

# Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 78  
December 17, 2008  
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*Art credit:*

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# News and Notes

**By Christopher J Garcia**

*Editor*

You can guess what the starting point for this edition's News & Notes will be. That's right, it's the death of my personal hero: Forry Ackerman. He touched my life in many ways, made me want to be a museum person, had a strong hand in influencing the development of the fandom that I love so much, and he was responsible for bringing many of the great filmmakers into the world of filmmaking. I was crushed when *Locus* made the false report a few weeks ago, and now I'm really blown over. *The Drink Tank's* tribute should either already be out or coming out soon. I once said that Forry was a lot of people's starting point. I know he was one of mine.

eFanzines has been busy. Jan Stinson rules. She's released *Ribbons 4*, her C.J. Cherryh zine, and it's good stuff. She also has *Steam Engine Times*, her zine that she does with Bruce Gillespie. That's one of the best zines going right now, and sadly I haven't LoCed it yet. It's always the good ones that take me forever.

There are new *Drink Tanks*. That's always the case. There was a fine piece of writing from Taral Wayne in two parts about the Canadian political crisis. Honestly, I had no idea it was going on until I read Taral's articles. It was good stuff.

Earl Kemp is my hero. Of the Five Old Men I've always admired (Forry and the late Harry Warner, Jr., Art Widner, Ed Meskeys and Earl), Earl's the only one I've regularly interacted with. His latest issue of *eI* is the best issue of the year. I love it, I really do, and there's nothing better than the stuff that Earl's put out this year. It's amazing to read through the entire run (something I've done a few times) and see how they bounce off one another, forming different connections and harsh counteractions. It's amazing. Earl does great stuff, and has since the Long Ago. I recently heard that he isn't going to be at Corflu. That's a shame.

Speaking of not being there, I'm going to have to skip Potlatch. It's a shame that it's the same weekend as Cinequest and I've got too much to do with CQ that weekend. I think it's also the same weekend as WonderCon, so I won't be there either.

Betty Page, the legendary pin-up and the Queen of Fetish modeling, had a heart attack on the 5th. It's a shame, as she's another of the icons of an era that's quickly losing all its most famous participants. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope that we have more years of Betty Page!

John Scalzi was a great GoH at LosCon. You can read more about that in my very strange LosCon report, and I'm hoping we get

to see more of him out this way. Wil Wheaton was also a ton of fun and the two of them were a hilarious pair with their panel together. I'm hoping we get to see that double-double together again!

SMoFCon's just ended and a lot of BArea folk made their way to Columbus, Ohio and back. The reports were it went fairly well and Warren Buff, the head of the Raleigh in 2008 bid for NASFiC, reports that his role in the Fannish Inquisition wasn't as hard as he feared. I've never made it to a SMoFCon, but I really wanna go to one. It's the time of year. Just too hard to get away.

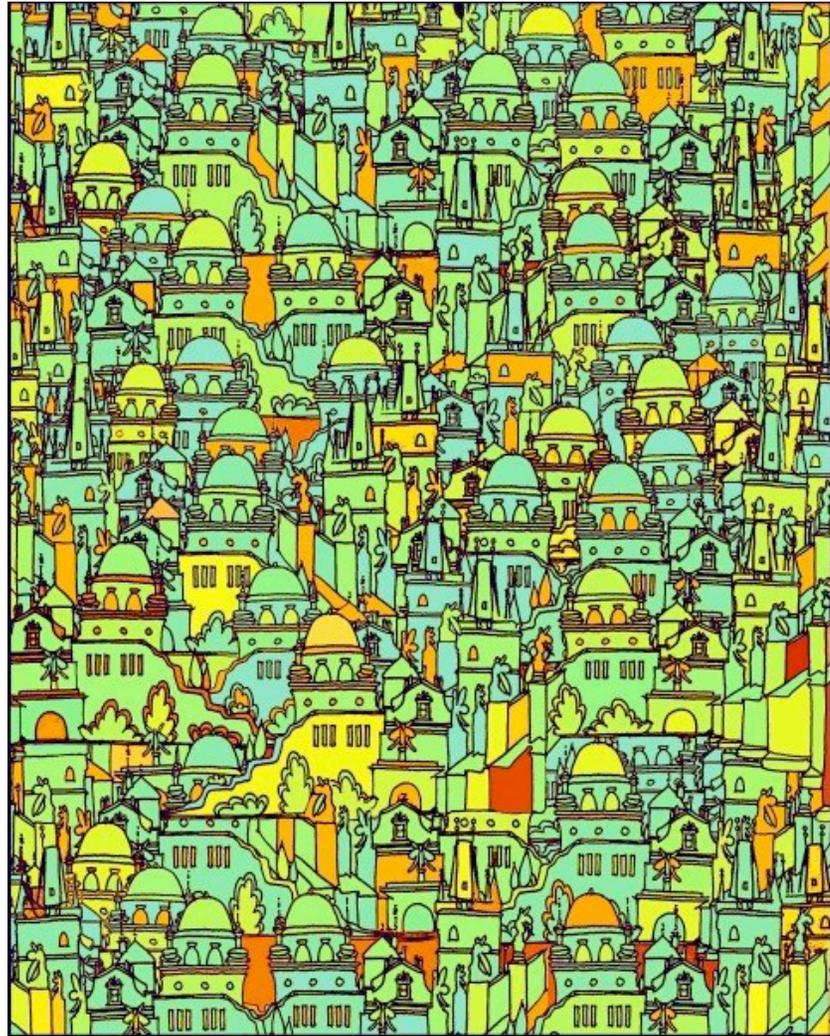
The Scarf is doing well. Leigh Ann's work and the constant pimping has paid off in a big way, especially with names like Scalzi, Tim Powers and Dave McCarty wearing it for photos. I'm hoping to get some more fun folks to wear it at Cinequest. That'll be a fun time. I might have to find someone to take it around Potlatch too. So many things!

Speaking of Cinequest, I was on the Shorts Selection Committee again after taking last year off. There were lots of great shorts, and there were many wonderful genre pieces too. It's looking good for the Silicon Valley Science Fiction Short Film Festival.

There've been a couple of paper fanzines hitting the streets lately, which is always good

news. The first I got was *Banana Wings* 36. It's a good issue, with a lengthy article from Max about LARPing. There's also a lot of fine writing from Claire and Mark. It should also be noted that Claire took home her sixth Best Fan Writer award in the Nova voting over in the UK. That's an awesome distinction. It's another fine issue of one of the finest fanzines in the world.

*Chunga*, Seattle's notable fanzine, also released another issue that came across my desk. It features a very cool cover with Randy Byers, Carl Juarez and Andy Hooper all joining up with the Women of Torchwood to form Torchwood West. It's a great Alison Scott cover, and she also won a Nova this year, Best Fan Artist! There's a lot of great writing in there, including an article from Stu Shiffman about Superman that's awesome, not to mention some of the best fan art you'll ever find all wrapped up in a fantastic layout. Solid work from a solid team.



Kate Kelton

# Letters of Comment

## **Lloyd Penney writes:**

Dear Chris and Jean and David and España:

You're probably on the brink of issuing *SF/SF 77*, but I've got issue 76 here, and only now can I get to it and respond. This might wind up being a multi-issue loc, but we'll see how far I get.

Hawaiian shirt theme at a con? Arrgghhh! Why does it have to be so far away? I could wear several different shirts every day! As you know, TAFF has two candidates, Yvonne and I have stood as two of Steve Green's nominators, and I believe the ballot has just arrived on Dave Langford's TAFF website. You will have fun in Montreal, and that's an order, or I will get the Fun Police on your tail, and you'll have to answer to them, me bucko...

***Jean Martin responds: We're all excited and I think several of us from the Bay Area are going to Montreal.***

My loc, and the fanzine lounge at Con\*cept... well, the convention advertised it, and I spent some time there, and I had tables and comfortable furniture and everything, and it was

clearly labeled... and no one took advantage of it. Con\*cept was very accommodating, and helped me get things set up quickly, and at one point I had six or seven folks helping me, but to no avail. Yvonne's panels were very popular, and they'd like her to do it again next year, but we're not sure we could afford a second trip to Montreal in 2009.

***It may take a while for a new fanzine lounge to get noticed and for people to go to it. Some people might not know what to do there even if it's described in the program. It sure took me a while to figure out that Chris's fanzine lounges are so much fun and the place to be.***

What Terry Pratchett is going through reminds me of Forry Ackerman's plight... he suffered a heart attack, and he was reported as doing very poorly, and he wasn't expected to survive, and some had already reported him dead... and then a rush of cards and letters came, and while he is still very ill, and his prognosis is not good, Forry has perked up. A little love and egoboo can save your life.

***Unfortunately, Forry has passed away for real this time. We have an article in this issue from Phil Gust as a remembrance to him.***

I wish we had something like BAERS and PEERS here... the regular social calendar these and other local groups set up sound like a ton of fun, and a good excuse to fill a closet full of costumes. I hear about steampunk events in Toronto, but usually they are raves in the club district downtown. The exception was a steampunk jewelry show I missed, staged by local small-scale jewelers, most with Etsy online shops.

