo* (10 each); *Super 8* (8); *Captain America: The First Avenger* (7); and *Breaking Bad*, *The Adventures of Tintin*, and *Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol* (6 each).

The voting process differs depending on medium, but is by members of the Academy or committees thereof. In addition to the competitive awards, the Academy announced that Martin Scorsese will receive The George Pal Memorial Award.

### RAZZIE AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Golden Raspberry Award Foundation <[www.razzies.com](http://www.razzies.com)> has announced the nominees for their 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Razzies Awards—dishonoring the worst in film. Unlike some years, genre movies did not dominate, but on the "good" side they did score some noms.

Unlike many awards, the Razzies can split nominations (say, for worst actor or worst director) among multiple movies, making tallying the "leaders" a bit more complicated... but here goes.

Two genre films were essentially tied for the "lead" in Razzies nominations with 7 full noms and 1 split nom each—*Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part I* and *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*.

For *Twilight* those nods came for Worst Picture; Worst Actress (Kristen Stewart); Worst Screen Ensemble; Worst Director (Bill Condon); Worst Prequel, Remake, Rip-Off or Sequel; Worst Screen Couple (Krtisten Stewart and *either* Taylor Lautner or Robert Pattinson); and Worst Screenplay (Melissa Rosenberg) plus an additional half a Worst Actor nod (Taylor Lautner).

For *Trannies 3* the "honors" were for Worst Picture, Worst Supporting Actor (Patrick Dempsey), Worst Supporting Actress (Rosie Huntington-Whiteley), Worst Screen Ensemble, Worst Director (Michael Bay), Worst Screen Couple (Shia LeBeouf and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley), and Worst Screenplay (Ehren Kruger) plus a quarter nod for Worst Supporting Actor (Ken Jeong).

Two other genre films had two partial noms apiece, both featuring Nicolas Cage. Two of Nick's 3 films this year (*Drive Angry 3-D* and *Season of the Witch*) had genre elements while all 3 of them contributed to his Worst Actor nom as well as the Worst Screen Couple nom for "Nicolas Cage and Anyone Sharing the Screen with Him."

# Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead  
25509 Jonnie Court  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

24 February 2011

Ah technology is a cruel mistress! Just found out (if I had paid attention I would have known!) that my external hard drive is just that—i.e., all my desktop files and thumb drive are not being backed up. So, I went out and bought a handful of 8G thumb drives for that purpose. I went on to start backing things up. Less than a month into the process the first one failed. So much for having a backed up copy. I took the remaining ones back (interestingly, Staples took them back no questions with just the receipt [while] Best Buy said it was beyond the 30 day return and could only give me store credit after some hoop jumping). I had done research since I had found out the hard way that the specific system must be stated in the system list of the thumb drive (never assume). Apple told me I need to routinely reformat regardless of what the package says. Now I know. In the meantime I still do not have backed up copies—but I am slowly remedying that.

It will be interesting to see what transpires with the 2015–16 Huntsville flight tests. It would be nice to get back into space even if it looks as if the private sector has to take the reins. No idea what type of government/political oversights will be needed. We shall see.

*Agh*—the Hugo nomination deadline looms and I have not done my fannish duty. In case this is the last year I can nominate, I need to be sure I follow through.

RIP Rusty. Sigh.

I stopped by the indy bookstore right before Christmas and the gift cards had not yet come in. The owner was (obviously) very keen to help and actually created a gift certificate on the spot for me to give. I hope the parents manage to get their son up there to look around. He sill thinks he wants to own a bookstore when he grows up. The owner maintained that another new bookstore (I didn't ask if the *books* were new...) just opened up in northern Virginia and was making a go of it. Fingers crossed.

The Christmas gift from my brother and sister-in-law was the Blu-ray top of the line (and totally useless to me) version of the last Potter film. Back it went to Best Buy and got exchanged for the simple DVD format I can use *and* a thumb drive (see first paragraph).

I have long lost sight of how much a Worldcon costs to attend—until a fan recently told me they (he and his wife) would have to forgo this year since just the weekend would cost over \$1000 before transportation was added in. Yeouch.

