

Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 84
April 15, 2009
email: SFinSF@gmail.com

Editors: Jean Martin, Chris Garcia
Copy Editor: David Moyce
Calendar Editor: España Sheriff
Composer: Tom Becker

San Francisco from the 22nd Floor

by Lucy Huntzinger

Contents

News and Notes.....	Chris Garcia.....	2
Letters of Comment.....	Jean Martin.....	4
Editorial.....	Chris Garcia.....	7
A Long Weekend in the Doctor Who Universe.....	Jean Martin..... Photos by Jean Martin and Mette Hedin.....	9
Contact 2009.....	Photos by Howeird.....	18
This Old Fanzine: PLOKTA No. 14.....	Chris Garcia.....	19
BASFA Minutes: Meetings 974-975.....		21
Bay Area Fannish Calendar.....	España Sheriff..... Photo by Lucy Huntzinger.....	23

Art Credits

Page 20 Lucy Huntzinger

Science Fiction/San Francisco is the twice-monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area. All issues can be found at www.efanzines.com.
Except as noted, all articles and photos are copyright 2009 by the original creators. Used with permission.

News and Notes



By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

I am bushed. Just about as exhausted as one can get. I've been working day and night on the *Watchmen* issue of *The Drink Tank* and it's been exhausting. My co-editor for the issue, James Bacon, gathered up some great stuff and you can read it on eFanzines.com. It's got folks like Janice Gelb, Jay Crasdan, M Lloyd, me, James, Tom Tonthat, and various others in a fine issue. The art is great too.

On top of that, there's the new *Journey Planet* which has been completed by Mr. Peter Young. Sadly, I don't think it'll be out to the public for a while. It's got a 1984 theme and it's just about the best thing I've seen all year of any zines. I have an article, there are great

pieces from a lot of British folks, and it's just plain fun. I have to love it!

Easter weekend is one of the biggest fannish weekends you'll find. Interestingly, it seems that most years I'm forced to write about the events of that weekend in the past tense when they haven't happened yet. It's an odd



structure of space-time and publishing schedules. Forgive me if it goes astray. Eastercon, the British National Convention which is being chaired by the aforementioned James Bacon, ran over Easter weekend. I was there last year, but sadly could not make it this

year. Bill & Mary Burns were fan GoHs and Tim Powers, my man, was one of the writer GoHs. He's also the Writer GoH at SteamCon in Seattle. I'm psyched for that one! Eastercon seems to have put together some dynamite panels, including one about Fandom All Over The World, featuring Swedes, Australians and Israelis, and a panel on Saturday where folks try and fake a Moon Landing YouTube video. That should be good old-fashioned fun!

Swancon is Western Australia's big to-do. I'm really interested in Australian fandom (I was a part of ANZAPA for a while, but had to drop due to cost) and this con has a long and



images courtesy of eFanzines.com

impressive list of panelists. There's the *New Ceres Nights* book launch, which is something I'm excited for, and there are two panels, Hard SF with the Soft Sciences, and Read, Steady, GenesplICE! That just sounds like really good stuff.

Let us not forget Norwescon in Seattle. Kevin Standlee is doing "The Match Game" up there, which should be a blast as always, but there's also Magic Realism vs. Fantasy – Fight! with Mimi Noyes, Mark J. Ferrari, Mark Teppo, Grá Linnaea, Vladimir Verano, and Bruce Taylor aka "Mr. Magic Realism." That should be an amazing panel. I was supposed to go to Norwescon this year, but money became a matter and there was also the choice between Norwescon with RA Salvatore or SteamCon with Tim Powers. There's no argument there.



Lots of stuff on eFanzines, including catch-up from Corflu. I have a couple of *Drink Tanks*. There's a really good issue of *Quasiquote* up there and Warren Buff's *Southern Fandom Confederation Update* showed up as well. It's a good time just to go browsing on eFanzines.

There's a new *eI* as well. It's the FAAn award winner for Best Fanzine and it happens to be my favorite zine in the world (along with the first to ever publish one of my LoCs!). It's



about Mack Reynolds, a writer of the 60s and 70s who was all over *Analog*. It's a good issue and well worth taking a look at, if only for the amazing cover.

There's also a new issue of *Challenger*, though I'm not sure it's on the web yet. It features a fine Mike Resnick article and a Cheryl Morgan piece. There's word of Cricket and Aussie Rules Football, which as you all know is my favorite. Go Cats!

Speaking of Cheryl Morgan, if you haven't read *Handicapping the Hugos*, the *Drink Tank*



issue where I take a look at every category of Hugo and give odds, then you missed Cheryl's look at the Hugo Voting Parties which made me laugh a lot. I love it when she sends me stuff!

Steampunk is running through the entirety of fandom with cons using the theme (Windycon), and groups holding events (the Steampunk thing that GBACG is doing at the Chabot and the PEERS Girl Genius Ball) and so many other things that it's crazy. If you really wanna hear something fun, though not updated from October until last week, try steampunkspectacular.com. Chris Fisher, our fantastic costuming friend, does real good stuff with them.

Letters of Comment

Mike Deckinger writes:

It's odd seeing Charles Cockey's name, after all these years. Charles (and Alice) used to be neighbors of mine. A few decades ago he opened FANTASY, ETC bookstore on Larkin Street, one of the better sf bookstores in the city. It prospered for a sizable amount of time, until he closed it and relocated. I wonder what he was doing in the Czech Republic, but I'm glad to hear he's doing well.

Suggesting the 2018 con be held at the same general location as the '68 Baycon is momentarily intriguing, but unlikely to ever occur. In 1968, the Claremont was a run-down edifice that had seen better days and was struggling to upgrade its image. Some of the rooms bordered on the primitive and the amenities fell far short of other major chains. (Its most endearing, and tested feature was a fire escape, consisting of a dizzying spiral slide enclosed in a metallic hull. Lots and lots and lots of folks, fueled by the vast bank of drugs in free circulation, used it as the perfect means to amplify a mind-altering experience).

Jean Martin responds: That must have been a very interesting convention! I had no idea that the Claremont was in bad shape previous to its current incarnation.

A few years ago I returned to the Claremont for a business conference. It is now the "Claremont Resort" and has undergone a fatal

transformation into an upscale spa with overpriced rooms, no more free parking, and a clientele that would be aghast over the routine antics of an sf con.

I stayed there several years ago and it was quite beautiful and I loved the spa.

Are there any other suitable Berkeley/Oakland locations? Doubtful, except perhaps for downtown Oakland, which suffers from a dismal reputation today and will probably see little alleviation in 2018. However, were you to extend the scope to the entire Bay Area, then, most certainly, a satisfactory site could be found.

Downtown Oakland has shaped up in recent years and there are probably some hotels there that would be amenable to a sci fi con.

A Hugo endorsement on a book cover is also an accomplished means of attracting casual browsers and perhaps boost the sales. The reading public is known to respond favorably to anything granted an impressive sounding affirmation.

That is very true. Although in my case, I do like discovering little-known works and new writers as well.

Groff Conklin was indeed a fine editor, but also a splendid book reviewer. His column "Five Star Shelf" ran for years in *Galaxy*.

"The only newszine that has the kind of importance that *Locus* had is *File 770*," you say. For shame! See if you can find the original weekly *FANAC* from Terry Carr and Ron Ellik, and you'll see a dynamic newszine/personalzine that combined the latest updates in both the pro and fan worlds. Others that approached *FANAC*'s verve were *Starspinkle* from Ellik alone, and *Focal Point* from Mike McInerney and Rich Brown.

Thanks for the information. I'm sure Chris would love to find these if he hasn't already.

Congrats to Jean for the FAAN award.

Thanks so much! That was quite an honor.

Lloyd Penney writes (regarding Issue 82):

The weather's finally getting decent and getting warmer, but I'm still inside writing letters, and this one is about *SF/SF* 82. I printed it in colour, too.

Jean replies: I love colored publications and am glad our zines have been very colorful of late.

Another big name in my personal science fiction golden age has passed away, namely Philip Jose Farmer. I have some of his books on my shelf, but tried desperately to read the entire *Riverworld* series... I failed. I am certain that Spider Robinson will be in Montreal, and you should be able to see him and meet him there.

I tried to read the first book in the Riverworld series and I couldn't get into it. But I do know he was quite a well-known and respected writer.

I'm on LiveJournal and FaceBook, but I had a look at Twitter, seeing it's the new big social network. I looked at it, and asked myself if this is something I could use. If I was running a convention or a business, and had regular messages to send out to clients and attendees, I would use it. I think FB and LJ are enough for right now.

Twitter seems too much for me as well. I think it will be quite distracting to post and check messages all day long. I rarely even use my phone. And I haven't appreciated it when someone I'm talking to checks their phone for Twitters every so often. I think it's rude when you're having a conversation with someone to be continually be distracted by other things. It's as if they don't care enough to really listen and give one the time and attention.

The FAAN Awards... once again, I'm a happy guy, and I think the awarding of Best Writer to Bruce Gillespie was an indication that this award still works. Can't think of a better recipient. And Chris, congrats to you on two more Hugo nominations. Well deserved, and you should get one silver rocket in your time.

Yeah, congrats to Chris on his nominations, and hope he wins this time!

