

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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Red Tide

by Lucy Huntzinger

Contents

News and Notes.....	Chris Garcia.....	2
Editorial.....	Jean Martin.....	5
This Old Fanzine: Trap Door #16.....	Chris Garcia.....	7
Letter of Comment.....	Chris Garcia.....	8
Sorcerercon 2009: Brilliant or Baffling?.....	Chris Garcia.....	9
NASA Expo in Mountain View.....	Howeird.....	Photos by Howeird..... 10
So Say We All.....	Louise Du Cray.....	Photos by Louise Du Cray..... 13
Interview with The TomorrowMen.....	Tom Becker.....	Photos by Tom Becker..... 17
BASFA Minutes: Meetings 986-987.....		21
Bay Area Fannish Calendar.....	España Sheriff.....	Photo by Lucy Huntzinger..... 24

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

First things first: Happy Birthday, Linda! You're the best!

OK, let's start with awards. The Hugos are coming up, but the Locus Awards were announced and it's an interesting set of winners. Neal Stephenson's *Anathem* was the winner of Best Science Fiction Novel. I picked him and I'm thinking that he'll also take home the Hugo for it. Ursula K. Le Guin won the Best Fantasy Novel for *Lavinia*, which isn't surprising since she's won many other awards for it this year. Best First Novel went to Paul Melko's *Singularity's Ring*, which I started but never finished. I thought that Daryl Gregory's *Pandemonium* would take it, as it wasn't great, but it was the only one I could really get into on the ballot. Of course, with *Locus's* track record, it may have gotten the most votes...

Other winners include Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book* for Best Young Adult Book, "Exhalation" by Ted Chiang for Best Short Story, Kelly Link's "Pretty Monsters" for Best Novella (a fantastic story that I only discovered recently) and "Pump Six" from Paolo Bacigalupi for Best Novelette. *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* won Best Magazine, which is certainly deserved as the other magazines were largely awful in 2008.

Of course, Michael Whelan won Best Artist (I am saying that Picacio deserves this award), and Ellen Datlow won Best Editor. Tor took Best Publisher, which happens. I like Tor, but this certainly wasn't their best year. 2005, 06, absolutely, but not 08.

I haven't heard much more, but there's news of a Japan in 2017 bid. That's an interesting notion, ten years after their first Worldcon, which was a hit with many. This leads to a lot of thoughts. First, what about the long-rumored Moscow in 2017 bid? There were Russians buying drinks for people at Noreascon in 2004 and at LACon IV in 2006 talking about a 2017 bid to celebrate 100 years after the Revolution. That's a fun premise for a Worldcon, I tell you what. The other thought is, what of the NASFiC? The BArea would be a nice location for one of those, wouldn't it? A lot to think about...

The Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame in Seattle inducted their 2009 honorees during Locus Awards Weekend. The four inductees were editor Edward L. Ferman (who was the editor of *F&SF* during its last peak period), artist Michael Whelan, artist Frank R. Paul (the man who did most of the early Gernsback covers), and author Connie Willis. Frank Wu, who is a great admirer of Frank R. Paul and maintainer of a site dedicated to him, was there at the event. If you haven't been to

the Science Fiction Museum in Seattle, set aside some time to go and visit.

There was something of a stink about the Fan Culture Preservation Project, a thing started by the Organization for Transformative Works (a Fan Fic group) and the Special Collections of the University of Iowa, which has a fair-sized zine collection. The Organization has about 62 boxes of Fan Fic zines, something that gets not nearly enough attention as a part of fandom. Mariellen "Ming" Wathne held the collection for years, most of which consisted of zines in the *Star Wars* universe sent to Lucasfilm. That was the seed, and there were a great many other zines that got added to that collection.

The fun happens when there was a post about it on one of the forums (I think it was the OTW blog). The first sets of comments were about how this was a great project and that folks wanted to help (and I've got a fair many zines from the 70s and 80s that they might be interested in), but then a thread came up about how this was a terrible project because the creators have no control over who gets to see them, and the access to the material by scholars instead of fans. It's an interesting argument, but it overlooks the fact that people PUBLISHED these things! They wanted to get them out. If you print something, you can never be sure who'll see it in the future, and that should be

expected. In the Internet age, people are thinking about that, but in reality, if you've published it, you've officially put it out potentially to the entire world. Now, widespread access, that's another thing. If you're scanning things and putting them online, then there's something to be said for getting permissions and the like.

The response to said complaints appears to be this part of their FAQ:

What about fan privacy? Many fans published stories under their legal names. Respecting fans' rights and privacy is the first priority for both the University of Iowa and the OTW. Typical public listings will only include the zine title and fandom (i.e. Blake's Seven: The Other Side 1, 3 [1986-1987]), the same way a magazine is listed in a library catalog. However, we do hope to get permission from individual authors and editors to share their content more widely online.

It would have been better if they just said, "We're a freakin' library! We do this all the time."

OK, other news. St. George Spirits had another Open House in Alameda on the 20th. It was a fine event, with tons of fans around. It was great food and drink, and great music and an all-around good time.

There's some news about the recently renamed Steampunk Exhibition. They're looking at an early March date for next year. That's not a bad time for one. I'll keep y'all posted.

My Ghod, is it hot today!

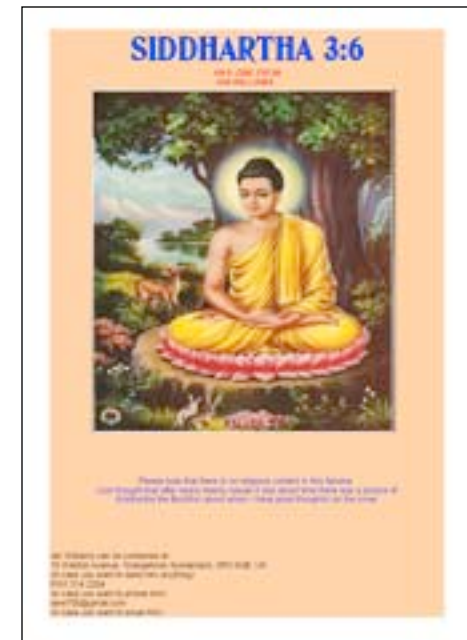
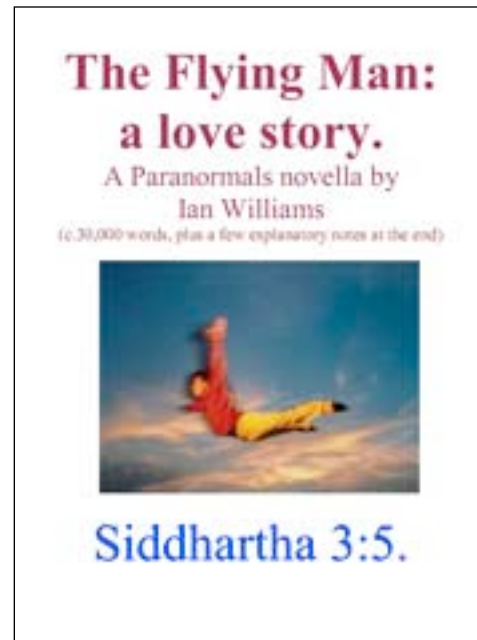


A plug for Writers with Drinks at the Make-Out Room in San Francisco over the next few

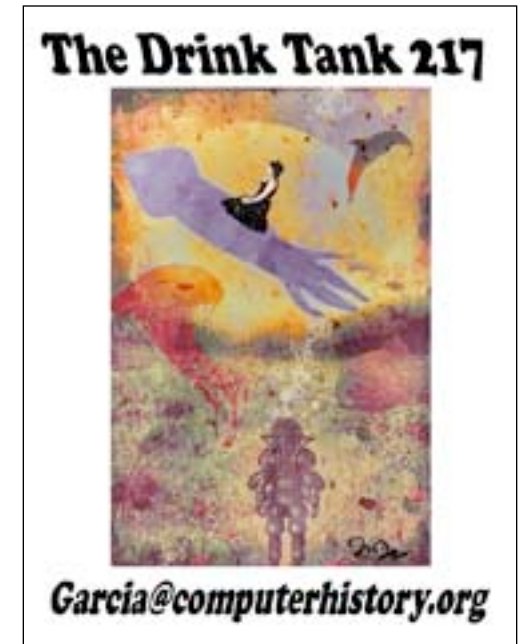
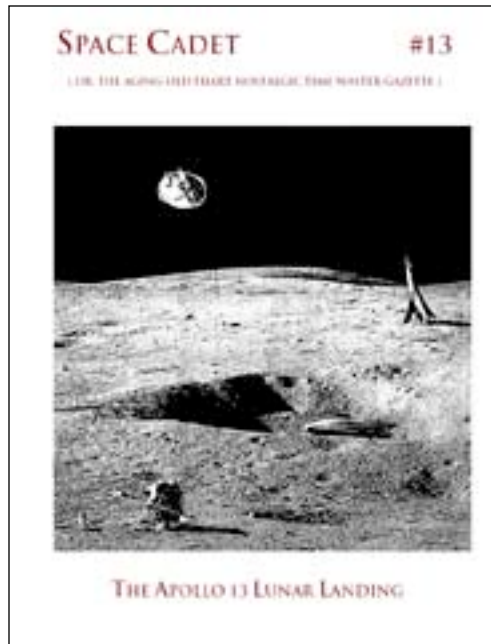
months. It includes Rudy Rucker, Steve Barnes and John Shirley, along with Adam Savage from *Mythbusters*, Roz Savage of *Rowing the Atlantic*, and Rachel Pollack who is one of the world's experts on the Tarot.

