Volume 24 Number 10 Issue 292 March 2012

Events

Knighttrokon
March 3
University of Central Florida Student Union
$5 per person
Guests: Kyle Hebert (voice actor)
Wendee Lee (Faye, ***Cowboy Bebop***)
knightrokon.com

Tampa Bay Comic Con
March 3-4
Double Tree Hotel
4500 West Cypress Street
Tampa, FL 33607
$15 per day
Guests: Jim Steranko (comic writer and artist)
Mike Grell(comic writer and artist)
and many more
www.tampabaycomiccon.com/

Anime Planet
March 16
Seminole State College Heathrow Campus
Heathrow, Florida 32746
$10 entry badge, $15 event pass
Edwin Antionio Figueroa III (voice actor)
theanimeplanet.com

Hatsumi Fair (anime)
March 17-18
Morikami Park
Delray Beach, FL 33446
$10 per person before March 16
$12 per person at the door
support.morikami.org(check calendar section)

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Megacon was fun but tiring. I got see some people I really respect and admire. It felt bigger than last year. I heard from the *Slacker and the Man* podcast that the long lines from previous Megacons were not there this year. Checkout the report in this issue.

Next month some reviews, pictures from ICFA and maybe from some other events.

Sun Coast: CGA show (gaming and comics)
March 31
Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center
75 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
$8 or $6 with a can of food per person

ICFA 33 (professional conference)
March 21-25
Orlando Airport Marriott, Orlando, Florida
Guest of Honor: China Miéville
Guest of Honor: Kelly Link
Guest Scholar: Jeffrey Cohen
Special Guest Emeritus : Brain Aldiss
www.iafa.org

The 2011 Nebula Awards nominees
(source *Locus* & SFWA website)

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America announced the nominees for the 2011 Nebula Awards (presented 2012), the nominees for the Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation, and the nominees for the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy Book. The winners will be announced at SFWA's 47th Annual Nebula Awards Weekend, to be held Thursday through Sunday, May 17 to May 20, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia, near Reagan National Airport. Walter Jon Williams will preside as toastmaster, with Astronaut Michael Fincke as

(Continued on page 2)

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March OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, March 11, 1:30 PM, , Brick and Fire Pasta and Pizza Parlor (Downtown Orlando, 1621 South Orange Ave Orlando, Florida 32806) Come join us as we discuss the works of L.E. Modesitt Jr.

SciFi Light

Saturday March 17, 6 PM, restaurant and topic to be decided. Updates will be on the website and Facebook pages. For more info contact Steve Grant

To contact for more info:
OASFiS Business Meeting 407-823-8715

OASFiS People

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Steve Grant	352 241 0670 stevegrant@embarqmail.com
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Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net
Patricia Wheeler	407-832-1428 pwheeler11@cfl.rr.com

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

(Continued from page 1)
keynote speaker.

Congratulations to OASIS guests Adam-Troy Castro and Jack McDevitt for their nominations.

Novel

- ***Among Others***, Jo Walton (Tor)
- ***Embassytown***, China Miéville (Macmillan UK; Del Rey; Subterranean Press)
- ***Firebird***, Jack McDevitt (Ace Books)
- ***God's War***, Kameron Hurley (Night Shade Books)
- ***Mechanique: A Tale of the Circus Tresaulti***, Genevieve Valentine (Prime Books)
- ***The Kingdom of Gods***, N.K. Jemisin (Orbit US; Orbit UK)

Novella

- "With Unclean Hands," Adam-Troy Castro (*Analog Science Fiction and Fact*, November 2011)
- "The Ice Owl," Carolyn Ives Gilman (*The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction,* November/December 2011)
- "Kiss Me Twice," Mary Robinette Kowal (*Asimov's Science Fiction*, June 2011)
- "The Man Who Bridged the Mist," Kij Johnson (*Asimov's Science Fiction*, October/November 2011)
- "The Man Who Ended History: A Documentary," Ken Liu (*Panverse Three,* Panverse Publishing)
- "Silently and Very Fast," Catherynne M. Valente (WFSA Press; *Clarkesworld Magazine*, October 2011)

Novelette

- "Fields of Gold," Rachel Swirsky (*Eclipse 4,* Night Shade Books)
- "Ray of Light," Brad R. Torgersen (*Analog Science Fiction and Fact*, December 2011)
- "Sauerkraut Station," Ferrett Steinmetz (*Giganotosaurus*, November 2011)
- "Six Months, Three Days," Charlie Jane Anders (*Tor.com*, June 2011)
- "The Migratory Pattern of Dancers," Katherine Sparrow (*Giganotosaurus*, July 2011)
- "The Old Equations," Jake Kerr (*Lightspeed Magazine*, July 2011)
- "What We Found," Geoff Ryman (*The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, September/October 2011)
-

