

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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News and Notes

Rooney to speak at festival

SF/SF's own feature writer Diane Rooney is speaking at the Vacaville Middle Earth Festival April 21-23. Diane is scheduled to be on a panel discussing Tolkien's themes on Friday evening and is giving a slide show of her trip to the Lord of the Rings film locations in New Zealand on Saturday afternoon. Details will be at <http://www.middleearthfestival.com/>.

Fanzines Published

By Chris Garcia

Editor

The Hollister in 2008 committee has completed its first Regress Report, The Pacheco Progress. It's three pages of fun with info on how to support the bid and descriptions of Casa de Fruta's options and amenities.

Hugo-nominated Semi-Prozinestress Cheryl Morgan released a new issue of Emerald City on emcit.com. There's stuff from Karen Traviss, Farah Mendlesohn, R. Scott Bakker and Cheryl herself, as well as her normal gaggle of reviewers.

There's a new Drink Tank (up to issue 72) and a new Claims Department on eFanzines.com. Issue 72 of The Drink Tank is all about Tombstones and features words from Hilary Ayer, Eric Mayer, Jay Lake, Arnie Katz and the Drink Tank crew.

Robert Lichtman is busy raising funds to print a new issue of Trap Door. He seems to be wrapping up an on-line series of auctions to make it happen and if you've never read an issue of Trap Door, you're really missing out.

The Battle is ON!: 2006 Fan Hugo Nominations

By Chris Garcia

Editor

Last week the Hugo nominations were announced and there weren't a lot of surprises. The biggest ones were in the pro categories and there was one fan nom (John Hertz) that was surprising until you realize that he's an LA regular and well-thought-of throughout the Basin.

On the fan Hugo side, the Fan Artist list is exactly the same, with the BAarea's Frank

Wu on a list that includes Steve Stiles, Sue Mason (last year's winner), Teddy Harvia and Brad Foster. This category has gone back and forth lately and the smart money is on Frank, who is well-known down South.

Best Fan Writer is a tough one this year too. It's got the Five Hundred Pound Gorilla Dave Langford, who has won every year as long as anyone can remember, as well as Cheryl Morgan, who is probably going to have as strong a showing as ever. Cheryl's chances are good, the only way they'd be better is if WorldCon was in the BAarea. Steven H. Silver, Claire Brailey and the aforementioned Mr. Hertz round out that list.

While four of the five Best Fanzine nominations were there last year (Plokta, last year's winner, Banana Wings, Chunga and Challenger) the other nom is my choice, File 770. An LA zine by the legend Mr. Mike Glycer, File 770 is sorta the print-zine version of SF/SF for the entire nation! Good zine and I'm betting it walks with another statue which would make an even five for the zine named after the most famous WorldCon Room Party ever.

Letters Of Comment

Lloyd Penney writes:

Dear Jean, Chris and Jack:

I had every intention of responding to issue 18 of SF/SF, really, but it is getting closer to our local conventions, and we've had so much to do...had to lump it in with issue 19, so here goes for both issues.

Chris Garcia replies: Yay! A Lloyd Penney-style LoC from Lloyd Penney himself!

18...How many zines from the Bay Area have the name Garcia attached to them? Well, just about all of them, Chris!

Not true. There's Trap Door and there's Emerald City. And there's...well....I know there's at least one more.

Nope, you don't get rid of me that easily, Mr. Garcia! Our interests do change over time, and the best way to keep from getting tired or burned out is to change your focus and redirect your energies. The glades of GAFIA hold no appeal to me at all. Once we have finished up our commitments for conventions for this year, Yvonne will have more time to finally get her pilot's licence, and I will have more time for writing for zines. You won't get fewer locs, you'll get

more! (I heard that...)

I'll have to speed up zine production just to keep you busy LoCing them. Pilot's license you say? That's a bold goal. I've got two different friends who are regular pilots of tiny little airplanes.

As you've probably seen on Trufen.net, I did get involved with the fan movie *Bastards of Kirk*, and got the part of a certain chief engineer. I will exercise my most outrageous Scottish accent, and have some fun. We're not attending Toronto Trek because we had such a poor time last year, we really are not mediafans of any stripe any more, and we're not interested in autographs or any other kind of celebrity worship. Worldcons are more my style. If Nathan is not there to preside over half-vice, it falls upon Chris to provide full-vice. Time to deliver!

Sorry to hear Toronto Trek has slid so far down hill. I used to hear all sorts of people talking about it as the best of the Trek cons. I'll be glad to run into you at WorldCon. I'll be the big guy with the beard and the loud shirt. They been calling me Vice-Presidente Solamente, which is a scary thought. No group should let me have that much power!

I still have not seen any of the new

Doctor Who episodes, and I'm not likely to, but yes, they've had an extremely successful run, and you'll be able to see them soon in the US. If you don't have the DVDs yet, of course. I gather they've been well received, and DW fandom has received a much-needed shot in the arm.

Andy's call to arms is a good one and I can't wait to see them myself. I'm not a big Who fan, but I work with one and I love Christopher Eccleston, so I'll watch them, and then hold on until I can see the David Tennant, my fave young Brit actor, as the Doctor sometime in the next year or so.

Great WonderCon photos, and congrats to the winners, including you, Jean! Many years ago, Yvonne and I were involved in Worldcon masquerade, and in spite of the various costumes we did, our most successful was one we cobbled together at the last minute. Four of us with red Star Trek uniforms from the early movies wore Mountie-style campaign hats, and we were the Royal Canadian Mounted Star Fleet. We won prizes at the 1982 Worldcon masquerade. My Ghod, 24 years ago.

It was a great performance at WonderCon too. It combined filk and

costuming, what could go better together? You know, I think I've seen some of those photos. I don't remember where (fanac.org?) but I know I saw the Star Fleet uniforms with the Mounties hat.

You know, Chris will be taking over fandom in a few years at this rate...several fanzines regularly, VP of BASFA, new President of the N3F... Maybe he's found a way to supplement his income with fanac. What's your secret, Chris? Hyperactivity? You cloned yourself?

My real secret is I'm not a human: I'm an infectious disease.

I was surprised to see Robbie Bourget still working Gallifrey One. I thought she was living in the UK these days. I am very hopeful that if I ever reach the age of 87, I will still have enough of an interest in fandom to want to be involved to some degree, and still be able to go to cons. (I'm almost 47 now, so that means there'd better be cons in 2046.) Ghu bless Art Widner for sticking around long enough to show us all how it's done.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: when they roll up the carpet on FAPA in 2055, the last two members will be me and Art Widner. I've met Robbie a couple of times. Of all the elder fen, he's right up there on the 'How does he do it?' scale. Then again, I once partied with Dave Kyle and he outlasted me on that fateful evening.

19...Looks like Peter Mayhew is trying to grow his own furry coat. All he needs to do is let it grow to the ground and be a dark brown Wookiee. I will be seeing Peter David at Ad Astra at the end of this week. I wish he was right about radio; I wish there was more opportunities to do things for radio, and with podcasting, maybe there will be in the future.

I did a bit for MoronLife.com where we were taking a shot of Peter David and I said "There's Larry David, the guy who created Seinfeld" to which Lon responded "No, that's Peter David, the guy who does The Hulk." I paused and then said "Let's see who else is here!" There are a lot of great talk radio podcasts. I've found one on the Thelemic tradition that really keeps my interest.

Hollister in '08...just remember the Bermuda Triangle hoax bid, folks...it almost won. The I-5 in '05 bid did very well, too. Everyone loves a good hoax bid (anyone remember Myles' House in '89?), but just make sure the potential voters know it's a hoax. You'll get some votes, just make sure it's not enough to win!

Well, we can't actually win because of the 800km rule. Any votes that go to us are discarded, which is fine by us. There is still a chance though if None of the Above wins, it goes to the Business Meeting, which could be a disaster. Honestly, I haven't

heard anyone say that one or the other has the inside edge. I'm hoping for Denver, but I'm not sure. My favourite Hoax Bid of all-time is Minneapolis in '73, not the actual bid, but the continuing bid that the guys have been doing. I'm quite happy with the response we've been getting from everyone. It'll be a heck of a party, trust me on that.

Comments on the Hugo nominations? I think a certain Garcia chap should be there one of these days.

And a gent named Penney, I'd say. I like the list. John Hertz was a surprise, but it was good to see File 770 back on the ballot. It'll be either Plokta or F770 for the win this year. It's a battle between Langford and Morgan this year and I'm thinking this is the year the stars align and Cheryl squeaks one out.

Yuri's Night is coming up! There's one in Toronto, and if it's not too late, we'll be there. It's at a place called The Orbit Room.

Ooh! Great name.

Getting late here, it is...Chris has probably already written up two more issues of Drink Tank in the meantime. Take care all, and see you next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Well, no issues of The Drink Tank, but I finished a new Claims Department, started a new issue of LISP and did the second Pacheco Progress.

Editorial

By Chris Garcia

Editor

March was, without a doubt, a crazy month. Crazy, crazy, crazy. It seems like everything just happened one thing after another after another, bang, bing, boom. Madness. Us folks at Science Fiction/San Francisco had our time explosions and now we're back on track.

For me, it all started with Cinequest. I'd managed to get a movie shown there for the second year in a row. Last year it was the science fiction comedy *The Chick Magnet*, and this year it was the four minute office comedy *The Last Woman on Earth*, which was also shot at the home of my employment, the Computer History Museum. It went over very well, selling out both big showings. We were happy with the reaction, and I got a laugh for my five seconds on screen. Not as good a laugh as I got for playing a mime last year, but a good laugh.

For twelve days, I worked the festival during the day, watched movies in the evening, and then schmoozed and drank hard every night. It was like a two week

convention, only more so. I was so exhausted that I had to take two days off to recover enough to work and even then I wasn't right for at least another four or five days. In that time, I mostly slept and watched science fiction films like *Gigantis: The Fire Monster* and *Prince of Space*. These were both difficult to swallow.

After that, Jean Martin, my illustrious co-editor, headed out to New Zealand for an experience in true LotR fashion. She'll have a GIANT write-up down the pike. She was gone for the middle of the month.

If you were wondering why last month was so light, then I guess you now understand, but there's still more. Jack Avery, our lay-out guy and editor emeritus, was swamped to the point that the issue was a week late. It happens, no big deal, but he also announced that issue 20 will be his final issue with us. As the guy who founded this Merry-Go-Round, it's hard to see him go, especially since he's the one that does the remarkable lay-out, not to mention the calendar. We'll miss him and hopefully he'll drop us an article every now and again.

So, what does this all mean? Well, it

means a lot of things. First, we'll be doing a bit of reorganizing and will probably be back with another issue around the first of May. We've got a lot of stuff to sort out, like how often we'll publish (monthly is an option) and if we'll include a calendar and where we'll post and what's what and who's who and all that. Jean and I are committed to keeping SF/SF going, and we'll figure it all out. Second, we'll be starting to think about where we'll be showing up in-person. It's a lock that we'll be at BayCon Memorial Day weekend, but other than that, who knows? If you run an event where you'd like to see the good people of SF/SF appear, drop us a line at sfnsf@gmail.com and we'll see what we can do.

So, the crazy month has ended, thankfully, and another begins where changes are in the air. We hope you'll stick with us and maybe even drop us an article or an LoC or even a notice of something you've got coming up. We're always ready to listen and publish those things our gentle readers love.

And so, I say, YYYYYEEEEEEEEEEEEEE-
HHHHHHHAAAAAWWWWWWW!

My Middle Earth Adventure with Red Carpet Tours (Or There and Back Again)

By **Jean Martin**
Editor

I had heard about Red Carpet Tours' 12-night Middle Earth tour of the North and South Islands of New Zealand several years ago, around the time Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* (LOTR) movies came out. I was keen on doing the tour then when I was still at the peak of my LOTR movie mania. I've been an LOTR fan since I read the books in 1983, and they remain to this day my favorite books of all time. And I've also had an interest in New Zealand after enjoying *Xena*, *Greenstone* (if anyone has a copy of this amazing movie set in New Zealand in the 1800s, please contact me!), *Heavenly Creatures*, *Whale Rider*, etc. But the distance, length of time and cost of the tour deterred me for several years. I was hoping to go to New Zealand with some LOTR friends instead, but that didn't pan out. So this past March, as a birthday present to myself, I bit the bullet and embarked on a solo trip to Middle Earth.

With some anxiety, I boarded an Air New Zealand flight bound for Auckland on March 11. The flight was 13 hours, which I thought would be unbearable

because I don't sleep on planes. It turned out to be not too bad as we had on-demand movies in the comfortable 777, I had a window seat, and it was a direct flight. I

purposely didn't watch the LOTR movies as I didn't want to get too excited just yet. I'm not a very outdoorsy person so I had some reservations about whether I would



The March 2006 Fellowship

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

do alright hiking, appreciating mountains and lakes, and socializing with other tour participants. I need not have worried. The trip turned out to be an adventure of a lifetime, filled with unforgettable experiences, stunning scenery, and amazing people.

What follows is my best attempt at summarizing all the various activities that

occupied my action-packed two weeks in Middle Earth. We did a lot of different things and everything was organized so well. Just when we thought one day was the best yet, the next day topped it, and so it went until our last day. So I highly recommend this trip to anyone interested in the LOTR and/or New Zealand. My kudos to tour organizers (who also happened to be our

tour guides) Vic and Raewyn James.

Day 1

San Francisco – Auckland

I arrived in Auckland two days after I left. So I got there on March 13, which just happened to be Commonwealth Day. My first impression of New Zealand, which held throughout most of the trip, is that it's like the U.K. mixed in with California and Hawaii. It didn't seem too foreign as everyone spoke English, except with a different accent, and cars drove on the wrong side of the road.

Vic James himself met me at 5:00 a.m. and drove me to our hotel for that night, the Spencer Byron. I told Vic that some friends of mine, Diane Rooney and Phil and Kathe Gust, had already been on the tour. He remembered them, which led me to believe that Vic's tour wouldn't be your typical, commercial tour where people just get herded around places. He gave me a brochure, which said that I would be part of the March Fellowship. My name was first and it looked like there were a lot of other people traveling by themselves too. But I was a little intimidated by having to act like a "fellowship" with people I've never met before. Again, I need not have worried. Everyone was so nice and friendly when we all met for our first dinner together in the



Vic and Raewyn of Red Carpet Tours

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin



Jean with Gandalf

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

hotel's restaurant.

