

The Shuttle

November 2012



The Next NASFA Meeting will Saturday 17 November 2012 at the New Meeting Location

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be **Saturday 17 November 2012** at the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church (old Wilson Lumber Company building) at **7105 Highway 72W** (aka University Drive). This is our new regular location; see the map at right for directions.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The November program will be the More-or-Less Annual NASFA Auction. Please bring contributions—genre books, DVDs, and the like are always welcome but we'll take most anything that someone might buy.

Also, please bring money!

NOVEMBER ATMM

The November After-the-Meeting Meeting will be at Mike Kennedy's house. If all goes as planned there will be chocolate cake. And champagne (well, OK, sparkling wine of some sort). Aside from that, the usual rules apply—that is, please bring food to share and your favorite drink.

CONCOM MEETINGS

At this writing no concom meetings have been scheduled yet for Con†Stellation XXXII.

CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The latest tweak to the *NASFA Shuttle* schedule shifted the usual repro date somewhat to the right (roughly the weekend before each meeting) but much of each issue will need to be put to bed as much as two weeks before the monthly meeting.

Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents *each month* to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material. We will generally need to enforce that deadline strictly.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

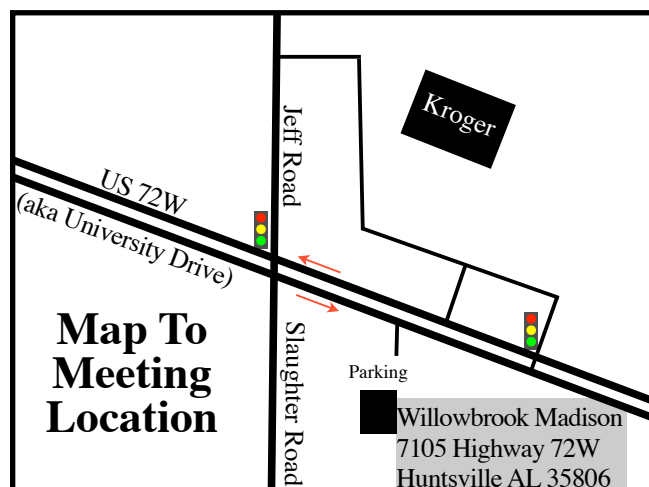
Future programs include:

- December: The More-Or-Less-Annual NASFA Gift Exchange.
- January and forward: TBD.

Due to recent developments, we now need a volunteer for the December ATMM. We also need ATMM volunteers for all months in 2013.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

All remaining 2012 meetings are currently scheduled for the usual 3rd Saturday. Meeting dates for 2013 have not yet been officially established, but will default to the 3rd Saturday absent a major conflict.



Continuing Our 32nd Year of Publication

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Deadline for the December 2012 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 26 November 2012

JOINING THE NASFA EMAIL LIST

All NASFANs who have email are urged to join the NASFA email list, which you can do online at <tinyurl.com/NASFAEmail>. The list is usually low traffic, averaging about three messages a week over the first six months of 2012 (though the rate is rather variable). Generally the list is limited to announcements about club activities plus the occasional message of general interest to north-Alabama sf/f/h/etc. fans. Non NASFANs are welcome to join the list, but please only do so if you're interested in the above restricted topics—posts unrelated to the those purposes are strongly discouraged and could result in you being asked to leave the list.

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

GUFF RACE IS ON

The 2013 Going Under (or Get Up and Over) Fan Fund will send a fan from Europe to Australasia. The winner is expected to attend Conflux <confluxnatcon2013.wordpress.com>, the 2013 Australian natcon. The candidates are Julie McMurray and Mihaela Marija Perković. Anyone who was active in fandom prior to January 2011 can vote (with a small required contribution). You can find out more about the candidates, about voting, and about GUFF in general at <guff.lostcarpark.com/vote>.

TAFF WANTS YOU (MAYBE)

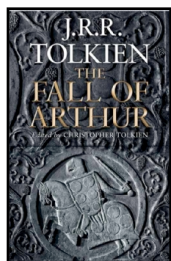
The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund <http://www.taff.org.uk> is seeking candidates for the 2013 TAFF trip. That's a westbound year (Europe to North America) so the candidate will be expected to attend the 2013 Worldcon, LoneStarCon 3 <www.lonestarcon3.org>, to be held 29 August–3 September in San Antonio TX. Nominations must be in by midnight GMT 31 December. Voting will start shortly after nominations are closed and continue through 5 April 2013.

