

KaCSFFS

Newsletter

August, 2005
Volume XXIX Issue 7

Kansas City Science Fiction & Fantasy Society, PO Box 36212, Kansas City, MO 64111
- www.kcsciencefiction.org - 816-545-4765 -

*August KaCSFFS Meeting
3rd Saturday of the Month,
August, 20th, 7 pm*

*The Writer's Place
3607 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO.*

Do you know why the instrument panel on a car is called the dashboard?

It stems from the days when carriages were horse drawn. When the carriage got up speed, the horses were said to be 'dashing'. Good for getting places fast, but bad for the driver and passengers who tended to get splattered with mud from the horses hooves on wet days.

Then some bright spark came up with the idea of putting a board in front of the driver to stop the mud.

It became known as the dash board.

And, like the mud, the name stuck.

It's amazing how many inventions revolve around a horse's rear end.

The Directors Cut

Many thanks to the Film Fest committee - Ken Keller, David Sooby, Ty Gephardt, Jane Bartholomew, Tracy Majkol, and Crispin Burnham - for the great event they arranged in July. They obviously put a lot of hours into selecting the program, and to setting up and running the equipment. It was well publicized and very well attended, with non-KaCSFFS visitors actually outnumbering Kaxfen! Everyone seemed to really enjoy it, and most of the audience stayed until the Late Show. And thank you also to Nancy Nutt, Carol Doms, and Katie McCullough for running the snack bar - they brought in over \$400 for the club! Plus, much appreciation goes to everyone who donated the food, a most delicious contribution.

And now we're back at the Writer's Place for August, with special guest Jean Maneke, Esq., an attorney specializing in copyright law. Bring all your copyright questions - there are obviously plenty, judging by KDL discussions! Our speaker will start at 7 pm, and the brief business meeting will be held after our guest's presentation. Thank you to John Taylor for arranging for Jean to come this month.

We have a couple of proposed amendments to the bylaws to vote on during the business meeting - the text is below. These amendments are to clarify a couple of things in relation to our pending non-profit status, and should be the final step we need to take before turning everything over to the IRS for final approval. If everything goes as it should, we should have the process wrapped up and be (once again) officially non-profit by the end of the year.

Last names starting with O through T, it's your turn to bring snacks to the meeting. Thank you!

Ruth

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KaCSFFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JULY 10, 2005**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. NFP status- Did Jill Klenowski get the updated electronic copy of the bylaws? Historian David Sooby should research for any needed changes and notify board for adjustment of such. Accountant is ready to file as soon as he gets our info.
2. Storage unit cleanout- Charlotte Dressler to email board the address of unit to board members for directions.
3. Picnic postmortem- should we change shelters next year? The pinatas were a success, but it was too hot for the Geek Games- maybe have them at a meeting on a game night?
4. ConQuest hotel bill- carpet cleaning issue. BOD voted to use the monies from July's Film Fest for the cleaning so as not to cut into profits made from Conquest- This fest ONLY. Actual profit unknown at this time from the 'Con, but we did make money.
5. Archivist- Ruth to send reminder to David to finish updated for August meeting. Also remind him to pick up archival materials.
6. Fantasy Hall of Fame- announced at Campbell Conference dinner. There are differing opinions IE: Robin Baley thinks it should go with the World Fantasy Convention. First thing is to confirm that the rights didn't stay with the SFHOF. The people from the Campbell conference want to have inductions in place next summer for Fantasy category. Send letter to Fantasy cons to see if they're even interested in FHOH, if not, work with it.
7. Website- Nancy Nutt suggested a way to sign up online addresses without links that can be easily updated when necessary. Sherri Dean mentioned taking photos of club merchandise at next Writer's place meeting, then designate someone to set up an online store at the club site with our Paypal link to allow online shopping. (Note: I DO NOT, however, volunteer for this as I have NO IDEA how to set this up.-Sherri) Website need to be updated. A good example of club websites for events, etc is F.A.C.T., a Texas fan group, where their info is easily accessible.
8. Charlotte distributed bank report from June.
9. Nancy has a large bulletin board for Jesse to use in gaming next ConQuest.
10. Member directory will be going out soon- first online access, then a 'hard copy.'

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Campbell conference- attendance was down, booksignings were well attended. Chris McKittrick wants to interview James Gunn, possible with Fredrick Pohl but will need an A/V crew. Jim Gunn has lots of interviews with SF greats from the '60's and 70's.
2. The 'Gungeon' tour- volunteers needed.
3. Tie in KaCSFFS West.
4. Volunteer incentives- let people know they're appreciated.

Respectfully submitted, Sherri Dean, Secretary

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 "Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. "

-- Helen Keller

KaCSFFS JUNE MEETING MINUTES

(Also known as the Keltner Family Picnic, June 18, 2005)

Club Director Ruth sets record of shortest business meeting ever!