***There are a lot of historical and sci fi groups in the Bay Area that encourage costuming and just plain old getting together and having fun. What astounds me is how many people like doing this just like I do! I consider myself very lucky to be in an area where this is the case. I've been thinking about why this is so and this is probably a topic for a longer feature article that I may do at some point.***

While I am interested in steampunk, I am a little more interested in the

costuming aspect than the reading aspect. I just keep in mind *The Wild, Wild West*, and the TV show *Legend* with Richard Dean Anderson and John de Lancie. Plus, I also look forward to a more formal event and a more formal dress code. I think many of us secretly wish for a return to a simpler and more genteel age. If the steampunk convention was successful, they can credit groups like BAERS and PEERS for getting the potential membership in the mood.

*Whichever way people start getting into Steampunk, it's great to see them get more interested in other aspects of the genre. I am more into the costuming and movies as well but I've started reading short stories, novels and the Girl Genius graphic novels. I'm probably going to get into the DIY side of Steampunk as I can't seem to find the right holsters for my Steampunk pistol and ray gun. So it looks like I'll have to make these myself.*

Jean, you mention in your review of SiliCon that attendance was expected to be much lower because of the current financial crisis, and that everyone's discretionary income was expected to be much lower. Hate to say it, but this would make for a good discussion panel at a future con, possibly to be held just before the darts and laurels panel.

Money is tight, yet there seems to be the idea of spending your way out of the recession, to get money moving through the economy. The panel could also address the financial future of conventions, especially large ones like Worldcon. If things are not getting any better, we should talk about this, and see where our con-going future is going.

*I'd probably be interested in being on a panel that would discuss this issue as I work as a writer in the financial industry. And I envision people who run cons on the panel as well as some con regulars and non-regulars to see how their con-going activities have been affected. We seem to be going through a deep and protracted global recession and I don't think this is going to improve as quickly as previous downturns, unfortunately.*

There's the SF/SF junta on page 13, with that big hairy bandito in the middle. Sounds like the con was a popular success... I'm still concerned that it was a financial success. I can just imagine that photo with you all as the disciples at the Last Supper...and Chris is still pointing at and mugging for the camera. Need to see that photo! (I expect to it on the front of another *Drink Tank*, Chris...)

*The infamous photo in question is featured on page 11.*

I'm done, guys... it is Friday, so I wish you all a great weekend, and hope your Thanksgiving is/was a great time. Friends who used to live in Toronto, but who now live in New Jersey, just across the river from NYC, are back up in Toronto, as they have done every year for eight years now, to enjoy U.S. Thanksgiving with friends, so we will nosh on the ever-popular turkey and cranberry tomorrow night.

*I had a great Thanksgiving with my family. I love Thanksgiving food... nothing beats turkey, gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing and pumpkin pie to feel warm, cozy and happy!*

Party on, hugs to Jean, and see you next ish, which will probably be in a few days.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

# Editorial

**By Christopher J Garcia**

*Editor*

I have a thing for conventions. You know it, you've seen me at BayCon, LosCon, Worldcon, etc., and you know what fun I always seem to push myself to have. I love SF cons, and I really love non-SF cons.

I don't go to nearly as many conferences as I used to. I was a regular at them starting with my days in high school with groups like the World Affairs Council and S-Club, and then in college I was always going to conferences for student government or any other thing that came up with free trips through Emerson. I was always going to these things, but once I started my term at the Computer History Museum, I seldom got to go to conferences, maybe one a year, and always day trips. I went to the D conference in 2003. It's a big deal that folks like Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Carly Fiorina attend. It's all about the possibility of communication, business and computer stuff. I had a good time, listening to the presentations and hanging out with an exhibit that we had set up. I even got to chat with Bill Gates about the panel from the PDP-10 we had brought with us.

OK, why am I talking about this? It's all Netflix's fault. You see, I rented a DVD about TED, the conference that takes place in Monterey. Daphne Zuniga made a movie about the 2006 edition which was pretty much her gushing over all the presentations. TED is the kind of place where movers and shakers come and make an 18-minute presentation about some project or device that the movers and shakers of the world would be interested in. The DVD isn't great, it's interesting, and it feels completely like a promotional video for the conference, which hurts it a bit. But it also has something about it that reminded me of a film that a buddy of mine made about NERO called *Monster Camp*. It's a sense of wonder, you know, that sense that old-time sci fi fans always talk about that science fiction lost at some point in the 1960s. It's still there in this film that explores a conference of people who really, quite literally, want to change the world.

And it made me want to attend.

In many ways, it's like a Worldcon. There are people there from around the world, all giving presentations and exploring the ways in which the world works. It's also completely the opposite of

Worldcon because it's at least partly about getting the ideas that are presented into the eyes of those who can make it happen. There were talks from folks like Al Gore, the woman who founded the Sustainable South Bronx group, and various scientists and researchers, including a 20-year-old who is one of the major forces in current cancer research. There was also music, programmed by Thomas Dolby and reaching around the world, and there was performance art, including one amazing poem performance about Mockingbirds that lit the crowd right up. It was amazing, even on video.

So, I looked at the website and realized that it's not something for the regular people. In fact, it's something for a very select group of people. Not only movers and shakers, but the folks who can front the funds to get there. And I guess that's part of what makes it so special and something that people really want to go to — but I'll never get to go. That sucks. This is the kind of thing that those of us in fandom would really take a lot out of as well as being able to inject something powerful into. I could see someone like Jay Lake giving a presentation that would fit right in with the

others they showed on the DVD. I could see many of the folks I've done panels with at cons being wonderful on the stage for exactly 18 minutes. Oddly, there was one person I have done a panel with, Cliff Stohl, who *was* on the stage. He's a wildfire of activity and they only showed a bit of his presentation. I was on a panel with him at Worldcon in 2002 and he ran around the room discussing the ancient Friden calculators. It was awesome.

Watching it, I thought about our cons. We do so much interesting stuff, but no one ever sees any of it beyond the walls of the hotels and convention centers. It's interesting that the closest I've seen to a film that deals with cons of the kind I understand is *Comic Book: The Movie*, the film that featured San Diego Comic-Con in all its glory. Of course, it's a fictional film as well, which makes it different, but it really does give something of the flavor of a convention. There are very few views of our conventions that take them seriously, and I think that's a sad, sad thing.

My dream project, which I don't think I'll ever get to do, is to cover a Worldcon from conception to delivery. Start with the early meetings, interview the forces behind them and get them talking about the ideas that their Worldcon will be based on. There are philosophical differences between every Worldcon and to see how those differences

reel out from the start to the completion of the con would be amazing. Amazing to actually cover the race and the days of the voting for the cons, the parties at the Worldcon leading up to the vote, and if the right con gets chosen, following it through the building of the actual convention. True, at times that process can be quite painful (see ConJose as an example), but to record the ways in which these things come together would be fascinating.

The interesting thing would be to find a way to record the actual Worldcon. There's so much going on that even with a five camera team it could be nearly impossible, but it would be fun to try. Of course, finding the right way to capture the bits of conversation and strange fun would be the only way to really get the feeling across. There's a lot to Worldcon that doesn't happen in a programming room or within the confines of official programming spaces at all. There are parties, which lead to conversation, and there are dinners and lunches where fans all hang out and give each other the feeling of fandom. That's perhaps the biggest difference between TED and Worldcon: the feeling of fandom is friendship while the feeling of TED is purpose. No one goes to Worldcon to solve a problem with the world. No one goes to TED to hang out with friends and discuss who would run the Death Star better: the

Romans or the Nazis. That's the kind of thing that friends talk about around those dinner tables, not how to put together coalitions of people to save the planet.

I'd still love to try and find a way to capture a Worldcon and not interfere with the truth of it by having the camera affect it all. It would be the kind of task that Werner Herzog would set himself to and end up doing everything wrong but producing a fine piece of film matter. I'd love to see it done, and more importantly, I'd love to watch over the editing. There's nothing better than being able to drive the focus, because there's nothing more disappointing than taking a subject and making it into something to laugh at. Having someone directing the piece who understands what Fandom is (at least in part), and not taking it down the road that so many other mainstream media outlets have, would be a mitzvah.

So, I'm hoping that someday I'll get to make a film about Worldcon that will serve the same role as the TED film (I believe it's called *The Future We Will Create*) and will allow us to show what Worldcon's really about.

Or something like that.

# Forrest J Ackerman: A Remembrance

**By Philip Gust**

*Contributing Writer*

To any kid growing up in the 1960s who was a fan of monsters, meeting Forry Ackerman would be even better than meeting Boris Karloff, or Bela Lugosi, or Lon Chaney, Jr. That's because meeting Forry Ackerman would be like meeting all of them at the same time.

