

# Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin

Volume 10, issue 3



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# Masthead

**Twitter:** @SouthernFans

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/326190460800275/>

**Yahoo Group:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthernFandomClassic/>

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## SFC Handbooks

This amazing 196 page tome of Southern Fannish lore, edited by T. K. F. W. Reinhardt, is now available to all comers for \$5, plus a \$2 shipping and handling charge if we have to mail it. The Handbook is also available online, thanks to the efforts of Samuel Smith, at [www.smithuel.net/sfcbh/](http://www.smithuel.net/sfcbh/). The SFC Handbook Errata page is: [www.smithuel.net/sfcbh/hberrata.html](http://www.smithuel.net/sfcbh/hberrata.html).

## Policies

- The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin Volume 10, Number 3, September 2015, is the official publication of the Southern Fandom Confederation (SFC), a not-for-profit literary organization and information clearinghouse dedicated to the service of Southern Science Fiction and Fantasy Fandom.
- This issue of the Bulletin is edited by Jennifer Liang and is published at least three times per year. Membership in the SFC is \$15 annually, running from DeepSouthCon to DeepSouthCon. A club or convention membership is \$50 annually. Donations are welcome. All checks should be made payable to the Southern Fandom Confederation. The Bulletin is also available for trades, published contributions, and letters of comment.
- Permission is granted to reprint all articles, lists, and flyers so long as the author and the Bulletin are credited. All art is copyrighted by the artist, unless otherwise specified. An exception is granted in the case of art that appears in a convention flyer. The editor encourages submission of lengthy written material and art covers and illos. Contributions and LoCs are always welcome.

- Throughout the Bulletin, you will find comments in italics and enclosed by brackets [*like this*]. Those are comments from the editor, Jennifer Liang, unless otherwise noted.

## Editor's Notes

It has been too long and for that I apologize. I had an unusually difficult school year and I unfortunately let some of my obligations slide. I will try to do better by yall.

Since it's been over a year since I last published, this is a very lengthy issue. Some of the con reports are a bit dated, but the information within is still relevant.



The one topic that is not mentioned in this Bulletin is the recent kerfuffle over the Hugo Awards. Good. I have read plenty of opinions on the Hugos and who ruined what already. I am happy that one place still seems relatively unscathed by the argument. For my own part, the whole thing just makes me sad. I hope everyone found something to enjoy on the ballot this year and that everyone nominates the stories they love next year.

The artwork featured in this issue is courtesy of Jose Sanchez, who sent me several pieces and I couldn't decide which I liked better.

-Jennifer Liang  
September, 2015

## Convention Reports

### Concave by Tom Feller (2014)

As is our custom, we headed north to Bowling Green, Kentucky in February for this relaxacon. I stopped working about 3 PM, and we drove for one hour to the Greenwood Inn/Jameson Inn and Suites. The con has been at the same hotel for the last five years, but because of turmoil in both ownership and management, it has changed its name at least three times in that period. It is an older property, but very well suited to this convention with a large atrium containing the swimming pool, kiddie pool, and hot tub, cooking facilities, and small meeting rooms. All the party rooms opened out into the atrium.

We had no trouble checking into the hotel and picking up our badges. Unfortunately, Anita caught a cold that week and had to spend most of her time in the room. She did manage to venture out for some meals and socializing. Since it is a relaxacon, you spend most of your time sitting around and talking to people who do not normally see. I spent time with Timothy Lane, Elizabeth Garrott, Joe and Lisa Major, Steve and Sue Francis, Jodie Offutt (widow of author Andy Offutt), Gary and Corliss Robe, Bob Emler, Art and Janet Hopkins, and Frank and Millie Kalicz. Frank and Millie held one of the Xerps parties on Friday night, which surprised us. At Outsidecon, they said they were suspending those parties for the foreseeable future to host parties for the Dublin in 2019 Worldcon bid. Frank explained to me that they had not negotiated all the details with the bid committee yet, so for this convention they went back to their old formula.

Bob Emler likes to grill hamburgers and hot dogs during the day Saturday to promote Outsidecon. Anita commented that she has seen him grilling for more than 30 years without an accident, but this year his luck ran out. The flame on his propane grill got away from him, singed his moustache and eyebrows, and burned both arms, so he had to go to the emergency room. Fortunately, they were able to treat him and send him back to the con, but it certainly gave us something to talk about.

There were several room parties, but the con is essentially a big party that lasts the whole weekend.

## DeepSouthCon by Tom Feller (2014)

The annual DeepSouthCon (DSC) was held in Bristol, Virginia this year, marking the first time the con was held in that state. Since we knew most of the attendees, we had quite a good time.

On Friday morning, we proceeded to the airport. Our Delta flights were on time, we took advantage of my Delta Skyclub membership to wait for our flights, and our rental car was waiting for us when we arrived. We could see the Holiday Inn from the interstate, but when we exited, we lost sight of it and took a wrong turn. Fortunately, we quickly realized our error, retraced our route, and found the place.

We ran into Rich Dengrove and George Wells as soon as we walked in the door. After checking in and taking our luggage to the room, we found con registration run by Corliss Robe and picked up our badges and program books. After a brief tour of the dealers room, we sat down in the hotel lobby and chatted with Rich, George, Mike, and a few others who wandered by. Since we had arrived early before the con suite was set up, we went into the restaurant/bar for a light dinner. We found Rick Norwood

having dinner, so we joined him. Later, Steve and Sue Francis, Richard and Lois Wellinghurst, and Bill Zielke joined us. Eventually, it was time for opening ceremonies.

Gary Robe, the con chairperson, introduced the guests of honor: Gordon Van Gelder, editor of *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, Charles Vess, artist and co-creator of the graphic novel *Stardust*, and the fan guests of honor, Patrick Molloy, Naomi Fisher, and their daughter Grace. Then we proceeded to the two room parties. Warren Buff and Glug hosted a DC in 2017 Worldcon bid party where I bought a pre-supporting membership, and Jessica Styons and Raymond Boudreau hosted a party for Contraflow in New Orleans. They will be hosting next year's DSC and are bidding on the Worldcon for 2018.

Saturday morning, Anita and I took our time getting up and ordered room service for breakfast. We did get down to the convention in time to attend Toni Weisskopf's slideshow on upcoming Baen releases. In response to a question of mine about the Hugo Awards, she announced that not only will the Larry Correia book nominated for the Hugo be available in the Hugo Award packet, but since it is the third book in a trilogy, they will be including all three books. She also said the Tor will be making available all fourteen books in *The Wheel of Time* series, which is also nominated for the Hugo.

Then Rick Norwood (Sixties), Pat Molloy (Seventies), Naomi Fisher (Eighties), Nick Robe (Nineties), and Grace Molloy (2000s) explained how they discovered fandom of the last "50 Years of Southern Fandom". Pat commented that his discovery of fandom while in college led to a career at NASA. I had to leave the convention for a short time to print our boarding passes for the next day, but got back in time to participate in the SFPA one-shot fanzine. Finally, we went to a panel entitled "Are the DSC and SFC (Southern Fandom Confederation) still relevant?" in which we discussed this question. The overall consensus is that they are still relevant.

Then we had a rest break until the banquet started. The meal consisted of barbeque pork, fried chicken, corn-on-the-cob, coleslaw, and macaroni with a choice of cheesecake or tiramisu. We sat with Jessica, Raymond, Jennifer and Jimmy Liang, and Kendall Varnell. After the banquet, they announced the award winners. Steve Jackson received the Phoenix, Judy Bemis the Rebel, and Gary gave himself the Rubble for screwing up the most recent SFPA egoboo poll.

There were two parties again that night. Mike Rogers and Ron Zukowski hosted an Atlanta in 2016 DSC bid party and the New Orleans group still had food and drinks left over

from Friday night so they re-opened. The con suite was also open, and people watched movies on the SyFy channel.

