



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

FX was fun. I will talk about it more next month. Please remember this months meeting is early and short.

If you have not renewed your membership and wish to please contact Micahel Pilletere or myself.

Nothing going on in Flroida this month. This is a list of all the events that will occur in Florida this year. This list was provided by Tom Croom aka Wasabiguy.

2008 Florida Events (in order)

- FX
- Anime Day in Davie
- MegaCon
- FITCon
- Anime Express
- Naruto Trek
- EyeCon
- Tampa Comic Book & Toy Show #1
- Orlando Terminator Expo
- JACON
- Florida SuperCon
- OASIS
- Wrath of Con
- MetroCon
- Ancient City Con
- Anime Festival Orlando
- Tampa Comic Book & Toy Show #2
- Assimilation Reloaded
- Necronomicon
- ScreamFest
- Vulkon Orlando
- Anime SuperCon
- JaniCon

Orlando Area Science Fiction Society Business Meeting Minutes for 13 January 2008

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 PM at the Orlando Public Library by Patricia Wheeler.

Fourteen people were in attendance. .
Attendance: Philip Chien, Colleen O'Brien, Steve Cole, Susan Cole, Mike Conrad, Ed Anthony, Scott Garrison, Mike Pilletere, Juan Sanmiguel, Dick Spelman, Patricia Wheeler, Hector Hoglin, Ruth Hoglin, Pat Sims, Roger Sims

Officers Reports

President:
Patricia made a brief welcoming statement. She said one of her goals for the upcoming year including increasing the club membership.

Vice President:
Colleen showed the new version of the club insignia that could be used for embroidery. She laid out the costs and ideas for embroidering any clothing item.

Treasurer:
The report was not ready for this month. The complete report will be ready by next meeting.

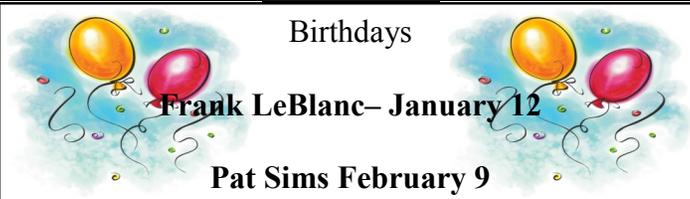
Secretary:
Patty was unable to come, so Juan Sanmiguel is taking Minutes

New Business:

We discussed International Conference Fantastic Arts volunteering. Glennis LeBlanc informed us that David Hartwell needs help with getting books out of storage. More details are needed on what is expected of the work.

The Winter Park St. Patrick Day Parade and Megacon will be on March 9. Colleen O'Brien outline a plan for our participation.

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February OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, February 10, 1:00 PM, (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss **Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell** by Susanna Clarke

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

We discussed the pros and cons of it.

We moved our March meeting from the 9th to the 2nd due to the parade and Megacon on the 9th.

We discussed the Deep South Con. It was thought that there was no bid for 2009. It turns out there is a bid for 2009. The club may look into a bid in 2010.

Old Business:

The OASFiS Picnic will be on March 30, 2008 at Downey Park at 1PM.

Patricia will print out new business cards sometime before March.

Convention Report:

- Discussed the mailing of the electronic progress report.
- Showed Paul Vincenti's convention art.
- Guests
 - Need to get the guest transport taken care of.
 - Need to confirm and send invitations to some of the other guests
- Dealers Room
 - Juan is working on the layout
 - Need is to decide whether to use one or two sections of the ballroom for the dealers room
 - Letters will be sent to potential dealers
 - Juan will prepare a flyer to give to potential dealers at FX and Megacon
- Art Show
 - Art Show info will be ready on the website by the time of FX (January 24)
 - Juan and Mike will prepare a special flyer with the art show info so it can be given to potential artists at FX and Megacon
- Publicity
 - Will take out an ad in the Megacon program book
 - Judy Bemis took flyers to GAFilk, which was attended by Bill & Brenda Sutton, OASIS 21 Filk Guest of Honor

