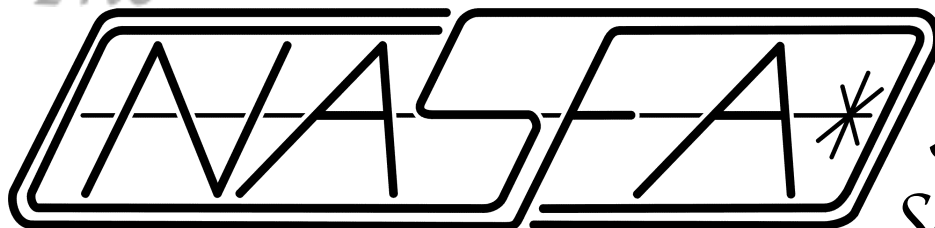


The



Shuttle

September 2013

*The Next NASFA Meeting is Saturday
21 September 2013 at the Regular Location*

*ConCom Meeting 21 September 2013; ConCom Meetings
now twice a month; see Oyez² or Calendar for details*

▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be **Saturday 21 September 2013** at the regular meeting location—the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church (old Wilson Lumber Company building) at **7105 Highway 72W** (aka University Drive). Please see the map at right if you need help finding it.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

The September program will be the More-Or-Less Annual NASFA Auction. Please bring items to donate to the auction—books, DVDs, just about anything genre related, or just about anything *not* genre related for that matter. Also please bring along some money (or your checkbook) and a free-sending attitude ;-)

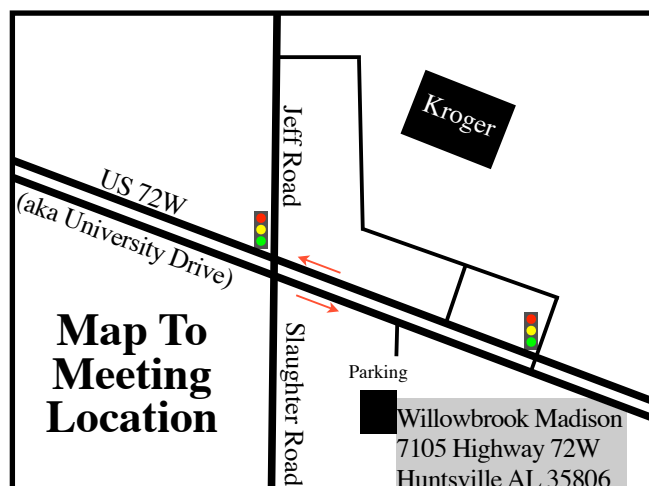
SEPTEMBER ATMM

Plans for the September After-The-Meeting Meeting are TBD at press time.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The next Con†Stellation XXXII concom meeting will be 3P

Saturday 21 September 2013—the same day as the club meeting at the church. There will be a dinner break between the



Continuing Our 33rd Year of Publication

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Deadline for the October 2013 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 30 September 2013

concom and club meetings.

The final regular Con†Stellation XXXII concom meeting will be Saturday 5 October, after dinner that evening. Please stay tuned to the normal **rumor** news sources for the location.

There will also be the usual working meeting the Thursday before the con—10 October 2013, all day, at the hotel and various other spots (e.g., equipment pickup). This year, that will include pickup of the Art Show material (from Randy Cleary's house) in the middle afternoon. Information about the pre-con dinner that evening will be available later from the aforementioned news sources.

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:

- October: Con†Stellation XXXII Post-Mortem.
- November: Max Rosenthal, a former manager on the Hubble program, shares personal stories and highlights of the Hubble development and its remarkable pictures.
- December: Holiday Party (volunteer host(s) needed).

We need ATMM volunteers for this month and for most future months. (November is tentatively spoken for, but otherwise it's pretty much wide open.) We also need a volunteer for a potential New Year's Eve party.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

Remaining NASFA meeting dates for 2013 are all scheduled for the normal 3rd Saturday.

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, 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.

NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to it 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

LONCON 3 MEMBERSHIPS TO INCREASE

The cost of Attending memberships in the 2014 Worldcon, Loncon 3 <www.loncon3.org>, will increase 1 October 2013. The new rate for an Adult Attending membership will be £115/\$185/€145. The corresponding Family Attending rate (2 adults and 2 or more children) will go to £260/\$430/€330. Attending memberships for Infants (ages 0–5), Children (6–15), and Young Adults (16–25) will remain unchanged. The Supporting membership rate will also be unchanged.

More info on memberships in the 2014 Worldcon, including an installment plan, can be found at <www.loncon3.org/

memberships>.

HUNTSVILLE PLACES IN ENTREPRENEUR LIST

Huntsville snagged a place on Entrepreneur Magazine's list of the 25 best US cities for high-tech startups. The list "focuses on high-tech startups specifically, defining them as new businesses with a concentration of employees in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math." See the story at <tinyurl.com/EntMagTop25>.

HUNTSVILLE, MOBILE GET NERD LOVE

Both Huntsville and Madison made a Top 10 list of "cities on the rise." Check out the al.com recap at <tinyurl.com/NrdWltTop10>, which includes a link to the original story at consumer finance site nerdwallet.com.

MADISON DIGITAL CAPITAL OF ALABAMA

Google has declared that Huntsville neighbor Madison AL is the 2013 "digital capital of Alabama." The award recognizes cities (one per state) where businesses are most using the web to "find new customers, connect with existing customers and fuel their local economies." See the story at <tinyurl.com/MdsnDigCapAL>.

OVERSTOCK CALLS OUT AMAZON; AGAIN

Online retailer Overstock.com has thrown another gauntlet at the feet of rival Amazon. Earlier this year Overstock started a sale on books, 10% below Amazon's prices. Amazon matched them. Now Overstock says the will permanently match Amazon prices on their print books. This is in addition to the "Club O" loyalty program Overstock offers (for an annual fee).

So, if you're allergic to Amazon for some reason but want their prices, you now have a new player to whom you can turn.

SFWA SUNSET FOR DAY

If you've been following the dustup between the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <www.sfwaworld.org> and Theodore Beale (aka Vox Day in the blogosphere) you might want to know it's reached a milestone.

Beale has apparently been officially kicked out of SFWA. He was a lifetime SFWA member and as recently as this year was active enough to run (unsuccessfully) for SFWA president. Both Beale and SFWA have published official commentary on this (the latter omitting both Beale's name and the censured conduct "on advice of counsel").

IRON MAN BALLOON COSTUME

OK, this version of Iron Man probably needs to be a bit more careful of thumbtacks than does the, er, real one. Watch a costume being constructed out of 364 balloons in under 10 hours elapsed time at <tinyurl.com/ImMnBln>. Don't worry about boredom, this YouTube speeds the process up to only a minute and a quarter.

ROWLING TO EXTEND POTTERVERSE ON FILM

J.K. Rowling will be writing the screenplay for a Warner Bros. movie based on her *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. While set in the "wizarding" universe that includes the Harry Potter tales, it will be set in an earlier time and a different place (NYC) and will not be a direct prequel. The film will concentrate on the story of Newt Scamander, the supposed author of *Fantastic Beasts* and is intended to be the first a new series of Potterverse spin-offs.

August Minutes

by Steve Sloan

The August meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, August 17, 2013, in the Madison satellite location of Willowbrook Baptist

Church at 6:18:55P by President Mary Lampert. There was a digression about timekeeping.

OLD BUSINESS

Diddly.

NEW BUSINESS

Nada.

Jim and Tracey said that the club had to discuss science fiction at the meeting so they could tell their friends they'd actually done it. Doug obliged by mentioning that the interior of the TARDIS is in Google Maps, accessible via the Street View of Earl's Court Road. SF was actually discussed.

CON BUSINESS

According to co-Con-Chair Doug, "there will be a con" this year. ("Co-Con-Chair" means that Doug and Mary are sharing the office of Con†Stellation convention committee chairman.) The con has already paid for guest travel.

The hotel where Con†Stellation has been held for several years was discussed. Mike S. called it "the Con†Stellation hotel." 2013 will mark the third annual "last year" for Con†Stellation to be held at that hotel.

Judy reported that there will be food. Co-Con-Chair Mary said the con will have the usual stuff.

Doug moved to adjourn at 6:25:44P. (For OCD types like me, that time marks when the gavel fell, not when the move to adjourn was made.)

The August program was "Adding Bling to Your Costume" presented by Angela from Sci-Quest <sci-quest.org>. Maria and Adam Grimm hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at the meeting location at Willowbrook Madison.

NASFA Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 02 Labor Day.
- 02 Labour Day (Canada).
- 03 BD: David K. Robinson.
- 05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Ringworld*, Larry Niven; 6P.
- 05 Rosh Hashanah.
- 06–08 OutsideCon 26—Burns TN.
- 07 Con†Stellation XXXII Concom Meeting—after dinner, stay tuned for location.
- 07–08 Creation: Star Trek—Nashville TN.
- 08 Grandparent's Day.
- 09 BD: Mike Cothran.
- 11 BD: Ray Pietruszka.
- 12 BD: Pat Butler.
- 14 Yom Kippur.
- 14–15 Nashville Comic Expo—Nashville TN.
- 16 Independencia de México.
- 21* Con†Stellation XXXII Concom Meeting—3P, at Willowbrook Madison.
- 21* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: More-Or-Less Annual NASFA Auction—please start saving stuff to donate. ATMM: TBD.
- 21–22 JapanFest—Duluth GA.
- 21–22 National Book Festival—Washington DC.
- 22 Autumnal Equinox.
- 26 BD: Jenna Victoria Stone.
- 27–29 Anime Weekend Atlanta—Atlanta GA.
- 27–29 GameCon Memphis—Memphis TN.
- 27–29 Klingon Feast—Daytona Beach FL.

OCTOBER

- 00 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: no meeting scheduled.
- 03–06 SIEGE—Atlanta GA.
- 04–05 Handmade & Bound—Nashville TN.
- 04–06 Archon 37—St. Louis MO.
- 04–06 FenCon 10—Dallas TX.
- 05 Con†Stellation XXXII Concom Meeting—after dinner, stay tuned for location.
- 06 Atlanta South Comic Con—McDonough GA.
- 10* Con†Stellation XXXII Concom Meeting—all day, working meeting at the hotel. Also stay tuned for info on pre-con dinner that evening.
- 11–13 Con†Stellation XXXII—Huntsville AL.
- 12 Día de la Raza.
- 14 Columbus Day.
- 14 Thanksgiving Day (Canada).
- 15 BD: Robert Buelow.
- 18–20 CONtraflow III—New Orleans LA.
- 18–20 Wizard World—Nashville TN.
- 19* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: Con†Stellation XXXII Post-Mortem. ATMM: TBD.
- 24–27 Game Fest South—Chattanooga TN.
- 25–27 HallowCon—Dalton GA.
- 26–27 Sukoshi Con—Athens GA.
- 25 BD: Marie McCormack.
- 31 Halloween.

NOVEMBER

- 01–03 Eyecon: Vampire Diaries—Atlanta GA.
- 01–03 Fangcon—Nashville TN.
- 01–03 Geek Media Expo—Nashville TN.
- 02 Día de Muertos.
- 03 Comic Book & Anime Con—Marietta GA.
- 03 Daylight Savings Time Ends.
- 07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *At the Mountains of Madness*, H.P. Lovecraft.
- 08–10 Anime Blast—Chattanooga TN.
- 09 Hamacon Minicon—Huntsville AL.
- 11 Veteran's Day.
- 11 Remembrance Day (Canada).
- 15–16 Nerdacon v8—Columbus GA.
- 15–17 Comic Convention—Memphis TN.
- 16* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: Highlights of the Hubble development and its remarkable pictures, Max Rosenthal. ATMM: TBD
- 18 Día festivo en conmemoración de la Revolución Mexicana.
- 20 National Child Day (Canada).
- 20 Revolución Mexicana.
- 22 BD: Nancy Renee Peters.
- 23 BD: Mike Kennedy.
- 27 Hanukkah (sundown).
- 28 Thanksgiving Day.
- 29 BD: Howard Camp.
- 30 Atlanta Anime Day—Atlanta GA.
- 30 BD: Joshua Kennedy.
- 30 BD: Richard Gilliam.