Since we were flying home that afternoon, we packed our bags, had breakfast in the hotel restaurant, and checked out before the business meetings started. As secretary, I took minutes at the SFC business meeting, where we discussed the club's archives, handbook, bulletin, and other issues. The most controversial item was a proposal by President Jennifer Liang to amend the by-laws to include an anti-discrimination clause. Most people considered it unnecessary, as the organization has never discriminated against fans because of gender, race, religion, etc., and it did not pass. Pat Molloy proposed an amendment eliminating a reference to the Confederate States of America in the by-laws, but it passed easily. At the DSC business meeting, the Atlanta bid won the right to host the DSC in 2016.

We immediately drove to the airport, dropped off our rental car, checked our one bag, and went through security without any trouble. We ate our lunch in the airport's one restaurant before boarding our plane. Our flights home were on time and uneventful.

## Hypericon by Tom Feller (2014)

Our local fannish convention took place this year at the Holiday Inn-Express Airport in the Donelson section of Nashville. I worked until the middle of the afternoon on Friday the 13th, then Anita and I ran a few errands, arriving in time for opening ceremonies, where the con organizers introduced the guests.



Our first panel concerned the Godzilla movies. The discussion leader was a writer from Edwardsville, Illinois who has seen all the Godzilla movies and even remembers all of them. He was very knowledgeable. He thinks the new movie is a good version and most of the audience agreed with him and that the 1998 version starring Matthew Broderick is a bad one. Then we visited the con suite, which provides meals to attendees, and visited with our fellow fans.

There were two panels after dinner. The first was on how beliefs about death in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century linger on in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century through superstitions. The second, which was of much greater interest to us, concerned Irene Adler, the woman who outwitted Sherlock Holmes, and how she has been portrayed in the media. The version that is truest to the original story, "A Scandal in Bohemia", is the 1984 Grenada production starring Jeremy Brett as Holmes and Gayle Hunnicutt as Adler. The panelists, two local female writers, complained the three latest media incarnations, the Robert Downey movies, *Sherlock*, and *Elementary*, all portrayed Adler as a criminal, whereas the original story

portrayed her as a woman wronged by her former lover, "The King of Bohemia". I managed to plug our local Sherlock Holmes club.

We finished the evening at Frank and Millie Kalicz's Xerps in 2010 party. Although they have been talking to the Dublin in 2019 bid committee, they were still not ready to starting hosting bid parties. We normally do not take a room in the hotel at a local convention, so we called it a night earlier than usual.

We took our time getting up Saturday, but returned to the con in time to eat lunch provided by the Chattacon in the hotel courtyard, where they grilled hot dogs. Unlike Concave, no one was injured while providing lunch, fortunately. We spent most of the day in the hotel lobby chatting with anyone who sat down next to us. A nearby TV was tuned to BBC America, and they were showing reruns of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Doctor Who*. Speaking of which, the only panel we attended that day was on the companions of *Doctor Who*. The panelists chose to concentrate on the more recent seasons. Their consensus was that they did not like Rose (Billie Piper), but did like Rory (Arthur Darvill). They were ambivalent about Amy (Karen Gillan).

## Libertycon 2014 by Tom Feller

We got on the road Friday afternoon, and, with the time change, pulled into the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hotel before 6 PM. (The main building was originally Chattanooga's main railway station from 1909 to 1970.) We checked into our room in Building 2, the party building, and picked up our badges at registration before taking a quick walk-through of the dealers room and proceeding to the con suite, located in the Pennsylvania Station Lounge. While we were there, we picked up our "I Stand with Uncle Timmy" buttons in protest of his treatment by Archon a few weeks previously. We did not attend any programming that night, but did visit the room parties for Xerps in 2010, DC in 2017 Worldcon bid party, and the "Not-A-Constellation" party. (Constellation was cancelled this year, because their long-time hotel has been torn down.)

We rested Saturday morning and around noon walked over to the convention center where we attended three panels. Two of them were science panels. In the first, Les Johnson and Travis Taylor, who was Science Guest of Honor, updated us on upcoming NASA projects, which included using solar sails and ion propulsion engines to visit asteroids. Les later did a

slide show presentation on possible human Mars missions in the future. He has recently co-written a science fiction novel with Ben Bova featuring such a mission. In between, we attended a slide show by our friend Melissa Gay, a Nashville illustrator, on "Imaginative





Realism” which is the use of realistic painting techniques to illustrate fantastic scenes and tell a story. She went back to the Renaissance and showed how the artists illustrated stories from the Bible and came forward to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Then we visited the swimming pool area next to the con suite where Chattacon was serving barbeque for lunch. We hung around the pool area the rest of the afternoon and socialized before returning to our room to rest. After a nap, we returned to the convention center where the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company performed two plays in the Centennial Theater. The first was a take-off on *The Twilight Zone*, and the second was a space opera spoof featuring a character called “Dash Cardigan”. Afterward we stopped briefly by the Jordancon party by the swimming pool and visited book launch parties and the Contraflow room party. Sunday morning we just hung around the con suite and talked with our friends for a while before getting back on the road for Nashville.

## Outsidecon by Tom Feller (2014)

It a hot summer day when Anita and I drove on the first Friday in September to Montgomery Bell State Park for this relaxacon. We were our usual wimpy selves and stayed in the park’s hotel rather than in a cabin or a tent. After checking into our room, we proceeded to Group Camp One, where the classic movie *Ernest Goes to Camp* was filmed. There we picked up our badges, set up our folding chairs on the front porch of the lodge and socialized. The more active fans participated in activities such as archery or fishing. We were comfortable, although other people complained about the heat. The highlight of the evening was a one hour concert by a local rock band, whose drummer is a cousin of Bob Emblar, the chairman of the con. Then we proceeded to Frank and Millie Kalicz’s cabin, where they hosted a Dublin in 2019 Worldcon bid party.

We were in no hurry to leave the hotel Saturday, because a storm front passed through the area. Although it did not generate much rain, it did lower the temperatures, so that it started to feel like Autumn. The con, which serves all meals, had already put out lunch by the time we got there, and we once again set up our chairs on the porch, where we talked to various people until it was time for the banquet. Janet Hopkins, the “Queen of the

Kitchen”, put out an excellent spread as usual. Afterward, we walked to the camp’s pavilion, where Dutch and Mickey Stacey of Hallowcon hosted a concert by the Molly Maguires, a Chattanooga-based Irish band.

We were in no hurry for us to return to Nashville Sunday, so we went back to the camp after checking out of the hotel and hung around for a while before going home.

## Wizard World Nashville Comic Con by Tom Feller (2014)

A few weeks later, we attended a completely different kind of convention, a for-profit event produced by Wizard World. We did not make our final decision on going until the Saturday of the convention, but that morning we were awake and felt well enough to give it a try, so we drove downtown to the Music City Center, Nashville’s new convention center. To our pleasant surprise, we found a parking place in the center’s own parking lot, so it was a short walk across the street. Another pleasant surprise was how smooth and painless registration was. They accepted my credit card and gave us our wrist bands. (We have found that the newer conventions don’t believe in name badges. They took my e-mail address to avoid printing a receipt on-site, but they never did take our names and addresses.) They also gave us program books, which was another mild surprise. The newer conventions don’t believe in program books, but expect you to download an app to a smart phone, which neither Anita nor I have. Anticipating this, we had printed the program from the con’s web site, and it proved to be more accurate than the one they gave us.

Our first stop was a panel on *The Game of Thrones* hosted by two writers for the *Entertainment Weekly* web site. They made a few remarks about the show and then started a trivia contest which we did not find interesting. Then we proceeded to our main interests, the *Star Trek* programming. The actors we saw were Marina Sirtis (Deanna), Michael Dorn (Worf), William Shatner (Kirk), Brent Spiner (Data), and Levar Burton (Geordie). They were all quite interesting. Sirtis currently plays a recurring character on *NCIS* as the head of the Mossad; Michael Dorn is trying to get a web-based *Star Trek* spin-off produced in which Worf commands his own ship; Shatner mentioned that he has been contacted about appearing in the next *Star Trek* movie and discussed his musical album, *Has Been*, which was recorded in Nashville in the same studio used by Elvis Presley and the fifth *Star Trek* movie, which he directed himself; Spiner discussed his work in musical theater, including Stephen Sondheim’s *Sunday in the Park with George*; and Burton discussed the recent revival of his educational TV show *The Reading Rainbow* and the cultural impact of *Roots*.