For over a decade, I dug into each new issue of *Famous Monsters of Filmland* with the same eager delight as a vampire preparing to bite his next victim. Since I was scared witless years earlier watching Karloff in his signature role, I was hooked. I couldn't get enough of classic monsters like Frankenstein, Dracula, and the Wolfman, or even the not-so-classic ones that were all too common on Saturday afternoon TV. From H.G. Wells's Martians to Venusian Space Girls, Forry Ackerman was the High Priest who brought them all to us.

Sure, *FM* included a wealth of graphic images that we all perused with ghoulish delight. But through the pages of *FM*, Forry gave us something even more wonderful and lasting. He passed

on his passion for those classic monsters and the actors who portrayed them, and who meant so much to him growing up. More than that, though, he enthusiastically pulled us into the inner circle by relating his own personal experiences and recollections of the actors, makeup men and special effects artists who were legends to us, and by sharing his mind-blowing collection of memorabilia. To us, he was the older kid who had just won all the marbles, and we looked on him with the same mixture of open admiration and wistful jealousy.

Now, as a star-struck thirteen year old, I was finally about to meet him. Forry was in Phoenix promoting a line of monster models, and was appearing at the largest hobby store in town. I had saved money from my allowance, and somehow wheedled my mother into driving me there to get in



Forrest J Ackerman working at his desk

photo by Alan Light, some rights reserved 

line hours early. As the line slowly inched towards the table where he was sitting, I was struck by seeing an ordinary looking, bespectacled man about my father's age, quietly greeting each child as he shook their hand, talked with them for a few seconds, and handed them the model of their choice. What had I expected? Galvanic flashes? Flapping bats' wings? Howling werewolves? After all the buildup for so many weeks, what would I say to him?

When it was my turn, he shook my hand and asked me about my interest in monsters and sci fi. I told him that I enjoyed his stories about the people who designed props and makeup, and that I had learned to do stop-motion using my grandfather's 8mm movie camera by reading articles in *FM*. He looked at me for a second and then said I reminded him of someone else he knew who enjoyed stop-motion. When he asked me which monster model I'd like to have, I told him the Phantom of the Opera was my favorite. He smiled, handed me the model of Lon Chaney in his classic pose, shook my hand again, and motioned me on to the check-out line.

I saw Forry Ackerman only one other time, when my wife and I went to Comic-Con in 2005. Some people from Sideshow Collectibles had admired our

*Lord of the Rings* costumes and asked us to come down and be booth creatures. They told us to bring any other sci fi/fantasy costumes we'd care to wear. We had several costumes that matched figures they produced, and I was wearing one of them when we went to hear Forry and some other panelists talk about Universal Monsters. The room was crowded and the panel had just begun as we came in and stood in the back.

I hadn't thought much about our earlier meeting, when Forry suddenly stopped, looked at me, and asked me to step into the center aisle so everyone could see his favorite Universal monster. I was wearing my recreation of Lon Chaney's Red Death costume, complete with a prosthetic mask of his makeup from the movie. At that moment, I had the strangest feeling as I suddenly remembered the same smile years earlier, when I told him that the Phantom was my favorite too.

The last memory I have of Forry is seeing him later that day in the hall, being escorted from another panel. He was in a wheel chair, and on either side of him in matching wheel chairs were Ray Bradbury, the legendary sci-fi writer whom Forry had "discovered," and Ray Harryhausen, the leading stop-motion

artist of his time and a long-time friend of Forry's. Three giants, all personal heroes of mine, together for perhaps the last time.

I knew that Forry was ill, and I was sad when I heard of his passing, but I don't grieve because Forry isn't really gone. For me, he lives on as long as I see fans who are infected by his passion and inspired by his child-like curiosity and enthusiasm for the genre he helped create and that we all love.

## 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)

# 2008 in Retrospective

By Al "Rackstraw" Megas  
Contributing Writer

*So this is Christmas  
And what have you done?  
Another year over,  
A new one just begun!*

Well, it's been a good, long year for geeks of all sorts in the Bay Area. Con-goers had full plates and saw many traditions upheld beautifully.



WonderCon: Dr. Noe meets John Cho  
photo by Jean Martin



Costume-Con: "Space Girls" featured in Masquerade  
photo by Jean Martin

## January

Fur Con, the "furst" DoubleTree con of the year (heh), enjoyed packed attendance as always. Fursuiters paraded through the lobby, put on shows, and showed much esprit de... ummm, fur. With non-furries of all fandoms also in attendance, it was a bit like a big reunion!

## February

With the rare 2/29 on the horizon, WonderCon started con season with a bang. Fans flocked to the City by the Bay to get autographs from fan favorites like Summer Glau and J. Michael Strascynski.

## April

In San Jose, the DoubleTree looked a bit more like its usual self this month though the con in question was just in town for a visit. Costume-Con more than lived up to its name by being the CosPlay peak of the year.

## May

On its second move in as many years, BayCon settled into its new home at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Its theme celebrated the various concepts of space piracy in science fiction. *Indiana Jones* also returned to theaters for one last adventure though it was judged by many fans to be sillier and tamer than its classic predecessors.



BayCon: Jean Martin, Deborah Kopec and España Sheriff  
photo courtesy Jean Martin

## June

Browncoats hailed the onset of summer and proved their fandom was still going strong with “Can’t Stop the Serenity,” a screening of Joss Whedon’s famous film in San Francisco. Faire season got kicked off by buccaneers convening at the Vallejo Pirate Faire.

## July

As usual, the Bay Area experienced a weekend-long exodus of comic book fans heading South for San Diego Comic-Con. The Joker proved to be the costume choice with the most humongous popularity as movie-goers everywhere almost unanimously (and not at all unexpectedly) loved the new *Batman Begins* sequel, *The Dark Knight*. What no one expected, however, was the film’s complete demolishing of multiple box office records, leaving it second only to *Titanic* among the highest grossing movies of all time!

## August

The month with no holidays also seemed to suffer from a deficit of exciting events to tickle the fancies of fanboys and fangirls. There were a few oases in this desert, though, including the first fully animated *Star Wars* movie in theaters and the second year of Con-X-Treme in San Mateo County.

## September

If you love period costumes and outdoor activities and you could swing the fluctuating gas prices to drive Pacheco Pass, chances are you made it out to the Casa de Fruita Ren Fair. Six consecutive theme weekends were enough to keep the faire-goers coming back for more.



SiliCon: Chris Garcia and apostles

photo by Erik Anderson

## October

There was no better way to kick off Halloween season than SiliCon 2008. The charity-drive event had all the perks of its larger counterpart, BayCon, and also attracted anime and comic book fans. Even the legendary Steve Englehart was on the guest roster!

## November

In another month-beginning con, Steampunk came to Sunnyvale, made possible in part by a cornerstone concert with Abney Park. Some of us didn’t have time to catch our breaths before Carnival of Stars which was held only a week later! The Carnival featured continuous entertainment including a memorable costume competition. It was also the month to break out the tuxedos and martini glasses for what was arguably the most testosterone-charged Bond movie yet.

## December

Though you could live here for a decade and never see snow, there’s plenty of wintry,

holiday cheer to be found at the Dickens Faire. There’s fun for the whole family and, as it turns out, multiple genres. Want a little more sci fi fun for Yule? Just get on the guest list for a Klingon Christmas party!

### Looking Ahead...

What does 2009 hold for us all?

Comic-Con will turn 40!

Harry Potter will return to theaters in *The Half Blood Prince*, the cinematic adaptation of the penultimate novel.

The Transformers will appear in a sequel!

And *Star Trek* will be reborn under the auspices of J.J. Abrams. Will it meet our every expectation and hope? Wait and see.

Oh, and if you were sad to see the Star Trek Experience in Las Vegas close, don’t shed your last tear just yet. It may be back (albeit in a different home) before you know it!

# LosCon: The Science Fiction Convention Reviewed as Science Fiction

**By Christopher J Garcia**  
*Editor*

“Any two points in the Universe affect one another through the fundamental forces of the Universe,” I thought as I flew down Highway 5 from my Mom’s house in Patterson towards the LAX Marriott. I had ideas. I always have ideas running through my head, but for some reason, when I woke up at 4:30 the day after Thanksgiving, I was deep in consideration of the state of the Universe and the methods used to construct it and keep it running.

There are worse things to have on the mind as you spend five hours on the highway.

I was at Lost Hills, thinking about the interaction of large bodies in motion with smaller objects dwelling upon them, when I stopped to fill the gas tank. I walked into the store, beef jerky and Hostess Donettes on my mind. This was as typical a gas station on the road as you’ll find. Truckers, families on road trips, business drivers in wrinkled suits making their way towards non-certain sales all walked about, looking for chips and sodas and bottles of water. I grabbed my goodies, holding them to my chest like a schoolgirl with a teenybopper mag with a Jonas Brothers cover, and laid them gently on the counter in front of the young woman with the crooked Estella nametag.