DECEMBER

- 00 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: no meeting scheduled.
- 01 Comic Con—Columbus GA.
- 05 Hanukkah ends.
- 06–08 SMOFCon 31—Toronto ON.

- 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.) The 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.

Short Form.....“**Augusta Prima**,” Karin Tidbeck, translated from Swedish by the author (*Jagannath: Stories*, Cheeky Frawg)

Short Form Honorable Mentions.....

“Every Time We Say Goodbye,” Zoran Vlahović, translated from Croatian by Tatjana Jambrišak, Goran Konvićni, and the author (*Kontakt: An Anthology of Croatian SF*, Darko Macan and Tatjana Jambrišak, eds., SFera)

“A Hundred Ghosts Parade Tonight,” Xia Jia, translated from Chinese by Ken Liu (*Clarkesworld* #65)

“A Single Year,” Csilla Kleinheincz, translated from Hungarian by the author (*The Apex Book of World SF* #2, Lavie Tidhar, ed., Apex Book Company)

WSFA SMALL PRESS AWARD NOMS

The Washington Science Fiction Association <wsfa.org> has announced the finalists for the 2013 WSFA Small Press Award for Short Fiction. The winner is chosen by a blind vote of WSFA members. The award will be presented Capclave <www.capclave.org>, to be held 11–13 October 2013 at the Hilton Washington DC North in Gaithersburg MD. The nominees are:

“Bottled Spirits,” Pamela K. Kinney, *Buzzy Mag*, Laura Anne Gilman, ed. (June 2012)

“The Bookmaking Habits of Select Species,” Ken Liu, *Light-speed Magazine*, John Joseph Adams, ed. (August 2012)

“Good Hunting,” Ken Liu, *Strange Horizons*, Brit Mandelo, ed. (October 2012)

“Mornington Ride,” Jason Nahrung, *Epilogue*, Tehani Wessely, ed. (Fablecroft Publishing June 2012)

“Coca Xocolatl,” Lawrence M. Schoen, *ReDeus: Divine Tales*, Robert Greenberger and Aaron Rosenberg, eds. (Crazy Eight Press 2012)

“The Six Million Dollar Mermaid,” Hildy Silverman, *Mermaids 13: Tales from the Sea*, John L. French, ed. (Padwolf Publishing Inc. December 2012)

“Astrophilia,” Carrie Vaughn, *Clarkesworld Magazine*, Neil Clarke, ed. (July 2012)

LEGEND AWARD NOMS

Nominees for the 2013 David Gemmell Legend Award and associated awards <gemmellaward.com> have been announced. The winners will be announced at the World Fantasy Convention <www.wfc2013.org>, to be held 31 October–3 November 2013 at the Metropole Hotel in Brighton UK.

Legend Award for Best Fantasy Novel Noms

The Red Country, Joe Abercrombie (Gollancz)

Stormdancer, Jay Kristoff (Pan Macmillan UK)

King of Thorns, Mark Lawrence (HarperCollins/Voyager)

The Gathering of the Lost, Helen Lowe (Orbit)

The Blinding Knife, Brent Weeks (Orbit)

Morningstar Award for Best Fantasy Newcomer Noms

Throne of the Crescent Moon, Saladin Ahmed (Gollancz/DAW)

The Red Knight, Miles Cameron (Gollancz)

Malice, John Gwynne (Pan Macmillan UK)

Irenicon, Aidan Harte (Jo Fletcher Books)

Stormdancer, Jay Kristoff (Pan Macmillan UK)

Ravenheart Award for Best Fantasy Cover Art Noms

Didier Graffet and Dave Senior, cover of *The Red Country* by Joe Abercrombie (Gollancz)

Dominic Harman, cover of *Legion of Shadow* by Michael J. Ward (Gollancz)

Clint Langley, cover of *Besieged* by Rowenna Cory Daniells (Solaris)

Silas Manhood, cover of *The Blinding Knife* by Brent Weeks (Orbit)

Colin Thomas, cover of *Stormdancer* by Jay Kristoff (Pan Macmillan UK)

Stephen Youll, cover of *The Black Mausoleum* by Stephen Deas (Gollancz)

PARSEC AWARDS

Winners of the 2013 Parsec Awards <www.parsecawards.com>, for speculative fiction podcasting, were announced at Dragon Con <www.dragoncon.org> in Atlanta GA on 1 September 2013. [“Dragon Con” is in the midst of rebranding itself from “Dragon*Con” in the wake of the buyout of one of the founders. -ED] The winners were:

Small Cast Speculative Fiction Story, Short Form“**Now Cydonia**,” Rick Kennett (*Cast of Wonders*)

Small Cast Speculative Fiction Story, Novella Form.....“**The Shadow Over Innsmouth**,” H.P. Lovecraft (produced by Mike Bennett)

Small Cast Speculative Fiction Story, Long Form.....*Underwood and Flinch*, Mike Bennett

Large Cast Speculative Fiction Story“**The Road to Utopia Plain**,” Rick Kennett (*The Dunestee Audio Fiction Magazine*)

Speculative Fiction Audio Drama, Short Form.....“**The Minister of Chance**,” Radio Static

Speculative Fiction Audio Drama, Long Form.....*Star Trek: Outpost*, Tony Raymond and Daniel McIntosh

Speculative Fiction Magazine or Anthology Podcast ...*Tales from the Archives*, Volume 2, Tee Morris and Pip Ballentine

New Speculative Fiction Podcaster/Team*The NoSleep Podcast*, David Cummings

Speculative Fiction Fan or News Podcast, Specific*Rebel-Force Radio*, Jimmy Mac and Jason Swank

Speculative Fiction Fan or News Podcast, General*Nights at the Round Table*, Ash Farbrother

Podcast about Speculative Fiction Content Creation ...*Story-Forward*, J.C. Hutchins and Steve Peters

Fact Behind the Fiction Podcast*Hubblecast*, Oli Usher and Joe Liske

Speculative Fiction Comedy/Parody Podcast*Blastro-podcast*, Mark Soloff

Speculative Fiction Music Podcast*The Funny Music Project*, Devo Spice

Speculative Fiction Video Story“**I Have Your Heart**,” Molly Crabapple, Kim Boekbinder, and Jim Batt

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

2 September 2013

As I type LoneStarCon 3 is winding down. I am not going to comment on the fan Hugos—we all knew it was coming and now it is here! Congrats to both Spokane and Detroit.

Okay, after having has this laptop for two years and having to argue with it almost nonstop the whole time, I got fed up. I took a good look at it then went online to see what other MacBook users had to say. Sure enough, a lot of them were having the same issues—a completely berserk laptop. Mine changed text, moved it around, changed fonts, changed sizes, refused to respond to the cursor, refused to shut off (which was a problem since it would not save and if I cut the power some-

how I would lose everything), and after a cool down time it worked fine for about fifteen minutes. There were two possible solutions suggested—one is that the trackpad has an issue. I knew that wasn't it since I had gotten so angry at the **@#\$\$%% machine that I had bounded on all parts of the trackpad with no response. The second solution seemed more likely. When I bought the laptop (my first MacBook) the description said that the battery bulged a little and that was normal for the MacBook. So, given that, I had not thought anything of the bulging.

I took out the (original??) battery and sure enough, instant cure. True, I had a huge gaping hole in the bottom of the case, but it was actually paying attention to me! Okay, won't bore you with the details. Bought what I thought was an OEM battery—Apple logo right there in the ad (hint, in the *ad*, not on the battery!). The battery was shiny—my Mac is matte. Regardless, this model, even if generic, *should* fit. Well, it almost did. No matter what I did to make the connections, the computer never recognized that any battery was installed. I really don't know quite how to explain this part. The battery slides in and then you gently push down and turn a coin slot (yes, you have to dig out money—or at least that is the easiest thing to use) and gently turn the round recessed button so two ears come out and connect with the battery, snugly holding it in place. Well, that is what is supposed to happen.

Skip to the catastrophe. I was turning the coin when suddenly there was no resistance and the recessed button fell out. Now, that little button is held in place by two pieces of plastic that are probably worth a penny or two, until you do something like this. I researched how to replace the coin slot button and guess what... you *can't*. You have to replace the whole lower case—called a *difficult* procedure and...

Well, Apple no longer repairs these older units. I went to a Mac place that is not an Apple store. The repair guy had a heart-to-heart talk with me. He could not get the parts... I interrupted—I had already found one for \$20 plus shipping on eBay—he kept right on talking. Buying another one of these is going to be cheaper than paying me the \$250 to replace the lower case once you have bought it. Then you *could* just clone the hard drive or use Time Capsule to recreate what you have. He felt (and he's right but if you don't have money...) it would make more sense (and less cents) to use that same amount towards a newer model.

I have to remember that because I *still* want to use my drawing program. I can only use the OSs (? es??) at least two steps back from the current one—so it means I can only use the MacBook (probably) Pro models up to the end of 2012. Beyond that—wrong operating system.

So all that is to say, now I know what the problem is, I cannot use the laptop on battery and it is really a pain to have the magnetic connection (which is advertised as being strong—it is *not*) break as soon as you move the computer; whoops, did you save? That huge gaping hole in the bottom really bothers me. If anyone is interested, I located someone who had an unusual take on “repairs”—well, not exactly. I am just not that gutsy. However, when/if I get another laptop and have one to use, I might just try the actual replacement. Sigh, and just when the laptop started behaving sanely. Oh yeah, I am returning the battery I got that started this whole thing. (The cord has now popped off three times, I think I have it relatively stable for another go at this!)

Before I forget, this is also an experimental loc in that I located the illo I did for a fanzine's lettercol and tried to turn it into a letterhead, but due to changes in formats, a lot of details got lost—so I just printed off a batch of sheets from the original

illo. So, now I need to make the text fit into the space without seeing the illo and making the text wrap. We (or rather you will already know) shall see if this goes smoothly.

I look forward to the Bob Tucker book!

Waiting is Ended, of course I expected PED to pop up while I was reading, so Gamera came as a surprise!

I tried to see what the supporting membership would be to Sasquon (think that's the name of the Spokane Worldcon win)—congrats to Brad Foster as a GoH there—that is one way to ensure he can make the con! Of course my other option is to put whatever the cost would [be] into the laptop fund—which is pretty empty right now.

The Hugo design looks pretty nifty. (Agh—knocked the connector again and had forgotten to save... so let me try to recreate.) I think the artist uses the lost-wax method according to the LoneStarCon 3 site. I am guessing I am remembering wrong on that I thought it was only good for one production. I did go on a hunt for images of the base and it really does look nice, even if I cannot be sure what some of it is. Some of the comments at the Hugo ceremonies suggests that the award is very heavy. I hope it is not brittle (e.g., can handle a “small” fall). The live streaming was not, at least for me. This year the abrupt standstills were more frequent and longer than last year. I finally gave up and just checked periodically since that was just as enlightening.

Okay, now to locate the printed paper and measure then try to fit the text to it—we shall see.

Looking forward to a Worldcon report (or reports) since I could not find out a lot online. I had hoped they would have a link to merchandisers (such as t-shirts) but didn't manage to track such a thing down. One or two previous Worldcons has nice links for those of us who could not make the trip. Ah yes just another way to spend that money that really ought to be headed for a computer.

[Oh no, no, no. A bulging battery is *never* a good thing. Yeah, I'm still on Snow Leopard (10.6) in part so I can still use one obsolete program. If I can find a semi-reasonable replacement for that software I will upgrade to an OS a tad more modern so I can more easily sync mail and other info among different devices. I'd wonder about upgrading a computer as old as yours seems to be to Lion/Mountain Lion so please check carefully before doing so that it has enough CPU horsepower, memory, and disk space to run and not just limp. Villafranca seemed very confident that the base was sturdy enough to last basically forever. The lowermost part of the base represents a hardbound book. This is surmounted by a sphere with the year 2013 and an outline of Texas embossed. The sphere is surrounded by seated figures of an alien or astronaut at each corner of the lower base, with each figure engrossed in their own book. Other small books also sit on the top surface of the lower base. The casting is hollow, which is a good thing because if it was solid it would be *really* heavy. -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney
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9 September 2013

The August *Shuttle* has landed, and it's time to work on making some comments on it for October. Time is at a premium for me, and for your next issue, so here goes.