We did not attend any programming about TV shows such as *Power Rangers*, *The Walking Dead*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *Arrow*, or *Charmed*. The exhibit hall contained dealers,

booths for the stars to sign autographs and have their pictures taken, and food vendors. In size, it was comparable to a Worldcon dealer's room, but the only ones selling non-graphic books were authors promoting their own works. We ate both lunch and dinner there and watched the other fans, especially the ones in costume. There were only a handful of people there that we knew, but everyone was polite and friendly if you found a way to strike up a conversation.

It has been a long time since we saw a costume contest as large as the one here, and all the entries were good ones. The stand-out was a Groot from *Guardians of the Galaxy*. We found it curious that for all the hoopla about cosplay (costume and role-playing), there were few actual presentations. The contestants just posed for the audience and then for the judges and simply walked off the stage. One of those few presentations was an excellent one. After stage hands placed an old-style telephone booth with opaque walls on the stage, Clark Kent went inside and emerged a few seconds later as Superman. One thing I did not like was that they put the judges on the stage with the contestants. This encouraged the judges to clown around and steal attention from the contestants. The contest should be about them, not the judges.

Overall, we were glad we attended. Although the cost of admission was higher than what we normally pay, especially for just one day, and we had to pay for parking, we avoided any travel expenses so it was still a good value.

## Contraflow by Tom Feller (2014)

The last time we attended a convention in New Orleans was prior to Hurricane Katrina. The organizers of Crescent City Con retired their convention the summer before Katrina, but several years ago, a younger generation started a new one that they promised would be the kind of fannish convention that we prefer. They take the name of the convention from a procedure followed when people have to evacuate the city because of a hurricane or other natural disaster. They open up all lanes of the interstate highways to traffic going away from the city and called this “contraflow”.



I took vacation days on Friday and Monday so that we would have plenty of time to get there, attend the con, and even see a little bit of New Orleans. Southwest has direct flights between Nashville and the Crescent City, so we flew down in the early afternoon. The hotel, the Airport Hilton, had free shuttle service to and from the airport, and we had no difficulty checking in.

They had an excellent con suite, which furnished snacks and beverages and even had some comfortable seating. There was usually someone we knew whenever we came by, and

I was able to see many old friends from when I lived in Jackson, Mississippi. The hotel had a courtyard that served as the unofficial smoking con suite. The parties were concentrated on Saturday night, because the con sponsored a party contest, which was very competitive. The winner had an Alice in Wonderland theme and the runner-up was Arabian Nights hosted by a fan, Kirsten Moore, who used to live in Kentucky and whom we remembered from cons there.

The music programming was quite good. Tom Smith was the musical guest of honor, and he gave two concerts, one on Friday evening and another Sunday afternoon. He also sang during the costume contest's intermission. He will be the filk guest of honor at this year's Worldcon. Another duo called Wax Chaotic performed on both Saturday and Sunday. The singer, Katt McConnell, has an excellent voice and sings her own material. The main event Friday night was a musical version of *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, which was quite entertaining.

They held the costume contest on Saturday night. There were about ten entries, and the winner was "Howard the Duck Dynasty" in which Howard wore a beard like the men on the *Duck Dynasty* TV show.

The author guest of honor was Gregory Benford, who is an excellent guest who mingles with the fans instead of hiding from them. We attended his slide show on interstellar travel. In other programming, the Krewe du Who, the local *Doctor Who* club, hosted several discussions including one on how the Daleks have entered into popular culture. The *U.S.S. New Orleans*, the local Starfleet chapter, showed a fan video that was a sequel to the episode "Mirror, Mirror". Pop and Cherie Cerio recounted their experience in the 48 Hour Film Festival which is a competition to make a complete film from conception to finished product in 48 hours. Kalila Smith, a local writer, discussed New Orleans voodoo, including zombies and how the 21<sup>st</sup> Century concept differs from the one that originated in Haiti.

Sunday afternoon, Dean Sweatman, Anita, and I went downtown to the French Quarter, where we visited three establishments. At The Old Coffee Pot, we ate some gumbo; at Café Beignet, we ate beignets of course and listened to some New Orleans jazz, and finally to Pat O'Brian's, where Anita had a Hurricane, and I drank an Abita, a Louisiana beer. Otherwise, we just walked up and down Bourbon Street. It made for a very pleasant evening and a nice finish to a very enjoyable weekend. We think the Contraflow people will do an excellent job of hosting next year's DeepSouthCon.

## The Southern Festival of Books by Tom Feller (2014)

This is a convention for readers of mainstream fiction and nonfiction in downtown Nashville at the main branch of the Nashville Public Library and the Legislative Plaza, where

our state legislature conducts business. There is no charge for admission, and there are a number of book dealers. Anita attended with one of her book groups Friday, where she saw Christina Baker Kline, author of *Orphan Train: A Novel*, which she had read for one of her book groups. This book concerned a practice during of the Great Depression of sending orphans from the big eastern cities west to work on farms.

We went together on Saturday and saw Ishmael Beah (*Radiance of Tomorrow: A Novel*) Lawrence Wright (*Thirteen Days in September: Carter, Begin, and Sadat at Camp David*), and Maureen Corrigan (*And So We Read On: How the Great Gatsby came to Be and Why it Endures*). Anita had read Beah's first book, a memoir of being a child soldier in one of Africa's civil wars. His new book is a fictional account based on real experiences of people returning to his country after the war to rebuild. Wright discussed the fortuitous series of events that led to the Camp David accords. Corrigan is a college professor who teaches *The Great Gatsby* and says every time she reads it she finds something new or one of her students points out something she had not seen before.

Later that afternoon, we met the East Nashville Book Club at a Japanese restaurant to discuss John Grisham's *The Painted House*, a novel which is based on his childhood on a cotton farm in Arkansas. Anita had read the book as soon as it was published, and we had seen a TV movie based upon it, but this was the first time I had read it. I think it is one of his best.

Finally, we met Virginia fan Curt Phillips at McNamara's Pub. As the name indicates, it is an Irish pub where our local Sherlock Holmes club used to meet. Curt was in town to visit book stores and brought along two friends, one from Nashville and one from Knoxville. Fellow Nashville fans Reece Moorehead and Eric and Jean Jamborsky also met us. We discussed various subjects including fandom, conventions, pulp magazines, and books.

## Geek Media Expo by Tom Feller (2014)

This is a fan-run media-comics-gaming convention that we attend because it is local. This year it was in the Marriott in nearby Franklin, just across the county line in



Williamson County. Like many cons of its type, you buy a ticket, not a membership, and they do not ask for your name and address, unless you pay with credit cards like us and they ask for your email address to send you a receipt. On the other hand, they gave us badges rather than wristbands and a paper program grid rather than expecting us to download it to our smartphones, which we do not have.

We arrived in time Friday afternoon to attend the Geek Comedy Showcase, a series of stand-up comics who were moderately funny. Then we attended opening ceremonies, where they introduced the main guests, who were mostly unknown to us, although the actor guests had appeared in the *Farscape* TV show and *The Pirates of the Caribbean* movies. I had not expected to see any author among them, but I was disturbed that they had eliminated the literary programming track from the convention this year.

We attended one panel on *Doctor Who*, which was mostly a discussion of the current season and whether people liked the new Doctor, and another called "Closet Cosplay" which was about how one uses pieces of clothing you already own or can buy at a thrift store to make costumes. Then we went to a concert and dance called "Dead Dragon Day @ the Drunken Huntsman featuring Ooozak", which is "kazoo" spelled backward. Their main instruments were guitars, but they did play the *Game of Thrones* theme on the kazoo. Most of their songs contained science fiction or fantasy references, and we enjoyed them very much. Then we visited the official party floor where there were several room parties. We spent most of our time at the one hosted by the Middle Tennessee Anime Convention, because we could find a place to sit and talk with local fans.