Hey, there's stuff happening on eFanzines.com as well. There's a new issue of Peter Weston's *Relapse*. It's a fantastic zine dedicated to British Fan History. It's probably one of the five best zines in the world (along with *eI* by Earl Kemp, *Banana Wings* by Mark and Claire, *Challenger* by Guy Lillian and *Inca* by Rob Jackson) and this is another chunky, fantastic zine.

Ian Williams put out two more issues of *Siddhartha* (#3.5 and 3.6), one of which is supposedly the last issue for the time being. It's a shame because the issue about the British show *Skins* was just fantastic.



images courtesy of eFanzines.com



Space Cadet #13 is out from R. Graeme Cameron. It's solid, as always, but largely it's another strong effort from the number of pieces he's got. There's also an update to the *Canadian Fencyclopedia*, now up to the letter U.

There's also perhaps the least fannish issue of any fanzine ever. *Claims Department* Issue 10 is all about the wrestler known as Mitsuharu Misawa. He died in the ring and I thought I needed to write a tribute to him. I think it's a very good tribute, on a par with the one I did

for Kurt Vonnegut. There's also a new *Drink Tank* featuring the magnificent Leigh Ann Hildebrand, Mr. Daniel Kimmel, Taral Wayne, LoCs and art from Genevieve and others!

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

This July marks the fourth year that *Science Fiction/San Francisco* has been in existence. To commemorate this historic event, I went back to the first issue that our founder, Jack Avery, published. In his Editorial, he “blames” Arnie Katz’s *Vegas Fandom Weekly* for making him “mad” enough to come out with a zine that aims to publicize a seemingly non-existent and unorganized Bay Area fandom (compared with the thriving and well-documented Las Vegas scene). He also had a lofty goal of finding more fans, groups and fanac, and covering “basically anything involving any area of fans or fandom in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.” He made it clear from that first issue that he was not going to do it alone because “the SF Bay Area is just too big, and I’m too far north here in Santa Rosa, to get to all of the events and keep up with it.”

Four years later, I am proud to say that our *SF/SF* team is accomplishing all this and more. It’s amazing that we are still going strong and coming out with issue after issue of varied articles from several corners of fandom. We are also becoming more and more visually appealing as well with our layout, photos and artwork.

Personally, I credit Jack Avery for getting me

more deeply involved in fandom since I started contributing to *SF/SF* within a few months of its inception (with Chris and myself taking over as editors a few months after that). I began to discover and to cover more events, and my whole world just opened up into so many more areas of creativity, intellectual stimulation and social interaction than I ever dreamed possible. I have not looked back ever since and have embraced fandom completely. Even now when I sometimes feel too overwhelmed and/or tired to do anything, I get excited when I remember that I have to review an event and share stories and photos about my experiences in fandom with anyone who cares enough to “listen.”

Which raises the question: Is anyone out there “listening?” Whenever I wonder if anyone really cares about what I do – and maybe I should do something more valuable like feeding the homeless or cleaning up beaches – I just put my ears to the ground (metaphorically speaking) and invariably someone mentions how they liked something I wrote or they enjoyed the photos or found the Calendar useful. I’m always pleasantly surprised when I hear positive feedback from our readers. To me, just the fact that we publish something is fulfilling in and of itself. But that we actually have people who read our work and find us valuable makes it even more worthwhile.

I have to remind myself that everyone has their own gifts and contributions to the world and one isn’t necessarily better than another. I have been writing and publishing on and off since I was in high school, and this was what I was born to do. Other than writing and photography, I actually also enjoy publicizing *SF/SF* to gain a wider readership and obtaining contributions from other people. I just love the whole publication process.

It had been a decade since my last publishing endeavor, the heavy metal music print zine *Nocturne Magazine*, until I found *SF/SF*. I was literally depressed at not having an outlet for my writing and photography and was searching around that time for something to do. Then *SF/SF* came along. I think my involvement in *SF/SF* was fated and it continues to be one of the most important things in my life.

When I talk with fannish friends, 2005 seems to have been the “Big Bang” of fandom in recent history. Fandom has grown and become more intertwined since then. There are various factors to this that I’ve discussed in previous editorials and articles, but I am confident enough to say that *SF/SF* has played a part in the growth and connectedness of Bay Area fandom. Whenever I meet people who don’t know much, if anything, about fandom, I refer them to *SF/SF* and they are amazed at the

variety and sheer number of interesting fannish events in the Bay Area. Even folks already in fandom find something else that they would like to do that they didn't know about previously from the pages of our zine.

Fandom is quite overwhelming, and we're only capturing the tip of the iceberg. There are a lot of things I would like to have covered, and we occasionally have some writers who contribute sporadically and cover other things. Chris, España and I have some different areas of interest, but we often do have multiple reviews of the same event. I used to try to cover events outside of my own spheres but the limits of time, energy and resources have demanded that I concentrate my activities into those that I'm passionate about. So I'm always on the lookout for writers, photographers and artists who would like to do something else. As Jack said in our first issue, we can't do it alone.

There are more groups and events that keep popping up, and this year seems to be just as busy, if not more so, than past years... even though the economy has been difficult for a lot of Bay Area folks and the world as a whole. I believe that in hard times, it's even more important to have a haven in the form of a social community of like-minded people as well as an outlet for creative and intellectual self-expression.

I have been wondering lately if after five years of being in fandom, am I too immersed in it to the exclusion of all else? I would say that my weekends are usually packed with fannish events and my Amazon wish list and Netflix, Hulu, etc. queues are populated with sci fi,

fantasy and historical items. On the other hand, I had been searching for my niche – my place in the world – for several years. Now that I've found it, I intend to stay and be an active part of it for as long as I am willing and able to do so. I've never been a mainstream person anyway, but I do like being well-rounded. So I suppose, on occasion, I should keep abreast of what's going on in the world, spend time with my definitely non-fannish family of origin, get back to practicing some sort of spirituality, take care of my health and GAFIA.

I did take a week off from work and fandom and did a lot of swimming, walking and dancing in mid-June. Well, the dancing was somewhat fannish, being of the Irish set dancing variety... but at least it was something I'd never done before. The point was that I would enjoy the sunny and hot weather and do a mini-Summer vacation, the likes of which I hadn't had in decades. I even spent a day at the beach and was surrounded by... gasp... regular people!

For 4th of July, I got to do another "normal" event and saw fireworks in Foster City for the umpteenth time. This time, however, I was at the complex where my family lives. So I got to see the fireworks from a beach area with the fireworks reflecting on the water and with the pyramid-topped Metro Center building in the background. It was quite a lovely sight.

Other than these two experiences, my life has been full of fannish events so far this Summer. On July 3rd, I went to España and Leigh Ann's FyDySyFy for the first time. FyDySyFy is a fandom gathering at the Eclipse Bar at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero every



Leigh Ann Hildebrand and España Sheriff

by Jean Martin

Friday evening. I often have several of my usual dance, sci fi or scrapbook activities on Friday nights, and Fridays are not usually good for me to go running off to San Francisco after work. And I'm not really a hang-out-at-the-bar type of person. But since it was a holiday weekend, and I just wanted to check it out and hang out with friends, I was able to go and I did. It was a mellow get-together and I was happy to see several friends and to meet some new people. I was hoping to finally meet Jack Avery since España told me that he often shows up, but I seem to keep missing him at the few events he does attend. Chris and España have met him (David just missed him at a con once, and I don't know if Tom has met him at all) but I have not. I am hoping to someday thank Jack in person for starting me off on this crazy, wonderful and amazing adventure that is *SF/SF*.