Hi, Jean... hope life's better these days, and that you're smiling. I can't wait to give you a big hug in Montréal. Our Steampunk costumes are ready, and we will be giving people their first look at them this coming weekend as Ad

Astra 2009 hits Toronto. I did play Radar at that M*A*S*H party.

I'm always smiling even when things get rough, which seems to still be happening. But I've accepted that life goes in cycles and has its ups and downs. One just has to ride them and make the best of things. And I still do have great friends and lots of fun, fulfilling and interesting activities to do!

I find the same kind of politics in just about every group I get involved with, and Yvonne has noticed that with any aerospace or aviation or professional group she's gotten into, there's the same politics, the same kind of personalities, and the same kind of people who want to keep outsiders out. Fandom is big enough that if you run into that kind of person, there's somewhere else to go.

Where there are groups of people, there are politics. Some better and some worse. I think Fandom is relatively on the better side. That is perhaps, as you said, because it's big enough. So one can avoid what one doesn't find comfortable and just stick to what one finds pleasant.

Another Worldcon bid for the BArea? Good luck with that... It will take another generation or six before you might see another Toronto bid. 1973, 2003... 2033? That's about right. I'll be in my 80s, and safely out of reach. Reno will get 2011, and I expect that if we are able to go, we will. Chris, you keep campaigning for it, and someone will put you in charge of something important, and serve you right.

That would be so awesome if we get another Worldcon in the Bay Area. I hope that happens soon!

Not many fans know or remember that *Locus* started out as a nice little fanzine, and became the publishing behemoth and professional magazine it's become. I have old issues of *Locus* lying around, but when you factor in transportation costs, and the exchange rate, each copy was costing me about Can\$10 each. I think *Locus* is lesser than it could be because it lost its contact with fandom, and shows no interest in regaining that contact.

To Howard Stateman... turning "Her Pilgrim Soul" (my favorite among the 1980s *Twilight Zones*) into a musical with changes at the end... I really love that poignant story, and I'm not sure I'd like those changes to the end of it. The 1980s *Twilight Zone* is one of my favorite programmes because of that story, plus "A Message from Charity" and "Paladin of the Lost Hour."

All these cons you all have gotten to, and next weekend is my first one of the year! Ad Astra 2009 starts on Friday, and with costumes, stuff for a table, personal packing and food, stuff for the committee and friends, a single trip with a station wagon will not be enough. At least there's the Thursday night party, and the offer to make an early trip with a load. I have always heard good things from a Potlatch, and blame my never going on a surfeit of geography, and lack of disposable funds.

There seems to be more and more cons in the Bay Area, earlier and earlier in the year! I hope you had a great time at Ad Astra.

Wish that calendar was describing what was going on here. Thanks to all for producing another great issue. Back to getting ready for Ad Astra, and I will be putting together some kind of trip report...

Lloyd Penney writes (regarding Issue 83):

Thank you all for producing another issue of *SF/SF*, issue 83. Always good to see, and there's a spot of envy in all the activities in the Bay Area. Gives me some ideas about how to do it here, but I've got so many other things to do, like find more work.

Jean replies: I'm glad you read and enjoy our issues, and write to us about it! Good luck with finding a new job.

Looks like you got up to Seattle fine, Chris, and the FAAn Awards were a fine time. I like to see the egoboo spread around, and congratulations to Earl Kemp on his great *el*. An excellent choice. Same goes for Bruce Gillespie. As for Best Letterhack, Robert Lichtman came in third, Jerry Kaufman second, and I am once again a happy guy.

Hello, Jean, hope you're well and happy. A four-day birthday celebration? Must have been a momentous occasion, or a significant birthday. I sent Chris the only photograph I received at Ad Astra this year of us in our Steampunk costumes. Ask him to pass it along to you, and once we get the cable to download from our camera, we'll get more photos going. We had to take our own photos afterwards. Finding your peers is something few of us do, but the good feeling in the background is that sense of finally belonging. Hugs to you for your

FAAn Awards, and I'll deliver them in person when we meet in Montréal!

Every birthday is important to me. This one wasn't a big milestone or anything. I just like getting my friends from the different areas of my life all in one place once a year. And if my birthday falls on or close to a weekend, it just dovetails into my other activities for that time period.

There is a Facebook group called the Toronto Steampunk Society, but I have yet to find an actual club. The Society is choosing a day on which to meet, probably at Casa Loma. I finished my costume as a train conductor, and have since been able to add a couple of items to it, courtesy of a scientist from the local science centre who is also a Steampunk fan.

Maybe Corflu Silver was a little too lightly programmed for my own tastes, because the programme at Zed sounded great. Another Hooper Radio Serial? Aw, wish I could have been there. If you're doing an artzine, I'd like to see it. Last one I saw was Brad Foster's little LOCS, with great artwork.

I've known about Abney Park and Vernian Motion, and other groups that have at least some Steampunk to them, but while I might like their recordings as background music, I wouldn't want to give any attendees the idea that any gathering with any of these groups would be considered a Steampunk rave. I have seen events in Toronto described as Steampunk, but are held at downtown clubs. Two different directions here, and I'd prefer the Steampunk convention. The Toronto Steampunk Society is

discussing the idea of a con here; hope they are able to launch it.

That's what's great about Steampunk. It has permeated all forms of entertainment, culture, art, technology, clothing... you name it. So there's something for everyone depending on what their interests are.

Arrgh! A page is all I am able to create, it's nearly 11pm Eastern time, and we had a busy day today. I will make my sad excuses, and limp sadly away... to bed, where I can rest up for the final day of the Easter weekend. We hope you've all had too much chocolate, and will have sugar reactions sufficient to power you through Easter Sunday. Bye everyone, and thanks again.

I hope you had a happy Easter and same goes with all our readers. Or whatever holiday one celebrates during this time. Or just a great weekend and April so far.



Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

Kevin Standlee has a standard complaint. His complaint? That people complain whenever the Hugo nominations come out because they don't like the nominees and think the entire fold should be tossed because they don't like the field. They say that the Hugos aren't relevant because such-and-such didn't get nominated or something else did, or there was too little-much fantasy or not enough men on the ballot or what-have-you. Yes, it sounds childish, but people actually say stuff like that.

And they're right.

Look at it like this, if the Oscars never once gave an award to a film you thought worthy, and the Golden Globes always did reward films you thought were well above the line, which would you support? Which would you say was the important one? There is something to be said for an award that fails to recognize your particular set of beliefs about fiction being irrelevant. Irrelevant to you, that is. I like the Hugos, personally. I think they're a lot of fun. I am seldom unhappy with all the choices (1997 being one year where I was), and where I have problems is in areas where folks don't see the harm they're doing to a category **cough*TheTwoLs*cough** and there are times when the least good novel on the list gets the

win (2006 comes to mind). It all balances out for me, with a slight tilt towards the positive.

There are people who really hate the Fan Hugos. I mean they HATE the fact that they exist. I can kinda understand why. They're not what fandom is supposed to be about, they say. They're right, of course. Fandom isn't about singling people out for awards, it's for getting people together and having fun. But the two aren't mutually exclusive...at least under the best of circumstances. Some complain that the Fan Hugos are voted on by people who know nothing about what they're voting on. They are, of course, correct again as most folks who vote have little to no exposure to the wide variety of fanac that is being voted on. There are complaints that the FAAn awards are a better judge, and they may well be right, though I seldom agree with all of those either (though this year, with *eI*, Bruce Gillespie and Jean and Kat winning, I have little to complain about). The fact is, these are all valid reasons to be dismissive, and even destructively dismissive of an award or set of awards.

Here's where it gets hairy.

The Hugos are all we've got.

That's right. The Hugos are all we've got. There is no other award that means anything to fandom as a whole. The FAAn awards mean something to those of us in Fanzine Fandom,

they really do, but they're not the kind of awards that can be grasped and admired by the mass of fandom. The *Locus* Poll is a joke, with flexible rules and no fan recognition at all. Plus, it's got the *Locus* name on it and that's bad enough right there. The Novas are only for the British, and the rules are a little tilted to make them seem somewhat exclusionary. (That's their right, of course, and it's got a good set of winners no matter what.)

It's not hard to see that the Hugos are all we've got, and certainly it's the only thing fans have that appeals to the Mass of Fandom. There are those who believe that the Mass of Fandom doesn't matter. I'm not one of those. I do believe that the Big Tent is a big deal, that we should be trying to mix with them and bring our work to them and see what they're doing and how we can come together. The Hugos is the only place where that becomes possible in the way of awards.

There are, of course, problems. *Locus* is one. If there was no *Locus* sucking up the awards, I seriously doubt we'd be having this consideration of ending the Best Semi-Prozine category. It's terrible that a single magazine can get so many awards. Of course, for that you have to blame the voters, but still, at some point, someone should say, "You know what? Enough," and leave it at that. *Locus* has lost a

couple of times, mostly when Worldcon was held on an island. Dave Langford's grasp on the Best Fan Writer was broken, but it took a pro with a huge internet fanbase to do it and it took him two tries. *Locus* has not been unbroken, but it's a rough thing. There are many other worthy Semi-Prozines, I'll point to *Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet*, *The Internet Review of Science Fiction* and *Clarkesworld* as deserving, but they'll never get a chance. Not unless the economy drags *Locus* down with it, and it doesn't look like that'll happen. The forces who want to end the Semi-Prozine have a point, but they also overlook the fact that they're doing it wrong.