But before that, I took a nap in my suite (I was upgraded and I relaxed in the luxurious living room and enjoyed a room service lunch in the dining area) with a fantastic view of Auckland's harbor and skyline. In the afternoon, I hired a cab driver to take me around Auckland's main

tourist attractions as I only had that one day there. My driver showed me Harbour Bridge, Westhaven Marina, Viaduct Harbour, Mission Bay Drive, Michael Joseph Savage Memorial (with a fantastic view of the city), Parnell Village (old shops in the Victorian architectural style) and the Sky Tower. He dropped me off at the Sky

Tower, which is the most prominent feature of the Auckland skyline, and the highest structure in the Southern Hemisphere. I went to the main observation deck (186 meters up) and the sky deck (220 meters). On the observation deck, I saw two people being dropped from the top of the tower to the street below. That was my first proof of New Zealand's reputation as an extreme sport nation.

I took another cab back and this second driver showed me Devonport and Victoria Peak on the way back to my hotel. At dinner, I was at the table with most of the people who were there by themselves. There were people from the U.S., the U.K, Australia, Canada, Italy, Germany and Portugal. There were 20 of us plus Vic and his wife Raewyn. Erica Challis, one of the founders of the OneRing.net web site and a New Zealand native, was also there. We all got along well together and discussed all our varied science fiction and fantasy interests. It was great to talk to people who like the same things. Conversation just flowed naturally.

We then all went to bed and looked forward to beginning our tour of Middle Earth.

Day 2

Auckland – Rotorua

We left Auckland (which looks a lot like San Francisco, by the way, but cleaner and with more sailboats) really early in the morning after a huge English-style buffet breakfast. That would set the tone for the rest of the trip. Staying up late, waking up early, and gorging ourselves on food before heading off on the day's adventures.

Our first stop was appropriately off of

Buckland Road. Can you guess where the road was headed? Well, to Hobbiton, of course! Matamata is the site of the only remaining film set from the movie. A guide, Jen, met us at the Shire's Rest café and she led us by coach to the location for Hobbiton. It was so exciting seeing the familiar landscape. The hobbit holes are still all there. Some still have their walls,

roofs and doors. There were photos in several areas that showed what those places looked like in the movie. We walked up and landed at Bag End. I looked out from the very tiny room and saw the Party Tree at the bottom of the hill, which we'd danced around just a moment ago. Then we went back to the Shire's Rest for a light buffet lunch and to buy souvenirs.

We then stopped by the Zorb Adventure where some brave souls (who don't get motion sickness like I do) were placed inside these huge white balls (which reminded me of the Rovers from *The Prisoner*) and rolled down a hill like a billiard ball.

Our last stop of the day was Rotorua, which looked like England in the 1880s. I was so disappointed that we'd only be there for a night as I loved the manicured gardens in front of the Victorian-style government building as well as the relaxed, spa town atmosphere.

After we checked in to our hotel, the Lake Plaza, I immediately changed into a bathing suit and walked to the Polynesian Spa across the street. There were four hot spring pools of various temperatures. My favorite was the one that was right next to the lake. I relaxed in the soothing, hot, sulfurous water as I viewed the lake and talked with some guys from the U.K. and a native New Zealander (otherwise known



Jean at Bag End

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

as a Kiwi).

I rushed back to my hotel and changed for dinner to be ready for our Tamaki Maori Village Hangi or feast. A driver picked us up and he was so funny! Someone from San Francisco (not part of the Red Carpet Tour) volunteered to be our chief. We got to the Maori Village and the chiefs were greeted by warriors who welcomed us into a recreation of Maori dwellings and culture in a small clearing in the middle of a forest. It was dusk and with the fires going, it was quite magical. They led us into a traditional meeting room where a group of Maori men and women in traditional costume sang and danced for us. It was very lively and entertaining. The songs were wonderful, and reminded me of Hawaii. They even had a luau pit, which we saw as we entered the dining area. The food was excellent and after dinner, our driver brought us back to the hotel while singing the national anthems of several nations and adopting different accents. He remembered all our names too!

Day 3

Rotorua – Ohakune

From Rotorua, after our daily breakfast, we stopped at the Wai-o-Tapu mud pools. We saw a pond of bubbling mud with steam rising from the surface. Then we went to

see Huka Falls, which was stunning.

As we continued south on our coach, we saw Lake Taupo with a view of Mt. Ruapehu in the background. This area is of volcanic origin. The lake is the biggest lake in New Zealand and the town of Taupo was right next to the water. There were lots of cute shops and cafes with outdoor seating. We went to Burbury's for "second

breakfast" and took takeaway lunches as we would need to have a picnic lunch at our next destination. Burbury's had an amazing area of colorful prepared food, both hot and cold, savory and sweet.

Then it was off to Tongariro National Park where we saw Mt. Ngauruhoe and Mt. Ruapehu, which served in LOTR as Mount Doom and Mordor, respectively.



A Pile of Orcs

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

We only saw Mt. Doom from a distance but it was quite an eerie and imposing volcano. It looked exactly like it did in the LOTR movies. We drove up a little bit on Mt. Ruapehu and then walked the rest of the way up. Ruapehu, which is a ski resort during the winter, was perfect for Mordor with its dark rocky terrain. It was a steep climb up and it was hot and I got very thirsty. I got a bit of a taste of what Frodo and Sam felt like while walking in Mordor. We were shown the spot where we first see Frodo and Sam in *The Two Towers* with Mount Doom in the background as well as where we first see Gollum crawl down a rock face with Frodo and Sam sleeping at the bottom. Following the lead of the two Portuguese women in our tour, Dulce and Florbela, some of us collected some rocks. Now I have Mordor rocks in my collection!

Our last LOTR location for the day was Mangawhero Falls, the place where Gollum chased fish in a shallow stream. We all skipped around the rocks like Gollum. We had to be careful, though, as the stream ended in a very high waterfall. We got a view of the waterfall, which was the basis for Gollum's Pool, when we ventured farther down the forest surrounding it.

The Powderhorn Chateau was our hotel for the evening. It was a story-book perfect

ski chalet... like something out of a Swiss postcard. But the best part was that I had Elijah Wood's room for the evening. Yes, I know he was not going to be there and it has been years since he lived in it, but it was quite a thrill to have his room! When I booked my tour, I found out that I could request a star's room at the Powderhorn,

and luckily, all of the hobbits' rooms were still available. So of course, I chose Frodo's.

Before dinner, my new friends and I visited each other's rooms. We were all giggling and excited. Well, only the girls were giggling but the guys joined in the fun as well. It was at that moment during the tour when we all really bonded. We



Frodo hiding from Orcs

Photo by Jean Martin

took pictures of ourselves in most of the rooms and some pictures were of us on the beds. Cat from Cornwall was in Dominic Monaghan's room, David from St. Louis was in Sean Astin's, Jen and her dad Rick from Ottawa were in Andy Serkis's, Gavin from Sydney was in another of Andy Serkis's rooms, and Lisa from Philadelphia

was in Billy Boyd's room. By the way, Elijah Wood's room was awesome. The color scheme was red, which blended well with the wood walls, floor and furnishings. There was a couch, coffee table and built-in desk. The bathtub was enormous and had several shower heads.

Dinner was at the Powderkeg on the

ground floor of the chalet. We were at a long table, and the ambience was reminiscent of the Prancing Pony pub. We all chatted and got to know each other better. We sang some LOTR songs and danced. Then we got to view the hotel's registration book that had all the stars' names and room numbers. It was quite awesome that we were allowed to see, touch (and even kiss, in Cat's case) this precious item of memorabilia!

After dinner, we did the room tour all over again and Raewyn showed us Peter Jackson's room. No one was staying there. It was actually not a room but a suite with a loft and bar area. We were imagining Peter spending the few hours of sleep he was able to get during the filming in this very room! We then also got to see, with much envy, Orlando Bloom's room, which was occupied by Martin and Jacqueline from England.

Day 4

Ohakune – Wellington

After a few hours of sleep in Elijah Wood's bed, I woke up, reveled in the amazing shower, and thought, "Frodo showered in this shower!" Yeah, I know... I'm being a fangirl. But it's so much fun!

Had an amazing array of food at breakfast in the Matterhorn restaurant on the hotel's first floor. Then it was off to the



Charging on the Pelennor Fields

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

second optional thrill sport of the trip, the scary Flying Fox. In retrospect, I should have done it, if only to prove to myself that I could do it, lived through it and enjoyed it! But it was early on in the tour and I didn't want to tax myself unnecessarily. Plus, flying through a canyon at 60 miles an hour suspended from a cable starting at 180

meters up a cliff didn't sound appealing to me at the time. The river at the bottom was used as one of the sites where the hobbits are shown paddling in their boats.

After lunch at the Laughing Fox, a cute Victorian café, we went to the Waitarere Forest, where the elves made their procession west and Arwen had a vision

of her son with Aragorn. We did a re-enactment of the procession with Michele from Portland as Arwen and the rest of us as elves. Susi Knight, who is originally from the U.S. but now lives in Tuscany, filmed us. She works with Red Carpet Tours and she was filming for a promotional video. So yes, we'll probably be in the video!

Our next stop was one of the highlights of the tour for me. We went to the horse stables where a lot of the horses from LOTR were trained and kept. Chris Rutten, the owner, trained the horses and he also played several roles in the movie: the Witch King, Aragorn's double, a Gondorian cavalryman, a Rohan Royal Guard and Gamling's double. We also met Ben, the last horse still in the stable that appeared in the movies. We then went to Chris's house where his wife Donna served us tea and cookies. Their house was so lovely up on a hill with a view of the water and Kapiti Island, which was used as Skull Island for Peter Jackson's *King Kong*. I wanted to take a picture of the house so I walked farther from the house. But I fell in a ditch that I couldn't see in the grass and I fell on my knees! My knees started to swell up so Donna gave me a bag of frozen peas. Raewyn asked whether I expected that years after seeing *The Fellowship of the Ring*, I would be in the Witch King's living room with his frozen peas on my knees! It was



Chris, Ben and Jean

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

quite funny.

Our hotel in Wellington was the very posh Duxton. My first impression of Wellington is that it is a lively city but older than Auckland. Wellington actually reminded me of Hong Kong in the 1970s. The view from my room was spectacular! I could see the famous Te Papa Museum, the wharf, bay, park and downtown Wellington.

We ate at the Green Parrot for dinner. There was a mural behind us that had the likenesses of Peter Jackson and Viggo Mortensen on it. The food was alright... I was hoping the lamb would be great as New Zealand is known for its lamb. But the cuisine was like an American diner and I can get that at home. But I guess that's why Viggo liked the place so much, because it reminded him of home.

After dinner, Cat, Jeremy, Lisa and I went to Cuba Street, part of which was blocked off for pedestrians. There were lots of shops and pubs. It was a very fun town with a lot of character. There was a good band playing at the Bristol pub and we had a great time.

Day 5

Wellington

Wellington was one of the towns we stayed in more than one night. So it was

great that I didn't have to have my luggage ready early before breakfast. The buffet there was fantastic. Seems like food is good everywhere in New Zealand! I sat at a table with Susi and sometime during the meal, I asked her when our special guest for the morning, LOTR calligrapher and cartographer Daniel Reeve, was coming. She motioned her head to someone behind

me and this good-looking man with an LOTR t-shirt on said hello and sat next to me. I quickly figured out that it was Daniel himself! I talked to him a little bit and Susi told him that Diane Rooney, one of our staff writers, is a friend of mine and he lit up in remembrance.

After eating, we all went to a conference room next door and sat at one end of the



Ford of Bruinen Where Arwen calls wave forces

Photo by Jean Martin



Jean with Gimli's Double Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

table as Daniel regaled us with funny stories from his experience working with the movies. All of the books, scrolls, maps, etc. you see in the movie and that are commercially available were done by this very talented artist. He showed us samples of his work and we all oohed and aahed. Especially the "Red Book" or Bilbo's journal. I bought a Bilbo party invitation, which he was going to write my name on with a quill pen, and also the "One Ring to Rule Them All" script on a matted board suitable for framing. He wrote my name and his name in Elvish on the back and signed it with

his autograph. Daniel also taught Elijah Wood (sans one finger) and Sir Ian McKellen to write their required styles with quill pens.

Another highlight happened on this day. We drove to WETA Workshop, headed by Richard Taylor and Peter Jackson and the company responsible for the effects for the LOTR movies. Vic and Raewyn told us that they never know until they get there whether they will be able to get a tour of the premises or even be able to get in the door. It really depends on how busy the WETA folks are and what they're working on.

When we got there, we were informed that we would be able to at least get in their office area. We were met by Richard Taylor's wife, Tania, who led us inside. She said that Richard was in a meeting and was unfortunately not going to be able to meet us. Which was a little bit disappointing because I've wanted to meet him since Comic-Con last July, where all my friends that I came with met him, but for some reason, I kept missing him. I guess that continued all the way to New Zealand! And so close, yet so far... he was in a boardroom right next to where we were. I decided to just feel grateful that I was

actually able to get inside WETA and see their offices. Also, in the foyer area, there were life-size replicas of Lurtz and Gollum. We, of course, were excited to have our pictures taken with these figures.

Lunch was at the Chocolate Fish Café, on a street right on the water. It was too cold for me to sit outside, where most of



Jean with Gollum at the WETA Workshop Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

our group sat, so I sat indoors. Daniel Reeve showed up to give us our personalized purchases, and he joined the table I was at with Michele and her fiancé Jason.

After lunch, we went to Mount Victoria where we saw the “get off the road” location. There were several joggers going past us and it was so funny to see something so commonplace in a scene that

was so ominous in *The Fellowship of the Ring*. The big tree wasn't there but the root was. So we posed, four at a time, as hobbits huddling together. I think we were more comfortable with each other now so that doing re-enactments came more naturally.

Back in downtown Wellington, some of us were dropped off at Roger's Tattoo. Roger was the same tattoo artist that did

the “nine” symbol for most of the actors who portrayed the Fellowship. I asked if I could get the same one and Roger said that without a copy of it, they couldn't duplicate it. And they didn't have other LOTR designs available. So I gave up on getting a tattoo. It looked really painful anyway. Cat got her name in Elvish tattooed on her wrist. It looked quite lovely on her.

