

treatments which are delaying publication of the next issue. *Eldritch Science* has had recent contributions, and is looking for a Spring 2020 issue.

### Correspondence Bureau

A new year is about trying new things, exploring the unknown, developing new habits and deleting unproductive old habits. I suggest we explore the unknown by joining the Correspondence Bureau. Finding out about other N3F members can be fun and exciting.

Being a member of the N3F is like living in a small town. We may know the names of our neighbors, say "Hi" and wave to them as we each are getting into our cars headed off for work. But what else do we know about them? All of us, being members in the N3F, already have a common bond, be it science fiction, fantasy, horror. So, why not begin a new adventure and start the coming year by getting to know some of your fellow N3F members.

So far, we have two members who are interested in correspondence.

1. Jeffery Redmond - Choice #2
2. John Thiel - Choice #2

(Jeffery and John already correspond with one another.).

If you would like to correspond with Jeffery or John you need to do the following:

1. Choose Jeffery or John
2. Choose Choice #2
3. Send an email with your name, the name of the person you have chosen and your email address to: Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

You will receive an email with the email address of the person you have chosen to correspond with and he will receive an email with your name and email address.

### HOW TO JOIN

You have two choices for seeking a pairing:

Choice #1 -You want to be paired with someone of like interest. Send an email to the bureau head with your name and a list of your interests. When someone with similar interest requests a pairing both of

you will be notified and given the email of the other member. Contact the other member and the rest is up to you.

Choice #2 - You want to be paired with the next person whose interests are unknown. Send an email to the bureau head telling of your choice. Include your name, and email address. You will be paired with the next person with unknown interests and both of you will be notified and given the email address of the other member. The rest is up to you.

Whichever way you choose will be an adventure.

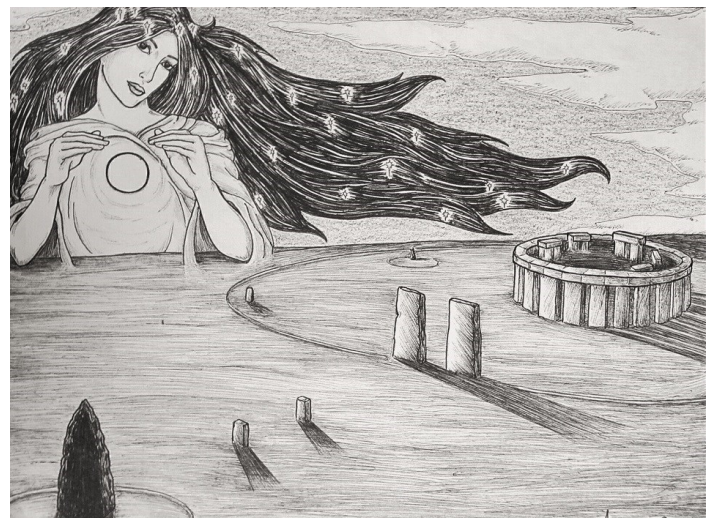
The Correspondence Bureau is open to all members of the club who have an email address whether they are paying or non-paying members. Members seeking to correspond through the Correspondence Bureau will be asked for permission to publish their name in the Monthly article. If they do not wish to have their name published, only their Choice #1 or #2 will be published. No email addresses will be published in the monthly article, nor given to another member without that member's permission. If you wish to join the Correspondence Bureau or you have any questions, contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

### Birthday Card Bureau

Birthday cards sent: 6

Renewal notices: 15 (including 3 by e-mail)

R-Laurraine Tutihasi



Stonehenge, Before Time—Angela K. Scott

## SerCon

## Some More Comic Book Clubs

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

In addition to the comic book clubs discussed in previous issues of The Fan, I've discovered a few others that were not necessarily patriotic clubs of the 1940s; nor were all of them about superheroes, but some were. They are discussed in this article.



Angela K. Scott

## Shock Gibson Volunteers

The superhero Shock Gibson appeared in the first 44 issues of Speed Comics, usually on the cover. He also appeared in other comic books published by Harvey Comics, including All-New, Green Hornet, and various reprint magazines.