Short Story

- "Her Husband's Hands," Adam-Troy Castro (*Lightspeed Magazine*, October 2011)
- "Mama, We are Zhenya, Your Son," Tom Crosshill (*Lightspeed Magazine*, April 2011)
- "Movement," Nancy Fulda (*Asimov's Science Fiction*, March 2011)
- "Shipbirth," Aliette de Bodard (*Asimov's Science Fiction*, February 2011)
- "The Axiom of Choice," David W. Goldman (*New Haven Review*, Winter 2011)
- "The Cartographer Wasps and the Anarchist Bees," E. Lily Yu (*Clarkesworld Magazine*, April 2011)
- "The Paper Menagerie," Ken Liu (*The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, March/April 2011)

(Continued on page 3)

Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation

- ***The Adjustment Bureau,*** George Nolfi (writer/director) (Universal)
- ***Attack the Block***, Joe Cornish (writer/director) (Optimum Releasing; Screen Gems)
- ***Captain America: The First Avenger***, Christopher Markus, Stephen McFeely (writers), Joe Johnston (director) (Paramount)
- ***Doctor Who*** "The Doctor's Wife," Neil Gaiman (writer), Richard Clark (director) (BBC Wales)
- ***Hugo***, John Logan (writer), Martin Scorsese (director) (Paramount)
- ***Midnight in Paris***, Woody Allen (writer/director) (Sony)
- ***Source Code***, Ben Ripley (writer), Duncan Jones (director) (Summit)

Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy Book

- ***Akata Witch***, Nnedi Okorafor (Viking Juvenile)
- ***Chime***, Franny Billingsley (Dial Books; Bloomsbury)
- ***Daughter of Smoke and Bone***, Laini Taylor (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Hodder & Stoughton)
- ***Everybody Sees the Ants***, A.S. King (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
- ***The Boy at the End of the World***, Greg van Eekhout (Bloomsbury Children's Books)
- ***The Freedom Maze***, Delia Sherman (Big Mouth House)
- ***The Girl of Fire and Thorns***, Rae Carson (Greenwillow Books)
- ***Ultraviolet***, R.J. Anderson (Orchard Books; Carolrhoda Books)

Science Fiction and FantasyWinners at the Academy Awards:

Animated Feature

- ***Rango***

Animated Short Film

- ***The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore***

Written, Original Screenplay

- ***Midnight in Paris***, Woody Allen

Art Direction

- ***Hugo***, Dante Ferretti (Production Design), Francesca Lo Schiavo (Set Decoration)

Achievement in Cinematography

- ***Hugo***, Robert Richardson

Achievement in Music Written for Motion Pictures (Original Song)

- "Man or Muppet" from ***The Muppets***, Music and Lyric by Bret McKenzie

Achievement in Sound Editing

- ***Hugo***, Philip Stockton and Eugene Gearty

Achievement in Sound Mixing

- ***Hugo***, Tom Fleischman and John Midgley

Achievement in Visual Effects

- ***Hugo***, Rob Legato, Joss Williams, Ben Grossman, and Alex Henning

Megacon 2012

Megacon 2012 was held on February 17-19, 2012 at the Orange County Convention Center. Tom Felton, Draco Malfoy of the Harry Potter films, and Stan Lee, comic book writer and creator of many of the major Marvel Comic characters, were the Guests of Honor. Other guests included Dan Dido (DC Comics co-Publisher), George Perez (comic artist and co-creator of the '80s ***Teen Titans***), Sheldon Moldoff (Golden Age Batman artist), Darwyn Cooke (comic writer and artist of ***Justice League: New Frontier***), Bruce Boxleitner (John Sheridan, ***Babylon 5***), Peter Jurasik (Londo Mollari, ***Babylon 5***), Stephen Frust

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

(Vir Cotto, ***Babylon 5***), Brent Spiner (Data, ***Star Trek: The Next Generation***), Robert Picardo (The Doctor, ***Star Trek: Voyager***), Tim Russ (Tuvok, ***Star Trek: Voyager***), Stan Morrison (artist), Paul Vincenti (artist), and Richard C. Livingston (artist).

