

The Shuttle

January 2014



The Next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 18 January 2014 at the Regular Location

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be **6P Saturday 18 January 2014** 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.

JANUARY PROGRAM

The January program will be Trivia for Chocolate, run by Program Directors Judy Smith and Sue Thorn.

JANUARY ATMM

The January After-The-Meeting Meeting will be hosted by Dave Watson, at the church. The usual rules apply—that is, please bring food to share and your favorite drink. Also, please stay to help clean up. We need to be good guests and leave things at least as clean as we found them.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The starting schedule for Con†Stellation XXXIII concom meetings has not *quite* been completed, but we're closing on a firing solution.

Craig is looking at Sunday 26 January for the first meeting. The time and location will be finalized soon.

There will also be a meeting at 4P Saturday 1 February at The DeeP Comics and Games, 2310 Memorial Parkway SW in Huntsville. Craig has scheduled this mainly to talk with people that no longer attend the con for some reason.

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:

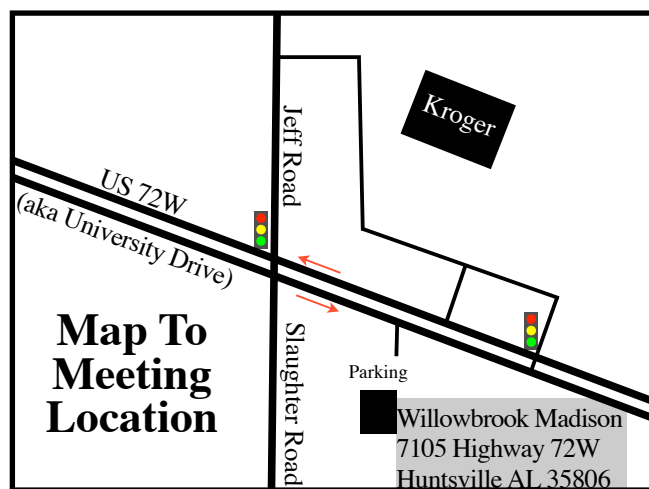
- February and forward: TBD.

We need ATMM volunteers for all future months in 2014 except February.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

NASFA meeting dates for three months in 2014 have been 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



Beginning Our 34th Year of Publication

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Deadline for the February 2014 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday 24 January 2014

- 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

TAFF SLATE SET, VOTE OPEN

The full slate for the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund <taff.org.uk> has been set. Two individuals and one couple are seeking to win in this west-to-east year. The would represent North American fandom while attending Loncon 3 <loncon3.org>, the 2014 Worldcon to be held 14–18 August 2014 at ExCeL, London Docklands.

The nominees—Brad and Cindy Foster, Curt Phillips, and Randy Smith—have published their platforms. Several ways of voting, including via PayPal, are available at the TAFF website. A minimum contribution to the fund (\$3/£2) is required to vote.

2014 WORLDCON UPDATES

If you want to join the TAFF winner at Loncon 3, be advised that membership rates will increase at the end of February so you may not want to delay.

Meanwhile, nominations are open for the Hugo Awards (as well as the Campbell Award and the 1939 Retro Hugo Awards). Members of last year's Worldcon (LoneStarCon 3, San Antonio TX), Loncon 3, and next year's Worldcon (Sasquan, Spokane WA) are all eligible to nominate. Nominations can be made by mail or online (see <loncon3.org/nominations.php> for links to either). You will need a PIN to nominate online; instructions for getting yours are at that same URL.

Hotel reservations are also open, and if you don't have yours already you may not be able to get your first choice. Or your second choice. Or your third... UK hotels, even those close to large convention centers, are generally much smaller than those in the US and Loncon 3 is no exception to that tendency. Rooms are especially scarce on the shoulder nights. The *Shuttle* recommends you get to the third-party booking site <www.infotel.co.uk/RateCards/Hotels.aspx?rc=RC_LONCON3> at your earliest possible convenience. FWIW, the glitches seem to be due to a degree of unexpected success—Loncon 3 looks to be one of the largest Worldcons in recent decades. Too, London is, well, London.

2014 NASFiC UPDATES

Detcon1 <www.detcon1.org>, the 2014 North American Science Fiction Convention—to be held 17–20 July 2014 at the Renaissance Center Marriott in Detroit MI—has also opened hotel reservations. Things seem to be going much smoother for them. Too, Detroit is, well, Detroit.