She scanned the first item, then looked up

to me as she scanned the rest.

“The motion of one object through a smooth warp in space affects all others by creating a non-smooth well of interaction in all dimensions through a timewell. No two objects may move without causing all other objects in the universe to change as well. This is the cause of non-circular orbits and will lead to the eventual collapse of all matter back into a singularity,” she said, finishing exactly as she scanned the last of the junk food I’d purchased.

“Excuse me?” I said, fumbling my wallet out of my pocket.

“That’ll be \$12.75” she said, her voice much chattier than it had been a moment before.

“You said something else before that,” I noted. “Something about...”

“Oh,” she said. “I didn’t see the Sno-balls. That’ll be \$14.45”

I stared at her, but managed to grab a twenty out of my pocket and handed it to her, thinking of those words. They worked perfectly with the thoughts I’d been having. I walked out to my car, peeling open the beef jerky (teriyaki style) and thinking about those large-scale interactions the young woman had described.

The rest of the trip to the Marriott was without incident. I listened to NPR half-heartedly until I got to the Grapevine, where I had to put on Fleetwood Mac’s *Rumours*, the

greatest album ever made. It carried me to the convention.

Arriving, I parked myself and brought the materials in to set up the Fanzine Lounge. I’d been given the chance to run it and I quickly discovered that no one milling about had any idea where it was. I had forgotten to call and see where it was going to be. These things happen. I was told to try and check in at Program Ops, which was my first stop, thoughts of the interplay of quarks with yet-smaller particles racing in orbit around the need for a badge.

I found the room and retrieved my badge as I chatted with George and Vanessa Van Wagner. George was talking about music, specifically about his article for the Jazz issue of *The Drink Tank*, and at one moment, without anyone other than me noticing, Vanessa leaned in and said, “No matter how small a particle is, it has mass and transit properties which allow for coalescence into a cohesive unit which strives for transit between all possible dimensions.”

I wanted to ask Vanessa questions about what she had just said, but the woman behind the table asked my name and I had to make sure I had my badge.

Once I had my badge, I was told that there was a sign that identified the Fanzine Lounge and that it was sharing space with the Costume Repair Station, which was an interesting fit. My

Lovely and Talented Linda is a costumer and could easily serve as my Speaker to the Costumers. I made my way across and found the Lounge, set up my zines, set up the

computers and had everything ready to go by 11 a.m.

The LAX Marriott's setup is very good for a con. We were in the front section of the far finger of the hand that was the Ballroom level. Having come so early, I had time to run into friends who were doing their Lay-of-the-Land lap of the facility. I ran into my good pal John Hertz, the astounding Tadao Tomomatsu, Robbie Bourget, Dave Gordon and Scott Anderson from Las Vegas, Lisa Deutsch Harrigan and Glen Glazer from the BArea and various impressive others. All of them seemed to have deep thoughts they wanted to share, but no one said anything to me. Perhaps the closest was when I ran into Ed Green, manning his station, and we were talking about his music video shoot. He was talking about the shoot, but he seemed to be drawing diagrams unconsciously. Atoms, electrons, orbiting particles and then larger masses, planets and asteroids, all with lines of influence between them. They did seem to illustrate the thoughts I was having.

I returned to the Lounge and found Leigh Ann Hildebrand there. The legendary Fanzine Lounger and I sat and spoke for the better part of an hour before Jason Schachat, my noble sidekick, called saying he'd arrive around seven by passing through an

infinite number of possible futures, defining the path through time by the actions of his decision. It was more detail than I needed about his trip, but at least I didn't have to pick him up.

The early panels were interesting, but I was too busy to make my way to any of them. Tadao grabbed me and pulled me to one of the programming rooms. I walked in and stood in the back, just like Tadao said I should. Writer Guest of Honor John Scalzi was on the panel. After a few seconds, in walked Mr. Tomomatsu with a briefcase hand-cuffed to his wrist. He undid the lock and revealed a bag of In-And-Out Burger French fries (Animal Style) and a Double-Double Burger. John had said that he'd be GoH if they gave him unlimited Double-Doubles. I gave them extra points for the presentation. I made my way back to the Lounge.

Maria, whose last name I so know but haven't been able to beat it out into the presentation portion of my brain, was the one running the Costume Repair portion of the room and she's a lot of fun. We chatted and the time seemed to fly by.

I had my first panel, I Was Promised Flying Cars, and we headed over. The panel was held exactly across the hall from the Fanzine Lounge so, in theory, I could have done the panel from the Lounge using my projecting voice. This would have been bad form, though. The panel was me, a JPL guy and Ken Estes, a video guy who has worked on everything from *The X-Files* to...well, all sorts of stuff. We had a few audience members early, but others came in as we went along. This was how many of the



Coming soon: Centurion vs. Predator

photo by Barney Evans

panels that weekend worked. I was still having strange thoughts about the nature of matter, but I managed to have an interesting panel about the ways in which the visions of the future had failed us. It was interesting to see the ways in which the panel flew, mostly dealing with what cool beans stuff we've got today instead of looking deeply at the world we had in mind. At one point, we were discussing the area of Computer Graphics when a woman in the audience raised her hand.

“Excuse me, but don't the various forms of matter all collide, exchanging their smallest particles to maintain a balance?”

I was about to answer, but then Ken was answering a question about the Uncanny Valley of Virtual Representation. I was sweating. There was something more going on here. Something much more more.

The panel ended and I walked across the hall to find España Sheriff and Leigh Ann enjoying a good chat, and a number of costumers around, chatting and working on things. I love when varying folks join up to have a good time. I only managed to stay for a couple of minutes before I went over to my second panel: Fanzines: an Introduction. The panel was me, Milt Stevens, Mike Glycer and John Hertz. This was a good cross-section of modern Fanzine Fandom as the four of us are all active in the various areas. The crowd was small, the same size as the panel in fact, but we sat and chatted and told stories, not all of which were about fanzines. It's always a good idea to make sure that you stay on task, but we were all over the place.



**Booksellers in the LosCon Dealer's Room**

photo by Barney Evans

After that panel, I found myself back in the Lounge, watching Leigh Ann and España discussing the state of modern electronics and the ways in which the movements of electrons through wire are exactly analogous to the passage of universal forces through space-time along great distances. Those people talk funny sometimes. One of the costumers was doodling in the Fanzine Lounge's art book, which made me very happy. I love getting art.

We closed up a little after 6 to go and get some food at Latitude 33. We took a booth along the edge and not a minute into our meal we had John Scalzi walk by. He stopped and we

chatted for a few moments. He's a really nice guy, as I'll be saying a lot in this report, and we talked about the fact that he destroyed me in the Hugo voting. He noted that I had done a good job on the biography I'd written of him for the program book and España stated that he should avoid complimenting me because it'll only go to my head. I have to agree.

Scalzi left and we finished the meal, though Scalzi returned to talk just before we got up to go and meet Jason Schachat. We talked about his article "Being Poor," and Leigh Ann said it was her favorite article. She also mentioned that she didn't read male authors anymore and

John and she went back and forth on that one for a while. It was quite funny.

We met up with Jason, who handed me a report on the advances in the area of psychological control of matter, and we went up to the party floor where we had the Fanzine Lounge After Dark. It was a fun place. I went to read the piece that Jason had given me, but it had disappeared. I was concerned, but a few drinks made me forget all about that.

The night was great fun, and I walked around the party floor enjoying the various parties. I had great fun at the Chili party, enjoying a wonderful mild chili, and came back to find a bunch of folks milling about the Lounge. Tim Powers joined us for a while, as did Christian McGuire, Tadao, John Hertz, and various others. It was a good stopping point

where one could go to sit and rest. We had a number of fun conversations, some of the ones I wasn't directly involved with seeming to turn to the fallacy for Universal Heat Death. Every time I tried to get into that conversation, it seemed to quickly return to the matter of who would run the Death Star better: the Nazis or the Romans. It was strange.

Around midnight, I was too tired to stay up any longer and I headed back to the room where I went to sleep. Sleep was a blackboard, my dreams were undecipherable equations written in chalk upon it.

Saturday morning came early. Too early. I walked to the restaurant and had a quick breakfast. I was joined there shortly by Maria, who went about getting the room ready. I had three program items, and a lot on my mind.

What was the true form of the atom, and why had we gotten it so wrong for so very long? We could never drive ourselves back to the true beginning of the Universe with this concept of atomic construction. I had barely noticed that I'd been joined by Milt Stevens. We talked about the old days, as we always do when we get together. I was staring at his stylish tie (Milt's a flashy dresser), and I noticed a strange constellation on his tie, the strange cosmic motions showing obvious expansion towards infinity, then slowing, and contraction. I was beginning to think I might have some sort of tumor.

The Lounge came together nicely, costumers walking in and hanging out. There's a little crossover between our worlds, but there's a ton of crossover in the friends we have. Folks would pop by, sit down on one of our lovely couches, chat for an hour or so, then head off into the sunset. I was working through my thoughts of the Universe when I discovered that I was almost late for my panel: The Future is Now!

