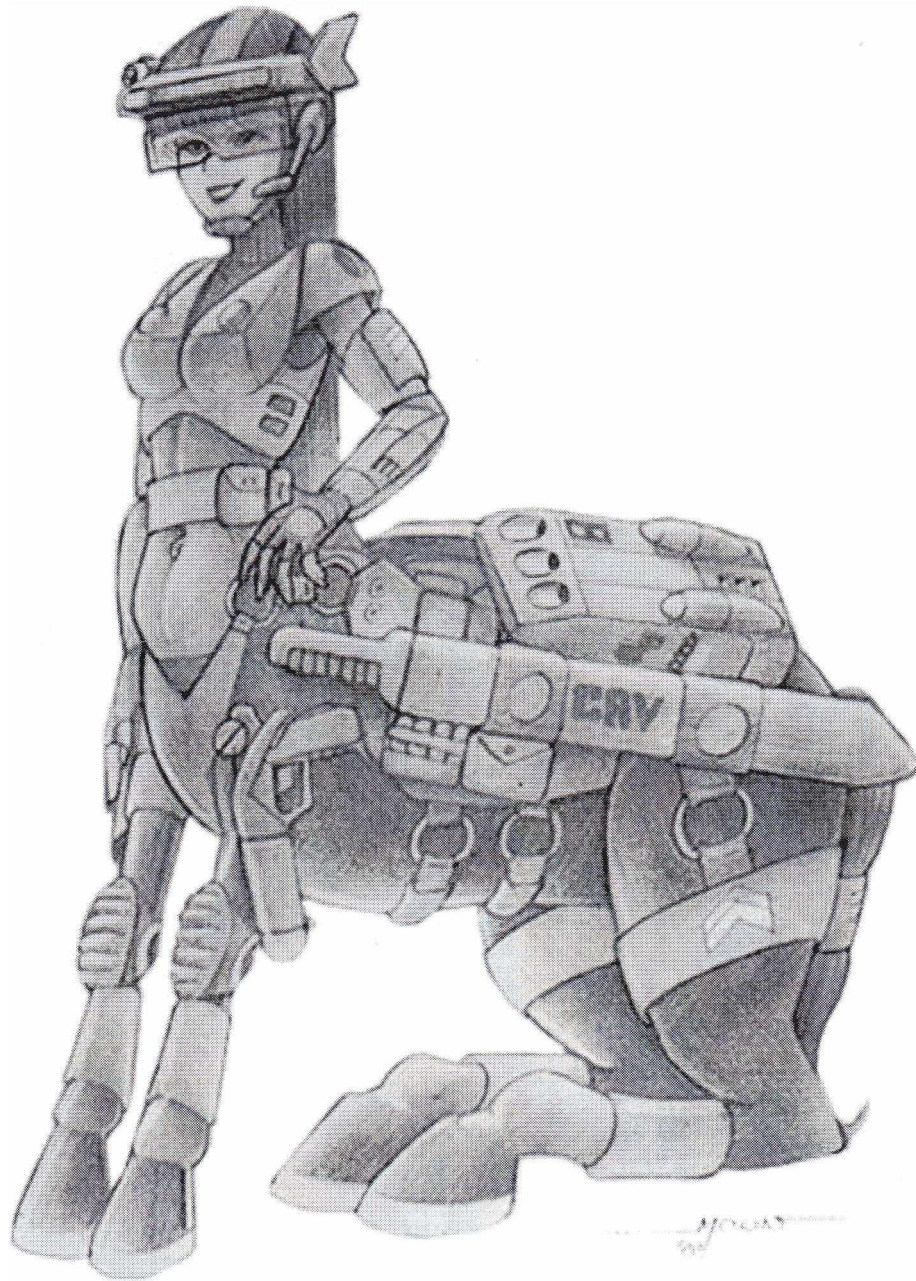


# THE SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION BULLETIN



Volume 9 Number 1

June 2008

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### Policies

The *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin* Volume 9, Number 1, June 2008, is the official publication of the Southern Fandom Confederation (SFC), a not-for-profit literary organization and information clearinghouse dedicated to the service of Southern Science Fiction and Fantasy Fandom. This issue of the *Bulletin* is edited by Warren Buff and is published at least three times per year. Membership in the SFC is \$15 annually, running from DeepSouthCon to DeepSouthCon. A club or convention membership is \$50 annually. Donations are welcome. All checks should be made payable to the Southern Fandom Confederation. The *Bulletin* is also available for trades, published contributions, and letters of comment. As we are switching from bulk mailing to first class, I will be trimming the mailing list at the end of the year. I'll give y'all several more reminders before I start trimming, though.

Permission is granted to reprint all articles, lists, and flyers so long as the author and the *Bulletin* are credited. All art is copyrighted by the artist, unless otherwise specified. An exception is granted in the case of art that appears in a convention flyer.

The editor encourages submission of lengthy written material and art – covers and illos. Contributions and LoCs via electronic means are highly desirable. If you wish to use the Internet, you may send the article as electronic mail or an attachment. If you wish to send the editor computer media, 3.5" floppies, 100/250 MB Zip disk, CD and DVD-ROMS are acceptable. IBM compatible file formats are acceptable. Media will be returned if requested. The *Bulletin* is laid out in OpenOffice on a Pentium III based PC. Ink and typewritten submissions are also graciously accepted. If you're not sure what all this means, get in touch to work out a solution.

Throughout the *Bulletin*, you will find comments in italics and enclosed by brackets [*like this*]. Those are comments from the editor, Warren Buff, unless otherwise noted.

### Web Links

The SFC web site is: [www.southernfandom.com](http://www.southernfandom.com).  
Convention listings are from the Southern Fandom Resource Guide: [www.scenic-city.com/sfrg](http://www.scenic-city.com/sfrg). Southern Fandom

Classic Yahoo! Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthernFandomClassic/>

### Ad Rates

Type	Full Page	Half Page	Page
Fan	\$40.00	\$20.00	\$10.00
Pro	\$80.00	\$40.00	\$20.00

### SFC Handbooks

This amazing 196 page tome of Southern Fannish lore, edited by T. K. F. W. Reinhardt, is now available to all comers for \$5, plus a \$2 shipping and handling charge if we have to mail it. The Handbook is also available online, thanks to the efforts of Samuel Smith, at [www.smithuel.net/sfcbh/](http://www.smithuel.net/sfcbh/). The SFC Handbook Errata page is: [www.smithuel.net/sfchb/hberrata.html](http://www.smithuel.net/sfchb/hberrata.html).

### T-Shirts

Sizes	Quantity (Animals)	Quantity (States)
Medium	0	3
Large	1	1

T-Shirts are \$10 each plus \$3 shipping and handling fee if we have to mail it. The first selection has a color design of cute animals on white fabric. The second selection has black design of cute icons of states on peach fabric.

### SFC Patches

These snazzy color SFC Patches are only \$5 plus \$1 shipping and handling fee if we have to mail it.

### Art Credits

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[www.catgirlisland.net/](http://www.catgirlisland.net/)

Photo page 3 by a courteous LARPer, from the collection of Patrick Gibbs.

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### Buff's Broadside

Greetings, Southern Fandom! Welcome to Volume 9 of the *SFCB*. I suppose I should start with an introduction and a bit of the story of how I wound up in the editor's chair. I'm Warren Buff, and I opened my big fat mouth where Guy Lillian could hear. He'd been lamenting the lack of someone to take over from Randy, and I believe what I said was, "Well, what are the duties of the



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SFC President?" His response? "Oh boy!"

So how did I get to that point? Well, I kind of got interested in Southern Fandom when the local con I'd been working on for years (StellarCon) won their bid for the 46<sup>th</sup> DSC. I joined the SFC, picked up my handbook (actually, I did it in the reverse order, drawing a nasty stare from the folks behind the table), and started reading. I'd encountered a few zines before (primarily Mike Pederson's *Nth Degree*), but hadn't really had any idea of how deep the rabbit hole went until I started reading. Within a year, I'd joined SFPA, started participating in one-shots when I saw them, and was gearing up for a much broader run of convention attendance than I'd done before. At LibertyCon, the OutsideCon DSC, and Con\*Stellation, I started meeting many of the fine folks I'd been reading about all spring. I joined the SFC Yahoo Group (more about that later), and stepped up my involvement in my local cons. I suppose I was starting to figure out what "FIAWOL" means.

So at this point, I'm in deep. I've got a few ideas about how to keep Southern Fandom going strong. First, we need to resist the pull of gafia. I know that gets harder as you get older, but I call on you to keep writing and drawing and pubbing your ish, and keep coming to cons, and keep attending your local club's events, and keep going with whatever fanac interests you. But that only does so much, that only preserves Southern Fandom, and it won't hold it indefinitely. So the next enjoinder I have for you is to make sure your company is open. When an unfamiliar face walks into the consuite, or a room party, or your local club – *talk to that person*. This could be someone you want to know. This could be tomorrow's fannish legend. You might even learn something about fanac you'd never even heard of. And the last enjoinder is for my generation. We need to get active. We need to get to know each other at cons, and through mailing lists, and through zines. We need to communicate from town to town, and across state lines. We have the means at our disposal. Let's make ourselves something to live up to the welcome I'm asking Southern Fandom to make for us. Let's make tomorrow's legends.

### **Southern Fandom News**

#### **Results of the DSC Hearts Championship of the Known Universe**

**By Patrick Gibbs**



The 2008 DSC Hearts Championship of the Known Universe was

held by the four die-hard players who preserved the decades-old tradition. Players (left to right) were: Patrick Gibbs, Warren Buff, Sue Phillips and Robert Zielke. In a close game, Pat Gibbs won after shooting the moon in the 10th of 11 hands [*My fault - WB*].

I would hope we could record the event in the next *SFC Bulletin's* reporting of the DSC because the tradition has become a little too obscure and if the suggestion from Sue Phillips of naming it the "Hank Reinhardt Memorial Hearts Tournament" is going to (1) be realized and (2) mean anything, we need to promote the event so people will participate.

It was a fun game and I can say that it was much better than most DSC Tournament games I've played in.

Sue Phillips and I played with Hank for the first time at the 1976 DSC Hearts Tournament in Doraville, GA. You might say that Hank and I met over the Hearts table. We played pretty regularly for 31 years. He was the best "money" Hearts player in Southern Fandom with Lon Atkins, who moved out of the region in the 1970's, being his closest rival. Hank will be missed by all who knew him and so if we are going to preserve the DSC, the Hearts Tournament would be a good way of remembering him.