This Old Fanzine: Trap Door #16

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

When the history of BArea fanzine fandom over the last 20 years is written, *Trap Door* will likely be held up as one of the true pinnacles of the form. As long as it's been around, Robert Lichtman's *Trap Door* has been one of the best zines going. Sadly, it's not as frequent as some of the other zines out there, but part of that's probably because Robert takes his time and puts out an amazing zine with great art and fantastic writing. I've got a bunch of issues, and I randomly pulled Issue 16 (1996) from my traveling suitcase of zineness.

The first pieces of the zine all deal with the passing of Redd Boggs. Len Moffatt, Jim Harmon and Robert talk about his passing. I never met Redd. I wish I had, and his writing's already interested me. I've only got a couple of things from him and they're really good.

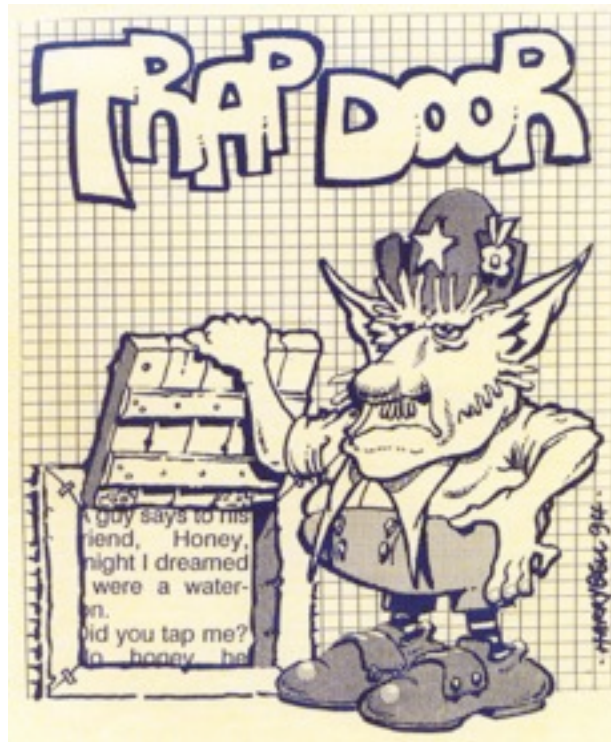
After that, it's about the passing of Charles Burbee. Burbee I never met either, but I've read a lot about him, a lot from him, and he's one of those fannish legends that you can tell stories about even if you've never met him because everyone else has stories about him that you've heard

a hundred times. Robert's notes on Burbee are exceptional. A fine noting of the passing of an incredibly important part of the history of our fandom. This issue feels like a tribute to both Boggs and Burbee, which is excellent.

One thing that Robert does is list out his fanzine acquisitions. He lists the numbers and breaks them into country of origin and year. After pointing out that 1995 had been

a record year for him, he writes, "The spike in American fanzine production can't entirely be blamed on Andy Hooper." I can certainly remember Mark Plummer writing a very similar thing about my entry into the world of eFanzines in the pages of *Banana Wings*. It made sense. The fact that Andy Hooper, who referred to me as Internet Boy at CorFlu, was the Wave before I managed to be the Deluge is an interesting point.

"Pensoroso," the column from Redd Boggs, is more proof of how wonderful it was that we had him. I had heard about Bruce Pelz having a legendary collection of mimeography tools, and this brought something to mind. In the olden days, when mimeo and ditto and hector and letter press were the rage, a lot of people wrote about the process of creating zines, about the technique, the tools, the envy they held towards others who had better/more interesting equipment. Maybe we're missing that in today's zining. Redd also talks about Poul Anderson. I have a soft spot for Poul. He knew me, though he called me Rich for some reason, and I was on the last panel he was on, or so I've been told. Redd's writing was wonderful, and here it is clean and smart.



cover by Harry Bell

Letters of Comment

The following article is “Memories of Elmer” from Charles Burbee, which is a sort of double tribute as it was the last article from Burbee and it was a tribute to Elmer Purdue. It’s the kind of article that I enjoy; one legend writing about another.

I should mention here that Robert Lichtman insists on illustrated title pieces for his articles. This is a very good thing and it allows him to get fantastic pieces from folks like Craig Smith, Steve Stiles and Dan Steffan. This makes *Trap Door* instantly recognizable when you simply flip through it. I love that, and it’s that attention to art that makes me think that *Trap Door* has it all over most of us. Craig Smith does some great art, and I really think he’s a seriously underrated fan artist. I wish we’d see more from him! I might have to request something! His illustrations for “The Cracked Eye” by Gary Hubbard are fantastic, and the article itself is full of win. It’s followed by a piece from Dale Spiers, who you also don’t see often enough. I really think that the contributors that Robert manages to grab are fantastic. Paul Williams and Calvin Demmon are also in the pages of *Trap Door* 16. See, great folks writing great stuff. There’s even a piece from some dude named Rotsler about Elmer Purdue.

Actually, now that you mention it, there’s not a lot of Rotsler in this issue.

There’s one image illustrating Ed Burbee’s piece on his father. Most zines from the mid-90s have tons of Rotsler stuff. Then again, so did zines from the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. Interesting...

The best part might be the LetterCol. It opens with an amazing image from the man, Dan Steffan. I love his work. I really do. The letters are from a range of fans who you will seldom see in the same zine. There’s a long and exceptionally awesome letter from Gordon Eklund. Geri Sullivan also has a wonderful LoC in the thing. It stands up beautifully with the best LetterCols I’ve ever seen.

So yes, *Trap Door* is an excellent zine. It’s one that you should go and look up on eFanzines.com, though only issues 21-25 are currently available. They’re all really good too. Come to think of it, I haven’t LoCed any of them lately. I’ve got to fix that...

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

OK, this is a short note of correction from Mike Deckinger!

Dear Folks:

I was skimming through the latest issue and came across: “Philip K. Dick died at an SF con.”

Well, I truly doubt that. I know Chris meant to say that John Brunner died during an overseas con, about 10 years ago.

Mike Deckinger

Chris Garcia replies: Mike is, of course, correct. I managed to confuse John Brunner and Philip K. Dick. It happens. I sometimes consider them to have been one writer. Yes, John Brunner died at Intersection (the 1995 Glasgow Worldcon in that part of England known as Scotland). That would seriously put a damper on things, I imagine. I wasn’t there.

Philip K. Dick died of a stroke in 1983.

I’m a moron and I officially apologize.

Sorcerercon 2009: Brilliant or Baffling?

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

You might not have heard, but there's a con planned for the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose for Thanksgiving weekend. It's called Sorcerercon and it's chaired by Craig Howlett, a damn fine SMoF and a genuinely nice guy.

There are a couple of problems, which could cause the con to run off the tracks...or it might just prove to be a big hit because we've all been overlooking things.

Let's start with the hotel. The Doubletree has been going downhill. While SiliCon and Further Confusion both worked with the hotel the best they could over the last nine months or so, the situation with the Coffee Garden turning into Sprigs and the entire situation with the food has made the Doubletree into a less than ideal place for a con. It's still one of the best hotels for a con when it comes to the layout of the hotel, and especially the room size and party floor, but service has suffered of late. It happens.

OK, there's another problem. Thanksgiving weekend. As a weekend for a con, it's pretty good. You've got a weekend where almost everyone is off work and many travel anyhow, so there's the chance of getting people from out of town. Historically, Thanksgiving weekend has been a good weekend for cons, with the BAarea having had a couple of different cons

running that weekend, including, I believe, SiliCon during the 80s. But this also led to the rise of one of the best-known cons in California: LosCon. LosCon started in the 1970s and has been a big draw for fans over the years. They've had some fantastic guests and managed to draw a very loyal crowd. It's also been a big draw of BAarea fans. It'd be fair to say that you'd find more BAareans at LosCon than from any other part of the world except for LA itself. Several dozen BAarea clans make their way down every year. It's ingrained and it's hard to break that sort of thing.