This led to my first problem with the entire con — repetition. The Future is Now was much like I Was Promised Flying Cars, but from another angle. This happened a couple of other times during the con, which is weird. I'd actually say that LosCon might have been over-programmed. There's nothing wrong with having a couple of program items that interact, but it seemed that there was more than that. At least the panel had different people...except for me and Ken Estes. Robert Gounley, a JPL guy who's good to have around, Sharan Volin, who



The Loscon Filk Circle

photo by Barney Evans

has been in video games, the Web and is now a student again, and Doctor Bill, William Ernoehazy, who is a medical doctor and Martial Artist who studies a German form. That's awesome. We chatted and had a very good panel, much better than the Flying Car panel, and it was partly because we had a lot to say about each other's field. It was so much like the other panel that only one was really needed, but they both went well.

I headed back to my Lounge and España had dragged herself back. She was tired, but we all were. She had been up until 4ish. That's not unusual. We talked for a while and I noticed that folks had been scribbling in the Fanzine Lounge notebook. The diagrams were certainly non-Newtonian, but they might make good illustrations for an issue of *The Drink Tank*.

The great thing about the Lounge is that folks know where they can find you. Diana Sherman walked in and it was great to see her. I see her far more often in the Southern California area than I do in the Bay Area, where we both hang our hats! We chatted and Jason and Leigh Ann joined us and we had a nice half-hour talk. It's rare that that happens in these days. I went to the sports bar in the hotel, Champions, and got myself a burger which I brought back into the Lounge. It was delightful, though overly pricey. I mean, it's hotel food.

I walked over to my second panel of the day, What Makes a Good Fanzine, and there were two total audience members: Robert Kennedy and another fellow whose name I forget. It was very much like the Fanzine panel we'd had earlier, and we had the exact same

panel again: me, Hertz, Glycer and Milt. It's something that got to me again. I've been to well-attended Fanzine panels, but none of the ones at LocCon got much attention. It happens.

The next thing was the TAFF Auction. I'm not sure if it was my fault, but we ended up with both the TAFF Auction and the Charity Auction that David Gerrold has been doing at LosCon for years scheduled for the same room at the same time. This did not make David happy. I was happy because it drew more and different people to the TAFF auction. I'm pretty sure that's why we did so well. I noticed that there was an itch at the back of my head all afternoon. I couldn't place it, and I didn't spend much time scratching it, because it wouldn't do to have the TAFF Administrator scratching like an urchin on the street. Every time I would take a moment to discreetly scratch, I'd get another rush of ideas. Some of them were really weird, like multiple realities which only interact with one another as the course of time makes one or the other irrelevant. At least I think that's what I was thinking. It's all a haze now.

I headed back to the Lounge where we were in the process of closing up. We all figured it was a good time to head up to the Late Night lounge. España noted that time flows in both directions but each new frame of reference has to exist in only one direction. She also mentioned that we needed more booze. I couldn't argue that. We headed over to the little liquor store and got us some booze, headed back and as soon as we were there, folks started to come by, starting with my hero, Mr. Tim Powers. We talked with him for a while. He's

always a lot of fun, and you know, I've never had a panel with him. That's an interesting fact. We had a lot of folks come through, and since we hadn't had any zines the night before, we added a few. It worked as folks started reading them and continuing to enjoy our conversations. That's always a good thing.

I took some time to walk down the hall and see what other folks were doing. There were some nice parties, especially the Anticipation Montreal Worldcon's party. I'm a big fan of that con and they put on a good party. The party at one end, I'm not sure what it was for, but it was pretty nice, too. BayCon always puts on as good a party as anybody, and I found myself chatting with a couple of folks I had met at the auction. One, a girl named Kate, was really funny. She would fit in well with the Fanzine Loungers. Then again, just about anyone who can handle sarcasm and dish it out and accept a receipt for as much as they can take would fit in well.

I was getting some delicious trail mix from one of the parties when I discovered that if I put three green M&Ms in my hand with a cashew, a peanut and one of those oat-thingees, it would form a perfect representation of what an atom truly was: small particles held together by forces that equally affect large bodies and small. That would make sense, if I'd been some sort of hard-core scientist, I guess.

The cold I had was starting to bother me, so I took a Nyquil gelcap. I figured I'd have an hour or so before it kicked in. I was wrong. After about 20 minutes, I was floating. I hadn't had a drop of booze, which was good because

after about 40 minutes, I was seeing trails! It was odd, so I made my way back to the room, figuring out that pi was really exactly 3. It was a strange realization, but I only had about 20 seconds after my head hit the pillow before I was sound asleep. It's always the time when you want to bask that you end up crashing early.

The next morning, it was obvious that everyone was dragging. I got up around 9 and made my way to the breakfast buffet. It was very tasty, but pricey. My bank account suffered for it. I headed back to the Lounge and discovered that no one else was over there. I was pleased. I had managed to come up full and ready after about 8 hours of good rest and no one else had come up to greet the sun. I always like having the option to play around before the rubes come in. I grabbed an issue of *Costumers Quarterly* from 1988 and was reading it. I lay across the couch and after a while I heard that they had started a panel in the room across the hall. It was my buddy Brad Lyau, Craig Miller was the moderator and there was Eric Hoffman too. They were talking about Underrated/Over Rated films. I was pleased to hear it, and since they'd left the door open, I could hear everything. I got to listen to the panel while I was working in the Lounge. When Hoffman brought up *The 27th Day*, I moved myself in and stuck around for about 20 minutes or so. This was the only panel I managed to make it to the entire weekend that I wasn't actually on. It was a good panel. I have a lot of thoughts about the various films of science fiction, and this was the right group of people to have along.

I went back to the Lounge and started breaking down some items. It was late in the game, the entire con was slowly coming to an end. I took down the computers, which had gotten little use, double-checked the various things, computed the maximum velocity that a particle could achieve in a single time frame, and found a wonderful cartoon from Sean Crosby in the notebook. I was pretty much done when Maria wandered in, looking absolutely beat. She'd had a good time at the dance the night before. I figured the rest of my peeps had been there was well. Maria mentioned, in a most exhausted manner, that the collision of particles destroys said particles, only forcing the creation of new particles in different space-times using the energies that are formed from the collision. I really wanted to hear more about that, but she didn't seem to be much up to the task of discussing quantum physics after her previous night.

I again found myself almost late for a panel. It was Why is Fandom So White? The day prior there had been a panel called Why is Science Fiction So White? Now, these are two very different panels, but it doesn't show much creative programming. It was an OK panel, with June Moffatt, Mike Wilmouth (I guess representing the White portion of the panel), myself, being the half-Non-White portion, and L.A. Moore, a writer who is actually African-American, and thus the only member of the panel who really figured to answer the question. It was a decent panel, though one or two of the questions might have been a little esoteric, including one about gravity wells that

I don't think was answered to anyone's satisfaction.

I finished up the panel and headed back to the Lounge, got a bell cart and headed down to drop off the Lounge materials at my car. I got there, and standing by the car was a guy in a trench coat. He was leaning against my car. I stopped short.

"Can I help you?" I said.

"Actually, you have been," the guy said, taking something out of his pocket.

The next thing I knew, the guy blasted me with some sort of ray. I was knocked down, completely aware, but unable to move or talk. The guy came over to me, lying prone on the ground, and I felt a weird tentacley-thing pushing something right where the itch had been at the back of my head. I heard a very familiar chunk-zhuzz sound and felt something sliding out of the back of my head.

"Thanks for sparing the cycles, Chris," the Guy said, showing me the 3.5 inch floppy disk before he took a couple of steps away and vanished in a positively *Star Trek* manner.

It was a strange way to end a good con.

# LosCon Considered as a Sci Fi Toga Party



Ed and Karen Garcia in the LosCon Dealer's Room  
photo by Barney Evans

**By España Sheriff**  
*Staff Writer*

The original plan for LosCon this year was for Anthony and Deb Kopec to attend for the first time. We would all drive down Wednesday night and share a room at the hotel. Unfortunately cruel fate intervened when Deb contracted the Plague and couldn't make it after all. As this was very last minute Anthony insisted on driving me down anyway, and having no idea where to start finding alternatives so late in the game I guiltily agreed.

We made pretty good time, although stopping for food at 5:45 in the middle of nowhere was an adventure I could have just as easily skipped... Everything was closed except McDonald's and there was no coffee to be had for love or money. At 6:00 everything around us opened up and we wept into our Egg McMuffins until we realized that meant we could get coffee from Starbucks.

I was staying at my sister's place through Friday, and Ant decided to do the same so he could sleep before the drive, so we arrived in Santa Monica bright and early and in enough time for my sister's boyfriend Andres to make us Margaritas with the Tommy's Margarita Mix that Ant had brought for him from BevMo. We had hoped to experience this delight on Friday evening, but Andres was working Thursday and Ant gone Friday so needs must. After a well

deserved nap we headed over for a small Thanksgiving gathering with all the trimmings including some delicious pies.