There needs to be a serious shakeup in the Hugo structure, and I am certain it'll never happen because it will require a massive change in the thinking of the people at the business meetings. I'm not a regular BM attendee, and I don't ever expect to be because I go to Worldcons to have fun, and tugging and gathering people to go and vote and such is not my idea of fun. The BM Regulars all have stakes and they see themselves as the only ones who really care about Worldcons because they're the ones who are willing to give up hanging around and going to panels long enough to sit through a business meeting. And of course, they're right. I know that's a broad generalization, but I've talked to enough folks who are among them who really believe that. It's a shame because there's a large group of attendees who don't think they're even allowed to go and vote at business meetings. I run into

them every year, and it's weird that the idea is still out there. This I'll talk about in a minute.

The shakeup needs to come up with a concept that sounds something like this: Honor the work, not the person. Get rid of the Editor categories. Just *poof* and replace them with Best Fiction Magazine, Best Anthology, and have the editor mentioned as a part of the Best Novel, perhaps even getting a trophy of their own (or perhaps a plaque). Keeping Semi-Pro around wouldn't be required, but a Best Related Periodical could work for those things that aren't Fiction, and Best Fanzine fits in with that concept. Getting rid of Best Fan Writer would also be something that would make sense along those lines.

Want an even bigger shakeup that would really help? It takes two years to ratify something. It has to be voted on at two consecutive Worldcons for changes to pass. What if that second time it didn't have to pass through the business meeting, but through a vote of the attendees? It wouldn't be that difficult to take those measures that were passed at a business meeting and then put them to a vote of the attendees, including a slip with the PRs that would allow for a vote by the general Worldcon population, with counting done at-con. The regulars of the business meetings would never allow that because it takes away their sense of control, while adding another something to have done at the con, which I admit might take a little doing. The attendees would also be able to sway the direction and concept of Worldcons towards what they want. It's a democratic process,

something I'm usually wary of, but it's also one that I think would work to bring a greater sense of shared community and a less Secret feeling to the SMOFs. Anyone who says that there is no Secret behind the SMOFs really doesn't understand how fannish politics work.

OK, I'm rambling, I know, but there needs to be some shakeup in these things to keep the Worldcon public happy and to help bring in more people, and to bring those who come for one reason or another to feel some sense of ownership. When you give a group a sense of ownership, and not just a "You can be a part of it" sense, you make it harder for a group to discount whatever it is that you've been given a sense of ownership over. Like, say, the Hugos. Opening up may strip away some of the Glory, but it also might make those annoying gnats in our ears this time of year a little quieter, even if the people they want are still never given a chance!

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

A Long Weekend in the Doctor Who Universe

By Jean Martin

Editor

I've known about Gallifrey One, the annual *Doctor Who* convention in L.A., since 2005 when I started attending the Legion of Rassilon's monthly meetings in San Jose. This year, I was convinced to go by Merv Staton, the Legion of Rassilon's head honcho. He has been encouraging me to go for several years but what finally made me commit to going was seeing his "Daleks in Manhattan" party at last year's Costume-Con at the San Jose Doubletree (covered in *SF/SF* Issue 65). I was very impressed with the décor, costumes, food (including Dalek cookies) and drinks that Merv and his wife Judith served up for their guests. When Merv told me he was planning a "Fires of Pompeii" party for Gallifrey One in 2009, the idea completely intrigued me. Ancient Rome is one of my favorite time periods and there are very few opportunities for me to wear that type of costume. Also, that particular episode is one of my favorites from the fourth season of the new *Doctor Who*.

To top it all off, I was talking with award-winning costumers Bryan Little and Mette Hedin about wanting to do a Toshiko costume (from *Torchwood*, a *Doctor Who* spinoff). They then excitedly told me that they were going to wear their amazing Captain Jack and Gwen Cooper costumes at Gallifrey, and invited me to join the team. From then on, I was hooked.



Ten Doctors and One Tardis

by Jean Martin

Merv suggested that I wear an Evelina costume (the seeress daughter of the family that the Doctor and Donna befriend) for their party. I couldn't find a gold toga anywhere so I had to sew one from scratch. I couldn't find the right jewelry either, but Merv generously made me a

necklace that looked exactly like the one Evelina wore. Lastly, Bryan offered to teach me how to make a prop and so we spent several full days creating a Sonic Modulator to go with my Toshiko costume. I was quite anxious at first but Bryan was a good teacher and

afterwards he told me I did really well.

2/12/09, Thursday

Finally, on February 12th, I rode with Bryan and Mette in their rented white minivan. The drive was fairly quick and easy, and six hours later, we were driving up to the LAX Marriott Hotel.

After I checked into my room, I went to appreciate the beautiful pool area that seemed very romantic in the evening. Then Mette, Bryan and I went into the very un-fandom-like Champion sports bar off of the hotel's lobby area for dinner. There, I met several people whom Bryan and Mette had befriended at last year's convention. Mette gave me a briefing on the way down to L.A. on what to expect and how best to enjoy the convention. One of the things she said was that everyone is really friendly and welcoming at this con. That proved to be true right off the bat. I really liked Keefe and Cathleen from that dinner and I hung out with them occasionally during the entire long weekend. As we were leaving, I spotted Kai Owen (Reese from *Torchwood*) at the bar.

I didn't sleep well that night. I guess I was nervous being at a new con and not knowing what to expect. I knew several friends and Bay Area folks who were coming too, but it wouldn't be like the usual community atmosphere that I'm used to at local cons. Or so I thought. But I decided to just take things as they come and appreciate the experience for what it is. Well, the first challenge I encountered was that my room, on the ground floor, was noisy as it faced the parking lot and street on one side and the housekeeping room

on the other. I kept getting woken up every few minutes by cars and the cleaning ladies' chatter and opening and closing of their door.



Jean with the 6th Doctor Colin Baker

by Jean Martin

2/13/09, Friday

After a mostly sleepless night, the first order of business was to get some food. I met up with Bryan and Mette for breakfast at the Latitude 33 café, also off of the lobby area. I had a delicious breakfast buffet, which eased my anxiety and anger. The next order of business was to ask at the front desk for a room change. Bryan and Mette luckily wound up with a room on the first floor facing the pool, but they didn't have any more rooms like that. Mette told me an interesting story at breakfast how, when she was smoking outside her room earlier that morning, she saw Kai swimming and when he got out, she said hello to him. Anyway, I got a new room on the third floor with a pool view. It was quieter and much nicer than my original room. My roommate for part

of the weekend arrived then and he brought his luggage into our room.

Then I met up with Bryan and Mette at the entrance to the Dealer's Room right before it opened for business. This was another must-see and -do that Mette told me about. She said that the vendors get cleaned out really quickly so one had to be there right as the room opened. I wasn't really planning on buying anything as this trip and convention were already pricey, and I don't like buying things that don't have any practical purpose. However, I got caught up in the crazy, mad dash into the room and I wound up buying more things than I'd planned. At least I did manage to purchase a Sonic Screwdriver pen and a beautiful working Fob Watch, which were the only two things I truly wanted to get, and both are eminently practical.

I have to say, though, that the array, quality and sheer number of *Doctor Who* collectibles was astounding. Most of these are not readily available here in the US. I was surprised to see so many books and audiobooks of stories from the *Doctor Who* universe (past, present and spinoffs). I bought a book and an audiobook for good measure.

After recovering from that madness, it was on to another must-see and -do. I ran into my friend Christopher, who was wearing a Fourth Doctor costume, and we went to line up for autographs. I have very mixed feelings about autographs. On the one hand, I enjoy meeting celebrities I admire and having a memento from them. On the other hand, I think it's become a business where one has to pay, lining up is such a pain, and I just put things like these away and

rarely see them again. Also, they really are just people and I often wonder how they feel about sitting and signing autographs for several hours as streams of strangers go by.

Gallifrey One is a very well-organized con and there was a dedicated autograph room with an orderly queuing process. Even so, it seemed like we had been waiting for an hour, and were almost up at the front, when we discovered that we were in the wrong line! We were hoping to meet and get the autograph of Colin Baker, the Sixth Doctor. I'm not very familiar with his rendition of the Doctor as I've probably only seen one of his episodes, but he was the only Doctor at the convention and so I had to meet him, at least to say that I've met one of the Doctors! But the line Christopher and I were in was for the writers and some actors. Colin Baker was in the Dealer's Room at one of the booths.

Christopher and I ran over and were worried that we'd have to line up again. Surprisingly, Colin was sitting patiently at the booth with a Sharpie in hand with no one asking for his autograph! I suppose others had already come and gone, however, the official autograph room was still extremely busy while Colin was not. This will forever remain a mystery but Christopher and I were thankful for it. Colin was incredibly friendly and he had a big smile on his face as he greeted us. We got his autograph, chatted a bit and got our pictures taken with him. I told myself afterwards that I should make a point of watching more of his episodes.