Gavin didn't wind up getting a tattoo either and so we ventured to the Te Papa Museum. We ran into David and we explored the museum together. There were science and history exhibits on several floors as well as art. There were some nice Maori displays, which I enjoyed. And a store with LOTR memorabilia. We ran into some other people from our tour and had an afternoon break in the museum's café.

It was St. Patrick's Day, and on our way to dinner, the three Irish pubs we walked past were already abuzz with activity. It got even livelier and more crowded as the night went on. We also walked past the Embassy Theatre where the premiere of *The Return of the King* was celebrated by a parade of the stars and attended by lots of Kiwis as well as people from all over the world.

Our dinner was at the Strawberry Fare, which had great desserts. Erica Challis joined us for her last dinner as she was not going to continue on to the South



Ithilen in the Distance

Photo by Jean Martin

Island. She lives in Wellington and this was her last stop. As we were waiting, a familiar face showed up and said hello. We all gasped with delight when we realized it was Bruce Hopkins, who played Gamling, King Theoden's right-hand man. He said he could only stay for a bit but he gave us all time to have our photos taken with him. He was a very nice man. In fact, everyone we met in New Zealand was nice!

Day 6

Wellington – Christchurch

We met some other nice people at the Stansborough, the sheep farmers and weavers that created the Elven cloaks. We got a tour of the factory from owner Cheryl and her son Jamie, and tried on the cloaks not only from LOTR but from *The Chronicles of Narnia* as well. The weaving process was very interesting and the cloaks were beautiful. Unfortunately, I'm allergic to wool and didn't buy one. I did order a miniature one for one of my teddy bears at home. It was a lot cheaper and it will actually get some use.

Then it was off to Fernside, the gardens where they filmed the Lothlorien farewell scene and where Smeagol strangled Deagol. Our guide was Mike, the former gardener, who met us in costume. He looked a little like King Theoden! He had a lot of

interesting stories about the filming and showed us where Galadriel stood, and the exact spot of the fatal Smeagol/Deagol fight. He asked for volunteers to re-enact the latter scene and Dulce and Florbela happily complied. They were really into it as they struggled on the ground. The gardens were unforgettably beautiful and I

took home some acorns as souvenirs.

After lunch at the Lady Featherston Café in Featherston, we went to Kaitoke Regional Park where there was a Rivendell sign and a storyboard. We saw the areas where some Rivendell scenes were shot. There were lots of other tourists there and it was surprising to see them, as almost all



Mike at Leaving Lothlorien scene

Photo by Jean Martin

of the places we'd been to were exclusive to us. We also went to a forest that we reached by crossing a suspension bridge. It was a lot of fun. I guess I'm not afraid of heights. There was a big silver fern there and Vic told us that silver ferns are a symbol of New Zealand. I was quite surprised to find out that there was such a thing as I made up my Dungeons and Dragons name, Leandra Silverfern, with no such knowledge.

We also quickly stopped by a public park that had served as the Isengard gardens where Gandalf rode a horse toward Orthanc, and where he talked with Saruman.

Then it was on to Wellington Airport to head to Christchurch. As we drove through the downtown Christchurch area, I was so delighted to see the English-style buildings, homes and gardens. Our hotel was the Copthorne Central, which was right in front of lovely Victoria Park. As soon as I checked in and dropped all my stuff in my room, I ran out to explore the city. I didn't have much time as the sun was setting and we were all getting together for dinner at 8:30 p.m. And we were leaving Christchurch in the morning.

Church Square, only a couple of blocks away, was a spacious area with the gothic Christchurch Cathedral at its heart. The square had a huge silver conical sculpture

and was surrounded by elegant buildings. Lots of young people were just hanging out. There were several souvenir shops and I splurged on buying presents for friends back home, and for myself too.

Even though I rushed around, I was still quite late for dinner. Our group took over the restaurant on the first floor of our hotel, but we were in two separate tables. Brett Beattie, our guest that night, was at the other table as I sat with my friends Cat and Jen. But Brett visited our table after dinner

and told us stories about his experience as the stunt double for Gimli. He actually filmed for a longer period of time, 6 months, than the actor John Rhys-Davies, who only filmed for one month. So Brett's in the movie a lot more. He was a nice man and he showed us the picture book that was given to all the cast at the end of filming. Brett also showed us a picture of the group that got the "nine" tattoo. Apparently, John Rhys-Davies sent his stunt double to get the tattoo instead of him! I got my picture



River Crossing to Edoras

Photo by Jean Martin



The Scene Where Frodo Leaves The Fellowship

Photo by Jean Martin

taken with Brett and asked him for a photo of himself as Gimli, which he autographed on the back.

Day 7

Christchurch – Twizel

Beans on toast, tomatoes and mushrooms for breakfast... yum!

Daylight Saving Time ended so I got one extra hour of sleep that I wouldn't otherwise have gotten. I was averaging 5 to 6 hours a night of sleep. Only halfway through my tour and I'm already exhausted! And it felt like we'd done so much already.

We met our new driver for the South Island, Glenn, who was awesome. He was

very sociable, funny, caring and good-looking. He also had interesting things to say about the areas we were driving through. There were a lot of sheep grazing in the fields and some deer and ostrich.

Today, we were off to Edoras. I dreaded this part of the tour as we were told to bring aqua shoes because we were going to be crossing several streams on foot. I'm not outdoorsy as I've already mentioned and I didn't even know what aqua shoes were! But first, we stopped at Coupland's Bakery as we were going to eat a picnic lunch on the summit of the mountain.

Vic said there are a lot of hitchhikers in the area and once in a while they pick them up. I thought he was kidding but then he had the coach stop when he spotted one. We looked out the window and it was someone dressed in a Gandalf costume. Well, Vic pulled off that joke/surprise really well. Gandalf turned out to be Derek Carver, who was going to be our guide to Edoras. While he was on the coach, he read some lines from LOTR and told stories about his experiences as an extra. He played a Rohan villager.

We stepped out of the coach to take photos with Derek and as a group as soon as we first sighted Edoras. Then we went to a lodge to change into our shorts and aqua shoes. I bought Texas before I left the

U.S. and they worked out really well for me (now that I know what they are). We took the coach as far as we could to the first stream. We crossed four in total and some were wider and had stronger currents than the others. Derek, who changed as well but kept his Gandalf hat on, showed us how to cross them with several people going across with arms linked. It actually turned out to be exciting and a lot of fun! Cat, Jen and I kept squealing with delight. We actually kept going back in to get our photos taken in the water. The water was very cold but not as bad as I expected.

Finally, we reached the foot of Edoras. The area was called Mount Potts Backcountry but when I asked Derek what Edoras is called in real life, he said there's really no name for it, so Edoras it now is. It was a very steep hike to the top and it was very easy to slip so I tried to be careful. There were also a lot of thorny bushes and there really were no worn trails. We got almost to the top when Derek pointed out the location where Wormtongue was thrown out by King Theoden.

On the top of the plateau, which was 2,000 feet above sea level, Derek, with the

assistance of the other field guide, Trevor, indicated the area where Meduseld, the Golden Hall was. He showed us around where Eowyn stood when she came out to see Aragorn, Gimli and Legolas. He asked for a volunteer Eowyn, and since Eowyn is my favorite character from the books, I volunteered immediately and asked someone to take my picture as I posed like Eowyn. It was a great feeling, and at that moment, the wind picked up a little and blew my hair around just like in *The Two Towers*.

Everything was golden everywhere, just like in LOTR. There were mountain ranges all around. The weather was warm and visibility was clear. The view was quite spectacular. I used the stitch assist feature on my digital camera to capture a 360-degree view from the summit. After I finished taking photos and appreciating the view, I ate lunch with Cat and Jen. Then Derek said it was time to go and we reluctantly complied. The way down was actually harder, which was surprising to me: I guess because of the steep grade, it was really hard on my kneecaps. Crossing the same streams this time was harder as the currents were stronger and the water was deeper. But it was still so enjoyable.

We stopped for a little bit at Lake Tekapo with the Church of the Good



The Three Amigos at Skyline Farewell Dinner

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

Shepherd. It was raining when we drove on and it was almost sunset. So I was worried that I won't be able to see Mt. Cook, our next destination. But the sky cleared up as soon as we got close to it. Mt. Cook, which was used as Caradhras, was majestic with its snow-capped peak and Lake Pukake right in front of it. The mountain is 12,000 feet

high, the highest in New Zealand.

Our hotel for the evening was the McKenzie Country Inn in Twizel. It was less impressive but very clean and comfortable. And their dinner buffet was just absolutely delicious! The roast lamb with mint jelly as well as the salad bar were awesome. I sat at a table with Cat, Gavin

and David, and Jen joined us later. We all named ourselves after X-Men characters: Jean Grey, Storm, Wolverine, Cyclops and Rogue, respectively. Gavin put three knives in between his knuckles and did a very impressive Wolverine pose.

Then we went into the lounge area where several other tour mates joined us, and we just talked about ourselves and our interests and we all just got along so well. We also hung out in Cat's room until she threw us out. I guess we were just so tired that we couldn't even get up and leave. But what a day it was!

Day 8

Twizel – Cromwell

After checkout and breakfast, we were taken to Pelennor Fields. It was a huge flat, golden plain with mountains in the background. The owner, Simon Campbell, met us with his cute dog. He explained that his family has been raising sheep in the area for five generations. Currently, Simon's merino wool has been voted the best in the world. Other folks in the area also farm sheep and most of the families are Scottish clans, like the Highlands were transplanted there.

Simon mentioned that the Pelennor Fields shoot involved 1,000 people, including 300 horse riders. He pointed



Vic posing as Aragorn listening for Orcs

Photo by Jean Martin

out to where Minas Tirith was situated and in which direction the Gondorian riders charged into the Orc army. His wife, Priscilla, played an Orc and he showed us a picture of his “film star.”

Susi filmed two groups of us doing two different re-enactments. The first one, which I was in, was King Theoden clashing his sword across a line of his soldiers. The second was the Faramir charge with Gavin as Faramir. We all used dead branches lying on the ground as swords. Some people played dead, and Michelle pretended to be



Daniel Reeve with his map of Middle Earth
Photo by Jean Martin

a dead horse with her legs in the air.

On the way to Tarras, we stopped to take pictures of Lindis Pass. Then on to Tarras Vineyard, where the “great chase” between Arwen and the Ringwraiths was filmed. We couldn’t get in as the vineyard was private property and the new owners weren’t interested in offering their place for LOTR tours. But we could see the gap in between the trees where Chris, the horse trainer we met, and Liv Tyler’s double rode their horses.

Then it was on to Lake Wanaka for lunch after passing more rivers, lakes and mountains.

Some trees were already showing fall colors. At Lake Wanaka, there were cafes and shops right on the water’s edge. The lake was lovely with a view of Mt. Aspiring in the background. I had lunch at Tango’s Café and had a tasty veggie sandwich and finally tried Hokey Pokey ice cream, New Zealand’s specialty flavor. It was light and flavorful vanilla ice cream with chunks of Crunchies in it. I couldn’t stop eating it!

After lunch, we went to the Warbirds Museum at the tiny Wanaka Airport. Ian Brodie, the author of the *Lord of the Rings*



Jean with Ian Brodie

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

Location Guidebook, and several other incarnations of that best-selling book, runs the museum. We bought his books and other LOTR souvenirs in the museum’s shop. I took a look at the old war planes in the museum for a little bit. Then Ian gave a short talk about how he got involved in the project, and was available afterwards for photos and autographs.

Across the street from the airport was *Have A Shot*, where they had three archery ranges. We got in to each range in groups of threes. My group consisted of myself, David and Jeremy. A young guy that worked there

showed us how to knock the arrows into the bow, how to pull the bowstring back and aim, and how to release the bowstring. I did really well and hit the target often. I didn't get a bull's eye but my score was quite decent for my first time.

After our brief stint at becoming like Legolas, we went to Mrs. Jones' Fruit Stall, which was actually a big building that was

open on three sides. The store had a colorful array of fruits, nuts, honey, dried fruits, chocolates and other delicacies. There also was a tasting table, which I couldn't get to as there were so many tourists swarming around it. So I just walked around the back of the store where there was an orchard, garden and a horse.

Then it was off to Cromwell for our

hotel for the evening, the Golden Gate Lodge. The hotel looked like something from the Old West. We ate dinner at the hotel's restaurant as there was nothing else within walking distance. I was at the same table with Vic and Raewyn and I told them that I was really enjoying their tour and it felt like we were on a family trip. Vic said he does feel like we're all an extended family. Raewyn said how our group was one of the best they've ever had as far as people bonding, the weather cooperating, and us getting special guests and being able to get into WETA. David played some of his compositions and a few tunes from LOTR on the piano in the dining room. That night, I was so exhausted I went to my room and went to bed early.

Day 9

Cromwell – Queenstown

Breakfast was just alright today, and I had to lug my suitcase to the coach myself. It's getting heavier and heavier!

Our first destination for the day was Moa. We went to a remote area where we met Sue Falconer, the owner of the Old Moa Creek Pub, which also had accommodations. Sue and two of her lodgers joined us on the coach and she told us about the LOTR sites in the surrounding area.



Gimli running after Orcs

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

The terrain was rocky and hilly. The coach dropped us off and we had to walk a fair bit. There were no trails and the grass was high in spots. The first location she showed us was the rock where Aragorn listened to find out that Orcs were in the area.

We then descended into a valley where the hobbits, Merry and Pippin, were carried off by Orcs, the same place where Aragorn and Legolas ran after the hobbits, with Gimli stumbling along. We did three re-enactments for filming and for photographs. Jeremy, who's 6'3", played Gimli and stumbled around a corner. Jen carried me on her back with me as Pippin and her as an Orc. I was surprised at how strong she was! I was lent an Elven leaf brooch, which I threw on the ground as Jen carried me across the valley. Dulce carried Florbela as they pretended to be Merry and an Orc right beside us. Andrea, the young man that joined us, looked like Aragorn and recited the appropriate line as he picked up the brooch. Then, we all just marched in a line and pretended to be Orcs.

We went to a lake a short distance away where the Rohan villages were burned. There were actually some pieces of wood, some of them charred, left on the ground from the filming. Several of us took pieces. A short while later, we were in the open area

where Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli were surrounded by Eomer and his mounted Rohan riders.

Lunch was at the adorable Olde Bakery Café. It was a little stone cottage with flowers and plants around it in the middle of nowhere. It could have come straight out of the Cotswolds in England! The

ladies serving afternoon tea wore charming aprons and muffin caps. Finally, I was able to indulge in Devonshire tea, consisting of two scones (with kiwi slices on top), raspberry jam and cream, and of course, tea with milk and sugar. I was in gastronomic heaven!

