

The



Shuttle
December 2013

The Next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 21 December 2013, but NOT at the Regular Time or Location—See Below for Details

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be held in conjunction with the more-or-less-annual Christmas Party and will **not be at the regular time or location**.

The meeting will start at **2P 21 December 2013** at Sue Thorn's new house—**308 Red Oak Road, Madison AL**. Please see the map at right if you need help finding it.

Please bring a gift if you would like to participate in the gift exchange game. It will be a passing game rather than Secret Santa. Normal party rules apply, i.e., bring food and drink to share.

DECEMBER PROGRAM AND ATMM

The December program and After-The-Meeting Meeting will be subsumed into the Christmas Party.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka have again invited NASFAns to a New Year's Eve party at their house—211 Evalyn Street in Madison. (No map, because most of you know the way already.)

CONCOM MEETINGS

The first Con+Stellation XXXIII concom meeting has not definitely been scheduled yet, but Craig says they will probably start in January and will likely be held on the afternoons of club meetings.

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:

- January and forward: TBD.

We need ATMM volunteers for all months in 2014.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

NASFA meeting dates for three months in 2014 have been



Map To Meeting/ Christmas Party

Concluding Our 33rd Year of Publication

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Deadline for the January 2014 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 30 December 2013

shifted away from the normal 3rd Saturday.

- The February 2014 meeting was moved one week earlier to 8 February to avoid a church conflict.
- The March 2014 meeting was moved one week earlier to 8 March to avoid Tennessee Game Days.
- The May 2014 meeting was moved one week later to 24 May to avoid DSC 52.

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 welcomed and encouraged 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/h/etc. events) are added or changed. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

News & Info

FAN FUNDS SHAPING UP FOR 2014

One of the major fan funds has their 2014 candidate lineup set, while another has announced a partial list.

The 2014 GUFF race (northbound, so from Australasia to Europe for the London Worldcon) has set their candidate list. The platforms for Alison Barton, Samara Morgan, Gilliam Polack, and Shay Telfer can be seen at both <ozfanfunds.com/guff/g2014results.html> and <splanky.livejournal.com/250547.html>. The official ballot does not appear to be ready at *Shuttle* press time. Administrators for 2014 are Mihaela-Marija Perko-*vic* (Europe) and Kylie Ding (Australia).

Meanwhile, TAFF <taff.org.uk> has two announced candidates; well three if you count both members of one couple standing. Both Brad and Cindy Foster and Curt Phillips have announced they plan to stand for the 2014 TAFF trip, which is eastbound. They may be joined by others as nominations are open until 31 December 2014. Administrators for 2014 are Jim Mowatt (Europe) and Jacqueline Monahan (North America).

NASFiC MEMBERSHIPS FAN FUND

Detcon1 <detcon1.org>, the 2014 NASFiC, has created a fan fund to crowdsource memberships for fans in need. Each \$55 in donations to the FANtastic Detroit Fund will buy a membership for someone who otherwise couldn't attend Detcon1 for financial reasons, with priority given to Detroit and Wayne County MI residents. Contributions are not tax deductible. Donations can be made via PayPal (see the Detcon1 website) and in various other ways.

DC BID FOR 2017 WORLDCON OFFICIAL

The Worldcon bid formerly announced for "2017 or later" and "east cost corridor" has settled down as a bid for Washington DC for 2017 <www.dc17.org>. Michael Nelson and Warren Buff are bid co-chairs. The committee includes five past Worldcon chairs. Other bidders for 2017 include Helsinki, Japan (city not



yet chosen), and Montreal.

HEINLEIN JOINS ANOTHER HoF

Robert Heinlein will be inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians. Heinlein qualified by finishing second in a public vote. The two people thus selected were joined by two additional choices by Missouri House Speaker Tim Jones.

ANOTHER AMAZON EBOOK IMPRINT

The publishing arm of online giant Amazon has launched another Kindle-only imprint, this one strictly for short fiction. StoryFront will publish short stories in all genres but the initial batch of 43 stories reportedly includes several of sf/f/h interest.