OASFiS People

Steve Cole	407-275-5211 stevecole@hotmail.com
Susan Cole	407-275-5211 sacole@mindspring.com
Arthur Dykeman	407-328-9565 adykeman@bellsouth.net
Mike Pilletere	mike-sf@webbedfeet.com
David Ratti	407-282-2468 dratti@eudoramail.com
Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net
Patricia Wheeler	407-832-1428 pwheeler222@netzero.net

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

- Juan will pass out flyers/Postcards at FX and Megacon
- Hotel
 - Planning on meeting with hotel point of contact on Friday, February 22
 - Will contact the hotel to answer a question about the dealers room
- The programming meeting will be held at Patricia Wheeler's house on April 5

After a short break was taken, we discussed the book for January was **The Android's Dream** by John Scalzi. Steve Cole compared the book to bubble gum (entertaining but not a true meal). Steve also pointed out that the diplomats were highly-qualified in this book, compared to other novels. Juan pointed out that one of the character's gender is not defined. Both Steve and Patricia tried to find a reference to the character's gender. Juan explained that this was an experiment that Scalzi did, that Scalzi and explained it in his blog.

Next month's book is **Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell** by Susanna Clarke. March's book is **The Martian Child** by David Gerrold.

Patricia booked the next two meetings at the library. Due to a large number of bookings on February 10, the OASFiS meeting will be from 1-2:15PM. The book discussion will be done during the after meeting meeting.

Meeting was adjourned approximately 4PM.

Cloverfield
(minor spoilers)

Cloverfield is the first major Science Fiction film released in 2008. It is also a very different Science Fiction film. It takes the risk of telling a traditional story in an unusual way. Many people will not like this film. Many will also say this is one of the most brilliant SF films in along time.

At the beginning of the film, we are told what we are about to see is a video that was found at what was once called Central Park. We first see a young couple spending a day together in New York City. We then see the tape was recorded over because we jump ahead a month to Robert Hawkins' going-to-Japan party. There is some drama between him and the woman seen in the early part of the tape, Beth. Beth leaves and some time later the ground trembles. Something is attacking Manhattan. Whatever it is has taken the head of the Statue of Liberty and is causing chaos in Midtown. Hawkins, his brother Jason, Jason's girlfriend Lily, Marlana, and Hud try to get out of Manhattan. Rob is worried about Beth and tries to get her off the island as well. Hud is using Rob camcorder and recording everything that happens to them.

This is the first time in American film that we see a giant monster movie from the bottom up. This type of movie, exemplified by the classic ***Gojira*** (aka ***Godzilla***), is traditionally shown from the point of view of the movers and shakers who can deal with the threat. Here we see it from the perspective of ordinary people trying to stay alive. In Science Fiction and Fantasy we encounter a lot of scary situations: alien invasion, destruction of large chunks of civilization, and zombie infestations. We all wonder how we would cope with the situation. ***Cloverfield*** shows ordinary people encountering an extraordinary situation.

How they cope is believable. Some will question Rob's decision to go rescue Beth. Beth's apartment is near the heart of the incident. It is incredibly dangerous. Still, Rob has feelings for Beth and I could see myself making the same decision. How everyone in the group reacts is plausible.

If one is prone to motion sickness, this is not the film for you. The camera moves around in various directions. Sometimes it is hard to figure out what is going on. In some way this intensifies the feeling terror. The worst part of our imagination fills in the gaps and we do not find out until a few minutes later what really happens.

The effects are pretty good. The creature is seamlessly integrated into the video footage. The wrecking of New York is also handled well.

We never find out what actually happened. There is no big exposition scene. I hope there is a sequel which tells the story from the top down. It would be cool to understand the nature of the creature and where it came from.

If you see the film, wait through the credits. There is an easter egg at the end but more important is the closing score. This film has no background music except the music heard at the party. The end has a powerful score. The score is titled "Roar" by Michael Giacchino. This is the music one expects from a monster movie.

All in all it is a great film, worth a Hugo nomination in 2009 and a good start for 2008.

