

# Science Fiction/San Francisco

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# Letters Of Comment

**Before flying off to England, Chris got a note from Robert Lichtman:**

Hi, Chris-

I don't generally pay much attention to SF/SF, but I *do* look at the contents listings and was moved to download it so I could check out your observations on Laney's 11th ACOLYTE. In it you write, "The typewritten pages are askew and not just from scanning. That stuck out to me. I never quite get the hang of slightly tilting text."

In the old mimeograph days, it was possible to have paper feeding problems that *would* result in slanting text blocks. But pulling out my own copy of that issue, I see that you're incorrect in the first sentence above. *Every* page of my copy has perfectly squared text, so the copy at fanac.org is either a dud or, more likely, wasn't scanned with the greatest of care.

Other than that, I agree with you that one of the best items in this issue is Elmer Perdue's "Sciencefictional History of the Future." Unfortunately, although it's billed as the first part of a series and Laney ballyhoos it as something that will continue, it never did.

Have a great time on your TAFF trip!

Best wishes,

Robert

*Chris replies: That's funny, because it actually looks like it's tilting in the scan. Sometimes it's hard to tell, that's true. I really*

*like Elmer Perdue's stuff and wish I had more of it in my collection. Then again, I need more zines from the 1940s and 50s in general! Thanks Robert!*

**And Lloyd Penney writes:**

It must be awfully quiet in the SF/SF editorial offices because The Christopher J. Garcia Show Starring Christopher J. Garcia is on the road, sell-out shows all over Great Britain. He did promise pratfalls on request, so he is definitely entertaining the masses. Chris, beware the Ides of March! So, while he's off across the Atlantic, I thought I'd write a quick loc, Jean, on issue 61.

*Jean responds: Well, the SF/SF editorial office is in Cyberspace, but yes, it has been quiet. I think our whole staff has just been busy with our own lives and we haven't been in touch much lately except for zine business. Although I did see Chris and España briefly at WonderCon. I'm hoping that will all change once more conventions come along. That's when we have our "staff meetings," which usually involve food and alcohol.*

Chris flew off to the U.K. yesterday? I hope he's okay...he admits to being a bit of a white-knuckle flyer. Chris is going to be running the fanzine lounge for a lot of conventions, but I will be running the lounge in Montréal. If Chris were to come to a Canadian National Convention, or CanVention, he'd find it even

smaller than a British National. CanVentions are rider conventions, riding on other regular conventions, so it happens different times of the various years. This year, it's a part of Keycon 25 in Winnipeg this coming May.

*I wish I were going to the U.K. too, but I guess I got my U.K. fix last year. One can never have too much of the U.K. though. Samuel Johnson once said that "when a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford." I heartily agree. And he's just talking about London! The entire U.K. is one big cultural, historical, horticultural, and dare I say it gastronomical, playground as far as I'm concerned. I'd go to the U.K. every year, if I could, and would always have something new and interesting to see and experience.*

Hello to Steve Green... Well, I've always enjoyed fictional articles in British fanzines where fans are the main characters, a sideswipe to all with a generally smiling nature. True, that's in the past, but I didn't think it was so long ago. Anticipation is also talking about having the Fanzine Lounge in the general convention area. I need to find out where their general convention area is before I can look at the map of the Palais des congrès in Montréal where it will be held.

*Hmmm... fictional articles about fans. Gives new meaning to the term "fan fiction." I would love to read stories about fans. Anyone interested in doing that for Bay Area fandom?*

Hope your birthday was a happy one, Jean... lots of presents and a little too much to eat and drink. Have to kick back some time. You would have liked the British Isles Show, on this past weekend in downtown Toronto. Lots of British clothes, food, entertainment and DVDs, especially the DVDs. Of course, the one show we were hoping to find on DVD wasn't there, *Queer As Folk*, the original British version.

*My birthday party went really well. I had lots of friends show up, and most of my male friends came in their Dickens Fair costumes complete with top hats. I still wonder at the coincidence, unless they talked about it beforehand, which I doubt. We had several kinds of teas and everyone loved the scones and cucumber sandwiches I made. My cake was a colorful English trifle. Yumm!*

Chris, I have the CD that Taral Wayne put out containing much of Mike Glicksohn's writings, and I recommend you get yourself a copy. I need to find the time to look at more of these scanned fanzines of the past.

Greetings to España Sheriff... In so many ways, I would be lost at WonderCon because so much of modern media SF is foreign to me, and seems more personality-oriented than story-oriented. Yet, I would have happily gone to the Straczynski talk because *B5* is the last SF series I watched faithfully, and I would happily ask for more in that universe. Tell Chris I've got some Worldcon programme books from the 1950s and 60s, and he can't have them, nyaah, nyaah... I'd like nothing better than to find someone who credits me with getting him or her into SF, like you did with Kelly Rider. Good on yer, mate. I don't have the programme book for the 1952

Worldcon, but I do have the '53 and a few others up to '62. \$850 is an out of sight price, but for something that represents some valuable history, perhaps it a fair price, one the guy thinks the market will bear.

*WonderCon isn't really about sci fi. It's more about comic books, or graphic novels as they are now called. The programming is generally media-based and it is where you'll see upcoming movies and TV shows being promoted. It is totally overwhelming but very enjoyable if you have lots of friends to hang out with and take it for what it is. I have a WonderCon report of my own coming soon, which will be different from España's and Chris's writeups, which were already different from each other. We three have different areas of interests so with the three of us, you can get a pretty good overview of what a con is like, especially one so big. I've been very busy at work and in my personal life lately so my report will be in the next issue.*

I liked Carrie Fisher as an actress, but not so much as a novelist, which seems to be where she's been even more successful. I hope she wasn't taking nasty potshots at her Leia-era fans, but she must have known even back then that she looked like she had cinnamon rolls on either side of her head. As the silly things you do in your youth. Could the Roda Theatre not have been renamed the Yoda Theatre for the night? No, the acid hasn't kicked in yet, must have been a bad batch...

*Oh, that's funny! I didn't think about Roda being so close in spelling to Yoda. Carrie makes fun of everything about her life including her Star Wars days but not in a derogatory way. I was one of the group with Leia buns on at that*

*show Cordelia wrote about since I was the one that organized the group outing, and I didn't feel slighted by anything she said at all. In fact, it was such a thrill that she acknowledged our group being in the audience.*

Ah, the listings are back. Yes, they are a lot of work, but they are good to see. I hope they inspire fans in other cities to create new activities.

*Yes, everyone loves our Calendar listings. I didn't think that it would inspire other places but that's even better! Thanks to España for her hard work on this and to David for getting her started on it after he stopped doing it. Doing the proofing and layout is already such a big task and David has been such a trooper about doing both as it is.*

Time to go...we've got a big box of books to take to a book exchange, and lunch beckons. Hugs! And see you next issue.

*Hugs back! Until next time...*



# Editorial

**By Christopher J. Garcia**

*Editor*

By the time you read this, I will be in England. Yes, it's finally here, and I'm finally off and away for what may well end up being my one trip across the pond. I'm sure I'm having a wonderful time. I should be staying with a couple of PLOKTAns by this point, and getting excited about Eastercon.

Now, recently I took a little time to gush about two people who have profoundly changed fandom in the BArea over the last few years: Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley. Between just being the best damn party hosts the world has ever seen (I think Nell Campbell will argue with me), they have really enlivened the BArea scene.

I think it's an interesting time in which we're living as BArea fans. There's so much BArea stuff going on that we've even got a bi-weekly fanzine to cover it all! In some ways, it's been a silent revolution, and in others it's been loud as hell.

First, everyone's known some BArea names for a while. Frank Wu became one of the biggest names around by doing fan art and winning Hugos. You can hardly go anywhere without running into someone who knows Kevin Standlee. We've got Dave Gallaher, Ian Stockdale, and so many others who are all very well known SMOFs. Add to that Robert Lichtman doing *Trap Door* to a very adoring

crowd, and you've got the real thing.

In recent years we've seen things pop around in much different ways. I'd say it started with *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. It's a fanzine that really opened up people's eyes to the fact that there was FANAC in Vegas. It burst onto the scene and let people in on the fun, eventually evolving beyond Vegas into the wider world. It's a wonderful zine that does a little local and a little international and it does them all well. It also inspired Jack Avery to start *SF/SF*. But there was already something going on.