#### **Announcing a Revision of the *Southern Fandom Confederation Handbook***

**By M. Lee Rogers**

During the recent Deep South Con in High Point, NC, I stopped by the SFC table and chatted with Head Honcho Randy Cleary, who walks normally despite the lame duck limp. He was running a package deal: \$15 for an SFC membership, a jacket patch, and a copy of the *SFC Handbook*.

As I looked at the *Handbook's* cover, I realized that Toni Weisskopf published her revision of the essential history of Southern fandom in 1997, over ten long and eventful years ago. Toni is much too busy publishing Baen Books to revise the *Handbook* again. A South African gentleman who moved to the States a few years ago offered to revise it, but life got in the way and he stopped work well short of a finished product.

Thus was created the sad sight at which I gazed. This Was Not Right.

As sometimes happens, I heard a voice in my head. These voices raise up occasionally, never to do any good. They may come from angels or devils—it's better not to ask. Anyway, this one whispered, "You can do it. You love history. Other people will write most of it. You just have to nag and edit."

I thought about it for a while. My job does not require long hours but keeps me plenty busy while on duty. I have one or two other projects that could take up significant chunks of free time in the foreseeable future.

I thought about some of the fen I had known who had passed on and would never join us for supper again. During DSC, I had heard from others about the bad health of a couple of major Southern fans. Being around some of my fannish contemporaries also

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helped me make up my mind. In the end, it looked like it just might work.

So on a cool Saturday evening while sitting at a supper table at a generically ethnic restaurant with Toni Weisskopf, Randy Cleary, Judy Bemis, Sue Phillips, Dan Caldwell, and others, I said the fateful words.

The revision of the *Southern Fandom Confederation Handbook* will require the help of many Southern fans to document the history of the previous decade. If you want to help record some of that history, please contact me. As I review the current *Handbook*, plans will form for a list of articles to cover the recent past. As necessary, I will look for contributors to cover specific geographic and/or functional areas of Southern fandom. For example, Mike Kennedy has agreed to cover the Huntsville area.

The goal is to have the 3rd edition of the *Handbook* on the stands by the 2009 Deep South Con in Nashville sometime around midyear. I will need your help to make it happen. Remember: if we do not sing our songs, no one else will sing them for us.

### **PRELIMINARY DUFF TRIP REPORT**

**By Sue and Steve Francis 2008 DUFF Representatives**

We have just completed our trip to Australia as DUFF 2008 representatives. New friendships were made with fans from Perth, Sydney, Hobart, Adelaide and Melbourne. We also visited with people that we knew from our previous trip to Australia in 1999. One of the requirements of the DUFF representatives is to attend a major Australian convention during their trip Down Under. This year it was the Australian NatCon/Swancon 33 in Perth.

The second task that falls to the current DUFF representative is to prepare and distribute a trip report for the year in which travel is completed. That report is now a work in progress. We hope to have it finished before the end of the year. Copies will be available for \$5.00 wherever you find us or by mail.

The third task we will be undertaking is to raise funds during the next two years thru auctions, table sales and by collecting any donations from fans who are willing to support the DUFF fund. To that end we will be attending the following conventions around the country:

ConGlomeration Louisville KY April 18-20

MidWestCon Cincinnati OH June 26-29

WesterCon Las Vegas NV July 3-6

Denvention Denver CO Aug 6-10

ArmadilloCon Austin TX Aug 15-17

The FranHurst Family Reunion Relaxacon Louisville KY Oct 3-5

SmofCon 26 Columbus OH Dec 5-7

ConCave 29.5 (New Year's Eve Party) Horse Cave KY Dec 26-28

There will be a DUFF table at Denvention next to the Australia in 2010 bid table and the Xerps in 2010 table. You might hear some tall tales of our Australian fannish tour at the table, so come by and say G'day Y'all.

### **Fifty Years of Texas Fandom**

**By Tim and Mary Miller**

Fifty years ago, an intrepid band of fans braved the July Texas heat to gather and the hold first Texas SF convention, SouthwesternCon 6. Luckily, air conditioning had become pretty well established. An 18-year old Greg Benford was part of the planning committee, importing, among others, Forey Ackerman as a guest. Fandom had gained a solid foothold within the state of Texas, that continues, unbroken to this day.



The 90's represent a period in Texas Fandom, marked by several conventions closing their doors. In a state so large, you can drive for 12 hours and not get from one side to the other, Texas literary fans had only two conventions they could attend: AggieCon and ArmadilloCon.

In 2002, the outlook improved when a group of former A&M college students started ConDFW, using experience gained while working AggieCon during their college years. 2005 formally marked the end of the fannish drought in Texas. New cons sprouted everywhere. Linucon in Austin, ApolloCon in Houston and FenCon in Dallas all burst on the scene, giving fans new opportunities to interact as well as developing healthy and thriving communities for fans of all types. The most impressive aspect of the Texas fannish renaissance maybe that the four main not-for-profit, con-running groups actively work together to continue to make Texas Fandom better and stronger.

In 2008 there will be almost 3 dozen different types of SF or SF related cons in the Lone Star State. ConDFW 7 was in DFW, the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, in late February. Houston's ApolloCon will follow in June 27-29, with a short breather before ArmadilloCon 30 in Austin on August 15-17 and FenCon V in Dallas on October 3-5. Lets not forget student-run AggieCon, held in late March each year. AggieCon is the longest running, student-run, SF con in the USA, celebrating AggieCon 40 in 2009.



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Texas also boasts other conventions including AKon, one of the largest Anime Cons around, as well as countless gaming, media and other conventions. Portus 08, the Harry Potter symposium will be in Dallas in July.

If that isn't enough, ALAMO, the group that brought you the 1997 Worldcon (LoneStarCon 2) has recently revived InstaCon, a convention for people who run conventions, and FenCon is bidding to bring DeepSouthCon to Dallas in 2011. Texas is one of the few states that DeepSouthCon can be in that it has not been in yet.

In the past 50 years the humble roots of fandom have driven themselves deep, to support a vast, growing and varied fandom that covers the great state of Texas. With all that said, I would like to take this time to tip my hat to you and invite y'all to visit us for a spell and sample some of our fannish charm.

For a more complete list of cons in and around Texas, check out the convention calender on the FenCon site  
<http://www.fencon.org/calendar.html>

### **SFC and The Virtual Fan Lounge By Peter Sullivan**

Before we go any further, I need to make one thing perfectly plain. It's all Curt Phillips' fault.

I, like a number of other fans, didn't get to go to Corflu. But we still had a real good time. And that, without any shadow of a doubt, is all Bill Mills' fault...

Bill has already been involved in bringing technology to fandom, being the main man behind The Voice of Fandom podcasts. But for Corflu, he either volunteered – or got drafted – to set up a live video feed of parts of the convention. The video feed came with its own built-in chat-room. It is a fannish maxim that fans love to talk. So we all took to the chat-room like the proverbial ducks to water. When there was a live feed (as for the panel sessions, or the FAAN Awards banquet) we discussed what we were watching. When there wasn't a video stream, we discussed – well, just about everything else. We even managed to get a certificate designed and e-mailed, for presentation to Bill at the FAAN Awards Ceremony. As a small thank-you for all the work he put in, both setting it up and keeping it running throughout the convention.

One of the other things that we discussed was that we'd like to do it all again. Curt Phillips was the one who uttered the immortal words "What would you all think about having a fandom-wide live audio chat on a regular basis?" Starting the process that lead to the setting up of The Virtual Fan Lounge, and the regular Southern Fandom Classic chat-room sessions.

We have two regular events already running in The Virtual Fan Lounge. As part of the Las Vegrants parties, Arnie Katz presents The Wasted Hour on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. Meanwhile, on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, Southern Fandom Classic have their own session in the chat-room. In addition to these regular events, there are one-off events as well -

for instance, last weekend we had an interview with Shelby Vick. Details of future planned events can be found in Virtual Tucker Hotel, the fanzine of the Virtual Fan Lounge, which is available on [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.com) at

<http://efanzines.com/VTH/index.htm>

To use the chat-room, just go to

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge>. On the left hand side of the page is the live video feed –

replaced by a slide show when there isn't anything happening. On the right is the actual chat-room. You can see what everyone else is typing in the top window, and add your own contribution in the smaller box at the bottom.

You will be assigned an initial user name in the format "ustreamer-12345." If you'd rather change this – to your real name, livejournal name, or whatever – you can do this by clicking the "Sign Up" link at the top to register for free. Some people have been slightly put off by the amount of information that the registration form asks for, which I can empathise with. But registration is entirely optional – you can simply stay as "ustreamer-12345" if you prefer.

If you've missed one of the live events, many of them are available for viewing afterwards in the Video Library. The clips are listed under the main viewscreen on the left – just click to select.

The next Southern Fandom Classic chat session is scheduled for the 4rd Saturday. Dean Sweatman and other members of the SFC group will be holding their regular chat session in the Virtual Fan Lounge, and invite other interested fans from around the world to join them on Saturday 29th June. Start time still to be confirmed – see Virtual Tucker Hotel for more details.

## **Convention Reports**

### **Oasis 21 Con Report By Joy V. Smith**

On Friday, May 23, my sister Char and I set out for Oasis, the literary SF con held in Orlando, Florida on Memorial Day weekend. We parked at the hotel parking garage for \$3.00 a night (got a discount for the con; \$12.00 was crossed out on the parking permit!). After registering at the hotel and unloading our luggage, we dropped off our donations at the freebie table and the charity auction table and then picked up our name tags since we'd pre-registered. It was good to be back in the hotel where everything was in the same building, especially since it was raining again. (It's been remodeled, and they have a Starbucks now.)

I visited with people and checked out the art show and dealers room, dealers and artists were still arriving. There was a nice selection of furry art and digital photography at the art show. More furry art than last year, I believe. And I discovered that you can get yourself photographed with fairies and other creatures. (Go to [www.fantasticalphotography.com](http://www.fantasticalphotography.com))

Browsing the freebies table--the Hulk posters are huge!--I picked up some fiction samples and flyers, among other things. Great

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selection. Char had gone to the 3 pm panel, Peace Through Superior Firepower: Military SF. (Panels started at 2 pm.) She reported that military SF focuses on future wars while regular military fiction is past and present wars. [Apparently they didn't address Alternate History which often focuses on past wars.] You have to keep characters believable even though using future weaponry.

Then we tracked down the video room and caught the end of a Deep Space 9 tribbles episode which was fun. After that were the Japanese live action TV series episodes; there were five, but I didn't get to see them all. Then I dropped off the freebies in our room and went to the con suite for the chili contest (a kid was playing a video game on a wall mounted TV there, btw. I would have asked him what the red and blue bars meant at the top of the screen, but I didn't want to break his concentration). I liked the Internal Damnation chili best. It was the hottest, but a number of people said--You call this hot?! And went on to discuss Thai food..