We passed by Lake Dunstan, a beautiful



Hobbits hiding from the Ringwraiths

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

long lake, and several wineries on the hillside, on our way through Queenstown. In Queenstown, we saw the Remarkables mountain range, which was used as Mordor and the Misty Mountains. We drove through the town itself, which is on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. Queenstown was absolutely spectacular. There were lots of amazing new condos and hotels that looked straight out of the Swiss Alps (quaint) or Architectural Digest (modern).

Queenstown had lots of shops, restaurants and activities. It's the adventure sport capital of New Zealand. But we just drove past it for now as we went to the 12-mile delta for a view of Ithilien, where Frodo and Sam saw an Oliphaunt for the first time, across a canyon. That was also the spot where the Ithilien Rangers, led by Faramir, captured the two hobbits.

We drove a little farther and after a very steep climb, up a hill to Amon Hen. My heart was pumping really hard, and most of the group had a difficult time as well. But it was worth reaching the top where we saw where Aragorn was tempted by the ring and told Frodo he would have followed him to the end. We were shown where the Orcs arrived and Aragorn confronted them.

Back in Queenstown, we checked into our hotel, the Aurum, and were shocked at how fantastic it was. Probably the best

hotel room I've ever stayed in! We all had suites complete with kitchen (with utensils, bowls, microwave, fridge, dishwasher, etc.), dining room, living room (with a hi-fi system and a huge TV), patio/balcony, bedroom with king bed and large bathroom (with a separate shower and bath tub). The architecture was modern and the

interior design looked like something from a model home! It felt like someone's home and I wanted to live there. I was tempted to just order room service and an in-room massage but I wanted to hang out with my tour mates.

Our group split off into several smaller groups as people wanted to go to different



In Fiordlands National Park

Photo by Jean Martin

restaurants. I went with the contingent, mostly the young and single people, who wanted to go to a Chinese restaurant for a change. We walked to the wharf area, which looked magical in the nighttime with strings of lights, and ate at the Mandarin restaurant. Chinese food is very different in New Zealand. But we had fun and got to meet Cat's parents who were also in New Zealand for vacation.

After dinner, we walked around and some of the shops were still open. We bought souvenirs and fudge. Then David pointed out the Southern Cross for all of us to see. It was my first time seeing it and I was very happy as I didn't want to leave the Southern Hemisphere without seeing it!

Back at the Aurum, I hung out at Cat's room with Jen and Jeremy and we listened to the soundtrack CD of *Fellowship! The Musical*, which was very funny. I saw it in San Diego last year at Comic-Con.

Day 10

Queenstown – Te Anau

We again needed a picnic lunch for the day so we stopped at a bakery right next to an LOTR store. It was quite a temptation to see the store but not be able to go in! We were promised that we'd have more time some other day.

Then we went to the forest that served

as Fangorn Forest. We walked to the edge of the forest where the Rohirrim killed a band of Orcs and laid them all in one mound. This was also where Merry and Pippin escaped the melee and entered Fangorn. We walked into the forest as well and after we went out, we re-created the Orc mound by lying on the ground on top

of each other. We tried not to laugh and pretended we were dead Orcs as Susi went around filming us.

Our next stop was the Upper Mavora Lake, the scene where Frodo held the ring in his hand and felt scared about going off on his own. The lake was magical with trees on the right, a beach area with a shimmering



In Frodo's Room

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

line where the waterline was, and the water sparkling in the sunlight. On the left and in the distance were mountains.

We walked up the Mavora Walkway into the forest, hiking up to the tree where Merry and Pippin were hiding from Orcs and motioning Frodo to join them. Nearby was the tree where Frodo responded in the negative and indicated that he was

leaving. Several pairs of people re-enacted the Merry and Pippin scene, and several of us, including myself, did the Frodo scene. We then went to the water's edge and I borrowed someone's One Ring and pretended I was Frodo looking at the water and the ring. Our picnic lunch was a lot of fun. People wandered off in separate directions. Cat, Jen and I, sat next to the

lake.

Then it was off to Te Anau, a small lake town, where we checked into the Luxmore Hotel. I decided, after a lot of thought, to do the Luxmore Jet Boat Tour. I took some Dramamine so I wouldn't get motion sickness and boarded the shuttle to the river where the jet boats were.

There were 16 of us and we needed two boats. The boat driver and guide on my boat was Lex. I was on the same boat with Cat, Jen, Rick, Florbela and Dulce as well Angela and Mike from England. I'm glad I went as it was an amazing ride. Lex did a couple of fast 360-degree turns. It was okay and I enjoyed it but I felt a little queasy afterwards. Lex stopped at several LOTR sites. But the only one I remember was where Frodo and the hobbits were paddling a boat on a river.

Halfway in one direction, Lex said we entered Fiordlands National Park, which is not accessible by road. The only way to get there is by boat or on foot.

We stopped in a wide part of the river where there were mountains all around us. It was so surreal just being there; it was all quiet and the mountains were shaped like something from another world. Then we headed back.

Lex did a couple more 360-degree turns and stopped to show us some trout in the



Jean at Mordor

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

crystal clear shallow water.

Waiting for us were two people dressed in Orc costumes. It was a pleasant surprise and then we went back to our hotel. Some people got on a helicopter that was waiting and went on a tour of the area from the air.

I had dinner at the Red Cliffs Café, a favorite of the LOTR cast. Only a few from

our group ate there. I was at a table with Vic, Raewyn and Susi. The food was excellent, the best that I had in New Zealand. I got enough courage to try venison and it was good. Just like beef. The rocket (arugula) salad and homemade Hokey Pokey ice cream were awesome too.

I was so tired already but I had one more tour that I had signed up for that evening.



Mount Doom

Photo by Jean Martin

Ten of us went to the Real Journeys office a couple of blocks from our hotel and boarded a boat. It was so eerie being in a glass-topped boat at night. There were no lights anywhere except for the stars. Michele pointed out the upside down moon.

We were met at our destination, which looked to me like *Fantasy Island*, by several guides in a small auditorium. They showed us a short film about the glow worms that we were going to see and how we're not allowed to take photos inside the caves. And that we had to be quiet. There were lots of other people there so our group didn't get in until the third round.

We walked into the cave and it was one of the most amazing things I've ever seen in my life. I'd never been in a cave and I was afraid it would be dark, musty and scary. But there were lights when we walked in and the air was fresh and clean. There was also the sound of rushing water, and to my delight, there were subterranean waterfalls and pools inside the cave.

We boarded small boats twice to get from one area to another. The last stop was the Glow Worm Grotto. We stayed there for a while in total darkness and silence. All we could see were tiny blue lights on the ceiling, which were the glow worms. Another otherworldly experience for the day.

Day 11

Te Anau – Queenstown

It was back to Queenstown after a rushed buffet breakfast at the Luxmore. On the way, though, we stopped by Arrowtown, which used to be a gold mining town in the 1800s. It looked like a street out of a Western movie but very well kept and inviting. The mountains surrounding the town had beautiful trees and a lot of them were bright yellow and red. They also had really nice shops -- one of which had LOTR jewelry. I bought a solid gold One Ring and a sterling silver chain. Cat and Jen bought sterling silver rings and chains. So us three now all wore the One Ring! The three of us, and Rick, had lunch from a takeaway place and ate in the small park that was right there. I got Hokey Pokey ice cream and a delicious falafel veggie burger.

We got to Queenstown in the early afternoon. Our hotel this time, and for two nights in a row, was the Novotel Gardens, which was right on the lakefront. My beautifully furnished room had a view of the garden. I actually was able to walk outside from my room through a glass door. I discovered that some of us were on the same floor and we had all had the same idea to venture into the garden.

Most of us met in the lobby to take the optional tour to Deer Park Heights.

We took the coach up the mountain and the views from there were awe-inspiring. I couldn't stop taking pictures of the view, which consisted of the Remarkables, Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown and the Southern Alps. We saw deer, of course, but we also saw goats, llamas and buffalo. We picked up the guide for the area, Stan, who showed

us several LOTR sites. It was a very hot day and I didn't expect we were going to hike a lot. But it was worth it.

The first LOTR location was the rock outcropping where the Wargs charged down onto the Rohan refugees. The second was the scene where Rohan refugees trudged beside a pond with snow-capped mountains



The scene of Arwen's great chase

Photo by Jean Martin

in the background. Some of the group were just standing next to the cliff and they looked so much like a promotional shot for *Lost* that I just had to take a picture of them. And they all handed me their cameras! I joined in on the photo afterwards too. The last location was the rock where Aragorn fell over a cliff as a Warg dragged him over.

Back in Queenstown, we all scurried to the LOTR store, finally! The merchandise and displays were showcased like they were in a museum. It was quite overwhelming. There were swords in cases, busts on shelves, banners on the ceiling, posters, stationery, board games, books, DVDs, action figures, jewelry, etc. I bought a miniature Narsil on

a stand, and various stationery items to give to some of my friends on the tour. Eight of us agreed on Mexican food for dinner and we ate at Sombreros. Cat had never been to a Mexican restaurant, so it was nice to introduce her to the good food and fun atmosphere, and tequila poppers, margaritas and sangria too. It was a fun dinner and afterwards, we walked around the town a bit. It was a lovely evening, although we all got separated by the end. Some of us wound up at Patagonia Chocolates on the wharf where we watched someone making chocolates by the window.

Day 12

Queenstown

Couldn't believe it was my last full day in New Zealand! It seemed like I'd been here for a month but I didn't want it to end. I woke up early so that I could get picked up by Nomad Safaris at the hotel foyer. I signed up for the four-wheel drive LOTR tour instead of horseback riding, which I wanted to do as well.

Two green Land Rovers with the Nomad Safaris logo on the side came to pick us up. One's license plate said "Frodos" and the other said "Elrond." Six of us opted for this tour. There was Lisa, Jeremy, Jacqueline, Florbela, Dulce and myself. We initially



Jean, Gamling and Cat

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

had to split up. I rode in “Frodos” with Fran as our guide. The other guide, driving “Elrond,” was Richie. Our group all wound up in Fran’s vehicle later that morning.

Our first destination was Coronet Peak. It was a winding road and we stopped at Skipper’s Canyon. Along the way, we stopped at a high point where Richie pointed out all the places we were going to that morning. Arrowtown, the Kawarau River, the Remarkables, Deer Park Heights, Lake Wakatipu and Queenstown were all laid before us in the distance. Fran told us that the road was built by miners in the mid-1880s.

We drove by Arrowtown, which I had enjoyed the previous day. But what I didn’t know was that just behind the town is the Arrow River. Fran drove through some trees and then all of a sudden we were in the wilderness. She drove over rocky terrain and shallow parts of the river pretty fast, so we were jostled around a bit but I had fun. We stopped at a point in the river that was used as part of the Fords of Bruinen scene -- the one where Arwen calls the water forces to drown the Ringwraiths! What a memorable and famous part of *The Fellowship of the Ring*! Then we went farther and stopped at a nice area where Richie and Fran served us morning tea and biscuits. Richie told us stories about the roles he

played in LOTR, mostly in *The Two Towers*. He played a Rohan soldier and several dead Orcs. Richie also demonstrated how to pan gold in the river. It was more difficult than it looked but it was a novel experience.

Then we went to a completely different area where the Gladden Fields were filmed. This is the place where Isildur was attacked

and lost the ring in the river. Our last site was where the Pillars of Argonath were shot on the Kawarau River. But our view was from the opposite angle, so it wasn’t as impressive as I’d expected. What did impress me was a spectacular view from the site of the Kawarau Bungy Jump: the place where the very first ever bungy jump was



The Lord of the Rings Store in Queenstown

Photo by Jean Martin

done. The river below was so blue and the building next to the bridge was beautiful and modern.

I got back to the Novotel around 12:30 p.m. I was tired and wanted to take a nap but I wanted to make the most of my last afternoon in Queenstown. By the way, Queenstown is like Lake Tahoe,

but 10 times cleaner, newer, more posh, more scenic and more fun. I went to the Patagonia Chocolate shop again, to get hot chocolate as I got cold during the morning tour. I spent the afternoon enjoying the place. I had lunch at a New Age-y organic restaurant, I went wine tasting in a wine store and I went clothes shopping. I also

went to the LOTR store again and this time bought a small replica of Eowyn's helm that I had been eyeing the day before.

Back at my hotel, I caught up on my journal and photo uploading, and rested a bit. But then it was time to get ready for dinner. Our farewell dinner was going to be at the Skyline, the restaurant we'd been seeing on top of a hill. The way to get up there is by sky gondolas. I dressed up in an Eowyn costume I brought with me. I didn't think anyone else was going in costume but since I had it, I thought I might as well use it. And it would be fun to be in costume and show everyone what I do back home.

We took taxis to where we were going to board the sky gondolas. I was in the same gondola as Cat, Jen and Gavin. I loved going up the hill suspended in the air in the small enclosed gondola. Too soon we got to the restaurant, which was huge and had several floors. We got there early, so we had time to go to the observation deck, where we saw the lights of Queenstown below us. We also were able to buy more LOTR souvenirs and Jen and Cat bought me nice presents.

The buffet dinner was alright. I didn't expect Chinese food. Our group was separated into three tables but it was nice to have all of us together again for dinner. There was a guitar player performing. His



Stansborough Elven Cloak Factory

Photo by Jean Martin

choice of music was a little bit slow and sad for dining. But he was cute so Cat, Jen and I went to meet him later and found out his name was Oliver.

We went back to our hotel where we had a farewell ceremony in the lobby. Angela and Mike prepared a 10-minute slideshow presentation with pictures of us from the tour accompanied by a song from the LOTR soundtrack.

Then, Raewyn and Vic presented us with “Oscar” awards. Each of us was given a certificate with the name of the character that Raewyn and Vic thought was the most appropriate.

I got the Frodo award for sleeping in Elijah Wood’s bed. Then Susi presented Raewyn and Vic with a poster that Michele and Ray had picked out for us from the LOTR store. We all signed it with our names and short dedications telling them how much we appreciated them. Lastly, we all posed for our last group shot.