No question that the BArea has been an important part of things for a long time, but things had started to ramp up by 2005. We had the WorldCon in 2002, and the effects of that are still being felt, but folks from beyond those numbers were starting to go out into other areas. I came around and just started pumping out raw, unfiltered zines and working my magic to get more and more folks involved. We had the Costume-Con crew doing parties and preparing to make Costume-Con 26 the biggest deal in BArea fandom for a long time. SiliCon began a boom period that saw it break 1,000 attendees this last year. BayCon has had some shake-ups, but still managed to put on a good con last year and looks like it'll be even better this year. There's BASFA which has grown and changed a little and had a streak of very large meetings that only really broke when we ended up on the move, and to show how strong BASFA's

been, they've managed to have strong turnouts even with only a few days' notice of where the meetings were going to be. We saw the creation of the *SF/SF* crew to bring forth zines made by people who just a few years ago would not have been considered zine people. In short, everything changed.

BArea fandom is stronger now than it has been in years. Just look at what we're putting out there. Between our zines, our cons, and the people who go forth into the wider fannish world, it would be fair to say that we've never mattered as much since the days of Ellik, Donaho and Carr. You can hardly go to a con anymore and not find a BArea person in attendance and likely on the staff.

There's a whole thing going on about BArea fans going out and about. There's also the idea that BArea fans are very insular, only going to the one or two cons that they always go to and not caring about anything else. They're both true. There are so many people in BArea fandom that a large number can be insular and a large number can still go and operate in bigger fandom. It's a bizarre thing.

And we're the headquarters for splinter fandoms mixing with regular SF fandom and forming a sort of fannish Gumbo. No one seems to be a down-the-line regular SF fan anymore, and it's OK with most of us. Things are changing constantly, groups are popping up and others are folding. The BArea is fluid, like any strong

group should be.

And I'm in England, probably thinking about all of this, about all the people who have made it possible, from Kevin and Andy to Michael Siladi to Dann Lopez to Jean Martin, España Sheriff and David Moyce, to Mike McInerney to Tom Becker to Lenny Bailes to Jack Avery to Spring Shoenhuth and beyond. We're in a time and place that really is going to redefine fandom, and I'm so glad to be a part of it...

...even if I'm in England.

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### **SF/SF notes with regret that...**

...**Sir Arthur C. Clarke** died on March 18, at the age of 90. By any measure one of the all-time greats of science fiction, Clarke passed away in his adopted homeland of Sri Lanka.

...**Gary Gygax** rolled his last 20 on March 4. Gygax, 69, was credited with inventing the immensely popular and influential role-playing game *Dungeons and Dragons* in the 1970s with Dave Arneson.

...**Dave Stevens** passed away on March 10. The creator of *The Rocketeer* comic book character and many a memorable image of Bettie Page and *Sheena, Queen of the Jungle*, Stevens was only 52.

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# Garcia Goes to Cinequest

**By Christopher J. Garcia**

*Editor*

I love genre. I don't really care if it's horror, fantasy, romantic comedy, noir: you name it, I am all for it. San Jose's Cinequest film festival usually puts together some fun genre stuff for those of us with interests along those lines. There have been some classic genre films that I've first come across because of Cinequest (*Vampires Anonymous*, *Dinner and a Movie*, *Blood Car*) and I'm always on the lookout. This year, there were several that I wanted to see that I just didn't get a chance to (the Swedish film *Butterflies* about a flying little girl, for example), and there were a bunch of other ones that were almost genre (like *Sputnik Mania*) and I missed those too. But I did see five that certainly qualify for the category.

The first was an Argentine film called *La Antena* (*The Aerial* in English). It was a complex and beautiful film shot in such a way as to evoke images from films such as *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* and *Metropolis* from the 1920s, and current directors like Guy Maddin. The result is a near-silent film with brilliant touches of comedy. The basic concept is a city where everyone has lost their voice. They can still talk, but not in sounds, only in words that show up on the screen. At times, characters in the film

interact with the titles, pushing them around or pulling them closer to examine. There's one woman who can still speak, and she's a TV star. She's also a potential weapon. The film is really fun. I'd highly recommend finding a way to get your eyes on it because it's just too darn good to pass up. My third-favorite film at this year's festival, and my second favorite genre entry.

My least favorite of the genre films I saw was a science fiction film called *Suspension*. There's a lot of good stuff to say about the film and a lot of bad stuff to say about the way they presented it. The good is easy. This had a fun script about a guy who discovers a way to pause time who happens to become obsessed with the wife of a man killed in a car accident where he discovered he could stop time. Yes, it's a lot like that TV movie *The Girl, The Gold Watch and Everything*, but with a creepy stalker vibe. The lead actor is great, scary as hell and totally believable. The effects are pretty good, a lot of pauses of acting that's always fun.

The bad was the acting of the woman being stalked. It's not that she was terrible, though at times she was, it's just that she was wildly uneven. She was pretty, true, but she lacked subtlety and went from flat to over-acting in mere moments. There was a guy playing a math teacher who was actually worse. Much worse. It

was good when the stalker was on-screen with the stalkee — he seemed to bring out the best in the film.

On the other hand, there was a film that walked the line between fantasy and a police procedural and detective thriller. It was called *The End* and it was from Canada. Made for less than ten thousand dollars, the film was all sorts of cheap-looking, but not in a way that turned you off. I don't even think it was Hi-Def video, which is the standard for low-budget films these days. It was video, that's for sure.

The lead actor, who was also the writer and director, was good in every part. At times, he seemed a little stilted, like he had an idea he so wanted to get across that he couldn't help put push it off the screen into the audience, but in one of the most ballsy turns I've ever seen in a film, that whole feeling changes and it makes sense. The film drops the detective film feel and goes into something very different. And then it comes back. I can't believe I'm about to write this phrase seriously, but it's an action-packed thrillride that doesn't let go until the very last frame. It's really solid and easily makes my Top Five for the fest and my Top Three for genre.

The one that I had been most excited about when I first saw it on the schedule was *The Call of Cthulhu*. That's right, Lovecraft at his best, and the way they presented it, as a silent film, was perfect. The film tells the story the way it should be told, with all the acting, costumes and props screaming 1928. Sadly, there were a few points where the video showed through and it pulled me away, but most folks wouldn't notice that and just go along. When most filmmakers try and recreate silents, they

do it all wrong. They make it small, intimate, seldom with more than four or five characters, and never going for special effects. Here, they do it all like it would have been for the main event of a Saturday afternoon. There are Wallis O'Brien-like effects and a big ole cast. It was an event and not just a simple silent. Most excited was I, and Linda liked it too.

The best genre film of the festival, and it was second only to *Die Stille vor Bach* for Best in Fest for me, was *The Substitute*. OK, I'll be the first to admit, it's *The Faculty*, that Robert Rodriguez film from 1998, but it's so much better that this one should have come out first. It wasn't really a festival film.

It's a big-budget Danish film full of big stars. There's Paprika Steen, a big-name Danish actress whom you can see in films like *Festen* alongside Ulrich Thomsen, who was also in this one. There are several others I recognized, including two actors who had films in Cinequest over the last three years. The story is similar to *The Faculty*, a substitute teacher is an alien, but it's so much more emotionally present than that other film. Steen is properly evil and very funny. The kids in the class are funny and even manage some real emotional depth. Thomsen is great, as always, and he's the one that I think really gave it direction

and intelligence.

The film gets some laughs, and unlike many of the Danish films that I love so much, manages to practically bounce from scene to scene. Yeah, it's a lot more dramatic than an American film dealing with the same thing would be, but it's also much better.

Cinequest's web site may be found at [www.cinequest.org](http://www.cinequest.org).



## Costume-Con 26

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# Harold Goes to WonderCon

**By Dr. Noe**  
*Staff Writer*

Whatever happened to the potential of “Harold and Kumar Go to Amsterdam”? At WonderCon at the Moscone center February 22-24, the answer was given.

When we last left Harold Lee and Kumar Patel, that’s where they were headed, to chase the girl of Harold’s dreams, Maria, to the country where it’s always 4:20. What took them so long to get to the airport?

*Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay* picks up right where the 2004 cult hit *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle* left off, but takes our intrepid ganja smokers on a slight detour. What was to be a romp through Amsterdam had to be reworked before our beloved stoners could return to the big screen.

Anticipation is high for the sequel, and the writers/directors Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg welcome it. “It feels really good,” said Hurwitz about the fervor over the new movie. During the first screenings the audience even reacted as Hurwitz and Schlossberg expected. So, why did the sequel come four years later? According to Hurwitz, a sequel was commissioned because the first movie tested so well, but some of that changed after its release.

“Unfortunately, it was a moderate success,” Hurwitz said. “But it wasn’t something that made sense for them to immediately make a sequel. It was depressing, really, at first.”