LONESTARCON 3 HOOKS UP WITH SF SIGNAL

Speaking of LoneStarCon 3, they are partnering with Hugo Award winner *SF Signal* <sfsignal.com> in a somewhat-controversial cross-promotion. LSC3 will mirror the *Signal* blog and will provide content for them.

MIDDLE-EARTH MONEY

New Zealand will be issuing legal tender coins based on characters from *The Hobbit* and celebrating the trilogy shot there. Bilbo Baggins will appear on a \$10 gold coin, as well as a \$1 silver coin. Five other characters will also grace the silver dollars—Elrond, Gandalf, Gollum, Thorin Oakenshield, and Radagast.



NON-MIDDLE-EARTH POETRY

Yet another “lost” work from J.R.R. Tolkien is surfacing—*The Fall of Arthur*. This epic poem is being bundled with several essays by Christopher Tolkien (who also edited the poem) and published by HarperCollins this coming Spring.

PUBLISHERS COME, PUBLISHERS GO

There will be a new game in town. SF imprint Jo Fletcher Books <www.jofletcherbooks.com>

will be coming along for the ride when their parent, UK publisher Quercus <www.quercusbooks.co.uk>, starts pubing for the North American market in Fall 2013. Random House Publisher Services will handle distribution.

Meanwhile, subject to antitrust approval, there will be one less publisher in North America. Random House and Penguin have inked a deal to merge into Penguin Random House. If all goes as planned, this too will be complete by Fall 2013.

VADER'S NEW HOME, THE MOUSE HOUSE

If you haven't already heard this, hold on to your mouse ears. Walt Disney Co. is buying George Lucas's Lucasfilm Ltd. for \$4.05 billion in a mixed cash/stock deal. Further, they're planning at least three new Star Wars movies, beginning with Episode 7 projected for 2015. Kathleen Kennedy will continue to be involved in the franchise as President of Lucasfilm (reporting to Disney) and as executive producer.

October Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The October meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, October 20, 2012, in the Madison satellite location of Willowbrook Baptist Church at 6:22:46P by President Mary Lampert.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominations start this month.

Does anybody want to nominate Adam and Maria's baby Thane?

NEW BUSINESS

Judy has a friend at work participating in a Lupus Walk in April. Contact Judy if you're interested. She will remind the club about it between now and then.

Jack would like a volunteer to help move stuff out of his house.

Doug moved to open nominations, and someone seconded. Doug nominated the usual suspects, and Mike K. seconded. Doug nominated Thane Grim for president, and Mike K. seconded. Thane's mother Maria quipped, “You're not gonna get much done.” Doug moved that we close nominations for this month, and Mike K. seconded.

CON BUSINESS

Doug thinks we probably just lost a fortune on Con†Stellation XXXI. [It turns out this may not be true. Sam has almost closed the books and there may be a small surplus this year. -ED]

Con†Stellation XXXII chairs Doug and Mary reported that they had gotten a hotel offer for next year's Con†Stellation from the Best Western Plus near the airport. It's the best offer they've had so far. [Note that M&D are still looking at other facilities so nothing is a done deal yet. -ED] The hotel has four decent-sized function rooms. It's a bit small, but if you ignore Lobby II, it actually has more function space than the hotel where we've held the con for years. The main ballroom can be divided. The hotel charges for breakfast, but there are other convenient nearby locations to get food. By next October, Sci-Quest will be across the street from the hotel. The hotel has no freight elevators and [some] of the function space is upstairs, so that will determine how the function rooms will be assigned. They're currently looking at holding the con October 11–13, 2013. The room rate [would] be \$82 per night. So far, they've sent out one guest invite that they haven't heard back about.

Doug moved to adjourn at 6:46:18P.

The program was the Con†Stellation XXXI post-mortem.