Separately, Detcon1 has announced they are sponsoring a pair of member's choice awards, named the Detcon1 Awards for Young Adult and Middle Grade Speculative Fiction. These are intended to complement the juried Golden Duck Awards <www.goldenduck.org> (given annually for children's and YA science fiction), which will be presented at the NASFiC this year. You can find out more about the Detcon1 Awards at <detcon1.org/award>. Nominating is open to the public; the final voting round will be for Detcon1 members only.

2015 WORLDCON UPDATE

Sasquan <sasquan.org>—the 2015 Worldcon to be held 19–23 August 2015 at the Spokane Convention Center in Spokane WA—has announced that some of their membership rates will increase at the end of January 2014. Child rates will bump up by \$10 and adult rates by \$30. Supporting and YA rates will not change; Kids-in-Tow (valid through age 5 only) will remain free.

WHO WANTS TO SASS SFWA?

The Society for the Advancement of Speculative Storytelling, Inc. <www.sasswritersgroup.blogspot.com> appears to have been set up as something of an alternative to the Science Fiction Writers of America <sfwa.org>, at least for new writers. It may also be a reaction to some of the *sturm und drang* that has occurred at SFWA this past year. SASS recently announced that award winning writer Michael A. Burstein has been named as their first permanent president.

SASS's website says it is “dedicated to encouraging and mentoring aspiring and new writers of speculative fiction” and that it “expressly disavows any socio-political goals while asserting the right of its members to discuss and explore any and [all] subjects in speculative fiction writing.”

SPEAKING OF STURM UND DRANG—SMOFS

While talking details would be inappropriate, it's no dark secret that there's strong contention from time to time on the SMOFS email list; perhaps more of late.

At least partially in reaction to that, Colin Harris and others have started a *moderated* email list <con-talk.org> devoted to con running. It does not appear to be intended to displace the SMOFS list, but will clearly be seen as an alternative to it by some. In addition to Harris, the moderators are Eemeli Aro, Warren Buff, Janice Gelb, Laurie Mann, and Patty Wells. All six are well known in fandom and the list includes two ex Worldcon chairs, one ex NASFiC chair, and at least one person who could easily be a Worldcon chair in the near future.

CLARKESWORLD GOES PRO

Clarkesworld (three-time winner of the Best Semiprozine Hugo) has announced they are no longer eligible in this category. One of the eligibility rules is that a semiprozine may not provide a quarter (or more) of the income of any person, which apparently *Clarkesworld* now does for editor Neil Clarke. He also took pains to assure people that he, personally, is still eligible in the Best Editor, Short Form, Hugo category.

December Minutes

by Steve Sloan

The December meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, December 21, 2013, at Sue Thorne's house at 2:25:41P by President Mary Lampert. The crickets were still operational.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual elections. Steve read the following candidate list:

President

Thane Grimm
Mary Lampert

Vice President

Mike Kennedy

Secretary

Steve Sloan

Treasurer

Sam Smith

Program Director

"JudySue Thornsmythe"

Publicity Director

Wyman Cooke
Doug Lampert
Jenna Stone

2015 Con+Stellation Convention Chair

Shelly and Jenny Breitbach-Leach

Sergeant at Arms

Thane Grimm

Mary asked if anyone had any more nominations. Sam moved to close nominations.

Sue moved to elect the unopposed nominations, and was seconded. The motion passed 5 to 3.

Doug wasn't there because he was feeling under the weather, so Mary gave his traditional election speech, promising that if he is elected, he will do the least work he can get away with.

Former Publicity Director Dave Watson hadn't made it to the meeting yet, inspiring the following: "Dave's not here, man!" "I'm sorry, Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that." "Daisy..."

Elections were held for each office with more than one candidate with the following results:

President

Thane Grimm2
Mary Lampert5-ish

Publicity Director

Wyman Cooke.....0
Doug Lampert.....1
Jenna Stone6

Here are the final results of the NASFA election for 2014:

President.....Mary Lampert

Vice President.....Mike Kennedy

Secretary.....Steve Sloan

Treasurer.....Sam Smith

Program Director....."JudySue Thornsmythe"

Publicity Director.....Jenna Stone

2015 Con+Stellation Convention Chair.....Shelly Breitbach and Jenny Leach

Sergeant at Arms.....Thane Grimm

NEW BUSINESS

Dues are due.