Back at the video room for more of the Japanese TV series, the Ultraman episode was poetical. Super Star God Gransazers was good. I was sorry we couldn't see all of the Japanese episodes, but there's so much to do. We stopped at our room before the opening ceremonies. (Everything is so convenient here!) Juan Sanmiguel, the con chair, introduced the guests: Dave Gerrold (Writer Guest of Honor who gave us some background), John Scalzi (Special Guest Writer; this is his first time in Florida; his family is at Disneyworld), Bill & Brenda Sutton (Filk Guests of Honor; they were in Japan for the world con & climbed Mt. Fuji). Paul Vincenti (Artist Guest of Honor) was late because he'd overslept, but he was in time to join us for the chocolate buffet (giant chocolate chip cookies and brownies, miniature candy bars, ...).

We took a break in our room before the Alien Artifacts panel at 9 pm. This is one of my favorite panels. We had to wait until the 40 Years of Star Trek panel finished (it was full); so I browsed the freebies table and picked up bookmarks, etc.; there's always something new. I also peeked in one of the gaming rooms (there were two); gaming is hosted by FRAG (Florida Roleplayer's Association of Gamers). Available forms there included character record sheets, Magic Item Creation Logsheets (Living Greyhawk Campaign), and Adventure Journal sheets (Legends of the Shining Jewel).

The Alien Artifacts panelists are scientists. Michael Conrad was Bubba this time. (I missed his psychic persona.) The other scientists/panelists were David Gerrold, Jeff Mitchell (who really is a rocket scientist), John Scalzi, and Craig Caldwell. Caldwell had a fedora, a crystal skull, magnifying glass, gloves, a sonic screwdriver; and he was always pulling new gadgets out of his bag. He was fantastic! The artifacts included kitchen tongs (one panelist said that it was an artificial clapper), a corked beaker (when it was uncorked, a colorless gaseous alien escaped and took over one of the panelists who attacked another panelist), a tissue box (which was a fez, a Martian apartment complex, a helmet, or a space bidet), and a number of other items. There was physical interaction, and, of course, lots of sexual references and sneering comments about the other scientists' faulty assumptions. (You're not wrong; you're creatively right.)

After that, we returned to the video room and saw the end of a Buffy episode (edited). Torchwood (pain and suffering) was next, which I've given up on, so we retreated to our room, where we read and relaxed.

Saturday, May 24, we started out at the con suite, and then I bought the current con tee shirt and met a couple of fans I'd only met online. After that it was back to the video room where we saw the end of a Land of the Lost episode. We'd gone there to see an old Dr. Who episode (the Sontarrans and Sarah Jane Smith) with Jon Pertwee, one of my favorite Dr. Whos. After that we had lunch at the con suite and checked out the dealers room, where I visited a favorite book dealer, The Missing Volume. (She has the Liaden universe books by Sharon Lee and Steve Miller.) She said she'd bring one of their books that I wanted from home the next day. She did that for me last year too.

Char had gone to the panel, Sex and the Single Werewolf. She said: "Laurell K Hamilton's Anita Blake series was discussed. [She brought it up.] The consensus was too much sex. One writer on the panel advised she was told by her publisher to put in more sex in her stories so they would sell. What your publisher tells you to do, you do."

After the dealers room, I went to the art show again. Some art that stood out to me was Fennecs by Lamplight, Battle Tiger, Curiosity (girl and dragon), the digital photos (dog looking at fairies, a unicorn, and Pixy-Led (girls with fairy wings), and the kiln fired art glass; I especially liked the Siberian [tiger] gryphon; there were also an owl gryphon and horses.

I browsed the auction table (books and items that weren't going to the auction) and bought a book. (Bought more there later.) After meeting Char, we went back to the video room for more Dr. Who. And then on to the aikido demonstration. Aikido is the way of harmony. The men and women fought in their bare feet; the slapping sound on the mats is very loud as they're thrown. They also used staffs. (Aikido weapons include long staff, short staff, long sword, short sword, and dagger.) A light person can defeat a big person by using their energy. And there was a demonstration when three people attacked one. That involves use of space, as I recall. They were all incredibly graceful. Check out their website: <http://www.shindai.com/>

After that I voted in the art show. (Only one category this year; other years there were SF, fantasy, and Best in Show.) Back at the video room there were some old British TV series episodes (Third Man, Sir Francis Drake, and Sir Lancelot) and a new one that hasn't made it to the US yet--Primeval. I came back for that: it was good. Dinosaurs, etc. are breaking through a rift into our world. (Thanks to Robert Yazel for the Japanese and English TV series episodes, and, of course, to Arthur Dykeman for running the video room and sharing his collection and to the other contributors, who include Juan Sanmiguel with his anime music videos.)

After checking the freebies table, it was on to the masquerade contest. The judges were Mike Conrad, Paul Vincenti, and Patricia

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Wheeler. The contestants were: #1: Captain Ozzie, space ranger; #2: Elf of the Forest's Edge; #3: Atlanta; #4: Professor Marcus Smythe Smythe Jones; and #5: Lady Darth Drama. While the judges deliberated, there were announcements – desserts at the con suite, volunteers needed, Seattle 2011 bid party, chili contest winners: Fan choice: Zsa Zsa's; Cthulhu's Choice: Internal Damnation; Best name: Nerd's Nosh. The art contest winners were: 1st place: Spring by Paul Vincenti, 2nd place: Snowy Owl Gryphon by Marti Roberson, and 3rd place: Nuclear War by Mike Conrad. Judges' choice was Awakening in Glass by Marti Roberson.

And now the masquerade awards: 1st place was Professor Marcus Smythe Smythe Jones; 2nd place was Elf of the Forest's Edge; and 3rd place was Darth Drama. (She certainly was.) After that we viewed Quark in the video room, went to the Seattle bid party, and enjoyed the filking. They played and sang a number of songs, including the classic about the aliens who keep dumping their pets on a man's farm on Earth.

Sunday, May 25: We checked out and finally found our car... We had breakfast at the con suite and browsed the art show and freebies table again. (Still more goodies there: I found a space launch schedule courtesy of Spaceyideas.com) After that I went to the Blogging panel; panelists were Ann Morris, Juan Sanmiguel, John Scalzi, and Adam-Troy Castro.

They started out with the question, Why do people do it? For some it's socialization, therapy, and release; some people keep a boring diary; one man wrote nasty posts about his wife's ex-husband; and groups and organizations have blogs. A panelist said that Live Journal has cachet; people like it. I think panelists agreed that Live Journal is better than My Space or FaceBook. A panelist mentioned that kids often don't understand that the Internet isn't private. And things can go horribly, horribly wrong. Incidents blow up; people react; some people want an instant response to their posts. Scalzi doesn't like emoticons, and Castro dislikes "IMHO." You can make friends online, but you have to be careful; sometimes you find that someone lives right down the street from you. Very interesting panel. (I'm a blogger.)

After that back to the con suite where kids are playing a video game. (There were also movies frequently running on the TV screen: National Treasure 2, I Am Legend, ...) And I stopped at the dealers room to pick up my Liaden universe book. Char went to the Evolution of Gender & Sex Roles in SF panel. She said: "On the evolution of gender & sex roles panel, it was more like going into different types of sex roles, like hetero & homo. I thought it would be more like heroines no longer need to be rescued while standing helplessly in a corner, but this was only touched on when I brought it up."

I visited the art show, freebies table, and The Discarded in the video room. I asked for a hint about it. Okaay. That's a negative so I check out the con suite where I find a lost panelist's name sign; I discover that on the back is a list of the panelist's panels and schedule. That's helpful. I wander the halls, visit with people some more. The halls are less crowded and quieter. I go on to the Terry Pratchett panel. (I have most of his books, btw.) Steve Grant and Patricia Wheeler are the panelists. Small panel and

audience, but we have a good time discussing favorite lines, books, and characters. There are so many good ones! Wheeler recommends The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents. Someone said that Steve Hawking mentions turtles (from the Discworld) in A Brief History of Time. We discuss if Carrot would ever be king. No. And I learn that a movie's been made of The Colour of Magic (newer than Hogfather); and Wee Free Men has been cast. This was a really fun panel.

Next I'm off to the charity auction (which followed the art auction); it had already started. Mike Conrad is the auctioneer and is very funny, as usual. There were books; prints; original art, including two Art by Committee cartoons (I missed that this year); puzzles, jewelry, a really big butterfly, and David Gerrold's name sign signed with his name and a tribble. (He wrote that famous Star Trek episode. You could buy tribbles in the dealers room, btw; I met a girl with one, and she had it purr for me.)

We left before the auction was over; it always runs long. And didn't stay for the closing ceremonies. Back to home and work with so many happy memories! (I registered for next year's con earlier.)

### **Conflation Post-Mortem By Tricia Overkamp**

I have returned from Conflation. What an interesting weekend! Those of you who missed this con missed out. Attendance is still smallish, but we had some good ol' fans return and some new faces appear. The "theme" of the weekend was "Firefly" and the programming reflected that.

Now, as usual, I was "up to something" this year. Friday night there was a Nerf Battle between the "Browncoats" and the "Alliance". The battle for independence had maybe. 50-60 people involved. All of them had some kind of Nerf projectile weapon. Some time ago, some of you may recall that I posted a note here (and sent out emails) seeking people to help me with my idea for this Battle.

Here's what I did: I put together a team of REAVERS to invade the battle and mob the scene. We gathered in my room and covered ourselves with tattered garments, ugly scars, nasty teeth and buckets of blood. (No really. bakadragon brought her own Bucket of Blood.) We geared up with our guns, delivered a walkie-talkie to one of our "shills" in the audience, and waited for the signal.

We wanted to appear in the middle of the battle, not show up at the beginning, you see. A good friend quietly went to the Goddesses in charge and whispered that there was a Reaver Boarding Party making its way to the battle. So about 30 seconds before we made our appearance, there was a mad scramble to let us in the \*side\* door of the room, where we could swarm into the middle of the scene.

Mwa ha ha! A great hue and cry went out: AAAUGH!  
REEEEAVERRRRS!!!

And mob them we did.



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We had two "victims" who had volunteered to be taken down, one of which was a "medic" who didn't really want to fire a gun but wanted to participate. Down she went! NOM NOM NOM!! Another gave out terrible, terrified screams culminating in an orgasmic cry. NOM NOM NOM!!

Did I mention that despite our attempts to be horrible. Um. Reaver grrls are HAWT!