There was more space in the Dealer's Room this year. Megacon added a hall and put more space between the rows. David Plesic, OASFiS member, confirmed that the new layout was easy to get around in. This fixed the Dealers' Room congestion problem on Saturday, the busiest day of the con. The reason for the expansion was to prevent fire code violations.

After years of going to Megacon, I finally noticed something odd in their programming. They schedule program items at odd times. Some panels start at 1:45PM, 2:50PM, 4:20PM and 11:15AM and all the panels in main programming are 50 minutes long. I do not understand why they do not use the hour or half-hour for scheduling. The anime programming, which is separately-run, does.

DC All Access panel featured DC co-publisher Dan Dido, DC Executive Editor Eddie Berganza, Tony Bedard, and Kenneth Rocafort. Last year, DC launched 52 comics in their main line. They created new comics and renumbered older comics to #1, like *Batman*, *Detective Comics* and *Action Comics*. Dido took a survey of how many of the new 52 titles the audience initially bought and how many titles they kept reading. Only one person said they kept up with all the new titles for 5 months. Dido thanked the fans for their support. One fan asked if Lobo will appear soon in the new 52 universe. There is probably something in the works with Lobo that Dido could not reveal. Dido then went to the next question about the need to renumber all the comics in the new 52 with #1. Since some of these comics, like *Action Comics*, started in 1930s, it seemed to be an insult. Dido said the renumbering was done to show that the editorial staff was serious about having a fresh start with the characters and universe. DC wanted to look forward and not back. A question was asked why some of the new comics have a five-year history. Dido and Bedard said it gives the characters a sense of history but leaves room for future development. Another fan asked why Wally West, the third Flash, was removed from the DC universe during the relaunch. Dido wanted readers to focus on Barry Allen as the Flash and Wally West was too derivative of Allen. Bringing West back was problematic due to the current age of Allen. These were the same problems encountered with Donna Troy, Wonder Girl in the 1980s. Troy would complicate Wonder Woman's story. Currently West and Troy are not in the DC Universe. Pandora, the mysterious cloaked woman who has been making cameo appearances in the new universe, will a have a story in DC's free comic for Free Comic Book Day. There will also be some work from Geoff Johns and Jim Lee in that comic. The continuation of Kevin Smith's Batman story is on hold since Smith is working on a comic book store reality television show.

There was a panel on the popular Cartoon Network show, ***Robot Chicken***. The panel consisted of co-creator Matthew Senriech and writer/voice actor Zeb Wells. They showed a movie-trailer-style preview for the ***Robot Chicken*** DC Comic special. It is a compilation of previous DC Comic-inspired skits. They also had an animated story board for a new skit. The skit consisted of the Batman villain Two-Face going to the bathroom. Every step is being determined by Two-Face flipping his double head coin. Senriech and Wells explained how they write the show. There is a lot of work involved in making a parody in which copyrighted characters are allowed. They mentioned that Cartoon Network was cautious about using certain skits at the start. After their initial success, they earned the trust of the network regarding what they would put on the show.

Dan Dido, Eddie Berganza, Tony Bedard, Jimmy Palimotti, Dan Jugens, and Greg Capullo discussed **DC-The New 52**. Dido performed the same survey he did at the previous panel with about the same results. Berganza explained that there was a lot of thought in picking the creative team (writer, artist, inker, etc.) for each of the comics. Palmiotti liked working on Jonah Hex again, and likes having him in 1880s Gotham City in *All Star Western*. Hex has not changed, and has some stories coming up using Gotham's history. Dido likes books like Palmiotti's *All Star Western* and Paul Cornell's *Demon Nights***,** set in Medieval England, because they show the rich history of the DC Universe. Capullo enjoys doing the art for *Batman*. It was a great thrill for him to draw *Batman* #1. Bedard discussed putting together ***Green Lantern: New Guardians***. This was a challenge, since it meant teaming up Kyle Rayner, one of Earth's Green Lanterns, with representatives from the other Lantern Corps. Bedard was worried, since he did not have the

