



Volume 26 Number 3 Issue 309

August 2013

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Getting ready for Anime Festival Orlando 13, and Worldcon in San Antonio. Hope to see some of you there. There was a lot going on last month. Southern Media Con was held at the St. Petersburg Hilton. It was a nice gathering of fans. The Leesburg Public Library had a science fiction day. OASFiS, the Guardians of Gallifrey, and the USS Haven had tables at the event. Florida Supercon happened on 4th of July weekend in Miami. It was great to see old friends and talk about *Doctor Who*. Next month I plan to do a con report on Anime Festival Orlando 13 and hopefully do a review.

Events

Creator Owned Expo

August 3
4900 Powerline Road
Fort Lauderdale FL, 33309
Guests: Chris Berman
Laura Diaz
and many more
\$5 for the day
creatorownedexpo.com

Fanboy Expo

August 3-4
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay
2900 Bayport Drive
Tampa, FL 33607
Guests: Chandler Riggs (Carl Grimes, *The Walking Dead*)
Billy Dee Williams (Lando Calrissian, *Star Wars*)
Margot Kidder (Lois Lane, *Superman*)
Adrain Paul (Duncan MacLeod, *Highlander*)
Cassandra Peterson (Elvira)
\$25 for 2 days
fanboyexpo.com

Jacksonville Anime Day

August 4
Embassy Suites
9300 Baymeadows Road,
Jacksonville, Florida 32256
\$3 for the day
jacksonville.animeday.net

Comics Gaming Anime Show

August 10-11
Flamingo Gardens
3750 South Flamingo Road
Davie, FL 33330
\$14 for 2 days, \$9 for one day
flamingogardens.cgashows.com

Anime Festival Orlando 14

August 16-18
Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld
6677 Sea Harbor Drive
Orlando, FL 32821
Guests: Tony Oliver (Rick Hunter, *Robotech*)
Jason Narvy (Skull, *Power Rangers*)
Paul Schrier, (Bulk, *Power Rangers*)
Debi Derryberry (voice actor)
Jennifer Hale (voice actor)
Rino Romero (voice actor)
DC Douglas (voice actor)
Stephanie Sheh (voice actor)
Michael Sinteriklaas (voice actor)
\$50 for all three days
www.animefestivalorlando.com

Orlando Comic Book Connection

August 17-18
Holiday Inn
5905 Kirkman Road
Orlando, Florida, 32819
\$3 at the door per day
thecomicbookconnection.com

(Continued on page 2)

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August OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, August 11, Brick and Fire Pasta and Pizza Parlor (Downtown Orlando, 1621 South Orange Ave Orlando, Florida 32806). Come join us as we discuss works of alternate history.

To contact for more info: 407-823-8715

SciFi Light TBD

(Continued from page 1)

Pensacola Para Con

Pensacola Interstate Fair Grounds Conference Bldg
6655 Mobile Hwy
Pensacola Florida 32526

Guests: Gil Gerard (Buck Rogers, *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century*)

Cindy Morgan (Yuri, *TRON*)

And many more

\$10 at the door per day

Tampa Bay Comic Con

August 23-25

Tampa Convention Center

333 S. Franklin Street

Tampa, Florida, 33602

\$45 at the door for 3 days, \$20 for one day

Guests: George Perez (comic book artist)

Maisee Williams (Ariya, *Game of Thrones*)

Lauren Cohan (Maggie, *The Walking Dead*)

Chad Coleman (Tyreese, *The Walking Dead*)

Rory McCain (The Hound, *Game of Thrones*)

Willow Shields (Prim, *The Hunger Games*)

www.tampabaycomiccon.com

OASIS Meeting

Date: 7-14-13

Officers: Steve Grant, Patricia Wheeler, Juan Sanmiguel

Members: Rob Dickinson, Judy Dickinson, Arthur Dykeman, Tom Reed, Dave Ratti, David Lussier, Ed Anthony

Club thanked Patricia for hosting the 4th of July Party.

SF Lite will be at Wolfies Pizza in downtown Orlando. The discussion topic will be this years Science Fiction blockbusters.

Steve brought up the club use of Facebook for meeting and other club events. There has been no change in attendance to events since using Facebook. Arthur suggested that Facebook is works better in the long term. Juan wants to keep up using Facebook.