We had not rented a room in the convention hotel and took our time getting up Saturday morning, but did arrive in time for the costume contest. Although it was in the afternoon, it was the most heavily attended event of the whole convention. There were about 25 entries, and there was a requirement that the entrants actually made their own costumes. They were quite good.

The Geek Social concert and dance featured two bands who each played one set of songs. We preferred the first one, because we found their music quite danceable. Later that evening we attended two panels: one on strong female characters and the other on vampires. In the first, the panelists showed clips from recent TV shows and asked for comments. In the second, the presenter went back to Polidori, a doctor who treated Lord Byron and based his vampire character on him. We did not go back Sunday.

## Hallowcon by Tom Feller (2014)

It seemed like we came full circle with this convention, because there is some overlap in the membership between this con, Concave, and Outsidecon. Furthermore, Hallowcon hosts a big party every year on the Saturday night of Outsidecon, and Outsidecon

hosted a room party at this one. Hallowcon began as a big Halloween party that became a true convention with programming, professional guests, and a dealer's room. Since it always takes place around Halloween the programming and costuming are horror-oriented, and this year's programming theme was the work of Stephen King.



The Econo-Lodge in Dalton, Georgia, was originally built as a Ramada Inn, and they have several meeting rooms , including one that was originally the hotel's restaurant and bar. It still has a dance floor, and the con uses it for their con suite and for their main events. This con provides dinner on both Friday and Saturday night, lunch on Saturday, beer, and an open bar at night. The hotel provides a continental breakfast in the mornings, and the con took over their television in the breakfast area to show a King movie marathon. The writer guests set up in an alcove to sign autographs and sell their books.

As I mentioned, Stephen King was the theme, so Anita and I were just as qualified to discuss King as they were. We have both read most of his books and seen most of the movies and television shows based on his work. Anita met him early in his career when King was the guest of honor at the old Kublakhhan, and I wrote four articles on him for various Salem Press reference books. The panels were like roundtable discussions with a great deal of audience participation.

There was music on both Friday and Saturday nights. The Molly Maguires, the same group that performed on Saturday night at Outsidecon, entertained us after dinner on Friday night, and our friend Dave Watson, whom he knew from conventions in our area, including Outsidecon, played the guitar and sang for us during dinner on Saturday night. There was a charity auction after dinner Saturday night, and I bought a Sherlock Holmes silhouette. After the slave auction and the belly dancing performance, we visited the room parties and finished off the evening with a few dances at the costume ball.

After eating breakfast Sunday morning and saying goodbye to people, we got on the road Sunday morning and reached Nashville in good time. However, this was not the end of our weekend. Our friend Derek Martin hosted a combination book-movie discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird* that afternoon. Anita and I have both read the book and seen the movie 2-3 times, so, after a brief stop at the house, we attended. It was quite interesting, and there was one man there who said that it was his all-time favorite book. Then we watched the movie, and it was just as good as we remembered.

# Odds and Ends

## I Teach In the Future- By Jennifer Liang

So I teach in the future now. It's pretty neat. The kids seem to like it at least. I think most everyone knows I teach. Maybe some of you know that I teach special education or that I "do something" with technology in the classroom. It's cool. I don't think other teachers understand what I do some days. But I teach in the future and it's kinda wicked rad.

My official title at work is "Instructional Technology Specialist". I also still teach a full load of social studies classes, and since both are full time jobs, I have been ridiculously busy. Last fall, we "went Google", which means we adopted Google Apps for Education. In a nutshell, the entire school, including the students, has a Google account that I can control. Aside from being able to reset forgotten passwords, I can also control their access to features like email, Youtube, Google + and even Safe Search. Each student has a Chromebook, which is a small laptop that runs only Google Apps. They carry them from class to class and use them for assignments.

So many of the things embedded in Google apps are great for special needs. Not only do my most disorganized students no longer have to keep track of their papers, but many native features of Google Drive are great for disability, like automatic spell checking, and searchable folders. Additionally, they can download programs called "extensions" to their Chromebooks which open up even more possibilities. One of my students uses a Dyslexie extension to convert websites to a dyslexia friendly font. Someone else uses a screen reader. Another student uses a magnifier to put everything in a more readable size.

I love using Google tools with my students. I love the look of wonder and surprise when I start editing a Google doc collaboratively with them. I love seeing their unbridled creativity. Never in human history has it been so easy to share your ideas with the world. It's wonderful to watch these kids, who a generation ago would have been limited in opportunity by their disabilities, become powerful and thoughtful creators.

There's a saying in the edtech community: "We are preparing the workers of tomorrow to perform jobs that haven't been created yet, with tools that haven't been invented yet." I have no idea what kind of careers I'm preparing my students for, but I'm confident that whatever they choose, they will be successful because of their ability to harness technology.



# Remembering Ned Brooks -mike weber

## OUR FRIEND

I've been stalling on writing this - sort of if, as long as i didn't write about it for SFPA, it wouldn't be true.

But it is.

As near as i can recall, i can say that i (more or less) knew Ned Brooks longer than anyone else in my life who isn't part of my family. My first contact with Ned was back in 1969, when i was in Crypto School at Norfolk Navy Shipyard.

I came back to the barracks one day, and i had a phone message - "Call Operator 29" (or whatever number).

Worried that it might be a family emergency, i embarked on a frustrating five or ten minutes of dealing with the minions of TPC, finally getting connected to a total stranger - somebody named "Ned Brooks".

Ned was, as i was, a member of the N3F in those days, and had seen a CoA for me in the N3F bulletin, and decided to call (he was, as we all know, working at the Langley wind tunnel and living in Virginia).

After i went to and came back from Viet Nam, the first weekend of my leave before i went to Sicily happened to be the weekend before Labor Day ... so, more-or-less on the spur of the moment, i decided to attend DSC.

Forty-five years later, i don't definitely recall if Ned was there - but if i didn't meet him face-to-face there, i'm sure i did at DSC in Atlanta in 1972.

We'd run into each other at DSCs and other cons - Kubla, RiverCon and so on.

I got on the SFPA waitlist, of course - i forget when - but Ned was (of course) there.

In September of 1975, i joined the roster.

And Ned was there.

And forty years passed.

I met Susan Phillips at the first RiverCon. In '76 we moved in together. In '77 we got married.

We went to a lot of cons, and, as likely as not, Ned was there.

Susan and i were in SFPA together for a long time.

And Ned was there.

After fourteen years together, Susan and i split. I kept on with my life as well as i could - and i kept going to cons, i tried to hang on.

And Ned was there.

Twenty-five more years passed.

I stayed in SFPA.

And Ned was there.

Along the way, Hank Reinhardt, who i'd known almost as long as i'd known Ned, died, and the tribe gathered for his funeral.

And Ned was there.

And i met Kate along the way, and she went to some cons with me - and we got married in Huntsville and then went on to Constellation.

And Ned was there.

Just a week or so ago, i got my SFPA mailing, and i opened it, and Ned was there.

And then i got an e-mail a couple days ago, and i read it.

And Ned ... wasn't there any more.

So many things we think will go on forever- and so many ... don't.

MFIII, Karl Wagner, Khen, Glizer, Hank, Markstein, Dolbear...

Ned.

I've never gotten drunk. I hate the sensations even beginning to be affected by alcohol gives me.

I won't get drunk now.

But i wish there was something i could do to forget that Ned's not there any more.

I hope to be at DSC.

If i can get to Ned's memorial service wherever it is, i will.

I will see my friends and we'll remember.

That so many of you are still there.

And i'm still here.