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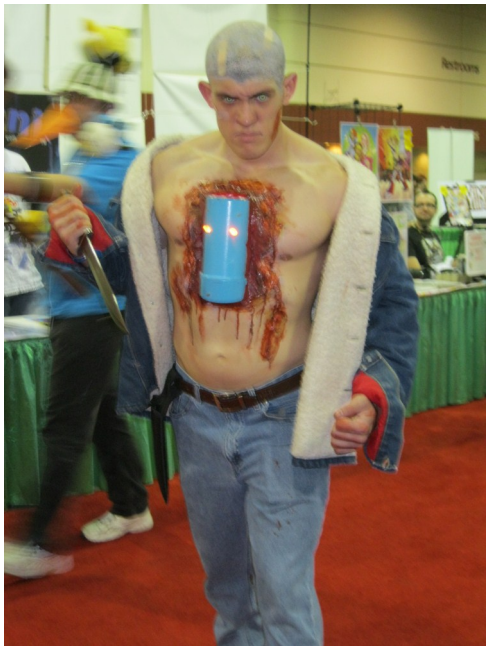
Megacon 2012

Pictures Clockwise starting upper right:
Captain Marvel,
Captain Marvel Jr and Mary Marvel,
Emma Frost aka the White Queen,
Marvel Girl of the X-Men
Green Goblin and the Hopbgoblin from Spider-Man comics
Brock Samson with an embedded Helper from ***The Venture Brothers***



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first string members from the other Corps like Sinestro and Atrocitus. Bedard also enjoys working on the *Blue Beetle*. He enjoys introducing the character to new readers. Jurgens talked about working on the ever changing line up of *Justice League International***.** It took Jurgens awhile to find the right combination of characters. He wanted a good mixture of backgrounds for the book. The fact the comic is set in the present a rather than the past lets him tell more epic stories. Jurgens will also be working on *Superman*. Jurgens has worked on Superman before and has to get used to the changes recently made in the book. A fan questioned the need to make all these changes in the comics he has been reading for 50 years. Dido feels DC is not doing any disservice to their history, since they are publishing the older stories. At the same time, Dido wants to give readers the same experience the audience member had 50 years ago when he started reading comics. This is one of the primary reasons for the relaunch, to bring to new readers to the comics.

Daryl Surat and Gerald Rathkolb of the *Anime World Order* (AWO) podcast did three panels on Saturday. The first panel was **Gateway into Anime**. This covered the anime which brought fans in. This included ***Astro Boy***, ***Speed Racer***, ***Space Battleship Yamato*** (aka ***Star Blazers***), ***Robotech***, ***Akira***, ***Ghost in the Shell***, ***Salior Moon***, and ***Cowboy Bebop***. They showed clips from all the shows and ended the panel with a clip of what they hope is the next gateway anime, ***Redline***. The next panel was **Greatest Openings in Anime**, which showed some of the best opening credit sequences from anime television series. This included ***Cutey Honey***, ***Lupin III***, ***Cowboy Bebop***, ***Paranoia Agent***, ***Planetes***, ***Phoenix***, and ***Dirty Pair: Project Eden.*** Surat and Rathkolb pointed out that the premise of ***Cowboy Bebop*** is written in the background of the opening sequence. The last panel explored **Sci-Fi Anime**. This panel was based on one I did with Rathkolb at Anime Festival Orlando (AFO) last August. Surat and Rathkolb added ***Space Cobra***, ***Patlabor***, and ***Neon Genesis Evangelion*** to the list of science fiction anime. They also added more detail to the history of early Japanese science fiction. The list of the other science fiction anime discussed in this panel can be found at sanmiguel71.livejournal.com/32380.html.

There were great costumes this year. The Marvel (Shazam) family was well-represented. There were two Arthur Dents from ***The Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy***. There was a massive gathering of ***Doctor Who*** costumers. There were many Doctors, Amys, River Songs, Idrises from last year's "The Doctor's Wife", a K9 and a Dalek. Disney was represented by Tinkerbell and Princess Jasmine. There was a costumer who was Brock Samson with the head of the robot Helper embedded in his chest from ***The Venture Brothers***. There was a great Emma Frost and 60s Marvel Girl from the X-Men. Two gentlemen recreated the Green Goblin and Hobgoblin. Princess Zelda from the video games was seen wandering the halls.