Our Team Reaver was joined by Little Reaver Foo Foo (damn. Somebody managed to come up with something even more surreal than \*I\* had.) and another random Reaver.

Brennan, Mike Evans, Jen Schumacher, Kurt Simmons, Deb Klasek, and I made a pretty ferocious band of flesh-eating Devil's Rejects, let me tell you.

And DAMN was that a lot of fun. I'm gong to make sure that they host a Nerf Battle at Archon this year. Imagine having this in one of the BIG programming rooms!!

And yes, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Nerf dart that got caught in the chandelier. that was mine. Sorry.

The rest of Friday was a flurry of packing the truck, unpacking the truck, retrieving Tanya from the airport, decorating Inara's Shuttle, (The secondary programming space) and figuring out when to eat. Later that night, I had suggested "Badger's Tea Party."

The program said, "Come sample a variety of teas". Ah, but when I suggested a Badger's Tea Party, I had meant Badger's Tea. Badger puts wood alcohol in his tea. I didn't want to make anyone blind, so I chose spiced rum instead. Worked out beautifully: I got to pour "tea" out of my beautiful new dragon tea-pot, and with a grin and a wink, suggest that each party guest 'sweeten the tea' with something from the big bucket o' soda. Mmm. Spiced rum and Sprite Zero. Nom nom nom.

Oh. Did I mention my adorable "Lady" Badger costume? Found a cute velvet derby hat at the party store for \$5. Added it to my steampunk vest and that strange pair of pinstriped Zoot Suit pants I use for my Dietrich costume, and tied a little rag of a scarf around my throat.

Way fun.

"We didn't win any prizes, and that's just ok by me. I don't need more stuff, honestly.

I was appointed as next year's Queen. But because two other members of the court were doing Reaver-related performance art all weekend, also... the chanting began: REAVER COURT! REAVER COURT! NOM NOM NOM...

Heh. Well, if I must, I must. And if I must, I'm delighted to be a Reaver Queen.

And since next year's chosen theme is Steampunk...

Is a Steampunk Reaver Queen like a Borg Queen? Because Alice

Krige was HAWT.

And yes. Next year's Conflation theme is Steampunk. Consider for the moment the implications of this. Steampunk combines elements of Victorian costume, engineering, and language with a modern hindsight and a late-industrial attitude. Many people have written in the "History that never was" genre, many people have spoken about this weird new subculture, and many artists are making some of the coolest things I've ever seen!

Not into Steampunk? Can't think of a way to include Victorian/early industrial/clockwork robot/anime airship pirate/wild wild west costuming in your plans for an adult relaxacon? Then ignore the theme. Really. I give you permission. Wear your finery, wear your street clothes, wear your pajamas. Spend the day with other fans, sharing stories and making merry. Dance at the dance, drink at the room parties, and have a good time.

Are you into Steampunk, but uncertain about letting your freak flag fly and letting it all hang out for all the geeks of fandom? Leave your freak flag at home. Conflation is not an orgy. It is not a swinger's convention, and it is not some weekend-long hedonistic fleshfest. Don't misunderstand me, if those are things that you're seeking, it is possible to find such things at the con, but not in the con space. Usually. Even during its heyday as a Geeks Gone Wild party, the real craziness always happened where it happens at all conventions: In private rooms, doors closed.

Ok, to be fair, I did see one of the goddesses making out with a group of scantily clad people in the hallway at one point. That did happen. Were all 110 people attending the con in that group? Not hardly.

So if random public displays of affection bother you, stay home. Stay home from Archon, too. And while we're at it, stay home from the Anime cons. And ConQuest. I run into random groups of people making out in the hallway at Archon all the time. (Its just that some of them aren't old enough to drink yet...)

Oh dear. I've begun to rant.

Dragging myself back on topic, Next year's theme is Steampunk. If you know anyone over the age of 21 who loves this sub-genre, please pass an invitation along to them. Please consider attending the con yourself. It's not expensive, either. Under \$40 at the door? who else does that?

If you can think of programming (on-topic or off-topic) feel free to forward your ideas to the Con Goddesses. (Or me. You can tell me what you'd like to see. I'll pass your ideas along.) If you can think of someone who might make a good panelist or non GOH guest, let the con know about it. Personally, I'm going to push for a few extra 'guests' to make things interesting.

And just think: If your steampunk isn't the least bit naughty, no worries. But if your idea of steampunk is a little bit naughty... bring it on!



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### **RavenCon Report By Lynn Bailey**

RavenCon gave the best homework ever. Taking attendance and notes, getting headcounts, yes, it's work, but still... I've worked a few cons by now; I know volunteer jobs tend to vary, but I've never before gotten credit for attending panels. Ok, wait. That's later. Backing up...

Friday.

Richmond isn't so many hours from central North Carolina, and the Crowne (the "e" makes it traditional!) Plaza wasn't so far from the highway. My friend's car pulled in sometime between "Yay, hotdogs!" and "I'm going to kill both of us if I hear that song again," so not bad for a short trip. Parking was easy. They even put out a welcome sign, for once a genuine testament to the hotel staff's unflappable hospitality.

Hotel itself was unremarkable but pleasant. There were stairs! You could use them! Mostly didn't need to, though – Consuite, Ops and most (all?) of the programming had coagulated on the ground floor. A combination of hotel layout and the particular spaces they gave us obviated a need for the "avoid disturbing the wedding party" shuffle, or trying to figure out which outlandishly dressed creatures were there for the costume contest, and which were there for the family reunion.

Admittedly I missed some of the bits others' would likely find most interesting. The small art show I only took a brief stroll around, but it seemed like quality. Dealer room, likewise. One of the few things I regret about RavenCon was not investigating the local Poe-related attractions; I hear the museum and gardens were awesome. Can't comment on the hotel restaurant, either – though they allegedly had a coffee klatch and gods know I am an addict, I never seemed to make it at the right time. There was generous space for tabletop, which ran 'til all hours. I didn't personally indulge. The panels and parties kept me thoroughly occupied. Parties first, then SerContent.

Nightlife? Solid but minimal. A few low-key parties: the Barflies' usual thorough spread, a Brave New World parody (by far the best concept party I've seen lately.) and one for the Raleigh NASFIC bid. I was safely unconscious long before the heavy action happened, with or without tazers or excessive amounts of alcohol. Those stories, you'll have to ask Them about. You know Them. They still crack derisive jokes about SprinklerCon whenever anyone so much as alludes to bdsm, to show what Established and Respectable Fans (tm) They are.

An aside about discourse; I first heard that story at ConNooga '08, and was thoroughly bored with it by the end of RavenCon. Yes, competence with the collective oral history (harr harr) of con-going fandom conveys in-group prestige. No, that doesn't mean I'm still impressed by the n-th smug rehash of what I hope was the lowest point in someone's public behavior history. Apparently furies, vegetarians, and public officials are no longer sufficient proof that gamers still have someone to look down on. Could we look for a harder target? Better yet, could we get the hell on with life, enjoy the panels, and generate some new stories of our own? Come to think, RavenCon was full of panels about how to tell

those stories! On to that!

Podcast it, write it, sketch it, or costume your own troupe and dramatize it – if you had a story, RavenCon had a panel on how to get it out there, what genre it might belong in (the one on Urban Fantasy particularly warmed my little Changeling-lovin' heart,) what the history of similar stories contained (you've never seen that many Tolkien experts get along so well,) and whether or not there had ever been a convention based around the same concept. Two witty ladies from alleycatscratch.com put on a very solid discussion of how to turn one sheet into almost any basic costume, complete with guidelines on how to change a pattern to suit your fancy without having the shoulder seams disintegrate.

The large number of panels versus other programming probably meant that some panels would inevitably wind up under-attended, or attended by people who didn't exactly plan on being there. Friday afternoon "Women's Self-Defense" was a great idea, with a small but enthusiastic group of attendees and a knowledgeable teacher, but something about it didn't quite come off, either for lack of space or lesson plan. I watched one man in another panel figure out after fifteen or so minutes that this wasn't the panel he'd intended to watch, and left.

On a similar note. I reviewed a two-part panel on Japanese rope art. The panel was so vaguely described in the programming that I only figured out what it was actually about when I got carded at the door (I'm a fiber art enthusiast in a more conventional sense,) but that meant that I learned about a subject I wouldn't have investigated by myself. Professionally and knowledgeably executed. Good presenter with a very historical perspective. Probably would have been better without a guest/ex-military interrogator's comments about zipties being faster, and the inevitable round of uncomfortable jokes from the audience. Yes, he was discussing the history of the art as a military form. Yes, we have to distinguish what's going on here from less responsible peoples' party shenanigans. I wish they'd have either decided they were interested and comfortable enough to stay and appreciate the presentation for what it was, or left. Here's hoping RavenCon either gets more comfortable with having programming on that level, or decides their demographic isn't into it enough to go to the trouble.

RavenCon's attendee demographic is still something of a mystery to me. That may have been part of why they were so keen to have feedback on the panels; maybe it's a bit of a mystery to them, too. The age distribution seemed pretty wide, but skewed to the high end. Not that that's a bad thing; the ambient accumulated knowledge at that con was vast. I left with a To Read list as long as my thesis bibliography but much more interesting. What I can say was that it was crawling with SMOFS, those dedicated (committed?) men and women who make these little get-togethers possible. If something went awry, there were six people in earshot who'd had a similar problem at a previous Con and knew how to fix it. The Operations room was impressively organized chaos, and more transparently so than in many cons. Even a last-minute charity auction went off smoothly. I can't even get a weekly game to go off smoothly, so color me impressed.

The upshot? RavenCon is a very good convention for involved

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fans that mostly want to be just that – enthusiastic about material they know a lot about - for a semi-organized, relaxed weekend. I wouldn't take a newbie unless they'd cut their teeth on Heinlein, herded cats for fun, and enjoyed drinking with their professors, but that's the great thing about geekery; I'm lucky enough to know a lot of folk like that.

### **MobiCon XI 2008 Con Report By Davey Beauchamp**

Once more I made my annual pilgrimage to MobiCon in Mobile AL. And once again this con did not disappoint. Since this is my first Con report, let me just say I come at this from a different point of view; I am a guest. Most people know me from my *Writers for Relief* anthology series and the *Amazing Pulp Adventures Radio Show* starring *Mister Adventure* podcast.