**John Cho, Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg.**

Photo by Jean Martin

The idea of a sequel seemed dead in the water, but the team told the powers that be that things would change once the film hit DVD. And indeed they did, but the studio didn’t want to put the money behind another big screen outing, and asked Schlossberg and Hurwitz to do a DVD sequel instead.

“We’re like, ‘no, we’re not doing that’,” Hurwitz said. “That’s not what the fans want to see. They want to see them back on the big screen and the movie deserves a theatrical sequel.”

And as time went on, growing support from fans proved the studio wrong and New Line Cinema agreed to allow a theatrical sequel.

“It’s a really fun movie to see in the theatre because of the audience reaction,” said Schlossberg. “It’s like going to *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.”

Other issues that occurred that prevented the characters from traipsing through Amsterdam included the flurry of teen movies like *Eurotrip* that were released after the first film.

“What we wound up with is far more original and fresh,” Schlossberg said.

*Escape* also may not be the last adventure for Harold and Kumar. There are ideas for other movies, but nothing is set in stone.

These two became the focus of their own film because the writers and directors Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg wanted to break the stereotype of the Indian running a convenience store and Asians being the martial arts experts in movies and TV shows.

“We always had a lot of Indian and Asian friends growing up,” said Hurwitz. “We thought, ‘Hey, how about we do a movie that’s more like the Asian/Indian friends that we knew?’” And Harold and Kumar were born.

Comparisons have been rampant between Harold and Kumar and Cheech and Chong, but lead actor John Cho disagrees.

“I thought they (Hurwitz and Schlossberg) were more trying to do a buddy comedy, and the drugs were secondary to that,” Cho said. “They were making less of a stoner comedy than they were (making) an *Odd Couple* buddy movie.”

Kal Penn (Kumar) and Cho also didn’t know each other before they were brought together for the first film, Cho said. Schlossberg added that Cheech and Chong were friends beforehand and were popular through their comedy albums long before those two transitioned to film.

In regard to the sequel, Cho said the

primary thing is that now he and Penn are good friends, whereas they didn’t know each other during the first film and had to work on their rapport.

“It was really easy this time,” he added about the friendship he now has with Penn. “I felt like we could focus on making as funny of a



**Dr. Noe meets Mr. Cho.**

Photo by Jean Martin

movie as possible.” Cho added that his friendship with Penn actually helped in the sequel, not just in the friendship of the characters, but during the times when Harold gets angry at Kumar for any number of reasons. “We got to know each other so well that on occasion we’ll annoy each other, so that’s real too,” Cho explains. “I think that’s were good friendship goes, at some point you piss somebody off, otherwise you’re not good

friends.”

Expect to see more of the same from both this time around. Cho said his characterization of Harold stays pretty consistent with the first film, but there will be more Harold in stress.

In regards to some of the racial humor, they actually haven’t gotten much backlash. Pushing the envelope works.

“Those are things that people joke about with their friends,” Hurwitz said. “A lot of the best comedy comes from going to the areas that people are afraid to joke about. We feel like everything is coming from a good place. They’re just joking around.”

“We like just messing with stereotypes,” Schlossberg adds.

For those who have been living in a hole for the past year or so, Cho will be filling George Takei’s boots as Mr. Sulu in the upcoming *Star Trek* film. While everything is being kept tightly under wraps for now, Cho was able to say a few things about playing Sulu: “I’m trying to pay homage to my predecessor, and create something new at the same time.”

Cho actually met with Takei before filming began, and “he gave me what amounted to a blessing.” Takei also told Cho (in a very classy way, Cho said), “Pretty soon people are going to refer to me as the guy that played to old version of John Cho.”

In regards to playing the part in general, “It feels unbelievable,” Cho gushes. “I can’t tell you how cool it feels to put on the outfit, look at yourself in the mirror, and go, ‘Holy shit!’”



# Costumers Go to a Scandalous Soiree

**Story and Photos by Jean Martin**

*Editor*

The Bay Area English Regency Society's annual Cyprians' Ball was held last February 16th at the San Mateo Masonic Lodge. The caller

for the evening was BAERS's esteemed leader, Alan Winston. Music was provided by the lively and talented Divertimento Dance Orchestra. There were waltzes as well as Regency country set dances, and of course, the popular Congress

of Vienna.

There was a good turnout that night with more than 50 people in attendance. Most were in costume and it was nice to see such colorful and varied Regency and Regency-inspired attire. Czarina Uzza and Czar George McQuary did a great job organizing the event. The stage was decorated in "purple pit of passion" style (as Uzza described it). There were yards and yards of purple, pink and red drapery adorning the stage. After all, the Cyprians were the theme of the evening.

What are Cyprians you might ask? Named after the island of Cyprus where the Greek Goddess of Love, Aphrodite, was born, Cyprians were women of easy virtue who catered particularly to the upper reaches of English society during the Regency period. On an annual basis, Cyprians put on a ball in London where they supposedly shopped for protectors.

I don't suppose people take the theme quite seriously, but this is the second time I've attended a Cyprians' Ball as a single woman and it did give me a sense of what it was like for a Cyprian to be looking for a man at a ball. Not that I was looking. But hey, that's how women in Jane Austen's time looked for men. Even honorable women. And that's how men usually found their mates too — honorable or otherwise.

The ball is also always held around Valentine's Day so it is also a ball for established



**Stannie and Caller Alan.**

couples, and there were several of those. It's great to see couples celebrating their love and sharing in the joy of dancing together.

Still, dancing at these balls, even in the Regency era, means that you have to dance with other people. Fortunately, the gender ratio was pretty balanced at this ball. It seems like more men are going to these events — some probably brought there by their significant others, but they seem to manage to have a good time themselves. Part of the fun of a Cyprians' Ball is harmless flirting with your partner or other dancers in your set, and this year was no exception.

In between sets was when we were able to socialize and enjoy the delectables donated by BAERS members and guests. Savory hors d'oeuvres were served during the first break and I particularly enjoyed the spinach patties. During the sweets break, I enjoyed the chocolate torte prepared by the blossoming Emily, whom I first met as a child and who is now taller than me. The food was served on beautiful silver trays and platters surrounded by more purple and pink cloth, candles and flowers.

There was also a table with stickers, papers and other



**A lady and her sea-officer.**

supplies for creating valentines. I didn't get the chance to do that as I was busy for an hour at the gate taking and selling tickets. The rest of the time I enjoyed the energetic but elegant dancing.

No detail was spared to make this event a romantic and memorable one. I'm looking forward to next year's Cyprians Ball, with perhaps a protector of my own... or not. These balls are a lot of fun either way.

For more information on BAERS events and the Cyprians, visit [baers.org](http://baers.org) and [baers.org/cyprians.html](http://baers.org/cyprians.html).

### **Join our crew:**

We are 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](mailto:SFinSF@gmail.com)

# Filker Elite Goes to Consonance

**By Howieird**

*Contributing Writer*

The Bay Area's annual filk con, Consonance, brought together a long list of famous (and infamous) science fiction and fantasy songwriters and musicians March 7-9 at the Milpitas Crowne Plaza Hotel. This is by no means a comprehensive report, but I'll at least try to cover the concerts.

Friday was gender bender night, with con chairperson Dr. James Robinson leading off the concert performances. He sang completely from numbers that he had written when he was Dr. Jane, including such classics as *When Brontosaurus Fall in Love* and *Moving The Bones*. There was much audience interaction, culminating during his final number, *Nessie, Come Up!*, which ended with James looking out over a sea of arms waving their hands imitating the Loch Ness Monster.

Dr. James was followed by Alexander James Adams, who used his guitar as a percussion instrument, sang powerful songs with lots of beat, and for one number picked up an electric violin and sawed at it mercilessly in a song he wrote as his personal answer to *The Devil Went Down to Georgia*. Some of his tunes were new, and some were written when he was Heather Alexander.

Next up were the International GoHs, Summer & Fall (Eva Van Daele-Hunt & Crystal



**Alexander James Adams**

Photo by Richard Man

Blum), from Germany. It took them about half an hour to set up, and during the course of their concert they went through about a dozen instruments and at least four languages.

Saturday festivities started with the wedding of Kathryn "Chaos" Savitsky and Sean Sterling, and according to the schedule,

Toastperson Mary Crowell was leading a yoga class upstairs while the reception was under way one floor below in the hotel bar. This was followed by International GoHs Summer & Fall holding the first of their three harmony workshops, and a juggling workshop led by Rafael.

The afternoon concerts kicked off with JT Filkers, a group of mostly baby boomers, who sang singly, in pairs, and in a group, covering a wide range of material.