So, there's a lot going against it. To overcome the troubles, Sorcerercon needs a massive draw. A great Guest of Honor can do just that, and they've got ElizaBeth Gilligan, who's a fine GoH, but not really a massive draw able to overcome the troubles of having another con that's already established itself with the local audience. Armand O'Meara is the Artist GoH, which is a fine choice as I enjoy his work, but it's not a name like Michael Whelan or Bob Eggleton or even John Picacio who could bring people in. Yes, it's hard being a new con and getting folks to take you seriously (not to mention being able to afford things like airline tickets and such) but this is one of those cases where things like this have to happen.

There is a lot of potential for a more fantasy-themed con in this area. The website (www.sorcerercon.com) sells the focus on fantasy, which might draw people we don't see all the time at BAarea cons, a market that's not been served. If they could come up with a bunch of fans, perhaps even young fans whom we don't see much of at BayCon and the like, perhaps it could fill in that gap. LosCon has looked older and older the last few years and maybe there's a younger market that could fill up Sorcerercon. It would be nice to have a real BAarea con over that weekend.

Let's also look at another thing. The last regular con to start up in this part of the world was Con-X-Treme...well, if you don't include SteamPowered. Con-X-Treme didn't draw a lot of folks, but it also didn't have a force like Craig at the helm. That's a good way to get a con moving. The other thing that can help is the fact that it's at a hotel that everyone knows. True, a lot of folks have turned away, but it's still a place that's known to every BAarea fan.

So, is it a good idea or a bad one? I'm not sure. This needs a big push to make it, but it also has a chance to be something really good. I hope the first year comes off and then maybe the group rethinks its dates so that more of the family can come to play.

NASA Expo in Mountain View

Story and photos by Howeird

Contributing Writer

On Monday, June 29, NASA Ames Research Center set up about 30 tent canopies in front of Mountain View City Hall and filled them with exhibits from their facility and a few special guests from around Moffett Field.

Each exhibit had one or two representatives to explain the purpose of the project and any models on display. The exhibit was held from 1-4 p.m. It was a hot day with clear skies, but a brisk wind kept it bearable.

NASA exhibits included:

- LCROSS, a mission to confirm the presence or absence of water ice in a permanently shadowed crater at the moon's South Pole.
- Kepler, which will monitor 100,000 stars, searching for signs of planets – including ones as small as or smaller than Earth.
- PharmaSat, which will measure the influence of microgravity upon yeast resistance to an antifungal agent.
- SOFIA, an airborne observatory that will complement the Hubble, Spitzer, Herschel and James Webb space telescopes, as well as major Earth-based telescopes.

There were also models of the wind tunnel and high-fidelity full-motion simulator (located



Banners and tents decorated the plaza in front of Mountain View City Hall for the NASA exhibit

in a 10-story structure behind Hangar 1). Non-NASA guests included Carnegie-Mellon University's Cylabs, the Air Force ROTC, RMV Technology group with a display of electrostatic discharge detection software, the Moffett Field Museum, electric vehicles from San Jose State U and Kleenspeed (as well as one from NASA Ames), and a somewhat out-of-place booth for the Gary, Indiana air taxi service.

In addition to showing off the activities in and around Ames, the exhibit also called

attention to a rare public lecture series being held this summer on the NASA Ames campus, in association with the 2009 International Space University (ISU) Space Studies Program. For the lecture schedule, see:

www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/news/releases/2009/M09-73.html

For more information about NASA Ames, check out their web site:

www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/home/index.html



Future Explorer - Your Picture Here



Cut-away model of the NASA SOFIA flying infrared telescope



NASA-Ames Green Machine



Capsule portion of NASA High Fidelity Full Motion Simulator



SJSU electric vehicle



Cut-away model showing the layers of the NASA-Ames 40x80 wind tunnel



Electro-punk? Closeup of the drive chain on the Kleenspeed electric car



Space Cadet inspects NASA-developed air traffic control software



Space photo banners lined the walkway behind Mountain View City Hall



A rare quiet moment at the popular Lunar Science Institute booth



Explaining some NASA electronics



LCROSS Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter exhibit

So Say We All

By Louise Du Cray
Contributing Writer

This started out as a clumsy, punch-drunk, stream-of-consciousness thing, scribbled in my notebook in Sue's car on the way back from Los Angeles. It still is a clumsy, punch-drunk, stream-of-consciousness thing, but I fleshed it out here and there as memories came back to me, aided by the videos being posted from the night by Films In Focus.

The Battlestar Orchestra plays like God moving over the face of the waters.

In an appropriately Caprican plaza in downtown Los Angeles, the various members of the band are running through a sound check. I am waiting for Sue to come down and join me. We have just driven six hours and checked into our hotel. I immediately changed out of my road trip clothes and came down to the plaza to see what I could see. It's hours to the show, but I grab a seat, and I wait. I do not know what I am in for.

There are a few individuals and groups of people already scattered throughout the plaza. A shallow pool fills the space between the angled seating areas and the stage. Concrete planters filled with flowers dot the pool like islands. Towers of nice, professional lights. The pleasant dissonance of instruments tuning. The sound guy calls instructions over the PA. Even in its halted, deconstructed state, the sounds



But This Is What It Was Like

photo by Louise Du Cray

emanating from the stage are unmistakable: this is the haunting and singular score of the late and revered *Battlestar Galactica*, composed by Bear McCreary.

I've been texting Sue updates, and she comes down from the room, lugging a fancy picnic and a fancier camera. She is just in time.

Paul Cartwright, madman violinist, has arrived. The string section sound checks, and I

forget how to swallow food. The sound man announces over the PA that they will now be running through “Black Market.”

My memory here is hazy, and the order of events uncertain. Because the next thing I know, for all intents and purposes, the Battlestar concert is happening. To me, and maybe 23 other people. A band of conversing, tuning individual people coalesces into an entity that is beyond comprehension. Bear himself, slight and intense, is a magician when he is conducting, the ringmaster of this mad troupe of talented and passionate musicians.

Much of Bear’s brilliance is in the space between the sounds, those pauses in his driving tribal rhythms that ache, that pull at your deepest systems, that make your mind contract into the base of your skull, anticipate – and there: When the Taiko drummers play, play then stop, arms high, in primal unison, that’s where some of the simplest and rawest beauty can be heard. It would really all be too gorgeous for television, if it were for any other show than *Battlestar Galactica*.

Bear is a force, his hands precise, not frantic but at times jumping frenetically as the music rises, not conducting so much as conjuring. He plays the keyboard or harmonium standing sometimes, hair in his eyes, observing the crowd or off in a world of his own making.

Bear’s fiancée, Raya Yarbrough, and his brother Brendan, voice of the “Watchtower,” sing together, a song I know as “A Good Lighter” but apparently it is called “Wander My Friends.” It is a bittersweet and hopeful theme,



Watchtower Poster

photo by Louise Du Cray

sung in Gaelic. The drums roll and sound like the end of a life well-lived. My heart swells and stops.

There are breaks in between the songs. The band checks things out, adjusts, goofs off. Brendan sees us and waves across the water. A lighting guy scales a rig like a rock-climber. The plaza starts to fill up.

Much how it evolved on the show itself, “Watchtower” sneaks up on us, in pieces. A

chord progression, a jangly strum of guitar. Every time I recognize a small part of the whole, I jab Sue in the ribs with my elbow. This hardly qualifies as a sound check anymore. It is a gift and a privilege. I’m getting to hear all my favorite songs twice.

This version of “All Along The Watchtower” is different from one we heard at the smaller, closer (but no less memorable) show Sue and I attended at the Anthology Club

in San Diego last year. It is not merely the album track with added verve; no, first they run through the plaintive piano intro that Kara plays with Slick/Daniel/her angel in the final episodes of the series. (Later, we discover the reason behind this setup.)

The sound check to end all sound checks eventually ends, barely an hour before the show itself. Sue and I finish off our picnic, chat with old and new friends, take turns perusing the merchandise table. There are some amazing new posters with the “Watchtower” notes/Hera’s drawing on them. We see Luciana Carro, who played the Viper pilot Kat in the series. The air is buzzing. It feels like it’s going to be a big night.

It is an odd gray twilight time when musicians return to the stage. Brendan’s Band plays first, rocking through a high-energy set of songs, including a bitchass Queen cover and his own “When Will The Work Be Done,” which was featured in the finale of the series.

And then the Orchestra reappears, and time loses pretty much all meaning for me here.

The strings slice the air like weapons. The woodwind wavers, sounds like a forest or a faerie ring, reminding us that oh yes, that sound is made by a human being and an instrument. Difficult to believe. These what, thirteen, fourteen people? are far more than the human sum of their parts while they are onstage causing this magic and making this noise.