SFWA INCREASES QUALIFICATION RATE

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <www.sfw.org> has changed the minimum pay rate necessary short fiction markets to qualify authors for SFWA membership from 5¢/word to 6¢/word.

AUTHORS GUILD v. GOOGLE, REVISITED

An appeal seems inevitable, but for now the Authors Guild copyright case against Google has been dismissed. The Guild claimed that Google's program to scan and index basically every book ever printed—and supply portions of those books online—violated copyright law. The judge not only held that the protections in place plus the public benefit provided by the service made the process Fair Use but further that the authors benefitted from enhanced sales of books.

November Minutes

by Steve Sloan

The November meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, November 17, 2013, in the Madison satellite location of Willowbrook Baptist Church at 6:19:58P by President Mary Lampert. The crickets did not make an appearance.

OLD BUSINESS

Doug moved to open 2014 officer nominations.

- Dave declined nomination for Publicity Director.
- Anita nominated Mike S. for Publicity, but he declined.
- Doug nominated Mike K. for President.
- Doug nominated Steve for Secretary.
- Anita nominated Mary for President and was seconded.
- Mary nominated Judy-Sue for Programming Directors.
- Doug nominated Randy for Publicity, but he declined.
- Sam nominated Doug for Publicity and Anita seconded.
- Anita nominated Jenna for Publicity and Anita seconded.
- Mike C. nominated Wyman for Publicity and Anita seconded.
- Doug nominated Adam for Publicity.
- Doug nominated Adam for President.

Sam moved to close nominations and Mike K. seconded.

Co-Programming Director Judy discussed next month's meeting/Christmas party. It will start at 2P on December 21 at Sue's new house near Randy's. Please bring a gift if you would like to participate in the gift exchange game. It will be a passing game rather than Secret Santa. Normal party rules apply, i.e., bring food and drink to share. The address is 308 Red Oak Road, Madison AL. There was a long digression about how to get there.

NEW BUSINESS

Randy had visited the Donato Giancola exhibit at the Huntsville Museum of Art earlier that day. He said that the artist himself would be there the next day to do a docent tour.

CON BUSINESS

After Con†Stellation, Randy shipped 2013 Artist Guest of Honor Kurt Miller's artwork back to him via Fed Ex. Some of the pieces were damaged in transit. Fortunately, insurance covered the damage, but in order to claim it, Kurt had to ship the artwork back to Randy, then Randy had to ship it right back.

Kurt donated one of his pieces to Con†Stellation, print 4 of 200 of *One World One King WWIV*.

According to Sam, Con†Stellation found itself in a strange situation: for the second year in a row, it didn't lose money. In fact, this year saw a roughly \$700 surplus.

Sam is considering buying out all remaining Con†Stellation tee shirts himself, just to get them off the books.

Doug moved to adjourn at 6:40:58P.

The November program was a presentation by Max Rosenthal, a former manager of the Hubble program. Mike K. hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at the meeting location at Wil-lowbrook Madison.

NASFA Calendar

DECEMBER

- 01 Comic Con—Columbus GA.
- 05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Golden Compass*, Phillip Pullman.
- 05 Hanukkah ends.
- 06–08 SMOFCon 31—Toronto ON.
- 06–08 Yama-Con 2—Pigeon Forge TN.
- 07 SukoshiCon Prime—Birmingham AL.
- 08 Atlanta Comic Convention—Atlanta GA.
- 09 BD: Maria Grim.
- 12 BD: Toni Weisskopf,
- 12 Virgen de Guadalupe.
- 17 BD: Robin Ray.
- 19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
- 20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.
- 21 Winter Solstice.
- 21* NASFA Meeting—2P Business, 3P Program, at Sue Thorn's house. Program/ATMM: Holiday Party hosted by Sue Thorn.
- 24 Christmas Eve.
- 25 Christmas Day.
- 26 BD: Michael R. Stone.
- 26 Boxing Day/Lendemain de Noël.
- 27–29 Gamecon Memphis—Memphis TN.
- 31 New Year's Eve, party at Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci's house.