Sue brought the meeting back to order. She is not the President but she did stay at a Holiday Inn Express.

Sam bought all 36 of the leftover T-shirts from previous conventions. They were available free to a good home in a box on Sue's bed.

CON BUSINESS

Treasurer Sam reported that the 2013 Con+Stellation had a final balance of about a thousand dollars. Sam had some trouble with the IRS and the bank which should be straightened out by now. He will find out for sure on Tuesday. He briefly told us the story.

On the plus side, Sam found NASFA an extra \$1014 from a fourth CD that he didn't know about.

Co-Programming Director Judy announced that there will be a program in January; we just don't know what it will be.

Sue moved to adjourn at 2:39:43P.

The December combined Program and After-the-Meeting Meeting was a Christmas party at Sue Thorne's house.

NASFA Calendar

JANUARY

- 01 New Year's Day.
- 02 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *A Scanner Darkly*, Philip K. Dick; 6P.
- 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: Trivia for Chocolate. ATMM: Dave Watson, hosting at the church.
- 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.
- 26 Con+Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—time and location TBD. **NOTE:** This is a Sunday.
- 31 Chinese New Year.

FEBRUARY

- 01 Con+Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—4P, at The DeeP Comics and Games. **NOTE:** This is a Saturday.
- 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; 6P.
- 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: Maria and Adam Grim, hosting at the church. **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

- 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; 6P.
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 Woolsey.
28–30 Secrets Con 1—Atlanta GA.

Somerhalder and Nina Dobrev), Actor in a New TV Series (Joseph Morgan), and Sci-Fi/Fantasy TV Actor (Ian Somerhalder) prizes.

- *Gravity* dragged down wins for Dramatic Movie and Movie Duo (Sandra Bullock and George Clooney). Bullock also nabbed Movie Actress, Dramatic Movie Actress, and Comedic Movie Actress. Presumably that last one had little to do with her work in *Gravity*.
- *The Walking Dead* killed in the TV Anti-Hero (Andrew Lincoln) and Cable TV Drama categories.
- *Beauty and the Beast* romanced Sci-Fi/Fantasy TV Show and Sci-Fi/Fantasy TV Actress (Kristin Kreuk) categories.
- *Despicable Me 2* was cutest in the Family Movie category.
- *Carrie* scared up a win for Horror Movie.
- *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* ate up the Favorite Year End Movie trophy.
- *Supernatural* got some love for TV Bromance (Jared Padalecki, Jensen Ackles, and Misha Collins).
- *American Horror Story: Coven* got the most shivers for TV Movie/Mini-Series.
- Relational show *The Big Bang Theory* won for Network TV Comedy and Comedic TV Actress (Kaley Cuoco).
- Though her win wasn't for a genre work, it's worth noting that Sarah Michelle Gellar (Actress in a New TV Series, *The Crazy Ones*) gave a big shout out to her days on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

WHO WILL BE THE NEW DICKHEAD?

Nominees for the 2013 Philip K. Dick Award <www.philipkdickaward.org> (for the best original science fiction paperback of the award year) have been announced. The award is sponsored by Philadelphia Science Fiction Society <psfs.org> and the Philip K. Dick Trust. This year's judges for the award are Elizabeth Bear (chair), Siobhan Carroll, Michael Kandel, Jamil Nasir, and Tim Sullivan.

The award ceremony is sponsored by the NorthWest Science Fiction Society <www.nwsfs.org>. The winner (and any special citations) will be announced at Norwescon 37 <www.norwescon.org>, to be held 17–20 April 2014 at the Double-Tree by Hilton Seattle Airport in SeaTac WA. The nominees are:

A Calculated Life, Anne Charnock (47North)

The Mad Scientist's Daughter, Cassandra Rose Clarke (Angry Robot)

Self-Reference Engine, Toh EnJoe, translated by Terry Gallagher (Haikasoru)

Ancillary Justice, Ann Leckie (Orbit)

Life on the Preservation, Jack Skillingstead (Solaris)

Solaris Rising 2: The New Solaris Books of Science Fiction, Ian Whates, ed. (Solaris)

Countdown City, Ben H. Winters (Quirk Books)

PROMETHEUS HALL OF FAME NOMS

The Libertarian Futurist Society <lfs.org> has announced the finalists for the 2014 Prometheus Award in the Hall of Fame category. The awards are for “outstanding works of science fiction and fantasy that stress the importance of liberty as the foundation for civilization, peace, prosperity, progress, and justice.” The Hall of Fame category covers works at least five years old. Nominees are selected by a committee, final voting is open to all LFS members. The nominees are:

“Sam Hall,” Poul Anderson (1953)

Falling Free, Lois McMaster Bujold (1988)

“Repent, Harlequin!” Said the Ticktockman,” Harlan Ellison (1965)

Courtship Rite, Donald M. Kingsbury (1982)

“As Easy as A.B.C.,” Rudyard Kipling (1912)

Graffiti Critique and a Breached Castle

No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 3

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.]