Brooke Lunderville and John Caspell performed a set of high-energy filk, followed by Riverfolk — Becca Leathers & Chas Somdahl — whose finger-

picking folk sound was spiced with occasional filk. *Yellow is the Color of My True Love's Eyes* gets my vote as best stealth vampire song evah. And Chas's *Popsicle Girl* (a story about how love can go horribly wrong when one's S.O. walks out the airlock) was performed with ad-hoc backup group, "The Chassettes."

Interfilk GoH Carl Thiel sang a series of “ose” songs, followed by “more ose” songs. Every now and then he snuck in the obligatory comic piece, apparently to appease the Ose gods.

Between the afternoon and evening concerts, before dinner break, the live part of the Interfilk Auction was held, raising around \$1k with high prices paid for 2007 Consonance DVDs and some unusual objects, such as a USB rocket launcher and a set of Eastern European pan pipes. An additional two tables of other items made up the silent auction, which ended Sunday. While the live auction was going on, Summer & Fall’s second harmony workshop was being held down the hall.

Saturday evening concerts began with Toastperson Dr. Mary Crowell. She said she holds a DMA, which I’m guessing stands for Doctor of Magical Arts, because her voice and pianism are magic. She sang a series of RPG songs, all in a lounge jazz style, a style which was constant through her concert except for a tango, which sounded like a lounge jazz tango. She completely cracked up Judy Miller, the person signing for all the acts, by taking a water break with one hand while playing tinkling music with the other. More on Judy later.

Wrapping up the Saturday concerts was Becca Leathers, this time with her husband Graham. This set was pretty much all folk.

Sunday was the first day of Daylight Savings Time, but events were pretty much on schedule, any lateness being caused more by the all night filk circles than the time change. Morning workshops included John and Chris O’Halloran’s Taiko drumming, Carl Thiel’s song

writing workshop, and Summer & Fall’s final harmony sessions.

Next it was time for “two-fers,” where quite a range of talent came up on stage for no more than ten minutes each. There was more hour than participants to fill it, and one of the best jams of the con came under the category of “killing time,” when Kristoff Klover invited Alexander James Adams to join him onstage, KK on guitar, AJA on his electronic fiddle. Much improvisation ensued, with KK bent over backwards for much of the set because the guitar mike was aimed too low and the vocal mike was doubling as a Limbo stick.

Lynn Gold started the Sunday concert series padding time with some ad libs you might hear on a Saturday morning if you tune into KLIV radio, where she is one of the talent. After the sound check, she put signer Judy Miller through her paces with The Road Kill Cafe and a number about Hawaiian food-induced methane. She brought a big backup group onstage, which included Summer & Fall, for her takeoff on Teen Angel/Dead Man’s Curve/Siren Song. In addition to using both 6-string and 12-string guitars in her set, Lynn accompanies herself on an Apple laptop. Chris Phoenix was up next, with Callie Hill for a mostly a capella set. Callie also played flute and recorder.

Fall was up next with her workshop chorus, singing the two numbers they had rehearsed earlier. My rough count was 3 altos, 4 sopranos, 3 tenors and 4 basses. The first number was a four-part Renaissance-sounding piece with lots of tricky countermelody, the second was a take-off on a well known tune, a Harry Potter themed work with words apparently written by

Slytherin House.

The final concert was billed as “Kanef by Proxy” in which many filkers whose work had been spoofed by Bob Kanefsky came up on stage to sing the parody version, while Bob looked on from the front row. It was a mini who’s who of filk: Seanan McGuire and friends, Kathleen Sloan, Leslie Fish, Kathy Mar, and Alexander James Adams, among others.

Rock Jam hosted by Paul Kwinn rounded off the pre-dinner festivities, with “Dead Moose from Winnipeg” and open filk scheduled till midnight.

Through all the concerts, adorning stage left was Fan Fund GoH Judy Miller. She is a tall woman with long silky hair which is somewhere between strawberry and dishwater blonde. She has generous curves, knows how to use them, and is also fluent in ASL — American Sign Language. Judy’s signs go well beyond the official translator’s manual. What Judy does is performance art — ASL enhanced by interpretive dance and facial expression, which not only helps interpret for the hearing-impaired but for the rest of the audience as well. She has a brilliant sense of comic timing which adds a whole new level to the lighter songs (musicians are warned, “Don’t look at Judy”), and her body flows gracefully with the more serious tunes. She brings a very welcome parallel dimension to the stage.

Last but not least, once again the Consonance con suite was the best stocked of the area cons. This year even more so, with wedding leftovers: two tubs of Cha-Siu Bow and enough chocolate cake to create a gravity well.

[www.consonance.org](http://www.consonance.org)

# A Bay Area Fan Goes to Gallifrey

**By España Sheriff**

*Staff Writer*

Last year was my first time attending Gallifrey One, the Los Angeles-based *Doctor Who* convention now in its 19th year. So naturally I returned this year in a staff position, 'cause that's what happens when you associate with SoCal fen — you wake up one morning assimilated into their ranks without knowing quite how it happened. (Ok, maybe I exaggerate a little. The truth is that one of my very first volunteering experiences back during Confrancisco was being a rover for the head of security, Robbie Cantor, now known as Robbie Bourget, chair of Gallifrey One amongst other things.)

I arrived at the hotel early Friday morning, and just like the last two times I'd arrived before check in time, the LAX Marriott found an available room and got me comfy right away. I unpacked and settled into the smallish room — I am always surprised at how little this hotel's rooms are, but since I didn't plan on spending a whole lot of time in there, the bed size mattered much more to me than extra floor space. I was amused to note that the room had apparently been recently painted, since the door handle to the bathroom was still covered in blue masking tape which I left on there: Let's see if someone spots it still there when LosCon rolls around in November.

I picked up my badge and hung my art, and since the Dealer's Room was not open yet

I figured I'd put in some work hours. Since my official position was somewhat alarmingly listed as Assistant to the Chair, I went and found Robbie to receive my orders. I got assigned to work pre-reg for a few hours, which was actually quite nice. Registration was brisk, and sitting beside the information desk meant I learned a bunch of stuff and was occasionally pressed into service as the information person myself. One of the fun facts I learned was that Joel Hodgson of *MST3K* fame would be showing up on Saturday for a talk about his new *Cinematic Titanic* project and might stick around to sign stuff. I was tempted to immediately call my roommate and make him jealous, but cell signal on the convention center level was as bad as ever, despite valiant attempts by convention staff to install some cell relays.

Eventually I escaped the clutches of the reg office and headed up to get some rest before the evening's festivities. The big event for the evening was the Masquerade, but as is often the case I ended up sleeping right through it. Bay Area favorites Brian Little and Mette Hedin, who were attending Gallifrey for the first time, walked away with Best in Show for their Lady Cassandra which I had seen at SiliCon and I can imagine was a huge hit with the whofen present. I managed to see a few of the costumes once I got into my own aviatrix outfit and hit the party floor. Or to be more accurate, the party room, since the League of Evil Geniuses was the only party this year, with everyone dividing their time between their room, the lobby area outside of the

hotel bar, and the Consuite, which closed a bit early for my tastes.

I tried an absinthe and champagne drink that was surprisingly tasty and ran into Merv of the Bay Area Doctor Who fan group Legion of Rassilon who had introduced me to the Nassau rum previously and promised similar goodies at his party the next evening. I also ran into Dan Harris, who runs the Who Cruise which was scheduled to depart on Monday after the convention. He was my roommate last year. Kevin Roche was wearing his Jungle Boy outfit which is always a crowd pleaser, and Johanna was wearing a Fanboy Appreciation costume in latex which seemed to be equally popular. Things were still swinging when I called it a night around one a.m.

Saturday I had been roped into running something called The Long Game, which was apparently cooked up when persons who should really know better noticed that the carpet in the Meridian Ballroom resembled some sort of gameboard. Convoluted rules were invented and unwitting fen were used as guinea pigs and lo! many hours of suffering ensued. Knowing little of this I agreed to run it along with Tadao this year. From noon until four in the afternoon I watched the slow obsessive progress of determined fen across the carpeted hall towards the end-point patch of carpet labeled Gallifrey, with much conniving, rules lawyering and cursing until the kids showed up (except that one time, sorry!). It was excruciating yet oddly

compelling, like playing *Monopoly* against family members. We were all grateful when it was finally over, so naturally I have all sorts of ideas about how to run it next year.

I had intended to leave my duties early to see Joel speak but miscalculated how long his panel would run, so when I got back down to the programming area he was already in the dealer's room signing. Now, I rarely get things signed and when I do it's usually books, but this was a rare opportunity. I got an *MST3K* DVD as backup, since I had been warned that he might not have brought enough of the *Cinematic Titanic* DVDs for signing, and then I stood in the longish line. I also usually hate standing in line for things but Johanna wandered up with a cute plushie Cybermat called Delete and was kind enough to keep me company while I waited.