Variable Star

By
Robert A. Heinlein & Spider Robinson

I had some reservations about this book. I was uncomfortable at the thought that someone was writing a Heinlein book based on an outline by Heinlein. I did not doubt Robinson's ability. In fact, he was one of four writers I thought could pull it off (the other three being David Gerrold, John Varley and Joe Haldeman). I want to read a new Heinlein as much as the next fan but it felt wrong. I am happy to say that it worked out well and a worthy volume has been added to the Heinlein legacy.

In the year 2286, Joel Johnston celebrates completing junior college with his girlfriend Jinny Hamilton. He is hoping to win a scholarship in order to pursue his dream of being a composer. He soon finds out that Jinny is related to one of the most powerful men in the solar system. Jinny takes Joel to one of the family estates where he finds out he will be groomed to be part of her family. Joel wants to be in control of his own destiny and soon leaves with the help of Jinny's seven-year-old cousin, Evelyn. Joel eventually finds a berth on a colony ship. The ship, RSS ***Charles Sheffield***, is heading out on a twenty year interstellar journey. On the way Joel and the crew will be challenged from without and within.

This story takes place in a modified version of the Heinlein's Future History. Leslie Lecroix was the first man on the moon (***The Man who Sold the Moon***). Nehemiah Scudder once ruled the United States (***If This Goes On***). Telepathic twins maintain communications over interstellar distances (***Time for the Stars***). The events have been shifted and adapted to fit the story and current events.

Joel is a typical Heinlein protagonist. The story is told from his point of view. Joel is intelligent and resourceful but flawed. Joel makes hasty decisions and needs to learn how to get himself straightened out. In turn, Joel becomes a more effective member of the ***Sheffield***'s crew.

The plot is pretty good. Heinlein provided the initial idea but Robinson filled in the details. Robinson gives the book a modern tone while staying in Heinlein's style. The work allows Robinson to make commentary on the current issues. Robinson suggests that certain political and social trends make a dictator like Scudder more likely now that they did in the 1940s. Robinson also throws in a major plot twist. A cataclysmic event takes place. It is unexpected and makes great demands on Johnston and the crew of the ***Sheffield***. Robinson asks the question: can humanity survive a great crisis and preserve freedom?

The humor is definitely Robinson's, since there are a few of his infamous puns. There are also several Tuckerizations. They all should bring a grin to the devout Heinlein/Robinson reader.

The book tells us that were going to face some hard challenges but will use every scrap of knowledge and courage to get through it. That was a classic Heinlein theme, and one worth hearing again.

SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION IN ORLANDO

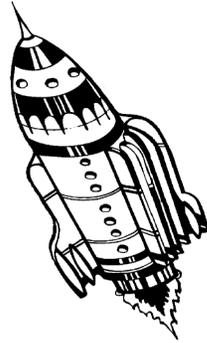
OASIS 21

May 23-25, 2008

Writer Guest of Honor

David Gerrold

*The Martian Child, Star Wolf, The War
Against the Ch'torr, Land of the Lost,
Star Trek: The Trouble with Tribbles*



Hotel Information

\$98/night, single-quad
through 4/30/08

Mention OASIS for rate

Sheraton Orlando Downtown

60 South Ivanhoe Blvd

Orlando, FL 32804

407-425-4455

3-Day Memberships:

\$25 until 1/1/08,

\$30 until 4/30/08,

\$35 at the door.

Make checks payable to:

OASFiS 1187 Sutton

Members of the Filk Hall of Fame

Keep tuned to <http://>

www.oasfis.org

for more guest

announcements...

Special Guest Writer

John Scalzi

*Old Man's War, The Ghost Brigades,
The Android's Dream*

Artist Guest of Honor

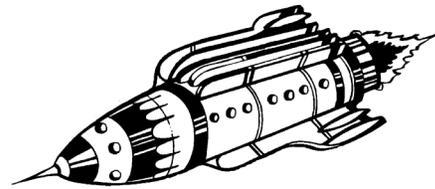
Paul Vincenti

Award Winning Artist

Filk Guests of Honor

Bill and Brenda

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Plus the usual suspects...