We moved to the hallway where there was a piano and David played “Into the West.” Someone passed out a few copies of the lyrics and we all sang it. We sounded surprisingly good and it was a touching moment. Unfortunately, I ran out of memory in my digital camera and I was only able to tape a few seconds of it. I didn’t even take a photo! It was good, though,

because I was able to just be present and enjoy the experience completely without being distracted by taking photos or videoing. The hotel staff tried to make us all go away, as it was late and they didn’t want us disturbing the other guests, but we kept hanging about. I cried and some other people did too. There was a lot of hugging, and I had everyone sign my souvenir tour brochure. Several people commented on

how they appreciated my being happy and smiling all throughout the trip. I signed some other people’s brochures as well and told them how much I appreciated them too. Then we all said goodbye and good night.

Day 13

Queenstown – San Francisco

Most of us were flying out around noon.



Aragorn’s Cliff at Deer Park Heights

Photo by Jean Martin

So several of us, mostly the same young and single people I'd been hanging out with, had hot drinks and pastries at Starbuck's, of all places, as we needed something quick and convenient. Then I waited for my shuttle to take me to Queenstown airport. We were all sad about the breaking up of our fellowship. Some of us cried, and there was a lot of hugging and promises to keep

in touch.

Jen, Rick, Lisa and I went together as we were all booked on the same flight to Auckland. My luggage was overweight and I wound up moving stuff to my carryon.

We four got to Auckland after an hour delay and we all hung out for lunch. We ran into David at the airport's food court. So it was nice how we were still with some of the



Nomad Safari Guides Fran and Richie

Photo by Jean Martin

Fellowship.

And from there, I had to say goodbye first and again there was more crying and hugging. It really reminded me of *The Return of the King* and how there were several partings as the group got smaller and smaller. And then it was just myself on the flight back to San Francisco.

I watched all three LOTR movies on the way home. I slept a little here and there but I wanted to prolong the feeling of being in LOTR-land. But yes, it was nice to come home. I missed my significant other and friends, and I realized that I'm grateful to have such a great life, not just at home, but that I can go on amazing trips like the one I just took.

Still, after years of planning, I can't believe it's over, and I'm already there and back again. But I felt like I really was part of a journey with a Fellowship, just like in the LOTR books and movies.

And the good news is, I've made lots of friends from all over the world and I can visit them all in the future. Or meet them at future conventions.

Also, we were joking about possibly doing reunion tours. Since this first tour is the *Fellowship* tour, the second one would be *The Two Tours*, and the third *The Return of the Tour!*

KFJC Presents: The Psychotronic Film Festival

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

I'd never managed to make it out to the Psychotronic Film Festival until this year. I'd known about it since the 1990s, probably since I was in high school, but I never made it until this edition, after Dave Clark so kindly reminded us two weeks in a row at BASFA. I wasn't the only other BASFAer there, as Ken Patterson also showed. And I've learned to realize that if Ken shows, Mr. Lobo can not be far behind, and Cinema Insomnia's host joined us, along with Robot Monster, Sparky and The Queen of Trash.

The theory of Psychotronic is this: there's 100 years of film out there, and they show the ones that NO ONE is interested in saving. All were on 16mm, and they were a varied group.

We opened with a couple of music videos. The first was the Hondells with their hit "Sea Cruise," which showed just

how far music video has come over the last forty years. They followed that up with several other videos that were almost eye-bleedingly bad. These were used in old video juke boxes back in the day.

After that, we got a few Castle Films, at least two of which were decades old when they were reedited and voiced in the 1950s. These included a monkey short which made me laugh, and a series of stunts. The best of them was the one that highlighted boxing and wrestling. It was an entertaining one and I was constantly

The Queen of Trash (from Cinema Insomnia), Sparky, Robot Monster, Robert Emmett, Jerry Major and Ken Patterson's Head.

Photo by Christopher J. Garcia



recognizing the wrestlers, several of whom were dead before I was even born. It's also the only time I've seen video of June Byers in action.

The cartoons were good. A 1950s Popeye, a Krazy Kat, a 1930s Silly Symphony knock-off. There was a 1982 Czech film about the Snake Prince. It wasn't the best (I was half-expecting the silent Snake Prince to kick into a defense of the proletariat at any moment), but when a white duck showed up on screen, half a dozen folks and I all loudly said "AFLAC!"

which got a giant laugh.

After that, it was break time and Mr. Lobo and host Robert Emmett did a drawing and some schtick. It was good fun. When Mr. Lobo mentioned that each episode of Cinema Insomnia has to be closed captioned or it can't be shown before 2am, the hat got passed, collecting \$133.75 towards the



The Queen of Trash, Mr. Lobo and Robert Emmett on stage.

Photo by Christopher J. Garcia



Overview of the Crowd

Photo by Christopher J. Garcia

cause. The fact that all the money (and my hat) made it back was a sign of how great the crowd was. They then did a series of drawings for the front table. are my faves, but I'd seen *Our Man Flint* not but a couple of weeks before, so I skipped the early portions and talked with Mr. Lobo, Bob Emmett, Cinequest's Bill Maxey, Ken and his friend Jerry and a few other folks. These events are half about the films and half about the people, and it was a good time to get in touch with some of them.

The feature shown was *Our Man Flint*. The two *Flint* films They'll be back after the Summer heat with another great set of 16mm movies to enjoy. I'll be there, because once you've tasted Psychotronic, you never want to stop.

BASFA Minutes: meeting 817

March 20, 2006

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:00 p.m. [with a talk about conversation].

22 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 816 were accepted as 'Pennsylvania 65000'.

Treasurer's report was that last week we took in \$21.75.

The VP reported he got a new hat and there's a new 'Drink Tank' & SFSF is looking for a new layout guy.

The President reported he had nothing fannish to report.

The Sports Committee reported some good dates for the SJ Giants for us to check out.

The Hollister in '08 bid committee reported there are presupport forms & then Andy did more math.

Dave C. commented that disincentivise

is a word.

We established a party jar.

Announcements:

Kevin R. announced that the Costume Con photo archives are being moved and he's looking for help to type in flavor texts.

Dave C. announced that next Saturday at 7pm there will be a Psychotronic Film Festival at Foothill community college; for \$5.00 [and \$2.00 for parking].

Cheryl announced that the Japan/Cuba game is now being played.

Adrienne announced she has a review about Anaheim hotels posted on epionions.

Kevin S. announced that there are fanzines.

Reviews:

Joanie reviewed 'To Say Nothing of the Dog' & 'Inside Job', both by Connie Willis as she thought 'Dog' was entertaining but not hilarious and she enjoyed it, while 'Job' was a well-paced novella - both worth full price mass market

Chris reviewed another 'next best thing ever' = 'V for Vendetta' as the script was really good, Natalie Portman didn't annoy him & Hugo Weaving was awesome &

he's really glad he saw it; Dave C. follow-on'd that it was a very faithful adaptation - everything was great & for the first time you will believe [omitted by those who don't believe]

Cheryl reviewed academics as they drink a lot, that she had the chance to smash crabs with a mallet and went a long way to end with the pun 'squid pro quo'

Andy reviewed the press coverage of 'Dr Who' last week as fact-checking is not something that journalists do and there were a lot of inaccuracies - but that the Merc review was pretty good [and there were some follow-ons]

Jim reviewed the Contact conference at NASA/Ames as 'great - worth full price, absolutely'

We did birthday auctions = Kurt sold for \$10.00 to Nancy; Nancy sold for \$8.00 to herself & Spring sold to \$50.00 to Dave G; then auctioned off books for = \$3.00; \$0.25; \$0.25; \$5.00; \$4.25; \$5.00; a bar-towel \$3.00; more books for \$2.00; \$2.75; \$0.25; tar candy for \$0.25 & \$0.25

We adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was: 'anti-fortunately, Chris is not Dave'.

BASFA Minutes: meeting 818

March 27, 2006

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:01 p.m.

23 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 817 were accepted as 'Transylvania 6-5000'.

Treasurer's report was that last week we took in \$112.85 [regular jar] & took in \$4.50 in the party jar.

The VP reported that John Purcell sent in a quarter to pay for puns in his letters to 'Drink Tank', that there will be a new 'Drink Tank' on Friday & there's a Pacheco progress report.

The President reported that he would like to report something really cool and interesting, but had nothing.

We established a party jar.

The Hollister in '08 bid committee reported there are 15 pre-member &

SMOFish reaction has been 'amusing'.

The Sports Committee reported he forgot his paperwork for the SJ Giants dates.

Announcements:

Cheryl announced that there are 'Emerald Cities' in the room & she has an issue of 'Interzone' for folks to look at & tomorrow night is the first of the Terry Bisson readings at 7pm at the 777 Valencia St theatre, with Robert Silverberg & Kim Stanley Robinson.

Kevin S. announced that the Hugo nominations are out & 'Emerald City' is nominated for best semi-prozine; Cheryl is nominated for best fan-writer & Frank Wu is nominated for best fan artist.

The suggestion was made that since Chris Garcia wasn't listening that he be covered in honey & iron filings.

Dave G. announced that Dan Curtis had died; also Richard Fleischer & Stanislaw Lem have died.

Dave C. announced that there are bookmarks for APE on the back table - 'please take them'.

Reviews:

Kevin R. reviewed the Costume Con

photo archives as when he did this, he found gems and encouraged people to go view them at www.costume-con.org/gallery2.

Chris reviewed another 'best thing ever': the Psychotronic Film Festival as he enjoyed some of the worst music videos ever made - that it was a great event - worth \$5.00 plus the \$10.00 he spent at Dennys and other costs besides; Dave C. follow-on'd that Chris is impulsively generous.

Doug reviewed 'Life as we Do Not Know It' as a fascinating and hopeful read and he recommends it.

Cheryl reviewed Australian state cricket championships as her team [Victoria] did not do well & there were cricket follow-ons, some of which were not puns.

Julie reviewed the Legion of Rasselon meeting as that she saw 'The Quartermass Experiment' there and thought it was a lot of fun and is out on DVD and is well worth watching.

I reviewed 'V for Vendetta' as excellent, worth watching twice and bringing along friends both times just for Hugo Weaving's performance and really enjoyed it; Kirsten follow-on'd with a query that Dave G. answered: that it's amazing to watch on the Dublin IMAX and Hugo Weaving's

performance was Oscar-worthy; 'evil Kevin' follow-on'd that Stephen Fry doing a Benny Hill send-up was great; Doug follow-on'd that religious extremists are up in arms about the film; Fred reviewed it as the adaptation was not as good as the graphic novel; Andy follow-on'd that he saw the movie & read the graphic novel on the same day & enjoyed both for different reasons,

but the novel was more intentionally vague & Trey follow-on'd that he enjoyed the film, but wished it had included at least 2 more of V's speeches from the graphic novel.

Dave C. reviewed 'Slings and Arrows' [as seen on the Sundance channel] as . . . insane & strange [and there were follow-ons about the channel].

We birthday auctioned off Julie for

\$4.00 to me; then auctioned off books for \$5.00; \$3.00 [for Chris]; \$4.00; \$1.25; \$0.75; \$0.50 & \$1.50.

We adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was: 'Chris was a member of the Gorgeous Ladies of Wrestling in a former life' .

Join our crew:

We need a layout guy. Experience with Adobe Indesign Preferred.

We are also looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general.

Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia at:
SFinSF@gmail.com

BASFA Minutes: meeting 819

April 3, 2006

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:03 p.m. [with my shrimp getting cold]

21 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 818 were accepted as 'palindromic'.

Treasurer's report was that last week we took in \$59.00 [regular jar; total \$8411.44] & took in \$17.00 in the party jar - and the Sharks beat Dallas in overtime.

No VP - but there was a new 'Drink Tank'.

The President avoided reporting.

We said 'hi' to Casey Swanson, a new publisher who was visiting us for the first time & was invited to join us in the weirdness. We also greeted Kelley and Daniel, visiting us from Thailand [whereupon Thailand's royal family was discussed, as was SP Somtow - and about how Dave C is immortal, at least until Somtow finishes writing the story that kills Dave].

We established a party jar

The Hollister in '08 bid committee reported there are 18 pre-member & no, it shouldn't be called 'the Phantom Menace'.

The Sports Committee reported he had the sign-up sheets with him for date preference.

The Party Committee reported that he has a room confirmed on the party floor for BayCon but the band has been disallowed - and he needs bodies to help work the party.

Announcements

[evil] Kevin announced the 'best thing ever' - that through his recommendation Chris Garcia is on the short list to be the keynote speaker for the 20th anniversary of the Almaden research Center.

Dave C announced that Norwescon in 2 weeks at the SeaTac Doubletree - only 800 miles away - so come spend money at the Dealer's room.

Cheryl announced she can now see the floor at the office she shares with Kevin & obscure auction items will soon appear for BASFA auctions.

Reviews:

Dave C. reviewed 'The Executioner's Song', volumes 2-3 [country songs] as perversely very enjoyable.

Adrienne reviewed 3 books = 'Murder by the Bay', historical murders up through Dan White as she thought it was really great; 'Ghost Stories' by Antonio Garcez as 'nicely done' & 'Ghosthunters Guide to the SF Area' as 'a real clunker'.

Cheryl reviewed the SF in SF readings [Silverberg & Robinson] as a good time was had by all and she can't wait until the next one on April 18 & she reviewed 'V for Vendetta' as brilliant - go and see it.

Sue reviewed a black tie event at the Computer History Museum as she took the tour and found it fascinating and recommends getting a docent to tell you the really good stories.

Andy reviewed stuffing envelopes [over 600 of] as he ached but it was worth full price for the gossip.

Daniel reviewed Disneyland as 'it's decent again' since it's been retouched for the 50th anniversary..

We auctioned off books for = \$0.75; \$1.00; \$1.00; \$0.50; magazines for \$6.50; videos for \$3.00; \$3.50; & a plushie Marvin for \$2.00.

We adjourned at = 9:18 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was = 'Due to the SMOFslist being down for 3 days, 47 SMOFs died from spleen explosions'.

Bay Area Science Fiction Calendar

While some effort (OK, OK, damn little effort) is made to verify event listings, please check before attending as events are sometimes cancelled or times and locations changed.

New listings are in red.

April 6-9

ConQuest Sac

Avalonconventions.com/conquestsac/

Red Lion Hotel

Sacramento

\$35-\$45

Gaming and sf convention.

Thursday, April 6

Logan's Run

Free Enterprise

Variety's Preview Room

The Hobart Building

582 Market Street @ Montgomery

San Francisco

Doors open 6:30 p.m.