20 BD:Larry Montgomery.
21 BD: Martin Luther King (observed).
25–27 Chattacon 38—Chattanooga TN.

FEBRUARY 2013

07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Wave*, Walter Mosley; 6P.
02 Groundhog Day.
02 Día de la Candelaria.
04 Día festivo en conmemoración de la Constitución.
08 BD: Lin Cochran.
09 BD: Jack Lundy.
10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
12 BD Abraham Lincoln.
13 Ash Wednesday.
14 Valentine's Day.
15–17 Kami Con 5—Birmingham AL.
15–17 Dead Winter Con—London KY.
16* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
18 President's Day.
22 BD: George Washington.
22–24 AnachroCon—Atlanta GA.
24 Día de la Bandera.

- The North Alabama Science Fiction Association meets on the third Saturday of each month. (Unless there is a large nearby convention being held that weekend—in which case we often move the meeting to the second or fourth weekend.) For the present at least, the new regular meeting location is the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church, (old Wilson Lumber Company building)—7105 Highway 72W. The Executive Committee meeting (if scheduled) is at 5P. The business meeting is at 6P. The program is at 7P. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings. There is usually an after-the-meeting meeting with directions available at the program.

Awards Roundup

- ## NOBEL PRIZE HAS GENRE CONNECTIONS

The 2012 Nobel for Literature went to Chinese author Mo Yan whose work is said to incorporate fairy-tale and fantasy elements. You can see more in a *New York Times* article <tinyurl.com/NYT2012LitNob> (site membership required).



Winners of the 2012 World Fantasy Award <www.worldfantasy.org/awards> were announced at this year's World Fantasy Convention <www.wfc2012.org>, held 1-4 November 2012 at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel, Suites & Conference Centre in Toronto, Canada. The winners are:

Life Achievement (announced prior to the con) **Alan Garner and George R.R. Martin**

Novel *Osama*, Lavie Tidhar (PS Publishing)

Novella **"A Small Price to Pay for Birdsong,"**
K.J. Parker (*Subterranean* Winter 2011)

Short Story **"The Paper Menagerie,"** Ken Liu
(*F&SF* March-April 2011)

Anthology *The Weird*, Ann VanderMeer and Jeff VanderMeer, eds. (Corvus; Tor, May 2012)

Collection *The Bible Repairman and Other Stories*,
Tim Powers (Tachyon and Subterranean Press)

Artist.....**John Coulthart**
Special Award, Professional.....**Eric Lane**, for publishing
in translation, Dedalus books
Special Award, Non-professional.....**Raymond Russell**
and **Rosalie Parker**, for Tartarus Press

WSFA SMALL PRESS AWARD GIVEN

The 2012 WSFA Small Press Award <www.wsfasmallpressaward.org> (for original short genre fiction published by small presses in the previous year) went to **Tansy Rayner Roberts** for “The Patrician” (*Love and Romanpunk*, Twelfth Planet Press, May 2011, Alisa Krasnos-tein, ed.). The award was presented at Capclave <www.capclave.org>, held 12–14 October 2012 at the Hilton Washington DC North in Gaithersburg MD.



ENDEAVOUR AWARD ANNOUNCED

The winner of the 14th annual Endeavour Award <www.osfci.org/endeavour> (for a novel or single-author collection written by a Pacific Northwest writer) is Kristine Kathryn Rusch for *City of Ruins*. The award was announced at OryCon 34 <www.orycon.org>, held 2–4 November 2012 at the Portland Doubletree Hotel in Portland OR, though Ms Rusch was unable to be there to accept in person. The award includes an honorarium of \$1000.



NOVA AWARDS GIVEN

The 2012 Nova Awards (for excellence in British and Irish fanzines) were presented at Novacon 42 <novacon.org.uk>, held 9–11 November 2012 at the Park Inn Hotel in Nottingham UK. The winners are:

Fanzine.....**Banana Wings**, Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, eds.

Fanzine Writer.....**Mark Plummer**
Fanzine Artist (tie).....**Sue Mason** and **D. West**

CARNEGIE AND GREENAWAY MEDAL

LOGLISTS ANNOUNCED

The longlists for the 2013 Carnegie Medal (for “the writer of an outstanding book for children”) and the Kate Greenaway Medal (for “distinguished illustration in a book for children”). Both are for books published in the UK (September 2011–August 2012). The medals are awarded by CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals <www.cilip.org.uk>.