A velvet rope surrounds the micro-swamp. An oil painting hangs on the wall near an open window. Across the hallway, I see a little mannish figure floating in the air. It is holding an artist's palette and brush, and painting hair and a mustache on a smarmy-looking statue against the other wall. The statue has seen better days, showing chipped areas at elbows and elsewhere. The graffiti artist pauses to observe his work.

PED: Nice mustache!

(The little man whirls around, stares at me with his mouth wide open, and starts laughing... and laughing. He drops his tools and holds his belly, turning somersaults in the air, whooping. He finally calms a bit.)

Peeves: Oh, *well done Weasleys!* I'd give you full marks *and* extra credit, if only I was a professor here! Your swamp has been sitting there for *ages* with nothing but insects and a few frogs. I guess it takes a bit longer to manifest a dragon, eh! *Oi!* Freddy! Wake up and see what you two have done!

(Sleepy voice): What's all the noise so early?

[Behind me on the wall, the portrait depicts a sleepy looking red-haired young man. He seems to be loosely costumed as an Egyptian mummy over his trousers and shirt. The figure is moving in a lifelike manner, though it is obviously not an electronic display nor projection.]

Fred: *Peeves!* You'll get in real trouble for bringing a dragon into the school. Or, is it real? How'd you do it?

Peeves: You tell me. It came up out of *your* swamp and spoke to me.

Fred: Really? Not part of *our* spellwork. Say (looking me over), are you an Animagus? What are you doing in Hogwarts?

PED: Is that where I am? Never heard of the place. I was looking for a lake hereabouts and got sidetracked.

Fred: Well, look out the window. The Black Lake is just south of the castle here.

(I look out as directed, and see an expanse of water that shimmers a bit in my vision before giving up and steadying. I appear to be on the fifth floor of an east wing of a castle. There are piles of construction materials and scaffolding near the base. Further out and to the sides, I can see grassy expanses, gardens, greenhouses, and a stretch of forest.)

PED: I do believe that's it. Thank you so very much. Oh, what is your name, then?

Fred: [It was reputedly wise to not give your right name to a talking dragon, and certainly not anger one with a flat refusal; but, he was really just a reconstructed set of memories] Blimey! Can ya read as well as talk (pointing downward)?

PED: (Looking at the bottom of the portrait frame) “Fred Weasley, born 1 April 1978, died 2 May 1998, Laughing All The Way.” (The script changes to) “Reading this aloud grants you a 20% discount on any single transaction at Weasley's Wizard Wheezes.” Are you the late Mr. Weasley, then? Call me PED. And what sort of establishment is Weasley's Wizard Wheezes?

Fred: It's a grand emporium of humor, both high and low, even very low. Love potions, fake wands, whoopee cushions, tainted treats, instant darkness powder, even some non-magical muggle-type items. Established by myself and my twin, George. We take orders for fireworks and custom special effects. Bakery special this week on Pun Buns. Guaranteed to make someone else groan.

PED: (Laughing) Can you provide them by the gross?

Fred: (Laughs) They're puns! Gross is standard; especially for the ones with jellied green pea soup filling, which can squirt up to eight feet with one good bite. Our main shop is in Diagon Alley in London. There's another near here in Hogsmeade village.

PED: I may have to look you up then, but later. Thank you so very much for the directions.

(I withdraw back into the Elemental Waters, and look once more for the lake. It is plainly detectible, now. I shift into that body of water. It is indeed polluted with magic, or centuries of spoiled potions. Within half a minute I come face-to-face with a merman, who swims away in a tearing hurry.)

— O — O — O —

Peeves: (Rubbing his hands) Boy oh boy, am I gonna have some *fun* with this. This waxes interesting (he disappears through the wall)!