As my turn came up Bob May, better known as Robbie the Robot, wandered up and introduced himself to Joel and some amusing geeking ensued between the two of them. I am glad to say Joel was charming and spelled my name right. Also charming and an equally good speller was May himself, from whom I purchased an awesome robot. My consumerism was rounded out by stopping at the Big Finish table and grabbing two Eighth Doctor audios; "Seasons of Fear," which is one of my two favorites ever and I which wanted to get signed by Paul Cornell and Carlyne Symcox, and the newest Eight called "Time Works," which will entertain me on my commute next week.

I badgered Tadao into sitting down and getting something to eat for dinner and was quite proud of myself until the restaurant proceeded to add bell peppers to basically everything they could think of, triggering his allergies. So at

least he got plenty of sleep that night. I myself thought I was taking a nap until I woke up at around midnight.

Sunday was already the end of the convention, something that always catches me by surprise at shorter cons. As a bookend to the previous evening's staff assassination attempt, Robbie came down sick with something herself. As assistant to the chair, this meant I had the extremely daunting task of doing her usual charity auction job of keeping tally of the bids, bidders and items won. Luckily there was a lovely fellow called Chad doing this alongside me and he was able to show me the ropes. The auction ended up being quite fun once I was able

### **I am glad to say Joel [Hodgson] was charming and spelled my name right.**

to relax a little and pay attention. The *Torchwood* kids helped out as runners for the majority of it, thank goodness, else it would have been chaos. I was pretty bushed by the end of the auction but rather pleased with the fact that my math had been up to the task in the end. We ended up raising over \$3,000 for the charity and on a whim I snagged a couple of signed name cards for Cornell and Symcox.

By the time that was over it was past six o'clock and closing ceremonies were already underway. I popped over briefly but the room was packed to overflowing, so I started helping with tear down and truck loading. After a couple of hours the hallways and rooms were bare of

our presence and there was little left for me to do, so I called it a night. I showered and changed and proceeded to spend probably the most fun evening of the convention hanging out in the lobby area drinking black and tans with Johanna and the *Torchwood* kids, meeting a fan from Philadelphia who was attending his first convention since the mid-eighties and was heading out on the cruise the next day, and finally getting "Seasons of Fear" signed by Cornell and Symcox who were very gracious about being bugged outside of business hours as it were. I eventually ended up with a bunch of folks in the former LoEG party room until three or four in the morning. Perhaps the most exciting part of the evening, however, was when someone whose name I have sadly forgotten sat down and discovered a wallet had been left behind. I asked her to open it and see if it was someone one of us might recognize, and it turned out to belong to Carlyne Symcox! After a heady moment during which I considered how best to barter this hostage to affect *future Doctor Who* continuity, I turned it in to Robbie instead. I shall never make a proper archvillainess, alas.

Monday is traditionally the cricket match day, but there was none scheduled this year so I extended my already luxurious 1 p.m. checkout to 2 p.m. and had time for breakfast and packing at a leisurely pace before leaving the now sadly empty hotel. Before heading back to the Bay Area I did get to help unload the TARDIS over at the LASFS clubhouse and grabbed some In-and-Out, rounding out a very satisfactory trip.

As the rather tipsy fellow who brightened our convention experience towards the wee hours of Sunday night put it, truly this was the best *Doctor Zhivago* convention ever.

# A Browncoat Goes to Mars

Story and photos by Mike Smithwick

*Contributing Writer*

“Welcome to Mars!” said our Commander, Debi-Lee Wilkinson, indicating the “start of sim” in what would be one of the weirder vacations anyone could ever take. We celebrated that evening as our crew of six liberated the *Firefly* DVD collection from the habitat’s library and watched the first episode. Outside, for all intents and purposes, was the landscape of Mars.

It was as surreal as anything could be, that first evening of our simulation last January. After *Firefly* was over and the rest of the crew were in their bunks, I paused for a few moments and gazed out through the western porthole. It was well past ten, and a lazy full moon washed the desert floor in a crisp blue light. The habitat’s own lights had been turned off for the night, save for a couple of dim red emergency LEDs that illuminated the rim of the window. I couldn’t help but notice the contrast between the blue and red and the bizarre layered rolling hills of the Southern Utah desert, the floor of an ancient seabed and a location selected for its similarity to the Martian



EVA in a Mars-like landscape.

landscape, stretching out miles beyond the porthole. For a few quiet moments, it was hard *not* to believe we were on Mars.

This “nerdlinest” vacation ever started with a “Call for Volunteers” from the Mars Society posted to Slashdot. The Mars Society is a privately-funded effort to promote manned exploration of the red planet, founded by nuclear scientist Dr. Robert Zubrin and financed by the founder of PayPal, among other well-heeled backers. They were looking for crewmembers for the seventh season of their Mars Desert Research Station.

Created in 2001, the MDRS simulates a Mars-based laboratory. Scientists and engineers can reserve the facility to study issues related to Martian colonization such as long-term isolation studies, remote robotics, astronomy, EVA rescue techniques and so on. The MDRS is typically manned by ten different crews of six from December through April, in two-week rotations. A popular destination for teams of aero/astro engineering grad students, astronomers, teachers and even NASA

personnel, the MDRS has been featured many times on the Discovery Channel and shows like *Nova* and *Beyond Tomorrow*. If a season is not entirely booked, an open invitation is provided to others who might have experiments and challenges of their own they would like to try. For me, it was a no-brainer, even when presented with the dire warning that conditions would be “tough.” (No kidding.)

Only two months later I was “on Mars” with five complete strangers.

The entire facility consists of the core habitat: a vertical round two-story structure flanked by a neighboring greenhouse. Up on a small hill immediately behind the hab is an observatory and 500 feet to the west is the engineering bay hidden behind a small hill. It is located in a geologic structure called the San Rafael Swell, about seven miles out of Hanksville, Utah, north of the Grand Canyon area, a site chosen for its striking similarity to much of the Martian landscape.

The first floor of the hab has the biology and geology stations, the bathroom, shower, tool bench, and two airlocks. The second floor holds the six staterooms, kitchen, workbench and dining area. Interestingly enough, the hab was largely designed by engineer/architect/musician Frank Schubert, formerly of the iconic synth-pop group DEVO.

Our group, dubbed Crew 65, had been in email communication for a couple of weeks before the start of the mission, so we were not entirely unknown to each other. There was our commander, Debi-Lee, from Fairbanks, a veteran of Crew 10, which had installed the observatory. Then came Chris, who was a very



**The Core Habitat.**

bright Air Force lieutenant and MIT aero/astro student who intends fully to become an astronaut one day. Luis was a Guatemalan “thermofluid aerodynamic” grad student from the University of Central Florida who spoke five languages. Graham, a 24 year old, tattooed Tang Soo Do champion and motorcyclist, would serve as our greenhouse expert. Morgan was a teacher of multimedia technologies in New York and came to do a documentary. And me? I volunteer teach a monthly astronomy class to a bunch of fifth

graders in San Jose. I had proposed having them design some experiments for me and build any necessary equipment. I would then send daily reports to the class, which their teacher would post and read each afternoon.

After meeting in Salt Lake City, we headed on out to a store, fetched \$400 worth of groceries, and started the long drive south to Hanksville, where we first met The Don. Don Foutz looks like the hairless Marine drill sergeant of your worst nightmares, but instead is a gentle



soul who runs a small hotel in Hanksville. He is the only direct face-to-face support the MDRS crews can expect to see during a mission (except for the occasional stray hiker who might stop by, see some guys in spacesuits and say “what the h...?”). The Don delivers spare parts, fresh water, gasoline and any other necessities a crew may need during each sim, and gives briefings on the mission rules to each new rotation.

Arrival was about 9 p.m. on a Saturday night. We met up with the departing Crew

64, who gave us a couple hours of late night training, regaled us with the horrific “tales of the exploding toilet,” and essentially said “good luck (suckers)!” Sunday morning, the commanders exchanged keys and we were on our own.

What was fascinating about our crew was how immediately everyone fell into specific roles with very little guidance. The two aero/astro guys started devising ways to keep the water lines from freezing during the night. When they were frozen, it was necessary to haul water

into the hab by hand every couple of days, and as result, little comforts such as showers were out of the question. Graham and Morgan took over greenhouse duties, no questions asked, while Debi-Lee and I tackled problems with the observatory. And after a short two days of preparation, we were declared “in sim” by the commander and a whole new set of rules applied.