The first big event of the convention (Friday night) was the meet and greet with the guests, which included Colin Cunningham (Stargate-SG1), Patrick Burns (Haunting Evidence), Jim Butcher (The Dresden Files), Mark Poole (Artist, Painter), Those Damn Pixies (Fan Guest of Honor), Sharon Green (author), Debbora Wiles (author, editor, publisher), Rich Sigfrit (ROTO, Voice Actor, Podcaster, Producer), Davey Beauchamp (Author, Editor), Bryan King (Artist) and a host of others. Like always we had a blast interacting with all the fans whom came out to support MobiCon and our appearance there.

That Friday night after the Meet and Greet with the Guests it was time for the Speed Dating with Geeks (yes I stole this idea from Raven Con) and what was really surprising was how well it actually went. And a large part of that was thanks to my partner in crime Rick Sigfrit. Even though more friendships were created than dates I still chalk it up as a win; since so many people had a lot of fun with this.

Then came the late night parties and hanging out with all the attendees of the con that were still up that late. The room parties are always a lot of fun, because I get to meet lots of new and interesting people; who will one day end up in one of my books or stories.

Saturday came all too early as it always does; though Sundays always come even earlier. The first big event of the Saturday came with the Mister Adventure Podcast and the Tour of Darkness, which Mobi Con was kind enough to host. We mixed this part of the tour up with a Q&A with Mister Adventure, Kid Adventure and Solomon Stone and then we let the audience get into the mix and let them ask questions of their own. We had a lot of talented members of the audience, which really kept Rich on his toes.

Following this we moved on to the Charity Auction, which I have helped auctioneer since my first MobiCon and it has always been a blast. I always make sure it is a good time and you just never know what I am going to do next at the auction. The cool thing was once again I raised the most on a single item, and that was with the infamous Monkey Dance, which the whole audience chipped in to see; raising over 200 dollars on this 45 second dance. And I have no plans to do this dance at any other con.

Then came the Costume Contest, which has always been a blast and people go all out on this. The judges included Jim, Rich, Mark, Patrick, Colin and myself. And the funny thing was – and we did this without thinking about it – we sat in order of the longest hair to the shortest to the bald. I have to say this was one of the hardest Costume Contests I have been a part of because the costumes were incredible. So it did take us the length of the 7 Minute Costume Contest (which take a lot longer than 7 minutes) to figure out who would win.

This was then followed by the Slave Auction where a number of the guests put themselves into the auction, but new records were set for both double girls and single guy categories of the auction. Many jaws dropped during the course of this event. The MC, Joe Bob, was as funny as ever with wit and humor. And one of the slaves quickly learned not to cross Joe Bob in a game of Zombies.

With that over, next came the Boobie Brigade dance with much dancing and Colin was quite the dancer on the floor. And it was incredible to see the number of people who actually knew the Time Warp, which also included the guest getting in on the fun.

Like I said Sunday came all too soon, but the guests weren't the only ones up for the panels that morning. We drew a sizeable crowd for *Sunday Morning Hangover: Bad Con Experiences*, which included all the guests. And boy did the stories fly. I for one had to share the infamous Panel from Hell story. This Panel actually ran over to the next one, but no one cared because we were having a blast just swapping the stories. And Colin thanks to Patrick whipped out this stunning trick he did the night before with bending a quarter into the shape of a U. We couldn't figure out how he pulled this trick off especially since the coins came from Patrick's pocket and not Colin. If you see Colin at a con ask him to do this for you. It is mind blowing.

With that said that pretty much wrapped up the con for me and I now faced a very long trip home, but like I said it was worth the trip and calling in sick on Monday. And I did lose my voice for a day or two, but it was for MobiCon and totally worth it.

One of the big highlights of the con was they raised \$4600 for the Bay Area Food Bank; the charity of the con, thanks in large part to the Charity Auction and Slave Auctions.

Events and Functions MobiCon has to offer: Consuite, Costume Contest, Dance, Charity Auction, Art Show, Panels (Day/Night), Gaming, Anime Room, Slave Auction, 7 Minute Costume Contest, Art Auction, Meet and Greet with the Guests, Fan Tables, Dealer's Room

More information about MobiCon it can be found at their website [mobicon.org](http://mobicon.org)

### **Con Carolinas 2008 Con Report By Davey Beauchamp**

Once again I am here to give you the flip-side look at a con: from the perspective of a guest. I simply love this con because a boring time this con is not. You just never know what is going to happen next a Con Carolinas and that is one of the reasons I have always come back to this con. And I always have a handful of great stories



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to come from this con every year.

But let's begin with their incredible line up of guests: Gary Jones (Stargate SG1), Suzie Plakson (Star Trek: TNG/Voyager), Mike Resnick (Author), Faith Hunter (Author), David Coe (Author), Boogie Knights (Music Group), Stephen Cobb (Author/The Future and You podcast), Stuart Jaffe (Author), Gail Martian (Author), James Maxey (Author), Mike Pederson (Editor/Nth Degree) Clint Black (Gaming), Jeffery Breslauer (Actor), Kelly Lockhart (Kelly Lockhart), Rich Sigfrit (ROTO, aka Podcasting's Rich Sigfrit) and a whole host of other guests from more writers to actors to those who research the paranormal. This is one con that doesn't skimp on the guests. And for the first time ever Single Cell who really brought an interesting vibe to the con (in a totally rockin' way).

This is a con where I don't know where to begin. For starters my panels were deviled out to me in Russian roulette style. I told them put me on whatever they wanted and surprise me. So it made for an interesting time and a whole variety of panels.

For me it began with the Audio Panel with my good friend Jeffery Breslauer. We had a very small turn out for this panel, but it was also one of the first panels on Friday. So we just had fun talking with everyone that did come to this panel about everything and shared some of the audio projects we have been a part of.

Then came the Best Books You Never Heard Of and one would think I would nail a panel like this since I work at a library. Not the case. The problem is I deal with so many books especially since I help order them, I see too many books and they start over lapping with one another, but I did give a shout out to Eugie Foster whose first book will be coming out in the near future.

I discovered the coolest thing in the world in the Dealer's Room; a Tardis Ice Box that I quickly turned into a cup. I was amazed by how many people thought I discovered fire with this new use of the Tardis Ice Box. The funniest thing was walking through the gamer's room and watching them stop their games as I drank from the Tardis and yes the jokes were endless with this drinking cup. Yes the Tardis is truly bigger on the inside than the outside and once it runs out of drink it does go back in time to refill itself.

And for some reason I did miss the open ceremonies, which is something I rarely ever do, and now looking back I can't remember why. Though I think it had something to do with the Tardis.

But next came a night of fun with singing Kilngon Karaoke with a large group from Stellar Con where we sang, "I Will Survive," followed by a small group I led the previous year seeking out parties, which we sang "Fight For Your Right (To Party)." This song got wild and fun. We then headed off to the Single Cell dance to spread the love our group.

Then came Saturday and for once it came really early. 9 AM panel early, with Bring Back My Show/Movie! It was a fun Fan oriented panel. And I was one of the lucky ones; my show had come back already *Doctor Who*. Which lead me to being kidnapped for the Doctor Who panel, which followed.

I am still questioning the reason why they put four of the wildest guys at Con Carolinas together on a panel; Kelly Lockhart, Brian Holloway, Rich Sigfrit, and myself. I really felt bad at first for Clint Black who had to sit on the panel with us, but he dropped one-liners here and there that just floored us. Needless to say, he fit in perfectly. We still have no idea what that panel was about other than something about superpowers and heroes. We had fun, the audience had fun, it was all good.

Con Carolinas will always have the honor of being the first place to have a live Mister Adventure podcast recorded and we kept that tradition alive with an all start cast.

Then came the Charity Auction, which I infected with my insanity. Ron McClung, the Vice Chair, decided for the charity to see how much we could raise from me kissing the Master of Ceremonies Brian Holloway. It wasn't a lot, but it was all for charity. But then Ron's gaming group decided it would be funny to see Ron then kiss me. Ron wasn't going to have it any of it, but when the pot rose to 100 dollars and then he couldn't say *no*; it was for charity.

But I did let Ron have some fun auction me off to the crowd. In the end I bought myself, because the money was going to charity.

Then came the costume contest and I have to send out another shout out to the Peoples Republic of Venture and the incredible job they did putting the contest together. They have always put on one of the best and most organized contests I have been a part of. And I always look forward to seeing them at a con.

The final panel for the night for me was the NC-17 Costuming Panel (get your minds out of the gutter not a naughty panel). The panel was really enhanced thanks to the guys and girls of Single Cell and the costumes and outfits they wore to it. They made great life size models for the points we were trying to make. I thank Brain again for allowing me on the panel with him for the third year in the row.

Then came the best improvised to party ever thanks to the NASFiC Bid (thanks to Mike Pederson, Warren Buff, and all the others). Any party where I end up in a pool rocks.

Sunday, Sunday wasn't my friend at all, because it came all too early as did room check. But the panels continued and fun was had. And I since I was so close; I was able to make it home early enough not to have to call in Monday at work.

Events and Functions MobiCon has to offer: Consuite, Costume Contest, Dance, Charity Auction, Panels (Day/Night), Gaming, Meet and Greet with the Guests, Kilngon Karaoke, Video Room, Fan Tables, Dealer's Room, Rocky Horror Picture Show. More information about Con Carolinas it can be found at their website [concarolinas.org](http://concarolinas.org)

## Annotated Fanzine Listings

By Tom Feller

Please send zines for listing to me at PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214-0937. All these zines are available for trade unless noted. Also unless otherwise specified, when writing for a sample issue, send \$1 to cover postage. A SASE is likely to be too small.

Alexiad, Vol. 7, #2, published by Lisa and Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-2040. Book, magazine, candy, horse race, television, and movie reviews and letters. Carolyn Clowes eulogizes Janet Kagan, Joe reports on Concave, and Lisa reports on the Super-Tuesday tornadoes.

Feline Mewsings, #31, published by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, 2173 East Rio Vistoso Lane, Oro Valley, Arizona 85755-1912. (This is an apazine written for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) and contains Laurraine's mailing comments. However, it is available outside the apa as well for \$1.50 per issue.) Book and movie reviews. Laurraine reports on her and her husband's move from California to Arizona.

File 770, #152, published by Mike Glyer, 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016. Available for \$8 for 5 issues. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue. Fannish news, obituaries, reviews, letters, and feature articles on fandom. This issue includes a report on the Japanese Worldcon by John Hertz.

Instant Message, #'s 798-802, newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association, PO Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0809. Edited by Rick Katze. Club and Boskone news.

Lofgeornost, # 90, published by Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Avenue, White River Junction, Vermont 05001. (This is another apazine written for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) and contains Fred's mailing comments. However, it is available outside the apa as well.) Fred reports on his activities, books he has read, and trips he has made.