After all this activity, it was still only

halfway through the first official day of the con. I was hungry at this point so I went to Champion to have lunch. I saw some friends but they didn't have any room at their table. I was at a convention, and I wasn't about to eat by myself, so I looked around and found Keefe and Cathleen. I asked if I could join them and they said yes. Then their friend Dan, also from Seattle like the two of them, joined us and he said that Kai Owen was going to join us too because he was buying Kai a drink. I was tickled pink that Kai was going to join us.

He didn't want to sit down because he didn't want to fall asleep and then he stood right next to me. He was actually very nice and friendly. Kai talked with us for at least half an hour and he even asked all of us what we do. I told him I'm the editor of *SF/SF* and gave him my business card. He told us about his web site and encouraged us to check it out and email him. He said that if we were ever in his area (he lives in London with his fiancée) to look him up. I joked that I will probably take him up on that as I go to the UK as often as I can. I even quickly recounted my trip to Portmeirion in North Wales when he mentioned that he grew up in the Snowdonia area. His handler came over and stood behind him for a long time, reminding him once in a while that he had to be at a panel soon. To which Kai replied that he was having a good time and he wanted to hang out with us, and that the panel wasn't really going to start without him.

Kai did seem like he was enjoying being at the con. He said that it was his first time in the US and he was really thrilled about that, too.

Kai was a constant presence at the bar throughout the entire weekend. On the other hand, Gareth David-Lloyd (Ianto on *Torchwood* and also a Welshman), I never saw socializing. I saw him at the gift shop after one of his panels. Other than that, I only saw him at his programmed appearances.

Since I had already met Kai, I wasn't in any rush to go to his panel with Gareth. And I wanted to change into my Tosh costume to attend it. It took a while to get to my room and back and put on my costume, so I got to the panel when it was already halfway through. Kai and Gareth were in the big convention hall and they were lounged on two separate couches. They were fun and entertaining as they answered questions from the audience. Kai and Gareth were a study in contrasts. Kai is blond, has a Welsh accent, and is quite the rugged British male who's into sports. He also seemed energetic and enjoyed the attention, like a kid in a candy store. Gareth has dark hair, doesn't have much of a Welsh accent, and seems more laid back and cosmopolitan.

After several questions, someone from the back asked, "Did you miss me?" I thought that was a very strange question indeed, and it turned out to be a surprise visit from Naoko Mori, Tosh herself! Naoko ran to the stage and hugged Kai really tightly and they sat next to each other.

Naoko said she lived in L.A. now, and she just happened to be dropping a friend off at the airport next door and decided to come to the convention for a brief visit. She kindly offered to take questions and someone dressed in a

Tosh costume (Alexandra, whom I met afterwards), was one of the first. Naoko remembered Alexandra and her *Torchwood* costuming group from Comic-Con and greeted her like an old friend. I wanted Naoko to see my costume as well, but I couldn't think what to ask that wouldn't sound too stupid. The only thing that popped into my mind was to ask her to see my Sonic Modulator. Not exactly a question, but the only thing I could come up with.

Before I could think more about it and talk myself out of it, I raised my hand and Kai pointed me. The rest of this surreal experience is a blur, but I think I managed to say that my question wasn't really a question, but would she like to see my Sonic Modulator? She said yes, and I went up to the stage and handed it to her. She was very impressed and asked if I had made it, and I said yes. Gareth jokingly asked how many settings it has, and I said three. Kai was also being a prankster and gave the finger behind Naoko while I was trying to take a photo of her with the Sonic Modulator. For the rest of the con, people wanted to see the Sonic Modulator. Bryan, who wasn't at the panel, was very pleased when I told him the whole story.

After the panel, Naoko walked past me and I got to introduce myself and formally meet her. I also got to meet the *Torchwood* gals and got a nice photo of myself with them. They have a full crew and they looked really good. I recognized one of them but it was not until later, when I saw her again with an L.A. Browncoat friend, that I realized who she was. I had met Amy at Dickens Fair (and the

Browncoat party that followed) last December and I didn't know at that time that she was also a costumer and one of the famous *Torchwood* gals!



Naoko Mori with my Sonic Modulator as Gareth David-Lloyd Looks On by Jean Martin

After this was more of Kai and Gareth. I immediately lined up at the autograph room to get their autographs. They were sitting at tables next to each other but Kai was charging \$20 and Gareth was signing for free. (Apparently, their business arrangements at the con were different from each other.) There were writers in the autograph room again but I didn't know

who they were and I didn't have anything for them to sign. I suppose I should have been more interested in them since I'm a writer.

I was burned out from all the official events at that point so I decided to just relax and enjoy myself. I had gotten to do all the things I needed to accomplish and was content, so now I could enjoy just socializing! I met several amazing Cosplayers from all over the U.S. and surprisingly some from the Bay Area whom I didn't know. I really liked the costumes worn by Diana and Kevin (as a 1950s Rose and the Tenth Doctor from the "Idiot's Lantern" episode), and John and his fiancée Lyn. John was wearing a fantastic Eighth Doctor costume. The Eighth Doctor, from the 1996 TV movie, is generally regarded as the Victorian Doctor or the romance novel Doctor. Lyn was in a group of Cosplaying Bay Area ladies replicating three characters from the *Doctor Who* celebrity-studded comedy spoof "The Curse of Fatal Death." It was hilarious and unexpected to see people costuming from that show. Lyn was the female Doctor and the others were the sidekick, Emma, and the nemesis, the Master. I also met Kit, from the Bay Area, who was in a fabulous Donna Noble costume, and a girl I unfortunately didn't catch the name of, who was a spitting image of Martha Jones.

I found a life-size Tardis in one of the hallway rooms that connected the two sections of the con. That made for a great backdrop for taking photos of Cosplayers. There was actually even a dedicated Cosplay Room with a huge backdrop that looked like the interior wall of the Tardis. It's great to know that there are

costumers all over the US and they were all very friendly and I enjoyed talking shop with most of them.

Then it was time to change into my second costume of the con, my Evelina costume. Apparently, the *Torchwood* gals had an official toga party in one of the convention rooms, but I didn't make it to that one as it was in the late afternoon. There was just too much going on! Some people confused that party with Merv and Judith's "Fires of Pompeii" Volcano Day party that was going to be held in Kevin and Andy's suite. I was able to spot their suite from my room as there was an impressive four-foot Volcano in their patio that opened out onto the pool area.

I got to the party and it was already packed, with a long line for free drinks at the bar. Judith was a trooper as she manned the bar for most of the evening. She was wearing a beautiful light blue toga while Merv was wearing a Celtic outfit (an inside joke from the episode, and Merv has Celtic roots). I saw some people I knew but most I didn't. I talked to Merv for a bit and told him how great his party was.

There was a big piece of artwork by Maurine Starkey that looked just like the marble slabs with computer chip designs from the episode. She also did the altar with the family gods who became the Doctor and Donna at the end of the episode. I had to get a photo of me and Christopher (who had changed into his Tenth Doctor outfit) in front of that one!

There were copious amounts of snacks on one table and drinks with themed names flowed all night. People also flowed in and out all

evening. I met a few people in wonderful costumes but I mostly talked with people I already knew. The best costume I saw was Steven in an excellent Captain John Hart costume. When a gal dressed up as Captain Jack Harkness showed up, I encouraged them to do a kiss pose and a punching pose. That was quite a photo op! Then L.A. Browncoat Brian



España and Jean at the Volcano Day Party
by Jean Martin

finally arrived and I got to meet his friends (which included Steven/Captain John and Amy/Gwen Cooper). I decided to hang out with them as they were a lot of fun. I do get along with

folks from L.A. very well.

They all wanted to go do karaoke and so did I. So we went back into the convention area and checked out the karaoke room. There already was a long list of singers, so we had to wait a while, but it was fun to watch some of the people who came before us. And it's great to know that lots of sci fi fans love to sing like I do. I was also glad I was able to find a group to hang out with because karaoke is not as much fun when you don't know anyone. Everyone in the group I was with was from L.A. I didn't see anyone from the Bay Area there except for Christopher, who I know loves karaoke. So I finally got to see him sing and he was pretty good. Brian and his friends were all excellent, especially Christian who sang a Nine Inch Nails song, "Closer." He performed and looked like a rock star. I did "Roxie" from *Chicago*, and several people whom I didn't know complimented me afterwards and said I seemed like I did musical theater.

Sometime while we were waiting, Kai Owen took to the stage and sang "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me," then did a Welsh song called "Hymns and Arias," and ended with the Welsh National Anthem, which was in Welsh, of course.

After that, I thought it was time to go back to the Volcano Day party. Merv told me that I had just missed the producer of *Doctor Who*, Phil Collinson, tending bar for an hour. But Phil was still there and Merv encouraged me to go meet him. I found Phil talking with Kevin and Andy, and introduced myself. Andy added that I was the co-editor of *SF/SF*, the preeminent zine

in the SF Bay Area. I was quite flattered and thankful to Andy that he described me as such. I never realized till that moment that *SF/SF* does have quite a standing in the fandom community.

Friday was action-packed with lots of different things to do. I couldn't believe all that I experienced in just the first day of the con! It seemed like I was there for a long time already. And I felt better about just enjoying the con as I had already accomplished what I hoped to do and was also able to successfully connect with people.