I hope all those who made it to LoneStarCon 3 in San Antonio had a great time. We weren't able to go, as the job hunt continues, as does the saving to go Loncon 3, next year's Worldcon. I've checked out the *OMNI* reboot... nothing too exciting, but it is worth return to later on to see what changes there may be. And, I've got that *OMNI* button, too.

Right after winning the IAMTW Grandmaster Award, and a day or two after Fred Pohl passed away, Ann Crispin left us, too. It's been a rough summer for SF readers.

Iceland looks to be a wonderful place. IcelandAir is their airline, and it can take us from Toronto to London via Reykjavik for less money than British Airways or any other airline can. And, there's a stayover in Reykjavik! We'll see what we can do when it's Loncon time. Greetings to PieEyed! Your adventures seem outside of time and space.

My loc... the storm I mentioned wound up being one of the most destructive storms we've had in decades, in some cases, more destructive than Hurricane Hazel, which blew through here in 1954. If we cannot afford to go to the London Worldcon, we may go to the Detroit NASFiC, seeing it's just down the highway. We knew at least a few people on that committee, so perhaps we can do some programming, and pull out a costume or two.

Done for the moment... job interview tomorrow! Wish me luck, see you with the next issue.

[Good luck indeed with the interview; perhaps by the time this sees print you'll have gotten good news. My own views of LoneStarCon 3 take up a good deal of space in this issue. The bottom line is nuanced, but I had a very good time and it was *not* in spite of the con. To be fair, there was some of my positive experience wasn't due to things the con did, either—each attendee has to contribute strongly to their own enjoyment. In my case I was definitely ready for a con-centric vacation (I'd missed two cons this year for personal reasons) and ready in particular for a Worldcon (it had been five years since my last). I hope to make London, but if I can't I'll certainly consider Detroit. Unfortunately for most folks the two are far enough apart (about 3.5 weeks from the end of the NASFiC to the start of the Worldcon) that it would be difficult to go to both in a single extended trip. This is even more true if one wants to catch the Eurocon in Dublin the week after Worldcon. I doubt many people will be up for a 6–7 week trip to catch all three of those. (Though that would be awesome. And *tiring*!) -ED]

Worldcon Trip Report

Leave the Alamo; Take the Convention
by Mike Kennedy

PROLOGUE

LoneStarCon 3 <www.lonestarcon3.org> (LSC3), this year's World Science Fiction Convention (the 71st Worldcon), was held 29 August–2 September 2013 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, the Marriott Rivercenter (HQ, parties, evening events), the Marriott Riverwalk. The Hilton Palacio Del Rio was also used for overflow sleeping rooms. All facilities are on the San Antonio River Walk.

The honored Guests were Ellen Datlow, James Gunn, Willie Siros, Norman Spinrad, and Darrell K. Sweet (posthumous). The Toastmaster was Paul Cornell. Two Special Guests, Leslie Fish and Joe R. Lansdale, were also on the invited guests list. Hun-

dreds of other sf/f/h/etc. professionals (writers, artists, editors, and more), fans, and assorted other people were on the program.

TUESDAY 27 AUGUST—OUTBOUND TRAVEL

It's been several years (Denvention 3, 2008) since I made it to Worldcon—though I did make the 2010 NASFiC in Raleigh—and I was determined to make any reasonable effort to make it to San Antonio. Not the city, though it's a nice city as I saw at LoneStarCon 1 (NASFiC 3, 1985) and LoneStarCon 2 (Worldcon 55, 1997).

Part of the plan to make it involved cashing in airline miles, some dating back to Eastern Airlines then inherited by Continental then further inherited by United. That meant my outbound travel was less than convenient. Scheduled departure from HSV was 18:11, which did allow me to work most of a day and some scarce vacation hours. Sue Thorn took me to the airport (and, bless her heart, hosted my mother for the time I was gone) which worked with negligible glitches.

By the time I got to the airport (HSV) I already knew my flight was going to be late, but with a very long connection in Houston (IAH) it didn't matter a lot. Knowing of the slip, I changed plans on the fly and ate a fairly early, small, dinner at the airport (McAlister's—a decent chicken salad sandwich and chips). The food and some aspirin calmed the headache that was threatening.

I had luck on both flights with an empty seat next to me. On the first, I was moved from the 1-seat side of my RJ145 to an empty row. On the second, I had one of the *very* few empty seats next to me on an almost-full flight. I also had luck in IAH, finding some free wifi long enough to check the score on the Braves game (2–0, FTW!), even catching the last few outs live. At the gate area I had to depend on 4G cell coverage on my new toy, an iPad Mini.

The change of dinner plans I alluded to earlier meant I skipped eating at Pappadeaux <www.pappadeaux.com>, my fave spot at IAH. However, I would have had to trek from Terminal B to Terminal E and I don't think I'd have been up for that, anyway. I skipped my first opportunity to sample a Whataburger <www.whataburger.com>, or any of the other “fine” cuisine in the food court, and settled for some trail mix. It tided me over well enough.

I actually arrived at the San Antonio airport (SAT) a bit earlier than scheduled, wheels down at 23:58. Not that that helped a lot getting me to the hotel earlier than I'd hoped since I had a more than 20-minute wait for the GO Shuttle <www.goairportshuttle.com> (prepaid, perhaps foolishly given that delay) to take me and one other hearty soul to the Marriott Rivercenter (MRC). I was in my room about 01:15 and my head hit the pillow a little after 02:00.

WEDNESDAY 28 AUGUST—CON DAY 0

The con didn't start, officially, until Thursday, but I had con-ish plans for the day before—mostly registration, orienting myself a little to the Convention Center (CC) and MRC, getting my “Accessibility” ribbon, and checking in with the press office to get my “Press” ribbon.

I'd left a wakeup call for 10:30, but woke a little after 10:00 and decided to get up on my own. I was hungry by then, but I had stuff to do first. Email, pills, unpacking (I'd done only the bare minimum in the wee hours), shower, call Mom. I was finally dressed and ready to face the day about 11:45.

I'd intended to eat first, but one thing



View of Convention Center from the 18th floor of the Marriott Rivercenter

lead to another and I ended up walking to the CC via the River Walk (RW). I was through what seemed like a reasonably efficient con reg process and had my badge by 12:05. They didn't have the Souvenir Books yet (and I never managed get back to reg to pick up one), but gave me a Pocket Program and offered me a water bottle (which I chose not to take). The Accessibility (I think of it as Handicapped Access (HA)) table wasn't fully open but I did snag a ribbon—the theory being that it might help me with some long lines now and again. This was the first Worldcon I'd attended with a mobility aid (a cane, the result of illness and surgery earlier this year) and standing in a line for a moderate to long time is difficult.

I snagged a good chair inside the CC and cooled off for a bit, then walked back at street level (the RW is one level down from that) to the MRC and the attached Rivercenter Mall (hereinafter, just mall). To get there, you can cross the street north of the CC, cut through the Marriott Riverwalk, cross the next street, and enter either the MRC or the mall. There are button-activated traffic centers for each crosswalk, but the cycle times were horrendously long, so I ended up three-legging it across both streets against the signal.

I chose to go straight into the mall rather than the MRC because I knew there were restaurants attached. I got lost in the mall (it's not *that* big, but it is wrapped around one terminus of the RW and the connectivity between floors is not completely obvious). Eventually I found my way downstairs (but not involving actual stairs—the only elevator was quite hidden, but a helpful clerk gave me directions). I ended up at Chili's (yeah, a faux Tex-Mex restaurant in San Antonio) a bit before 12:40. Service was a bit slow getting started, but once it did it went fine. The food was good but there's little use describing it in detail since most *Shuttle* readers can visit a Chili's in their own town. I had a lunch special (half turkey sandwich, fries, small salad) with iced tea. Oh, and dessert. The only bad thing I can say is their tea was too strong for me, but I've found that to be true many places outside the Southeastern US. Nonetheless I drank about 4 large glasses—still being dehydrated from travel and the San Antonio heat.

While eating, I called Judy Smith to check on how her and Sam's travel was going. They'd arrived in the city, checked in to the MRC, and were at lunch—about a “15 minute” walk away. (I imagine it could have been twice that for me). She briefly described her adventures, working until 03:00, then a flight out of HSV before 07:00. A nap was predicted.

After lunch I searched out the con press office, to get my press ribbon. It turned out they had not received my registration info, but they didn't have the ribbons on hand anyway. I was told I could get one at the Press Conference at 10:00 Thursday—which I'd already planned to attend.

So, with all my Must Do items for the day accomplished (as much as I could, anyway) I went back to my hotel room to catch up on this report and relax. While I was typing, my phone started dingling with “urgent” text messages from gMail saying that various accounts I manage had suspicious activity. I think it traced to using my iPad as a hotspot so I could get internet access on my laptop without paying the moderately outrageous hotel prices for same. After soothing Google (<sarcasm> poor, poor, little lost Google </sarcasm>) I fielded a call from Judy saying nap time was *now*, but making tentative plans to meet for dinner that night.

I decided that putting my feet up and resting was my best plan—with perhaps some flipping through the Pocket Program (PP). LSC3 had two different versions of the program info available as web-apps. The not-quite-official one needed internet connectivity, the one driven by the official con web team

didn't (except for program and party updates). Features differed enough that different people would like one over the other. I was curious, though, what the PP itself might offer that the apps didn't. Eventually I took a short nap myself, though that was after Twitter and phone calls arranging for Gary Shelton, Uncle Timmy (Bolgeo), and Tish Groller to join the dinner crowd.

I woke up about 18:00... well it was a process starting about that time. At 18:30 Timmy called me, just as I had decided it was time to call Sam and Judy (S&J). We all met down in the MRC lobby and sashayed to the RW level of the mall to survey our easy dinner opportunities. After a circuit of the possibilities we decided on Tony Roma's. Our waiter was good—just enough attitude to be fun without going over the line into obnoxious. For instance, he ceremoniously tied bibs on all of us, even the ones who didn't order messy food. I don't usually



Mike, Tim, Gary, Tish, Sam (l to r) Judy snuck out of the pic

order messy foods myself when I eat out, but decided to try their beef ribs. Oh, my god. It was half a forequarter of beef. I tried to talk folks into taking a rib (or two) but they mostly had big servings themselves. Judy did try a bite, but no more. The sides (broccoli and mashed sweet potatoes) were of adequate quality. The servings of those looked on the small side, but that's probably because they were almost crowded off the edges of the oversize platter by the ribs. Other than having a bit too much sauce, I'd give the meat top marks. During dinner, some of us made plans to meet for lunch at Fogo de Chão <www.fogodechao.com>, a Brazilian steakhouse—of sorts. It's a combo table-service/AYCE buffet and semi-ridiculously expensive. Going the day after a gorge dinner was probably not wise, but it's the only time many of us WERE able to fit it in our plans; and dinner there is even more expensive.

We retired to TT&G's room for spades (Killer Cutthroat Spades, of course) afterwards. Tish and Judy sat out the game (each burying a nose in their Kindle) though Judy played several hands for Timmy. I had a slow start, but managed to creep close before Sam won with two killer hands in a row. I'd been exchanging Tweets with Jennifer Liang (JordanCon, Southern Fandom Association) and she and a friend (whose name I sadly can't recall) showed up as the game was winding down. Sam, Judy, and I left to try out the Boston in 2020 Christmas Worldcon “bid” party. (In case you're really tired while reading this, yes it is a hoax bid. The only serious bid for that year I know about is New Zealand <www.nzin2020.org>.) It was unclear if the 5 remaining in the room would put together a game of spades, though I think Jennifer wanted to.