Several events happened in Florida last month. Neil Gaiman had a book signing in Coral Gables, FL. This was his only Florida appearance for *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* tour (his last US tour). Florida Supercon was held in Miami the 4th of July weekend. Juan said it felt very crowded given the size of the

OASFiS People

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Any of these people can give readers information about the club and its functions. To be included in the list call Juan

venue. Southern Media Con was held at the Hilton at St. Petersburg on July 13. It is an event run by the Stone Hill group. There will be a Sci-Fi day at the Leesburg Public Library on July 20. Juan will run an OASFiS table at the event.

Convention: The Castle told us that they will be turning the meeting rooms into restaurants and will not be able to hold our convention. Juan suggests to look into 2 hotels, the International Palms and Resort and the Doubletree at Sea World. (the Location of OASIS 19 & 20). Juan went to the Doubletree for a Hurricane Who event in June. OASIS could fit in the lobby area of the hotel. The disadvantage is the parking situation. We will send out a survey to find a date for the convention. The International Palms and Resort has free parking and a big enough convention center. They have held gaming conventions and some of the OASIS gamers know the hotel staff.

There was list compiled for possible OASIS 27 Guests of Honor.

- Lois McMaster Bujold
- Kim Stanley Robinson
- Orson Scott Card
- Travis S. Taylor

Tom brought outreach to other fan groups. There was mixed results with our previous attempts. We had very small success with *USS Haven* and the Guardians of Gallifrey.

Monty Python and the Holy Grail will be shown at the Garden Theater on July 26.

Mothra will be shown at the Enzian on July 30.

The new crop of films were discussed. This included: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Despicable Me*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Pacific Rim* and *Sharknado*.

(Continued on page 3)

Tom announced that Riff Trax will be doing an episode on *Starship Troopers*.

There was a Power Point presentation on this years Hugo Nominees. The nominees examined were Best Novel, Novella, Novelette, Short Story, Graphic Story, Pro Artist, Fan Artist, Dramatic Presentation Long and Short Form.

Book: There was little interest in *Bug Jack Barron*. Juan

Florida Supercon

Florida Supercon is a media and comic convention that this year held from July 4-7 at the Miami Airport Convention Center. Guests included: George Takei (Hikaru Sulu, *Star Trek*), Adam Baldwin (Jayne, *Firefly* and Casey, *Chuck*), Dave Gibbons (comic artist, *Doctor Who* and *Watchmen*), and Dan Gilvezan (voice actor – Bumblebee, *Transformers* and Spider-Man, *Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends*).

Florida Supercon has gotten big, maybe too big for its venue. The corridors got very packed, and the crowd seemed to overwhelm the convention center's air conditioning system. The way the convention is laid out, the only place to wait for the convention to open was outside which can be problematic if it rains. It may be time for a bigger venue.

Dave Gibbons was interviewed by Mike Lawrence. Lawrence asked Gibbons what is the best comic art panel he ever drew, and Gibbons said it was the next panel to be drawn. He explained that the art rarely meets the expectations of the artist when created. When one reexamines the art years later, the strengths of the piece can be seen. Gibbons thinks that the scene where Jon Osterman is molecularly disintegrated in *Watchmen* is one of the best things he did. Lawrence asked Gibbons how he felt about the classic status of *Watchmen*. Gibbons said at the time, he and writer Alan Moore did not consider the impact of the book while working on it. They hoped the work would be fondly remembered. When the 12 issues of *Watchmen* were collected into one book, which could be sold in regular bookstores, it really took off. Journalists who grew up on comics were able to write insightful articles on *Watchmen*. The success of Frank Miller's *The Dark Knight Returns*, which came out around the same time, helped *Watchmen*. People who read *The Dark Knight Returns* wanted to read similar comics and were recommended *Watchmen*. Moore and Gibbons really worked hard on the book and had a lot of editorial freedom. Gibbons talked about how *Watchmen* got started. He worked with writer Len Wein on *Green Lantern*. Although he loved the character, he was not happy with the current storyline. Moore wanted to work at DC, and submitted proposals for Challengers of the Unknown and J'onn J'onzz, but they were committed to others. Wein offered Moore *Swamp Thing*, a character Wein had created in the early '70s. The book was very successful. Moore and Gibbons were given a chance to work with characters from the Charlton comic line, which DC had just bought, but after seeing their proposal DC decided not to let them use the characters, so they created their own characters. This gave them more freedom. *Superman* editor Julius Schwartz wanted a story from Gibbons. Gibbons proposed to have Moore write it. This became the classic "The Man Who Has Everything", where Superman has an alien parasite attached to him and he dreams of a Krypton which never