Kevin and Diana as the 10th Doctor and Reinette
by Jean Martin

2/14/09, Saturday

I didn't even realize that Valentine's Day was going to be during the weekend of Gallifrey One until a few days before. But I was glad I had a con to go to, as this holiday didn't really have much significance for me this time around.

During the earlier part of the day, I took photos of Cosplayers in the Cosplay Room. This time, there was a complete contingent of all ten Doctors. Not only were their costumes and props amazing, each of them really exhibited the essence of each of the Doctors!

Diana was there as well. This time, she was wearing a Reinette (Madame de Pompadour) costume, which was absolutely gorgeous and she looked just like the character. The Doctors went into the Tardis room where lots of Companions showed up. It was great seeing people dressed up as Companions. I didn't really think that would be popular but I suppose it gave women the chance to be a part of the fun as all the ten (now eleven) Doctors are male. Well, except for Joanna Lumley... but that was in the spoof version. I've seen some women costume as the Doctor but that's been few and far between. I took a lot of photos in the Tardis room as well. One of my favorites was when the Fifth and Tenth Doctors re-created the publicity photo for the recent special "Time Crash."

It dawned on me that I should have probably brought more costumes, but I had been too busy leading up to the con. The two I made and had with me already took a lot of time. But in the future, I would like to do one of

the Companions. That idea wouldn't even have occurred to me if I hadn't seen all the Companions at the con. One of them had a beautiful Nyssa costume, which I really liked. Johanna from the Bay Area was wearing a Romana outfit that was quite fabulous as well. Mary and Sarah, also from here, were wearing the Victorian Torchwood outfits. I thought about doing one of those costumes a while back but I couldn't find someone to partner with, and it wouldn't be the same if it weren't a duo. It was a lot of fun just admiring costumes and meeting people.



Cyberman vs. Dalek
by Jean Martin

I was about to leave the room when most of the Cosplayers dispersed, but then a moving and talking, realistic, full-size Dalek arrived on the scene. Serendipitously, a Cyberman came into the room as well. Everyone in the room cheered as the two pretended to fight each other. Random things like this just kept happening at the con. I'm sure I missed a lot of

them, but I'm glad this was one that I witnessed.

Johanna was part of a costuming panel so I went to look for the room where this was going to be held. Kevin, Caitlin and Salina were also on the panel. There were a lot of people in the audience and the panelists were very informative and helpful.

Then I went to the "Something Borrowed" viewing. I'm not really into commentaries, I'd rather just watch the show, but that episode was my favorite from the second season of *Torchwood* so I went. Kai was one of the

commentators and he was really funny, while writer Phil Ford added some information on the story. Afterwards, Kai posed for photos with the *Torchwood* gals, who were dressed in the costumes from the episode. Amy as Gwen looked like the pregnant blushing bride, and Kai obliged her by kissing her.

I knew several people who were going to be part of the Masquerade (and Johanna and Kevin were two of the judges) and so I made a point of watching that. Usually, I'm part of the Masquerade, but this time I just wanted to be there to support my friends and to see what

other people have come up with. I was at the head of the line waiting to get in along with Christopher and some other Bay Area folk I had just met.

Actor, comedian and Fandom icon Tadao Tomomatsu was one of the emcees and he was highly entertaining as usual. There were a lot of entries and the hours rolled by with fantastic costumes and routines. Some stood out more than others. There was one that was actually quite painful to watch, and one that drew a lot of puzzlement from the audience. The Bay Area contingent did very well. In the Junior division, Yochanan won for his (and his father's) Supreme Dalek creation, while his sister Hannah was adorable as the Doctor's Daughter and picked up an award as well.

In the Senior Division, a lady that had an impressive Queen Elizabeth I costume won first place for Workmanship. I admit her gown was impressive but the line she delivered at the end was one that Queen Victoria did, not Queen Elizabeth. That was the entry that left a lot of us scratching our heads in confusion. Diana won second place for her Reinette gown, which I think should have won top honors. Third place went to a couple wearing elaborate Time Lord robes.

For presentation, Merv garnered a third place finish with his amazing Thomas Kincaid Brannigan, a cat man. He came out with a basket of little stuffed kitties and was looking for one of his little ones, which he found and retrieved from on top of the Tardis. It was his first masquerade entry but he already had a flair for showmanship and an innate sense of what



Wedding Photos with the *Torchwood* Gals and the Real Rhys Williams

by Jean Martin

would get a good audience reaction.

Second place went to the “Whosical” entry, a rousing *Doctor Who* musical number complete with a dancing Tardis doing jazz hands. It was lively and entertaining and all the characters involved really hammed it up while singing and dancing.

Mette and Bryan won first place for their eerie and incredible “Shadows in the Library” routine. They re-created a scene where the Vashta Nerada attack their prey from out of the shadows. They wore white space suits with LED lights and helmets whose interiors turned into lit up skulls. It was very theatrical and the costumes were professional quality.

The Judges’ Choice award went to the Tenth Doctor Retirement party, which included the ten Doctors I had seen earlier in the Cosplay Room. The skit involved the Tenth Doctor arriving on the scene where all nine previous Doctors were there to give him a surprise retirement party. Each in turn gave a little spiel, until the eleventh and not yet active Doctor, Matt Smith, walked into the party as well. It was very long but hilarious.

There were a couple of entries I really liked, which I wished could have won awards too. There was Lyn as Astrid Peth doing an awesome song and dance number à la Kylie Minogue (who played Astrid), while the Doctor watches. There was also Diana doing a scene from “The Girl in the Fireplace” with herself as Reinette, Kevin as the Doctor, someone doing King Louis, and four clockwork droids.

After the masquerade was a standup comedy show by Toby Hadoke called “Moths

Ate My *Doctor Who* Scarf.” The routine was about his life as a *Doctor Who* fan starting from his childhood days, how he was a nerd who was different from others, but how much *Doctor Who* has meant to him all his life. I left an hour later, after he finished recounting his college days, as it was late and I was very hungry and thirsty. Toby was funny but I’m not much into standup comedy. One of his jokes I liked the most was about his show being on Valentine’s Day because that’s when nerds aren’t busy.

I found Merv, Judith and Maurine and we all went to Champion to eat dinner. Merv made a point of eating a hot dog since he was wearing a cat costume. I made sure to snap a photo! España came by later wearing a lovely Steampunk outfit. I was actually wearing a Steampunk outfit as well and I just had to have a picture of the two of us together. España said she was going to the dance, which was after Toby’s show, and I told her I would meet her there.

In the interim, however, I ran into my L.A. karaoke compatriots from the previous evening and went with them to the karaoke room. I didn’t do as well that evening. I sang “Magic Man” by Heart, and I lost the audience’s interest during the long and numerous instrumental breaks. I have to remind myself not to sing songs with lots of those!

The L.A. crew and I went to the dance, but the music wasn’t very good. Most of the songs were just not danceable. España claims that it got better later on but I had already given up and gone to bed.

It felt to me like I’d been at the con for a

week already with all the activities I’d participated in and witnessed. And there was one more day to go!



Jean, Bryan and Mette in *Torchwood* costumes with Kai Owen and Gareth David-Lloyd

courtesy of Mette Hedin

2/15/09, Sunday

Sunday... the last day of the con. I was sad that the con was ending but was glad that we’d decided to leave on Monday so that we could enjoy the entire last official day. Early in the morning (well, early for me), I dressed up in my Toshiko costume again and went to line up for the photo room with Kai and Gareth. Bryan and Mette (as Captain Jack and Gwen) met up with me later and we got our photos taken together with Kai and Gareth. With all of us doing *Torchwood* roles, the only missing character was Owen.

Kai and Gareth looked tired, and it must have been strange for them to just sit on stools in front of a canvas backdrop while lots of people waited in line to be photographed with

them. I gave Kai a green ribbon with Welsh words on it that Johanna had printed and asked me to give to him. He responded to that a bit, but in general, they weren't very talkative. I guess it was early (especially after a night of partying) and they probably just wanted the queue to keep moving. They also had another panel that afternoon, which I saw a little bit of.

There was more Cosplaying that day. Christopher wore his Fourth Doctor outfit again. Bryan and Mette wore their award-winning Vashta Nerada costumes from the night before. John was in a Tenth Doctor and his fiancée Lyn was Rose from the last episode of the fourth season, "Journey's End."

This episode was shown as the last official event in the big hall. As I mentioned earlier, I don't like commentaries, but España encouraged me to go with her. I'm thankful I did because watching the episode with a roomful of die-hard fans, with Phil Collinson and Gary Russell talking about it, was quite a touching and memorable experience. We all cried at the end and I was passing tissues around.

Then it was time for the Closing Ceremonies in the same venue. I moved up to the front of the hall to take photos. Shaun Lyon, the organizer of the con, was the emcee. Phil and most of the actors came up on stage one by one to tell us how much they enjoyed the convention. This convention is unique in that the guests mingle with the attendees, and I think everyone benefits from it. Then all the writers who were at the con came up on the stage too. It was nice to see what the writers

looked like, and to see the guests one last time.