In the debut story, "The Human Dynamo," scientist Robert Charles Gibson perfected a formula that allowed people to directly store, generate, and control electricity, and tested this formula on himself. The formula increased his strength, gave him the power to fire bolts of lightning, and also gave him the ability to fly.

His comic book club, the Shock Gibson Volunteers, began early in 1940. Members received one of his "Live Wires" buttons, a letter, and a membership card. A later premium was a Shock Gibson black mask.

## The Rang-A-Tang Club

A club without a superhero or a patriotic emphasis was The Rang-A-Tang Club, in honor of Rang-A-Tang, the Wonder Dog and his young owner, Richy, the Amazing Boy, both of whom appeared in Blue Ribbon Mystery Comics. This comic book was published by MLJ, the company that later gave us Archie and his friends. Archie and his club eventually replaced The Shield and his club, as mentioned in an earlier article in The Fan.

Members of the Rang-A-Tang Club received a membership card and a button with a picture of Rang-A-Tang on it, both for 10 cents. Emphasis of the club was on the care and training of dogs rather than patriotic efforts during World War II.

## Dell Comics Club

From mid-1950 to Spring 1959, Dell promoted subscriptions to its non-Disney titles with what it called the Dell Comics Club. Membership was automatic with a one-year subscription to a Dell title and came with a certificate of membership plus a group portrait of the non-Disney characters published by Dell. This picture featured cowboy heroes (The Lone Ranger, Gene Autry, and Roy Rogers) and other



popular Dell characters such as Porky Pig, Bugs Bunny, Tarzan, and Popeye.

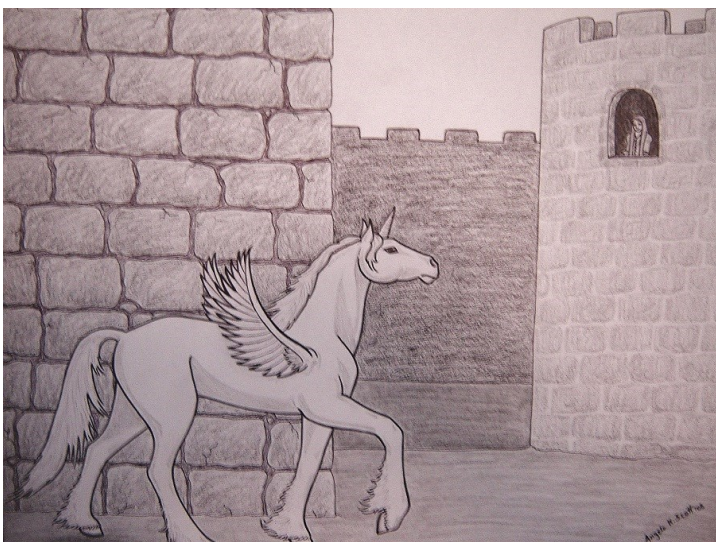
Dell also offered various other subscription premiums during the 1940s and 1950s – in some cases these were reprints of covers or other character artwork, and in one instance a cel from a Warner Brothers cartoon -- in what has been described as “a concerted and aggressive” subscription push.

### Merry Marvel Marching Society

The Merry Marvel Marching Society was a fan club for Marvel Comics started by Marvel editor Stan Lee in 1964. Generally abbreviated as the M.M.M.S, the club offered readers a \$1 membership kit that initially included the following:

- welcoming letter
- membership card
- one-sided, 33 1/3 rpm record, "The Voices of Marvel"
- scratch pad
- sticker
- pin back button
- certificate

Lee probably remembered the comic book clubs of the 1940s when he initiated this club. He had been around since the 1930s, working for his relative at Timely/Atlas/Marvel, and may have remembered the popularity of the Captain America Sentinels of Liberty club.