## Congratulations Southern Fandom –Want Some Help With Those Coffin Nails?

### A Post-Mortem for Deep South Con 52

***By Gary R. Robe, DSC 52 Chairman***

You have all read typical convention reports. They go something like, we travelled to City X, had these adventures on the road. We checked in to the convention after a Y minute wait at registration, met Z and we went out for dinner and got back in time for Opening Ceremonies. W was a great Master of Ceremonies and gave such a funny introduction to Q, the Guest of Honor, M, the Artist Guest of Honor, P, and the Fan Guest N. The filk concert with the Musical Guest was a lot of fun and the room parties were all packed... This isn't going to be that convention report.

Two and a half years ago Warren Buff, Curt Phillips and I decided to bid for DSC 52 for the Tri-cities region of East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. We decided to call the convention Contrails, which combined both the mountain culture of Middle Appalachia with the jet-car culture of SF fandom. The convention would be a stand-alone DeepSouthCon. Our ulterior motive was hoping to coalesce a local fan group outside the ten-or-so known

fans in the region. If the convention was enough of a success we envisioned Contrails becoming an annual event if we were successful in connecting with other fans in the area. I agreed to chair the event along with Warren to negotiate with the hotel and Curt to run the dealer's room. We won the site selection at DSC 50 in Huntsville in June of 2012.

First, I must give credit where it is due. Warren Buff did a fantastic job of negotiating with the hotel. The catering staff was well prepared for the group, and they genuinely enjoyed working with our group. The only glitches that the DSC members noticed were due to last-minute re-arrangement of the meeting space. Once we actually got into the space we saw a much better way of laying out the convention. Yes, the programming listed in the program book didn't jibe with the meeting rooms, but that wasn't Warren's fault. Not having the program book coincide with on-the-ground reality is such a rare occurrence I suppose it deserves a *mea culpa*.

Curt Phillips did an invaluable job of acting as guest liaison, especially when the van Gelder family had their inbound flight diverted to Knoxville and delayed by five hours. Curt also ran the dealer's room so smoothly that I was able to focus my attentions elsewhere.

Claude and Tonya Miles and my son Isaac did a magnificent job of running the consuite despite major hurdles in getting the equipment for the art show and consuite hauled in from storage in Lexington, KY and coping with a day's delay in setting up. We chose this hotel, even though it was the most expensive of the three we considered, because of the panoramic view from the tenth-floor lounge we could use as a consuite. Claude, Tonya and Isaac did a super job in having the consuite spread compliment the great view of the mountains. Once again, the only attention that I had to pay to the consuite was to drop in occasionally and grab some snacks and watch the awesome sunset on Friday night.

Rick Norwood did a superb job of developing and overseeing the program. The Yester-year Trivia Contest he created from scratch was great fun for both the contestants and the audience, and he even provided some great prizes to the participants from his own collection! He took the time to research our guests and develop programming that used their talents. He knew enough about them to have specific questions prepared in advance so the panels he moderated had substance beyond just asking a leading question and having the panelists wander for an hour. You could hardly have noticed that Rick was returning from years of GAFIation by how well he got right into the swing of things.

My wife, Corlis did a saint's job of manning the registration table for the entire convention with only one short break where she was needed as part of a panel discussion. She did an excellent job of being the first impression for everyone checking into the convention as well as being the convention's message center.

My other son Nick ran the game room, but more importantly stayed close-by to lend a hand for anything that needed doing. If there was a specific job, such as running to the office

supply store to get supplies for registration, or helping to set up the art show Nick was always there to make that happen.

Our guests, Gordon van Gelder and Charles Vess, were brilliant in being available to the convention and making the programming interesting. The one panel that I moderated with Gordon on how new writers break into the business today was fantastic. I had several questions and topics that I wanted to bring up and with no prior coordination, Gordon anticipated every one of those before I had a chance to spring them on him! Charles was such a great Southern gentleman and gracious to participate in an event that must have seemed too small for him to notice. Without us asking, he volunteered to do a slide show of his work, a reading from a soon-to-be published novel, and then provided commentary for a showing of *Stardust*. Pat Molloy, Naomi Fisher, and Grace Molloy all participated in many of the fan-oriented panels, and were able to contribute based on almost five decades of fannish activity. Toni Weisskopf also provided her famous Baen Books slide show as well as introducing us all to Daphne (Toni's new pooch).

Many thanks as well to Jessica Styrons and the *Contraflow* crew as well as Warren Buff and the DC in'17 Worldcon bid parties. The gang from NOLA kept their party open for both Friday and Saturday nights and added greatly to the nightlife of the convention. Since we were not able to serve alcohol in the main consuite, having the *Contraflow* party right across the hall effectively extended the consuite and provided the adult beverages for everyone! They certainly sold me on the state of NOLA fandom these days and I'm looking forward to attending DSC 53 there next year at the least, if not adding *Contraflow* to my fall convention schedule.

So far, all of the comments from the people whose opinion I value the most have all been positive about the job we did in putting on DSC 52/Contrails. I give thanks to everyone who has posted encouragement and praise so far. It really means a lot to me that we hosted a DSC that highlighted the best traditions of Southern Fandom.

I wish I could finish this report on that note, but I feel that I really must go on. Not to finish the story would be a disservice to the fans who contributed to Contrails. If you don't like dark and unpleasant words, then please stop reading here. From here on it's going to become ugly.

The final at-the-door attendance at DSC52/Contrails was 60 people and one dog. That's it. After two years of promotion that's how many people thought it was worth the effort to travel to Bristol, VA for the DeepSouthCon. For decades, we've pointed to the DSC as Southern Fandom's great celebration of regional identity and cooperation. The DSC was started when there was no Southern Fandom. There weren't any other conventions in the South. The early DSCs were Southern Fandom's best effort to reach out to fans in the region and bring them in to the family. I know this to be a fact because I'm one of the fans that first started connecting to fandom outside of a 100-mile radius around Bowling Green, KY through the DSCs in the 80's. I was on the committee of the '86 DSC where we introduced the bylaws

that have been the ground rules for the convention for 27 years. I have been involved in DSCs that were both stand-alone events and combined with other local conventions. After the debacle of this year's DSC, I must conclude that it is madness to think that the DSC can stand on its own any more.

I realize that Ron Zukowski and Mike Rogers are running DSC 54 as a stand-alone convention in Atlanta in 2016. If they could have waited a year, could anyone blame them for deciding not to bid after this year's disappointment? Even though they have committed to run DSC 54 and stand a better chance of drawing a viable attendance in Atlanta, can anyone look me in the eye and say that anyone will ever again take the risk of running a stand-alone DSC after then? Is there anyone else out there willing to chance getting stuck with a four-figure bill at the end of the convention just for the glory of hosting a DeepCouthCon that only four-dozen people bother to attend?

I'm not really interested in listening to blame and excuses right now. I fully admit that I could have put more effort into promoting Contrails. Doing so would have just taken more money out of my pocket because it was plain over a year ago that the advertizing I was doing was falling on deaf ears. At JordanCon/DSC 51 last year I spent over \$100 on a room party to promote the DSC. If there was anywhere with interest in DSC 52 it should have been there. We took in 8 new memberships at JordanCon. I threw room parties at Chattacon twice. Chattanooga is the city nearest to Bristol that has a base of convention fans. If there was anywhere I could convince fans to make the drive up to Virginia, Chattanooga was the place. I sold two new memberships there and had less foot traffic than the group that was selling drugs and liquor to under-age fans in the next room. Throwing room parties at other conventions only cost money that the DSC didn't have to invest, and offered nothing in return.

Yes, it is true that the website was barely populated with more than basic information about the convention and only intermittently showed up on a search. That's a valid criticism, but the commercial site we set up to take memberships always showed up on a search. More importantly, how many out there can honestly say that they didn't know there was going to be a DeepSouthCon this year, and that it was in Virginia? I don't think that there are many. We presented our bid at DSC 50 in Huntsville, the best-attended stand-alone DSC in recent memory. Our room was open throughout the convention and Warren, Curt and I spent the whole time talking to people about the bid. No, the information was out there and Warren, Curt and I aren't invisible to Fandom. OK, I'm not on Facebook or Twitter, but my employer strongly discourages employees from using social media. The convention was there to find with minimal effort.