NASFA Shuttle, Vol. 28, #'s 2-5, newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, PO Box 4857, Huntsville, AL 35815-4857. Edited by Mike Kennedy. Subscription: \$1.50 per issue, or \$10 for 12 issues. Besides club and Constellation news, there are reviews of movies, zines, and books, and letters. Bill Savage contributes an appreciation of Gary Gygax in #2. Mike Kennedy reports on DeepSouthCon and Steve Sloan on Omegacon in #4.

The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 8, # 1, published by Craig Boyd, PO Box 7488, Little Rock, AR 7217-7488. Official newsletter of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Available for \$18 per year; no trades. Checks should be made payable to William Center, but sent to Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403. Club news, letters, and book and movie reviews.

OASFIS Event Horizon, Vol. 20, #'s 11-12, & Vol. 21, #1, newsletter of the Orlando Science Fiction Society, PO Box 592905, Orlando, FL 32859-2905. Edited by Juan Sanmiguel. Available for \$12 per year. Club news and reviews. Juan reports on Megacon 2008 in #11, and there are pictures from OASIS in

#1.

Opuntia, #'s 64B, 64.1A, 64.1B, 64.1C, & 64.3, published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2E7. Available for \$3 per issue. Dale writes on a variety of subjects.

So It Goes, #17, published by Tim Marion, c/o Kleinbard, 266 East Broadway, Apt. 1201B, New York, NY 10002. Available for \$10 per issue. Reviews, essays, and letters, including "A Worldcon in Brownsville", a tribute to deceased fans and pros.

Vanamonde, #'s 733-747, published by John Hertz, 236 South Coronado Street, No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057. These 2 page perzines were originally published for APA-L, the weekly apa. They all have John's mailing comments to other members of the apa. John eulogizes Kurt Vonnegut in #736 and Walt Daugherty and Wally Schirra in #743.

Visions of Paradise, #'s 122-124, published by Robert Sabella, 24 Cedar Manor Court, Budd Lake, NJ 07828-1023. Book reviews, articles, and Robert's diaries for September through December.

### Electronic Zines

BARYON, published by Barry Hunter, [barry@baryon-online.com](mailto:barry@baryon-online.com). (Microsoft Word format.) Book reviews.

NASHVILLE SF CLUB NEWSLETTER, edited by Reece Moorehead, [skywise@bellsouth.net](mailto:skywise@bellsouth.net). (Plain text format.) Club and SF news.

NO AWARD, published by Marty Cantor, [hooahpubs@earthlink.net](mailto:hooahpubs@earthlink.net). (PDF format.) Electronic version of Marty's Hugo-nominated zine.

THE REVENGE OF HUMP DAY, published by Tim "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo, [tbolgeo@att.net](mailto:tbolgeo@att.net). (PDF format.) Jokes and fannish news, especially Libertycon.

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY, published by Arnie Katz, [crossfire4@cox.net](mailto:crossfire4@cox.net). (PDF format.) Las Vegas Fannish news, letters, and fanhistorical articles by long time fans.

WOSSNAME, Newsletter of the Klatchian Foreign Legion. Edited by Annie Mac, [WOSSNAME@yahoogroups.com](mailto:WOSSNAME@yahoogroups.com) (Plain Text, but requires participation in Yahoo groups.) Terry Pratchett and Discworld news.

### Web Sites

Baryon at [www.baryon-online.com](http://www.baryon-online.com). Published by Barry Hunter. Book reviews.

Challenger at [www.challzine.net](http://www.challzine.net). Published by Guy Lillian. On-line version of Guy Lillian's Hugo-nominated fanzine.



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*eFanzines* at <http://efanzines.com>. Published by Bill Burns. Downloadable versions of many of today's leading fanzines, archives of older fanzines, and links to many fannish sites.

*File 770* at [www.File770.com](http://www.File770.com). Published by Mike Glycer. On-line version of Mike's Hugo Award-winning fanzine.

*It Goes on the Shelf* at <http://home.sprynet.com/~nedbrooks/home.htm>. Published by Ned Brooks. Includes back issues of Ned's fanzine by that name and other sites of interest to Ned.

The National Fantasy Fan Federation's Fan Dominion at [www.FanDominion.com](http://www.FanDominion.com). SF news and reviews.

The New England Science Fiction Association at [www.nesfa.org](http://www.nesfa.org). Club and Boskone news.

*Rafe McGregor* at <http://www.rafemcgregor.co.uk/>. Sherlock Holmes and other genre fiction reviews.

*Scifi Dimensions* at [www.scifidimensions.com](http://www.scifidimensions.com). Published by John Snider. Reviews and interviews.

Sherlockian E-Times at <http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>. Sherlock Holmes news.

*Stargate Atlanta* at [www.stargateatlanta.com](http://www.stargateatlanta.com). Club and *Stargate* news.

*Toonopedia* at <http://www.toonopedia.com>. published by Don Markstein. On-line encyclopedia of cartoons.

*VideoVista* at [www.videovista.net](http://www.videovista.net). Video Reviews.

### Web Logs

The Fantasy Amateur Press Association at [http://community.livejournal.com/fapa\\_forum/](http://community.livejournal.com/fapa_forum/).

Arthur Hlavaty at <http://www.livejournal.com/users/supergee/>.

Eric Jamborsky at <http://causticly-speaking.blogspot.com/>. His film oriented blog is <http://cinemaventure.blogspot.com/>.

Robert Sabella at <http://adamosf.blogspot.com/> and <http://visionsofparadise.blogspot.com/>. The former is more personal and the latter more sercon.

Joy V. Smith at <http://journals.aol.com/pagadan/JoysJournal/>.

### A Few More Fanzine Notes by Warren Buff

*Living Free* #140. Published by Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Buffalo, NY 14223. \$2 per issue, Subscription of \$12 for 6 issues. Book reviews, tales of armed citizens defending their lives and property, articles about applied libertarianism, speculation about asteroid mining.

*Opuntia* 64.5-65, published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Available for \$3 cash for one-time sample copy (US banknotes are acceptable), trade for your zine, or letter of comment. Variable format, covering the Canadian economy, references to Pogo and *1984*, a good visual Hearts joke, Canadian wartime rationing stamps, and South African fandom.

*Ethel The Aardvark* #135. Clubzine of the Melbourne SF Club, rotating editor (Sam Rooney, this ish). PO Box 212, World Trade Center, Melbourne, VIC 8005. A handful of sercon articles, a farewell to Arthur C. Clarke, fanzine reviews, some fanhistorical material, fannish columns from the club's officers, and a lettercol. Good visual material throughout. Membership AUS\$30 for individuals, or AUS\$40 internationally, six issues per year.

*Challenger* #28 will be hitting the web shortly at [www.challzine.net](http://www.challzine.net). Guy Lillian's perennially Hugo-nominated zine will feature a theme of SF and critters this ish, including a short piece by myself. Remember that the deadline for Hugo voting is July 7<sup>th</sup> at midnight.

## Southern Clubs

### ALABAMA

**Huntsville Anime Appreciation Society** –

[basil@haasonline.net](mailto:basil@haasonline.net); [www.haas-online.net](http://www.haas-online.net); Meets at *Haven Comics* on Slaughter Rd in Madison every Saturday, 6:30 PM

**North Alabama Science Fiction Association** – PO Box 4857, Huntsville AL 35815-4857; [www.constellation.org/nasfa/index.html](http://www.constellation.org/nasfa/index.html); Meets in BookMark, 11220-J South Memorial Parkway SW, Huntsville, every 3rd Saturday, 6 PM

### ARKANSAS

**Little Rock Science Fiction Society** – Little Rock, Arkansas; [info@lrfs.org](mailto:info@lrfs.org); [www.lrfs.org](http://www.lrfs.org); Meets at the coffee shop of Barnes & Noble Bookstore, on Chenal Parkway in west Little Rock every 1st Saturday, 7:30 PM

### FLORIDA

**The Guardians of Gallifrey** – 170 Broadmoor Ave, Lake Mary, FL 32746; 407-321-5953; [drwhoville2001@yahoo.com](mailto:drwhoville2001@yahoo.com); [www.angelfire.com/space/ntime](http://www.angelfire.com/space/ntime); Meets somewhere every 3rd / 4th Saturday/Sunday.

**Orlando Area Science Fiction Society** – PO Box 592905, Orlando, FL 32859-2905; [oasfis@sff.net](mailto:oasfis@sff.net); [www.oasfis.org](http://www.oasfis.org).

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Meets in the Orange County Public Library every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 1:30 PM

**South Florida Science Fiction Society** – PO Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143; [sfsfs@sfsfs.org](mailto:sfsfs@sfsfs.org); [www.sfsfs.org](http://www.sfsfs.org); Meets somewhere every 3rd Saturday at 2 PM

**Stone Hill Science Fiction Association** – PO Box 2076, Riverview, FL 33569; [raggedyann@stonehill.org](mailto:raggedyann@stonehill.org); [www.stonehill.org](http://www.stonehill.org); Meets somewhere every 2nd Sunday.

### GEORGIA

**Atlanta Gallifreys** – Meets 3rd Saturday, Doraville Community Center, 3770 Central Ave, Doraville, GA 30340; [www.atlantagallifreys.org](http://www.atlantagallifreys.org)

**Atlanta Science Fiction Society** – PO Box 98308, Atlanta, GA 30359-20098; 770-844-2256; [info@asfs.org](mailto:info@asfs.org); [www.asfs.org](http://www.asfs.org); Meets at Sandy Springs Library every 2nd Saturday at 2 PM

**Georgia Filkers Anonymous (GaFiA)** –

[sffilk@bellsouth.net](mailto:sffilk@bellsouth.net);

[www.geocities.com/sffilk/gafia.htm](http://www.geocities.com/sffilk/gafia.htm); meets monthly in Georgia.

**Outworlders** – [president@outworlders.info](mailto:president@outworlders.info);

[www.outworlders.info](http://www.outworlders.info); Atlanta, GA; Meets various places weekly.

**Southern Organization of Live-Action Reenactment** – c/o Scott Neeley, 4835 Baker Plantation Drive, Acworth, Georgia 30101; [president@solarinc.org](mailto:president@solarinc.org); [www.solarinc.com](http://www.solarinc.com)

### KENTUCKY

**Burroughs Bibliophiles** – George T. McWhorter, Curator, Edgar Rice Burroughs Collection, Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville, Louisville KY 40292; 502-852-8729;

[www.taliesan.com/panthans/erb2.htm](http://www.taliesan.com/panthans/erb2.htm);

[george.mcwhorter@louisville.edu](mailto:george.mcwhorter@louisville.edu)

**Falls of Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy Association** – PO Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281. Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.