On Friday Andres plied us with pancakes and mimosas, which was a pleasant start, and then Anthony kindly drove me over to the hotel on his way back up North. I was bummed to be checking in alone but within a couple of minutes I had run into Tim Powers and happily switched to con mode. I also saw Karisu Man who let me know there was a celebration for her daughter's birthday in a few hours.

I unpacked first and then headed over to hang my art, finding myself once again amongst the last two or three artists arriving. Frank and Brianna Wu had not hung their art yet either, so I didn't feel too bad. As I got set up I chatted a bit with Spring Schoenhuth of Springtime Creations, who was about to lead a docent tour. I was tempted to stay for it but still hadn't coordinated with the Fanzine Lounge folks so off I went to the Fanzine Lounge to check in.

This year we were brought out from the Marriott Mystery Floor into the convention floor, and were sharing our room with the Costume Repair Station. This worked out reasonably well, with costumers wandering in and chatting along with fanzine folks. Author GoH John Scalzi was kind enough to pop in after we heckled him wandering by, and he

distributed “Whatever” ribbons to those present. Chris and Leigh Ann explained the TAFF *Doctor Who* scarf concept and he agreed to wear it at the following day’s Wil and Scalzi Super Happy Fun Hour.

Eventually we closed the lounge and the three of us visited Latitude 33 to get some dinner, where we once more experienced a Scalzi walk-by. This time Leigh Ann (and myself) took some time to gush over his excellent essay “Being Poor,” which is available on the author's website [www.scalzi.com](http://www.scalzi.com) and highly recommended whether or not you are already a fan of his fiction.

On the way out we were starting to wonder when the fourth member of the Fanzine Lounge cabal, Jason Schachat, would be arriving already. We ran into John Hertz, to whom I had promised some art for *Vanamonde*, and I ran to my room to get that for him. The art may prove unsuitable due to over-detailing but if so I'll give it another shot later. By this time it was past 6:30, the start time for Ari’s 18th birthday party so we headed up to visit the packed gathering and enjoyed some cake while jealously watching her open her presents... or maybe I was the only jealous one since she got a lovely Bamboo tablet. After a bit we left the crowded room to make space for other celebrants and headed back down to the lobby.

We ran into more people and chatted away until Schachat walked in the door, and there was much rejoicing. Almost immediately we put him to work as he, Chris and I popped down the block to get drink supplies for the

weekend. The liquor store was an interesting experience which went from normal to disturbingly friendly when the clerks found out my name. Regardless, we escaped with our purchases and headed back to the Fanzine Lounge. I left them to set up while I went to get changed.

I had brought a bunch of costume material for the weekend, and I'm using the term “toga” as a general Graeco-Roman costume catch-all for men and women, so apologies to the purists. The one for Friday was a red and gold ensemble modeled on Caesar’s clothing on his arrival in Rome in the eponymous HBO series. I had been watching the show for research while making costumes for the weekend and had been looking for a male costume to suit my hair. This one was ideal since I already had two yards of old lovely gold material and some passable red cloth and a red silk robe that I reversed to make a decent tunic. As it turns out, once I put it all on and added the sparkly gold laurels as well as gold sandals and a purse, the effect was more reminiscent of a very fey Nero, but all in all it seemed to be a success and I was flattered by the compliments considering how little actual workmanship went into the thing.

The biggest gripe most people

had this year was that the hotel is upgrading the elevators and therefore they are running slow and unable to take their usual weight loads. Luckily for me, my room was on the third floor so I avoided most of it by going to the lobby and taking the escalator down to the convention



David Okamura hunts at the LAX Marriott

photo by Barney Evans

areas and taking the stairs most of the rest of the time. However, walking up to the 17th floor on Friday evening encouraged me to spend the remainder of the evening on the 17th floor. In addition to our Fanzine Lounge After Dark party there were parties for Anticipation, Anime LA, BayCon and the Herbangelists at the end of the hall in the Consuite room. I spend a little time doing the circuit to check out the neighbors and chatted with various folks here and there before settling in back at our place. It was very lively, especially as other parties started winding down and we got the castoffs and die-hards.

The highlight of the evening for me was an incredibly sweet surprise. Two LASFS folks whom I had met at the previous LosCon, Karen and Ed Garcia, dropped by with a present for me. Last year I had chatted with them about costuming and I had noticed a beautiful custom raygun that Karen was carrying. It turns out that Ed had made it himself and after I gushed on for a bit he offered to make me one. Although we exchanged emails and so on I naturally assumed he was just being nice and nothing would come of it, but lo and behold he delivered the promised weapon this year complete with holster and accessories. I was truly taken aback at his generosity and equally so with the gun itself which I am determined to build a costume up around — I've been toying with ideas for a Steampunk Air Pirate and now it will be perfect. Of course I also have to come up with

something to repay Ed's generosity, which was really above and beyond.

The evening continued nicely from that until eventually someone, Jade Falcon maybe, mentioned that the dance was still going and I decided to check it out. Jason Schachat, his friend Stephen Sprinkles and I headed down to



**Karen Anderson**

photo by Barney Evans

see what was what. It turned out to be going pretty strong with Patrick Beckstead doing a very good job keeping things interesting, mostly with 80's New Wave tunes. I danced myself silly and must commend Patrick on his patience with our frantic and semi-coherent song requests when honestly, he was doing a

good enough job without our input. Eventually I called it a night and got to sleep as the sun came up.

A few hours later it was officially Saturday morning and I was famished so I scrambled to make it to breakfast in time but failed. I called Leigh Ann who had been up about as late herself manning the Lounge and we had a nice quiet lunch while dreaming of scrambled eggs instead. The coffee went a long way towards making me feel human again until I walked into the Lounge and Chris laid on me one of his patented “you look like hell” greetings that he is so charmingly fond of. Bastard.

There was chatting and Leigh Ann's charming friend Heather of the Costumer's Guild dropped by the lounge. Eventually someone suggested lunch, which I was more than ready for since my breakfast had been inadequate. We went to Champions this time, which is always hit or miss for me, but I enjoyed the sliders and was glad to get some nourishment in me since my original plan to take a nap was torpedoed when I realized that Scalzi's big panel had already started.

Jason and I went down to the ballroom and got seats in the back of the nearly packed room. Scalzi was taking questions, most of them pretty reasonable I'm happy to say. The subject was mostly writing and it was very entertaining and boisterous. It's always interesting to see writers speak since some of the most eloquent people on paper aren't so in

front of a live audience while others, like Harlan Ellison, are in their natural element and have a whole schtick. I had seen Scalzi at *Borderlands* before and knew he would be comfortable, but in this setting he was really flowing and having fun with it. Eventually his panel ended and there was a short intermission before the time for the Wil and Scalzi Super Happy Fun Hour, which basically originated when Scalzi IM'd Wil Wheaton to ask whether he was going to LosCon and Wheaton said "Dunno" and Scalzi responded that of course he was and they'd do a panel together. (edited version).

During the intermission Leigh Ann and Chris brought the TAFF scarf in and we moved to the front rows. When Wheaton came in there was much photo taking anyway, of course, but with Scalzi's kind intervention we managed to get some nice photos of the two of them both wearing the scarf at the same time. Eventually things settled down a bit and the panel started, whereupon some con staff brought in the Velvet Wesley and all hell broke loose again.

For those uninitiated, the Velvet Wesley is a Mexican black velvet painting of Wil Wheaton as Ensign Wesley Crusher at his moment of triumphant promotion to the grade of First Ensign. It is a sight to behold and comes with an excellent backstory that I won't repeat here since you can read it on John Scalzi's "The Whatever" and on Wil Wheaton's own blog "WWdN: In Exile" over on typepad.

The rest of the panel was a combination of back and forth between the two panelists and taking questions from the audience, which

allowed Leigh Ann to ask my favorite question of the panel, addressed to gamer extraordinaire Wheaton: "Is it ever acceptable to split the party?" The answer is of course just "no" but some basic pebble was knocked loose by this question and we were treated to an awesome mini-rant on other unacceptable D&D crimes including half-orcs just on general principle.



**Wil and John pose with the TAFF Doctor Who scarf**  
photo by Jason Schachat

The rest of the panel was equally entertaining, and included a surprise appearance by someone in a Bacon Cat costume, which was a big hit with everyone.

Once that was over I had no choice but to get a few hours of sleep. I was determined not to overdo it since I have a bad habit of arriving at parties for the second shift when a bunch of folks I wouldn't mind chatting with are already done for the night. So I was up and dressed in my Greek outfit, long curly wig and all, by ten o'clock. I took the stairs up again and headed right for the Lounge. This was my first time wearing a wig and I was a little nervous about it so I figured that my Lounge compatriots, bless them, would let me know right away if it was a horrible mistake. They all complimented me and I was able to relax and enjoy the magic ability of wigs to make people not recognize me right away.