As usual, there are numerous genre and genre-related entries on the longlists. The shortlists for the medals will be announced 19 March 2013. The winners will be announced 19 June 2013 at a ceremony in London. More info on the medals, including past winners, can be found at <www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk>.



ROMANTIC TIMES REVIEWERS' CHOICE NOMS

Romantic Times Book Reviews <www.rtbookreviews.com> has announced nominees for their 2012 Reviewers' Choice Awards. The list includes about 15 categories relevant to sf/f/h including Science Fiction, Epic Fantasy, Fantasy, Vampire Romance, Shapeshifter Romance, Steampunk, Paranormal Romance, Paranormal Worldbuilding, Urban Fantasy, Urban Fantasy Protagonist, Urban Fantasy Worldbuilding, Indie Press/Self-Published Paranormal/Fantasy, Young Adult Urban Fantasy/Paranormal, Young Adult Fantasy/Futuristic/Science Fiction, and Young Adult Protagonist.

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
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1 October 2011

Well, I finally got around to trying to write and this idiotic software persists in immediately jumping to the end of the page as I type. No matter what I do, as soon as I hit any key it scoots right down to the bottom margin. I can see that things I type are appearing where they should—I just can't see them as I type. Ah well, I'll just have to settle for doing a lot of typo control when I have a decent amount of words typed...

I don't see any note that I have done my fannish duty and commented on September's ish, so will take another eyetracking stroll through.

I tried to watch the Hugo live online—at Chicon 7. I've given up trying to explain what happened since everyone claims that is *not* the technical glitch that occurred. Maybe not, but it *is* the glitch that happened with *my* computer. I decided I would only watch/listen to the fan categories—so I did not even intend to follow the pro categories. Intermittently I got a commercial—which meant, in essence, that I got periods of non-information. Irritating, but I doubt it rivaled the angst others felt (and apparently expressed online) in the copyright (?) protection break that occurred a bit later on. Anyway, I kept seeing people “showcased” in the pre-broadcasting half hour or so. Having no idea who these people were and why they were being prominently displayed, I idly watched the faces... it would appear that the, um, fanzine winner was edited (??) by a whole horde—enter most of the images I had seen pre-broadcast... oohhh.

I, luckily, do not have strong feelings either way for the fan winners. Perhaps this means I ran out of irritation over the past few years. As I understand it, the WSFS started trying to define fanzine closer to what most “traditional” fen think of. We'll see.

Without having heard (ah, but I'm out of the fannish mainstream so maybe not!) of any big foul-ups taking place in Chicago, I am guessing things went fairly smoothly. One thing I heard was about the food vendors—surprised me that in this poor economy everything would close up just because it was a holiday weekend. As I understand it most of the restaurants etc. other than the hotel closed over the last day or two. Hmm.

I do not have a supporting membership for LoneStarCon 3, but scrounged up the \$ for LonCon 3—I think that this way I can at least stay partly in the loop. It escaped me that a NASFiC would also be waiting in the wings—now I know it is Phoenix. Looking at the long list of Worldcon bids, the one that I took a second look at is New Orleans. On many different fronts, I hope that one pushes through. For curiosity, New Zealand sounds like a nice venue!

Lloyd—I watch *Murdoch Mysteries* from Netflix. There are two ways to watch it and there is not complete overlap in the episodes (and now each style requires a different “membership”)—either with the traditional disks or “watch instantly.” I actually took a look at some of the filming information and was surprised to see it is a *current* series.

Looks as if I might have a shot at getting this into the mail today, so I'll stop now... (FYI, the reverse of the first page is one of the practice sheets I made while working on the image [which involved crottled greeps -ED] that went to Chicon 7.)