**Lexington Science Fiction and Fantasy Association** – 1825 Liberty Road #418, Lexington, KY 40505. [lexfa@lexfa.org](mailto:lexfa@lexfa.org); [www.lexfa.org](http://www.lexfa.org); Meets somewhere in Lexington every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.

**Louisville Science Fiction And Fantasy Readers Group** – Meets 4th Monday at Hurstbourne Barnes and Noble, 801 S.

Hurstbourne; [www.sfreader.oseland.net](http://www.sfreader.oseland.net);

[sfreader@oseland.net](mailto:sfreader@oseland.net)

**Western Kentucky University Speculative Fiction Society** – Annette Garrico, WKU Chem Dept, #1 Big Red Way, Bowling Green, KY 42101;

[www.geocities.com/Pentagon/5813/wkusfs.html](http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/5813/wkusfs.html); Meets weekly.

### LOUISIANA

**Babylon 504** – 5109 Oak Bayou Ave, Marrero, LA 70072-4962;

[eric\\_benson@compuserve.com](mailto:eric_benson@compuserve.com);

[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/eric\\_benson/babylon504.html](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/eric_benson/babylon504.html); <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/area504/>; Meets at member's house every 3rd Saturday.

**Science Fiction Xchange** – Contact Harriet; 318-798-1277;

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SFXchange>; [dupuy@shreve.net](mailto:dupuy@shreve.net);

Meets at Podnah's BBQ (1146 Shreveport/Barksdale Hwy) every 1st Sunday at 2-4 PM

**Star One Delta** – PO Box 45577, Baton Rouge, LA 70895; [StarOneDelta@yahoo.com](mailto:StarOneDelta@yahoo.com); [www.staronedelta.org](http://www.staronedelta.org); Meets in Bluebonnet Library every 3rd Sunday at 2 PM

### NORTH CAROLINA

**The Guild: The UNCC Sci-Fi & Fantasy Club** – Charlotte, NC; [www3.uncc.edu/theguild](http://www3.uncc.edu/theguild)

**Research Triangle Science Fiction Society** – PO Box 90821, Raleigh, NC 27675; [www.trinoc-con.org](http://www.trinoc-con.org); Meets in the RTP monthly.

**The Science Fiction Fantasy Federation** – SF3, Box I-I, Elliott University Center, UNCG Greensboro, NC 27412; [www.uncg.edu/student.groups/sf3/](http://www.uncg.edu/student.groups/sf3/); Meets 7:30 PM every Wednesday night during academic year in Elliott University Center.

### TENNESSEE

**Anime Nashville** – 615-883-6677;

[anime@animenashville.org](mailto:anime@animenashville.org); [www.animenashville.org](http://www.animenashville.org); Meets every 2nd (Tower Records, Opry Mills location) and 4th Thursday at 7 PM (member's home).

**Knoxville Area Speculative Fiction Association** – Knoxville, TN; [kasfa@yahoo.com](mailto:kasfa@yahoo.com); [www.kasfa.org](http://www.kasfa.org)

**Middle Tennessee Science Fiction Society** – C/O Anita Feller, PO Box 68203, Nashville, TN 37206-8203; Meets in Green Hills Public Library (3701 Benham Ave., Nashville, TN 37215) every 2nd Wednesday at 7 PM; <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MidTennSFF>;

**Mid-South Science Fiction & Fantasy Association** – Meets every 2nd Monday at the Main Public Library (3030 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN); [www.mssffa.org](http://www.mssffa.org)

**Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem** – 5017 Maywood Drive, Nashville TN 37211; 615-327-1047;

[nashvillehawk@nashvillescholars.net](mailto:nashvillehawk@nashvillescholars.net);

[www.nashvillescholars.net](http://www.nashvillescholars.net); Meets in The Sherlock Holmes Pub downtown Nashville monthly.

### TEXAS

**Fandom Association of Central Texas** – PO Box 26442, Austin, TX 78755; [forinfo@fact.org](mailto:forinfo@fact.org); [www.fact.org](http://www.fact.org); Meets monthly somewhere.

**Friends of Fandom** – PO Box 541822, Houston, TX 77254-1822; 713-790-0707; [CandaceVP@aol.com](mailto:CandaceVP@aol.com); [www.caminfo.net/fof.html](http://www.caminfo.net/fof.html)

**MSC Cepheid Variable** – PO Box J-1, Texas A&M University, 1237 TAMUS, College Station TX 77844-1237;

[jaran625@yahoo.com](mailto:jaran625@yahoo.com); <http://cepheid.tamu.edu>; Meets Tuesdays 8:33 P.M. in Rudder Tower, room 501.

**Several Unlimited** – PO Box 1766, Bellaire, TX 77402-1766; [jamie.ritchey@att.net](mailto:jamie.ritchey@att.net); [www.severalunlimited.com](http://www.severalunlimited.com); Meets every 2nd Friday.

**Ursa Major Science Fiction Literary Association** – PO Box 691448, San Antonio, TX 78269-1448;

[UrsaMajorSciFiowner@yahoo.com](mailto:UrsaMajorSciFiowner@yahoo.com); [groups.yahoo.com/group/UrsaMajorSciFi](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UrsaMajorSciFi); Meets monthly.

### VIRGINIA

**Hampton Roads Science Fiction Association** – PO Box 9434, Hampton VA 23670; 757-930-2301; [tgray@norfolk.infi.net](mailto:tgray@norfolk.infi.net); [ghnat@aol.com](mailto:ghnat@aol.com)

**Northern Virginia Anime Association** – Meets monthly at the



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Fairfax County Government Center, generally from Noon-11PM; [president@animeclub.org](mailto:president@animeclub.org); [www.animeclub.org](http://www.animeclub.org)  
**Virginia Tech Science Fiction and Fantasy Club** – PO Box 256, Blacksburg, VA 24063; [president@vtsffc.org](mailto:president@vtsffc.org); [www.vtsffc.org](http://www.vtsffc.org); Meets in Randolph 209 every Thursday at 7:30 PM that classes are in session.

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

**501st Legion "Vader's Fist"** – Star Wars Imperial costuming organization; [www.501st.com](http://www.501st.com)

**Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games (CAR-PGa)** – c/o Paul Cardwell, 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418; [members.aol.com/waltonwj/carpga.htm](mailto:members.aol.com/waltonwj/carpga.htm)

**Christian Fandom** – [www.christian-fandom.org](http://www.christian-fandom.org)

**International Costumers Guild** – Corresponding Secretary c/o Karen Heim, 2845 Lemp, St. Louis, MO 63118-1713; [corresponding@costume.org](mailto:corresponding@costume.org); [www.costume.org](http://www.costume.org)

**International Fantasy Gaming Society** – PO Box 3577, Boulder CO 80307; [clerk@ifgs.org](mailto:clerk@ifgs.org); [www.ifgs.org](http://www.ifgs.org)

**International Federation of Trekkers** – PO Box 242, Lorain OH 44052-0242; [ops@iftcommand.com](mailto:ops@iftcommand.com); [www.iftcommand.com](http://www.iftcommand.com)

**The Klingon Assault Group** – Star Trek fan organization; [www.kag.org](http://www.kag.org)

**Mythopoeic Society** – PO Box 320486, San Francisco, CA 94132-0486; [correspondence@mythsoc.org](mailto:correspondence@mythsoc.org); [www.mythsoc.org](http://www.mythsoc.org)

**National Fantasy Fan Federation** – 25549 Byron Street, San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403; [n3f\\_info@yahoo.com](mailto:n3f_info@yahoo.com); [www.simegen.com/fandom/n3f](http://www.simegen.com/fandom/n3f)

**National Space Society** – 1620 i Street NW, Suite 615, Washington, DC 20006; 202-429-1600; [nsshq@nss.org](mailto:nsshq@nss.org); [www.nss.org](http://www.nss.org)

**The Rebel Legion** – Star Wars Rebel costuming organization [www.rebellegion.com](http://www.rebellegion.com); [info@rebellegion.com](mailto:info@rebellegion.com);

**Romulan Star Empire** – PO Box 5271, Terre Haute, IN 47805; [info@rsempire.org](mailto:info@rsempire.org); [www.rsempire.org](http://www.rsempire.org)

**Society for Creative Anachronism** – PO Box 360789, Milpitas, CA 95036-0789; [directors@sca.org](mailto:directors@sca.org); [www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org)

**Starfleet International** – PO Box 94288, Lubbock, TX 79493-4288; [CompOpsHELP@sfi.org](mailto:CompOpsHELP@sfi.org); [www.sfi.org](http://www.sfi.org)

**United Federation of Planets Internationale** – P.O. Box 3157, Chula Vista, CA 91909-3157; [cocom@ufpi.org](mailto:cocom@ufpi.org); [www.ufpi.org](http://www.ufpi.org)

## Convention Listings

By M. Lee Rogers and Warren Buff

Well, this is turning into a bit of a rush job of a zine, so I'm pinch hitting in order to get this out on my schedule. Next ish. I hope to return your regular convention lister to the fray. As usual, here come the next six months of cons.

June 26-29: **Midwestcon 59**, DoubleTree Guest Suites, Sharonville, OH (Cincinnati). \$25 to 5/25, \$35 at the door. Technically it's not a Southern convention, but Cincinnati is on the border and Midwestcon is such a traditional part of SF fandom that no one cares. Midwestcon is a relaxicon in its truest sense. The

motto here is, "No boring panels, no longwinded speakers." The Cincinnati Fantasy Group has been running this shindig since 1950, so they must be doing something right. [www.cfg.org/midwestcon/](http://www.cfg.org/midwestcon/).

27-29: **Hypericon 4**, Days Inn Stadium, Nashville, TN. \$25 currently, probably higher at the door. GoH: Joe Lansdale, Alex McVey. Fan GoH: Debra Hussey. [www.hypericon.info](http://www.hypericon.info).

27-29: **ApolloCon 5**, DoubleTree Hotel Houston Intercontinental Airport, Houston, TX. \$30 to 5/1, \$35 at the door. GoH: Allen Steele. Artist GoH: Brad Foster. Fan GoH: Anne K. G. Murphy. The Web site portrays a standard con for SF and related fandoms. [www.apollocon.org](http://www.apollocon.org).

July 11-13: **LibertyCon21**, Comfort Inn, I-75 at Ringgold Road, East Ridge, TN (Chattanooga). \$30 to 6/27, \$45 at the door. GoH: Harry Turtledove. Artist GoH: David Mattingly. MC: Eric Flint. Attendance is limited to 450; the hotel is sold out. A bit of trivia: the cover of Turtledove's recent book *Settling Accounts: The Grapple* shows a fuzzed-up picture of Chattanooga's Walnut Street Bridge. The Atlanta Radio Theater Company (ARTC) will perform at the con. [www.libertycon.org](http://www.libertycon.org).