The room was quieter than the previous night, since there were more entertainment options, the Masquerade earlier and John Hertz's traditional late night party later on, but we had a steady flow of folks and this time we'd managed to get our fanzines out of the daytime lounge in time to have some in the room, so I was able to get a peek at a lovely copy of *The Enchanted Duplicator*, which I'm sorry to say I have never read. I also made the rounds of the other parties. The "Of the Future" gang was over in the big party room at the end of the hall and I ran into Tim and Serena Powers there. Tim had stopped by the party earlier and the crew had managed to get a photo of him in The Scarf as well. We spoke about Forry a bit, and then it was their bedtime so I wandered over to the BayCon room where I found out from Tycho that next year's theme will be Steampunk. I also popped into the



**Steve Savitsky and Chaos performing**

photo by Barney Evans

Anime LA peanut butter sandwich room and was tempted by the Nutella spread, but it was crowded and I wasn't actually that hungry so I wandered off again. My last stop before calling it a night was of course John Hertz's party near the end of the hall which was full of wine and cheese and civilized conversation. I had something sweet and tasty but I forget the name of it and shortly thereafter I decided to call it a night.

Convention Sundays are always sad, but at LA conventions I usually leave the following day so it's a little nicer not having to rush around packing and getting ready to leave. I

managed to actually make it to breakfast this time, eggs and bacon and most importantly coffee. Afterwards I checked the lounge but no one was there yet so I went over to pick up my art from the Art Show. It turned out I was a little early so instead I finally took the opportunity to walk the show and appreciate the art.

First I ran into Brianna and Frank who had sold tons of stuff, naturally. We chatted for a bit and Brianna offered some nice pointers. After they took off I ran into John Hertz and I took a look at the display for this year's Rotsler Award winner, Taral Wayne. The panel included a nice

range of Wayne's art and a history of the award and somehow led to a heated fannish discussion about categorizing when Rick Sternbach wandered by. As we eventually wandered out of the show we passed my panel and I was delighted to see Krissy and Athena Scalzi standing in front of my art and Athena saying something nice about a couple of the pieces. They eventually bought one despite my best efforts to give it away free, bless their hearts.

When I got back to the lounge the crew was there and we spent the next few hours chatting. Chris had panels so he was in and out but Jason, Leigh Ann and I held down the fort. Speaking of In-and-Out we got to see both Tadao's delivery-guy ensemble and even the infamous Catwoman on her way to closing ceremonies. We ourselves skipped them out of sheer laziness and plotted a Steampunk costuming panel that may never materialize but was fun to contemplate. Diana Sherman and Simran Khalsa dropped by and helped with that, borrowing props from Miko Simmons who dropped by in her own Steampunk ensemble.

Eventually Chris came back and we closed up the lounge for good. We wandered over to the restaurant but it wasn't open yet, which accounted for the large group of fans which had taken over the couches. We stopped and chatted for a bit but the restaurant opened up soon enough and we got dinner along with John and Chris O. We chatted about all things fannish, but mostly about which hotels are best for hosting cons of various sizes. The agreed-upon winner was one I've never stayed at so I don't recall the name unfortunately.

After dinner I got the rest of my packing done since I had to be up early Monday, and then retreated to the Fanzine Lounge After Dark room with Jason and Leigh Ann for the rest of the night. We had far too much alcohol left over and did our best to reduce that down. Lassitude almost set in as we became mesmerized by an Adult Swim show called *Drinky Crow* which was either brilliant or horrifying or both. Unnerved, we did a quick wander of the Dead Dog and the lobby areas before settling in for the duration. We kept the door ajar for the occasional visitor including John Hertz and Christian Maguire, but the rest of the evening was spent mainly on plotting. Garcia, it should be noted, went to bed unwisely early.

As is now tradition, Leigh Ann and I took the *Coast Starlight* back to the Bay Area, which meant napping and eating interrupted solely by an hour-long wine tasting during which Leigh Ann tried, and enjoyed, a weird cheese. Although I was not able to completely avoid con crud, the buffer day and the general relaxation of the train ride went a long way toward making up for the convention being over. I always enjoy the train immensely and will definitely be taking it up to Montreal. I've been advised that VIA is the only way to go for Anticipation.



**Barry Gold on guitar**

photo by Barney Evans



**Maira Stern on the harp**

photo by Barney Evans

# BASFA Minutes: Meetings 957-958

## Meeting 957

December 1, 2008

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

Began 8:00.

24 people attended.

A party jar was established.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 956 were accepted as 'spewed out of Barbara's nose' [ewww!]

There was no Treasurer or report

The Vice President's Miko fact was that she likes grilled cheese and there are no new zines

The President had nothing fannish to report

### Announcements

Julie announced there are Dickens Fair fliers on the table near the door - and the

fair begins this weekend and she is wearing her 1st pair of bifocals

Cheryl announced that plumbing is fixed and that she and Jay Lake are now both on twitter [cherylmorgan]

Carole announced that she won best novice at Loscon

Andy announced that there's a convention coming up - Arisia 2010 in Boston - where he and [evil] Kevin will be the fan GoHs

[tall] Kevin announced that he needs a new fork and that SMOFcon is coming up and that he and Glenn will be there [and maybe Dave G]

### Reviews

I reviewed 'Bolt' as lots of silly fun and the hamster was great - worth full price

Chris reviewed Loscon as his fanzine lounge had 3 wonderful couches, that Scalzi was fun, that lots of people were there - and the picture with Scalzi, Wil Wheaton and the scarf of doom was the most photographed and it was worth \$312.50 - incorrectly charged to his room; then Glenn follow-on'd that he was at his fan table most of the time and the elevators were

mostly dead all weekend and he had a good time; Carole follow-on'd that the Masquerade ran smoothly and she's still blown away and there were many comments about 'elevator hell'

[evil] Kevin reviewed a pleasant Thanksgiving, the martini bar in Redding is not worth full price because he lost another Bluetooth headset there while dancing and they visited the 'cool' gay bar and had fun

Julie reviewed the 1997 Geo Metro as the best car she ever owned and worth full price - and it died 1000 miles after hitting 150,000 and her folks got her a Honda Civic [nice folks!]

Mo reviewed going to a bead and gem show as sparkly and shiny until she overloaded ['ferret shock!'] & reviewed the Dickens Fair as ['cute as the Dickens?'] friendly and pleasant and smelled like a cookie - worth full price and she enjoyed it

Adrienne reviewed 'Australia' as Hugh Jackman is very sexy, the film was a bit one-dimensional and they used too many computer generated backgrounds - she enjoyed it but found it not memorable and worth matinee

Stellan reviewed his Thanksgiving as not as planned but relaxing and peaceful in Ashland

Cheryl reviewed the southern hemisphere's rugby teams as they are big and strong and they cheat by taking rugby seriously - that Wales beat Australia and that England was beaten by new Zealand, Australia and South Africa - so it was a good week

Carol reviewed Albacon as a small but pleasant con and reviewed Philcon as being held in a new hotel 'with an elevator that worked!' - the people were nice and she liked the Masquerade - worth getting invited to and fun

[tall] Kevin reviewed the Nevada State Railroad Museum as worth full price and the Reno Sparks Holiday Inn as not worth full price - even at a deep discount - and he rode the train back from Sparks and it was almost on time - and 15 minutes early and a great way to travel

Glenn reviewed tule fog as thick

We then did auctions: a bag of stuff for \$7.00; books for \$1.00 & \$0.25, then videos for \$ 0.25, \$ 0.25, \$ 0.25, \$ 0.25, \$0.50, \$5.00 and a fake credit card for \$0.25

We adjourned at = 9:41

And the rumor of the week was: 'I can't believe it's not bugger'

## Meeting 958

December 8, 2008

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

Began 8:00.

28 people attended.