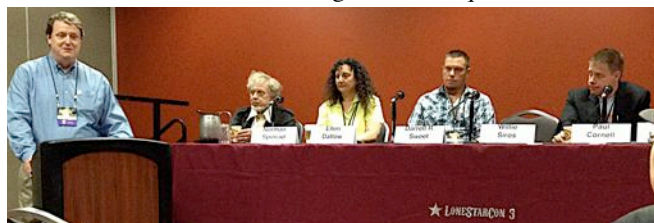
The Boston “bid” party was in a suite of two connecting rooms. It was packed. It was *beyond* packed. S&J (especially Sam, I think) quickly decided that meant it was time to call it a night. I thought a moment and decided they were right. I did linger just long enough to take some Christmas candy (3 small wrapped chocolates in red, green, and silver and a small candy cane) since—well—candy; Christmas; in August; what's not to like? Still, I was in my room and partly changed into night-clothes by 22:30. I even got ice for the night/morning. That gave me time to catch up on this report, eat my Christmas candy, and relax a little while before bedtime, which came just about midnight.

THURSDAY 29 AUGUST—CON DAY 1

Thursday's alarm went off at 08:00 so I could get my act together in time for the 10:00 Press Conference. What turned out to be First Breakfast was some bread from a loaf I'd saved when leaving Tony Roma's the evening before. That's me, limiting myself monastically to bread and water. Yeah, right, but in this case I was still full from all those ribs.

I turned on the TV for my first time this trip, in part because I was inexperienced traveling with my iPad and concerned I hadn't bought a big enough data plan. Besides, I reasoned, I could listen to the morning news while bustling (OK, hobbling) around the room getting ready. I was on my way to the CC about 09:30 and, despite a bit of trouble finding the room, seated before 09:50. I had my press ribbon, but only because the person who told me the day before I did not have to re-send my credentials happened to walk up. They never *did* add my name to the official list, which was to cause a minor problem later.

The Press Conference was somewhat sparsely attended. There had been an announcement on the convention website, but I suspect some of the fannish press was still unaware. There was—as far as I could tell—only one member of the actual fourth estate present; a local newspaperman. Most of the convention guests were there, though James Gunn was still in transit to the city and there was one other missing of whom I neglected to make note. The con chair, Randall Shepherd, said a few words as did each of the guests. The questions from the



Shepherd, Spinrad, Datlow, Darrell R. Sweet, Cornell (l to r) audience were mostly general and softball. I was just an observer. I did like the diss to Margaret Atwood (ask me privately which guest said it) and got to hear Cornell use one of his signature lines for the first time in my hearing—saying that being Toastmaster was much like being Beastmaster, except with toast.

One benefit of going was the unexpected opportunity for Second Breakfast. After the formal conference, the press office provided light refreshments. I didn't make it to the back of the room in time for a cup of coffee but I did have a couple of oversized cookies. Most or all of the guests present were but-tonholed for face time by one or more of the fan press, but I've never been particularly interested in interviews so I let that opportunity pass.

I had time to get back to the MRC and cool off in my room (and refill my cell minutes) before meeting Sam, Judy, Tish, and Gary in the lobby for lunch at noon. Fogo de Chão is squeezed in a street-front location between the hotel and the adjacent mall. The *modus operandi* of this type of Brazilian restaurant is that there are waiters roaming the restaurant each carrying one of about 15 types of grilled meat on a skewer. They carve off of it at the table, allowing diners to have as much of as many different kinds as they want. In addition, there's a "salad" bar with a selection of cheeses, cured meat, other meat products, and, well, some actual salad stuff. I took

the coward's way out and had the salad bar, which was pretty good. The other four, though, had the "full Brazilian" and, yes, they did walk funny afterward—especially Gary who had some of every type of meat and seconds of some.

I got to CC in time to catch my breath before getting lost on the way to find my first panel at 14:00. Well, I'd skipped "Coming of Age in the 60's" at noon to join the group for lunch. By the end of the day I knew my way around the large and oddly-shaped CC, but I certainly didn't at the beginning. The convention used rooms spread among a "basement" level with access from the RW, a first floor with street-level access, and a second floor. The CC is more-or-less bisected by the RW itself so it was fairly easy to find oneself on the wrong side of the river and having to take a circuitous route to cross over,

The panels and events I did see that day were:

- 14:00, "Hoaxes: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," Room 008B*—I enjoyed panel on some famous fannish "hoaxes" (including hoax bids) but they *seriously* needed mics and also could have used better lighting for the podium. By the end of the con the audio problems seemed to have been smoothed out in most rooms, but lighting never improved in the smaller rooms like this one.
- 15:00, "What's Necessary to Run a Good Small Convention?" 008B—The panelists definition of what comprised a small con (maybe 500–800) didn't match mine at all. Some other audience members seemed to have the same issues, but their comments and questions about cons in the sub-100–300 range went unaddressed. I missed having Warren Buff (who was apparently too busy putting out fires in the Exhibits division) on the panel; I imagine he might have been more understanding about cons in that smaller range.
- 16:00, "Parties and flyers: Bidding for Rotating Conventions" 101A—I was 10 minutes late getting there due to the distance to the room and my slow walk these days; *but* unless I missed something in those first several minutes they talked *only* about bidding/running Worldcons. I'd hoped they'd at least branch out to Westercon (the largest US rotating regional) and perhaps some of the non-US national cons that operating on a traveling basis. I had little hope there would be anything directly addressing DeepSouthCon, but thought perhaps I'd learn something that I could bring back home. Alas, I didn't, thought the panel was at least more entertaining than the one at 15:00.
- 17:00, "Opening Ceremonies," Ballroom A (1st floor)—As usual for such an event, there was really only one ceremony. (I know, I know, too pedantic.) It was fun; they ran it on a "wild west saloon" theme with Cornell (and his British accent) doing his best (or was that worse?) imitation of a saloonkeeper and having the guests join a poker game at one side of the stage as each was introduced. Many people in the audience—myself defiantly included—were moved when Darrell R. Sweet took the stage to stand in for his late father. This isn't the first time a GoH died before appearing at a con and sadly it won't be the last.
- 18:00, "5 Cons: A 21st Century Fandom Documentary—Interviews," 101B—Chris Garcia and Linda Wenzelburger are



Unknown interviewee, Garcia, Wenzelburger (l to r)

* Room numbers, unless noted, are in the Convention Center. The first digit represents the floor, where "0" is the River Walk level. By happenstance, I never went to a panel on the CC 2nd floor. The trailing letter, or letters, indicate subsections of a breakout room.

making a crowd-funded documentary about five cons they've attended in 2013 (of which Worldcon was the 4th). The event was a series live mini-interviews of audience members (including me); very fun. You can see snippets of their work at <5consdocumentary.weebly.com>. I appear briefly in "The Sandwich Question" segment, so be warned to cover your eyes at the appropriate moment.

I had marked a 19:00 showing of *Iron Sky* as a high-priority item, but I didn't feel I'd survive another couple of hours without something approximating dinner so I headed back to the MRC via the RW. For me I made great time; by 19:08 I was sitting on patio of Con Suite (on the 3rd floor of MRC) drinking a Diet Dr. Pepper. It was too hot to say out there long, so I snagged a second drink and went inside to get something to eat. It was no feast, but was sufficient.

I was joined after a bit by Robert A. (Bob) Madle <fancyclopedia.wikidot.com/bob-madle> and his wife Lisette. Mr. Madle is something of a legend in fannish circles, having been one attendee at what is often claimed to be the first science fiction convention, in 1936 <fancyclopedia.wikidot.com/first-convention>. In addition to other things, he's been a TAFF <taff.org.uk> winner, was Fan GoH at the 35th Worldcon (SunCon, Miami Beach, 1977), is a Big Heart Award winner, is in the First Fandom Hall of Fame, and is indeed a founding member of First Fandom. They were just looking for a quiet place to sit, rest, and perhaps talk. We did all three.

We talked cons for a long time—he had much better (and many more) stories than me but I got a few licks in. We even discovered a mutual friend, though sadly deceased. Rusty Hevelin—who did several good turns for Con+Stellation in our early years—had nearly been Bob's Brother in Law! Eventually I asked if I could introduce him to Chris Garcia to do a 5-Cons interview and he said yes. I did that and excused myself to go seek out Spades; I'd been told earlier to seek them on 2nd floor of the hotel.

In retrospect, this sandwich of old friends at the Spades table and new acquaintances in the Con Suite might summarize what is best about conventions for me. Anyway, I got to the game in time to take over the last few hands of a game for Karen Boyd and lost against Timmy, Gary, and Kerry Gilley. The four of us played another game, which I lost all on my own. Sam was kibitzing for part of this but wandered off to panel.

Not long after 22:00 Sam came back from "Just a Minute" (in the CC) and some of us toddled off to find a few parties. Well, I only did one—"Texas Conventions Party" (four Texas cons combining for a party). All the parties were in the MRC; most above the 25th floor, which is where the changeover was between banks of elevators. The Texas party, though, was in room 544 which meant I could catch an elevator in the lower bank to get to my room on the 18th floor without having to change. I stayed only about 10–15 minutes. Gary and Sam went on to other parties (there were lots that night including NASFiC bid parties for Detroit and Phoenix; Worldcon bid parties for Spokane, Helsinki, and Orlando; a con party for Shamrokon (<www.shamrokon.ie>, the 2014 Eurocon); a BookSworn book launch party; and more). Tim, I think, when straight from Spades to the Phoenix party.

I was back in my room with a full ice bucket before 23:00. I never did have an actual supper though the Con Suite furnished some sustenance (cheese, a fat 1/2 peanut butter sandwich, and some sweets). I missed the hot dogs that were put out while I was talking to Mr. Madle; it was *totally* worth it. I grazed a little at the one party I made and finished the Toni Roma's bread in my room. This was the day I fell hopelessly behind on writing this report in semi-real time. For the rest of the trip I

settled for partially transcribing my handwritten notes (along with some details that still stuck in my mind each day). I got to bed around midnight.

FRIDAY 30 AUGUST—CON DAY 2

Friday's alarm was again 08:00, this time so I could make it to the first ("Preliminary") session of the Business Meeting. For readers who may not recall, the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS, <wsfs.org>) is the unincorporated body that sets the rules for Worldcon Site Selection and Hugo voting. All members of a given Worldcon are WSFS members but only a relative minority generally stir themselves to come to the three (occasionally four) sessions of the Business Meeting.

In getting ready so early breakfast was fairly uninteresting; some crunchy granola bars I'd brought from home for just the purpose of these somewhat rushed mornings.

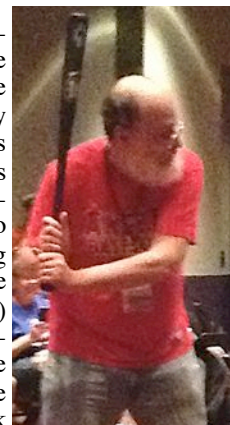
That first meeting of the Business Meeting produced some results on its own, including a number of defeats that might have been predictable. It also took reports of several committees and set debate times for WSFS Constitutional Amendments. The totality of the results for all three days are collected in a separate article.



Business Meeting Staff

The Preliminary session had a 3-hour block reserved, but they tried, and almost succeeded, to adjourn for the day by noon. That let me get a reasonable start on my day's programming, which included:

- 12:00, "74th Annual Worldcon Baseball Match: Fans vs Pros Whiffle Ball," Ballroom A—Indoor Whiffle ball is *quite* an appropriately silly event for a Worldcon. The teams didn't quite divide up in fans versus pros, but there was good representation of each. I missed the start due to the Business Meeting adjourning slightly after noon (and being on the other side of the CC and a floor below) but I caught most of it. All the participants and spectators (of which there were too few) had a *great* time. The final score was close, but I don't think anyone cared that much who won.
- 14:00, "The Future of the Future," 001AB—Spinrad pointed out that story is not the same as plot, and in his opinion too much fiction has too much of the latter at the expense of the former.
- 15:00, "Fannish Inquisition: Future Worldcons and NASFiCs" (2 hours), 006CD—This included a presentation by the upcoming Worldcon (Loncon 3 <www.loncon3.org>) and by Worldcon and NASFiC bids going forward. There were new (to me, at least) bids that showed up here (and elsewhere at the con). A list of all of these is in a separate article.
- 19:00, "Art Show Reception" (3 hours), Exhibit Hall A (1st floor)—I didn't arrive until about 20:20, by which time the fans had reduced the assorted finger food to nothing but cheese and crackers. I probably had time to see most of the Art Show (at slightly less than a gallop) before the Chesley Awards, but not the stamina. As it was, I got to about half the 2-D work and almost none of the 3-D work. Unfortunately I never made it back to the Art Show for the rest of the con.