It grows dark. Spooky lights come on beneath the islands of flowers. A row of fountains comes to life back behind the stage, this perfect waterfall backdrop cascading down.

Everything is reflected, dreamlike. The robotic lights rotate and shift colors as the sun goes down, and the stage is awash in devil-red.

Raya’s ethereal voice and sinuous movements are a spell. The orchestra plays “Lords Of Kobol” for the second time that day, but it’s different in the dark, a true entreaty to the gods. We are in a wonderland, a jewel-toned smoky tribal dreamscape, a shared hallucination. It’s really indescribable, no matter how many words I use to describe it. And yet – let’s proceed.

They play seriously metal tracks, such as “Prelude To War,” battle anthems you can feel in your blood, but the feeling is no less intense when they play quiet, slower things. “Roslin and Adama” is a beautiful waltz which sounds like blossoms falling, a great slow love. “Wander My Friends” moves me even more the second time, Raya and Brendan’s tandem Gaelic, the Irish whistle, the drums, like it’s our last night on Earth and Heaven is just over the valley and everything is fine. My eyes blur with tears. Nobody looks at me funny. We are all in it.

Bear moves from piano to keyboards to conducting like a flash. The waterfall glows electric green, then fire-orange. Everybody, musicians and audience both, is so into it, they *are* it, they are more than it. The brothers McCreary catch one another’s eyes at times, feed off each other’s energies. It is, since I can’t avoid this word forever, pretty damn sexy. The drummers look to each other too, their sticks held aloft for perfect hovering moments. The strings make their own spectacle. The

Battlestar Galactica Orchestra are an extraordinary organism.

And then, the end. “Watchtower.” Bear sits at his piano with a blonde woman in a dress. (Not everybody, I learn later, realizes that this woman is Kara Thrace herself, Katee Sackhoff.) Bear and Katee slowly dance their fingers over the keys, then a bit faster, playing the notes, knitting together the bones of a song that has been altered forever in the shared geek consciousness. The drums sneak up, as they always do, those signature drums, and Katee kisses Bear on the cheek, waves and runs offstage as the band barrels from “Heeding The Call” into full-tilt “Watchtower” now. During this song, Brendan is a rock god. He is a messenger, he is a conduit. He jumps, rocks out like Pete Townshend, and the entire Orchestra is right there with him. The guitars whine. Brendan screams. The riders approach, and the wind begins to howl.

There is nobody around me not playing air drums of some sort by the end. We are vibrating. It is over too soon, and the band walks offstage, waving, smiling.

We stand, we applaud, and it erupts in pockets: SO SAY WE ALL.

What else is a group like us going to say? Come on.

SO SAY WE ALL. SO SAY WE ALL.

We are all chanting it, and we mean it, and it’s pretty glorious. Me. Sue. The girl I just met, next to me. Her friends. Our friends behind us. Everybody.

SO SAY WE ALL! SO SAY WE ALL! SO SAY WE ALL!

And the band comes back out, and they pick up their instruments again, and they smash into “Black Market,” and basically proceed to rock harder than anything or anyone ever did rock. It is a wicked industrial jam, a freight train of a song. The guitarists solo heavily, swamplike. Paul bangs his head with abandon. The drummers jump up and down to the beat. It is epic. It is a fleet of ships, an atomic blast, coming at us from all sides. It is the rhythm of the world. They bring the song to a screeching, crazy finish. Bear, who has been doing his own fair share of rocking out and headbanging, walks out to the middle of the stage, leaps onto and off of a monitor, total punk rock, joy personified. Brendan shouts his brother’s name into the mic and we all applaud harder and Bear thanks us and then it is over for real.

Whew.

Editor’s Note: Bear McCreary’s “Music Of Battlestar Galactica” was performed live June 13, 2009 at The California Plaza, Los Angeles. Additional performances are scheduled at the House of Blues in San Diego July 23-25.



Me And Bear (Sue took this!)

The TomorrowMen

By Tom Becker

Staff Writer

Editor's Note: SF/SF's esteemed Compositor got a chance to pose some questions to the TomorrowMen's Mycroft Eloi about the up-and-coming Sci Fi Surf band's music and cultural influences:

There's a great history of Sci Fi Surf music, from the very beginning with the Ventures, to recent bands such as Man or Astro-man? What bands would you single out as ones that inspired you to do a Sci Fi Surf band?

No doubt MoAM was a huge influence on us, both musically and stylistically. They blazed the trail for countless costumed/themed surf bands. There's a reason why a lot of bands traditionally dressed up in some form or another. A typical rock band has a singer, also referred to as the front person. Now an all instrumental band has a lead guitarist as the front person, but can't rely on words to communicate with his/her audience. Think about how many guitarists stand out on playing style alone? Hendrix, Santana, Townshend – really not a lot. With the absence of words and the absence of a transcendent guitarist, bands work on their image as a way to get their audience to remember them. We felt we too needed an distinctive theme to help our potential fans remember us, and after my wife



The TomorrowMen

photo by Tom Becker

came up with the name The TomorrowMen, time traveling seemed the natural way to go.

Would you say that there is a unique Sci Fi Surf sound?

There are common elements. Most obvious is lots of classic sci fi movie sound effects, use of the theremin, echo, and of course reverb which defines the genre of surf. In terms of the song structure, many songs tend towards odd chord changes that jar the listener a bit and create a feeling of suspense. Listen to our song "Requiem for a TomorrowMan" on our myspace page for an example of that.

What other kinds of sounds do you think are cool? How many different bands would you have if you could?

If you mean genres of music, quite a few. Most obvious from our style of playing, you can hear old school punk rock. Bands like Buzzcocks, The Saints, The Damned to name a few. Generally all the genres we like are older well-established ones: Soul, Garage rock, Trad Jazz, Ska, Power Pop. My next band will either be a garage soul band (hopefully with me on organ and a few horns players) or a punk rock Monkees cover band. For now, two bands are enough.



Mycroft Eloi photo by Tom Becker

Once the band started playing together, how long did it take to really come together as a band?

Frankly we're still coming together as a band. Though we could tell right away that we had something good. The key for making a band last is to always look forward and find room for improvement.



Skyles Angstrom photo by Tom Becker

How about that theremin? Is it hard to play, or what?

Really hard, if you want to make music. We just make noises and that's super easy.

Are you or your band mates into written sci fi (excuse me, speculative fiction)?

Yes. I've always been a fan of the old school sci fi writers and I believe several TomorrowMen are also big fans.

Any particular books or authors you feel are really cool? (I know Pollo del Mar is into



The Theremin photo by Tom Becker

Phil Dick's Ubik enough that they wrote a song about it.)

Harlan Ellison, though not technically sci fi, has always been one of my top favorites. I just appreciate his no-holds-barred approach to life in general. My formative years were filled with books by the likes of Moorcock, Heinlein, Asimov, Le Guin, Lovecraft, Anthony, Bradbury. That's probably the same as answering what music did you like and listing The Beatles, Stones, The Who, etc... probably



Dr. Kilometers photo by Tom Becker

not very exciting for the speculative fiction cognoscenti.

How about comics, manga, TV, movies?

Dr. Strange was my favorite. I just loved how they drew all the spells he was casting – so wild. *Silver Surfer* is another one.

Have you been to a con? If yes, did you go as Mycroft Eloi, or were you in disguise? If no, what do you imagine a con is like?



Grommet X photo by Tom Becker

Not yet, we hope to get a gig playing at one eventually. Like any event where you bring people together to celebrate a specific interest, I imagine it's a happy place where people can be their natural wacky selves, or pretend to be. How often do we have to explain just the basics of our interests to the uninitiated – “You mean like *Star Trek*?” We surf bands get the same treatment – “You mean like the Beach Boys?” Fuck no moron! But you can't say that. A convention is a big room full of people who “get it.” And it feels good to belong to your community.

Your logo of the upwards running hourglass is fantastic. Who designed it? Where did the idea come from?