18-20: **MetroCon Year 6**, Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL. \$44 to 3/31, \$48 to 6/20, \$75 VIP membership. Guests: Scott McNeil, Johnny Yong Bosch, Greg Ayres, Lauren Goodnight. Anime convention. [www.metroconventions.com](http://www.metroconventions.com).

19-20: **BabelCon**, Holiday Inn Select, Constitution Ave., Baton Rouge, LA. \$30 pre-reg, \$35 at the door. "Where science meets fiction." [www.babelcon.org](http://www.babelcon.org).

August 2-3: **Ancient City Con 2008**, Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, Jacksonville, FL. \$15 to 7/19, \$20 at the door. The "ancient city" refers to St. Augustine, where the con was held previously. [www.ancientcitycon.com](http://www.ancientcitycon.com).

6-10: **Denvention 3** (66th World Science Fiction Convention), Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO. \$200 and up, and you can be sure it will be more later. GoH: Lois McMaster Bujold. Fan GoH: Tom Whitmore. TM: Wil McCarthy; Ghost of Honor: Robert A. Heinlein. You cannot call yourself a science fiction fan until you attend at least one Worldcon. [www.denvention.org](http://www.denvention.org).

29-1: **Dragon\*Con**, downtown Atlanta, GA. \$65 to 5/15, \$75 to 7/15, \$90 at the door. "America's largest, multi-media, popular arts convention focusing on science fiction and fantasy, gaming, comics, literature, art, music, and film." A whole slew of media and literary guests. Hotels are the Atlanta Hyatt Regency, Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta Hilton, and Sheraton Atlanta. This is the major media convention of the year in Southern fandom. [www.dragoncon.org](http://www.dragoncon.org).

29-31: **Mephit Furmeet**, Memphis, TN. \$35 pre-reg. A furry fandom convention. [www.mephitfurmeet.org](http://www.mephitfurmeet.org).

September 5-7: **OutsideCon**, Montgomery Bell State Park Burns, TN. A relaxacon featuring camping, fishing, and a killer consuite. \$35 pre-reg, \$40 at the con, \$10 off if you bring your own tent. [www.outsidecon.com/](http://www.outsidecon.com/)

19-21: **Anime Weekend Atlanta**, Northwest of downtown Atlanta at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel. Way more guests than I feel qualified to list. \$35 pre-reg, \$45 at the door. [www.awa-con.com](http://www.awa-con.com)

October 3-5: **Archon**, Collinsville, IL (St. Louis area). GOH: Laurell K Hamilton, AGOH: John Kovalic, FGOH: Rich & Michelle Zellich, TM: Vic Milán. \$50 through July 31, \$55

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through Sept. 15, \$60 at the door.

[www.archonstl.org/32/index.php](http://www.archonstl.org/32/index.php)

10-12: **Necronomicon**, Hilton Downtown St Petersburg, FL.

GOHs: Frederick Pohl, Julie E. Czerneda, Rick Wilber. \$30 before October 1<sup>st</sup>, \$50 at the door.

[www.stonehill.org/necro.htm](http://www.stonehill.org/necro.htm)

17-19: **Capclave**, Hilton Washington DC/Rockville, MD. Where

reading is not extinct! AGOH: James Morrow, Critic GOH:

Michael Dirda. \$50 through Sept. 30, \$60 thereafter.

[www.capclave.org/capclave08/](http://www.capclave.org/capclave08/)

17-19: **Con\*Stellation XXVII: Cassiopeia**, Holiday Inn Express,

Huntsville, AL. GOH: Diane Duane, MC: Mike Resnick, AGOH:

Bill Holbrook. Another great con from the NASFA crew. \$30 pre-reg through July 15, \$35 until Sept 26, \$40 at the door.

[www.con-stellation.org/constell/index.html](http://www.con-stellation.org/constell/index.html)

24-26: **HallowCon**, Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, Chattanooga,

TN. \$35 pre-reg until Sept. 30, \$50 at the door, 400 member cap.

[www.hallowcon.com](http://www.hallowcon.com)

November 7-9: **MACE**, Downtown Radisson, High Point, NC.

Gaming con. Pre-reg \$25 through Nov. 5.

[www.justusproductions.com/mace.php](http://www.justusproductions.com/mace.php)

## Letters of Comment

*First we hear from veteran LOCer Lloyd Penney.*

1706-24 Eva Rd.

Etobicoke, ON

CANADA M9C 2B2

April 30, 2008

Dear Randy and SFC Members:

Many thanks for Vol. 8, No. 15 of the SFC Bulletin. Actually, the date above lies; it is the 28th, and Yvonne and I just flew over the Hoover Dam at 28,000 feet or so. We are flying home to Toronto via Houston on our way home from Corflu Silver, the fanzine convention in Las Vegas. We had a great time in Vegas, and I had a great time at the convention. But, as we are flying, we can't wait to get home, and I've got three hours until I land at Bush International; time for a loc.

First of all, congratulations to Randy Cleary on his presidency. It's always a difficult job, but the club is lucky to have someone who's been willing to do it. And to have someone willing to do it in the future; congratulations to Warren Buff on taking up the post. I gather you'll be the next editor of this zine, Warren, so I look forward to your first issue. To both Randy and Warren, seeing the bulk mailing permit will not be renewed. I will be happy to receive further issues in .pdf format. I know from my own experiences that every club needs to find a way to reduce expenses.

Looks like from Tom Feller's con report on Libertycon that Tim Zahn makes a good guest. He's one of our guests at Ad Astra 2009. I've met him at a couple of conventions before.

As Sheryl Birkhead says, I hope Tom Sadler can be convinced to send out copies of his fanzine. Last I e-mailed him, he was thinking of trying to convert his zine to .pdf, and have it available for download somewhere.

I'm going to send this to both Randy and Warren, to say thanks to both, and to make this transition a little easier. Again, thanks to Randy, and Warren, let's have some fun with this. Looking forward to next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

*I'll go ahead and presume to speak for both Randy and myself in thanking you for the congratulatory note.*

*I can vouch for Tim Zahn's credits as a good guest – when we had him at the DSC this year, and another guest who had a dealer table to pitch his product came in the door and asked for a volunteer. Tim Zahn looked at the volunteer Coordinator and said, "Ooh, pick me, pick me!" That's in addition, mind you, to being an all-around nice guy who divided his time between panel appearances, hanging out with members of the con, and doing a little writing in his downtime.*

*I'm trying to have fun with this first ish, though a few of my ideas haven't quite materialized yet. In the future, look forward to encroachments of gaming, webcomics, and other bits of fandom into these pages. I'm a big believer in the big tent.*

*Next, we hear from Joy Smith, who provided us with the Oasis Conreport.*

Dear Mr. Buff,

Thanks to Randy Cleary for this last issue that he edited. I enjoyed Tom Feller's con reports. In the Libertycon report, he mentioned the Baen reprints; I have the ones by James H. Schmitz and Christopher Anvil. I appreciate those reprints! Some of my old paperbacks are coming apart, and I didn't have all the stories. Good comment by Jack McDevitt--who's the guest at Oasis in Orlando now and then--that one of the nice things about conventions is that you can mention Lovecraft, for instance, and everyone knows whom you're talking about. The dealer's alley there sounds interesting. And the radio plays and parties sound like fun.

The Outsidecon/DeepSouth con sounds like a lot of fun. Strange that the special guest didn't check to see if it was cancelled just because it was raining.

Thanks for the fanzine, e-zine, website, club, and southern convention, etc. listings.

Appreciatively,  
Joy V. Smith

*I hope this issue's con reports will be as satisfying as Tom Feller's usual fare. He's been extraordinarily busy lately and hasn't had time to write any, but we seem to have gotten an influx from other*



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*folks to fill the gap. I look forward to blending those with Tom's to give us a better picture of fandom throughout the South. I continue to welcome contributions from anyone who will write them, though I confess that I can't use absolutely every con report, especially if they start doubling up. I'll try to keep giving y'all an interesting blend, though.*

*I agree with Jack McDevitt's comment about folks knowing about Lovecraft, and I guess I've gotten a little spoiled by having so many fannish friendships that I can usually get away with name-dropping Lovecraft without a conversational gap. Hopefully, Lovecraft will become more of a household name once the film of At the Mountains of Madness hits theaters. With Guillermo del Toro directing, it should be something of a draw. Now we just have to hope they don't butcher it.*

*I find the dealer's alley at LibertyCon a welcoming setup, though I understand that it draws mixed opinions from some dealers. It might not be right for every convention, but it's definitely part of LibertyCon's charm.*

*OutsideCon was a lot of fun for me, as I got to meet several folks I'd been corresponding with in SFPA, as well as loads of other Southern Fandom luminaries. It may not have been the best Deep South Con to date, but it was a good time for me and my crew.*

*Finally, we hear from Pamela Boal.*

*Randy thanks for keeping me on the mailing list and for all the interesting editions you have sent me during your tenure as editor.*

*Hallo Warren I'm looking forward to getting to know you through the pages of the Bulletin. Good luck.*

*Two things in particular got my attention in number 15. The fungus at Chernobyl mentioned in Tom's Con report. The mind leaps to all sorts of possibilities could it be used in safer disposal of radioactive waste? Does it have potential in medicine? Had I been there I could not have born to let that one slip by as a casual mention, I would have wanted to know what sort of research was going on with it.*

*I'm lost in admiration of Sheryl Birkhead. When your computer goes wrong you know which parts may be causing it! Can purchase those parts and replace them in your computer! ? Yesterday I lost my internet connection and had to phone a helpline at 50p a minute. How I wish I had your knowledge of the beast.*

*Regards Pamela.*

*Hallo to you, too, Pamela. I'm glad to be on board.*

*Maybe we'll get lucky and be able to find out more about that fungus Tom mentioned. I welcome anyone who has more information to write in and educate us.*

*The hardest part about remaining savvy when it comes to computers is that the hardware is on such a curve, and the OSes cycle out so quickly, that as soon as you feel like you've learned*



*the quirks of a system, it's growing obsolete and might not be practical to repair for much longer. I reckon there are folks who use such difficulties as excuses to upgrade components, which may well be the best way to proceed. While I once would have felt comfortable opening up my case and replacing major components, I'm not sure I would any more. Out of practice and all that.*

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THE SOUTHERN FANDOM  
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