Afterwards, I had a nice dinner with Merv and Judith at Latitude 33. Maurine and her daughter were there too. Following dinner was Lobby Con, where everyone who was still around and up for partying hung out in the lobby. Merv, Judith, España and I started out at the bar then wound up at a table in the lobby once the bar closed. I talked with them until late. I tried to talk with other people but I didn't really get to connect with anyone new. A lot of people were talking with the writers, but I didn't know quite how to join in on their conversations. Since I don't drink, it's also hard for me to relate and be on the same level with those who do. But I had a great time during the entire con and I'm glad I got to hang out with Merv and Judith, who I mostly only see at conventions and the few times I have gone to the Legion of Rassilon meetups.

It was great that there were a lot of Bay Area folks I could hang out with. I also noticed that the Bay Area contingent was very involved in the con, did great in the masquerade, and had the best party. I guess that was because we live closer than most of the congoers and can do more, but also because the L.A. folk were busily in charge of actually running the con.

I met one of the founding members, James R. Terry, Jr., earlier that day. He was very nice and friendly, and he exemplified the general nature of the con. I did enjoy hanging out with people from L.A. as well as those from other parts of the US and the world.

2/16/09, Monday

I barely got up in time to get breakfast at

Starbucks and then meet up with Mette and Bryan to load up our suitcases into the minivan. We said goodbye to friends and new acquaintances. I was sad but also happy to be heading home. However, it was raining heavily and I-5 was closed due to snow. So after getting stuck in traffic, we had to take a detour on Highway 101. It took us twice as long to get home as it did to drive down.

It was 12 hours later that I arrived back at my apartment, exhausted but happy after experiencing a great con. I don't know if I'll be able to go back next year or anytime after that. But this is a con I would definitely like to revisit someday.

For more information, check out:
www.gallifreyone.com
www.legionofrassilon.org

Contact 2009 – Scientists, Writers & Artists Gather at NASA Ames – April 3-5, 2009

Photos by Howeird



SF Writer Kim Stanley Robinson



SETI Astronomer and Official Spokesman Seth Shostak



Robert Heinlein Presentation by Authors Gerald Nordley & Candace Lowe



Art Show

For more information, visit:
www.contact-conference.org/2009/2009index.htm
www.contact-conference.org/

NASA Ames Exploration Center

This Old Fanzine: PLOKTA No. 14

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Let's talk *PLOKTA*. It's been around a good long time, won a bunch of Novas, a couple of Hugos, and made The *PLOKTA* Cabal into a fannish household name. You can't go wrong with *PLOKTA*, for the most part, and I went back and found my favorite issue of the pre-2000 phase: Issue 14 (June 1999).

The cover is what does it for me. It's a reference to all those hot, cyborg babe covers that were so popular in the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and even today. There's a decidedly 1970s feel to SMS (and who is that?) and the piece. It's a part of what makes *PLOKTA* so damn good. The covers are fantastic, typically references to something outside of itself, which makes them funny on multiple levels. I loved this one, and though I've never seen a printed copy of it, I think it's a gas.

PLOKTA has a sense of humor that just permeates everything throughout the issue. There's a huge amount of good riffing going on all the time and the comedy can be a British at points, which means some of it may be lost on us Yanks. I know I sometimes have to

swim a little to get the tongue planted in the cheek. There's a great segment of the opening article that talks about installing Linux on Marianne, Alison's daughter. I met her when I stayed with Steve and Alison on my TAFF trip. Nice kid. The photo of Marianne with the Tux sticker on her forehead was priceless.

There's a fine little article from Alison about a bike ride and an ear-piercing. It's a fun piece, light and slightly fluffy, which is a good thing as it fits in perfectly with the tone of *PLOKTA* in all its glory. Alison follows that with a look at Seccon, a convention that I'd never heard of before I read this issue the first time, and I can't think of any other reference to it.

One thing about *PLOKTA*; they've always got great photos, in color, even in the print version. It's a spectacular thing they manage to do, putting out a full-color fanzine. It would probably explain why they were on the ballot for so many years before falling off this year.

Easily the highlight of this issue is "Gu*ness is Good For You," an article that deals with something I've



"But Mum...!...Science Fiction is Grown-Up, Intelligent Literature of Ideas... Honest!"

written about: kids and how they deal with their world. It's about Marianne and a balloon toucan. I've had that exact thing happen to me with Evelyn, having to explain how things come and go. I explained to her the concept of ebb and flow, my gambling philosophy, and she accepted it. Marianne is much more philosophical, it seems. I was really moved by the article. A fine piece of writing.

The LetterCol is solid, with a fun little Haiku from The Human Tornado, John Hertz. There are some names that are very familiar, including Brad Foster, Lloyd Penney and even Sue Francis in the WAHFs.

There's also a fine photo of Vijay Bowen on the floor in a leather bikini at the feet of Eira Latham during her TAFF trip. I don't think I did that on my trip, but to each his own...

The real power of *PLOKTA* is the layout and the art. I've often said that *Banana Wings* and *PLOKTA* are complete opposites. So much so that I don't keep them next to each other for fear that oppositely charged particles will interact and annihilate each other in a sort of small Big Bang, a Baby Bang, if you will. *PLOKTA* is all about layout and art and comedic writing and fun, while *Banana Wings* isn't stodgy at all, but it's about writing. Best

written fanzine in the world: *Banana Wings*. Best looking fanzine in the world: *PLOKTA*. Pretty much as easy as that.

This is a really good-looking issue, and it's no shock that Sue Mason has won a couple of Hugos. Her work in *PLOKTA* is great stuff. It's a real big reason I think that *PLOKTA* has come so far into fandom's consciousness. She's a wonderful artist and a lot of fun. I really should ask her for some art, sometime.

You can read this fun issue at fanac.org/fanzines/plokta/issue14/index.htm or just go to plokta.com and you can read all the back issues.



Persistent Harmonics

by Lucy Huntzinger

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 974-975

Meeting 974

March 30, 2009

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

Began at 8-ish

26 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 973 were accepted as *that*

Treasurer report = last week we took in \$20.80 in the regular jar and \$ 4.69 in the party jar

The Vice president said *ello* and reported that there is a new *Drink Tank* out - *handicapping the Hugos* & there's a new *Culture* out and a new SF/SF will be out soon

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements

Adrienne announced that she's on Twitter now = Adrienne517 and she's looking for an Anticipation room mate and there'll be a con in July - maybe - Nor-Cal para Con, July 17-19

Bob announced that NASA's naming contest for the space station ended with Colbert winning, with *Serenity* coming in 2nd, plus he's moving back to the Bay Area and looking for work - preferably museum work - and he would really like some help moving on April 25 from Roseville, otherwise he'll be stuck doing it all alone

John asked us to keep good thoughts in mind since he may be out-sourced tomorrow

Mo announced that this weekend is Contact at NASA/Ames and they are VERY in need of sf art to hang for its duration; please contact Mo if you can help - and you'll get a free membership

Howeird announced that Contact is this weekend - its silver anniversary & that Yuri's night is being hosted by the California Academy of Sciences, April 4 = check yurisnight.net

Dave G announced that Contact will feature a gorgeous silver pin to commemorate the occasion that Spring designed

Johanna announced that she is helping to work on a sf fan film - check with her at jo@skaro.com

Ken announced that people died [Andy Hallett and Maurice Jarre].

[tall] Kevin announced that he survived a reorg.

Reviews

Chris reviewed having to read all the Hugo nominees in 5 days is hard on the brain - that there were 2 monkey stories among them - and overall it was worth not sleeping for

Mo reviewed being a conference associate at the Game Developers Conference last weekend was interesting and she enjoyed it and it's worth buying the Expo pass to see it

Adrienne reviewed *A Haunting in Connecticut* as all the characters were so stupid that it astonished her, but there are worse movies out there - and worth Netflix if you have to see it & she reviewed a documentary *The Making of Me* as disappointing and a bit boring

Fred announced the EFF Benefit reading as just great and that *Life of Brian* is no longer banned somewhere in Wales [the town of Aberystwyth - which can't be a real Welsh town since the name has vowels in it ^_^]

Howeird reviewed Shatner Butt Girls who did a show last Saturday as entertaining & tightly scripted - worth full price

Glenn reviewed seeing porn playing on a DVD player while out driving as distracting

Johanna reviewed seeing lots of Dr Who fan files as *The Schroedinger Effect* is probably the best of the lot

We did auctions: a bear for \$0.50, a Xmas thingie for \$0.25, books for \$0.25, \$0.25, \$1.00, \$0.25, \$1.00, \$0.25; magazines for \$1.50, \$2.75, \$2.00, \$1.00, \$0.50, \$0.25; a box of stuff for \$0.15 & \$0.25; handfuls of stuff for \$0.50, \$0.25, \$1.00, MP Fluxx cards for \$11.00, a DVD & book for \$1.00 & \$1.00; a shower curtain & loofah for \$0.25, & candles for \$0.50

We adjourned at = 9:49

And the rumor of the week was: *You can't write this stuff!*

Meeting 975

Meeting #975 was called to order at 2009 on 4/6/09.

There were no officers present. Kevin Standlee stood in as Presiding President, Glenn Glazer was the Emergency Holographic Secretary.