My wife, the lovely Lady Reverb, is an artist, and she drew the original design for it. And our good friend and President of the World circa 3000AD Huey Mannity computerized the image for us, and TomorrowCorps artist Timothy Park refined it some more. Basically we were throwing around ideas on how to symbolize time travel and Lady Reverb

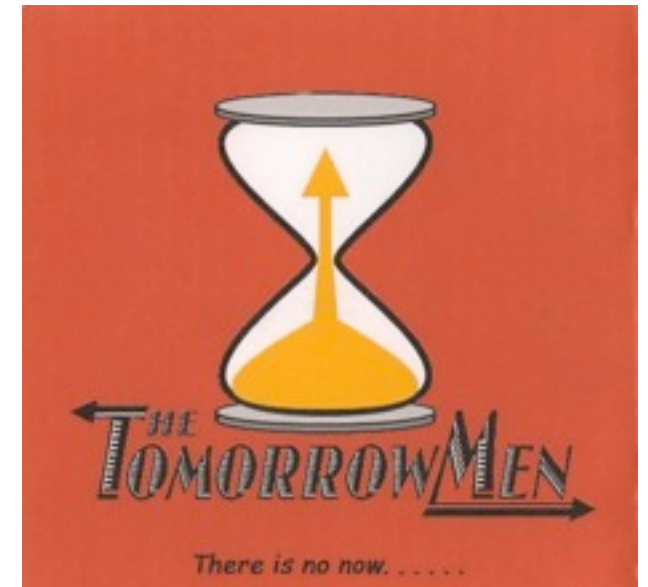
realized the hourglass is an iconic shape and would work well. Then to get the idea of time reversing across, we made the sand go upwards in an arrow shape, another iconic symbol for action.

Anything we should be looking for in the way of new songs and upcoming gigs?

We are pleased to announce that this summer will have us finally recording our debut CD. We're going down to SoCal to Pete Curry's (of Los Straitjackets fame) studio, which has state of the art 1963 technology. We expect the CD to be done sometime between Halloween and Christmas. This August 1, we'll be performing at the annual SurfGuitar101.com convention. This is a celebration of surf music and its culture located in ground zero – Orange County. Locally we always have a show or two coming up so check out our myspace page www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen and sign onto our email list. [Ed.: Lady Reverb hosts the SurfGuitar101.com free surf music podcast, here's the link: surfguitar101.com/modules.php?name=Podcast.]

Did you know The TomorrowMen are really big in Japan? It must be because of the Ventures. I even heard there's a TomorrowMen tribute band called The TamariMen. (Just kidding.)

Tom, remind me to give you the number of our gag man.



courtesy of The TomorrowMen



About The TomorrowMen

It is the year 3000. Humankind has overcome what many in the 21st century deemed impossible. The world is at relative peace, global warming has been stopped, hunger vanquished. Society enjoys nearly unlimited energy from giant photovoltaic arrays that have been launched into orbit around the earth.

Meet Dr. Kilometers and his associate Grommet X – this is the infamous duo who are responsible for cracking the Temporal Matrix and developing chrono-phase travel. When they're not tracking the various inter-chrono travelers or tweaking various time dilators at ChronoLabs, these two experiment with hydrosonic soundwave generating devices to create a musical style previously known as Instrumental Surf Rock Music.

Due to the heavy focus on progressive science, art forms, let alone archaic art forms, are rarely experimented with. Experimenting with actual music in its electromagnetic state – the way that Dr K. and GrmtX do in their free time – is on its way to extinction.

Meanwhile... unknown to Dr. Kilometers and his assistant Grommet X, their supervisor Skyles Angstrom runs a top secret division of ChronoLabs, with a mission to reintroduce art and music back into the 31st century. After walking in on an electromagnetic surf jam session one day, Skyles allots Dr. K and Grommet X some time in chrono-phase travel with his supervision to collect analog recordings and instrumentation for artistic inspiration.

Grommet X sets the time-space destination to 1963 and in an area that was called Huntington Beach. Giga-amps of electricity are loaded into the thousands of ultra-capacitors that power the ChronoLabs 4D TravL deck, Skyles initiates phase the sequence and...

They blaze through space-time - Up-down-left-right-back-forward - All frequencies of light and sound saturate their ears and retinas. But what is this shadow? A lag in speed? Now a jolt - "There!"

They look and notice a bright spot with a humanoid profile. As the brave time travelers adjust to their new surroundings they notice that they are not alone and they do not seem to be in Huntington Beach.

After his lungs adjust to the relatively carbon and sulfur rich atmosphere Dr. Kilometers, with chroral streaks still burnt in his eyes, turns to this time traveling piggy-backer, "What manner of being are you? How have you managed to intercept our space-time route!"

The time-jacker replies, "Greetings! I am Mycroft Eloi."

"So nice to meet you," replies Skyles, offering his hand.

Grommet X pipes in at this point. "From a quick scan and analysis of the RF data flowing about us, I believe we are in San Francisco, circa 2007 AD."

Almost simultaneously Dr. Kilometers and Skyles Angstrom exclaim "WTF?!!!" ...t.b.c.

courtesy of The TomorrowMen

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 986-987

Meeting 986

June 22, 2009

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway
(Lawrence Expressway/101 fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8-ish [tasting bacon chocolate]

22 people attended

We established a party jar

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 985 as *tomorrow's trending topic on Twitter*

The Treasurer report was absent [and we hope Spring feels better]

The VP reported that there was a *Drink Tank* out last week, there is a *Claims Department* out this week, but no new *Drink Tank* yet

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements

Ken announced that the Legion of Rassilon blah, blah, blah [translation = will meet this Friday at the usual time and place] - come if you like *Torchwood* - and reminded us that Silicon will have a garage sale at the end of June at Mo's place and there is actual content on the Silicon website; and Hubbard Elementary school will host a cricket game this Saturday and Sunday

Chris announced that there will be a 2nd Steampunk "exhibition" - probably in March 2010 and they have a Facebook presence

Stellen announced that the #15 cable car has been rolled out - hand made and likely to last for 100 years

Howeird announced that he's still unemployed - went camping - and is now bored with mosquito bites

Dave C announced that there is fannish stuff mixed in with other things in some of the auction items

Glenn announced that Westercon 62 will be in Tempe, AZ in July

Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters will hold a meet-and-greet July 19, noon in Monterey, following on to NorCal ParaCon 2009

Lisa announced that we should register now for MythCon 20 at UCLA, July 17-20

Reviews

Andy reviewed the Saint George Spirits open house as heavily attended, the new raspberry vodka is significantly different and better, the food was food and there were the best pork rinds ever! - worth full price; there were follow-ons - Chris commented on the "wow!" factor of the food = as a series of religious experiences and way worth the trip; Lisa agreed that the food was incredible and really worth full price; Dave C liked the key lime pie drink and he enjoyed himself and [evil] Kevin said that the Special Forces were well-received

Adrienne reviewed Scalzi's *Zoe's Tale* as there wasn't a lot of character development - that it was an okay read but she expected more of it and as worth paperback

Carole reviewed Kaygetsu in Menlo Park as the food was glorious, it was excellent and worth full price [even at a stiff full price]; and reviewed Cajun Crawfish [on the Capitol expressway] as more reasonably priced, very tasty and worth full price; Bill follow-on'd that they'd planned to go to the Isleton Crawfish festival, but it was cancelled

Howeird reviewed his baby sister turning 50 as it makes him feel old and reviewed the Los Altos History Museum as a truly nice experience and the outside garden is fabulous -

it's open Thursday, Friday, Saturday - noon to 4pm

Fred reviewed bacon chocolate as not bad - but not that good, either [samples were offered]

Chris reviewed his CPAP machine and cats as not compatible; reviewed *Year One* as a silly film, light and fluffy - but suffered from being PG-13, worth \$6.06; then he saw *Twilight* again; reviewed *The Wild Party* with Eartha Kitt as he paid for music online & he survived being nearly murdered by a cat - twice

Dave C reviewed *Up* as he enjoyed it - worth full price - and dogs were a large part of it; Joe follow-on'd that he also enjoyed it and then Dave reviewed the BBC interviewing Spinal Tap for an hour as amusing

Joe reviewed *Terminator Salvation* as mostly good but it needed a better script

Glenn reviewed his weekend as an install-fest with his new laptop

We did auctions: birthday auctioned off Carole for \$5.00 to Bill; a game for \$1.00, stuff and a book for \$0.25; book for \$3.50, \$0.25, \$0.25, \$0.25; a picture for \$0.25; a sign and papers for \$0.75; and magazines and books for \$0.35

We adjourned at = 9:41 pm

And the rumor of the week was: NA

Meeting 987

Meeting number fill in the blank began. (987) Some number of people were present and we lacked Pres, VP, Secretary and Treasurer. The Treasurer showed up eventually, not sure when.

Fred moved for a party jar, passed 7-2

Move to accept minutes as pubbed on the internet as

“Billie Jean is not Rod Serling”

“In memory of Gale Storm”

“Billie Jean is not Gale Storm”

“Bille Jean is not my lover”

“That's not Jermaine.” (winner)

Announcements

Lisa Hayes presented Kevin and Andy with a bottle of Nehalem Bay Blackberry Wine.