Seating limited

Free

Sponsored by Variety Children's Charity

and Borderland's Books. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Thursday-Sunday, April 6-9

J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit

Cinnabar Theater

3333 Petaluma Blvd. North

Petaluma

7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

2 p.m. Sunday

\$8-\$12

Tolkien's prequel to the Lord of the Rings adapted for the stage. Part of the Cinnabar Theater's Young Rep program to train young actors.

Friday - Sunday, April 7 - 9

Fool's Crusade VI

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

38950 South Fork Road

Willits

Site opens Noon Friday

Assail the pass, sweep down the foothill, surge through the woods, slug across the bridge, breach the walls and take the Castle. Come join the war at WoodLyn Library.

Friday, April 7

Gotham's Fantasies Opening Party

The Center for Sex and Culture

398 11th St

San Francisco

10:10 p.m. -1:00 a.m.

\$5-\$15 sliding scale

Look, I just do the calendar, I don't endorse everything I include. And for the record, I didn't list the Furry sex party happening this week, OK?

From their event listing:

"Bang! Splat! Prick!

"Holy Wet Dream, Batman!

"Gotham's Fantasies -- an opening party for Center for Sex and Culture's April art show. 'Gotham's Fantasies' features the work of four artists -- David Steinberg, Jeanne Hemhauser, Patricia Nason, and Mike Woolson -- in "A Photography exhibit exposing the Deviant Desires of Gotham City's Do-gooding Denizens and Depraved Degenerates"! Costumed scenarios show a distinctly fetishistic side to the classic Batman super-hero and villain fantasies, with models from last fall's Darkroom Theatre production of "Batman: The TV

Show, the Play.”

“Fetish or Super Hero/Villain attire (and attitude) is encouraged.

Performances by Dr. Hal Robins (The Ask Dr. Hal Show), Meliza Banales (2002 Oakland Grand Slam champion poet, prizewinning writer and filmmaker), Sherilyn Connelly (Queer Open Mic -- “It’s all fiction, except for the true stuff. Gosh, even that”), Katrina James (producer, cult public access show “kittypr0n” and erotica writer), Catwoman (Meoww!), Red Door on the Left (a super-powered comic duo) and The Hand (Apocalyptic Renaissance). The Hand will perform “Pinky, Ring, Middle, Index & Thumb: A Hanfull of Songs for Ukulele and Kazoo” as well as some classic Batman music. The Hand: A clown (Accordion/Luz Gaxiola), a gentleman (Viola/Victor Lowrie) and a madman (classical guitar/Matt Walker), whose music sounds like gypsy lullabies.

Saturday-Sunday, April 8-9

Alternative Press Expo

www.comic-con.org/ape/

Concourse Exhibition Center

620 7th Street

San Francisco

Admission fee to be announced

Exposition for alternative and self-published comics.

Saturday, April 8

SF Browncoat Meetup

Cafe Murano

1777 Steinere Street

San Francisco

Noon-2 p.m.

Free

Monthly meeting of the San Francisco Firefly/Serenity fan group.

Saturday, April 8

No Name Anime

www.nnanime.com

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga

12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. or so

Free

Saturday, April 8

Newtype Anime

Totoro movie showing

Stanford Campus

Free

Details are spotty, but previous Saturday movie events have taken place at 2 p.m. at the SLE lounge. Regular meetings are at Building 60-61H. Check the website at <http://www.stanford.edu/group/newtype/> for more information.

Saturday, April 8

Filk

Willow Park Clubhouse

Moffett Blvd. & W. Middlefield Road

Mountain View

Free

Filk sing get together.

Park in any unnumbered space. See ba-filk-announce for more information

Saturday, April 8

Scott Sigler

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

San Francisco author Scott Sigler presents his new novel Earthcore. An article on Sigler and his podcasting of Earthcore ran in issue 18 of Science Fiction/San Francisco.

More Events Next Page

Saturday, April 8

The Art of Ray Harryhausen
The 7th Voyage of Sinbad

Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center
1118 Fourth Street
San Rafael
7 p.m.
\$15

Harryhausen will give a talk about his fantasy creature designs followed by a screening of a restored version of the 1958 classic *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*.

Saturday, April 8

Rocky Horror Picture Show
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, April 9

Ray Harryhausen
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco

1 p.m.

Free

The stop-motion animation legend signs *Ray Harryhausen : An Animated Life*.

Monday, April 10

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

Location TBA
UC Berkeley Campus
Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

Hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of *Paradise Kiss* and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show: *Akazukin Cha Cha*.

Monday, April 10

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org

Tuesday, April 11

Stanford NewType Anime Club Showing
Room 60-61H
Building 60
Stanford Campus
Palo Alto
8-10:30 p.m.
Free

Thursday, April 13

Thrillville's Ninth Anniversary Show
Forbidden Planet

www.thrillville.net
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Cinema
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

It's Thrillville's ninth anniversary show featuring the all-time science fiction favorite *Forbidden Planet* and spaced out theremin lounge band Project Pimento live on stage.

Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to:
SFinSF@gmail.com

More Events Next Page

Thursday-Saturday, April 13-15

J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit

Cinnabar Theater

3333 Petaluma Blvd. North

Petaluma

7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday

2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday

\$8-\$12

Tolkien's prequel to the Lord of the Rings adapted for the stage. Part of the Cinnabar Theater's Young Rep program to train young actors.

Friday and Saturday, April 14-15

Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn

Clay Theater

2261 Filmore Street

San Francisco

Midnight

The best Star Trek movie ever. Part of an ongoing midnight movie series.

Friday-Sunday, April 14-16

Mists/Cynagua War

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

Lake View Campground

Coyote Lake

Gilroy

\$5 per vehicle plus \$8 per person (\$11 for non members)

War, fighting by torchlight, potluck, Scottish football, Easter egg hunt for the kids.

Friday-Sunday, April 14-16

2106

A Theatrical Circus Spectacle for the Future

Acrosports

Project Artaud Theater

450 Florida Street

San Francisco

7 p.m. Friday

2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

\$12-\$15

From the theater website:

"The city of the future is nothing like you expected! Inspired by the 1926 classic silent film Metropolis, the show combines the aerial, contortion, hand-balancing, tumbling, juggling and clowning talents of City Circus' amazing young performers (ages 11-21) with stunning visual imagery to create an awe inspiring theatrical experience for the whole family."

Friday, April 14

Yuri's Night Celebration

Chabot Space & Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd

Oakland

www.chabotspace.org

Friday, April 14

AnimeFX showing

San Francisco State University

Free

"Literature Appreciation Night".

Friday and Saturday, April 14-15

King Kong (1933)

Red Vic

1727 Haight Street

San Francisco

See the original King Kong.

Friday, April 14

PlushyPlay

www.loveplaysf.com

689 McAllister St / Gough St

San Francisco

10 p.m.-2 a.m.

\$40 per couple and \$10 per single girl

Ok, I know I said earlier that I wasn't going to list this, but it's my last issue and we're pulling out all the stops!

Furries and fursuiters take note:

"LovePlayers: It's time to be sexy and ferocious. Come explore the beast within. We want to hear you roar like a lion, and purr like a pussycat. Are you predator or prey? Come dressed as your favorite fuzzy animal for this "Hunt or be Hunted" event.

LovePlay is a night of fun and intimate

play for couples and women. Prepare to be enticed into friendly and sexy games. The environment is safe so you can be free to express yourself. Free your shyness Free your fear. Feel free to explore sensuality and intimacy in a safe welcoming environment.

“LovePlay will be at held at the Crimson Lounge. It is an amazingly intimate space, hidden beneath the Indigo Restaurant. The space is very chill, very safe, and very red. LovePlay is not a sex party. LovePlay is foreplay.

“Must RSVP before you can attend.

“What to wear: Costumes are definitely required for this one.

“Okay, Ladies. We want you to be fuzzy and sexy. Your choices are endless. You can be a cute little bunny to a ferocious sexy lioness. If you don't want to be fuzzy, how about sexy hunting gear. Show those cute little plushies, who's boss. Make sure to bring your collar and leash to keep your prey well behaved.

“Okay guys, Will you be a big, bad grizzly bear or winnie-the-pooh? Bring your leash and get taught how to sit and beg. Bring your camo and pop gun and hunt wild game.”

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I just couldn't resist.

And this entry will prove once and for all that nobody reads the calendar.

Saturday, April 15

San Francisco Fan Force

Star Wars Fan Group

Metreon

San Francisco

Noon

Free

Star Wars fan club meets. The group is planning on showing a documentary filmed at WonderCon.

Saturday, April 15

Beefbowl Anime showing

Albany Library

1247 Marin

Albany

12:15 p.m.-ish - 4:15 p.m.-ish

Free

Local anime group showing episodes of Rurouni Kenshin, Fafner In The Azure, One Piece, My Hime, Naruto, Prince of Tennis, Hikaru No Go, Yakitate Japan and Project D.

Saturday, April 15

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Saturday, April 15

Fantastic Frontiers club meeting

Steph's Home

Near American River College

email frellingbored@yahoo.com for information

Sacramento

Free

1 p.m.

Casual meeting to be followed by a trip to the Warp 11 Fan Club meeting at 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 15

Warp 11 fan club meeting

Swabbie's

5871 Garden Hwy.

Sacramento

Free

3 p.m.

Watch episodes of the Warp 11 internet series “Prime Directive”. Members of the Fantastic Frontiers group are planning to attend.

More Events Next Page

Saturday, April 15

Warp 11

Swabbie's

5871 Garden Hwy.

Sacramento

9 p.m.

All ages show

The Star Trek theme rock band performs such hits as "She Make It So" and "Rage Against the Federation." You know it takes a great band to put a different version of "Yeah Brother" on each of their three albums.



Saturday, April 15

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, April 16

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Dark Beyond The Stars* by local author Frank Robinson. Author will visit. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Left: Warp 11

Monday, April 17

Ask a Scientist - earthquake anniversary party

www.askascientistsf.com/

Canvas Gallery

1200 9th Ave (@ Lincoln)

San Francisco

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Free

This Month's Topic: Celebrating Our Faults: 1906-2006 with David Schwartz of the USGS. A pioneer in the newly developing fields of earthquake geology and paleoseismology (the study of prehistorical seismic events). www.askascientistsf.com/Venue:

Monday, April 17

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

Location TBA

UC Berkeley Campus

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

The oldest of the Bay Area's university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of *Paradise Kiss* and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show: *Magikano*.

Monday, April 17

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, April 18

Rudy Rucker and John Shirley

SF in SF, the Future of the Future Reading Series

New College of California

777 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

\$4?

Please note: this series is not sponsored by, nor is it in any way connected to SF/SF the fanzine. This event is also not on the New College calendar. I can't seem to find a website for this either. The Emerald City Blog says Terry Bisson is involved here somewhere. You'd think that after stealing our name, the least they could do is drop us a press release to our email address at SFinSF@gmail.com.

Friday-Sunday, April 21-23

2106

A Theatrical Circus Spectacle for the Future

Acrosports

Project Artaud Theater

450 Florida Street

San Francisco

7 p.m. Friday

2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

\$12-\$15

From the theater website:

“The city of the future is nothing like you expected! Inspired by the 1926 classic silent film Metropolis, the show combines the aerial, contortion, hand-balancing, tumbling, juggling and clowning talents of City Circus’ amazing young performers (ages 11-21) with stunning visual imagery to create an awe inspiring theatrical experience for the whole family.”

Friday, April 21

Middle Earth Festival

Forum on the Themes of Tolkien

Downtown Vacaville

www.middleearthfestival.com

Free (or at least they don't have an admission fee listed)

The second annual Middle Earth Festival opens in Vacaville with a symposium.

For more events, see April 22-23 listing.

Friday, April 21

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)

7 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Free

Sacramento's oldest science fiction group holds it's monthly meeting.

Friday and Saturday, April 21-22

Princess Bride

Clay Theater

2261 Filmore Street

San Francisco

Midnight

Have fun storming the castle! Part of an ongoing midnight movie series.

Friday-Monday, April 21-24

West Kingdom Spring Equestrium

Barony of Tarnmist

Society for Creative Anachonism Event

Montana de Oro State Park in Los Osos

Near San Luis Obispo

\$12 for members plus \$2 per horse per night.

Ok, it's a little far south, but it sounds interesting. Though bringing a horse is nice, some classes won't require one. Rental horses may be available.

More Events Next Page

Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23

Maker Faire

<http://makezine.com/faire/>

San Mateo Fairgrounds

2495 Delaware St.

San Mateo

Sat: 10am - 6pm + evening event,

Sun: 10am-5pm

\$12/adult, \$5/teen, 12 and under free.

Maker Faire is the first ever public gathering of tech DIY enthusiasts, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, science clubs, students, authors and exhibitors. Maker faire will include 6 exposition & workshop pavilions, a 5-acre outdoor midway, over 100 exhibiting Makers, hands-on workshops, demonstrations, DIY competitions, and the latest in tools, kits and DIY resources.

The faire will also be featuring The Ultimate Garage (automotive meets tech DIY), Robotics, Digital Entertainment/Gaming, Green Tech & Electronics Recycling, Ultimate Workshop, Weird Science

Saturday, April 22

Members Only Marathon

Cal Animage Alpha

Location TBD

www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~animage/

10 a.m-10 p.m.

Saturday, April 22

Baronial Championship

Saint Torvaldr's Day

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

Vinhold (Napa)

John F. Kennedy Memorial Park

Steblow Drive

Napa

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Site fee is free, \$2.00 per event with proceeds to the Arthritis Foundation.

The Barony of Vinhold will be holding the 3rd and last Saint Torvaldr's Day Celebration. At the end of June, Torvaldr Torgarson will be moving out of the Kingdom of the West to Ohio and the Mid Realm. We invite you all to come to Saint Torvaldr's Day and celebrate with him, and allow him the opportunity to say good bye to you all. As in the previous tourneys this will be a prize Norse tournament. It will cost \$2.00 per event to enter with all proceeds being donated to the Arthritis Foundation. Other contributions will be gratefully accepted.

The events scheduled are:

Holmgang - Heavy fighting with matched weapons.

First Prize a Norse Battle Ax.

Oar Dancing - Non-fighting event.

First Prize a Thor's Hammer.

Spear Throwing - For distance and accuracy, Non-fighting event.

First Prize a Norse Spear.

Kings Table - Non-fighting event. Norse chess like board game.