How does an online book work in that does the reader just set up an account and buy the download? Is the copy yours? With the ability to merely click and send copies of a file hither thither and yon (that is quite a mileage!), how is it protected for financial reasons? True, one can buy a paper book and make copies, but that is a bit of work, whereas the new electronic version is a simple click. Just curious.

Well, I still have a dozen pencil sketches that have been sitting patiently for months and I simply feel guilty about not getting to them. Maybe it is time I do more than just that...

[Regarding private spaceflight, there was some kerfuffle in the news recently that these ventures are not—at least initial-

ly—being held to the same flight safety requirements for “man rating” their vehicles as NASA has been. I don't know how much of that is true and how much is political spin. Per a recent change in the WSFS Constitution, Hugo nominating rights have been extended to members of the next year's con, so in theory one could nominate every year by buying a Supporting Membership every third year. Final Hugo voting is still limited to members of the administering con. RE e-books they are not generally “online” in the sense you may be thinking. Business models vary a lot but for the most part a copy (which may or may not be copy protected) is downloaded to the device(s); you don't have to be connected to the web to read. In some business models the seller allows you to re-download previously-purchased books if a copy is lost (say, because one runs out of memory or has a device failure). There was quite a bit of *sturm und drang* when Amazon unilaterally deleted copies of *1984* and *Animal Farm* from people's Kindles back in 2009. (Quite ironic that it happened with *1984*, yes?) It seems that “the books were added to the Kindle store by a company that did not have rights to them, using a self-service function” (per the *New York Times*). The resulting bad publicity has made it less likely that this will happen again, at least without some warning. It's been pointed out that should the analogous event have occurred with a printed book, Amazon would probably not demand the return of the printed copies even though they did not have the right to sell them. Electronic publishing is expanding rapidly, but is still in its infancy... it will be some time yet before it's anywhere near as standardized as traditional publishing. -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney  
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Canada M9C 2B2

27 February 2012

Thank you for the February *Shuttle*... this was put together in a bit of a rush because I finally do have some daytime work. It's with an advertising agency, actually the second agency past the one I mentioned in my letter. Finally, an agency that knows what and who it wants. Comments to follow, right now.

I hope there will be pictures of the von Braun Retro Hugo. I think the Retro Hugos are a good idea, but not every Worldcon takes part, or can take part in them.

The fighting and politics over e-books are rapidly taking the novelty off e-book themselves. I've seen software that can change the format of an e-book to another format, but some formats resist the conversion, or some conversions are incomplete. This is making sure that paper books are still a vital fall back to e-books, or in some cases, the only way to access a particular book. Is this part of the growing pains of the industry?

Re the Crawford Award... at the Reno Worldcon, I picked up a free copy of *Mechanique* by Genevieve Valentine. I quite enjoyed the book, and wrote a review of it, but never suspected that it might be considered for an award, and it won this Crawford Award. Well done by a first-time novelist.

The Oscars... I didn't watch them, but I am pleased to see that the movie *Hugo* won 5 of them. Such a wonderful tribute to the lifework of Georges Méliès. I wonder when the DVD will be out? A shame about the passing of Rusty Hevelin, but the Rusty Award will make sure that his name and memory will live on.

When I put my loc about this issue on my LiveJournal archive, I got an e-mail from someone connected somehow with the Canadian Space Agency, telling me all the wonderful things the CSA is doing and planning. Today in the papers, there is a story about the CSA making sure people know about a lunar mining probe the agency is building. I think now that NASA is on the sidelines, other companies and agencies are taking their place. There still might be something space-related to report in the future.

I think I am done now... something for everyone I hope. Take care to all, and see you next issue.

[Rusty Hevelin was a good man and pretty clearly worthy of the honor of having an award named after him, but I do wonder a bit about propriety when an award is renamed. (The Rusty was formerly known as the Munsey Award, named for pulp pioneer Frank A. Munsey. Does this mean Munsey is no longer worthy of honor? I'm sure that wasn't intended but it could still feel like a slight to his descendants.) I was similarly taken somewhat aback when the E. Everett Evans Big Heart Award was renamed after Forry Ackerman a few years back. On *Hugo*, a quick Google tells me that the DVD (and Blu-ray disk) is already out; released on 28 February. -ED]



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Huntsville AL 35815-4857

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