JANUARY 2014

- 01 New Year's Day.
- 02 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Roadside Picnic*, Arkady Strugatsky and Boris Strugatsky.
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
- 03–04 Shadowcon—Memphis TN.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 06 Día de Reyes.
- 07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
- 10–12 GaFilk—Atlanta GA.
- 11–12 Brick Fair—Birmingham AL.
- 16 BD: Bruce Butler.
- 17–19 Siege of Augusta—Augusta GA.
- 18* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Wil-lowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.

- 18 Anime Blues Remix—Memphis TN.
- 20 BD: Larry Montgomery.
- 20 BD: Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 24–26 Chattacon 39—Chattanooga TN.
- 30–02 Game Fest 23—Atlanta GA.
- 31 Chinese New Year.

FEBRUARY 2014

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Groundhog Day.
- 02 Día de la Candelaria.
- 03 Día festivo en conmemoración de la Constitución.
- 05 Constitución.
- 06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Demolished Man*, Alfred Bester.
- 07–09 Days of the Dead—Atlanta GA.
- 08 BD: Lin Cochran.
- 08* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Wil-lowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
NOTE: This is one week earlier than usual to avoid a church conflict.
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
- 12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
- 14–16 Kami Con 6—Birmingham AL.
- 14–16 AnachroCon—Atlanta GA.
- 14 Valentine's Day.
- 17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
- 17 Presidents' Day.
- 21–23 Concave—Bowling Green KY.
- 21–23 ConNooga—Chattanooga TN.
- 21–23 ConDFW—Addison TX.
- 22 BD: George Washington.
- 24 Día de la Bandera.
- 25 BD: David Paulk.

MARCH 2014

- 01 Cardboard*Con—Atlanta GA.
- 01 OnyxCon Sankofa—Atlanta GA.
- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
- 03 Read Across America Day.
- 04 Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras.
- 05 Ash Wednesday.
- 06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Seventh Son*, Orson Scott Card.
- 07–09 CoastCon 37—Biloxi MS.
- 08* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Wil-lowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
NOTE: This is one week earlier than usual to avoid a convention conflict.
- 09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
- 09 Daylight Savings Time Begins.
- 10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
- 13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
- 14–16 Game Days IX—Franklin TN.
- 16 Purim.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day.
- 17 BD: Benito Juárez (observed).
- 19–23 International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 35—Orlando FL.
- 20 Spring Equinox.
- 20–23 Furry Weekend Atlanta—Atlanta GA.
- 21 BD: Benito Juárez.
- 21–23 FantaSciCon—Dalton GA.
- 21–23—MidSouthCon 32—Memphis TN.
- 22 BD: Jayson Woosley.
- 28–30 Secrets Con 1—Atlanta GA.

Tea and Sympathy

No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 2

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: PieEyedDragon's adventures in Middle-Earth will resume in these pages later. In the meantime, we take you to another time and location. PED spends less time "on camera" as this adventure develops, but still plays a part. The Prologue appeared in the August 2013 issue. Part 1 appeared in the November 2013 issue.]

PED: Lady Oka?

Oka: Yes, my Lord?

PED: Long ago, a Kitsune begged our help in rescuing her stolen child. Was that creature you?

Oka: No, my Lord; my mother. I was the child whose life you saved. I owe you a great debt.

PED: You are most welcome, but no debt is owed. I was created to protect children.

Oka: As may be. I still felt indebted. So, when I learned you would be seeking assistance, I volunteered to help.

Yosho: You look like you could have used help sooner, covered as you are with battle scars.

PED: You should see the other guys... all dead. Five casual friends died to help me survive until help could arrive. So, I am owing blood debt to others as well. Are you then a seer, Lady Oka?