When “in sim,” we could no longer step out of habitat unless we were in spacesuits. Yes, there were six “spacesuit simulators” that we had to wear outside, with few exceptions. Small well-marked trails that led to the observatory and engineering bay (where the generators and water supplies were kept) were considered to be tunnels, so were spacesuit-optional. The suits were cleverly designed, quite functional, and looked pretty good, considering. The helmets were made out of a clear domed skylight bolted to a dome from a trashcan. Walky-talkies mounted to the rear with a microphone built into the front of the helmet provided surprisingly good communications between crew members and the hab. The backpacks were real in that they had two battery powered fans shoving air into the helmets for circulation. Transportation was either on foot to nearby features or by ATV, some crews traveling six or seven miles away by the latter method.

Chris came with the most legitimate experiment as part of his MIT research: Slope estimation. He wanted to see how astronauts might be able to visually estimate the angle of different kinds of terrain and how those estimates might differ depending on lighting. Such knowledge could be useful when crews



Watching *Firefly* episodes with the crew.



Mike tests the Magnetic Picky Uppy Thingie.

need to visually pick out different traverse paths when out on the Martian surface. Luis did experiments on emergency EVA techniques, specifically buddy-breathing techniques in the case of a backpack failure.

Debi-Lee and I quickly got involved with several telescope repairs. I soon realized why the viewing in the Utah desert is considered some of the best in the world, and having a top quality 14" Celestron at my disposal was a real treat. Unfortunately, the 20-degree weather did put a

damper on things and kept observing sessions short, but I was able to treat the rest of the crew to some unbelievable views of the Orion nebula, Mars, Saturn and many other objects.

One of my first discoveries in the area, and one which shows just how wise the site selection committee was, came when I noticed some familiar-looking outcrops in the path up to the observatory. The task of the Mars rovers that landed in 2004 was to look for evidence of a wet past on Mars. And only a few days after the

landing of Opportunity, that evidence was found in the form of small beads called concretions, and nicknamed "blueberries." These are small hard round spheres formed by water flowing through porous materials. The photos returned showed them littering the surface by the billions, many still embedded in their host rocks.

On the observatory path I discovered one layer of rock full of small round "blueberries." I collected up several handfuls for souvenirs for my students and took photos that look nearly identical to the ones from real Mars. (The night Crew 66 arrived, I took their geologist up to the observatory and pointed the flashlight to the outcrop; with no prompting from me he shouted, "Concretions!")

I learned that it was customary among the crews to watch an episode of *Firefly* each evening, and so we gleefully continued that custom. Morgan and I were both Browncoats (I even brought a Jayne hat to wear while on EVA), while Debi-Lee clung to her *Star Trek*. The others were soon converted, though, a process that was most amusing to watch. Within a couple of days, Luis was spouting off factlets about Morena Baccarin he had learned from Google, and Graham was playing the *Firefly* theme on his guitar. Things suddenly went from being "awesome" to "shiny" and the occasional profanity magically became "Gorram!"

Halfway through, Luis started to suggest we have a mid-afternoon *Firefly* break besides the normal late night viewing he couldn't get enough of, and our one and only radish from the greenhouse was proudly named Vera. However, I knew that my mission was truly complete when on one EVA near the end, I heard the theme song

come a cracklin' through my helmet radio. (How cool is that? On Mars, in a spacesuit, with the *Firefly* theme in my earpiece!)

Morgan put his media skills to quick use producing a Crew 65 music video. After very little discussion, we voted on using the *Firefly* theme. The video may be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXp5F5Voh-o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXp5F5Voh-o).

For my daily class lessons I would cover one issue of importance, such as the spacesuits or power generators, that cropped up during the day. I would then compare those to what could be expected on a real mission. By the end of the first week, my teacher told me my mission was all the kids could talk about. Before I left, I did manage to coax one experiment from my students: a team of four girls made a tool to help a space-suited astronaut pick up meteorite samples without having to bend over (a tough thing when suited up). They crafted it out of hangers and magnets and proudly called it the "Magnetic Picky Uppy Thingie," which I took out on several EVAs looking for iron meteorites. Another team made a mission banner for me that I took out and flew, sending them back photos that were promptly posted on the bulletin board.

For my final class I had a live two-way IM Q&A session that lasted well over an hour.



The three questions that were asked over and over were: "Did you have fun?" "What did you learn?" "Will you bring us something?"

The two weeks were over much too soon. We faced failed generators, snow storms, wayward mice, no hot water and a small supply of Vegemite left by a previous Aussie crewmember. Finally, in the evening of our third Saturday, lights appeared outside announcing the arrival of Crew 66: an all-Canadian team. We were now the grizzled cynical veterans and they, the young, idealistic, fresh-faced rookies.

If I learned one main thing, it was that Jayne hats don't work well in a spacesuit. Due to the cold, we all needed to wear knit caps while on EVA. I had the only one with a pom-pom, and it was said pom-pom that caused so much trouble, constantly rotating the damned thing until one eye was obscured by the ear flap. Annoying? Yes. Funny? You bet!

Sunday morning we packed up, said farewell to our little slice of Fake Mars and headed for re-entry. MDRS Crew 65 (a.k.a. The Morena Baccarin Fan Club: Meridiani Planum Chapter) was now a memory, but a mighty good one. Plus, two new Browncoats joined the fold as a result. Can't argue with that. No sir.

You may see more photos at the MDRS website. Just click on the daily crew reports of Crew 65 at: [desert.marssociety.org/mdrs/fs07/](http://desert.marssociety.org/mdrs/fs07/).

# BASFA Minutes: Meetings 918-919

## Meeting 918

March 3, 2008

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

Began 8:02

25 people attended

We established a party jar

Secretary's report: we postponed accepting the minutes of meeting 917 until next week [since I forgot to bring them to the meeting]

Treasurer's report was that at meeting 917 we took in \$45.55 in the regular jar & \$26.00 in the party jar

There was no VP

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements:

Julie announced that Gerry Nordley is looking for volunteers to help out at Contact

Ken announced that he is handing out crayons and copies of Ken & Jerry's Commemorative

Coloring Book

Mike announced that the 'Adventures of Briscoe County Jr' are out now on DVD - expensive - and that deepdiscount.com had it on special

Andy announced that there is no convention this weekend that he's going to, but he'll be at the San Jose IRLM Coronation this weekend, check the website at [www.irlm.org](http://www.irlm.org)

Lisa announced that Consonance is this weekend at the Crown Plaza in Milpitas & there will be a wedding held at con [Chaos Savitsky and Selkit being wed]

Dave G announced that his company is hiring sales people - if interested see him

Reviews:

Adrienne reviewed 'The Other Boleyn Girl' as interesting & didn't let historical facts get in the way of their movie, there was computer-generated scenery, nice costumes - and then follow-on's - one that even mentioned the movie

Julie reviewed local Daly City politics as she was surprised that so much talking could be done without anyone actually saying anything & worth attending to expand her horizons

[evil] Kevin reviewed Ken & Jerry's wedding as that he and Andy were pencilled in as the '2

butch guys in security uniforms' only that they got the 'u' wrong, the food was amazing, the wedding was great fun and was absolutely worth full price - there were follow-on's [including one about beer ingredients]

Joe reviewed a party of his that spanned 3 rooms, went past the PG rating and was definitely awesome

Mike reviewed 'Jodhaa Akbar' as the dance sequences were better than the battle scenes & well worth full price [is playing at the Mercado]

Bob reviewed Roseville as not worth full price

Fred reviewed Potlatch as 188 attended and it was fun, cute and worth full price

Harold reviewed Mexican boxing as 12 rounds of using style and technique to beat the hell out of each other & worth having cable & that Comcast let him watch 5 episodes of 'Torchwood' in a row

Stellen reviewed a Man-Kzin war book by Chafe, 'Destiny's Forge' as a brick of a book & heavy on culture, fairly epic and worth e-book

[tall] Kevin reviewed some SF author drama as amusing

We then did auctions: a DVD for \$1.00, a VHS tape for \$2.75 & books for \$0.25

We adjourned at = 9:10

And the rumor of the week was that = 'Ben & Jerry will introduce a new flavor - deep cut bodice'

## Meeting 919

March 10, 2008

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

Began 8:10 [blaming it on daylight savings time]

19 people attended

We established a FFAT jar to bring Chris back from England

We established a party jar

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 917 were accepted as 'better late than never' & the minutes of meeting 918 were accepted as 'leap minutes'

Treasurer's report was that at meeting 918 we took in \$4.79 in the regular jar & \$1.75 in the party jar