Lots of food + high temps postponed our Geek Olympics for a cooler time. The food was varied (and yummy!) and despite the heat Charlotte Dressler, Tracy Majkol, Anita Swisher and Ty Gephart made quick work of our three piñatas. (I think our club has lots of horror fans- the piñata bashers kept trying to decapitate the piñatas!- Sherri) After food and a scattering of goodies the 'meeting' was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Sherri Dean, Secretary

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JULY KaCSFFS MEETING 7/23/05

(Also known as KaCSFFS Film Festival Night)

Ruth opened with a welcome to all attendees to the Century of Animation program.

A financial report from ConQuest will be made at the August meeting.

Profits from the concession stand will go toward the hotel rug cleaning bill, this time only, then revert back to Superfund for next year. Specials offered at concession are \$20 all you can eat, \$10 all you can eat til late show, everything at late show half price. Eat early, eat often!

Next meeting will be back at the Writer's Place 8/20/05. The business meeting will take place after programming. Featured speaker will converse on legal/copyright issues, so bring your questions.

Pamphlet distributed regarding upcoming vote on 2 amendments:

Finalized 501 wording
 Fantasy Hall of Fame

KaCSFFS will present their report at August meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Sherri Dean, Secretary

Living in a SF World.

Observations from a list your editor is on -

I read a very interesting article in a recent copy of New Scientist about how computer speech recognition has yet to make really big advances.

It seems that even the best speech recognition software, with personalized training, make on average one mistake every 10 seconds of continuous speech – and if the speaker has a cold or there is a lot of background noise, the error rate rockets.

Instead of continuing to hone their algorithms to improve the accuracy of what they already have, the speech recognition scientists are looking to other solutions.

One such is the graffiti system of handwriting recognition that Palm pioneered and other PDA manufacturers have adopted. Handwriting recognition, like speech, is so personally variable that it takes a vast amount of computing power to reach acceptable levels of accuracy. Palm circumvented this problem by asking users to learn a new simplified set of characters called 'graffiti'. It works very well and the graffiti system is very easy to learn.

Now the question is being posed as to whether it is possible to increase speech recognition accuracy by asking people to learn a new language - one that is far less personally variable.

I don't know about you, but I find it quite extraordinary that we have become so reliant on this tool we call 'the computer' that we are even considering evolving something as fundamental as our language.

I'm beginning to wonder who is the tool and who is the master.

HAL - are you listening?

"The people who are the most irresistible are those who are most themselves. It's not an easy thing to be your true self – all of us feel compelled to live up to certain standards, to achieve a certain level of status, to fit in or even better, to be cool. We all suffer from a certain amount, "(sometimes a great amount) of insecurity. But there is something so charismatic about someone being wholeheartedly and unaffectedly themselves."
Elizabeth Berg

Book Talk Selections.
Borders SF&F Literati
119th & Metcalf
4th Monday of the Month
7 pm

Aug 22 - John Moore
"Heroes for Beginners"

Cool Links

<http://wintercounts.si.edu/> - see how the Native Americans kept track of annual events.

<http://www.savagecinema.com/> - this kinda goes with the book link that Ruth sent out.

<http://www.manhole.ca/index.php> - manholes are usually round so you can't lose the lid down them, for once a bright idea used by the gummint. Now see how decorative some of them can be.

<http://www.robottle.com/hands/gallery.htm> - just how talented are your 2 hands and 10 digits. See what some people can do with them.

<http://a23.com/babesinspace/> -

<http://www.gullible.info/> - can't really add much to these two titles. They kinda say it all.

<http://www.nndb.com/> - you've heard about 6 degrees of separation? This site is starting to narrow down the connections. Pick a name, any name and lose some hours wandering around the info track.

<http://www.nathanbrickartist.com/gallery.html> - have you ever had anyone tell you to get a hobby? This guy did and the results are amazing.

<http://users.skynet.be/J.Beever/pave.htm> - homepage of the artist that does the lifelike sidewalk chalk murals.

Just Visited

Birthday Information

August

Inger Myers – 7/24

Karel Barnes – 8/2

Laura Barnes – 8/2

Keith Russell – 8/2

Matthew Randolph – 8/8

Julie Williams – 8/12

Linoa Lipp – 8/14

Michael Downing – 8/16

Judy Moore – 8/17

Brian Lind – 8/23

Susan Satterfield – 8/29

Ken Keller – 8/30

September

Richard Lipp – 9/9

Bill Tienken – 9/11

Harold McEldery – 9/15

Michael Williams – 9/16

David Edmiston – 9/19

Jeremy Hamilton – 9/20

Tim Carlson – 9/26

Think this is an interesting concept? Send me your about the town observations and I'll put it in a future newsletter.