A party jar was established.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 957 were accepted as 'there is no rule 6'

The Treasurer reported that we took in \$19.37 in the regular jar and \$7.51 in the party jar at meeting 956 - and that we took in \$0 in the regular jar and \$15.40 in the party jar at meeting 957

The Vice President reported there's a new 'Drink Tank' out and that his next issue will be a Forrest J Ackerman tribute and he would like articles from folks [*guys - his NAME is in my computer's dictionary!*]

The President reported that Raphael has moved on to better employment opportunities

## Announcements

Chris announced that Forrest J Ackerman died this last week and that Betty Page had a heart attack and is in a coma, so it's been a bad week

Adrienne announced that the Bay Area Ghost Hunters will have another get together on Sunday, 5:30pm at Trial's Pub in SJ

Mo announced a presentation for Chris: a Mexican wrestler unicorn added to the seascape painting

Dave G announced that there will be a holiday celebration at the House of Spike on Dec 27, 7 pm and he brought flyers

[tall] Kevin announced that he has a new NESFA Instant Message to pass around and that the Anticipation Worldcon website has a map up of their area that shows where the hotels are located [and the Delta is the night life hotel]

Howeird announced that he's back from his trip and brought back a Thai newspaper with Prop 8 protest coverage and for us to check his Flickr site

Dave C announced that there's a con coming up in February - Potlatch - which will be in Sunnyvale at The Domain Feb 27-March 1 and he has flyers

Ken announced that Johnny Depp and Tim Burton are going to do 'Dark Shadows'

[evil] Kevin announced that KTEH has a contest 'How Who are You' - and to check their website for details

Joni announced that the antidote for the jelly babies is to send in a submission to her zine

Dave C announced that there's a Psychotronic Film Festival this Saturday, 7 pm at DeAnza college

## Reviews

Fred reviewed the SJ Rep's 'Around the World in 80 Days' as he was astonished by how good it was

Dave C reviewed 'Dissolution' by Sansom as a pretty good mystery in trade pb and reviewed Loscon as again he saw mostly the Dealer's room and did well for the con [there were follow-ons]

Cheryl reviewed being at New Orleans for an energy convention as the speaker for the Bush administration was [condensed for = scary] and most of the rest sounded depressing

[tall] Kevin reviewed SMOFcon in Columbus, Ohio as having about 100 attendees and a lack of new programming and that next year's SMOFcon will be in Austin, TX - and that SJ has a bid in for 2010; he said that Columbus was cold and snowy and he saw a very clever billboard there - and that Lisa was recognized from

having been at MarCon [while he, who had been one of the GoH's - was not]

Chris reviewed a documentary 'TED' as it's an entrepreneurial 'Burning Man' and reviewed a magazine about cheese, 'Culture' as highly recommended [then there were a lot of cheesy follow-ons]

John O reviewed a Photoflex sale as he and his chum made out like bandits and reviewed the Gordon Biersch at LAX as having superb table service and was reasonably priced

Harold reviewed 'Warriors' on cable as not worth having cable for, that the De La Hoya fight was not worth seeing for free, reviewed 'Milk' as Sean Penn disappeared into the role and the film was very good - worth more than matinee - and to go see 'Prop 8 the musical'

Adrienne reviewed '4 Christmases' as it was funny and she enjoyed it and it's worth matinee - and reviewed Sean McMullen's 'Time Engine' as the ending is a bit surreal and worth reading

Lisa reviewed Leonardo as wonderful and worth seeing [there were many follow-ons]

Stellan reviewed a USB slide scanner that he got from Amazon as worth what he paid for it

We then did auctions: birthday auctioned off Howeird for \$6.00 to himself, then auctioned off karma checks for \$5.00;

and books for \$6.00, \$6.00, \$1.00, \$ 0.25 and \$1.00

We adjourned at = 10:02 in honor of Forrest J Ackerman

And the rumor of the week was: 'Take him to the blog!'

# 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.

## Wednesday, December 17

*My Name is Bruce*

The Bridge Theater

3010 Geary Blvd, San Francisco

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

7 p.m and 9:30 p.m.

\$10.50

Bruce Campbell appears live and in person for a screening of his directorial debut, with your hostess Peaches Christ.

## Thursday, December 18

*Borderlands Holiday Potluck Party*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)

6 p.m.

Bring an edible tidbit or drink if you feel like it (but no alcohol, please,) and enjoy a companionable few hours chatting, snacking, browsing, and petting the cats.

## Saturday, December 20

*Gaskells Ball*

Scottish Rite Center

1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland

\$20

7:30 p.m.

Victorian Waltzes, Polkas, Schottisches, Mazurkas, and set dances such as the Sir Roger de Coverley and the Congress of Vienna. Live music provided by Brassworks.

## Thursday, December 25

*SF in SF Double Feature: Yellow Submarine and The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou*

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building

582 Market St., San Francisco

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

12 noon

Free

## Saturday, January 3

*Author: Nisi Shawl*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)

1 p.m.

Free

Shawl reads from her new short story collection, Filter House.

## Friday January 9-Saturday February 7

*Evil Dead, the Musical*

The Campbell Theater

636 Ward Street

[www.willowstheatre.com/evildead.htm](http://www.willowstheatre.com/evildead.htm)

\$25

EDTM's triumphant return!

Check website for tickets and showtimes.

## Saturday, January 10

*Author: Scott Sigler*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)

3 p.m.

Free

Sigler reads from his biological thriller, Contagion

## Sunday, January 11

*Author: John Levitt*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)

3 p.m.

Free

The author reads from New Tricks, the sequel to Dog Days.

## 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

**Saturday, January 17**

*SF in SF: Aimee Bender and Sean Stewart*  
Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building  
582 Market St., San Francisco  
www.varietync.org  
6 p.m.  
Free

**Sunday, January 18**

*Author: P.S. Gifford*  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia, San Francisco  
www.borderlands-books.com  
1 p.m.  
Free

Gifford reads from his short story collection,  
*Curious Accounts of the Imaginary Friend*

**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.

**Friday-Sunday, January 23-25**

*The Ninth Annual Edwardian Ball Weekend*

The Regency Center  
1290 Sutter Street, San Francisco  
www.edwardianball.com  
\$80

A Gorey-inspired weekend of Edwardian dance  
and performance.

**Saturday, January 24**

*Endgame: January Minicon*  
SEndgame  
921 Washington, Oakland  
endgameoakland.com  
Gaming minicon, check website for schedule  
and details.

**Saturday, January 24**

*The Phenomenauts*  
Slim's  
333 11th Street, San Francisco  
9 p.m.  
\$13

**Tuesday, January 27**

*Wicked*  
Orpheum Theater  
1192 Makret Street, San Francisco  
www.shnsf.com  
Check website for tickets and showtimes.

**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 very  
special musical guest Kitten on the Keys!

**Saturday-Sunday, February 14-15**

*AOD 2009*  
Cathedral Hill Hotel  
1101 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco  
www.aodsf.org  
\$30 until February 1  
Animation on Display (AOD) is a San  
Francisco-based convention that celebrates the  
animated arts from around the world in all  
mediums  
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](http://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](http://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](http://www.thrillville.net)

9:15 p.m.

\$12

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

### **Friday-Sunday, May 1-2**

*Robogames*

Fort Mason Center, San Francisco

\$20

Details TBA, dates tentative.

### **Tuesday, May 22-Sunday, July 5**

*Spamalot*

Golden Gate Theater

1182 Makret Street, San Francisco

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

Check website for tickets and showtimes.

### **Friday-Monday, May 22-25**

*Fanime*

San Jose Convention Center, San Jose

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

\$50

Bay Area anime convention

### **Friday-Tuesday, July 17-21**

*Azcatraz, A Harry Potter convention*

Park 55 Hotel

55 Cyril Magnin Street, San Francisco

[www.hp2009.org](http://www.hp2009.org)

\$145 through February 28th.

### **Friday-Saturday, September 25-26**

*From the Land Beyond*

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street, Sacramento

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

Details TBA

### **Thursday, October 29-Sunday, November 1**

*World Fantasy Convention*

The Fairmont Hotel

170 South Market Street, San Jose

\$125

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.  
Garth Nix will be the GOH for 2009.

## **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**

*MGI SF&F/Horror/Speculative fiction Writing  
Group*

Personal Residence (email for details)

Emeryville

[groups.yahoo.com/group/MGISFFWriters](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MGISFFWriters)

7:30pm

Free

*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](http://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/](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.

## **Tuesdays**

### *MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games*

Codornices Park

1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley

[mgisciaf.angelfire.com](http://mgisciaf.angelfire.com)

[groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub/)

Free

3:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Bad weather we meet the same time at 33 Revolutions Record Shop & Cafe, El Cerrito for boardgames.

## **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**

### *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](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.

*East Bay Steampunk*

Various locations (see website for details)

[www.steamfaire.com](http://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/](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.

The book for January 11 will be *Queen of Angels* by Greg Bear. Please contact Chris, the group leader, at [cobalt555@earthlink.net](mailto:cobalt555@earthlink.net) for more information.

*Legion of Rassilon*

Giovanni's Pizza

1127 N Lawrence Expy, Sunnyvale

[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.

*Micro Gods, Inc.*

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch

1125 University Ave, Berkeley

[mgisciaf.angelfire.com](http://mgisciaf.angelfire.com)

[groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/](http://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](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)

6:30 p.m.

Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.

The book for January 28th will be Orcs by Stan Nicholls

*Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

6:00 p.m.

Free

The book for December will be Old Man's War by John Scalzi. The 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

[groups.yahoo.com/group/scifisantarosa/](http://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](http://www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org)

Noon - 2 p.m.

Free

Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month. The January 3rd meetup is at the Sonoma Chicken Coop in downtown San Jose.

*South Bay Steampunk*

Various locations (see website for details)

[www.steamfaire.com](http://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](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*

Contact [firstjedi2000@yahoo.com](mailto:firstjedi2000@yahoo.com) for location.

[www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/4096/](http://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.