Curiosity—Angela K. Scott

### Captain Canuck Club

A still later comic book club was the Captain Canuck Club. Captain Canuck was a Canadian comic book superhero. The original Captain Canuck first appeared in Captain Canuck #1 (July, 1975). The series was the first successful Canadian comic book since the collapse of the nation's comic-book industry following World War II.

Club members received a membership card, a button, and a monthly newsletter, plus discounts on comic books and other items.

### Junior Federal Men Club/ International Good Neighbor Club

I recently came into possession of an early DC comic book, New Adventure Comics (the forerunner of Adventure Comics), that was dated June, 1937 (No. 16).

In this issue the comic book character Steve Carson, a federal man, had a full-page ad for the Junior Federal Men Club, created “to help promote Law and Order.” For 10 cents in cash or stamps the member received a badge, a certificate, and a JFMC operator’s number. Carson and a young boy appeared on the cover of this issue, promoting the club. Federal Men was written and drawn by Jerome Siegel and Joe Shuster, creators of Superman – who didn’t appear in a DC comic book until the publication of the first Action Comics in June, 1938.

In a search of the Internet I found that “fictional JFMC members Lonnie and Frank had appeared in a Federal Men story in New Adventure Comics #14,” and that the club had been advertised as early as 1936.

In the interior pages of the June, 1937, issue, still another club was described, the International Good Neighbor Club. For 15 cents, a member received a Member Certificate and a button and promised to abide by the club’s rule: “To do everything in my power to firmly establish friendly relations between my country and the other countries of the world.” This club had been around at least since January, 1937. In hindsight, it’s too bad boys and girls from

all over the world didn't sign up and follow the club's rule in the 1930s - 1940s.

### Wings of America Club

There was also a Wings of America Comic Book Club, advertised in 1940s issues of Wings Comics, published by Fiction House -- that also published Planet Comics. For a dime, the charter member received the official Club Emblem ("Wings of America" metal badge) and a membership card, but I know little else about this club. Early issues of Wings Comics advertised the club on their covers.

### Reg'lar Fellers of America

Finally, a very strange comic book club, if it can be called that, was Reg'lar Fellers of America, an athletic organization founded by Clair F. Bee, the Director of Health Education at Long Island University. Reg'lar Fellers of America was planned to develop summer recreation for 12- to 15-year-olds through competitive sports, and Reg'lar Fellers Heroic Comics promoted the organization beginning in 1940. Reg'lar Fellers remained on the cover of the comic, as part of the title logo, for the first 15 issues, which also displayed a seal with an eagle and a shield along with the words "Reg'lar Fellers of America." Beginning with the initial issue, dated August, 1940, membership -- that included a free Decalomania Emblem (that probably would be called a decal emblem today) -- was free to readers who sent in a pledge of allegiance.

### Conclusions

This article completes what I know at this time about early comic book clubs, except for the two Hop Harrigan Clubs to which I belonged as an 11-year-old. I have a lot to say about them, and have even written about them elsewhere. "God willing and the creek don't rise," I'll discuss them in the next issue of The Fan.

### Bibliography

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Bails, Jerry & Hames Ware (eds.). The Who's Who of American Comic Books, Volumes 1-4. Detroit, MI: Jerry Bails, 1973-1976.

Benton, Mike. The Comic Book in America. Dallas, TX: Taylor, 1989.

Keltner, Howard. Index to Golden Age Comic Books. Detroit, MI: Jerry Bails, 1976.

Overstreet, Robert M. The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide, Volume 45. NY: Gemstone Publishing, 2015.

Note: In addition to the sources listed above, several Internet sites were consulted.

### Addendum

#### Book Review Bureau

Last moment addition: The Book Review Bureau is in fact finding several dozen book reviews a month. They all appear in *The N3F Review of Books*.

## Recruit for the N3F

Our Federation has a simple practical limit. We have all sorts of projects we would like to make better. This effort takes activists, members who are willing to do something for our organization. But to have more activists we need more members.

That's where you all come in.

Do you have friends who are active fans, in some sort of fandom? Show them page 10 here!