Jim DeWoskin, a St. Louis native was in town in the spring working a small convention and called me up to see if I wanted to 'come out to play'. This, for someone my age, means dinner out and long conversation over a couple of beers on a weeknight. We wound up at Johnny O'Dare's on Westport Road cause the last time I had been there I really liked the restaurant/bar below the Stanford and Son's Comedy Club. I shan't be back for that venue any longer. It's still a great party place but the décor is now boring motorcycle cheap and the good food choices on the menu have changed to the standard bar burger and fires. One bright spot was the chicken wings appetizer. Smoked and cooked to a tasty hickory/spicy treat. Try them if you find yourself in O'Dare's for whatever reason. We bailed and went to Smokehouse for dinner but the memory of those wings stayed with us.

City Market, not sure whether to cheer or jeer. They've gotten rid of a lot of the little shops along the east side by raising the rent so much they can't afford to stay. The thought is that more eateries along that row would suit the custom better. Which I'm thinking destroys part of the charm of the place. The west side still had the Mediterranean grocery shop and restaurant, try one of their sandwiches. So far everything I've tried is delicious. And the broken lot store is there also, you never know what you're going to find in the narrow little aisles, but it always seems to be worth the effort.

And, speaking of worth the effort, if you're in Claycomo and up for some antiquing, stop in at Timeless Treasures Antique Mall. It's one of those sectioned off stores where sellers rent a booth and then load them up. Lot's of fun stuff to discover.

Also for the northlanders, Stone Canyon Pizza, just off of Antioch in the line mall where the Hobby Lobby is, has closed. I'll have to go to Parkville now to get one of their greasy but tasty pork sandwiches. Bummer.

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Director's Cut – Continued from page 1

Proposed Bylaws Amendments:

Article IV, Section 8

Section 8. Compensation of Officers and Directors. Officers and Directors will serve in a volunteer capacity. No compensation will be paid directly or indirectly to said officers and directors. Officers may obtain reasonable reimbursements for expenses incurred by an officer in direct performance of his/her duties and/or for KaCSFFS, Inc. expenses paid personally by the officer. Receipts for said expenses must be submitted to the treasurer for reimbursement within a reasonable time frame.

Article X. Termination.

Upon termination of non-profit activities by KaCSFFS, Inc. all remaining assets and funds shall be distributed as best serves the exempt purposes of KaCSFFS, Inc. to an organization or event that best promotes the science fiction and fantasy literary forms. This shall be decided by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members in attendance upon the meeting in which KaCSFFS, Inc. is officially dissolved.

I've noticed some discussion on KDL about items that could be submitted to the newsletter but still haven't received submissions. Come on folks, my editor tastes aren't that stringent. Book reviews, observations on life, jokes, sayings, a gossip column, tales of brick and mortar stores to visit so we don't totally sink into the 'net for all our shopping needs. Send me a concept, I'll work it in.

KaCSFFS Membership Application

Please print legibly Date completed _____

Paid fees include membership in the club, a subscription to the club newsletter, access to club functions, and voting privileges.

Name _____ Birth Date – (Opt) _____
 2nd Name _____ Birth Date – (Opt) _____
 3rd Name _____ Birth Date – (Opt) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ e-mail _____
 New _____ Renew _____ Change _____
 Heard about **KaCSFFS** from _____
 Interests include _____

- Do not include my e-mail in the membership directory
- Do not include my phone number in the membership directory
- Do not include my address in the membership directory

Please mail this completed form with your dues check to;

Kansas City Science Fiction & Fantasy Society

PO Box 36212

Kansas City, MO 64171-6212

Or bring it to the next **KaCSFFS** meeting to submit to the treasurer in person.

Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------|--|
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Membership Information for KaCSFFS, Inc.

Annual dues are \$ 15.00 per household with a \$ 12.00 additional fee per extra name listed separately on the club roster at the same address. Paid fees include membership in the club, a subscription to the club newsletter, access to club functions, and voting privileges.

Dues are payable at the Fiscal meeting in March.

Attendees that choose to pay on a monthly basis will be charged \$ 2.00 per meeting.

One newsletter will be mailed to each household on the membership list. Additional copies of the newsletter will be available at the monthly meeting.

Send Payments to:

KaCSFFS

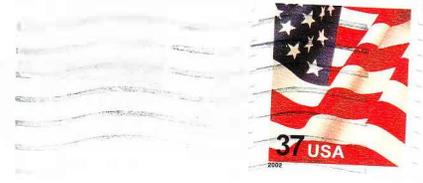
PO Box 36212

Kansas City, MO 64171-6212

This is the monthly newsletter of the **Kansas City Science Fiction and Fantasy Society, (KaCSFFS)** a Not-For-Profit Corporation. The newsletter will be produced on a regular basis by the editor of **KaCSFFS** and The Warthog Press.

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Upcoming events of interest

There is nothing interesting - it's too hot or too rainy.