Artist Jimmy Palmiotti assisted Stan Lee for his Sunday Q&A. One fan asked what advice Lee would give a young creator. Lee told him to write and do it as much as possible, since it gets easier with time. Another fan asked what Lee thought about the real-life superheroes that have been popping up around the country. Lee admires their service to their community but fears that they might get hurt or hurt others. One fan thought that Lee did the art for his comics. Lee admitted he never drew professionally, but did draw as a child, and drew women's faces occasionally as adult. Lee's wife looked like the pictures he drew, which is one of the reasons he married her. Ironically Lee would be Marvel's art director for a time despite the fact he never drew professionally. One female fan asked for and got a hug from Lee. One fan asked for his inspiration for Hulk. Lee said he liked the idea of a monster for a hero. He combined that with Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde and came up with the Hulk. He liked that both sides of the character wanted to destroy each other. Lee predicts that electronic readers will take over one day and replace printed paper. Lee was asked about his favorite movie cameo and said he liked them all but the scene from ***Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*** really stands out. He told the audience to check out ***The Avengers*** and ***The Amazing Spider-Man***. Lee said there are some more episodes of ***Stan Lee's Superhumans*** coming out soon. One fan asked if Lee's wife ever dressed up as a character he created. He said that the idea never occurred to him and that question may stir up trouble in his family. Lee will be appearing as a player character in Marvel's next Activsion video game. Someone asked Lee if fans ever came to his house like in an episode of ***The Big Bang Theory*** where Lee played himself. Lee said no, but Madonna used to live a few houses down the street. He did get

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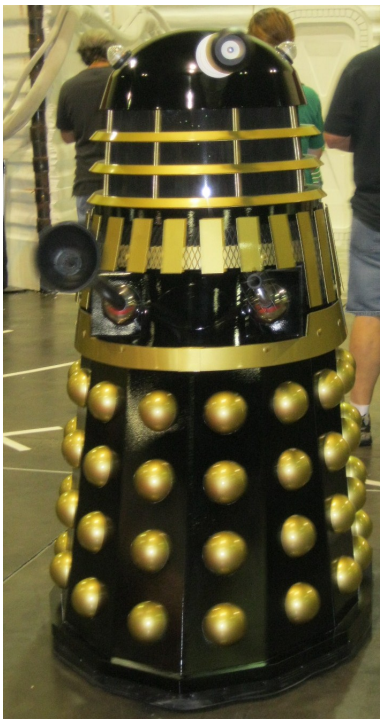
Megacon 2012



Pictures Clockwise starting upper right:
Dalek from ***Doctor Who***
K9 from ***Doctor Who***,
The Eleventh Doctor and Idris aka the TARDIS from ***Doctor Who***,
A massive ***Doctor Who*** cosplay gathering

a few people coming to the door looking for Madonna. He hopes people came to Madonna's house looking for Stan Lee. One fan gave Lee a copy of the paper he wrote on him in college, which earned an A. Lee said he would read it and see if could learn something new about himself. He was asked who was the strangest person to come to his reality show ***Who Wants to be a Super Hero***. He said it was Balloon Man. This person was wrapped in a big balloon. Lee could not figure out what this person's super power was. The last question asked was if Marvel should reboot the books like DC. Lee was fine with it, and admitted he is not following the comics very much. Rebooting is great way of getting people excited about the comics.

Anime Sushi ran the Megacon Anime Music Video contest. All of the entries were of good quality and the presentation ran well. The only bad thing is that Anime Sushi does not show information on the entries during the presentation on place cards like AFO does, so it was hard to take notes of the entries. The entry which won Best Dramatic Award used footage from the Seiun-winning ***The Girl Who Leapt Through Time***, with music from "Skyscarper" by Demi Lovato.

Larry Furry, aka Fuzzy, did a panel on ***Robotech***. Due to a scheduling error the panel did not have access to the room for 15 minutes. When the room was available, Fuzzy started a ***Robotech*** trivia contest. I acted as scorekeeper and the prize was a limited-edition Zentradi Battlepod figure. Fuzzy also gave out some ***Robotech*** comics to the audience. The rest of the panel Fuzzy and I fielded questions. Fuzzy said a new video ***Robotech:Love Live Alive*** will be coming out soon. It will be an adaptation of the ***Genesis Climber Mospeada*** Original Anime Video ***Love Live Alive***. ***Genesis Climber Mospeada*** is the series which comprises the third segment of the ***Robotech*** series. Someone asked if the series ***Super Dimensions Century Orguss*** was going to be used in a proposed ***Robotech*** series. I replied that Tommy Yune, current ***Robotech*** producer and writer, said at AFO 11, that ***Robotech*** creator/producer Carl Macek wanted to create new animation rather than reuse another series. I suggested this may have been due to the failure of ***Captain Harlock and the Queen of a Thousand Years***. That show consisted of two series where literally spliced together and no one was happy with the results.

The next Megacon will be held March 15 -17, 2013 at the Orange County Convention Center.