First Prize a hand made hardened leather King's Table set.

Best Broken Fighter Story - Non-fighting event.

First Prize a set of Viking Home Companion CDs.

Concurrently, the Barony will also be holding its Baronial Championship tourney to choose Torvaldr's successor as Champion and Commander of the Vinhold Army. But what day would be complete in Vinhold without good food and drink? Once again, the Barony will hold it's famous Siege Cooking competition and a Cordial competition.

More Events Next Page

Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23

Middle Earth Festival

Downtown Vacaville

www.middleearthfestival.com

Free

Second annual festival to celebrate Tolkien's work, both the books and the movies adapted from them. Vendors, food booths, staged and walkabout entertainment, games for kids, trivia contest, Gollum Impersonation Contest. On Saturday will be a Long Expected Party and on Sunday there will be a fun run.

Saturday, April 22

USS Augusta Ada

Star Fleet Group

Round Table Pizza

3567 Geary Blvd.

San Francisco

1 p.m.

Free

Star Trek/Linux group meets monthly.

Saturday, April 22

Jane Lindskold

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

The author presents her newest novel *Wolf Hunting*.

Saturday, April 22

Jeff Dwyer

Spellbinding Tales

1910A Encinal Avenue

Alameda

7 p.m.

Free

Jeff Dwyer, author of *Ghost Hunter's Guide to The San Francisco Bay Area* will thrill and chill with true ghostly tales. Jeff is a long-time ghost hunter who currently lives in a haunted house. He's written a number of other guides to haunted places.

Saturday, April 22

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, April 23

Cherry Blossom Festival

8th Annual Anime Costume Parade

Sponsored by Japan Video

1737 Post Street

San Francisco

Noon check in for participants

1 p.m. parade starts in front of City Hall

Pre-registration deadline April 17

Free

Costume contest with prizes, contestants and other cosplayers will march in the annual parade ending at San Francisco's Japantown. The Cherry Blossom Festival, which runs this weekend and the previous weekend in San Francisco's Japantown, also hosts many other Japanese cultural events, usually including an anime room.

Costume contest participants need to register in advance at Japan Video, limited slots are available so sign up soon.

More Events Next Page

Sunday, April 23

St. Katherine's Warlord Tourney

College of St. Katherine

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

Memorial Glade

University of California, Berkeley Campus
Berkeley

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

No site fee

Are you brave enough to lead the Mighty Lemming Horde? The College of St. Katherine is hosting a tourney to determine our new Warlord. Come for a day of fighting and games. The Kates Warlord will receive the "Warlord's Leather Flaming Nut Favor of Doom" for a term of no less than 1 year and no more than 5.

Planned activities: Melees, resurrection melees, prizes, fake deaths, VIOLENCE, simulated cliff-jumping, boffers for children and grown-up children. Fighters are encouraged to bring small prizes to buy lives during the resurrection melees. (We cannot guarantee a repeat of the shirtless, pale, hairy guys' "Men in Tights" can-can from last year's Boffer Tourney, but we will play the Red Rover game that led up to it).

Sunday, April 23,

3DBcon

www.threedollarbill.com/3dbcon/index.php

Three Dollar Bill Cafe

1800 Market Street

San Francisco

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

\$10 (Must register by Sunday, April 9. No on-site registration)

Registration comes with \$6 in tokens good for food and drink at the cafe.

Sunday, April 23th

Jane Lindskold

Other Change of Hobbit

2020 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

1 p.m.

Free

The author will read from and sigh her latest Firekeeper novel *Wolf Hunting*.

Sunday, April 23

Bad Movie Night

They Live

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$5

Now how can they call this a bad movie?

It's John Fricking Carpenter directing. Before he lost it. And it's based on a neat short story by East Bay author Ray Faraday Nelson, the guy who invented the propeller beanie, and a long time fan and fanzine writer. OK, so it's not *Big Trouble in Little China* or *John Carpenter's The Thing*, but still, it's leagues better than *Escape From L.A.*

Anyway, Jim Fournaidis, Misha Frenklak and Ray Zegri will be giving this the MST2K treatment. It's too bad these guys don't invite Nelson over to present the movie, he's got some interesting stories to tell about the filming of it.

Monday, April 24

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

Location TBA

UC Berkeley Campus

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

The oldest of the Bay Area's university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of *Paradise Kiss* and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show which will be announced later.

Monday, April 24

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 25-26

The City of Lost Children

Red Vic

1727 Haight Street

San Francisco

A futuristic sci-fi fairy tale by the creators of *Delicatessen* set in a gloomy port where a mad scientist, Krank, kidnaps children in order to capture their dreams. He's assisted by a dwarf and six squabbling clones (all played by Dominique Pinon) and is heckled by a pickled brain. A pure-hearted lug and a tough nine-year-old nymphet join forces against Krank to retrieve lost compatriots, encountering a clan of cyclopes and sinister Siamese twins along the way. Enhanced by a great eerie score by Angelo Badalamenti. (French w/ English subtitles; 112m)

Wednesday, April 26

Princess Raccoon

Kabuki Theater

1881 Post Street

San Francisco

9:30 p.m.

Showing as part of the San Francisco International Film Festival.

Ok, Seijun Suzuki is not for everybody, but he's one of my favorite directors, and I've been anxiously anticipating his latest, a fantasy musical starring Zhang Zi Yi. Oh, and it should be Tanuki, not Raccoon. Expect over the top weirdness and great visuals and a plot that makes you go "huh?"

Thursday, April 27

Raiders of the Lost Ark

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$5

The first Parkway Tribe Night.

April 27-May 7

Ghosties!

School of Dramatic Arts

Golden Bough Theatre

West side of Monte Verde between 8th and 9th

Carmel-by-the-Sea

www.pacrep.org

Banned from the Internet by their parents due to the amount of time spent in chat rooms and not on homework, three young people decide run away from home to teach their parents a lesson. The three hide out in an abandoned house that happens to have an abundance of "other" interesting guests and find themselves caught up in a wild and "haunting" adventure in a spirit-full, never-never land of famous and not-so-famous ghosts.

Friday, April 28

Legion of Rassilon

Doctor Who fan group

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Shows episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Friday, April 28

Princess Raccoon

Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
2:30 p.m.

Showing as part of the San Francisco International Film Festival.

Ok, Seijun Suzuki is not for everybody, but he's one of my favorite directors, and I've been anxiously anticipating his latest, a fantasy musical starring Zhang Zi Yi. Oh, and it should be Tanuki, not Raccoon. Expect over the top weirdness and great visuals and a plot that makes you go "huh?".

Friday-Sunday, April 28-30

2106

A Theatrical Circus Spectacle for the Future

Acrosports
Project Artaud Theater
450 Florida Street
San Francisco
7 p.m. Friday
2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
\$12-\$15

From the theater website:

"The city of the future is nothing like you expected! Inspired by the 1926 classic silent film Metropolis, the show combines the aerial, contortion, hand-balancing,

tumbling, juggling and clowning talents of City Circus' amazing young performers (ages 11-21) with stunning visual imagery to create an awe inspiring theatrical experience for the whole family."

Saturday, April 29

The Manga, Art & Graphic Novel Expo for Teens

From Anime to Zines
Fremont Teen Center
Central Park
Fremont
Morning Session 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Afternoon Session 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.
\$9 per session

This is certainly an odd one. It looks like the City of Fremont's Teen Program is sponsoring an anime convention but justifying it by calling it an arts program. They are having anime showings, a dealer's room, a costume contest, a concert by San Francisco-based J-Rock band Akai Sky, an art show, some sort of programming and a gaming track. It certainly sounds like an anime con to me.

Ages 12 and up, those under age 12 need to be accompanied by a paying adult. "Parents" can get in for the same cost as the kids to "see what manga and anime are all about."

I wonder what they'd do if a bunch of

middle aged, fat, hairy otaku with cameras showed up?

"Heh, heh, heh, little girl, let me take your picture."

Tickets are limited, it looks like there will be an attendance cap. They can be purchased online at: www.regrec.com or visit www.fremont.gov/teens

Saturday, April 29

Stanley Kubrick Double Feature

A Clockwork Orange
The Shining
Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street
San Francisco

Saturday, April 29

Firebirds Rising

Kara Dalkey, Ellen Klages and

Sharyn November

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
4 p.m.
Free

Saturday, April 29

PENSFA Party

email commander@pensfa.org

Hosted by Adele this week and combined with her monthly potluck. The Peninsula Science Fiction Association holds twice-monthly parties rather than meetings. Locations vary as the hosts change with each event.

Saturday, April 29

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, April 30

Pat Murphy

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

4 p.m.

Free

The local author will sign in support of the re-issue of her book *The City, Not Long After*. The novel is set in San Francisco.

Sunday, April 30

Princess Raccoon

Pacific Film Archive

2525 Bancroft Way

Berkeley

8 p.m.

Showing as part of the San Francisco International Film Festival.

Ok, Seijun Suzuki is not for everybody, but he's one of my favorite directors, and I've been anxiously anticipating his latest, a fantasy musical starring Zhang Zi Yi. Oh, and it should be *Tanuki*, not *Raccoon*. Expect over the top weirdness and great visuals and a plot that makes you go "huh?".

Monday, May 1

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 2-3

MirrorMask

Red Vic

1727 Haight Street

San Francisco

While the movie does have few problems (It really needed David Bowie as the Goblin King and a young Jennifer Connolly as the heroine) this is a great visual feast that should be seen on the big screen, seeing it on a TV screen just won't do justice to the amazing visual effects.

Thursday-Saturday, May 4-6

Twilight Zone "The Plays" Season III

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$15

Saturday, May 6

The Fairy Tale Masquerade Ball

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by April 29, 2006)

At the door: \$20.00

Saturday, May 6

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, May 7

Bad Movie Night

Battlefield Earth

The Dark Room Theater

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

Monday, May 8

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Wednesday, Friday - Saturday,

May 10, 12 - 13

HK Gruber's Frankenstein

Davies Symphony Hall

201 Van Ness Ave.

San Francisco

8:00 p.m. (6:30 p.m. on 5/12)

\$20-\$107

From the event listing: HK Gruber's Frankenstein!! may be like nothing you've heard before. The Viennese singer/composer/conductor calls the piece a "pan-demonium," conjuring the neo-goth imagery of a far more frightening "The Nightmare Before Christmas," with a bumping, creaking score played partly on toy instruments, and lyrics several degrees quirkier and more macabre than your average fairy tale. Set to children's poems by H.C. Artmann, this arty cabaret tale is populated with rats, cannibals and werewolves, Frankenstein and Dracula, and super-heroes Batman and Robin, John Wayne and Superman. Surprising, bizarre, funny and slightly mad, Frankenstein!! shows off Gruber's influences- among them Kurt Weill, pop music and Stravinsky- in equal measure. He makes a rare U.S. appearance to sing with the San Francisco Symphony and Resident Conductor Edwin Outwater.

The Friday, May 12 concert begins at 6:

30 p.m., with Outwater and San Francisco Symphony musicians demonstrating musical concepts from the work.

Thursday, May 11

HK Gruber's Frankenstein

Flint Center for the Performing Arts

21250 Stevens Creek Blvd.

Cupertino

8 p.m.

\$26-55

See Wednesday, May 10 entry for details.

Thursday-Saturday, May 11-13

Twilight Zone "The Plays" Season III

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$15

May 11-14

World Horror Con 2006

Gateway Holiday Inn

www.whc2006.org

The world horror con comes to the bay area.

Thursday, May 11

Thrillville's Mad Mexican Monster Mash

Night of the Bloody Apes

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

It's a mad Mexican Monster Mash featuring the lurid South of the Border clas-sick *Night of the Bloody Apes*, with masked female wrestlers vs a rampaging rapist apeman and his evil mad scientist creator. Live opening act.

Saturday, May 13

Collegium Occidentalis

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

Sierra Arden UCC

890 Morse Ave.

Sacramento

\$15 for combo ticket for both site fee and feast

Feast. Classes include needle arts, culinary arts, clothing, fiber and pottery arts, period politics, calligraphy and illumination, fighting techniques, more.

Saturday, May 13

No Name Anime

www.nnanime.com

Santa Teresa Library

290 International Circle

San Jose

12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. or so

Free

Saturday, May 13

PenSFA Party

The Penninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Saturday, May 13

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, May 14

Bay Area Games Day

davekohr.best.vwh.net/gamesday

Los Altos Library

Los Altos

Free

Regular event featuring German-style strategy boardgames like Settlers of Catan, Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, lots of cardgames, and historical board wargames.

Sunday, May 14

Bad Movie Night

Blood Freak

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$5

This movie really does sound too horrible to watch; something about a guy who gets turned into a half man-half turkey. Oh, and it's an anti-drug film too.

Monday, May 15

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, May 16

Back to the Future

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

Showing as a benefit for Hands On Bay Area.

Thursday-Saturday, May 18-20

Twilight Zone "The Plays" Season III

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$15

Friday, May 19

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)

7 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Free

Sacramento's oldest science fiction group holds it's monthly meeting.

Friday and Saturday, May 19-20

Kung Fu Hustle

Clay Theater

2261 Filmore Street

San Francisco

Midnight

Part of an ongoing midnight movie series.

Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21

Super-Con

Comic Book Convention

Oakland Convention Center

Oakland

Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\$15-\$20

Saturday, May 21

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, May 21, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is the graphic novel *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Monday, May 22

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Thursday, May 25

The Chainsaw Mafia Night of Mayhem

The Beyond

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$6

Lucio Fulchi's gory horror film.

Thursday-Saturday, May 25-27

Twilight Zone "The Plays" Season III

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$15

Friday, May 26

Legion of Rassilon

Doctor Who fan group

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Shows episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

May 26-29, 2006

Fanime Con

San Jose Convention Center

San Jose

www.fanime.com

The largest annual anime convention in the Bay Area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, multiple tracks of anime, Asian films, J-pop concert, much more.

May 26-29, 2006

Baycon

San Jose Doubletree Inn

San Jose

www.baycon.org

\$45 until August 31

The largest annual general SF convention in the Bay area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, anime room, much more.

Saturday, May 27

PenSFA Party at Baycon

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

May 26-29 2006

Kublacon

Burlingame Hyatt Regency

1333 Bayshore Highway

Burlingame

Guests: TBA.

Memberships: TBA.

Gaming convention.