Stan Schmidt at bat

- 21:00, “Chesley Awards Ceremony,” 103B—The Association of Science Fiction & Fantasy Artists <www.asfa-art.org> annually gives the Chesleys as peer awards to recognize individual works and achievements in genre art. The ceremony includes large, gorgeous slides of almost all the nominated works—that alone makes it worth going. Winners are listed in a separate article collecting many of the awards given at (but not necessarily sponsored by) Worldcon each year.

I missed many things I would have liked to have done that day. Perhaps chief among those was the “Darrell K. Sweet Memorial Slide Show” at 13:00, but I had to fit in lunch sometime. As it was, I only had time for a chef salad in the CC, though it wasn’t bad. Dinner (at Tre Trattoria <www.tretrattoria.com>—a reasonably close Tuscan Italian place—with S&J) also stepped on some panels I might have attended also. I had parmigiano

fried chicken (which turned out to be pretty standard fried chicken with a minor addition of cheese on top) with creamed potatoes and brussels sprouts. The sprouts were grilled, with coarse-chopped bacon, an interesting variation. One side effect of dinner was making a new “friend” on the way back to the CC.



Mike and Bear in HemisFair Park,
photo by Judy Smith

Besides meals, participating in Site Selection voting (for both the 2014 NASFiC and 2015 Worldcon) also kept me away from a panel I’d have like to see—“The Future of Fandom.” at 17:00.

After the Chesleys, I made my way slowly back to the MRC. On my way to the Con Suite (craving sweets) I ran into Sam, Judy, Karen, and Kerry playing Spades. I kibitzed for the rest of that game (which was only about 3 hands) then went looking for those sweets. I settled for some peanut M&Ms, then staggered up to my room. No parties for me that night; even so it was just minutes before midnight before I hit the sack.

SATURDAY 31 AUGUST—CON DAY 3

Second verse, same as the first—you can re-read Friday’s lead paragraph, substituting the day and substituting “Main” as the title of the Business Meeting session. Lots of business was addressed in a surprisingly short time (three cheers for the Business Meeting staff!)—but again I refer you to the separate article for details.

The Main Business Meeting was quick enough (just over 90 minutes) that I could squeeze in lunch (a prepackaged sandwich and a banana from the CC food concession) and still make it to a noon panel. I found a rare empty chair as a father and daughter were leaving a table. I didn’t notice until I was well into eating that some of the other chairs at the table were in use (albeit turned away from the table) by Gardner Dozois, Ellen Datlow, and Robert Silverberg. I didn’t immediately recognize the others in their party but I can honestly say I had lunch with those notables. Kind of. They, of course, had no idea who I was and likely didn’t even notice me in particular.

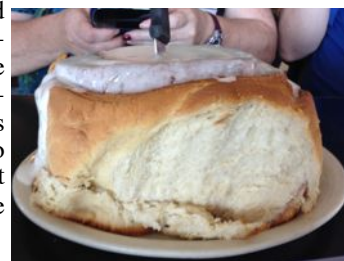
Programs and events I made it to that day included:

- 12:00, “In Memoriam: Darrell K. Sweet,” 103B—An all-star panel moderated by Toni Weisskopf presented wonderful visuals and great Sweet stories. Most everyone who ever met

Darrell knows how well deserved his last name was.

- 13:00, “Rocket Scientists, Geeks, and Mystics,” 001AB—This wasn’t what I was expecting based on the program description (though in retrospect I didn’t read it closely enough). More negatively, the panel was dominated by the Moderator and his views on skepticism. There was one great quote, though describing a potential role for popular science done right: “There’s a space between Sheldon and Penny and someone needs to fill it.” Hey, I don’t even watch *The Big Bang Theory* and I got it.
- 14:00, “30 Great SF & Fantasy Films You Almost Certainly Haven’t Seen,” 007B—Four panelists gave rapid-fire and often ultra-short descriptions of personal favorites or other films they thought of note. OK, *not* all of them were “Great” but most were at least very interesting (though I’m not sure about the fellow who was fixated on Korean cinema). They listed way more than 30 films between them.
- 15:00, “Fan Fund Auction” (2 hours), 006A—The auction had items sold in support of DUFF <taff.org.uk/duff.html> and TAFF; the several other funds (like CUFF <fanac.org/fan_funds/cuff.html> and GUFF <taff.org.uk/guff.html>) weren’t represented. Several items went well into the double digits, though most sold for under \$50 and a significant number under \$20. I bid on several items that looked at first as if they might go fairly cheaply, but all ended up more dear than I wanted to pay. Just seeing Chris Garcia auctioning (he did about half that duty) made it worth going.
- 20:00, “Masquerade,” MRC Ballroom—S&J had saved me a seat (I’d gone upstairs after dinner to “dress” for the event; that is, to change into a nicer shirt). My Accessibility status allowed me to skip to the head of the line, but by the time I got there the line was short enough I could have dispensed with that perk and been OK. The event’s staff seemed to be keeping things moving nicely. There were about 30 entries, including 1 not in competition and 5 Young Fan entries. There was no one Knock-Your-Socks-Clean-Off entry, but overall I found it a strong show. I didn’t see a single entry—including all the Young Fans and Novices—that didn’t belong on the stage at this level and that’s rare. The winners are listed elsewhere in this issue.

Right after the Fan Fund auction, S&J took me along to a local diner, Lulu’s, <www.luluscafeinsa.com> for dinner. The specialties of the house are chicken fried steak and a 3-pound cinnamon roll. S&J shared a CFS *with queso sauce*; I had liver and onions because I can’t get that often. The three of us together tackled a cinnamon roll—we couldn’t finish it, though we gave it a good effort. Going semi-far off-site to eat did cost me some possible panels, most notably “Satire is What Closes on Saturday Night.” It also cost a little worry about getting back in time for the Masquerade because the return taxi was slow in arriving; but in the end we made it.



Lulu’s Cinnamon Roll is as
Big as Your Head (well, almost)

After the Masquerade proper, S&J headed out their separate ways. I waited a bit as Leslie Fish started the “halftime” entertainment, then noticed a text message cluing me in on the location of the Baen party. (I left my cell phone set on vibrate most of the con, so I was consistently late noticing messages.) I only heard a couple Fish songs, and completely skipped out on the Drew Heyen magic show.

Since I'd missed my one party for the evening on Friday I decided to try two tonight. I went by Baen (which always has a fascinating pro/wannabe/fan mix*) for a while then went further upstairs to the New Orleans 2018 Worldcon Bid party <neworleansin2018.org>, which was insanely crowded. Two parties did mean I didn't make it to bed until closer to 00:30 than to midnight.

SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER—CON DAY 4

Third verse, same as the... well, you get the idea. (One minor difference—I did have time to drop by the Con Suite to grab an apple to supplement the granola bars.) The “Site Selection” session of the Business Meeting session is so called because it receives the official report of the Worldcon (and NASFiC, when appropriate) Site Selection voting. In my earliest Worldcon memories, this was nominally the first public announcement of that result. Since word inevitably leaked at least some cognoscenti (and usually further afield), that pretense was dropped. This year, oddly, there was no official con publication listing the winners on the counting night but the results were public on Twitter and elsewhere.

Still, leaks or not, the vote isn't official until it's received by the Business Meeting on behalf WSFS as a whole. And, there can be leftover business from the Main session to handle—though there was remarkably little of that this year, given the size of the initial agenda. See the separate article elsewhere for a rundown of the results.

I didn't make it to quite as many panels and events on this 4th day, instead devoting some of the afternoon to perusing some of the Exhibits and touring a small part of the Dealers Room.



Dealers Room Panorama (partial)

The panels, etc. I did catch were:

- 13:00, “Forgiving History,” 006A—Can you read *and enjoy* classic fiction with outdated views on gender, race, violence, etc.? No firm conclusions were reached by the panel because, well, “it depends.” It was a lively but pleasingly unrancorous hour.
- 14:00, “Survival of the Biggest (Internet) Power,” 006A—The panelists were at odds on the direction they preferred for the future of government, business, privacy, and more. It was as lively as the previous panel but not nearly as unrancorous. I nearly fall out of my chair laughing (well, OK, not literally) when one fellow suggested that Bitcoin will kill PayPal and the like. Apparently, Bitcoin being Open Source makes it Magically Delicious.
- 15:00, “The Worldcon History Exhibit,” 003B—A new organization (the Worldcon Heritage Organization) has been formed (and is currently seeking 501(c)3 status) to conserve the large Worldcon History Exhibit. This panel was in part a brainstorming session on what to do and in part a plea for help.
- 20:00, “Hugo Awards Ceremony,” MRC Ballroom—Those who complain about the length of the Hugo ceremony (and I'm not one) had some cause to do so this year as it was about 15 minutes late getting started and ran until well after

22:45. It was about an hour before the first Hugo Award was given, though only about half that time could be “reclaimed” to shorten the ceremony as there's really no other fitting place to put the In Memoriam section or the presentation by the designer of the Hugo base. By the way, Mr. Villafranca's <www.villafrancasculpture.com> design knocked it out of the park. During the ceremony he gave a verbal 3500 year warranty on his cast bronze base—“but you have to come find me.” The award winners are listed in a separate article elsewhere in this issue.

My meals that day, apart from breakfast, were interesting—in quite different ways. At lunch my chef salad was fine but S&J both received jalapeno bread on their chicken salad sandwich at the CC food concession rather than the promised wheat. It would probably have been fine with me, but not them. Sam eventually ate leftover cinnamon roll from Lulu's, among other things, for his lunch. Dinner was at Maria Mia, a Mexican restaurant in the mall, and was interesting in a much better way. The large group of friends gathered included me, Tim, Tish, Gary, Sam, Judy, and Mark Paulk. The servings were huge and everyone seemed to enjoy it thoroughly.

Because the lineup for elevators after the Hugos promised to be epic, I hung around afterwards on the same floor of the MRC as the Ballroom. (Yeah, I could have Accessibility-ribboned my way to the front of the line but that didn't seem right given that I am still mostly mobile.) Fortunately, the Con Suite was on that same level which meant I could get a sandwich (hey, dinner was early; 17:00-ish), a drink, and some snacks while waiting for the crowd to get sensible. It was maybe 10–15 minutes before midnight by the time I got to my room (no parties for me again that night) and rapidly approaching 01:00 before I got to bed.

MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER—CON DAY 5

With no Business Meeting, and no personal Must See program items starting at that horrid 10:00 hour, I could sleep in all the way to 09:00. So I did. Breakfast was the same-old same-old.

The final day at a Worldcon is a bit shorter, and I was a lot tired. The panels and events I did catch were:

- 11:00, “Higgs Boson Found; Where Do We Go from Here?,” 008A—There were no *working* high-energy physicists on the panel, but there was one recent PhD in that specialty (albeit she's trying to start a genre writing career). Perhaps the best quote was that if the Higgs-like particle seen by the LHC turns out to not be *the* Higgs it could be the “tip of a particle iceberg.” Or not, of course.
- 13:00, “Can Traditional SF Convention Survive Multimedia Conventions,” 007B—As is “traditional” the panel drifted pretty far off topic at times, but I did pick up a couple of ideas I might be able to help apply to Con+Stellation some year. And no, I'm not going to tell you what they are; you should have been at the panel if you wanted to know. I also picked up a rumor of another potential Worldcon bid.
- 15:00, “Closing Ceremonies,” Ballroom A—They were about 15 minutes late getting all the tech working and everything ready, but part of that was offset by a live Dalek “attack”



* I was sitting near the entrance to the suite. Until the room filled up, by far the most common question asked when entering the Baen party was “Where's Toni?” I'm betting most of those asking were hoping to pitch her a book.

down the center aisle. The ceremony ran the full hour. The only potential complaint was all the time the Chairman spent calling individual people up to the stage to get special ribbons. Yeah, it could have been organized more efficiently but I'll cut them a *little* slack—they had to all be just as tired as I was. Party awards (see the separate article on assorted awards) were announced. The chairs for next year's London Worldcon arrived on stage from a (cardboard) TARDIS to tell us all how good *that* convention "was." The "gavel" used to close LoneStarCon 3 and turned over to Loncon 3 was a Sonic Screwdriver.

Lunch itself that day (a sandwich, banana, and chips at the CC food service area) was adequate but not terribly memorable. However, it gave me an opportunity to hang out a while with Tim and Gary, who were trying to find Tish so they could hit the road and wish them goodbye and safe travels.

Dinner was with S&J at The County Line barbecue restaurant on the RW. Sam and I had intended to meet Judy at a different barbecue joint as she walked back from Market Square toward the MRC, but they turned out to be closed for Labor Day. That's OK, the taxi driver found the first place (and Judy) and took us to the second. I had a combo smoked chicken and beef brisket plate. The chicken was good, but not as good as that at any number of North Alabama places. The brisket was better, though still not really To Die For. The peach cobbler I had for dessert was very good; probably hovering between the chicken and the brisket. What was (almost) TDF-good were the black-eyed peas. They were cooked right (by my lights; fully soft but not quite falling apart) and they'd spiced them with a just-slightly-hot* chili that had a great flavor. The peas were the veggie of the day and the peach cobbler was the cobbler of the day, so I can't promise you'll find either on the menu should you seek out this restaurant. If they are, though, I recommend them.

After dinner we took a river taxi back to the MRC. All of us stopped briefly by the Con Suite, then printed our separate boarding passes. S&J had a very early flight, so we bid each other goodnight and a mutual "see you back in Huntsville." I was back in my room shortly before 20:00 to begin packing and such. For a change I was to bed "early," a bit after 23:30.



Arriving at the Marriott Rivercenter by River Taxi

TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER—HOMEBOUND TRAVEL

And I got up early too—well, early for a con—at 07:30. I had a modest amount of packing to finish (as well as the determination to have a good breakfast) and wanted to have enough time to rush at all.

I had breakfast in the hotel restaurant, where either the waiter or the cook doesn't understand the term "break the yolks" with respect to fried eggs. Breakfast was overpriced but apart from the eggs being undercooked reasonably good. My pickup from the GO Shuttle was pretty much on time (10:40) though it was concerning when another shuttle pulled up to the curb a few minutes before then scooted along after a brief pause. The trip to the airport was an extension of the con in a way; there were

five of us fans (I was by far the oldest) on the way home, all still talking about the con and plans for future cons.

I nearly caught up to S&J at SAT as their early flight had been canceled. Fortunately for them they were rebooked quickly and made it to town mid-afternoon instead of in time for lunch. For my flights, I had just as much luck on the way home as I did out; if not more. On the first leg (to IAH) I had an empty seat beside me; one of only two on the whole ERJ-170. The connection at IAH was rather inconvenient, involving a change of terminal and long walks at each; but I did have enough time to do it without trouble. I even had time to eat "lunch" (my final granola bars) at the departure gate. On the second leg (home) two sisters decided they'd rather sit together and opened up a 2-seat row for me rather than the single I'd been crammed into. Ah, blessed relief!

I got to HSV on time and found Sue waiting there, with Mom, to pick me up. I think I was walking slower than at any point before in my life as I crossed the traffic lane to the passenger pickup area. We stopped at the Blue Plate Cafe <blueplatecafe.com> on the way home. I had the chicken & dressing, pinto beans, broccoli casserole, and strawberry shortcake; all delicious.

Something even more delicious happened after dinner. I'd had a grand time at LoneStarCon 3 but this tired puppy was happy to be home.

WRAPUP

If you've made it this far you have a good idea how my Worldcon trip went and how much I enjoyed it. Still, there are some observations I want to make that didn't fit in the flow of the report so far.

Judy was a major worker bee, for which she needs a hug the next time you see her. Tasks I know she took on were door dragon, program ops (signaling the end of panels), and elevator lobby host after both the Masquerade and Hugos. That last was doubtless the most stressful duty, keeping the queues moving smoothly and halting people so as to not overload the elevators.

The program was very good *to my taste* though others had legitimate complaints. There were only 4 (out of almost 1000) program items tagged Anime and 2 tagged Gaming. They did make some effort to run some non English language programs, with 15 in Spanish (or bilingual English/Spanish).

While talking about programming I need to mention the *Song of the South* kerfuffle. This now controversial 1946 Disney setting of the Uncle Remus stories was intended to be presented in the same vein as the aforementioned "Forgiving History" panel but teh interwebs blew up in the week or two leading up to the con, with a lot of *sturm und drang*. What could have been an important event ended up canceled because shrill voices carried the day and there was no time for sense to prevail.

One report I wanted to pass on is definitely *not* from personal experience. Fan, writer, bibliographer, publisher, and editor Steven H Silver was tapped to accept Joss Whedon's Hugo (Dramatic Presentation, Long) took advantage of having possession of the trophy to raise money for the various fan funds. Silver is quoted as saying:

"I raised \$176 for the Fan Funds by letting people hold the Hugo I accepted as I wandered around the party floors. I started this fundraiser in 2009 in Montreal when Aliette de Bodard and Christopher Kastensmidt asked if they could hold it and I jokingly asked for \$5. After they reached their wallets, I kept it up and raised over \$200 that

* Yes, yes, I'm aware that some of my friends might tell you that just-slightly-hot has to be a significant understatement.

year to be divided between TAFF, DUFF and CUFF. Figured I'd continue this year."

I went to the fewest parties I've been to at any Worldcon. Had the program caught less or my attention, or had the hotel been immediately next to the CC so I could more easily go back to the room for a nap on occasion, I'd have doubtless seen more of the social scene (albeit less seen programming). To a large extent Sam made up for my shirking, hitting pretty much every major party and a lot of the smaller ones.

The San Antonio weather was *very* hot (triple digits several days) but otherwise quite good. There was no rain that I saw which might not be good for the city but was great for us tourists. Walking along the RW was shadier and cooler than at street level, though never cool, except when passing by some air conditioned business with their doors open. I did get mildly cold a very few times since was dressed for heat in a chilled CC. I'd brought sweater just for this possibility, but never needed to carry it with me. Others were affected more and *did* use sweaters and even knit caps indoors at the CC.

Wi-fi access to the internet was expected to be free in fairly small areas, and rather costly in others. On the ground, the free signals covered more of the CC than defined, but I was still glad I had my new toy with me to use as a hotspot for my laptop in my room. I paid about \$20 for a month of (limited) 4G access versus around \$10–\$16 a day in my hotel room plus \$13 a day to cover just certain parts of the CC.

The Hugo Awards were webcast via Ustream. You may recall that the same was true last year, but the stream was cut off when bots at Ustream "saw" copyrighted material being used for the Dramatic Presentations—never mind that Worldcon had permission to do so. This year that wasn't a problem, but the con itself had hardware issues that caused interruptions. Sigh. Don't believe that this tech is easy, it's not. In any case, the full 'cast is available online at <www.ustream.tv/recorded/38546105>.

Total attendance was roughly in line for modern US Worldcons, due in large part to a very high total of one-day members—reported in multiple places as around 1100. The total of warm bodies on site was 4311 (includes those one-days) and total membership was 6060 (includes Supporting members and (probably) no-show Attending members). Those latter two numbers were 4743/6197 last year in Chicago and 4112/5526 the year before in Reno.

Next year's Worldcon will be in London and will be held 14–18 August 2013 at the ExCel London Docklands, with sleeping rooms at more than a half dozen hotels nearby. Guests of Honour will be Iain M Banks, John Clute, Malcolm Edwards, Chris Foss, Jeanne Gomoll, Robin Hobb, and Bryan Talbot. Check elsewhere in this issue for a list of upcoming Worldcons, NASFiCs, and bids.

Hugo & Campbell Awards

The 2013 Hugo and Campbell Awards were announced and presented at a ceremony the evening of Sunday 1 September at LoneStarCon 3, the 71st World Science Fiction Convention, 1848 valid ballots were received for the final ballot, representing about 42.1% of the Supporting and Attending members as of the vote deadline. The ceremony was MCed by LSC3 Toastmaster Paul Cornell. A full breakdown of the preferential voting can be found on the official Hugo website at <www.thehugoawards.org/content/pdf/2013HugoStatistics.pdf>.

The Hugo Awards are given by the convention and repre-

sent perhaps the preeminent awards in all of genre fiction, fandom, and related work. The Campbell is for the best new professional sf/f writer of the last two years (2011 and 2012). It is given by Dell Magazines and administered by the Worldcon under the same nominating and voting rules as the Hugos.

Novel *Redshirts: A Novel with Three Codas*, John Scalzi (Tor)

Novella *The Emperor's Soul*, Brandon Sanderson (Tachyon Publications)

Novelette "The Girl-Thing Who Went Out for Sushi," Pat Cadigan (*Edge of Infinity*, Solaris)

Short Story "Mono no Aware," Ken Liu (*The Future is Japanese*, VIZ Media LLC)

Related Work *Writing Excuses* Season Seven, Brandon Sanderson, Dan Wells, Mary Robinette Kowal, Howard Tayler, and Jordan Sanderson

Graphic Story *Saga*, Volume One, written by Brian K. Vaughan, illustrated by Fiona Staples (Image Comics)

Dramatic Presentation, Long Form *The Avengers*, screenplay and directed by Joss Whedon (Marvel Studios, Disney, Paramount)

Dramatic Presentation, Short Form *Game of Thrones*, "Blackwater," written by George R.R. Martin, directed by Neil Marshall. created by David Benioff and D.B. Weiss (HBO)

Editor, Short Form Stanley Schmidt

Editor, Long Form Patrick Nielsen Hayden

Professional Artist John Picacio

Semiprozine *Clarkesworld*, edited by Neil Clarke, Jason Heller, Sean Wallace and Kate Baker

Fanzine *SF Signal*, John DeNardo, JP Frantz, and Patrick Hester, eds.

FanCast *SF Squeecast*, Elizabeth Bear, Paul Cornell, Seanan McGuire, Lynne M. Thomas, Catherynne M. Valente (presenters) and David McHone-Chase (technical producer)

Fan Writer Tansy Rayner Roberts

Fan Artist Galen Dara

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer Mur Lafferty

The Hugo Awards wouldn't be the same without a controversy or three. This year's biggest is likely to be a ruling of the administrators that a certain work ("The Lady Astronaut of Mars," Mary Robinette Kowal) was not eligible in the Novelette category because it was released in the eligibility year (2012) *only* as an audio book and not in printed form. The ruling was necessary because the work did receive enough Novelette noms that it would have made the ballot *if eligible*. (FWIW, a printed version was released later, but not until early the following year.)

This has excited Ms Kowal's fans—and other folks as well—to no end. The administrators also ruled that the audio work *would* have been eligible in the Dramatic Presentation (Short Form) category but it didn't get enough nominations there. Unfortunately, Ms Kowal didn't find out about the ruling until after the Hugo ceremony; while she was at the "Hugo Losers Party" (which she was attending as a Hugo *winner*, in the Best Related Work category).

There will doubtless be Constitutional Amendments (or at least Resolutions of Continuing Effect) introduced at next year's Worldcon Business Meeting to make clear the ambiguity about where audio works of fiction belong—in the prose categories (Novel, Novella, Novelette, Short Story) or in the Dramatic Presentation categories (Short, Long). In fact, dueling proposals of opposite meaning will likely appear as there are people who believe strongly on both sides of this argument.

(And, of course, some in both camps believe their way is *obviously* right and just.)

Regardless of the outcome in next year's Business Meeting, a change in procedure for the Hugo administrators seems likely—to avoid a repeat of the “potential nominee finds out they were ruled ineligible when told by other people who saw the stats at the Hugo Losers Party” scenario. But don't be too harsh on the Hugo administrators. It's a tough job and I'm sure both that the eligibility rulings were made in good faith and that no disrespect was intended to Ms Kowal.

Worldcon and NASFiC Site Selection Results

A summary Site Selection results for the 2015 Worldcon and the 2014 NASFiC is presented here; please check the LSC3 website for full details (including breakdown by day of vote). Voting is by preferential ballot.

2015 WORLDCON SITE SELECTION

Three committees were bidding for this convention, Helsinki FI, Orlando FL, and Spokane WA. As is usual, a number of write-in votes (for sites not eligible since they did not file paperwork) were also cast.

2015 Worldcon Vote, Preferential Round 1

Helsinki	528
Orlando	304
Spokane.....	470
None of the Above.....	7
Invalid Ballots	3
10 Various Write-In “Candidates”	16
Total Votes with Preference	1328
Needed to Win (majority of above)	665
No Preference	20
Total Votes	1348

Since no candidate had enough votes to win, a second round of counting was needed. By rule, all votes for None of the Above and for ineligible write-ins were removed and the second place choice (if any) of those ballots counted.

2015 Worldcon Vote, Preferential Round 2

Helsinki	533
Orlando	307
Spokane.....	481
Total Votes with Preference	1321
Needed to Win (majority of above)	661
No Preference	27
Total Votes	1348

Since no candidate had enough votes to win, a third round of counting was needed. By rule, all votes for the committee with the lowest total (Orlando) were removed and the next place choice (if any) of those ballots counted.

2015 Worldcon Vote, Preferential Round 3

Helsinki	610
Spokane.....	645
Total Votes with Preference	1255
Needed to Win (majority of above)	628
No Preference	93
Total Votes	1348

Having achieved a majority of the votes still expressing a preference, Spokane was declared the winner.

2014 NASFiC SITE SELECTION

Two committees were bidding for this convention, Detroit MI and Phoenix AZ. In this case very few write-in votes (for

sites not eligible since they did not file paperwork) were cast.

Detroit	231
Phoenix	210
None of the Above.....	1
Invalid Ballots	0
2 Write-In “Candidates”	2
Total Votes with Preference	444
Needed to Win (majority of above)	223
No Preference.....	9
Total Votes.....	453

Having achieved a majority of the votes expressing a preference, Detroit was declared the winner.

Worldcon Business Meeting Report

The Business Meeting at each Worldcon is open to all Attending members and sets the rules (WSFS Constitution and other documents) for the Hugos and for Worldcon Site Selection. Amendments to the Constitution have to be passed at two consecutive Worldcons and take effect at the end of the second of those. There were no Constitutional Amendments that received first passage at Chicago last year, so none were passed forward to San Antonio for potential second passage.

In reading the results below, note that most votes (whether requiring a simple majority or some supermajority) were lopsided enough that they could be decided a by show of hands.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS RECEIVING FIRST PASSAGE

An amendment to remove the requirement that electronic publications be *opt in* only received first passage. If this receives second passage in London, future Worldcons will then be allowed to have either paper or electronic publications as the default for members; or even some of each. (For example, the default for Progress Reports could be electronic while the default for the Souvenir Program Book could be paper.)

An amendment to add more details to the financial reports that Worldcons and NASFiCs (seated or past) must make each year to the Business Meeting—until any surplus is distributed “for the benefit of WSFS as a whole”—received first passage. The wording passed was significantly simplified from that originally proposed.

An amendment to greatly expand the definition of the Best Fan Artist Hugo category (to include visual and performance art) was mostly gutted but received first passage. The reworked amendment will explicitly allow for art displayed at conventions to qualify a Fan Artist for a given year.

Two amendments to reduce the supermajority required for two different types of Hugo eligibility extension (the “specific works” and “non-US works” exemptions) received first passage.

An amendment that would make the “non-US works” Hugo extension automatic (rather than requiring an annual supermajority vote) received first passage on a counted vote (44–32). If this receives second passage it may obviate the need for continuing the Hugo Eligibility for the Rest Of the World (HEROW) committee past London.

An amendment to remove the requirement that elected members of the Mark Protection Committee (MPC) come from different geographical zones received first passage. The amendment would also remove the zone definitions from the Constitution since the MPC member limits is the only reason

left for those definitions. Zones had previously been used to limit the location of sites that could bid for a given year's Worldcon.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS THAT FAILED FIRST PASSAGE

A more complicated alternate to the publications amendment failed. It would have required that paper pubs be available but there could be an extra charge.

A pair of overlapping amendments concerning the available types of Worldcon Memberships and their associated WSFS Voting rights (Hugos, Site Selection) were referred to a committee which will report next year at London. The committee can recommend some combination, but cannot actually replace the two separate items on their own.

An amendment to establish a new Hugo category for Best Dramatic Presentation, Very Short Form and to make modifications to the wording of the existing DP Hugos failed on an Objection to Consideration. An OTC cuts off all debate if a 2/3 supermajority believes the question basically stands no chance.

An amendment to delete the Best Fanzine, Best Fan Writer, and Best Fan Artist Hugo categories failed on an OTC. It should be noted that this amendment was apparently brought by traditionalists who believe that the fan categories (especially fanzine) have been distorted out of recognition by nontraditional items (like blogs) being considered eligible (and indeed winning).

There was an attempt by the maker to withdraw an amendment to add a Young Adult Hugo category but this requires unanimous consent and did not receive it. (Once an item is on the agenda the maker is no more privileged than any other member of the assembly.) The amendment then failed on an OTC. However, a committee was formed by the assembly to study the possibility of a YA Hugo category and will report next year at London. Per the maker of the original motion this was considered by her to be a significant win.

OTHER BUSINESS

A Resolution was passed by unanimous consent to endorse the activities of the Worldcon Heritage Organization and to encourage Worldcon committees to donate some of their surplus funds (if any) to that organization.

A Resolution was passed by unanimous consent to direct the secretary of the Business Meeting to rearrange certain wording in the Constitution to make it easier to read. No substantive changes were made.

Separate resolutions to extend eligibility for the Retro Hugos (to be administered by London next year) for *The Hobbit* (the book) and for films released only in one theater in 1937 failed on separate OTCs. The latter was intended to extend eligibility for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*.

The HEROW committee was extended for another year and the section 3.2.3 Hugo extension (for works published in the US for the first time) was also passed.

Various other committees were extended and members elected or appointed. The MPC (which helps guard the Worldcon service marks like "Hugo" and "World Science Fiction Society") had all expiring members reelected. Most past and seated Worldcons (excepting L.A.con IV, 2006) that owed financial reports to the Business Meeting filed a report and sent the required representative to the meeting. LA did file a printed report, but had no one present to answer questions. Their printed report shows only about \$2300 left to distribute, but many of the expenditures are vague enough (e.g., "Equipment—extension cords, TV") that it could be reasonably questioned if they are really for WSFS as a whole or if they benefit only LA cons.

Worldcon Masquerade Results

The Masquerade at LoneStarCon 3 was MCed by Paul Cornell. The Masquerade Director was Jill Eastlake; the Stage Manager was Kathy Thornton. Workmanship Judges were John Hertz and Michele Weinstein. Presentation Judges were John O'Halloran, Pierre Pettinger, and Sandy Pettinger. The judging was done using an adapted version of the International Costumers' Guild <www.costume.org>.

There were 29 competitive entries: 5 Young Fan, 14 Novice, 6 Journeyman, and 4 Master. There was one entry not in competition and two scratches before the start of the show. Awards are shown below divided into Workmanship and Presentation categories and further divided by the experience divisions.

WORKMANSHIP AWARDS

Young Fan Division

Best Leatherwork ...*Lady Latitude* and *Wingnut*, Steward Facile (their Dad)

Best Sewing and Applique.....*Kirby Picachu*, Candace Pohler

Novice Division

Construction of Fur Suit Heads *Project F-Zero-X*, Jay Brandt
Most Ingenious Use of Mundane Substance*AirProof*, Don Clary

Best Entry Made on Site.....*AirProof*, Don Clary
Additions and Alterations*Emmaleen and her Flying Machine*, Sharon Bass and Barb Galler-Smith

Best Use of Found Objects*Her Majesty Jadis, Empress of Charm and Queen of Narnia*, S. Kay Nash

Journeyman Division

Arrangement of Transformation*A Crack in Time and Space*, Sabine Furlong

Best Engineering*Stinza Nickerson, Half-Horse*, Wendy Snyder

Best in Class.....*Beren and Luthien*, Lorretta Morgan

Master Division

Hand Painting*TARDIS in Vortex*, Steward Facile
Best in Class.....*Saucer Country*, Kevin Roche, Andrew Trembley, Julie Zetterberg, Greg Sardo, Jerry Majors Patterson, Ken Patterson, Chuck Serface, and Nova Mellow as "Daisy"

PRESENTATION AWARDS

Young Fan Division

Most Royal*Medieval Princesses*, Emma Jackson and Hope Jackson

Best Story*Ni No Kuni*, Niki Hyatt, Micah Joel Hyatt, Tori Hyatt, and Malachi Hyatt

Best Recreation*Kirby Picachu*, Candace Pohler

Most Beautiful*Lady Latitude*, Robyn Facile

Best in Class*Wingnut*, Lillian Facile

Novice Division

Honorable Mention for Presentation*Emmaleen and her Flying Machine*, Sharon Bass and Barb Galler-Smith

Honorable Mention for Chaos*Randomly Generated Character*, Tamisan

Dr. Moreau Award*Project F-Zero-X*, Jay Brandt and Victoria Brandt

Deep in the Heart of Texas*AirProof*, Don Clary and James Cossaboon

Great Balloons of Fire*AirProof*, Don Clary and James Cossaboon

Best in Class.....*Daenerys Targaryen*, Andrea Morrison

Journeyman Division

Best Transformation*A Crack in Time and Space*, Sabine Furlong

Most Beautiful*The Dragon Lady*, April Korbel

Best in Class *Beren and Luthien*, Tim Morgan and Lorretta Morgan

Master Division

Most Humorous *Public Service Announcement*, Rebecca Hewett, Kevin Hewett, Serge Mailloux, and Janice Gelb

Close Encounters of the Texas Kind *Saucer Country*, Kevin Roche, Andrew Trembley, Julie Zetterberg, Greg Sardo, Jerry Majors Patterson, Ken Patterson, Chuck Serface, and Nova Mellow as “Daisy”

Best in Class *Saucer Country*, Kevin Roche, Andrew Trembley, Julie Zetterberg, Greg Sardo, Jerry Majors Patterson, Ken Patterson, Chuck Serface, and Nova Mellow as “Daisy”

OUT OF CLASS AWARDS

Judge’s Choice .. *Stinza Nickerson, Half-Horse*, Wendy Snyder

Best of Show *Otilia*, Aurora Celeste

Miscellaneous Awards at Worldcon

Every year at Worldcon a number of awards are announced or presented; some by the con itself and some by organizations taking advantage of the gathering of the tribes the convention represents. Herewith a list of some of those, though there are doubtless a number of others inadvertently omitted.

FIRST FANDOM AWARDS

The First Fandom Awards, given by the First Fandom organization <www.firstfandom.org>, were announced at LoneStarCon 3 during the Hugo Awards ceremony. Several winners may be selected in each category. Membership in First Fandom was originally limited to those “active in science fiction or fan-nish activities on or before” the first Worldcon (1939), though there are other classes of membership available now. Erle Kershak and Dave Kyle made the following presentations:

First Fandom Hall of Fame.....**Sam Basham**, Earl Kemp, Lester Mayer, Norman F. Stanley

First Fandom Posthumous Hall of Fame**Thaddeus E. Dikty**, Raymond A. Palmer

Sam Moskowitz Archive Award for Excellence in Collecting
Howard Frank

BIG HEART AWARD

The Big Heart Award (which recognizes fans who, often behind the scenes, are particularly generous with their time, energy, and more) was announced at Lone-StarCon 3 during the Hugo Awards ceremony. As the *Shuttle* understands it, winners are chosen by past winners. This year the award was presented by David Kyle and Sue Francis to **Tom Veal**. Your editor is going to assert editorial privilege and give a virtual standing ovation for this choice.

CHAIRMAN’S SPECIAL AWARD

Worldcons sometimes choose to give a special award (styled as from the committee or, as in this case, from the chairman). LoneStarCon 3 chair Randall Shepherd, with assistance from astronaut Catherine “Cady” Coleman, gave a special award this year to **Stan Schmidt**. Your editor is *again* going to assert editorial privilege and give a virtual standing ovation for this choice.

CHESLEY AWARDS

The 2013 Chesley Awards, given by the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists <www.asfa-art.org>, were announced at a ceremony Friday evening 30 August 2013 at LoneStarCon 3. The winners were:

Cover Illustration, Paperback**John Picacio**, *The Creative Fire* by Brenda Cooper; Pyr, November 2012

Cover Illustration, Hardback**Todd Lockwood**, *The Wild Road* by Jennifer Roberson; DAW, September 2012

Cover Illustration, Magazine**Ken Barthelmey**, *Clarkesworld* #74, November 2012

Interior Illustration**Sam Burley**, “Brother. Prince. Snake.,” by Cecil Castellucci, Tor.com, July 2012

Monochrome Work, Unpublished**Raoul Vitale**, *Last of His Kind*, pencil

Color Work, Unpublished**Julie Bell**, *A Passion for the Future*, oil

Three-Dimensional Art.....**James Shoop**, *Ramataur*, bronze

Gaming-Related Illustration**David Palumbo**, *Ereshkigal, Death Mistress* (“Legend of the Cryptids”), Applibot Inc., April 2012

Product Illustration**John Picacio**, *La Sirena*, Loteria card, 2012

Art Director**Irene Gallo**, Tor

Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award**Gerald Brom**

SEIUN AWARDS

The Seiun Awards are given by the Japanese national convention The translated fiction categories are often re-announced at Hugo ceremony, as was true this year.

Translated Novel*The Android’s Dream*, John Scalzi, translated by Masayuki Uchida (Hayakawa)

Translated Short Story**“Pocketful of Dharma,”** Paolo Bacigalupi, translated by Hiroshi Kaneko (Hayakawa)

The Translated Short Story award was presented at the Japanese natcon. The Translated Novel award was presented, to Mr. Scalzi, at the LoneStarCon 3 Hugo ceremony.

WORLDCON FILM FESTIVAL WINNERS

Winners of the LoneStarCon 3 Film Festival were:

SF&F Short Film.....**Ray Bradbury’s Kaleidoscope**, USA, Director: Eric Tozzi

Horror Short Film.....**CARGOLS! (Snails)**, Spain, Director: Geoffrey Cowper

Animation Short Film.....**Oh Super**, USA, Director: Mike Roberts

Fan Film.....**Star Trek Continues**, “Pilot—Pilgrim of Eternity,” USA, Director: Vic Mignogna

Feature Film.....**Chill**, Horror, USA, Directors: Noelle Bye and Meredith Holland

WORLDCON PARTY AWARDS

Winners of these awards, except for the Chair’s Award, were selected by popular vote of the Worldcon membership.

Best Food**Helsinki**, 2015 Worldcon bid

Best Drink**Montreal**, 2017 Worldcon bid

Best Excuse for a Party (tie)**Helsinki** and **Orlando**, the two losing Worldcon bids

Best Decorations**Phoenix**, 2014 NASFiC bid

Most Crowded**Helsinki**

Best in Show**Phoenix**

Special Chair’s Award**Christmas in Boston 2020**, Worldcon hoax bid

The Christmas in Boston party won in part because it was the only party that received a noise complaint the entire con. All the winners were awarded sets of convention logo shot glasses.

RHYSLING, DWARF STAR, AND ELGIN AWARDS

Winners of the 2013 Rhysling Awards (for f/f/h poetry) were announced by the Science Fiction Poetry Association <www.sfpoetry.com> at LoneStarCon 3. Winners (and runner’s up) are announced in two categories, with the dividing, er, line at 50 lines (or 500 words for prose poems). Winners are chosen by members of SFPA based on nominations made by individual members and published in the annual *Rhysling Anthology*. The winners are:

Short Poem.....“**The Cat Star**,” Terry Garey
(*Lady Poetesses from Hell*)
Short Poem, 2nd place“Futurity’s Shoelaces,”
Marge Simon (*Balticon 2012 Program Book*)
Short Poem, 3rd place“Sister Philomela Heard the Voices
of Angels,” Megan Arkenberg (*Strange Horizons* 8/7/2012)
Long Poem.....“**Into Flight**,” Andrew Robert Sutton
(*Silver Blade* 14)
Long Poem, 2nd place“String Theory,” John Philip Johnson
(*Ad Astra* 1)
Long Poem, 3rd place (tie).....“The Necromantic Wine,”
Wade German (*Avatars of Wizardry*) and “The Time Trav-
eler’s Weekend,” Adele Gardner (*Liquid Imagination* 15)
The sFPA also presented the Dwarf Star Awards (for genre
poetry of 10 lines or less) and the Elgin Awards (for chapbooks
and books of poetry) at LSC3. Winners of these awards had
been announced previously. The winners are:
Dwarf Star Award*Basho After Cinderella* (iii),
Deborah P Kolodji (*Rattle* 38)
Dwarf Star 2nd place*The Hidden*, Mary Turzillo
(*Lovers & Killers*)
Dwarf Star 3rd place*Sarcophagus*, N.E. Taylor, (*inkscrawl* 3)
Elgin Award, Book*Lovers & Killers*, Mary Turzillo (Dark
Regions Press)
Elgin Award, Book, 2nd place*Notes From the Shadow City*,
Bruce Boston and Gary William Crawford (Dark Regions
Press)
Elgin Award, Book, 3rd place*Come Late to the Love of Birds*,
Sandra Kasturi (Tightrope Books)
Elgin Award, Chapbook*Out of the Black Forest*,
F.J. Bergmann (Centennial Press)
Elgin Award, Chapbook, 2nd place*The House of Forever*:
Selected Poems, Samantha Henderson (Raven Electrick Ink)
Elgin Award, Chapbook, 3rd place*The Edible Zoo*,
David Kopaska-Merkel (Sam’s Dot Publishing)

SIDEWISE AWARDS

This winners of the 2012 Sidewise Awards (for alternate
history fiction) <www.uchronia.net/sidewise> were announced
at LoneStarCon 3 on Saturday 31 August 2013. The winners
were:

Short Form.....**Rick Wilber**, “Something Real”
(*Asimov’s*, April 2012)
Long Form.....**C.J. Sansom**, *Dominion*
(Mantle, Pan McMillan)

List of Upcoming Worldcons, NASFiCs, and Bids

Readers should take bids in this list, especially those past
2017, with a grain of salt. Many things listed as bids are really
exploratory committees not yet fully committed to a given year,
to a given city, to both, or indeed to bidding at all.

2014

The 2014 NASFiC will be Detcon 1 <detcon1.org>, to be
held 17–20 July 2014 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance
Center in Detroit MI. Guests of Honor will be Steven Barnes,
(Author) John Picacio (Artist); Bernadette Bosky, Arthur D.
Hlavaty, and Kevin J. Maroney, (Fans), Helen Greiner (Scien-
tist); and Bill Sutton and Brenda Sutton (Music). Additionally
Roger Sims and Fred Prophet have been designated ConChairs
Emeritus (they were co-chairs of the only Worldcon to have
been held in Detroit, Detention in 1959)/

The 2014 Worldcon will be Loncon 3 <www.loncon3.org>,
to be held 14–18 August 2013 at the ExCel London Docklands,
in London UK. Sleeping rooms will be at more than a half
dozen hotels nearby and possibly specialty accommodations
(e.g., youth hostels) further afield. Guests of Honour will be
Iain M. Banks, John Clute, Malcolm Edwards, Chris Foss,
Jeanne Gomoll, Robin Hobb, and Bryan Talbot.

2015

There was a foreshadowed bid for the 2015 NASFiC—for
either Houston or Dallas TX—that would have become a real
bid only had Helsinki won the 2015 Worldcon. Since Spokane
won this contingency was dropped.

The 2015 Worldcon will be Sasquan <sasquan.org>, to be
held 19–23 August 2015 at the Spokane Convention Center
and several nearby hotels in Spokane WA. Guests of Honor
will be David Gerrold, Vonda McIntyre, Brad Foster, Tom
Smith, and Leslie Turek.

**Sadly, your editor must report the shocking news that
Bobbie DuFault, Sasquan’s co-chair, died 14 September, of
causes currently unknown. This came only two weeks after
the bid was selected as the winner. Bobbie had worked for
many years to bring a Worldcon to the Pacific Northwest.**

2016

The only 2016 Worldcon bid known to the *Shuttle* is for
Kansas City <www.kcin2016.org>. They’re bidding for 17–21
August 2016 and planning to use Bartle Hall and the Kansas
City Convention Center.

2017

There are at least two bids for the 2017 Worldcon, Montreal
<no website found> and Japan <nippon2017.org>. Montreal
plans to use the same convention center as they did in 2009 (the
Palais des congrès de Montréal) but the headquarters hotel
would be closer. Japan is still considering multiple sites in the
greater Tokyo metro area.

See also the DC3 proto-bid discussed under “Indefinite
Years” below for another potential bid. A 2017 bid for New
York City had been mooted as recently as last year but had no
visibility at this year’s Worldcon.

2018

The only 2018 Worldcon bid known to the *Shuttle* is for New
Orleans <neworleansin2018.org>. They are still considering
multiple venues, but their website assures readers that “which-
ever venue we choose will be within a 5 minute streetcar ride to
the French Quarter.”

2019

The only pretty definite bid for the 2019 Worldcon known to
the *Shuttle* is for Dublin IE <dublin2019.com>. There is some
information indicating France may bid for the same year, but
nothing else is known to us about that bid. The Ireland bid is
for the Convention Centre Dublin with hotels to be determined.

2020

The only 2020 Worldcon bid known to the *Shuttle* is for New
Zealand <www.nzin2020.org>. They are considering facilities
in either Wellington or Auckland. They’ve said that they will
decide by Loncon 3 whether they will definitely bid, with the
limiting factor being available manpower in New Zealand itself.

2021

What appears to be the same group as was discussing the
ultimately unnecessary contingency bid for the 2015 NASFiC
has announced an exploration of a 2021 Worldcon bid for
“north” Texas. From what they said the greater Dallas area
appears to be the leading contender, but I gather that for this pur-
pose Houston might count as north. This is not the same group
as has run the three LoneStarCons, but there seems to be no
instate rivalry. Texas is big and there’s room for more than one

group with Worldcon ambitions.

2022

There was a brief announcement that Chicago is considering a bid for the 2022 Worldcon.

INDEFINITE YEARS

A “DC3” exploratory committee was announced to look at a bid for somewhere in a broad east-coast corridor—likely either

Baltimore or Washington DC for “2017 or later.” The DC3 nomenclature presumably comes from the two DC Worldcons (1963 and 1974) named Discon I and Discon II respectively.

There was also word of a potential Worldcon bid for Boston “between now and 2030,” though this was not announced at the Fannish Inquisition or the Business Meeting—the two places such things are usually trotted out.



Game of Thrones, Exhibit Hall, photo by Laurie Mann for LSC3



Worldcon Chairs (past, present, and future) Photo Op



Yes, air travel is still every bit as crowded, exhausting, and generally unpleasant as you remember; but it still probably beats two days of driving each way. Or at least that's what I keep telling myself.



Hugo Base by Vincent Villafranca, photo by Laurie Mann for LSC3



TimeGate (SuitcaseGate?) at the San Antonio Airport



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