There was no VP

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements:

Dave G announced that his company is also hiring techie people - and if interested see him

Howeird announced that May 17 is the opening for 'Man of la Mancha' & he's been cast as the Governor; it's being presented by the Saratoga Drama Group, running through the end of June & check [www.saratogadramagroup.com](http://www.saratogadramagroup.com)

[tall] Kevin announced that emails have been going out to selected folk about being Hugo nominees & announced that Cheryl is coming back tomorrow

Glenn announced that Gary Gygax failed his last saving throw

[evil] Kevin announced that there's a Costume-Con meeting in the [Doubletree] boardroom at 10am, Saturday

Reviews:

Fred proxy reviewed [for Joni] 'The Mysteries of Harris Burdock' by Chris von Allsburg as worth full price

Howeird reviewed Consonance as a veritable who's who of famous filkers and he enjoyed having his mind bent ... twice - not only worth full price, but worth the procrastinator's at the door fee

Andy reviewed spending the weekend having out with drag queens [with hair colors 'not found

in nature'] for Coronation as the show started within 'fannish standard' time, the pacing was iffy, it ran late & they left early but their after-party ran until 5am - flawed but fun and worth full price

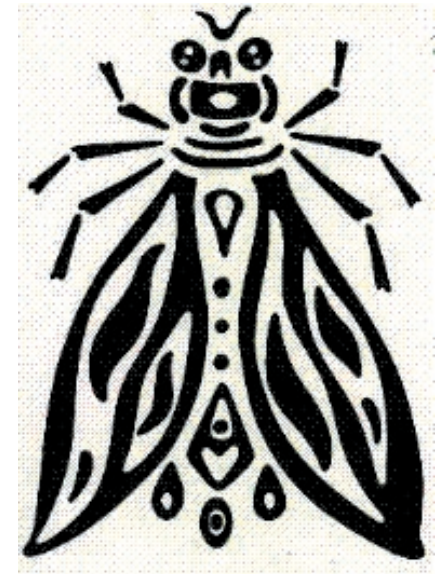
Ken reviewed the Linksys 500N series as not worth buying, unpacking, repackaging and returning to Fry's

Trey reviewed Comcast's 'on demand' feature as quite handy to have - since it allows us to view a Sharks game up to 24 hours after it was played - and does not cost us any extra fee

We then did auctions: a notepad for \$0.50, CDs for \$3.25; CD and a book for \$1.75 & a DVD game & CD for \$2.00

We adjourned at = 9:15

And there was no rumor of the week.



# Bay Area Fannish Calendar

Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

New listings are in **red**.

**Ongoing** events are toward the back.

## **Saturday, March 22**

Pop Candy Meet-up

Isotope Comics

326 Fell St

San Francisco

Free

Whitney Matheson of popular pop-culture blog

Pop Candy, and special guest Tim Sale.

8 p.m

## **Friday, March 29**

The Phenomenauts CD Release Party

Slims

333 11th Street

San Francisco

www.phenomenauts.com

9 p.m.

\$13

## **Friday, April 4**

Midnites for Maniacs: Lost in Space Triple Feature

Castro Theater

426 Castro Street

San Francisco

www.midnitesformaniacs.com

7:15 p.m. *Explorers*, 9:15 p.m. *Aliens*, 12:00 a.m. *Dark Star*

\$10 for all three films

## **Friday-Sunday, April 4-6**

Contact 24

NASA Ames Research Center

Mountain View

www.contact-conference.com

\$135

## **Saturday, April 5**

The Royal Debutante Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (until March 29), \$20 at the door.

A ball in honour of the debut in Society of Her Royal Highness, Princess Louise. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

## **Thursday, April 10**

Thrillville's 11th Anniversary Show

It! The Terror from Beyond Space (1958) and Journey to the 7th Planet (1962)

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

7:30 p.m.

\$10

With Mr. Lobo and the Queen of Trash, Ms. Monster and a live music by The TomorrowMen.

## **Saturday, April 5**

Author: Scott Sigler

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m

## **Saturday, April 12**

Author: Peter F. Hamilton

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

4 p.m

UK author Peter F. Hamilton makes a rare state-side appearance.

## **Saturday, April 12**

Other Magazine presents Writers With Drinks

The Make-Out Room

3225 22nd Street

San Francisco  
www.writerswithdrinks.com  
7 p.m.

This month's WWD features science fiction sensation Peter F. Hamilton and theremin-playing author Elliot Fintushel. \$3-\$5 sliding scale.

**Sunday, April 13**

Author: Peter F. Hamilton  
Books, Inc.  
301 Castro St  
Mountain View  
www.booksinc.com  
3 p.m.

**Tuesday April 15**

The TomorrowMen  
El Rio  
3158 Mission St  
San Francisco  
<http://www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen>  
8 p.m.  
Free

**Friday-Sunday, April 18-20**

La Prova Dura  
SCA West Kingdom, Shire of Canale  
San Benito County Fairgrounds  
9000 Airline Highway  
Tres Pinos  
\$10

**Saturday, April 19**

Author: Ray Garton  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia

San Francisco  
www.borderlands-books.com  
3 p.m.

**Saturday, April 19**

Author: Peter Beagle  
Clayton Books  
5433 Clayton Road  
Clayton  
www.claytonbookshop.com  
2 p.m.

**Sunday, April 20**

Cherry Blossom Festival Parade  
Civic Center to Japantown  
San Francisco  
www.nccbf.org  
1 p.m.  
Free  
A cosplay contest traditionally precedes the parade, with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners getting to ride a float to Japan Center.

**Friday April 25**

Second Skin: Imaginative Designs in Digital & Analog Clothing  
The Exploratorium  
3601 Lyon Street  
San Francisco  
www.exploratorium.edu/2ndskin/  
Fashion show of wearable art that also offers demonstrations of the latest trends in electroluminescent wire, soft circuitry, and green innovations. Wear or bring your own full-body wearable art (non-Members doing so will receive a 50% admission discount). Admission to the event is included in the price

of admission to the Exploratorium.  
7:00-11:00 p.m.

**Friday-Monday, April 25-28**

Costume-Con 26  
Doubletree Hotel  
2050 Gateway Place  
San Jose  
www.cc26.info  
\$95 in advance (through April 15, 2008)  
Costume-Con will be coming to Silicon Valley in 2008.

**Saturday, April 26**

Author: John Stanley  
Clayton Books  
5433 Clayton Road  
Clayton  
www.claytonbookshop.com  
2 p.m.  
Bay Area host of Creature Features and author of I Was a TV Horror Host.

**Monday, April 28**

Author: Jack O'Connell  
Dark Carnival Bookstore  
3086 Claremont Avenue  
Berkeley  
www.darkcarnival.com  
Book signing by the author of The Resurrectionist.  
5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, May 3**

Free Comic Book Day  
Illusive Comics and Games  
2725 El Camino, Suite 105

Santa Clara

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

Free comic books and costuming event to help promote literacy. Local schools will be participating to have their kids come in and increase comic book appreciation, literacy and all things good about sci-fi.

**Saturday, May 3**

Chicago Speakeasy Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)

\$15 in advance (until April 26), \$20 at the door.

Join us at the hottest speakeasy in Chicago for All That Jazz! PEERS is proud (and truly amazed) to announce that the evening's band will be the one, the only, the incomparable Lee Presson and the Nails!  
Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

**Monday-Tuesday, May 12-13**

Author: Brandon Mull

Clayton Books

5433 Clayton Road

Clayton

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

3-5 p.m.

**Friday-Monday, May 23-26**

BayCon

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara

5101 Great America Parkway

Santa Clara

[www.baycon.org/2008](http://www.baycon.org/2008)

\$65 in advance (through March 15)

Northern California's largest annual general SF convention is on the move again. Diverse panels, dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime room, hall costumes, gaming, much more.

**Friday-Monday, May 23-26**

FanimeCon

San Jose Convention Center

435 South Market Street

San Jose

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

\$50 in advance (through March 31)

The Bay Area's largest annual anime convention returns. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, J-pop concert, more.

**Saturday, June 7**

Gone with the Wind Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)

\$15 in advance (until May 31), \$20 at the door.

Inspired by the Charity Ball In Atlanta from the first part of Gone with the Wind. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8 p.m.

**Thursday-Sunday, June 12-15**

RoboGames

Fort Mason Festival Pavillion

San Francisco

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

\$55

**Saturday, July 5**

The Emerald City Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)

\$15 in advance (until June 28), \$20 at the door.

Come join us in honoring the singular courage of Dorothy Gale and her intrepid companions. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

**Saturday, August 2**

The Impressionists Picnic

PEERS Event

Lincoln Park

1450 High Street

Alameda

[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)

Free

Le Salon de Refuses invites painters, models, artistic subjects and interested members of the public to join us for an outdoor picnic, fete and dance. Picnic begins at 11:30 a.m. Formal dancing 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, August 16-17**

Golden Gate Renaissance Festival

Speedway Meadow

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco

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

10 a.m-6 p.m. Saturday/10am-5pm Sunday

\$15

**Friday-Sunday, August 29-31**

Sac-Anime



Scottish Rite Center  
6151 H Street  
Sacramento  
[www.sacanime.com](http://www.sacanime.com)  
Details to follow

**Saturday, September 6**

Northern California Renaissance Faire  
Casa de Fruta  
10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy  
Hollister  
<http://www.norcalrenfaire.org/>  
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat-Sun  
\$25 (starting May)

**Saturday, September 6**

Space 1889: The Adventure of Le Cirque de Venus  
PEERS Event  
Masonic Lodge  
100 North Ellsworth  
San Mateo  
[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)  
\$15 in advance (until August 30), \$20 at the door.  
Steampunk event: Space 1899 - a Victorian Ball in Space. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

**Friday-Sunday, October 3-5**

Silicon 2008: A Salute to FanAc  
[www.siliconventions.com](http://www.siliconventions.com)  
Details to follow.

**Saturday, October 4**

Swingin in the Rain  
PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge  
100 North Ellsworth  
San Mateo  
[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)  
\$15 in advance (until September 27), \$20 at the door.  
An evening in 1929 Hollywood at a ball inspired by that most joyous of musicals! Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

**Friday-Sunday, October 10-12**

Con-x-Treme  
San Mateo Marriott  
1770 S. Amphlett Blvd  
San Mateo  
[www.con-x-treme.org](http://www.con-x-treme.org)  
Con-x-treme returns for a second year (no, really).  
Details to follow

**Saturday, November 1**

Le Bal des Vampires  
PEERS Event  
Alameda Elks Lodge  
2255 Santa Clara Ave  
Alameda  
[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)  
\$17.50 in advance (until October 25), \$25 at the door.  
Waltz the night away in a beautiful candlelit ballroom with SF Bay Area's most glamorous Undead at the 15th Annual Le Bal des Vampires. Dancing on two separate floors; Bangers and Mash performing live in the upstairs ballroom 7:45-Midnight and free-style dancing downstairs in the Dracula's Daughters Discotheque 6:30-Midnight.

Saturday-Sunday, November 1-2  
Alternative Press Expo  
The Concourse  
620 7th Street  
San Francisco  
Details to follow

**Ongoing:**

Daily  
San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour  
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel  
1590 Sutter at Octavia  
San Francisco  
[www.sfghosthunt.com](http://www.sfghosthunt.com)  
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.  
\$20

Sundays

Sakramento Anime Society  
Rancho Cordova Library  
9845 Folsom Boulevard  
Rancho Cordova  
3-7 p.m.  
Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.

Send your items for inclusion  
in our Calendar section to:  
[SFinSF@gmail.com](mailto:SFinSF@gmail.com)

Mondays  
Bay Area Science Fiction Association  
Currently looking for a new regular meeting location. Check the website for details.  
[www.basfa.org](http://www.basfa.org)  
8 p.m.  
Free

Mondays  
Dukefish  
Jake's of Sunnyvale  
174 E. Fremont Avenue  
Sunnyvale  
8 p.m.  
Dukefish is a bunch of people who get together to play board games and, sometimes, bridge every week.

Mondays and Wednesdays  
Silicon Valley Boardgamers  
Mountain View Community Center  
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue  
Mountain View  
[www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb/](http://www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb/)  
6:30 p.m.  
\$2  
Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multiplayer Avalon Hill-style, historical wargames, and others.

Wednesdays  
Bay Area Role-Playing Society  
Go-Getter's Pizza  
1489 Beach Park Boulevard  
Foster City  
[www.BayRPS.com](http://www.BayRPS.com)

6 p.m.-10 p.m.  
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email [GM@BayRPS.com](mailto:GM@BayRPS.com).

Wednesdays  
East Bay Strategy Games Club  
EndGame  
921 Washington  
Oakland  
[www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html](http://www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html)  
7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.  
Free

Wednesdays and Saturdays  
Hayward Collectibles Show  
22300 Hathaway Ave (read bldg)  
Hayward  
[www.toysandbaseballcards.com](http://www.toysandbaseballcards.com)  
Wednesdays 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Free

Fridays  
SF Games  
Muddy's Coffeehouse  
1304 Valencia Street  
San Francisco  
[vax.hanford.org/dk/games](http://vax.hanford.org/dk/games)  
7 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 regular cards night at Atlas Café, 20th and Alabama Streets, Tuesday nights from 6:30-10.

Fridays-Mondays  
Haunted Haight Walking Tour  
Meets at Coffee To The People  
1206 Masonic Avenue  
San Francisco  
[www.hauntedhaight.com](http://www.hauntedhaight.com)  
7 p.m.-9 p.m.  
\$20  
Reservations required.

Fridays and Saturdays  
Vampire Walking Tour  
Meets corner of California and Taylor  
San Francisco  
[www.sfvampiretour.com](http://www.sfvampiretour.com)  
8 p.m.  
\$20  
Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there is heavy rain.

Saturdays  
Rocky Horror Picture Show  
Parkway Speakeasy Theater  
1834 Park Blvd.  
Oakland  
[www.parkway-speakeasy.com](http://www.parkway-speakeasy.com)  
Midnight  
\$7  
Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Biweekly  
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](mailto: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.

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street  
San Francisco  
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at [sfscifi@yahoo.com](mailto:sfscifi@yahoo.com) for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF  
Free, donations welcome  
[www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/](http://www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/)  
Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

East Bay Star Wars Club  
Central Perk  
10086 San Pablo Ave.  
El Cerrito  
510-558-7375  
[www.ebstarwars.com](http://www.ebstarwars.com)  
Meets the second Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Fantastic Frontiers  
[www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/](http://www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/)  
Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/

fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

Foothill Anime  
Building 5015, Foothill College  
Los Altos Hills  
Free  
Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.

The Gay Men's Book Club  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia  
San Francisco  
Free  
5:00 p.m.  
Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriguez, at [cobalt555@earthlink.net](mailto:cobalt555@earthlink.net), for more information.

Legion of Rassilon  
Carl's Junior  
2551 N. First Street  
San Jose  
[www.legionofrassilon.org](http://www.legionofrassilon.org)  
7:30 p.m.  
Free  
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.

No-Name Anime  
Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Avenue  
Saratoga  
[www.nnanime.com](http://www.nnanime.com)  
Free  
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

Other Realms Book Club  
Books, Inc.  
1375 Burlingame Ave.  
Burlingame  
Free  
[www.booksinc.net](http://www.booksinc.net)  
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month. The book for March 26th is Sharp Teeth by Toby Barlow, the book for April 23rd will be Matter by Ian Banks.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia  
San Francisco  
6:00 p.m.  
Free  
The book for March is The Call of Cthulhu by H.P. Lovecraft. Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

SF Browncoats  
Cafe Murano  
1777 Steiner Street  
San Francisco  
[www.sfbrowncoats.com](http://www.sfbrowncoats.com)  
Noon  
Free  
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the

second Saturday of the month.

SF/SF Meetup

Mysterious Future Bookstore

531 Fifth Street

Santa Rosa

[scifi.meetup.com/348/](http://scifi.meetup.com/348/)

Regular meetup for North Bay fans on the second Sunday of the month.

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

Various locations (see website for details)

[www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org](http://www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org)

Noon - 2 p.m.

Free

Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction Book Club

Books Inc.

301 Castro Street

Mountain View

650-428-1234

7:30 p.m.

Free

Generally meets the third Thursday of the month.

USS Augusta Ada

Round Table Pizza

3567 Geary Blvd.

San Francisco

[trek.starshine.org](http://trek.starshine.org)

1 p.m.

Free

Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet

International and a Linux and \*BSD user group.

Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.

USS Defiance

Round Table Pizza

1566 Howe Ave.

Sacramento

[www.ussdefiance.org](http://www.ussdefiance.org)

7 p.m.

Free

Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.

USS Northern Lights

The Great Mall Food Court

Milpitas

[firstjedi2000@yahoo.com](mailto:firstjedi2000@yahoo.com)

7 p.m.

Free

The 'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet

International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the second Friday of the month, with social event TBD.

Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE

Round Table Pizza

4403 Elkhorn Blvd

Sacramento

916-338-2300

Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.