Right, but Contrails was way out there in the pointy end of Southern Virginia, and it's too hard to access. The founding principle of the DSC is to bring fandom to places it's never been before. I agree, it's no fun trying to get into Tri-Cities, but that hasn't stopped us from attending conventions across the region for the last 40 or so years! Southern Fandom had two years to make plans to come to Bristol. I understand that it is quite a drive to make and

believe me, I sympathize. I've gladly made the trip to conventions in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Maryland, Kentucky, Indiana, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, and Tennessee. Was it really too much to ask of Fandom to make the trip here for once?

The thing that hurts me the most from this entire exercise in futility is that the DSC meant enough for me to take on the challenge of running it at all. I had this warm, fuzzy feeling that all of my friends and acquaintances across Southern Fandom shared this passion for coming together once a year and continuing the celebration of Southern Fandom. I've known for some months that this DSC was going to cost me. As late as one month before the convention I held out hope that we'd get at least 150 people to come to Contrails. We had 50 pre-registered members, and by the previously trusty Koch Konstant that would predict about another 100 memberships at-the-door. At 150 in attendance Contrails/DSC 52 wouldn't break even, but it wouldn't be a huge burden either. That attendance calculation was thrown off because less than half of those pre-registered members actually attended the convention. I could tell from the room pick-up that the attendance was going to be very low since many of the pre-registrants did not have a room reserved.

At that point I considered just cancelling the convention. I would have been out the 10% deposit to hold the convention facilities, guest airfares, and refunds for the pre-sold memberships. I would have been considerably better off financially if I'd done that. I decided that I just couldn't have lived with myself if I'd cancelled the DSC. It would have been a greater betrayal of the five decades of history that brought us to this point, and the fans who created Southern Fandom. Instead, I decided to take the hit with eyes wide open. I hope that for those at the convention my personal disappointment didn't show too badly. By time to convene I had mentally accepted the fact that I was going to be stuck with the bill, and I concentrated on making the convention as good and enjoyable as it could be. With thanks to the excellent crew that I had backing me up, I think that we did a credible job of putting on a DSC that was more like a "traditional" one than has been seen in a long time.

So, let the firestorm begin on the central question of this report. Has Southern Fandom done itself irreparable harm by ignoring this year's DSC? The DeepSouthCon and the Southern Fandom Confederation have been kept on life support for a decade now by a few who believe that Southern Fandom means something and are willing to put in the effort to keep them going. Conventions that agree to host the DSC by combining it with an existing convention keep the tradition going, but take on no risk in doing so. The worst that could happen is that the fifty or so people that the DSC brings to the attendance aren't noticed in the hundreds that an established convention draws. The health of Southern Fandom as an identifiable sub-culture depends on having the DSC and SFC as identifiable signs of its uniqueness. If the DSC is the heart of Southern Fandom then after this year's DSC it's flatlined. The question before you now is whether or not enough people care about it to get it beating again.

— Gary Robe. Kingsport, TN May 2014

## ABC DSC Canceled by M. Lee Rogers

After a recent meeting of the ABC Deep South Con committee and a review of the convention's financial standing, the committee decided that it was no longer feasible to host the convention. Therefore, ABC Deep South Con on May 13-15, 2016 has been canceled.

I apologize to everyone for this unfortunate outcome. The committee members tried their best to make this work. In the end, it did not.

All current convention members will have their memberships refunded.

-M. Lee Rogers, Chairman

## JordanCon Places Emergency Bid for DeepSouthCon 54

JordanCon will enter an emergency bid to host DeepSouthCon in 2016. This follows last month's announcement that the previously scheduled convention, "ABC DSC," taking place in Atlanta this May, has been cancelled.

DeepSouthCon is a traveling science fiction fan convention that travels the southeastern United States. It has the distinction of being the oldest literary convention in the region, and sponsors the Phoenix and Rebel awards.

JordanCon had the honor of hosting DeepSouthCon #51, during which the Phoenix was awarded to Robert Jordan, and the Rebel was awarded to Regina Kirby & M. Lee Rogers. JordanCon 8 will take place on April 22-24, 2016, at the Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center in Atlanta, Georgia with Toastmaster John Strangeway. Guests of Honor will be author Catherine Asaro and artist John Picacio.



# Annotated Fanzine Listings -By Tom Feller

Please send zines for listing to me at PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214-0937. All these zines are available for trade unless noted. Also unless otherwise specified, when writing for a sample issue, send \$1 to cover postage. A SASE is likely to be too small.

- Alexiad, Vol. 13, #'s 2-6, & vol. 14, #1, published by Joe and Lisa Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-2040; [jtmajor@iglou.com](mailto:jtmajor@iglou.com). Book reviews, science articles, essays, letters, coffee reviews, and trip reports. Joe and Lisa report on Concave and Holmes, Doyle, and Friends in #2 and Conglomeration in #3; Leigh Kimmel reports on Worldcon in #5, Archon and Windycon in #1, Visioncon and Confusion in #2, Conglomeration in #3, and Inconjunction in #4; Sue Burke reports on two Spanish conventions, Celsius in #5 and Hispacon in #1; and Robert Kennedy in #1.
- Feline Mewsings, #51, published by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle, AZ 85623-5323, [Laurraine@mac.com](mailto:Laurraine@mac.com). Reviews, letters, and trip reports. Laurraine reports on Condor and Corflu, and Jonathan Vos Post reports on the Eaton Conference.
- Instant Message, #'s 898-918, newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association, PO Box 809, Framingham MA 01701-0809. [info@nesfa.org](mailto:info@nesfa.org). Club and Boskone news.
- It Goes on the Shelf, #'s 35 & 36, published by Ned Brooks, 4817 Dean Lane, Lilburn GA 30047-4720. Ned comments on the items he collects.
- Jomp, Jr., #'s 32 & 33, published by Richard A Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Drive, #302, Alexandria, VA 22306; [richd22426@aol.com](mailto:richd22426@aol.com). Essays and letters.
- Journal of Mind Pollution, #38, published by Richard A. Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Drive, #302, Alexandria, VA 22306, [rich22426@aol.com](mailto:rich22426@aol.com). Essays and letters.
- Journey Planet, #18, published by James Bacon, Chris Garcia, & Helen Montgomery, 2932 Sutter Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95050; [Journeyplanet@gmail.com](mailto:Journeyplanet@gmail.com). Essays and letters. #18 has several essays on social media and fandom. One of this year's Hugo nominees.
- Klaus at Gunpoint, #7, published by Chris Garcia, 2932 Sutter Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Chris's film review zine.

- The Kobb Log, #9, published by Bill Kobb, PO Box 30231, Pensacola, FL 23502-1231. Movie reviews.
- Lofgeornost, #'s 113-119 published by Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Avenue, White River Junction, Vermont 05001; [fred.lerner@dartmouth.edu](mailto:fred.lerner@dartmouth.edu). Essays and letters. Fred reports on a meeting of the Kipling Society in #113.
- NASFA Shuttle, Vol. 34, #'s 7-11, & Vol. 35, #'s 1-6, newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, PO Box 4857, Huntsville, AL 35815-4857; [nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org](mailto:nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org). Edited by Mike Kennedy. Club, Constellation, and fannish news.
- The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 74, #'s 1-5, bulletin of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. c/o David Speakman, PO Box 1925, Mountain View CA 94042; [cabal@n3fmail.com](mailto:cabal@n3fmail.com). Club news and convention calendar. #5 includes an obituary for Art Widner.
- Nice Distinctions, #'s 25-26, published by Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers, NY 10704-1814, [havaty@panix.com](mailto:havaty@panix.com). Arthur's comments on the world. In #25, he reports on the Detroit Nasfic, where he was one of the Fan Guests of Honor.
- Number One, #'s 21 & 22, published by Mike McInerney, 83 Shakespeare Street, Daly City, CA 94014-1053; [elandem@att.net](mailto:elandem@att.net). Essays and letters. #21 features an essay by Sanford Meschkow about his early experiences with fandom.
- OASFiS Event Horizon, #'s 321-331, newsletter of the Orlando Area Science Fiction Society, PO Box 323, Goldenrod, FL 32733-0323. Available for \$12 per year. Edited by Juan Sanmiguel, [sanmiguel@earthlink.net](mailto:sanmiguel@earthlink.net). Club news and convention calendar. Juan reports on Megacon in #330, Anime Festival Orlando in #322, the Detroit Nasfic in #323, and the London Worldcon in #325.
- Of Mice and Martians, #'s 2 & 3, published by Jason Burnett, PO Box 18496, Minneapolis, MN 55418, [jason.burnett@starfleet.com](mailto:jason.burnett@starfleet.com). Short essays on science fiction and letters.
- Opuntia, #'s 266-273, published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2E7, [opuntia57@hotmail.com](mailto:opuntia57@hotmail.com). Essays, reviews, and letters. Dale reports on the aftermath of the Calgary flood in #'s 266 & 267 and the convention When Words Collide in #266.
- Purrsonal Mewsings, #'s 1&2, published by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle, AZ 85623-5323; [Laurraine@mac.com](mailto:Laurraine@mac.com). Laurraine's personal zine.

- Spartacus, #'s 3-8, published by Guy Lillian, 154 Weybridge Circle, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411, [ghliii@yahoo.com](mailto:ghliii@yahoo.com). Essays, letters, and reviews.
- Tightbeam, #'s 269-272, official fanzine of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Available for \$18 per year. Edited by David Speakman, PO Box 1925, Mountain View CA 94042, [cabal@n3fmail.com](mailto:cabal@n3fmail.com). Letters, poetry, fiction, reviews, essays, and comics.

## Electronic Zines

- ANIME SACRAMENTO NEWSLETTER, newsletter of Anime Sacramento, edited by Laurine White. [laurine.white@att.net](mailto:laurine.white@att.net). (Plain text.) Club and anime news.
- ANSIBLE, published by David Langford. [news.ansible@gmail.com](mailto:news.ansible@gmail.com), [ansible-news@googlegroups.com](mailto:ansible-news@googlegroups.com). (Plain text, but requires membership in Google Groups). Electronic version of David's award-winning fanzine.
- CLAPTRAP, published by Arnie Katz, [crossfire4@cox.net](mailto:crossfire4@cox.net). (PDF format) Arnie's genzine.
- FANSTUFF, published by Arnie Katz, [crossfire4@cox.net](mailto:crossfire4@cox.net). (PDF format) Arnie and his contributors write on a variety of subjects, mostly fannish.
- MY BACK PAGES, published by Richard Lynch, [rw\\_lynch@yahoo.com](mailto:rw_lynch@yahoo.com). (PDF format). Collections of Rich's essays with updates.
- NASHVILLE SF CLUB NEWSLETTER, edited by Reece Morehead, [reecejbm@gmail.com](mailto:reecejbm@gmail.com).
- (Plain text.) Club and other news.
- THE REVENGE OF HUMP DAY, published by Tim "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo, [tbolgeo@comcast.net](mailto:tbolgeo@comcast.net). (PDF format.) Jokes and fannish news, especially Libertycon. One of this year's Hugo nominees.
- WOSSNAME, Newsletter of the Klatchian Foreign Legion. Edited by Annie Mac, [wosname-owner@pearwood.info](mailto:wosname-owner@pearwood.info) (Plain Text, but requires participation in Yahoo groups.) Terry Pratchett and Discworld news.

## Web Sites

- *Baryon* at [www.baryon-online.com](http://www.baryon-online.com). Published by Barry Hunter. Book reviews.

- *Challenger* at [www.challzine.net](http://www.challzine.net). Published by Guy Lillian. On-line version of Guy Lillian's Hugo-nominated fanzine.
- *DUFF* at <http://taff.org.uk/duff.html>. Down Under Fan Fund news.
- *eFanzines* at <http://efanzines.com>. Published by Bill Burns. Downloadable versions of many of today's leading fanzines, archives of older fanzines, and links to many fannish sites.
- *Electric Velocipede* at [www.electricvelocipede.com](http://www.electricvelocipede.com). Edited by John Klima. Winner of the 2009 Hugo Award for best fanzine.
- *File 770* at [www.File770.com](http://www.File770.com). Published by Mike Glycer. On-line version of Mike's Hugo Award-winning fanzine.
- *Mike and Laurraine's Home Page* at <http://www.weasner.com/>. Published by Laurraine Tutihasi and Mike Weasner. Personal web site.
- *The National Fantasy Fan Federation* at <http://N3f.org>. SF news and reviews.
- *The New England Science Fiction Association* at [www.nesfa.org](http://www.nesfa.org). Club and Boskone news.
- *Pat Virzi* at <http://patvirzi.com>. Pat's personal web site.
- *Research Triangle Science Fiction Society* at <http://www.rtsfs.com>. Official club web-site.
- *Stargate Atlanta* at [www.stargateatlanta.com](http://www.stargateatlanta.com). Club and *Stargate* news.
- *TAFF* at <http://TAFF.org.uk>. Transatlantic Fan Fund news.
- *VideoVista* at [www.videovista.net](http://www.videovista.net). Video Reviews.
- *Revolution SF* at <http://www.revolutionsf.com/>. News and reviews.
- *SF Site* at <http://www.sfsite.com/>. News and reviews.
- *SF Crowsnest* at <http://sfcrowsnest.org.uk/>. News and reviews.

## Web Logs

- Arthur Hlavaty at <http://www.livejournal.com/users/supergee/>. Arthur writes on a variety of subjects.
- J.R. "Mad Dog" Madden at <http://jrmadden.blogspot.com>. Jim Bob comments on a variety of subjects.

## Letters of Comment

Dear Jennifer,

The Southern Fandom Confederation business meeting at ConTrails caused quite the stir. There were a couple of related changes to the SFC bylaws which came up before the members. The one I am compelled to comment on is your proposal to add a non-discrimination clause to the bylaws. It failed to meet the required number of votes by one. There was a minor issue with the wording and I suspect that it will be brought up again, with the wording fixed, next year. It is not the wording issues I am writing. I would like to address why I voted for it, and address some of the arguments against it that were brought up against it. I'll no doubt piss some of y'all off. Consider yourself warned.

As long as I have been involved with the SFC it has not openly discriminated against anybody for race, gender or on any other arbitrary criteria. Nor have I seen the SFC act with the intent to do so. That would go against our shared value of Brotherhood as fans, and our shared culture of hospitality as Southerners that welcomes all those who can behave like adults. The idea that we don't discriminate should be self evident. That is the lesson handed down to me when I was a younger fan. This lesson was learned from other Southern fans, including members of the SFC who are reading this article. As I grow older I have discovered that these things are not self evident and never were. Recently there have been moves to exclude fans because of their race, their gender, their opinions and their political views. The SFC should not be in the business of having to send a message, but that is the position we have found ourselves in. Against the evils of this world we must plant our feet firmly on our principles and stand firm. What are

Southerners if we are not stubborn? The principle where I will fortify myself is this: Discrimination is bullshit and shall not be tolerated. You want to know why? At the end of the day it isn't about liberal politics, it isn't about conservative politics, it is about protecting my community, my friends, my family.

The chief argument raised against the amendment was that we would be admitting guilt, or implying that there was discrimination. Adopting a proposal by Toni Weisskopf the body added language to clarify that the SFC does not discriminate and “never fucking has”. While I suspect the language will be given a new top coat if it is reintroduced, I agree with the body that it is important to clarify that this is a statement formalizing existing practice, not an admission of guilt. I was in charge of registration for illogiCon this past year. We introduced an explicit anti-harassment policy this year, and placed it with all of the other important information at the registration desk. The anti-harassment policy was instituted for the reasons I gave in support of the SFC anti-discrimination proposal. I had multiple members ask me if the policy was in response to specific acts of harassment.

The other argument I heard expressed was that there was pressure on us to have an anti-discrimination policy because we are Southerners. Sometimes being a Southerner turns you into a stranger in a strange land. Assuming this is one of those cases is reasonable. That being said I have not seen anybody put pressure on Southern fandom, the SFC or the DSC specifically. What I have seen is incidents of discrimination and each time a vocal outcry denouncing it.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Hensley

*[Funnily, JordanCon had the same queries when we added a harassment policies a few years. We also had a vocal group that insisted we would never need it, because there is a very fine woodshed right here and isn't it odd how you can't hear anyone in it when you're in the house...]*

*Anyways, I'm not planning to reintroduce my proposal this year. I've thought about the refinements I want to make and I suspect it would pass with those this year. But the DeepSouthCon existence failure seems like a bigger problem right now. Once that's resolved, I'll return to it. Though I will wholeheartedly support anyone who wants to bring it up on their own. ]*

Congratulations on publishing another issue of the *Bulletin*.

I would hope that in addition to listing the material about the *SFC Handbook* on the table of contents page, you would also mention the partial 3rd edition that is on the Web site. It does have a few new articles and we hope to get more in the coming months. The URL is: [http://www.smithuel.net/sfchb3/toc\\_v3.html](http://www.smithuel.net/sfchb3/toc_v3.html)

For some reason, the font formatting for the ABC DSC ad did not make it through into my PDF. I wonder if that was the case for everyone's copy or just mine.

Will the Sherlock Holmes club that Tom Feller mentioned continue to go to that restaurant after losing the banquet room? I certainly hope it was a simple mistake and not a veiled message to look elsewhere. But lack of caring is so rampant in the food service industry these days, especially on the fast food side.

As we have discussed, I certainly support your efforts to update the SFC Web site. I would like to apologize to the members for not doing more with the site over the years. I can only plead lack of time and energy. As for finances, we can certainly afford \$50 a year to pay for hosting. I wonder if we could also host the *Handbook* 3rd edition Web site on this site in addition to just the SFC material. There may be some overlap. If you want some help with working on this, I will try to help. Just let me know.

Now to the harassment policy. We could make a Groucho-style joke here but let's skip that. I have heard the subject mentioned once or twice in the fan press in recent years. I wonder if this is a big enough problem to require formal rules. I could be convinced and will listen to arguments in favor. I also want to clarify what kind(s) of harassment are referred to here. Are we talking just about sexual harassment or other kinds as well?

As for people who do not like any references to confederations or the Deep South anything, the subject of implied racism in Southern SF fandom has come up many times over the years.

Southern SF fans are not racist in my experience. Others may disagree. Yet there is still a very noticeable anti-Southern prejudice in the entire U.S. Some of those people ding us just because we admit we are Southerners. They seem to think we Southerners should just crawl under a rock and never be seen or heard again.

Southern fans have never been embarrassed to show their Southern side. We cannot change the past and we did not cause the past, so we should not be held responsible for it. We can only be responsible for our own behavior.

If we truly offend many people and cause them to turn away because we embrace our Southernness, maybe we can do a few things about it. But we should not be expected to turn our backs on our cultural identity to placate the feelings of people some of whom often look very hard for reasons to be offended.

Here's a brief story. You may be aware that the Atlanta World SF Convention had a suggestion of the Stars and Bars in its main logo. It used astronomical stars in place of the real ones. When we did the 25th anniversary party in 2011, I removed that part of the logo in our materials. I was not ashamed of it, but thought it carried too much baggage to work in modern society. We were probably pushing the envelope in 1986.

As with the harassment policy, let's see if there really is a problem. If there is, we'll see what we can do without going overboard.

It is not surprising that the London committee did not comment on your nomination of Wheel of Time as a series. They probably hope the issue will go away and they will not have to rule on it. We shall see.

I would never have thought that *Tightbeam* was still being published or that the National Fantasy Fan Federation was still operating. Irv Koch used to be heavily involved with N3F.

Lloyd Penney's letter brings up the subject of SFC's mission and purpose. We have discussed this, but I wanted to put it in this forum.

I firmly believe that the Southern Fandom Confederation has the same purpose it has had ever since Meade Frierson served as President. Its purpose should be to serve as the primary clearinghouse for information about science fiction and related fandoms to all fans throughout the SFC area. There is still a small market for that function. There are many Web sites, but no one place that has everything.

If we can build the SFC Web site to be that kind of clearinghouse, then we can publicize it more heavily than has been done in recent years. Then SFC will be serving its true purpose. Anything we can do to make that happen will be worth the effort.



"One too many men" is not just a skiffy plot. I just stumbled upon an episode of a mid-60's TV show called "Suspense Theater" where a group of men were locked in a bank vault and a doctor calculated that there was only enough air for one less than the number they had. One man had to die for the others to survive long enough for the door to open.

What was the final outcome of Ed Kramer's case? Did they convict him? Did the authorities decide it was too much trouble to keep him in jail given his claimed problems?

This has gone on long enough. Hope it was worth reading.

-M. Lee Rogers

*[What I think is interesting about Southerners in general, not just fans, is that we are actually called to task on our past racial sins fairly regularly. Unlike other parts of the country, we've actually done some of the hard work of recognizing our racist history and attempting to atone. I won't pretend we've always done a good job of that, but at least we can say we're forced as a whole to look at ourselves and realize the harm that's been done. Other regions don't get that. Oregon was founded as a "[whites only](#)" state. The city of Tulsa remains the only US city to [experience aerial bombardment](#) and it was done to destroy a wealthy black neighborhood.]*

*Being Southern means having a complicated history, but also acknowledging that history. We're the kind of people that not only can name their great-great grandmother, still make her biscuit recipe. That's just who we are. If we're going to call ourselves Southern fans, we need to embrace all of it, the history, the hospitality and yeah, even the messy bits we don't like thinking about.]*

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January 17, 2014

Dear Jennifer:

I've got Vol. 10 No. 2 of Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin here, and just before the weekend hits, here's some quick comments on this issue.

Now that it is 2014, the Hugo nomination period has started, and I've been around long enough to not really have any awareness of who's done what in 2013. I can't afford new books, and I don't have much time to read it anyway, and the fans I'd consider for the Hugos don't seem to have much of a chance of getting on the ballot. I figure I've aged out of the Hugo nominator's demographic, and it's been a while since I've recognized all of most of the people on the ballot anyway. I might forgo the nomination time, and just vote on what the final ballot has for me.

Hypericon...I may be interested in steampunk costuming, but one thing that does turn me off about it is the demand to be armed with the most ridiculous-looking guns. None of that for me, nothing more than a cane, thank you.

Annotates Fanzine Listings...I am happy to say that I get most of these, although I haven't seen an Instant Message in a very long time, and I've never seen the Nashville SF Club Newsletter. Hint, hint...

My loc...Loncon 3 is still not a certainty for us. Still saving, still planning. Making a club grow for all ages is a tough job, but that's what the president does. Good luck on bringing young and old in.

Rich Dengrove is right in that the Hobbit movies are horribly padded. I saw the first, and even though the second is in the theatres, I am not eager to see it. I guess I am spoiled by the LotR trilogy, and not pleased that there was more than two Hobbit movies.

Time to go! Have a great weekend, and I look forward to more from you.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

*[Always happy to hear from you, Lloyd. Though I do hope you managed to find a few things to nominate after all this year. I myself have never filled all my nomination slots, or even nominated in every category. And my tastes rarely map to that of the rest of the nominators. I've nominated some [really awesome Tumblr comics](#) in the past, and even a [stage production](#) by an independent theatre group. I know these things have no chance of making the ballot, but what the hell? Maybe I'm not the only person who saw them and enjoyed them. Being able to nominate the weird things no one else saw is part of the fun of the Hugos for me. ]*