A party jar was moved. There was an amendment to change *party* to *TAFF*, which passed 10-3 and the main motion was sustained by a vote of 11-3.

Evil Kevin read the minutes of #979 from his cell phone. The minutes were approved as "He didn't write this stuff." The fill-in-the-blank passed by 8-5 and the main motion by 10-3.

Announcements

Dave C: New Cargo Cult Newsletter out. -

Lucasfilm was selling specially selected Star Wars film frames in a fancy box for only \$5,500.

Fred: He bought the audiobook of *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman. He is willing to loan it out to anyone who makes a \$3 donation to the jar. There were a number of positive reviews as follow-ons.

Norwescon in three days. Kevin followed-on with Match Game on Friday night, Westercon 64 bid party on Saturday night.

Mo: She has a room for rent in Santa Clara

Glenn: Pointed out that Cuisinart lists science fiction as one of the lifestyle choices on their product registration survey.

Andy: Registered members of Anticipation can get eBooks and digitized editions of the Hugo nominated works on Scalzi's website

Evil Kevin: NW Leather Celebration coming up at the Domain Hotel.

Reviews

Lisa: *Monsters vs. Aliens*: Even her mother liked it, worth full price. There were a number of mostly positive follow-ons.

Andy: Enjoyed a lunch at the New Zealand Pub and then he and Evil Kevin went to the American Distillers' 6th Annual Event at St. George's. This year the focus was on brandy. The whole event is pricey and for the trade, but there was a Meet the Makers for \$40/person. There were some snafus, but worth every penny. Something like 30-40 distillers and not enough time to get to each one. Evil Kevin followed on with how their elite shmoozing

skills won them free food and booze.

Ric: ThinkGeek has some April 1st pranks like the Squeeze Bacon. The Tauntaun sleeping bag hoax was so popular that they are actually trying to make a simulated one.

Howeird: Oakland Zoo was quite wonderful and worth senior price.

Contact was not as eclectic as it used to be, but good. There were follow-ons.

Bill L.: Bob's House Filk (I think that's what he said): a good time was had by all, nice vibes.

Carol: Complications followed her appendix removal requiring two more procedures, but she's better now. Having a loving caregiver: worth full price.

Girl Genius Ball was lots of fun even if she couldn't do any dancing.

Dave C: <SPOILER WARNING>

SFX Magazine had a list of best and worst, proving that you can't get less than one star. He read one of the reviews of something bad.

Eric did auctions. 25 cents for a bottle of coke, 25 cents for some British mags, \$1 for a Bloom County book with the original record still in it, candles for 25 cents, hair products for 25 cents, \$2 for a letter opener and a box of plastic spoons, 25 cents for a sex book.

The meeting was adjourned at 2128. There was no rumor.

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 highlighted in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

Saturday, April 18

Starry Night of Steampunk: A Fantastic Exhibition of Luminiferous Aether

Chabot Space and Science Center
1000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland

gbacg.org/current/starry-night-steampunk.html

GBAC Event, Steampunk or Victorian-Edwardian period costumes required. Advance tickets only.

6:30 p.m. \$22 (till April 15)

Saturday, April 18

SF in SF: Peter Beagle and Richard Lupoff

Hobart Building

582 Market Street, San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

Bar proceeds benefit Variety Children's Charity

7 p.m. Free

Saturday-Sunday, April 18-19

Cherry Blossom Festival

J-Town

nccbf.org

The 42nd Annual celebration of Japanese culture will take place over two weekends. Featuring a traditional arts and crafts fair, stages will feature performances by Japanese classical and folk dancers, martial artists, taiko drummers and others. The Grand Parade will be on Sunday, April 19. Free

Saturday-Sunday, April 29-30

Sac-Anime

Radisson Hotel

500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento

www.sacanime.com

Guests include Paul Mercier and Roger Craig Smith. \$30

Sunday, April 19

Midnites for Maniacs Quadruple Feature

The Castro Theater

San Francisco

www.midnitesformaniacs.com

MIDNITES FOR MANiACS and The Alamo Drafthouse Co-Present Cinemapocalypse: Raw Force, Vigilantes, Escape From New York and Lady Terminator, check theatre for showtimes. \$10

Saturday, May 2

Warp 11

The Blue Lamp

1400 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento

www.warp11.com

Details TBA. Trek-themed sci-fi band Warp 11 is back with a new album, *It's Dead, Jim* 9:30 p.m. 21+

Saturday, May 2

The Unseen University Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo

www.peers.org

Discworld, fantasy themed event with live performance by Avalon Rising.

7 p.m. \$15 (till April 25)

Saturday, May 9

Author: Rick Riordan

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

www.keplers.com

Family event. Riordan signs the latest in the Percy Jackson series, *The Last Olympian*.

5 p.m. Free

Saturday, May 16-Sunday, May 17
Scottish Games & Celtic Celebration
Robertson Park, Livermore
www.livermoregames.com

Sunday, May 17
The Tomorrowmen

Hotel Utah
500 4th Street, San Francisco
www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen
The instro-surf rockers from the future participate in Surf Battle of the Bands, with up to 14 bands duking it out for the reverb crown.
8 p.m. \$10

Thursday, May 21

Author: D.J. McHale
Kepler's Books
1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
www.keplers.com
McHale reads from the final book in the Pendragon series, *The Soldiers of Halla*
7 p.m. Free

Tuesday, May 22-Sunday, July 5

Spamalot
Golden Gate Theater
1182 Market Street, San Francisco
www.shnsf.com
Check website for tickets and showtimes.

Friday-Monday, May 22-25
FanimeCon
San Jose Convention Center
www.fanime.com
\$15 Bay Area anime convention, this year's guests include Carl Gustav Horn, Gilles Poitras, Jonathan Osborne, Keith Burgess, Ric Meyers and Ryan Gavigan. \$50

Friday-Monday, May 22-25
Baycon
Hyatt Regency
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
www.baycon.org/2009
This year's theme is 'The Search for Pyrocumulon'. GOH are Larry Dixon and Mercedes Lackey, Tim Kirk, and Fred Patten.
\$65

Saturday, May 30-Sunday, May 31
Valhalla Faire
Camp Richardson
1900 Jameson Beach Road, South Lake Tahoe
valhallafaire.com
Renaissance Faire \$18

Saturday-Sunday, May 30-31
Maker Faire
San Mateo Fairgrounds
2495 South Delaware Street, San Mateo
makerfaire.com
Maker Faire is a two-day, family-friendly event that celebrates the Do-It-Yourself mindset. It's for creative, resourceful people of all ages and backgrounds who like to tinker and love to make things \$25

Saturday, June 6-Sunday, June 7
Valhalla Faire
Camp Richardson
1900 Jameson Beach Road, South Lake Tahoe
valhallafaire.com
Renaissance Faire \$18

Saturday, June 6
The Secret Agent Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo
www.peers.org
Spy themed event with live performance by Sara and Swingtime.
7 p.m. \$15 (till May 30)

Sunday, June 7
Sac-Con
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com
Sacramento's toy, comic and anime show. Events include gaming tournaments, costume contest and amateur art contest.
10 a.m. \$6

Friday-Sunday, Jun 12-14
Robogames
Fort Mason Center, San Francisco
Details TBA, dates tentative \$20

Saturday, June 20

SF in SF: The Brazen Hussies

Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org

Reading by local authors Michaela Roessner-Herman, Lisa Goldstein and Pat Murphy. Bar proceeds benefit Variety Children's Charity
7 p.m. Free

Wednesday-Saturday, July 15-18

Fire Arts Festival

The Crucible
Oakland
www.thecrucible.org/fireartsfestival
Each July The Crucible's Fire Arts Festival celebrates creativity through fire and light with a spectacular open-air exhibition of interactive fire art, performance and sculpture.

Friday-Tuesday, July 17-21

Azcatraz, A Harry Potter convention

Park 55 Hotel
55 Cyril Magnin Street, San Francisco
www.hp2009.org
\$165 (till May 31)

Saturday, August 1

The River City Picnic Dance

PEERS Event
Lincoln Park
1450 High Street, Alameda
www.peers.org
Music Man, Edwardian themed event with live music by Bangers and Mash
1 p.m. Free

Saturday, August 8

Kin-Yoobi Con

Chabot College
25555 Hesperian Boulevard, Hayward
www.gzronline.com/kin-yoobi-con09.htm
Anime convention, featuring a vendor room, cosplay contest, gaming and much more.
Guests include Robert Axelrod and Steven Savage.
9 a.m. \$12 (till August 1st)

Saturday, August 29-Sunday, August 30

Golden Gate Faire

Speedway Meadow
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
ggfaire.com
Renaissance Faire \$18

Saturday, September 5

The Sweeney Todd Ball

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo
www.peers.org
Victorian themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash
7 p.m. \$15 (till August 30)

Friday-Sunday, September 25-27

From the Land Beyond

Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com
Guests announced so far include Ray Park, Crispin Freeman, Jake Busey and more. Friday night concert by Warp 11.

Sunday, September 27

Handcar Regatta

Railroad Square
Santa Rosa
handcar-regatta.com
The 2nd Annual 2009 Great West End & Railroad Square Handcar Regatta & Exposition of Mechanical & Artistic Wonders. Featuring live music, craft show, vendors and other entertainments. Costumes encouraged.
Free

Saturday, October 3

The Space Cowboys Ball

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo
www.peers.org
Firefly, Western themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash
7 p.m. \$15 (till September 27)

Saturday, October 17-Sunday, October 18

Folsom Renaissance Faire

Folsom City Lions Park
403 Stafford Street, Folsom
folsomfaire.com
Renaissance Faire \$12

Saturday, October 24-Sunday, October 25

All-Hallows Fantasy Faire

Mother Lode Fairgrounds
220 Southgate Drive, Sonora
sonoracelticfaire.com/hallowsfaire.html
Sonora Celtic Faire presents the first annual All Hallows Fantasy Faire. Details TBA

Thursday, October 29-Sunday, November 1

World Fantasy Convention

The Fairmont Hotel

170 South Market Street, San Jose

www.worldfantasy2009.org

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.

\$125

Friday, October 30-Sunday, November 1

Yaoi-Con

San Mateo Marriott

1770 South Amphlett Blvd, San Mateo

www.yaoicon.com

A celebration of male beauty and passion in anime and manga. 18+

\$40 (till May 31)

Saturday, September 5

Le Ball des Vampires

PEERS Event

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Ave, Santa Clara

www.peers.org

Vampire themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash

7 p.m.

\$20 (till September 30)

Ongoing

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco

www.sfgghosthunt.com

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20

Sundays

MGI SF&F/Horror/Speculative fiction

Writing Group

Personal Residence (email for details)

Emeryville

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

8 p.m.

Free

Dukefish

Jake's of Sunnyvale

174 E. Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale

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 our who wants to play what, and typically start playing games no later than 8:30 p.m.

8 p.m.

Free

Mondays and Wednesdays

Silicon Valley Boardgamers

Mountain View Community Center

201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View

www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb

Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multi-player Avalon Hill-style, historical war games, and others.

6:30 p.m.

\$2

Tuesdays

MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games

Codornices Park

1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley

mgisciaf.angelfire.com

groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub

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

3 p.m-5:30 p.m

Free

Wednesdays

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City

www.BayRPS.com

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com

6 p.m.-10 p.m.

Free

East Bay Strategy Games Club

EndGame

921 Washington, Oakland

www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html

7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

Free

Fanboy Planet Podcast

Illusive Comics and Games

2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105, Santa Clara

Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it's the Fanboy Planet Podcast with your host, Derek McCaw.

6 p.m.

Free

Wednesdays and Saturdays

Hayward Collectibles Show

22300 Hathaway Ave (rear bldg), Hayward

www.toysandbaseballcards.com

Wednesdays 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Free

Fridays

SF Games

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco

vax.hanford.org/dk/games

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.

7 p.m. to midnight

Free

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

Meets at Coffee To The People

1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco

www.hauntedhaight.com

Reservations required.

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

\$20

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

Meets corner of California and Taylor, San Francisco

www.sfvampiretour.com

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

8 p.m.

\$20

Saturdays

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Parkway Speakeasy Theater, 1834 Park Blvd., Oakland

www.parkway-speakeasy.com

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

Midnight

\$7

Biweekly

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street, San Francisco

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

Clockwork SF

Julie's Supper Club

1123 Folsom, San Francisco

www.myspace.com/clubclockwork

A Steampunk Parlor: Gothic/Darkwave/

Synthpop w/DJ's MzSamantha, Fact 50,

Melting Girl and Greg. 21+. Meets every third

Saturday.

9 p.m.

\$5 after 10 p.m.

Dorkbot-SF

www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/

Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists,

designers, engineers, students, and other people

doing strange things with electricity.

Free, donations welcome

East Bay Star Wars Club

Central Perk

10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito

510-558-7375

www.ebstarwars.com

Meets the second Friday of every month.

7:30 p.m.

Free

Fantastic Frontiers

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/

Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/

fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday

of the month. Check website for meeting times

and locations.

Foothill Anime

Building 5015, Foothill College

Los Altos Hills

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.

12 p.m.

Free

The Gay Men's Book Club

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

Please contact Chris, the group leader, at

cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.

5 p.m.

Free

Legion of Rassilon

Carl's Jr.

2551 N. 1st St, San Jose

www.legionofrassilon.org

Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth

Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who,

news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.

7:30 p.m

Free

Micro Gods, Inc.

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch

1125 University Ave, Berkeley

mgisciaf.angelfire.com

groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/

Family Club for fans of Science Fiction,

Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every

3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for

updates.

2:30 p.m-5:30 p.m

Free

No-Name Anime

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Avenue

Saratoga

www.nnanime.com

Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

Free

Other Realms Book Club

Books, Inc.

1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame

www.booksinc.net

Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.

6:30 p.m.

Free

Religion & SF Book Club

First United Methodist Church

1183 "B" Street, Hayward

Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please

contact Rev. Randy Smith at

RSmith2678@aol.com for more information.

7 p.m.

Free

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

The book for April 19 is Blindsight by Peter

Watts, for May 17 it will be Heinlein's Stranger

in a Strange Land. The Please contact Jude at

jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more

information.

6 p.m.

Free

SF Browncoats

Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.
Noon Free

Science Fiction Santa Rosa Meetup

Borders Books
2500 Santa Rosa Avenie, Santa Rosa
groups.yahoo.com/group/scifisantarosa/
Regular meetup for North Bay fans on the second Sunday of the month.
3:30 p.m. Free

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

Various locations (see website for details)
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.
Noon - 2 p.m. Free

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction Book Club

Books Inc.
301 Castro Street, Mountain View
650-428-1234
Generally meets the third Thursday of the month.
7:30 p.m. Free

USS Augusta Ada

Round Table Pizza
3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco
trek.starshine.org
Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.
1 p.m. Free

USS Defiance

Round Table Pizza
1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento
www.ussdefiance.org
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.
7 p.m. Free

USS Northern Lights

Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for location.
www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/4096/
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.
7 p.m. Free

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.
6 p.m. Free



San Francisco from the 22nd Floor

by Lucy Huntzinger

Bay Area Fannish Calendar – April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>MGI SFF/H Writing Sakramento Anime</i>	<i>BASFA Dukefish SV Boardgamers</i>	<i>MGI Boffers</i>	<i>SV Boardgamers BA Role-Playing Soc E.Bay Strategy Games</i>		<i>SF Games</i>	<i>Rocky Horror</i>
29	30	31	1	2	3 <i>Contact 25 (thru Sun)</i>	4 <i>Composer is Dead! Kris Saknussem Girl Genius Victorian Mad Science Ball Silicon Browncoats</i>
5 <i>L.E. Modesitt, Jr. Foothill Anime</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>Leonardo Art/Science Evening Rendezvous Thrillville's 12th Ann.</i>	10 <i>East Bay Star Wars USS Northern Lights</i>	11 <i>Cherry Blossom Fest Kingdom of the West Mamatas and Pratt No-Name Anime SF Browncoats</i>
12 <i>Cherry Blossom Fest Gay Men's Book Club SF Santa Rosa Meetup</i>	13 <i>Robert J. Sawyer</i>	14	15	16 <i>Tangential Conjectures</i>	17 <i>USS Defiance</i>	18 <i>Starry Night Cherry Blossom Fest Beagle and Lupoff Micro Gods, Inc. Clockwork SF</i>
19 <i>Cherry Blossom Fest Midnites for Maniacs Quadruple Feature SF/F Book Club</i>	20	21	22 <i>Other Realms</i>	23 <i>SF&F Writers' Group</i>	24 <i>Legion of Rassilon</i>	25 <i>USS Augusta Ada Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i>
26 <i>Religion & SF</i>	27	28	29	30	1	2 <i>Warp 11</i>

Bay Area Fannish Calendar – May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>MGI SFF/H Writing Sakramento Anime</i>	<i>BASFA Dukefish SV Boardgamers</i>	<i>MGI Boffers</i>	<i>SV Boardgamers BA Role-Playing Soc E.Bay Strategy Games</i>		<i>SF Games</i>	<i>Rocky Horror</i>
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 <i>Warp 11 Unseen Univ. Ball Silicon Gulch Browncoats</i>
3 <i>Foothill Anime</i>	4	5	6	7 <i>SF&F Writers' Group</i>	8 <i>East Bay Star Wars USS Northern Lights</i>	9 <i>Author: Rick Riordan Fantastic Frontiers No-Name Anime SF Browncoats</i>
10 <i>Gay Men's Book Club SF Santa Rosa Meetup</i>	11	12	13	14	15 <i>USS Defiance</i>	16 <i>Scottish Games & Celtic Celebration (thru Sun) Micro Gods, Inc Clockwork SF</i>
17 <i>The Tomorrowmen SF/F Book Club</i>	18	19	20	21 <i>Author: D.J. McHale Tangential Conjectures</i>	22 <i>Baycon (thru Mon) FanimeCon(thru Mon) Spamalot (thru July 5) Legion of Rassilon</i>	23 <i>USS Augusta Ada</i>
24 <i>Religion & SF</i>	25	26	27 <i>Other Realms</i>	28	29	30 <i>Valhalla Faire (thru Sun) Maker Faire (thru Sun) Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i>
31						