Oka: Not ordinarily. I can focus the visions of those who are. I have volunteered to temporarily host the kami of this place, who does have this gift. Your hands are... odd.

PED: How so?

Oka: Hold them up and look at them.

PED: They look unremarkable.

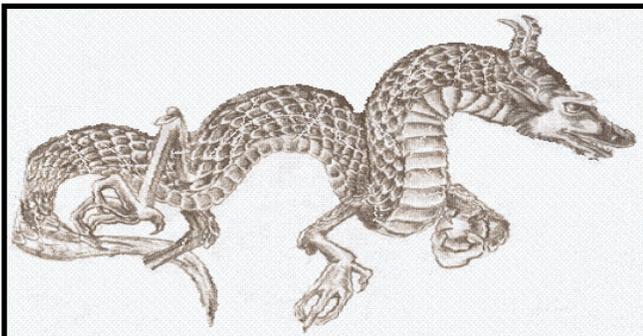
Oka: Now, look at their shadows.

[I hold out my forelimb "hands." I look at them again, and then at their shadows. My hands have four digits each. The shadows of them are indeed somewhat different; having six digits each.]

PED: My missing hind leg was too badly mangled to reattach. I swallowed it and will regenerate it at leisure. I suppose the shadows of the missing digits are a manifestation of my Ki.

[Lady Oka's eyes close and her expression goes blank. Her voice changes.]

Oka (possessed): Tea and polite manners will go far to draw you to your destinations. You must go to Britain. You must find a small lake that is polluted... by magic. I try to see this lake but it is hidden from the Sight. You must... persevere. The crack of dawn may be important. A young witch with something missing, and something extra; will raise her small fist and turn aside Death. She is your key to the last portal. Take the brooms. Retrieve the Orb. You will bestow them in a place better fit.



PED: I cannot go to Britain. I promised Puck over three thousand years ago. He has a special feeling for that land.

Oka (possessed): The Trickster will lift your oath; for this will serve his own great need. Ask him.

[Lady Oka collapses in a backward slump. The priest and I check her breathing, which is very shallow but getting better. Finally, her eyes open and focus.]

Oka: Was I helpful?

Yosho: It would seem so. The kami is also weakened, temporarily.

PED: That which does not kill us, makes us stronger.

Yosho: You would know, dragon. For you are verily a Dai-Kaiju who has faced death for an honorable cause more than once. You even went beyond that, recently. You have a very broad face.

[I knew that he was not speaking of the distance between my cheek bones, but rather of my perceived honorability. The *on*, as it was also called.]

PED: I would like to remain here for today, but must leave tomorrow. Are the brooms still in the cave?

Yosho: Yes. Stay wherever you like tonight; but I think you will rest best there.

PED: Satellite cameras are ubiquitous these days. I shall wear my old "I'm not here" seeming.

[I take the old familiar path up the hill to the cavern shrine. Bypassing the gates, I climb farther up until I reach the main air vent and slither down and finally reach my ancient "guest lair." I have many memories of this place. Up on the wall are the fused broomsticks I used to navigate my first wormhole. I will have to make a stop at Jotunheim anyway, both to speak to Puck and collect the Orb that once housed the Green Witch.]

Could Elphaba be the witch I need? Princess Atali has not yet given rebirth to her and the other two.

— O — O — O —

In the morning, I take my leave and return to the small, familiar lake. Entering the water, I retrace my path through the Plane of Water and emerge from Lake Grænalón and waft my way back to the more inhabited areas.

I wait outside the star cruiser until its default commander can come to see me. I relate my experiences in Japan. He says he has had three millennia to see what my word is worth. He releases me from my old oath, with the observation that I am unlikely to damage "his" England.

I further consult with the Crown Princess before leaving once more. Elphaba will not be reborn for some time yet.

Back down to the lake and into the Plane of Water. I am going to an unknown destination, and must "follow my nose." There are a great many lakes on this planet. Some are out under the air. Some are covered by ice. Some are in caverns. Some are salty, some are fresh. A great many are polluted in one way or another. *Magical* pollution, now, *that* will be relatively unique.