[Aren't computers just the *best* time savers sometimes, Sheryl? Your LoC arrived just after I put the October *Shuttle* to bed, so we're a little out of sync with the rest of the world, here. By now you know that Detroit has announced a NASFiC bid for the same year as the Phoenix bid. The two groups are bidding different weekends, so both the "when" and the "where" for the 2014 NASFiC are in doubt. I suppose that technically "if" is also in play since None of the Above is always on the NASFiC ballot. You may also by now have heard some of the *sturm und drang* about some aspects of Chicon. I don't wish to diminish anyone's concerns but since (1) no con is (or indeed can be) *perfectly* run and (2) social media can sometimes amplify noise more than signal, my guess is that *overall* it was reasonably well run. Regarding the commercials in the live video stream from the Hugos, well Ustream does insert those automatically about every 15 minutes (as I understand it) unless one pays for a membership. That's their business model (someone has to pony up for the bandwidth, after all) though of course it's irritating when the robot decides it's commercial time right when something interesting is happening. As for the Fanzine Hugo definition, I assure you there's still a lively discussion going on. Partially it's fueled by contrasting points of view about whether content should be supreme or whether format (paper or paper-friendly electronic forms) is also important. Balled up in that discussion is just what is meant by "issue" versus "the equivalent in other media." -ED]

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19 October 2012

I've got the October *Shuttle* here, and if I can string together a few sparse chunks of free time, I can whip up a loc, and get it to you well ahead of the deadline. Sounds like that's something you need, Mike...

So, Con†Stellation happened... how did it go? I look forward to the November issue for all the details, room parties, tournaments, lawsuits, the whole thing.

I found out about the second NASFiC bid a short time ago... Detroit in 2014. I think the last time Detroit bid for anything like this was in the mid-80s, so this is something not only Detroit fandom could use, but also the city of Detroit itself. As many cities are, Detroit is a mere shadow of itself, mostly because of the current financial crisis.

Coming up in November is SFContario 3 in Toronto, with multi-award winning author Jo Walton and Hugo-acceptor extraordinaire Chris Garcia being two of the guests. We will be Chris' guest liaison, help with the masquerade, be on the radio play show on Friday night, and run a massive party on Saturday night. Three local fans are turning 50, 50, and 60 respectively, and Yvonne's older than the other two...

My letter... I know the Montreal bid's year has jumped around a little bit, but you are quite right about 2017 being Canada's sesquicentennial, and the 50th anniversary of Expo 67. A 2017 Worldcon in Montreal would be quite a party, and we'd be among the loudest celebrants. As appealing as another Japanese Worldcon might be, a Montreal Worldcon is much closer, and much more affordable for the average American fan.

I am finally working again, this time at a newsletter publishing firm just north of Toronto, so the killer commute is taking away of lot of my time, but quick letters like this can still happen. Take care, all, and see you next time.

[Barring a last-minute surprise there won't be a review of Con†Stellation in the *Shuttle* (it's like pulling teeth to get folks to write) but I can run down some of the particulars in this reply. Attendance was down from recent years, about 25%. This was naturally disappointing (especially to me as con chair) but in retrospect perhaps not entirely unexpected. We had fewer first-time members than usual, but not enough to account for the discrepancy. My interpretation—which may be wrong of course—is that some of the drop off is from folks who came to DeepSouthCon here in town this past summer and didn't feel motivated to go to a second Huntsville con in the same year. The folks that were at Con†Stellation, though, seemed to have a very good time. The Hall Costume Contest was especially successful, drawing far more contestants than I expected. It was one of three ways we raised money for charity (Sci-Quest <www.sci-quest.org>), the other two being a raffle (main prize: a Tuckerization by Eric Flint) and an auction. All three raised more money than you'd expect at a small con like ours. The Art Show was quite nice; the Dealers Room had a good mix (albeit a few too many tables for the attendance); and the social scene was pretty lively. So the bottom line was "good con, hopefully more people next year." Detroit, the city not the body of fans there, started its decline loooong before the most recent recession. Based on decennial census numbers, Detroit proper peaked at a population of about 1.85 million in 1950 and has fallen each decade since to reach around 0.71 million in 2010. Depending on how wide one draws the metro area, that grew—off and on—until 2000, though the Metropolitan Statistical Area peak was much earlier (1970). -ED]



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The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the November 2012 edition (Volume 32, Number 11). NASFA Officers for 2012: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Wyman Cooke; Publicity Director Jack Lundy. Shuttle Editor Mike Kennedy.

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NASFA Dues = \$25/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$15/year Single copy = \$2 each.