Fred: A dragon, inside the school? Too early to wake Georgie; especially since Angelina slept over last night. Ron and Hermione have the new baby, and aren't sleeping well. [He wasn't a snitch, but there were certain rules and considerations accorded to those who were permitted to hang around inside Hogwarts Castle. And expectations. Being granted the freedom to wander among the other portraits here, he was obliged to report anything dangerous. Dragons were many things. The very least of those was being dangerous. What mischief might a *talking* dragon present? Fred squared his shoulders, and walked out the side of his own picture frame and into the next one down the corridor: a still-life. It was a long walk toward the main floors and the access to the Headmaster's office. Behind him, the rising sun beamed at a sharp angle through the window, illuminating the freshly decorated statue of Gregory the Smarmy. Old Gregory had done his part during the Battle of Hogwarts, and bore the nicks and gouges to prove it. At least he had not gotten thoroughly smashed like many of the other statues.]

— 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

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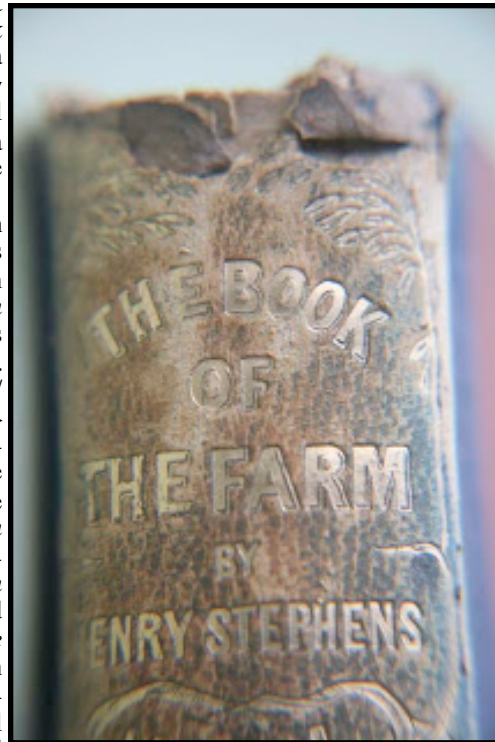
27 December 2013

Hope your Christmas and New Year's were great times, and soon, these holidays will be done for another year. I am getting more back in the usual schedule, and I have comments on the December *Shuttle*.

Smofcon 31 was earlier this month in Toronto... I couldn't

go, but did get a Washington in 2017 bid flyer. That year is going to be one of the busiest in Worldcon bidding history, with four bids, and three of them outside the United States. They're putting a little more World in Worldcon.

Also earlier this month was Yvonne's birthday, and for her birthday, I got her *The Book of the Farm*, a book of how to manage all aspects of a farm in the Victorian period in England, as mentioned in the *Victorian Farm* series [www.imdb.com/title/tt1372211]-ED] produced by the BBC. We've seen *Victorian Farm*, *Edwardian Farm*, and *War Time Farm* here on the local educational channel, and they are quite popular.



Greetings to PieEyed, and I hope Santa was good to you. But then, seeing what adventures you've had, you probably paid Santa a visit, and picked up what presents he had for you, save him the bother of delivery.

My loc... well, I did enjoy that contract with the advertising agency, but they chose not to extend my contract past Christmas Eve because of a lack of work coming in from the client and its vendors. I might be returning to the company sometime in January, but in the meantime, the job hunt must continue once again. We need to be making some hard decisions soon on what we will be doing and where we will be going in 2014. We are not going for TAFF, but the announced candidates will do just fine should either slate win.

With New Year's done by the time this letter sees print, we wish all of you a spectacular 2014.

[TAFF is a 3-way race now: Brad and Cindy Foster (running together), Curt Phillips, and Randy Smith. The TAFF website <taff.org.uk> has full info, including a way to vote/pay via PayPal. Yep, the year-end holidays are done and the mundania of life has well and truly set in. Bah. Humbug, even. As for 2017 being a crowded Worldcon bidding year, the only time that occurs to me where there were 4 serious bidders still active at the time of the vote was the 1988 selection (in 1986) when winner New Orleans ran against St. Louis, Cincy, and the Boat Bid <fancyencyclopedia.org/1988-site-selection-results>. I still don't know for sure if that latter could have run the convention had they won, but they were a clear second preference of the voters—getting almost as many tally marks as the two other also-rans combined. -ED]

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