I skim the interfaces of hundreds, then thousands of lakes. Now and then I get a trace of magic, but cannot really fixate upon it. Persevere, I was told. It is difficult to relate water coordinates with geographical areas. I am sure I am staying close to the one I seek, but it continues to elude me. Around and around I go.

Suddenly, I see a narrow sliver of light. It is dawn in the upper world. The sliver becomes more distinct. I proceed toward this and smell magic, though not as strongly polluted as the elusive traces of the main body. Rather, I smell the traces of a single complex of spells. I approach this slender interface and shrink my body to be able to fit at least my head and neck through... quietly. This interface seems to be a narrow strip of

swamp, complete with rushes, along one side of a stone corridor.

— O — O — O —

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J.K. Rowling (But you already knew that, didn't you?)]

Letter of Comment

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

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

4 December 2013

Thanks for the November *Shuttle*... I hope to get this to you on time because we've been without internet access at home for several (total 10) days now. You don't know how important it is until you don't have it. I am writing this at work between jobs...

Yvonne and I had thought about going for TAFF to get to the London Worldcon, but ultimately decided against it. Our attendance is still not confirmed, even though we do have memberships, and we are finding it more and more difficult to arrange time off work. Part of the TAFF trip is a whirlwind tour of the fannish UK, and we just didn't think we'd be up for it... if we do go, we'd want to go at our own pace. So, no TAFF run for us; we'd be happy just to be there, and there's still a big if involved.

The Awards Roundup... it always seems to be awards season. I was nominated for an Aurora, but was pleased to win a Faned Award as Best Letter Writer.

Hello to Pie-Eyed! It's been some time. The shift from Middle-Earth to outer space is an abrupt one, but the continua-

tion of story is welcome. Payato? I would enjoy a cup of tea myself. There are times where coffee is simply a caffeine delivery system, but tea is truly civilized. Usually, the disclaimer refers to the works of Tolkien, but this time, Rowling.

I was at a local convention this past weekend as a vendor, and I picked up information on Sasquan, the 2015 Worldcon in Spokane, Washington, and on Detcon I, the NASFiC in Detroit. We can drive to Detroit, but am not sure if I'd have the money or the time off work. I will link that statement to what Sheryl referred to in her loc, and say that yes, I have found some work. I am working at an advertising agency just a few kilometres south of where I live in the west end of Toronto. Commuting is quite simple, a short bus trip followed by a brisk 15-minute walk. I started there on October 28, and they like my work enough so that I am still there. My current contract takes me to Christmas Eve, and I have a good chance of staying there with a contract extension well into the first quarter of 2014. There is a slim chance of being hired outright, but I am not expecting that.

My loc... SMOFcon will be in Toronto this coming weekend, in fact, but we will not be attending. We are still recovering financially, and we were not able to afford memberships, and still can't. A new job came up the end of October, and will end Christmas Eve.

Anyway, that's all for now. Hope to see further issues soon, and Yvonne and I wish you all the best of Christmas, Kwanzaa and any other celebration in December. See you in the new year, perhaps?

[Yep, Lloyd, the awards season is basically year round; though the results fall thicker at some times of the year. Congrats again on your Faned Award win. While I'm sure you and Yvonne would make excellent TAFF delegates, you'll see elsewhere in this issue there is already one couple and another fellow who've announced candidacies. There's still time for more entries, with nominations closing at the end of the year. I've never quite gotten the appeal of hot tea. I grew up drinking iced tea and still enjoy it, but never really liked a "cuppa." -ED]

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Special Statement Regarding the October 2013 Issue

Due to illness, the October 2013 issue was very late and was published in electronic format only. It is available on the NASFA website at www.con-stellation.org/nasfa/shuttle.html. At this time there is no intent to publish a paper version, but if you want one please contact us by email or by snailmail (addresses above) and we'll do our best to get you a copy.