exploded. This was later adapted to an episode of the animated *Justice League Unlimited* series. Gibbons noted that both Batman and Superman are orphans. The difference is that Batman saw his parents die and this causes him to lose hope. Superman never did, so he has hope. The story shows that Krypton's survival is not necessarily ideal. Gibbons receives every comic book DC publishes for free, which was a boyhood dream of his. He donates most of them to a local comic shop, and can get any comic he wants for free. Gibbons was asked what the coolest comic he owns is. Gibbons owns a page drawn by Moebius, but his favorite comic is *Race for the Moon*, drawn by Jack Kirby. This is a book that Gibbons read when he was a boy. Years later he wrote an introduction to a reprint of the book, and found out the original art for the whole book was going to be auctioned off, so he was able to buy it. Gibbon has written comics with great artists like Steve Rude, Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez, and Patrick Gleason. Gibbons was always impressed with the Gleason's interpretation of his script. *Watchmen* was conceived as a finite comic story. Moore and Gibbons wanted to use their favorite comic techniques in the book. The film stuck to the core story. It did not bother him that the film makers took out the squid, a genetically engineered life form which killed half the population of New York. It would not have worked in the film. Director Zack Snyder did a good job making the movie. The film contained the moral ambiguity Moore and Gibbons put in the book. Gibbons was asked what was it was like to work with Moore. He said Moore is a genius, a nice man and a great collaborator. Their relationship is strained though and Gibbons did not want to discuss why. Someone asked if hands are hard to draw. Gibbons did not think so; he felt drawing the other eye is a challenge. The most challenging thing to draw, he said, in *Watchmen* were the dust motes described in a scene. Moore's scripts are very descriptive, but give the artist plenty of freedom to draw what he or she wants. Gibbons was asked who was his best editor. Gibbons said he got a lot of feedback early in his career. Len Wen and Pat Mills gave him great advice starting out. What Gibbons saw in American comics seemed so exotic to him. When he came to America, he wanted to see the fire hydrants drawn by Jack Kirby in his comics. When working on comics, one must make clear to the artist what is important in the scene or panel and give him or her the freedom to interpret that scene. He was asked if the characters in *Watchmen* were based on anyone. The Comedian was physically based on Groucho Marx and Nite Owl was slightly based on Gibbons. None of the other character were based on anyone in particular.

The markwho42 Whoniverse podcast interviewed Dave Gibbons about his work on the *Doctor Who* comic. Mark Baumgarten, the host, asked most of the questions. Gibbons worked on *Doctor Who Weekly* (later *Doctor Who Magazine*) from 1979-1982. When Gibbons started on the comic, Tom Baker was playing the Doctor. Gibbons said Baker was easy to draw. The first writers on the comics were Pat Mills and John Wagner (co-creator of Judge Dredd) who worked on the comic magazine *2000AD*. They collaborated on the first four stories: "The Iron Legion", "City of the Damned", "The Star Beast", and "The Dogs of Doom". His favorite *Doctor Who* story was "The Star Beast" which had a cute alien that was secretly an evil dictator. They did not use the companions from the show due to copyright issues; they were only able to use K9. Gibbons and the writers created their own companion, Sharon. She was the first compan-

(Continued from page 3)

ion of African descent. When Peter Davison replaced Tom Baker, he was a challenge for Gibbons, who did not have much reference material for Davison, and found it hard to get a good likeness. After Davison's agent complained about the first strips, Gibbons was allowed to go to the BBC and take pictures of Davison. This was a great help. Gibbons did not watch the show at the time. He did watch the first episode of *Doctor Who* when it was first broadcast. To him, William Hartnell will always be the Doctor. He liked the fact the first Doctor was grumpy and a bit scary. He did watch a little bit of Sylvester McCoy's era, because that was when his son watched the show. His son would dress up as McCoy's Doctor and have the daughter of John Higgins', the colorist on *Watchmen*, play his companion. Gibbons was asked which was favorite monster. He liked drawing the Meep. The Daleks were a challenge at first, but now he could draw one easily.