Why not tell them about the N3F? An electronic membership is only \$6 a year, a little more than a morning coffee and pastry. With that you get nine fanzines, some monthly, club activities for writers and round robins and the correspondence bureau, and more. And note our FaceBook and MeWe.com pages. To join

<http://n3f.org/join/>



# N3F

## National Fantasy Fan Federation

Covering comics, anime, films, video, science fiction, fantasy, and horror  
--serving fandom since 1941

Fans of as many  
hues and sizes  
as dragons!

### Nine fanzines – free with Public membership

The National Fantasy Fan – monthly newszine

Tightbeam – letters, reviews, fiction

Ionisphere – Fan-Pro interactions

N'APA -- Amateur Press Association

Eldritch Science – Fiction

Interest Bureaus

Writers' Exchange

Art

Games

Round Robins

Gourmet

Short Story Contest

Video Schedule

Birthday Cards

### Four membership levels

Regular -- \$18/year with paper issue of The National Fantasy Fan

Electronic -- \$6/year with electronic issue of TNFF

Family -- \$4/year (other people at same address; no zines)

Public – Free, but non-voting

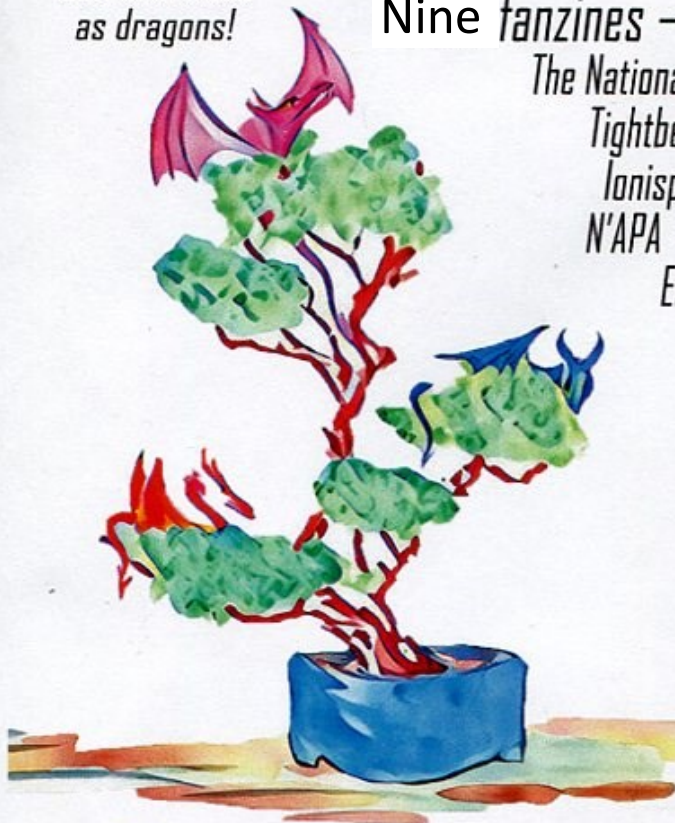


### To Join:

Check or money order payable to N3F sent to  
N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042.

Pay online at [N3F.org/join](http://N3F.org/join)

Public Memberships: Send [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net)  
your email address.



## 2019 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

### Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2019.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.
- 101 The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Royalties will be divided evenly among all contest writers once publishing costs are covered. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2020. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2019. Good luck!

*Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.*

**Title of story (for identification):**

**Author's name and address:**

**Author's email address:**

**I have read the above rules for the 2019 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.**

**Signature:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com)



2019 Election Results  
Neffies  
Membership Data — Treasurer's Report  
Directorate Acts

Bureaus  
Writer's Exchange Bureau—WelCommittee—Recruiting Bureau  
Pro Bureau—History and Research Bureau—Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau  
Fanzines  
Correspondence Bureau—Birthday Card Bureau

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**N3F Short Story Contest—Submit Now!**

N3F TNFF  
c/o George Phillips  
48 Hancock Hill Drive  
Worcester MA 01609