Mo had no announcement

Dave Clark: Billy Mays died at 50.

Glenn: Westercon 62 in Tempe, AZ this weekend

Adrienne: *Torchwood* series in toto on BBC America starting July 20. Norcal Paracon tickets are on 25% discount until June 30th. Bay Area Ghosthunters having a post-con brunch at Tarpys Roadhouse in Monterey.

Howeird announced NASA Moonfest on July 19th, noon to six at Moffett Field.

Dave Clark announced that Hilo Hattie declared bankruptcy.

Ken announced that he is becoming a student again.

Dave gave a treasurers report. Total: \$11,100.25, party total \$973.92, TAFF: \$272.74, DUFF: \$5.51.

Reviews

Andy: went shopping for costume bits, saw a Danish film called *The Substitute* - SF/Horror. Creepy little SF, teens behaving like teens, stellar, dark and has chickens. Worth someone else's Netflix subscription. Subtitles bad, but funny.

Ken: Woke up early to help out with the first ever US women's cricket tournament. Seattle insisted on using a hard tennis ball instead of a proper cricket ball. Many puns about “That's not..” and the nature of balls and a great deal cricket blathering.

Mo: Cooked a huge pot o' chili, put it in the fridge and then the fridge died. Silicon garage sale a success. Dry ice useful in non-working fridge. Read a book about Fordlandia in the Amazon. Ended up a disaster. Mostly about Ford's social/community philosophy. Worth full price. Evil Kevin described the food riots over cafeteria style food.

Evil Kevin: heads-up display visor, nicely engineered. MyVu Crystal. Excellent return service. Would work well for stereo vision.

Glenn: reviewed *Mathematicians in Love* by Rudy Rucker. Worth trade paperback.

Dave G: *Spamalot*: full version with spam. Not the Vegas abridged version. Worth full price. Chorus of spam followed on.

Howeird: Got a copy of Gypsy Rose Lee's *G-String Murders*, good up until too many plot

twists at the end. Worth one penny for the book and \$3 for shipping.

Glenn: diamond grilling steak with blue cheese butter topping.

Auctions: *G-String Murders* for \$2.00, *Asimov's* for 25 cents, magazines for 25 cents, art magazines for 25 cents, an *Omni & astronomy* bookmark for 25 cents, assorted magazine bits for 25 cents, Mexican mask for 50 cents, Cheeze-its *Star Trek* T-shirt box for 25 cents, Lisa Hayes for \$5 to Tall Kevin, Dave G. for \$10 to Spring, Spring for \$10 to Dave G.

Rumors:

"You haven't heard the last from me! No prison can hold Bernie Madoff!"

"Hold on a sec!"

"The Jackson family has called in Generalissimo Franco's personal physician to confirm that Michael stays dead."

"Billie Mays is not Adrienne's lover."

"Gypsy Rose Lee had retail experience."

"Michael Jackson will honor his tour commitment as a zombie from 'Thriller'"

"Somewhere in a corner, Weird Al is weeping."

"Weird Al will perform Michael Jackson's tour in blackface." (winner)

"The post office will be polling to see if it will be the white Michael stamp or the black Michael stamp."

"The post office will compromise with a Janus face."

If these or any other rumors happen, we'll tell you all about it next week on "Waiter! Waiter! Don't pelt me!"

Adjournment.

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.



Thursday, July 9

Author: Gregory Benford

Clayton Books

5433 D Clayton Rd, Clayton

www.claytonbookshop.com

Benford reads from *Sailing Bright Eternity*

7 p.m.

Free

Friday, July 10

Author: S.G. Browne

Books Inc Opera Plaza

601 Van Ness, San Francisco

www.booksinc.net

Browne signs his zombie novel, *Breathers*

7 p.m.

Free

Friday, July 10

The Cresting Wave: The San Francisco Underground Comix Experience

Electric Works

130 8th Street, San Francisco

www.sfelectricworks.com

Group exhibition featuring underground comix artists from San Francisco, from the mid-60s to the late 80s. Exhibition runs through August 22, 2009. Artist Reception: Friday, July 10.

6-8 p.m.

Free

Saturday, July 11

Author: Ray Garton

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia St, San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

Garton signs his new book, *Bestial*, the sequel to his horror novel *Ravenous*.

3 p.m.

Free

Saturday, July 11

Bustles at the Beach

GBACG Event

Pescadero Beach, San Mateo

www.gbacg.org

A day at the seaside where we will enjoy the wind, waves, and a picnic with friends.

Suggested costume: 1870s-1880s afternoon attire or bathing costumes.

Noon

\$10 (Non-members)

Sunday, July 12

Author: Rudy Rucker

Dark Carnival

3086 Claremont Ave, Berkeley

www.darkcarnival.com

Rucker signs his new novel *Hylozoic*, sequel to *PostSingular*

2 p.m.

Free

Sunday, July 12

Hayao Miyazaki Tribute Series: My Neighbor Totoro

Pacific Film Archive Theater
2575 Bancroft Way
University of California, Berkeley
www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/film/FN17788
The first of four special screenings showcasing the work of acclaimed director Hayao Miyazaki, presented in collaboration with the Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley.
4 p.m. \$9.50

Monday-Tuesday, July 13-14

Coraline 3D
The Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.thecastrotheatre.com
Check website for showtimes \$9.50

Tuesday, July 14

Hayao Miyazaki Tribute Series: Porco Rosso
Pacific Film Archive Theater
2575 Bancroft Way
University of California, Berkeley
www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/film/FN17789
The second of four special screenings showcasing the work of acclaimed director Hayao Miyazaki, presented in collaboration with the Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley.
7 p.m. \$9.50

Wednesday, July 15

Author: Joe Landsdale
M is for Mystery
86 E. Third Avenue, San Mateo
www.mformystery.com
Landsdale returns to the Hap & Leonard series with his latest, *Vanilla Ride*
7 p.m. Free

Wednesday, July 15

Monsters Vs. Aliens 3D
The Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.thecastrotheatre.com
Check website for showtimes \$9.50

Wednesday, July 15

My Bloody Valentine 3D
The Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.thecastrotheatre.com
Check website for showtimes \$9.50

Wednesday, July 15

SF in SF Double Feature: Princess Mononoke & Kiki's Delivery Service
Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Two Miyazaki classics! \$5 suggested donation helps raise money for Variety Children's Charity - leave a fiver at the door, or buy a drink!
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, July 17

Midnites For Maniacs Triple Bill
The Castro Theater
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.midnitesformaniacs.com
The Cold War in July: *War Games* (7:15 p.m.), *Red Dawn* (9:45 p.m.) and *Invasion U.S.A.* (11:59 p.m.)
\$10 for all three films

Friday-Tuesday, July 17-21

Azkatz, A Harry Potter convention
Park 55 Hotel
55 Cyril Magnin Street, San Francisco
www.hp2009.org \$130

Saturday-Sunday, July 18-19

Star Trek
The Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.thecastrotheatre.com
Check website for showtimes

Saturday, July 18

Author: Jay Lake

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia St, San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

The inimitable Jay Lake signs his new book, *Green*.

3 p.m.

Free

Saturday, July 18

Group Signing: Footprints

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia St, San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

Authors Erin Cashier, Jay Lake, Heather McDougal, and Cliff Winnig sign and discuss their anthology of Moon stories, *Footprints*.

6 p.m.

Free

Sunday, July 19

Family Event: Man on the Moon Story Time

Keplers

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

www.keplers.com

40 years ago Neil Armstrong took one giant leap and became the first man on the moon.

Celebrate this extraordinary moment in human history with us as we read space stories and make our own foam rockets.

11:30 a.m.

Free

Sunday, July 19

Hayao Miyazaki Tribute Series: Castle in the Sky

Pacific Film Archive Theater

2575 Bancroft Way

University of California, Berkeley

www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/film/FN17790

The third of four special screenings showcasing the work of acclaimed director Hayao Miyazaki, presented in collaboration with the

Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley.

2:30 p.m.

\$9.50

Monday, July 20

Moon Landing Anniversary Event

Dark Carnival

3086 Claremont Ave, Berkeley

www.darkcarnival.com

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of Apollo 11 with authors Cliff Winnig, Heather McDougal,

Mark Onspaugh, F.R.R. Mallory and Erin Cashier reading from the Lunar anthologies

Footprints and *Return to Luna*

6 p.m.