The markwho42 Whoinverse podcast also did a panel covering the history of *Doctor Who* fandom in America. The panel consisted of Mark Baumgarten, Trish Helm, Eduardo Freyre, Dan Harris and me. As the old school fans, Baumgarten, Harris and I talked about the early days of *Doctor Who* fandom in America. The show first came out in the early '70s on PBS stations with little fanfare. In 1978, *Doctor Who* was heavily syndicated on both PBS and commercial stations. They showed the first four seasons of Tom Baker continually for 3 years. The show did not have a national time slot and the stations scheduled it all over the place. The show gathered a following, had dedicated conventions, and coverage in science fiction media magazines like *Starlog*. Harris worked on staff at Omnicon, a convention in South Florida which had a heavy emphasis on *Doctor Who*. Baumgarten and I attend many of the Omnicons. An audience member brought up a local club with staff members from Omnicon, and they showed *Doctor Who* episodes not aired on American TV at a local high school. In the '80s, some PBS stations edited the episodes of a *Doctor Who* story together and showed it one night. Some of them were badly-edited. We talked about the time between the cancellation of the program in 1989 and its return in 2005. During that time, there were original novels being written. Some of the writers of those books would work on the new incarnation of the show. There were also fan films featuring characters from the show. *Doctor Who* audio adventures were produced by a company called Big Finish, and featured the

fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth Doctors (recently Tom Baker decided to participate in Big Finish productions). The returning show took a while to establish itself on American television. Freyre was surprised to see the show on the Sci-Fi channel in 2006. I mentioned that when the new show was first offered to the Sci-Fi channel, they did not know what to make of it and delayed broadcasting it for a year. Helm caught an episode by chance. She recognized David Tennant from his appearance in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* and Helm quickly became a fan. The show is bigger in the US that it ever was. Its toys are in big stores like Walmart, and it is talked about on other shows. An audience member asked about the possibility of the Doctor being a woman. I explained how the possibility of the Doctor being a woman started. In 1980, Tom Baker's departure from the show was leaked to the press. John Nathan-Turner, the producer at the time, wanted to call a press conference to get the maximum publicity for the announcement. While waiting for the press conference Baker suggested that he would imply the Doctor could be a woman during the press conference. When Baker addressed the press, he finished by offering best wishes to his successor "whoever he or she may be." Turner took advantage of publicity that statement generated. Harris and I stated will watch the show no matter who the Doctor is played by. Baumgarten was concerned about how the Doctor being a woman would change the dynamics of the show. Someone asked about the 12 regeneration limit mentioned in the classic series. This means that the Doctor could have 13 bodies. What will happen when the 13th Doctor decides to leave? I suggested when the time comes, they could have the Doctor appear to die, give the show a rest for a time, and then bring the show back. The audience did not like this idea. Freyre said that instead of killing the Doctor, the Doctor will regenerate at the last minute, much to his surprise.

There was a lot to do at the convention. Local Trek fan Nick Roche ran several game shows. There was an appearance by director Kevin Smith. Mark Baumgarten organized a video room dedicated to British science fiction and fantasy programming. The anime program featured episodes of new shows and displayed some great anime music videos. There were also panels on comic writing, podcasting, and voice acting.

Hopefully, Florida Supercon can find a solution to its congestion problem. It is a great part of the Florida convention scene.



The markwho42 Whoinverse interview with Dave Gibbons

Left to right: Mark Baumgarten, Patricia Hem, Eduardo Freyre, Dave Gibbons, Christian Basel

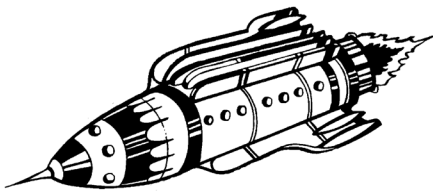
Florida Supercon 2013



Top Row: (left to right) Jareth from *Labyrinth*, Oscar the Grouch, Aquaman in armor, Leela and Zach Branigan from *Futurama*

Bottom Row: (left to right) Dan Galvezan (voice actor, Bumblebee and Spider-Man), Eren Yeager and Mikasa Ackerman from the anime series *Attack on Titan*, Utena from the anime series *Revolutionary Girl Utena*





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