Special thanks to Todd H. Latoski of Comic Related (comicrelated.com) whose transcripts of the DC All Access, DC New 52, and Stan Lee's Q&A were a great help with this report.

Yukikaze
by
Chōhei Kambayashi

Most military aircraft have sophisticated computer controls, and the capabilities of these planes are increasing. What happens when the machines can think for themselves? What will the relationship be between man and machine? Chōhei Kambayashi looks into these questions in his novel ***Yukikaze***.

An alien invasion force arrives through a dimensional portal in Antarctica. Military forces were able to repel the aliens, who are called the JAM. The portal remains. On the other side of the portal is an alien planet, which is named Faery. An international coalition forms the Faery Air Force (FAF) to fight the JAM. The FAF establishes several airbases in Faery. There is a Special Air Force (SAF) in the FAF whose job is to observe and gather information on the JAM during combat. This information becomes critical to the war effort, so critical that SAF pilots are instructed to come back at all costs, even if it results in casualties among their comrades. The SAF are fighting with the most advance planes, the Super Sylph. These planes have the most complex artificial intelligence system. The war has been going on for 30 years with no end in sight. The story follows Lt. Rei Fukai, SAF pilot, and his Super Sylph Yukikaze, which means "snow wind" and was the name of Japanese World War II destroyer.

The novel is very episodic. Each chapter is a story in itself, depicting Fukai's and Yukikaze's involvement in the war. Two chapters have Fukai in the periphery, but they give more insight into the war and life on Faery. The story focuses on the changing nature of the war and how it affects the people and machines fighting it.

Kambayashi describes Yukikaze in great detail. There is even a fact sheet on the Yukikaze at the back of the book. We follow Fukai as he pilots Yukikaze, and sees how he uses the controls. The AI does not interact vocally with Fukai, yet there is an implied

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symbiotic relationship between the two.

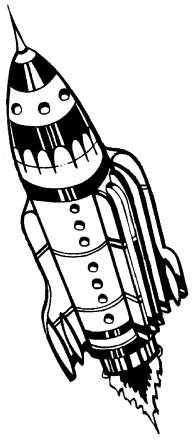
Fukai is a very distant character, who is very cold to others, and only has one friend, his immediate superior officer, Major Jack Baker. He does not have anything else going on in his life aside from his relationship with Yukikaze. Baker warns Fukai that there will be a time he will have to move on without Yukikaze. Fukai finds that difficult to accept. As the novel progress, we see more of Fukai's humanity.

The JAM are a mystery. Humans have not met them directly even when they establish a presence on Faery. They are a force to be dealt with. As time goes one, Baker and others start to suspect the JAM are more interested in mankind's technology. It adds an element of realism to have inscrutable aliens.

The novel is a great "fighter plane" story. It is full of well-executed action sequences. It is also a great science fiction story. Humans are in an alien environment dealing with a complex threat, and form a new relationship with their technology to fight this threat. The story is continued in ***Good Luck, Yukikaze***. I look forward to seeing how the evolving war affects Fukai and Yukikaze.

Megacon 2012

Pictures Clockwise starting upper right:
Dan Dido discussing what is happening in DC Comics
Daryl Surat and Gerald Rathkolb of the *Anime World Order* podcasting,
DC creators (left to right) Tony Bedard, Greg Capullo, Jimmy Palimotti and DC Executive Eddie Berganza



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SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
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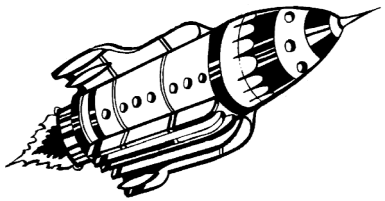
May 25-27, 2012



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$79/night, single-quad
through 5/6/12
Mention OASIS for rate

Sheraton Orlando Downtown
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Orlando, Florida 32801
407-843-6664
1-800-574-3160

Weekend Memberships:
$30 until 1/1/12,
$35 until 4/30/12,
$40 at the door.

Membership registration is available online or send a check to:
OASFiS
PO Box 323
Goldenrod, FL 32733-0323
More info at
www.oasfis.org

Writer Guests of Honor

L.E. Modesitt Jr.

David Weber

Artist Guest of Honor

Janny Wurts

Fan Guests of Honor

Pat and Roger Sims

**Author Signings,
Costume Contest,
Live Music and Comedy,
Anime and Video Programs,
Art Show,
Informative Panel Talks,
Artist Demos, Books,
Cool Stuff for Sale,
Fun and Games
Charity Auction**