Free

Tuesday, July 21

Hayao Miyazaki Tribute Series: Castle in the Sky

Pacific Film Archive Theater

2575 Bancroft Way

University of California, Berkeley

www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/film/FN17791

The last of four special screenings showcasing the work of acclaimed director Hayao Miyazaki, presented in collaboration with the

Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley.

7 p.m.

\$9.50

Friday, July 24

Author: David Morell

Dark Carnival

3086 Claremont Ave, Berkeley

www.darkcarnival.com

Morrell signs his new novel, *The Shimmer*

5:30 p.m.

Free

Friday, July 24

World Premiere of Hayao Miyazaki's Ponyo

Wheeler Hall

University of California, Berkeley

ieas.berkeley.edu/cjs/miyazaki.html

World premiere of Miyazaki's new film.

6 p.m.

\$12

Saturday, July 25

SF in SF: Kage Baker

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

\$5 suggested donation helps raise money for
Variety Children's Charity - leave a fiver at the
door, or buy a drink!
7 p.m. Free

Saturday, July 25

***A Conversation with Hayao Miyazaki,
Legendary Filmmaker***

Zellerbach Hall
University of California, Berkeley
ieas.berkeley.edu/cjs/miyazaki.html
Miyazaki is making a rare American trip to
receive the second annual Berkeley Japan Prize
for lifetime achievement, presented by the
Center for Japanese Studies at the University of
California, Berkeley. He will be presented with
the award on July 25, and will participate in a
talk hosted by Japanese popular culture scholar
Roland Kelts (Japanimerica).
6 p.m. \$25

Tuesday, July 28

***The Long Now Foundation: The Food of the
Future***

Cowell Theater
Fort Mason Center, San Francisco
www.longnow.org
Pamela Ronald and Raoul Adamchak discuss a
visionary new approach for the future of
agriculture: combining genetic engineering and
organic farming.
7 p.m. Check website for tickets

Tuesday, July 28-Sunday, August 2

Disney's Beauty and the Beast

The Willows Theater
1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord
www.willowstheatre.com
Presented by the students of the Willows
Conservatory SummerStage summer camp at
the Willows Theatre.
Check website for tickets and showtimes

Saturday, August 1

Good Omens Con 3

Endgame
921 Washington, Oakland
www.goodomensgames.com
Guest GM: Carl Rigney. Admission is free but
please bring a can of your favorite canned food
to be donated.
9:30 a.m. Free

Saturday, August 1

Endgame 8th Anniversary Party

Endgame
921 Washington, Oakland
www.endgameoakland.com
10 a.m. Free

Saturday, August 1-Sunday, August 2

Golden Gate Faire

Speedway Meadow
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
ggfaire.com
Renaissance Fair. DATES CHANGED from
August 30-21. \$18

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

Tuesday, August 4

Author: Steve Englehart

Clayton Books
5433 D Clayton Rd, Clayton
www.claytonbookshop.com
Meet comics legend Steve Englehart.
7 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 15

New People/J-Pop Center Grand Opening

Japantown
San Francisco
www.jpoppcenter.com
The long awaited Viz Media overhaul of the
Japantown Center finally wraps up. Details
TBA.

Saturday, September 5

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. Date
changed from October due to a scheduling
conflict.

7 p.m. \$15 (till August 30)

Saturday, September 19

The Tomorrowmen

Thee Parkside
1600 17th Street, San Francisco
www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen
All ages happy hour show
5 p.m.

Sunday, September 20

The Tomorrowmen

Hotel Utah
500 4th Street, San Francisco
www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen
Surf Sunday with Pollo Del Mar and Secret
Samurai from San Diego.
8 p.m.

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.

\$15 (till July 15)

Saturday, September 26

Seelie and Unseelie Fairy Court Gathering

GBACG Event
Redwood City
www.gbacg.org
Are you a good fairy or a bad fairy? Pick your
side at the gathering of the Seelie & Unseelie
Fairy Courts in an end of summer evening
garden party! Location in Redwood City.
Suggested costume: Fantasy
Details TBA

Free

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

Friday-Sunday, October 2-4

SiliCon

The Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
www.siliconventions.com
The theme this year is Heroes and Villains.
GOH are Ken Lally, Christy Marx, Sarah
Clemens and Hilary Ayer. Toastmaster is Kevin
Roche.

\$50 (till August 1)

Saturday, October 3

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. (Date changed from September.)

7 p.m.

\$15 (till September 27)

Saturday, October 17

Dark Shadows Picnic

GBACG Event

www.gbacg.org

Gather for a reunion of all the members of the Collins family (of the *Dark Shadows* TV show) from past, present, future, and parallel time.

Honor the dead and undead alike with a pleasantly vampiric picnic. Suggested costume: 1795, 1840-41, 1897, 1966-71, and 1995 (“the future”), Vampire.

Details TBA

Saturday, October 17-Sunday, October 18

Folsom Renaissance Faire

Folsom City Lions Park

403 Stafford Street, Folsom

folsomfaire.com

Renaissance Faire

\$14

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 (till August 31)

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+.

\$50 (till Sep 26)

Saturday, November 7

Le Bal 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)

Friday, November 27-Sunday, December 20

The Great Dickens Fair

Cow Palace Exhibition Halls

2600 Geneva Ave, San Francisco

www.dickensfair.com

A holiday adventure into Victorian London.

\$22

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
7:30 p.m. Free

Sakramento Anime Society

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

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 out 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

FyDy SyFy

Eclipse Lounge, Hyatt Regency
5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco
Casual meetup in the atrium lobby bar.
5:30-7:30

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

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

New location TBD
www.myspace.com/clubclockwork
A Steampunk Parlor: Gothic/Darkwave/Synthpop w/DJ's MzSamantha, Fact 50, Melting Girl and Greg. 21+
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
www.borderlands-books.com

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

Rocky Horror Picture Show

The Clay, 2261 Fillmore Street San Francisco/
The Guild 949 El Camino Real Menlo Park
www.bawdycaste.org
The Bawdy Caste presents the classic midnight movie the first Saturday of the month, alternating between the Clay in San Francisco and the Guild in Menlo Park.
Midnight

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club

Clayton Books
5433 D Clayton Road, Clayton
7:30 p.m. Free

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
The book for July 19th is *A Deepness in the Sky* by Vernor Vinge. 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 Avenue, Santa Rosa
groups.yahoo.com/group/scifisantarosa/
Regular meetup for North Bay fans on the second Sunday of the month.
1:30 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

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

5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento
1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento
www.myspace.com/d2121978
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of
the month.
7 p.m. Free

USS Northern Lights

Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for location.
sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights
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.
The next monthly meeting will be a BBQ
potluck, July 10th at the Hooverarium.
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



Red Tide

by Lucy Huntzinger

Bay Area Fannish Calendar – July 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>
28	29	30	1	2	3	4 <i>Silicon Gulch Browncoats</i>
5 <i>Foothill Anime</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>Author: Gregory Benford SF&F Writers' Group</i>	10 <i>Author: S.G. Browne SF Underground Comix Experience East Bay Star Wars USS Northern Lights</i>	11 <i>Author: Ray Garton Bustles at the Beach Fantastic Frontiers No-Name Anime SF Browncoats</i>
12 <i>Author: Rudy Rucker My Neighbor Totoro Gay Men's Book Club SF Santa Rosa Meetup</i>	13 <i>Coraline 3D (thru Thu)</i>	14 <i>Porco Rosso</i>	15 <i>Author: Joe Landsdale Princess Mononoke & Kiki's Delivery Service Fire Arts Festival (thru Sat)</i>	16 <i>Tangential Conjectures</i>	17 <i>Midnites For Maniacs Triple Bill Azkatraz (thru Tue) USS Defiance</i>	18 <i>Author: Jay Lake Group Signing: Footprints Micro Gods, Inc Clockwork SF</i>
19 <i>Star Trek Family Event: Man on the Moon Story Time Castle in the Sky SF/F Book Club</i>	20 <i>Moon Landing Anniversary Event</i>	21	22 <i>Other Realms</i>	23	24 <i>Author: David Morell Miyazaki's Ponyo Legion of Rassilon</i>	25 <i>SF in SF: Kage Baker Conversation with Hayao Miyazaki USS Augusta Ada Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i>
26 <i>Religion & SF</i>	27	28 <i>Food of the Future Disney's Beauty and the Beast (thru Sun)</i>	29	30	31	1