Saturday, May 27

Performing Arts Symposium

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

Sobrato High School

401 Burnett Avenue

Morgan Hill

Free

A day of classes in the various performing arts - European Dance, Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, and Dramatic Presentation. A pot luck social in the evening of dancing and performances, where we can all show off what we've learned and maybe learn a bit more.

Saturday, May 27

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Monday, May 29

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Saturday, June 3

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Monday, June 5

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Saturday, June 10

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Saturday, June 10

Rocky Horror Picture Show
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
\$6
Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, June 11

Sac Con
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
10-4 p.m.
\$5

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

Monday, June 12

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free
www.basfa.org.

Friday-Sunday, June 16-18

2006 International ROBOlympics
Festival Pavilion
Ft. Mason Center
San Francisco
\$20-\$750 (What, is this a CreationCon?)
Free or %50 discount for active duty military.

You'd think that people who could build working robots could also put up a decent web page that tell you where and when their events are being held. You'd think. You'd be wrong.

Friday, June 16

USS Defiance Meeting
Round Table Pizza
Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)
7 p.m.- 10 p.m.
Free

Sacramento's oldest science fiction group holds it's monthly meeting.

Saturday, June 17

Bay Area Games Day
Los Altos Library
Los Altos Hills
10 a.m.
Free

Regular event featuring German-style strategy boardgames like Settlers of Catan, Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, lots of cardgames, and historical board wargames.

Saturday, June 17

Batlh Jaj

Klingon Day of Honor 10

Presented by the House of Heck'Lher and the IKV Bloodlust

Chabot Space Science Center

10000 Skyline Boulevard

Oakland

\$15 or bring a dish to share with others if R.S.V.P-ing. (Must have approval of Beastmaster HeKor if bringing a dish) (No, I'm not making that up.)

RSVP date is June 10 to trigaming@yahoo.com.

\$45 at door

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. (food served at 7:30 p.m.)

Must wear some sort of Star Trek uniform or costume. An evening of feasting, signing and celebrating the first appearance of the Klingons on Star Trek.

See www.ikvbloodlust.net/DayofHonor10.html for more details.

Saturday, June 17

Warp 11

“Starfleet Graduation Bash”

G Street Pub

228 G Street

Davis

10 p.m.

Ages 21+

The Star Trek theme rock back performs such hits as “Boldly Go Down on Me” and “7 of Mine”. With Special Guest TBA. So why aren't these guys playing at the Day of Honor? Must be that “Kill, Kill, Kill, Kill the Klingons” song of theirs.

Saturday, June 17

Dragon Slayers Renaissance Festival

100 Aptos Creek Road

Santa Cruz

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

\$12

Saturday, June 17

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Monday, June 19

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday, June 23

Legion of Rassilon

Doctor Who fan group

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Shows episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Saturday, June 24

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Saturday, June 24

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Monday, June 26

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Sunday, July 2

Bad Movie Night

Independence Day

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$5

As always, the hosts poke fun of a bad movie.

Monday, July 3

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Wednesday, July 5

Hyde

Slim's

333 11th Street

San Francisco

9 p.m.

J-Rocker/actor Hyde, formerly of the group L'Arc~en~Ciel, will appear at an all ages show at the popular music venue Slim's. Hyde has acted in several fantasy movies, including ghost story *Kagen no Tsuki - Last Quarter* and vampire film *Moon Child*. In addition, he did the second opening theme song for the vampire-themed *Blood+* anime currently running in Japan and provided the ending theme for *Kagen no Tsuki*.

Tickets go on sale Sunday at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, July 4

July 4 Parade with Klingons

Parking lot of the Rancho del Mar shopping center

Aptos

Free

Klingons meeting at 9 a.m.

StarFire region Klingons in uniform will be marching in the annual parade.

Saturday, July 8

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Monday, July 10

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday, July 14

Warp 11

"Friday Night Concerts in the Park"

Cesar Chavez Park

10th and J Street

Sacramento

Free admission, all ages show

The Star Trek theme rock band performs such hits as "Yeah Brother, 3.0" and "Set Your Phaser for F***". With The Brodys and Smoot Valley High.

July 15-16

Construction

Hilton San Jose

San Jose

\$40-\$55

Sponsored by San Francisco Science Fiction Conventions, construction is "a conference for event planners of science fiction, horror, fantasy and anime conventions." Panels include "Disaster Planning", "Contracts" and "Disaster Proofing Your Convention."

Saturday, July 15

Sac-Anime

Sacramento area

Details to be announced, the previous July shows have been held at the Sunrise Mall.

Monday, July 17

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday, July 21

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)

7 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Free

Sacramento's oldest science fiction group holds it's monthly meeting.

Saturday, July 22

PENSEFA Party

email commander@pensfa.org for information

BBQ hosted by Mike and Karen. The Peninsula Science Fiction Association holds twice-monthly parties rather than meetings. Locations vary as the hosts change with each event.

Monday, July 24

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday, July 28

Legion of Rassilon

Doctor Who fan group

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Shows episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Monday, July 31

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

August 4-6 2006

Anime Overdose 2006

www.animeod.com

San Francisco

\$30 to ?, \$45 at door

Anime convention.

Saturday, August 5

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Monday, August 7

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Monday, August 14

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday, August 18

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)

7 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Free

Sacramento's oldest science fiction group holds it's monthly meeting.

Saturday, August 19

PENSEFA Party

email commander@pensfa.org for information

Hosted by Bill and Carole. The Peninsula Science Fiction Association holds twice-monthly parties rather than meetings. Locations vary as the hosts change with each event.

Monday, August 21

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free
www.basfa.org.

Friday, August 25

Legion of Rassilon
Doctor Who fan group
Carl's Junior
2551 N. First Street
San Jose
7:30 p.m.
Free
Shows episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Friday and Saturday, August 26 and 27

Golden Gate Renaissance Festival
Speedway Meadow
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday
\$15

Rapier tournament on Saturday.

Monday, August 28

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free
www.basfa.org.

Saturday, September 2

Captain Morgan's Privateers (We Ain't Pirates No More) Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.
Dance Lesson: 7:15 p.m.
Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by August 26, 2006)
Tickets: \$20.00 at the door

Sunday, September 3

Sac Con
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
10-4 p.m.
\$5
Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

September 1-4

Conquest SF
San Francisco Airport Marriot
1800 Old Bayshore Hwy.
Burlingame
\$35-\$50
A gaming and science fiction convention.

Saturday, September 2

PenSFA Party
The Penninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.
Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.
PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.
Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Monday, September 4

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free
www.basfa.org.

September 7-October 1

Woman in Black (A Ghost Play)

Pacific Rep

Golden Bough Theatre

West side of Monte Verde between 8th and 9th

Carmel-by-the-Sea

www.pacrep.org

Local production of the play that's been running in London for 16 years. It's a great play, I saw it when it first opened and it was very, very good.

September 8-10

Creation Salutes Star Trek:

The 40th Anniversary Celebration

Doubletree Hotel

Sacramento

2001 Point West Way

Sacramento

Memberships: Gold Weekend Package: \$399.

Creation brings William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy to Sacramento. And no, that's not a typo on the price. Cheaper packages will be announced later.

Saturday and Sunday, September 9- 10

Northern California Renaissance Faire

Casa de Fruita

100031 Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

\$22

Step back in time to Renaissance Europe and enjoy hearty ale, fine foods and handmade crafts. Hundreds of costumed performers roam the streets and act on 5 different stages. Over 150 craft booths, games, rides and activities. Don't miss our exciting new Tournament of Horses. For information and tickets, visit the Renaissance Faire website at www.norcalrenfaire.com

Monday, September 11

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday, September 15

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)

7 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Free

Sacramento's oldest science fiction group holds it's monthly meeting.

Saturday and Sunday, September 16-17

Northern California Renaissance Faire

Casa de Fruita

100031 Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

\$22

Step back in time to Renaissance Europe and enjoy hearty ale, fine foods and handmade crafts. Hundreds of costumed performers roam the streets and act on 5 different stages. Over 150 craft booths, games, rides and activities. Don't miss our exciting new Tournament of Horses. For information and tickets, visit the Renaissance Faire website at www.norcalrenfaire.com

Saturday, September 16

PenSFA Party

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Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Sunday, September 17

How Berkeley Can You Be Parade

Berkeley

A Klingon contingent is planning to march. Members of the 501st Legion also usually show up. In addition, there will be a bunch of mundane weirdos there.

Monday, September 18

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday-Sunday, September 22-24

Browncoat Ball

Marines Memorial Club and Hotel

609 Sutter Street

San Francisco

Join the SF Browncoats who are sponsoring this year's Browncoat's Ball. Two dinner and dance events, a boat tour of the bay and a tour of Chinatown are planned, plus lots of Serenity/Firefly activities. The event is themed around the ball on Persephone, from the episode Shindig.

Friday, September 22

Legion of Rassilon

Doctor Who fan group

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Shows episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Saturday and Sunday, September 23-24

Northern California Renaissance Faire

Casa de Fruita

100031 Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

\$22

Step back in time to Renaissance Europe and enjoy hearty ale, fine foods and handmade

crafts. Hundreds of costumed performers roam the streets and act on 5 different stages. Over 150 craft booths, games, rides and activities. Don't miss our exciting new Tournament of Horses. For information and tickets, visit the Renaissance Faire website at www.norcalrenfaire.com

Monday, September 25

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

**Saturday and Sunday,
September 30- October 1**

Northern California Renaissance Faire

Casa de Fruita

100031 Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

\$22

Step back in time to Renaissance Europe and enjoy hearty ale, fine foods and handmade crafts. Hundreds of costumed performers roam the streets and act on 5 different stages. Over 150 craft booths, games, rides and activities. Don't miss our exciting new Tournament of Horses. For information and tickets, visit the Renaissance Faire website at www.norcalrenfaire.com

Saturday, September 30

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Monday, October 2

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

October 6-8

SiliCon

www.siliconventions.com

Doubletree Hotel

San Jose

\$35 until August 31

Saturday and Sunday, October 7-8

Northern California Renaissance Faire

Casa de Fruita

100031 Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

\$22

Step back in time to Renaissance Europe and enjoy hearty ale, fine foods and handmade crafts. Hundreds of costumed performers roam the streets and act on 5 different stages. Over 150 craft booths, games, rides and activities. Don't miss our exciting new Tournament of Horses. For information and tickets, visit the Renaissance Faire website at www.norcalrenfaire.com

Monday, October 9

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Saturday, October 14

PENSFA Party

email commander@pensfa.org for information

Hosted by Majerus/Davidson. The Peninsula Science Fiction Association holds twice-monthly parties rather than meetings. Locations vary as the hosts change with each event.

Saturday and Sunday, October 14-15

Northern California Renaissance Faire

Casa de Fruita

100031 Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

\$22

Step back in time to Renaissance Europe and enjoy hearty ale, fine foods and handmade crafts. Hundreds of costumed performers roam the streets and act on 5 different stages. Over 150 craft booths, games, rides and activities. Don't miss our exciting new Tournament of Horses. For information and tickets, visit the Renaissance Faire website at www.norcalrenfaire.com

Monday, October 16

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

October 20-22

Yaoi-Con

More details to be announced later for this convention that celebrates man/man love in anime and manga.

Friday, October 20

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)

7 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Free

Sacramento's oldest science fiction group holds it's monthly meeting.

Monday, October 23

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday, October 27

Legion of Rassilon

Doctor Who fan group

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Shows episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Saturday, October 28

PenSFA Party

The Penninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Monday, October 30

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday-Sunday, November 3-5

BASCON

Embassy Suites

250 Gateway Boulevard

South San Francisco

The Bay Area Slash Convention returns. Adults only. For all your Kirk/Spock fanfic needs. I expect a lot of Sulu fanfics this year for some reason.

Saturday, November 4

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS

Venue: TBD

No information as yet for this vampire-theme ball event.

Monday, November 6

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Saturday, November 11

PenSFA Party

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Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

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Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Monday, November 13

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday, November 17

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)

7 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Free

Sacramento's oldest science fiction group holds it's monthly meeting.

Monday, November 20

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday, November 24

Legion of Rassilon

Doctor Who fan group

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Shows episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Saturday, November 25

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Monday, November 27

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Saturday, December 9

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Monday, December 4

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Sunday, December 10

Sac Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10-4 p.m.

\$5

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

Monday, December 11

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday, December 15

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)

7 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Free

Sacramento's oldest science fiction group holds it's monthly meeting.

Monday, December 18

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Saturday, December 23

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions.

Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first.

Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

January 5-7, 2007

Fangoria's Weekend of Horror

Doubletree Hotel San Jose

2050 Gateway Pl.

San Jose

This is a Creation Convention. No further information available at this time.

January 18-22, 2007

Further Confusion 2007

DoubleTree Hotel

2500 Gateway Place

San Jose

\$40 to ?

Furry Convention with some general SF material.

February 3, 2007

Gotham City Black and White Ball

PEERS event

I'm not sure if this is Gotham as in Batman or Gotham as in old New York. With PEERS it could go either way. Or both.

May 5, 2007

Sleeping Beauty's Christening Fantasy BALL

PEERS Event

No details yet on this dance.

June 2, 2007

Space Cowboys' Ball

Peers Event

No details yet on this dance.

July 6-9, 2007

Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound

DoubleTree Hotel

San Jose

October 6, 2007

Edwardian Gothic Ball

PEERS Event

Edwardian as in macabre illustrator Edward Gorey.

November 3, 2007

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

Gotta love a group that plans this far in advance, particularly since they have a good track record of actually holding their events as scheduled. No further details available yet on this event..

Ongoing:

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt

Walking Tour

www.sfgghosthunt.com

Begins: Queen Ann Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20

Ongoing Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

www.hauntedhaight.com

Meets at PlanetWeavers Treasure Store

1573 Haight Street (at Clayton)

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Reservations required

\$20

Ongoing Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

www.sfvampiretour.com

Meets corner of California and Taylor

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$20

Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there is heavy rain.

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

Mondays at 8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org

Legion of Rassilon

Doctor Who fan group

www.legionofrassilon.org/

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

Meets every fourth Friday at 7:30 p.m.

(No December meeting)

Free

Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who series, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

www.BayRPS.com

Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard

Foster City

Wednesdays from 6pm to 10pm

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details send email to:

GM@BayRPS.com.

SF Games

vax.hanford.org/dk/games

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street near 24th

San Francisco

7:00 p.m. to midnight

Free

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a cards night on Tuesdays at Café Macondo, 3159 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia.