

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

The California Steampunk Con has come and gone, and I was there, speaking on Babbage and Victorian Technology. There'll obviously be more in upcoming issues (and maybe even this one, as these words are being written before the con) and I'm going to say this: I was there.

The planning stages for the early year cons are coming along. Further Confusion is the first and it's looking like it'll be a big one. With the "Surfin' Safari" theme, it'll probably be a lot of fun and it gives me an excuse to wear a Hawaiian shirt! What's better than that?

No word on anyone from the UK standing for TAFF yet. I'm hoping that we'll get wind of the first names soonish. This one goes to Montreal, and that's a first. I'm personally looking forward very much to Anticipation, which will be my first International Worldcon!

NaNoWriMo, that's National Novel Writing Month to you, started on November 1st. I'm working on my fourth year and the entry this time is called *The Unresearched History of San Francisco*. This should be fun. There are a lot of BArea folks who do it every year, and I am pretty sure it started out this way too.

Hey, Psychotronic Film Festival is December 22nd. The return is a good thing, as I need my fix!

Speaking of fixes, St. George Spirits is doing another Open House on November 22nd, a day I can't make it. It's always a good time

with all the wonderful booze (like the legendary Absinthe they make) and the food is great too. I hope they have some smooth Jazz sounds to go along with it. I hear they're doing some sort of tasting class this time, which sounds interesting.

No word on any future for Con-X-Treme. I'd like to see another edition, but who knows what's gonna happen.

You may have heard already, but BArea fandom lost another long-standing tradition. Ray "Buzz" Nelson passed away. Ray had been in poor health for a while, but he had recently turned a corner, or so they said. Ray was a really good guy, one of the smartest people I ever met, in fact. We met when I was regularly doing panels on history and you could count on Buzz and me being on a panel or two together every year. He could talk about almost every era, especially the 13th Century, as I learned when on a panel about different time periods warring against one another. (I still totally think that the Victorian Era had it all over any other.) Buzz was a good guy, and I'll miss running into him at every BArea convention.

By the time this comes out, the election will be over, too. There was a lot of talk about Prop 8 on the BASFA list and it caused something of a stir. It started with a quote from the meeting, then someone followed-on with support for the proposition, which led to some heated content flying back and forth. Personally, while I was very much against Prop 8 myself, I skipped most of the debate. I'm just not into reading politics in

a mail list and would rather see LJ discussions of it (even if it's on the BASFA LJ). There were others who were rather annoyed with the amount of traffic on the subject, but these things happen. Yeah, the issue affected BASFA members, but there are better (and far more visible) locations for these kinds of debates to happen. We're fans, we like to talk and have deep opinions, and believe me I was one of Prop 8's biggest detractors, but it's not the right place for that kind of discussion.

A shout-out to Cheryl Morgan. The Hugo-winning, all-around great lass is having some problems with the folks in immigration and here's hoping that she can make it work out and be around for all our BArea fun!

There is talk, informal as I understand it, of doing a poker tourney at the Montreal Worldcon. I'd enter, and I'm betting Kevin Standlee and others would be interested. I've also noticed that there are few if any BArea fannish poker games. This is something I'd like to see remedied. I'm always looking for folks to put my famous 2-7 Off Bluff up against.

I had a lovely birthday, thank you. It was October 21st, and while I did nothing on the day itself, I did get a lot of DVDs, which led to me figuring out that Mr. Steven Spielberg should never allowed to make another movie. He ruined *Indiana Jones IV*. He really, really did. I'm always bugged by the way he's increasingly becoming George Lucas. It sickens me.

Letters of Comment

Lloyd Penney writes:

I printed out *SF/SF* 74 to help me create this loc. I'm at work, work is very slow (sound familiar, Chris?), but I am not allowed to use the computer in front of me beyond e-mail. So, here I am with my Palm Tungsten and keyboard on my desk, writing a loc. (Also greetings to David and España. Your work here doesn't get the recognition it deserves.)

Jean Martin responds: We very much appreciate the work that David and España do. It's great that our readers recognize their contributions as well.

In about a week, I will be in Montréal for Con*cept, and I will be in charge of a mini fanzine lounge, which will probably consist of a banquet table in the display room, with a scattering of fanzines on it. This copy of *SF/SF* will be on it...it's a test to see if there's any interest in it. Yvonne's worked hard on getting topics and panelists for her space, science and technology panel track.

I hope your fanzine lounge and Yvonne's panels went well. Was there any interest in SF/SF?

Gotta tell us all about SiliCon. And, I gotta get to one of these cons! Love to be in Seattle for Corflu Zed, but I'd have to knock over a bank.

If I had more time and more money, I'd be going to cons all over the world! España had a great writeup of SiliCon in the last issue. This issue features my take on the con.

For decades, I've had some fans nag at me that this is the way fandom is, and you have to live up to that description. At first, I tried my best, and in the eyes of some, I failed. But, as time went by, I did my researches, and now that fandom can say it is more than 75 years old, we can look at the fanac of those early fans, and see how different it is from our own fanac, or even those fans who have been in my face. Fanac changes, the definition of a fan changes, the world changes. I wouldn't dare say to anyone he's a real fan, and this other guy's not. We have so much to enjoy, and there's too many who try to discriminate.

Fans come in all shapes and sizes, figuratively speaking, and that's what makes it interesting, exciting and dynamic. If it was the same people doing the same things the whole time, then we should just all join the mainstream culture!

Not sure if any of the team has had the chance to talk to Cory Doctorow...Cory used to live in Toronto, and was a low-profile person somehow involved locally. It wasn't until he moved away that he became known, to me anyway, as the blogger/SF writer everyone knows him as. Cory flits about all over the world, it seems, for I spotted him at an Ad Astra a couple of years ago. He wasn't listed as a guest, AFAIK, but was just there attending, and slumming with the rest of us.

I should try to find a copy of that book on Greg Pickersgill. Never heard of a zine called

Seamonsters, but then, there must be a ton of private little zines out there that get distributed to friends only.

I read recently that Terry Pratchett is writing about his now-noticeable Parkinson's symptoms, and how you can see things, but find yourself unable to react to them. It's very frustrating, and a constant reminder of your disability and mortality.

That must be a very difficult thing to go through. But at least he's a well-known and much appreciated writer, and so a lot of people will be interested in his wellbeing and what he's going through. I'm sure other people's support and empathy go a long way in dealing with an illness. And being able to just write about one's experience is very self-healing.

NASA's 50th birthday was on October 1. With the current financial disaster coming straight at us, I'd wonder if NASA will have their funding cut. What a great birthday present that would be, hm?

They've already been struggling with funding cuts for decades. They've been doing a good job with outreach, PR and maintaining visibility with the general public. They may have to rely on private funding in the future just like public television has had to do. There are a lot of millionaires out there with the vision of advancing space exploration who may be willing to open up their wallets to keep

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Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

We lost Dolemite the other day. Who?, I hear you ask. Dolemite, aka Rudy Ray Moore. Still don't know the name? Well, that's harder. He was a comedian who was really funny...and really filthy. There's a classic story about Rudy performing in a club and Redd Foxx showing up to watch the set. It was a particularly dirty set, the kind that Foxx himself had always specialized in. After the show, Foxx went up to Moore and said "Son, you made me blush with some of the things you were sayin'!" If you could make Redd Foxx blush, you were dirty.

Rudy made many movies, including *Dolemite*, *The Human Tornado*, *Disco Godfather* (also called *Avenging Disco Godfather*) and my personal favorite, *Petey Wheatstraw*. None of them were great films, they'd all kinda fall under the label of Blaxploitation (a term Rudy hated!), but they all have their charms.

The same thing can be said of many things, but largely it is short film that deserves that moniker. There are thousands of them made every year, many of them never get completed and many of the ones that do never get seen. It's a shame as some are brilliant. Many are OK, and a ton are pure crap. You realize this when you start viewing for a film festival selection committee, as I've done quite a few times. After a while, you start to wonder what would happen if you started your own film festival, and eventually you start to look into how to do it. And sometimes you

get the itch so bad that you start to take steps to make it happen, and sometimes those steps lead to it actually happening.

And that's what's got me.

Allow me to introduce the Silicon Valley Science Fiction Short Film Festival! It's the second (the first being very small) edition and it's going to be happening in October of next year. So far, I've gotten one venue for one night, but you can help us make it a bigger event and even more fun! Let me explain.

I have several pet peeves when it comes to festivals: Those that take themselves so seriously that you can't see a comedy unless it has redeeming social importance. Those that work hard to get Hollywood installed somehow. Those that charge filmmakers money for entries. Those that charge money to see the movies. Those that don't go out of their way to have fun. I'd always wanted to do a free film festival where anyone could drop by, see the films, and watch as much or as little as they like. Having hung around Cinequest so long, I know that the best parts are getting folks together and just lettin' fun happen with films. That's a good thing. From working with the Sonoma Valley Film Festival, I've learned that you can host films at a variety of venues and make each your own. So, I've decided that I'm not going to try and get traditional venues, it's just too expensive to do what I want to do, but I'm going to try and make random joints around the Valley into Festival hotspots...if only for one night.

As such, I've managed to convince a couple of folks to allow me to use their parking lots for screenings. Yes, I know the risks of such, but for one night, I'll roll the dice. There are a couple of other places, like the Computer History Museum, that may well be worth showing screenings at. I'm also excited that at least one person has agreed to let us project on their garage door. Trust me, that'll be fun.

So, what am I asking for from y'all? Well, it would be great to have more venues. If you know of a place that might be willing to let a bunch of film buffs hang around one night watching short films, then lemme know. If you're willing to do another garage screening at your place, let me know. If you've got the fever and wanna help out with screening submissions or just help out the days of, that'd all be wonderful. And of course, if you've got science fiction short films, you lemme know!

And so, I'm embarking on another crazy scheme. Should be fun!

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

This Old Fanzine

Chanticleer No. 3

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

FANAC.org does it again, and this time it really hits home. Why? Because I was supposed to be working on our Fellows dinner, putting together the labels and photos for Jean Bartik, Bob Metcalfe and Linus Torvalds. I was supposed to be making the exhibit, but instead I was marveling at all the names that wrote for *Chanticleer* #3 (1945) by Walt Leibscher. It wasn't fair!

I just started trolling around when my eyes had started glazing from all the emails that Bob Metcalfe had sent to David Boggs while they were designing Ethernet. I came to FANAC.org and found that there was a fanzine I'd not yet bothered to look up. It was *Chanticleer*, which also happens to be the name of my favorite bookstore in Sonoma. I decided to check it out since I really didn't have to deliver anything for more than an hour.

I started by reading the MYFFSAW column by some guy named Laney (for more info, look at *SF/SF 72* where I reviewed *Ah, Sweet Laney*) and it's an interesting look at the stories and novels he thinks are the best of the time. He specifically praises "Mimsy Were the Borogroves," a story which I've always enjoyed. He breaks them into interesting categories, commercial vs. literate, as an example, and that

makes for another interesting view of how the genre has changed. I didn't totally agree with all his picks, but they weren't bad.

At this point, I should have been up and at the printer, picking up the label for the ENIAC data transmission cable, but alas, I had not even written the label yet! I'd been too soaked into the old timey fandom. The second article was called How To Freet Finches. Maybe there was something that it was referencing that I was just missing, but I didn't get it. Then again, I'm betting that when some foolish fan from 2102 comes across some of my writing on his Kurzweil-brand neural implant, he'll have no idea what half the stuff I write refers to.

I have to stop for a moment. The ENIAC computer is the exact same age as Walt's fanzine. There's like a few weeks difference. The Computer Age has happened entirely in the period between the creation of that fanzine and the typing of this article. Think about that!

J. Wontford Laydschur, which totally sounds like a pseudonym but will probably end up being real, wrote a really funny little piece called *Bibliunion*, about how to properly create a tear-jerker. He sets up a series of things to do in preparation:

1. Attend three funerals a day for twenty-one days.
2. Force yourself to cry over the plight of the reducing complications which beset your obese mother-in-law.
3. Buy a print of the motion picture *The Jazz Singer* and become thoroughly saturated

with "Sonny Boy."

4. Flood your innards with gin and work up a crying jag.

That's a good list. In modern terms, it'd be attend three funerals a day for three weeks, force yourself to cry over the plight of Lindsay Lohan, buy a DVD of *Beaches* and just watch the scenes with Barbara Hershey, flood your innards with locally-produced gin and work up a crying jag. It's a fun little article and I found myself laughing heartily at a lot of it. This is the kind of stuff I more expect from fanzines of today. Nothing is new, you know.

Charles Tanner provides some poetry (and it's pretty good) and then there's a funny poem called *Thoughts While Contemplating My Big Toe* by Ogden Nash Rooster. There's some funny stuff in it, and as I understand it, you were more likely to find poetry in the zines of the 1940s and 50s than at any other point. There were zines in the 1960s that were full of poems, I remember there being some in *Granfalloon*, but it was the earlier time when it was at its peak, I think. Later, there's a poem from Frank Robinson, whose stuff I'm coming across more and more often.

Bob Tucker then does a funny bit about *Donovan's Brain*. Now, he takes it in a very different direction, not really reviewing *Donovan's Brain* at all, but instead the brain of a guy named Donovan. It's funny stuff. I actually love the movie *Donovan's Brain* (even more than the movie *Donovan's Reef*) and I'm sure he's reviewing the book because the movie

didn't come out until the 1950s (and starred Nancy Reagan back when she was still Nancy Davis!).

There's a piece from Al Ashley, another name that's becoming more and more familiar as I get more and more into zines of the Olden Tymes. That's followed by Chanticleucks, the LoC column. Let me list some of the names that appear: Tucker, Bloch, Charles Burbee, Chauvenet and Jack Speers. That's some line-up and they all seemed to greatly appreciate issue 2 of *Chanticleer*. I was very impressed with Bloch's taking of what appears to be a typo (flen as the plural for fen) and making it into a really funny little deal. That's what's good about good ol' RB.

In what is an amazing thing when seen through these eyes, as I sit hurriedly writing labels in-between fits of writing This Old Fanzine, Willy Ley, the greatest popular science writer of all time (suck on that, Carl Sagan!), writes a piece about two C.S. Lewis books. It's a very strong set of reviews with strong analysis and some fun witty moments. My favorite part is this: *Mr. Lewis seems never to have seen a scientist in the flesh, else he would not ascribe to them the behavior of slave traders and those of politicians which have made a bad name for all politicians.*

Yeah, that's what I said.

There's a section called Reviews for Youse which features the writing of two of my fannish heroes: Harry Warner, Jr. and Mr. Art Widner. Anyone who is familiar with my writing will remember that Art is the guy who solidified my intentions to run for TAFF with a seriously encouraging moment at the LACon in 2006, and

that Harry Warner, Jr. is the greatest Fan Writer who ever lived, and I've written so many times. The reviews are pretty good and my favorite is that they review *The Circus of Dr. Loa*. I hated the movie, but *MST3K* did a great run with it. There are more reviews from various folks, mostly reviewing things I've never read (save for *The Men of Deep Water*) and they seem to be well thought out. I wish Yelp was that well reasoned.

The closing note mentions that there will be an issue 4 (I'm sure if it ever showed up, Robert Lichtman has a copy) and it contains works by many of the folks who made issue 3 worth my getting yelled at by my boss for being

twenty minutes late with the labels. Walt even mentions that there's an article on Jazz from Laney, which I think appeared in *Ah, Sweet Laney*. I'm not 100% sure on that, but I think I remember it.

It was just so much fun to read. Walt mentioned that he was annoyed with the lack of art (and the data entry doesn't include any, so we're not missing out) and I'd like to read the rest. Zining was at a high point in the late 1940s, and I think that the next big wave for American zines leading the world in quality was the 1960s. Still, this is well worth looking up on FANAC.org and even worth putting off whatever you're supposed to be doing.



Brian
Zaffo

A Glorious 'War and Peace' Ball

Story and Photos by Jean Martin

Editor

I've been looking forward to the Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS) *War and Peace* Ball since the group of BAERS organizers (of which I'm a part) decided at our planning meeting last year to hold one. I read Leo Tolstoy's most famous novel in my senior year in high school ages ago, and I completely loved the book. Some of my classmates and I staged scenes from the novel as a class project. The novel is too long to do in its entirety so I (as the script writer) picked the Countess Natasha Rostova story arc.

In previous school plays, I was usually the writer, prop artist, soundtrack maven and/or sound and lighting expert. This time, I can't remember how or why, I was chosen to play the title role of Natasha. For more research, I watched the 1956 Hollywood movie adaptation of the novel, which starred Audrey Hepburn. Audrey Hepburn is my all-time favorite actress, and she portrayed the lovely and vivacious Natasha.

When it was my turn to take on the role of Natasha, I was nervous and excited. I was always the studious (nerdy) girl with glasses whose talents were mostly appreciated in the background. But that was the year I got contact lenses, and was ready to step out into the spotlight. My classmates and even my English teacher were amazed to find out that I had acting

abilities! I didn't pursue acting much after that but I remember that experience fondly.

A friend of mine lent me a pretty yellow long gown for the play, but I've had this secret wish for over 25 years of someday playing the role of Natasha again. And wearing a gown just like Audrey Hepburn's in the ball scene where she waltzes with Prince Andrei Bolkonsky, who becomes her fiancé after that. In real life, Audrey Hepburn actually married Mel Ferrer, the actor who had Prince Andrei's role.

I've seen two other versions of *War and Peace*, the BBC TV dramatization with Anthony Hopkins and the Russian movie version, both of which I liked as well. Still, the Audrey Hepburn one is my favorite because it was more romantic.

Interestingly enough, the soundtrack for this version finally came out on CD just a month before the ball. The waltz song is lively and delightful and I just love it. So I had to buy the CD, which I've been wanting forever. And Stanford University just came out with their latest Continuing Education catalogue and there was a class on *War and Peace*. All of this seemed like perfect synchronicity.

There was a slight hiccup before the ball. I offered to play the role of Natasha, but Jolie, the main organizer of the ball and the lady who originated the idea, said she already asked someone else to be Natasha and do the waltz with Prince Andrei. I was crushed but gracefully

accepted the disappointing news. I had been planning on getting a gown made for the ball so I could be Natasha, and I thought I could wear the gown anyway and be an "unofficial" Natasha. As luck would have it though, the girl that Jolie asked backed out, and so she told me I could do it if I wanted to. Some things are just meant to be!

I was so excited as my I had fittings for my gown all the way in San Jose by Claudia, a friend of BAERS regular Rebecca. And when I went to a BAERS Russian tea party for the 2008 subscribers a week before the ball, Jolie and James Langdell were picking the music for the ball. It seemed like my teenage dream was going to come true fairly soon!

Jolie told me then that a friend of hers would be playing Prince Andrei and his brother would be Count Pierre Bezukhov. I was a little bit nervous as I wouldn't even know who these men were until I got to the ball.

The evening of October 11th finally came, and I drove myself, along with newlyweds Eva (*SF/SF*'s former layout editor) and John to the Arlington Community Church in Kensington (in the Berkeley Hills). This is quite a drive for us but the area is gorgeous and the church hall is spacious and beautiful. The last time I was there was for the BAERS (and GBACG) Shipwreck Ball, which was a less formal and more light-hearted summer ball.

The specific setting of the ball is the part

in the novel where the War of the Three Emperors is over, and Russia and France have become friends and allies (for a short while). The ball was to celebrate the peace, with French, English and Austrian guests in attendance.

Everyone was in costume. There were royalty, aristocrats, noblemen, politicians, high-ranking military men, ladies and Russian peasants. Russian peasants? Well, they were there to provide the entertainment. Jolie invited a troupe of Russian folk dancers to come and perform during one of the intermissions. These men and women were all wearing colorful and elaborate Russian costumes, which had more of a Russian flavor than the French fashion that the Russian court emulated. The folk dancers were very friendly and mingled and danced with the regular BAERS attendees (and some GBACG members as well).

I found Jolie and she introduced me to her friend who was going to play Prince Andrei. I was



Natasha and Andrei



Pierre and Helene

pleasantly surprised to find that it was a young man I had met before, briefly, at BAERS and Gaskells. His name is Aaron and he made a perfect Prince Andrei with a white military uniform that was close to Mel Ferrer's costume but even closer to the Russian version. His brother Joshua, who's one of the Scottish dancers at Dickens Fair, and whom I've spoken to in the past more than Aaron, was the one who agreed to play Count Pierre Bezukhov, a close friend of Natasha's. Josh was in a gorgeous sky blue Regency tailcoat. He's probably too good-looking and dashing to be the serious and bookish Pierre (Henry Fonda in the Hollywood version) but who's complaining! Aaron's wife Grace, stunning in a fuchsia Empire silk gown, was portraying Pierre's wife Helene. I won't divulge the fates of these four characters so as not to spoil the plot for anyone. But I encourage everyone to read the novel and/or watch the movies. The "peace" scenes are just as good as the "war" scenes. It's also a different viewpoint from the usual English or French view of the Napoleonic Wars.

Jolie et al. had impressive decorations and comestibles for the ball. There were fake drapes on the walls with paintings of views of St. Petersburg behind them. The food was exquisite as well. There were luxurious savories during the first break, which included caviar and smoked salmon. During the second break sweets were served, which included cream puffs in the shape of swans and other delectables. For drinks, there was Russian vodka, of course, as well as punch, juice and water. Several BAERS members contributed to this feast.

The caller for the evening was BAERS chief and dance master Alan Winston. Music was provided by James and the Divertimento Dance Orchestra. I didn't get to dance at all during the first set as I manned the door, which involved taking money from walk-ins and marking people off the advance ticket list. This arrangement worked out fine, though, because Jolie wanted Natasha to make a grand entrance right before her waltz with Prince Andrei at the beginning of the second set.

The Grand Polonaise served as the introduction of characters at the start of the second set, excluding Natasha. Philip, who made an impressively accurate representation of the real Tsar Alexander I, was at the head of the line along with Jolie as the Grand Duchess. Right after the Polonaise, which looks like a more intricately patterned march, the Tsar goes up to Prince Andrei and tells him to pick a lady to waltz with. It seemed to me like the caller, Alan, wasn't told of the plans, so he then asked everyone to waltz. So unfortunately, Prince Andrei's asking Natasha to dance got lost in the shuffle as the crowd of dancers hid us from view.



Russian Folk Dancers perform.

We did, however, go to the middle of the counterclockwise traffic of dancers and I was happy with that. This was just for my own personal enjoyment anyway, and I was content with experiencing the moment and having pictures to remember it by.

I also messed up some of my roleplaying a bit because I've been so preoccupied with the recent demise of my relationship that my brain has been distracted. I could not for the life of me remember where the "ball" was supposed to

be taking place (St. Petersburg) and the name of Natasha's brother (Nicholas). The latter was quite a big lapse on my part, because how could I forget the incomparable Jeremy Brett who was Freddie in *My Fair Lady* (also with Audrey Hepburn) and went on to become the definitive Sherlock Holmes of our age? I was quite embarrassed when Aaron was playing his part and I was messing up my role. Well, I suppose when I'm dancing I can't usually put two thoughts together in my head anyway as I'm

concentrating on the dance.

Content that my waltz finally happened, I was free to roam around, take photos, dance and enjoy the ball. I danced several dances with my good friend Maimone, who was attending a BAERS ball for the first time (and did really well!), and who proudly asserted that his dad's ancestors were from Russia.

I also admired the magnificent outfits of the other guests. Rebecca and her husband Bill were in matching gorgeous brown Regency attire. Eva and John were in matching dark blue outfits, and always romantic and sweet couple Yvette and Mark were in matching maroon. Hmm... it would be nice if I, too, had someone to wear matching outfits with. My most recent ex-boyfriend was supposed to go to this ball with me, and I was hoping he'd portray Anatole Kuragin (Helene's brother) who tries to steal Natasha away from Prince Andrei. I think he would have looked good in a Russian military uniform (which Rebecca would have kindly lent us) being from Eastern Europe himself.

During one of the breaks, the Russian folk dance group performed several delightful song and dance numbers. The singing was a capella and the dancing had intricate patterns. They were all very ethnic and added to the authenticity and atmosphere of the ball.

The ball was quite a success for BAERS with a great turnout, lovely costumes, beautiful music, fun dancing, lively entertainment, delicious food and drink, and friendly socializing. It was also a personal success for me as I've crossed, yet again, another thing off my dreams to achieve list.

Litquake Gets Steampunked

By Diane B. Rooney

Contributing Writer

Steampunk is the latest genre I am getting interested in, so an event right in my neighborhood on a weekday night was easy to make time for.

San Francisco's Litquake festival (www.litquake.org) featured the popular alternative history genre at a reading and panel Thursday, October 9, sponsored by Tachyon Books (www.tachyonpublications.com) and SFInSF (sfsfc.org/sfinsf). The event took place at the wonderful Variety Preview Theater on the ground floor of the Hobart Building on Market Street. Rina Weissman, an event organizer, noted that only the Neil Gaiman reading on October 5 had drawn more people to a Litquake event this season.

The event, benefiting Variety Children's Charity (www.varietync.org/index.php), drew over a hundred people including a few in costume. As the theater holds about 60, the rest sat on folding chairs or stood at the bar in the lobby, listening to the event over the theater's sound system.

Author and moderator Terry Bisson (www.terrybisson.com) introduced Richard Bottoms, who is CEO of Steampowered Events, Inc. and chief organizer of the California Steampunk convention, which took place in Sunnyvale this past October 31-November 2

(www.steampunkconvention.com). Richard presented the concept of Steampunk as "an alternative history that works," noting it takes place in a post-1865 world in which an alternative technology was developed. This technology and related social aspects including clothing and music have lived on across the ages since then. He believes Steampunk presents "a positive future," suggesting people think of it as a cross between "*The Matrix* and *The Wild Wild West*." Richard has even created a unique Steampunk persona for himself, Dexter Garvey, and given him his own Facebook page at www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1522303815&ref=mf.

Kage Baker (www.kagebaker.com) read from her short story just published by Solaris Books in *Extraordinary Engines: The Definitive Steampunk Anthology*, edited by Neil Givers. It's about an attempt to sabotage the first Transatlantic Cable in 1858 and involves the London-based Gentlemen's Speculative Society, her character Edward Alton Bell-Fairfax, a submarine named the *Ballena*, and cable developer Cyrus Field. Rooting her story in Victorian history, Kage noted that the cable was first operational in 1858 for four days. Following a breakdown, it didn't resume operations until after the Civil War.

Joe R. Lansdale (www.joerlansdale.com) took a different point of view from Richard, noting "not all Steampunk is positive." He read

from *Flaming London*, his sequel to *Zeppelins West*. Ned the Seal, who has been brain-enhanced by Dr. Momo and can communicate by writing in pencil on a tablet around his neck, encounters Mark Twain and Jules Verne, among others, on the Spanish coast. Twain, broke, down on his luck, and not making much progress on his next book, has fled there from Morocco to visit Verne. Twain rescues Ned, who's been wounded by a shark and stranded on the shore. Ned's stitched up by a local vet and the three enjoy a delightful dinner of fish and cigars.

The rollicking segment Joe read, which featured Ned acquiring a stylish red fez from Verne to cover his brain box and Twain's adventures in the Casbah with monkey scat, didn't get far enough to introduce H.G. Wells and the main plotline inspired by *War of the Worlds*. His Steampunk may be dark but it's still literary.

Rudy Rucker (www.cs.sjsu.edu/faculty/rucker) read from *The Hollow Earth*, originally published in 2000 and reissued in paperback by Monkeybrain Press in 2006. This is a tale in which the earth is a hollow sphere, open at both poles, with seas and continents on both the inside and outside surfaces. His hero Mason Reynolds, a farm boy, journeys to Richmond to meet Eddie Poe, then working for the *Southern Literary Messenger*. Adventures to the South Pole and the entrance to the hollow earth ensue. The novel was inspired by John Cleeve Symmes, "The Newton of the West" and pioneer of the hollow earth theory. (Symmes's writings influenced Poe in "The Narrative of A. Gordon Pym.")

By the time the intermission finished (time for more cash bar sales for charity!) it was

nearly 10 p.m. Unfortunately I couldn't stay for the panel since I had to pick up a friend after work. But hearing the readers and listening to

Richard Bottoms certainly whetted my appetite for the October Steampunk convention in Sunnyvale!



Clockwise from upper left: Terry Bisson, Rudy Rucker, Richard Bottoms, and Joe R. Lansdale.

Photos by Diane Rooney

Silliness and Drama at SiliCon

By Jean Martin
Editor

SiliCon this year was unlike any other con I've been to. One sort of expects the usual mix of panels, parties, dances and friends. This year, however, there was way more silliness as well as way more drama.

First, there was my personal drama. SiliCon started literally three days after my ex-boyfriend and I broke up. He was, I believe, going to join me sometime during the weekend or even stay in my hotel room. I never got a straight answer from him. I suppose that was telling in and of itself. As it was, I realized while at SiliCon that having him there would have been a terrible mistake anyway. He's a very quiet, shy, studious and serious young man (which I actually liked about him), and all the boisterous partying and social-butterfly running-around I do at cons would have just overwhelmed him. It would have been a re-run of our Las Vegas experience. Or worse.

Also, *SF/SF* was hosting a party room, which I decided to just have for one night on the Friday of the con. Last year was a lot of fun. We only planned for one night then and we wound up doing both Friday and Saturday nights. What I found was that I didn't like being stuck in my own party room two nights in a row. So this year, we only did one. Besides, I was just so exhausted from my emotional and physical challenges this year far that I needed



Photo by Jean Martin

to take it easy.

Well, that didn't happen! Friday night I got to the con... later than I had planned. As I parked at the DoubleTree Hotel in San Jose, a place I had missed since BayCon wasn't there again this year, I was reminded how Costume-Con last April was an unexpectedly amazing con. I intended to have a good time at SiliCon and ease my broken heart by spending time with friends and just enjoying myself as much as I could. I had a moment of panic though, when I saw there were very few cars in the parking lot. That was an ominous sign. Normally, by that time, I would have had a hard time finding parking. I parked really close to the side door this time.

I asked Chris Garcia about this and he said that there were very few people registered so far and they expected that the number of attendees would be much lower this year than last year. I surmised this was due to the uncertain economic conditions that everyone is currently worried about. I was worried for the con, because these last few years have seen attendance at SiliCon steadily rising. For myself, I knew that as long as the people I wanted to hang out with were there, that would be good enough for me.

After I checked in, Chris and I decorated the room. The theme he came up with is *Fandom on Infinite Worlds*. We put up copies of past issues of *SF/SF* on the walls. Then he

brought over the alcoholic drinks, David came later to bring some more, and they helped me bring the snacks and drinks from my car. On the way there with a luggage trolley, they had me ride on it from the elevator down to my car. That was, finally, some silly fun.

I was hoping to attend the Meet the Guests Reception at 7:00 p.m., but since I got to the hotel around 6:00, I decided to have dinner with a friend who only comes into town for cons. We ate at the sushi bar, and the food was really good. It was quite a shock to note, though, that everyone's beloved Coffee Garden was now a sterile, generic-designed restaurant called Sprigs. To add insult to injury, it was closed during dinner time, the booths were gone, and they had these really bad Feng Shui bamboo sticks jutting out from planters that formed the barrier enclosing the restaurant. Apparently, we could order food from the Sprigs menu at the bar, but the bar was small and there was not enough

space for con attendees. There was another con on Friday night, which I was told was a Christian women's association of some sort. I wonder what they thought of us heathens walking around in various costumes?

I had on, for Friday night, an obscure costume. I didn't really feel like dressing up as I was still a little depressed. So I chose to wear an 80s outfit reminiscent of D.I. Alex Drake from

the excellent British sci fi TV series *Ashes to Ashes*. Since this show hasn't been shown in the U.S. yet, I had to explain all evening what my costume was. The people that got it thought it was cool. It was a nice outfit in any case.

After dinner, I rushed back into my room



The SF/SF Junta!

where Chris and David were already holding court behind the desk and serving drinks. It didn't seem like I was really needed for anything, other than socializing with guests, so I went back and forth between our party and other friends' parties on the second floor. I suppose this would explain why the con newsletter just referred to the party as Chris Garcia's party and neglected to mention me... even though it was my room!

One of my favorite parties was the Browncoats' Steampunk party. My friend Thad had a photo area set up complete with studio lights and a background. He used a fake movie poster he made with me in it as *The Buccaneer*... in full pirate regalia, of course. A lot of people actually came up to me before I saw it myself and told me that they saw me on that poster, which they thought was really good. The rest of the room was decorated with gears and other Steampunk designs. It was impressive, as is usually the case with Browncoat parties. I sort of have a love-hate relationship with Steampunk now as it really reminds me of how I met my ex-boyfriend. But I suppose I'll get over that as I do love Steampunk.

The Klingons' Black Hole Bar, a regular at cons, was a few doors down from the *SF/SF* party. The Klingons have amazing themed décor and drinks. But I didn't spend much time there this time as I had my own party.

Sometime during the evening, someone found the empty conference room across the hallway. This room usually serves as the con suite and so we availed ourselves of the amenities and had a hilarious time doing silly shenanigans.

The second drama of the con was España's subtle protest, which she talked about in our previous issue, so I'm not going to go into it in detail this time around. The manifestation of this protest was a Mexican theme for the Fanzine

Lounge. As the Fanzine Lounge was closed for the evening, España and her cohorts were wearing Mexican straw hats... the kind from El Torito and Chevy's. So we all wore hats and pretended like we were planning the Mexican revolution as we sat around the conference room table. There was even a guy we didn't know who walked in and looked like Pancho Villa! At this point, most everyone was inebriated (except for myself as I don't drink) and someone, I can't remember who, exclaimed that Chris looked like Jesus and we all looked like the disciples. So Erik pulled up a picture of the Last Supper on his iPhone and proceeded to instruct us into our respective poses. I think we were a few disciples short but the resulting photo, not to mention the process itself, was so hilarious I was laughing hard. I don't remember laughing that much in ages! I was also thinking that I am so lucky to have found a group of people who, even when partying and drunk, are so creative, clever, intelligent, uninhibited and original.

Chris left the party around midnight and left his friend Jason in charge of the bar. At that point, España and the gang decided to go dancing in the ballroom. Apparently, the troupe that was supposed to do *Rocky Horror* that evening didn't show up, so they turned it into a dance instead. I decided to kick everyone out of the *SF/SF* party room and close up shop, and we all headed to the ballroom.

It's great to know that a lot of our group likes to dance. There was goth and industrial music, heavy metal, techno and even modern swing. I asked J.P. to dance the swing with me to one of Lee Presson's tunes. He's a great lead and we had such a great time dancing and impressing

our friends. After all that dancing, which was great for me for getting stress out of my system, we were all hungry and headed to Denny's a few blocks away for some much-needed grub.

Speaking of stress, by the way, Sinnix (who's a registered nurse) was taking people's blood pressure at the *SF/SF* party. Unfortunately, I happened to claim the highest blood pressure out of everyone. And that included big men and guys who were drinking tequila at the same time. She told me to take care of myself and relax more. I suppose my anxiety problem is understandable after my most recent breakup

I decided to kick everyone out, and we all headed to the ballroom.

but I took her advice to heart. Well, I'm trying anyway.

Which reminds me of the third drama of the con. When we were walking to Denny's, I ran into a friend who told me that a mutual friend needed to be taken to the hospital. I didn't know the details until later, and what I do know is private, so I won't go into it here. However, that was quite a shock to me. I've never heard of anyone having to go to the hospital at a con. I'm not completely sure but I think an ambulance needed to be called in.

Anyway, the food at that particular Denny's was actually quite delicious. I can never decide on an early breakfast or a second dinner at this time of the night. I often regret whichever one I choose. The waiter, and everyone else,

gave me a hard time for ordering chamomile tea and a Gardenburger. Probably too healthy and posh for a Denny's. But they had it and I very much enjoyed it. We walked back as it started to drizzle a little. Then we all went our separate ways around 4 a.m. I was sad that the night had to end and I had to go to my hotel room all alone. But what a terrific night it had turned out to be!

I didn't have to be at a panel until the late afternoon on Saturday so I decided to sleep in. Get enough sleep, that is. I had a delicious DoubleTree chocolate chip cookie for breakfast, which also served as lunch. Then I donned a new Steampunk outfit to wear to my first panel, which appropriately enough was a Steampunk panel.

My friend Stacy was also a panelist. The moderator was G. David Nordley. It was well attended and writer guest of honor Larry Niven was one of the people in the audience. I feel I know a lot about Steampunk literature, movies, costuming, and history, but the discussion turned out to be very technical and the audience quite knowledgeable about technical details. I think I was able to hold my own and add my own two cents.

After my panel, I went to get something to eat at the bar. Then after I watched the fabulous belly dancers in the foyer for a little bit, I went upstairs to the Fanzine Lounge, which was decorated with a Mexican theme as mentioned earlier. In addition to the Mexican hats, there were Mexican DVDs, Mexican wrestling masks, Mexican pinup postcards, and streamers in the color of the Mexican flag (red, green and white). My esteemed co-editor, Chris, is Mexican American, my dad's ancestors came from Spain via Mexico, and España speaks Spanish (as she's

from Spain). So the whole Mexican-Spanish thing was quite appropriate. I guess we adopted David into the fold, as he put little Mexican flag toothpicks around the perimeter of the room.

When I walked in, a rousing game of Mexican loteria (bingo) was in progress so I joined in. All the cards were on the floor and there were pictures with words in Spanish instead of just numbers and letters. That made it fun and educational. I thought I knew Spanish but a lot of the words were foreign to me. Probably because I know Castilian Spanish, like España, and not Mexican Spanish. The prize was that the winner got to drink some Tequila so I'm glad I didn't win. I felt like a kid again playing board games on the floor. Oh, and of course, there were fanzines on one table.

Pretty soon it was time for the Masquerade. Radar was in charge and it went quite well. There were only a few entries but they were all interesting and good. It was a little strange not being a contestant. And actually, most of my regular Masquerade buddies or (friendly) competitors were either involved in running the show or were judges. Phil and Kathe, who were dressed in *Singing in the Rain* attire, were the Workmanship judges. Bryan and Mette, the Presentation judges, looked eerily accurate as Captain Jack Harkness and Gwen Cooper of *Torchwood*. I kept looking at Mette as she totally looked like Gwen Cooper... complete with the space between the front teeth. Kevin and Andy were also judges. My friend Cordelia, the mastermind of our award-winning masquerade entries, was helping out backstage.

The most impressive of the entries was Gil-Galad, the elven king, by Kate Boyle.



Bryan and Mette as Captain Jack Harkness and Gwen Cooper.

Photo by Jean Martin

She won Best in Show for both Workmanship and Presentation. She looked exactly like the character as portrayed in the *Lord of the Rings* movies. She had the long dark hair, golden armor, flowing blue robes, and of course, Gil-Galad's banner. I also liked Miko Simons's Agatha from *Girl Genius*. I barely recognized her! She looked so cute with her blond wig and glasses. The white gown suited her quite well too.

After the masquerade, but before the

winners were announced, I rushed back to my room to change into a costume that was going to be part of a surprise photo shoot with Bill, one of España's friends. Another mutual friend, Jade, asked me if I wanted to do this for BayCon. We didn't get around to doing it then so we made sure to do it at SiliCon.

On the way to my room, I watched Peter S. Beagle (*The Last Unicorn*) performing some songs in a conference room. I also ran into my



Daisy and the Dukes!

Photo by Deborah Kopec

friend Thad who looked quite dashing in a Tony Stark (*Iron Man*) costume. He was wearing a tuxedo with a working Arc Reactor replica underneath his shirt. He took the blue glowing power cell out and you could see a hole in his chest where it came out of. It was a very remarkable piece of work.

I went back to the photo set-up in my costume. The masquerade entrants had already been photographed and so my group and I took over. JohnO and Jade were in charge of lights and photography. I was dressed as Bo Duke and España was in a Luke Duke costume. We both looked really cute in our Western shirts, jeans, boots and cowboy hats. I had a blond wig on as John Schneider has blond hair. But the piece de resistance was the star of the moment, Bill, as Daisy Duke. He looked a little bit surprised to see the whole hoopla, and probably a little bit embarrassed to be in cut-off shorts, but he played along quite well. We did several shots with the three of us, and everyone enjoyed our little tableau. Then we had photos of just Bo and Luke, and photos of just Daisy with Bill doing Daisy's signature pose. I think we all had fun.

After this, I just stayed in my costume... I was too lazy to change again. And it was quite different for me to be cross-dressing so I thought I'd make the most of it.

I went to watch some of the Klingon Slave auction. With no *SF/SF* party that evening, I was free to roam the party floors. For a smaller con with lower attendance, SiliCon's parties were quite hopping. My favorite room that evening was the *Torchwood* party by the Browncoats (again!). They had *Torchwood* and Bad Wolf (from *Doctor Who*) signs on the wall. Christopher was dressed as the Tenth Doctor and I made sure to take a photo of him. Bryan and Mette walked in as well and I got a good picture of them with the *Torchwood* sign. We talked about my doing a Toshiko outfit so I could join the fun when we all go to Gallifrey One, the *Doctor Who* convention in L.A. in January. Then Al sauntered in wearing his Captain Jack Sparrow (*Pirates of the Caribbean*) costume. Everyone had a good laugh taking photos of the two Captain Jacks.

There was a Cosplay karaoke party room that evening with a contest and prizes. It was quite fun to note that some of the participants were friends that did karaoke at my 40th birthday party

last year. That was a lot of fun and I'm hoping to do that again at a birthday party in the future. I sang an Evanescence song, *Bring Me to Life*, which I swear I've sung much better at home. I did okay but it wasn't my best singing, for sure. Al, Louise and other friends sang as well. It was all just fun. I was hoping to sing one more song but it got late and people started leaving and I was the only one left. I do seem to have a (maybe sad) habit of being the last person at a party.

As usual, after a long night of partying, I was hungry. My friend Thad and I ordered pizza in my room. I have to say the pizza at the DoubleTree is the best! Pizza and cookies... my usual diet at cons. Mette and Bryan walked past my open patio door and they were hungry too so I gladly shared some pizza with them.

Which brings me to the fourth drama at the con, which is kind of personal. All I can say is that I've never had to deal with this at a con before... even at heavy metal cons in the old days! And it happened twice. Moving right along... the fifth drama of the con was an actual fistfight with the cops being called in. I wasn't there when it happened but I knew one of the people involved who was the innocent party. He was okay, though, and he thanked me the next day for helping him calm down by just listening.

I wasn't ready for the night to end so I strolled over to the Fanzine Lounge where a private party now ensued. España was there as well as Leigh Ann, Bill, Jason, and Ant. They all had a lot to drink by that point, apparently after playing a drinking Mexican loteria game. But, wow, they were so entertaining and clever. I just busted out laughing every few minutes.

I told everyone I thought they were all as intelligent even after drinking for several hours, and España proudly proclaimed that they were literate drunks. Ant was particularly hilarious. Bill impressed us all with his photographic memory as he recited everyone's orders from the night before at Denny's. That made us all hungry so more pizza was ordered in. I thought I'd had enough pizza but I couldn't resist more. I probably shouldn't have had any but it was so good!



We all tried to wait for the sun to come up. I think it was 5:00 a.m. when most of us gave up and went back to our rooms. I was tired but happy. And I could see the sun the next day when I woke up.

I actually didn't get much sleep as I get anxious the night before checking out or anything that entails having to wake up the next day to do something at an appointed time... like going to work. I did as much cleaning up of the room the night before as I could. There were still a lot of drinks and food left. Chris came in to

take his stuff out and I cleaned up the rest.

I checked out quickly and went to my panel on Fandom Etiquette. There were supposed to be several people on the panel but it was only Radar and myself. There were only three people in the audience. Still, it was a fun topic and it was great to have someone I knew with me on the panel.

Well, I was starving after that so I went to the Coffee Garden...ummm... Sprigs and saw España and the gang finishing up their lunch. I quickly joined in and ordered a Gardenburger, which arrived quickly so they were still there while I was eating.

After that, I listened in a little bit to the Fanboy Planet podcast. Then I went to the Art Show and Dealers' Room for the first time during the con. The Art Show was sadly wrapping up, and I saw Howie walking out with his photos. So I didn't get to see my photo hanging on the display boards, or any of Howie's other work. There was still some artwork up, so I quickly looked around. The Dealers' Room was small but there were a lot of different things there. Nothing that I wanted to spend money on, though.

Then I joined everyone at the Match Game with Kevin Standlee as the emcee. Chris and Leigh Ann were among the panelists. The responses were funny and clever. I really enjoyed watching it.

Then everyone went their separate ways...but we all talked about the next event we were all going to, which was the Steampunk Convention in Sunnyvale only a few weeks after SiliCon. So with that, I went home content after a successful and fun con.

Hobbit Picnic is Back Again



The Bay Area Hobbit Picnic has been happening every year since 2002. The picnic is a celebration of Bilbo's and Frodo's birthdays, as well as a time to generally discuss J.R.R. Tolkien's works. Both book and movie fans are welcome.

It is a potluck picnic, and usually there is plenty of great food. Everyone is encouraged to bring *Lord of the Rings*-related foods and Hobbitish dishes. Although costumes are not required, many people do dress up.

This year's Hobbit Picnic was held September 20th at Pine Lake in Stern Grove, San Francisco. The event started at 11:00 a.m. with a trivia





**This page: An Elven Archer tests her bow; hairy-footed Hobbits pose with Arwen.
Previous page: Elf, Hobbit, and a Lady; Bilbo Baggins.**

Photos by Ralph Diaz

contest where participants tested their knowledge of the Father Christmas Letters. The winner was a Ringwraith who answered more questions correctly than anyone else.

The potluck picnic began at noon, and was followed by readings, skits, dances and recitals. The afternoon ended with a raffle. Attendees included members of the One Ring Circus (and friends), award-winning costumers, and representatives from the Black Fleet Star Pirates Guild.

(Thanks to Zimrahil of Chulak for event information.)



BASFA Minutes: Meetings 950-952

Meeting 950

October 12, 2008

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

Began 8:ish, after debate

20 people attended

A party jar AND a TAFF jar were established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 948 were accepted as 'and she would've gotten away with it if it weren't for those meddling kids'; and the minutes of meeting 949 were laid on the table by Spanarchists

No Treasurer

The Vice President reported, "Hello," and there's a new 'Drink Tank' out and a new 'SF/SF' out this Wednesday and stuff and things happened

The President reported that he wasn't there for any of the stuff or things that happened

Announcements

Glenn announced that Ed Green is on U-Tube and on 'LookingforGrace.com'

Harold announced that McCain will be grovelling on Letterman this Thursday

Michael announced that he'll be selling comic books and asked for advice on places not to sell them at

Chris announced that Buzz Nelson - the other one - passed away

Dave C announced that he procrastinated but got a chuckle about his tax extension, announced that Mother's Cookies has shut down ['proof there is no God'] & announced that JMS is writing the screenplay for 'Changeling'

Adrienne announced that she's still the organizer for Bay Area Ghost Hunters and there will be a meet-up at the [old] Spaghetti Factory this Friday at 7pm

Reviews:

[evil] Kevin reviewed the 2nd episode of 'Sanctuary' as he liked it better than the remake of 'Knight Rider'

Julie reviewed moving a calliope to Sutter Creek as Stellan's aid was very helpful and she rated the gathering as 'very steampunk' - and for pictures check the url = <http://organ.10.forumer.com/viewtopic.php?t=1463>

Dave C reviewed 'The War Within' by Woodward as 'no wonder we're still in Iraq' and reviewed

'Religulous' as worth matinee and reviewed the remake of 'Knight Rider' as he *almost* got thru one episode [Andy quoted Calculon - 'that was so bad I think it gave me cancer']

Chris reviewed mock Spanish anarchy as a BLAST and Spanish language bingo as racist but the greatest drinking game ever - and he had a great time & he reviewed 'Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist' as he was the only person there in the theatre & it was awesome! - fantastic, worth full price

Harold reviewed 'the 11th Hour' as a show not worth owning a TV for [Mo says the Brit version is SO much better] and reviewed 'Flash of Genius' as a movie not being marketed honestly - that the movie is about obsession and is good enough to watch but not pay for [Lisa follow-on'd that it is a cautionary tale].

Ed reviewed Pournelle's 'Cities in Space' as it inspired him

Fred reviewed the Leonardo exhibit at the SJ Tech Museum as worth more than full price and reviewed [Burning Man] Decompression as a lot of fun

Glenn reviewed Stephenson's Baroque Cycle as he finally managed to read it all and it's worth reading, worth full price and is full of wonderful concepts and he reviewed a scanner attached to a toaster as a great party item

We then did auctions: stuff for \$0.25, videos and books for \$0.50 ; videos for \$0.25; stuff for \$6.25; more stuff for \$2.00 & \$3.00; Farscape DVDs for \$6.00; & a bos with more stuff for \$2.25

We adjourned at = 9:45

And the rumor of the week was: 'Sarah Palin will drop the 'L' from her name'

Meeting 951

October 20, 2008

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

Began 8:ish

28 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 950 were accepted as 'not as good as the original British version'; and the minutes of meeting 949 were accepted as 'shiny'

The Treasurer reported that meeting 949 took in \$12.25 in the regular jar and \$22.25 in the party jar - and we don't know what was taken in at meeting 950

The Vice President reported that today is an important day - he reassessed his top 10 albums of all time & there's a new 'Drink Tank' out on efanazines.com

The President reported that Spintronics made it into a Marvel 'Xmen' comic and Stephen Colbert is in the latest issue of 'Spiderman'

Announcements

[tall] Kevin announced that Cheryl is returning to us here thru the end of the year - and she'd like us to read her story on her blog [cherylmorgan.com] - and leave a comment; he also announced that Miko's Agatha costume award has made fans in the area aware of fanac in our area and he announced that he's been asked to do 'Match Game' at Norwescon

Bill announced that Mr Blackwell is dead

Dave C announced that KFJC still wants your money & that Pat & Richard Lupoff celebrated their 50th anniversary

Ken announced that there's a Legion of Rassilon meeting at 7:15 at a new place - Giovanni's this week ['Rassilon with beer!' = Jerry]

Andy announced that Steampowered will be in 2 weeks in Sunnyvale - at the Domain hotel - except for Friday night where they'll have a concert in SJ, there are no day passes and only 'VIP event passes' are being issued; apparently the programming for their con is TBA

Chris announced that he had a cheery obituary

for Rudy Ray Moore who was a wonderful guy who made incredibly filthy jokes

[evil] Kevin announced that Jay Lake is running a poll in his LJ for Tuckerizing the winner into one of his stories, so go vote for Kevin in Jay's LJ and help him stuff the ballot box

Joe made a request that we all go and donate to 'no on 8'

Reviews:

Chris reviewed seeing the 'Godfather' series as watching them after 10pm robbed him of sleep and they are wonderful; then reviewed original 'The Absent Minded Professor' as excellent and that TIVO didn't record the end of the 49er game and that this might be the best way to watch a 49er game

Fred reviewed Cheryl's story as it's a lot of fun

Dave C reviewed an article in the Comic Buyers Guide about Comic-Con having lost its way

Carole reviewed the Pacific Int'l Quilt Festival as suffering from lower attendance and some judging issues [then Andy follow-on'd that he had a good time there and there's no accounting for judging]; she also reviewed Albacon as she judged Masquerade for the 1st time and thought it worth full price

Lisa reviewed 'the Duchess' as beautifully done, the costumes were gorgeous and the acting done very well - and reviewed 'Monty Python Fluxx' as hysterically funny

Andy reviewed Sarah Palin's appearance on SNL as Tina Faye was great [there were many follow on's]

Joe reviewed doing 1 hour of a 2 hour endurance race as very hard work and he could barely move his arms - and rated it as nepotism and reviewed the 'Sarah Conner Chronicles' as it sucked him into the series and is worth watching

[evil] Kevin reviewed his Saturday as full of shopping - in Mountain View, Saratoga and Campbell - but he got what he needed and topped off the day at Ken and Jerry's with drinking and playing lots of games - that Saturday was worth more than full price; then Andy follow-on'd that they also had lunch at 'Slice of New York' and the food is very good, authentic and worth full price

[tall] Kevin reviewed the Goon Show on cassette as the humor still holds up and gives a grounding to understand British comedy

We then did auctions: birthday auctioned off Chris for \$15.00 to Linda; then auctioned off videos for \$3.50 & \$5.00 and books, a video and DVD for \$13.00

We adjourned at = 9:45

And the rumor of the week was: 'next week BASFA will ... Ooooo shiny!'

Meeting 952

October 27, 2008

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

Began 8:00

25 people attended

A TAFF jar & a party jar were established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 951 were accepted as 'the Sarah Palin Chronicles'

The Treasurer reported that meeting 950 took in \$5.75 in the party jar and that meeting 951 took in \$31.25 in the regular jar - and \$6.50 in the party jar

The Vice President reported that there's a new 'Drink Tank' out & will be a new 'Journey Planet' out soon and they're looking for articles on 1984

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements

Chris announced that Steampunk Con is this weekend and he'll be speaking there about the Babbage Engine [Eeeeeee! The cute! The cute! Cabbits turning into abacuses!] Andy follow-on'd that Steampunk is currently not yet sold out ['they found another hundred passes hidden in a trunk']

Adrienne announced that the big election is next

Tuesday and please vote. [Many follow-on's and comments]

Ken announced that there is NOT a Legion of Rassilon meeting this Friday, because of Hallowe'en

Cheryl announced that her blog has pictures from Cardiff and the river Taff and there's a con this weekend in Calgary and she'll be live blogging the World Fantasy Awards and folks from her home town are doing costumes

Dave C announced that The Other Change of Hobbit is still doing their discount plan [give \$500 and get good discounts on books ... which sounds like you'll get \$625 worth of books by so doing]. A real good deal if you have a book habit.

Fred announced that he's starting a blog at = <http://blog.lightingonemorecandle.com>

Reviews:

Andy reviewed Bravo shows - 'Tim Gunn's Guide to Style' as charming, only a bit snarky and worth watching - also reviewed 'Top Design' as the format's not bad but it's not worth re-watching

Stellan reviewed Stephenson's 'Anathem' as large and suited for exterminating household pests but hard to put down [laughter - and a suggestion to let gravity help] - it was a good read and a world of its own - maybe - quite interesting and worth full price

Cheryl reviewed the 49ers as their best chance to not lose will be next week - and reviewed the US immigration process as not very fair, arbitrary and we may lose our Cheryl in a few weeks

Chris reviewed 'Crystal Skull' as they'll let just ANYONE direct a film these days and it's the WORST film he's seen this year - and he's been watching a lot of student films - and rated it as worth absolutely hideously awful and he reviewed the finale of 'Madmen' as heartfelt and not in a good way

Dave C reviewed 'Leather Maiden' by Lansdale as it's moving and it rocks - has a few 'deus ex' bits and worth paperback - and he reviewed Disneyland's Happy Haunts Tour as a lot more fun than their Xmas tour

Lisa reviewed 'Secret Life of Bees' as excellent and evocative of the era - and definitely worth matinee

Joe reviewed more 'Sarah Connor Chronicles' as well done

Glenn reviewed driving on the 9 from Saratoga to Felton as the fall colors are gorgeous

Dann reviewed the re-release of 'Roger Ramjet' as highly recommended and screamingly funny - worth full price

We then did auctions: birthday auctioned off me for \$6.00 to Trey; then auctioned off books for \$2.00; \$0.25; \$2.00; \$0.25; \$1.00; \$0.75; \$0.25; \$0.87; \$0.50; \$0.10; \$0.26; \$0.25; and videos for

\$1.00; \$0.75; \$0.25; \$0.50; \$0.75; \$0.75; \$1.00; \$0.75 & \$0.25; 0.25

We adjourned at = 9:35

And the rumor of the week was: 'You're so vain, you probably thing this rumor's about you'

LOCs, from page 3

NASA afloat. NASA is such a part of America's history and cultural identity, it would be such a shame to just let it flounder and die.

Anyone planning to go to Potlatch? Some serious fanac here. It's often around Seattle and Portland, and it would be interesting to see who it would attract this year.

I am done like dinner, so I will fire this off into the ether to see it vibrate, and see what the reaction is. Take care, all, and see you soon, probably in another Garciazine.



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, November 15

SF in SF: Ellen Klages and Geoff Ryman

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market St.

San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

9 p.m.

Science Fiction in San Francisco (A Perfect Fit) stages a monthly series of readings hosted by Terry Bisson as well as monthly movie screenings. Proceeds from the events go to the Variety Children's Charity.

Saturday, November 15

The Phenomenauts

The Phoenix Theater

201 Washington St.

Petaluma

\$12

With The Struts, Horror X, A Red Cup Affair and Tabaltix. All ages show.

8 p.m.

Sunday, November 16

Maxixe Workshop

Palo Alto Masonic Center

461 Florence

Palo Alto

3:30 p.m.

\$15

Maxixe lesson with Stan Isaacs.

Friday, November 28-Sunday, December 21

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair

The Cow Palace

2600 Geneva Avenue

San Francisco

www.dickensfair.com

\$22 each day

Victorian London is recreated for the four weekends after Thanksgiving.

Thursday, December 11

Thrillville

El Cerrito Speakeasy

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

9:15 p.m.

\$9

Vintage Mexican thrills in The Robot vs. The Aztec Mummy, live music by Carne Cruda.

Sunday, December 14

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

www.sacramenticomics.com

\$6

The Sacramento quarterly Comic, Toy and Anime show.

Friday-Sunday, January 9-11

Sac-Anime

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

www.sacanime.com

\$30

Guests include Chris Sarandon, Vic Mignogna and Travis Willingham.

Thursday-Monday, January 22-26

Further Confusion 2009: Surf Safari

Doubletree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.furtherconfusion.org

\$40 until December 30th

GOHs this year are animator Jeff Pidgeon, puppeteer Anita Coulter and author Clare Bell.

Thursday, February 12

Thrillville's Voodoo Valentine's Show

El Cerrito Speakeasy

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

9:15 p.m.

\$9

Sugar Hill and Her Zombie Hit Men, plus a live act TBA.

Saturday-Sunday, February 14-15

AOD 2009

Cathedral Hill Hotel

1101 Van Ness Ave

San Francisco

www.aodsf.org

\$25 until November 30

Animation on Display (AOD) is a San Francisco-based convention that celebrates the animated arts from around the world in all media. Details TBA.

Friday-Sunday, February 13-16

DunDraCon

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Dr.

San Ramon

www.dundracon.com

\$40

Gaming convention.

Friday, February 27-Sunday, March 1

Potlatch 18

The Domain Hotel

Sunnyvale

www.potlatch-sf.org

\$55 until February 14

Literary convention, with panel discussions, writer's workshops, consuite. Books of Honor for 2009 are *Always Coming Home* by Ursula K. Le Guin and *Growing Up Weightless* by John M. Ford.

Friday, February 27-Sunday, March 1

Wondercon

Moscone Center South

San Francisco

www.comic-con.org/wc

Details TBA

Friday-Sunday, April 3-5

Contact 25

NASA Ames Research Center

Mountain View

\$175

www.contact-conference.com/2009

Interdisciplinary gathering of scientists, artists and writers. Details TBA.

Thursday, April 9

Thrillville's 12th Anniversary Show

El Cerrito Speakeasy

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

9:15 p.m.

\$12

Plan 9 From Outer Space, Re-Animator, plus a live act TBA.

Friday-Tuesday, July 17-21

Azcatraz, A Harry Potter Convention

Park 55 Hotel

55 Cyril Magnin Street

San Francisco

www.hp2009.org

\$145 through February 28th.

Thursday, October 29-Sunday, November 1

World Fantasy Convention

The Fairmont Hotel

170 South Market Street

San Jose

\$100 until November 10

The World Fantasy Convention is a professional networking event that regularly attracts several hundred of the top authors in the field every year. It is the home of the World Fantasy Awards and this year will be celebrating Edgar Allen Poe's 200th birthday.

Ongoing:

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

www.sfgghosthunt.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.

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

Coco's

1206 Oakmead Parkway

Sunnyvale

www.basfa.org
8 p.m.
Free

Mondays

Dukefish
Jake's of Sunnyvale
174 E. Fremont Avenue
Sunnyvale
8 p.m.
Group meets weekly to play German-style strategy board games such as Settlers of Catan, Carcasson and other games, plus an occasional game of bridge breaks out. Meet up at 8:00 p.m., figure out who wants to play what, and typically start playing games no later than 8:30 p.m.

Mondays and Wednesdays

Silicon Valley Boardgamers
Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue
Mountain View
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.

Tuesdays

MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games
Codornices Park
1201 Euclid Ave
Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com

groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub/
Free
1:30 p.m-5:30 p.m

Wednesdays

Bay Area Role-Playing Society
Go-Getter's Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard
Foster City
www.BayRPS.com
6 p.m-10 p.m.
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com.

Wednesdays

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

Wednesdays

Fanboy Planet Podcast
Illusive Comics and Games
2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105
Santa Clara
6 p.m.
Free
Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it's the Fanboy Planet Podcast with your host, Derek McCaw.

Wednesdays and Saturdays

Hayward Collectibles Show

22300 Hathaway Ave (rear bldg)
Hayward
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
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
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
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

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 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 for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF

Free, donations welcome

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

Meets the second Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

East Bay Steampunk

Various locations (see website for details)

www.steamfaire.com

6 p.m.–8 p.m.

Free

Steampunk fans meet up on the third Friday of the month

Fantastic Frontiers

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 Chris, the group leader, at cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.

Legion of Rassilon

Giovanni's Pizza

1127 N Lawrence Expy

Sunnyvale

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.

MGI Family Board Game Night

Its Your Move

4920 Telegraph Ave

Oakland

mgisciaf.angelfire.com

groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub/

Free

5 p.m-8:30 p.m

Every 3rd & 4th Fridays

Micro Gods, Inc.
Berkeley Public Library, West Branch
1125 University Ave
Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/
Free
2:30 p.m-5:30 p.m
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction,
Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every
3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for
updates.

No-Name Anime
Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
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
6:30 p.m.
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
6:00 p.m.
Free

The book for November will be *Old Man's War*
by John Scalzi. Please contact Jude at
jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more
information.
SF Browncoats
Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street
San Francisco
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
groups.yahoo.com/group/scifisantarosa/
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
Noon - 2 p.m.
Free
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up
on the first Saturday of the month.

South Bay Steampunk
Various locations (see website for details)
www.steamfaire.com
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Free
Steampunk fans meet up on the second
Thursday 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
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.usdefiance.org
7 p.m
Free
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of
the month.

USS Northern Lights
Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for location.
www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/4096/
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

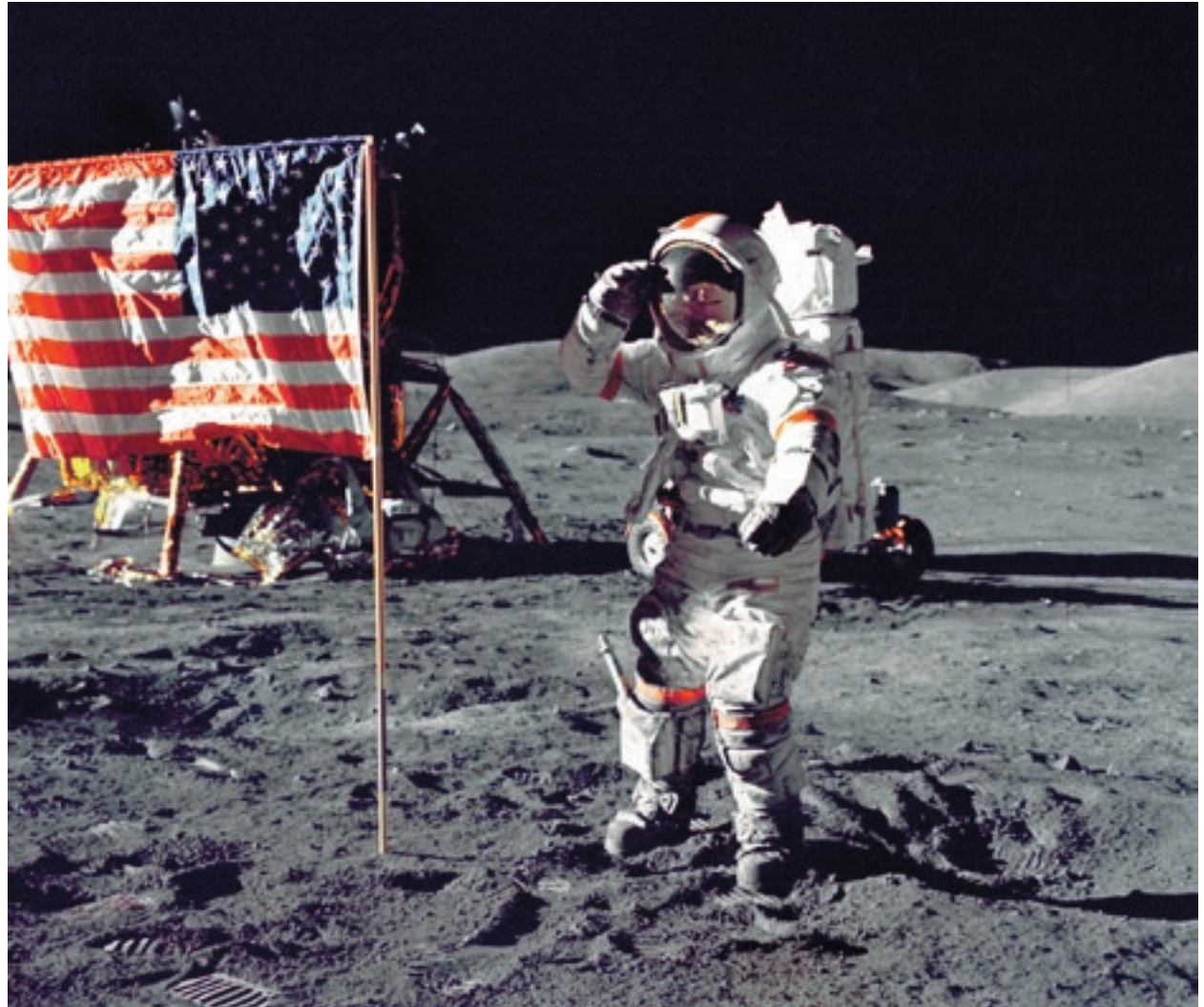
Round Table Pizza

4403 Elkhorn Blvd

Sacramento

916-338-2300

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



Astronaut Eugene A. Cernan salutes the U.S. flag on the surface of the Moon, December 13, 1972.

NASA Photo