

SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION UPDATE

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 4
APRIL 2009



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Notes from the Home Front:

Having now taken about half a month off of going to cons, I'm feeling quite refreshed. Almost like I'm ready to go crazy and do it again. Thankfully, I've just got one con this month, before starting back into the madness in May. Locally, we've now had a second meeting of the Hugos & Hops group, a reading group dedicated to working our way through the Hugo-winning novels in order, then meeting at a pub to discuss them. I'll be damned, it's regular sercon fanac. I may also get suckered into running a game of 7th Sea again, which is my personal favorite RPG of all time.

I got my SFPA zine out on time, and I plan to put out another issue of the **Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin** this month. I'd meant to get to it in March, but the money just wasn't there. Hopefully, it will be in April. Now that I've been experimenting with an online zine, I intend to get a firmer grasp on which members of the SFC would prefer to receive all their zines this way. If you'd like to ease the costs of production of the **SFCB** by receiving it online, give me an email, and I'll make sure you're on either the list to have it emailed directly, or that which receives notice of its posting.

StellarCon went well, although I've not yet written my conreport on it. That will appear, hopefully, in John Purcell's **Askance**. The NASFiC bid is rolling towards another period of heightened activity, and I encourage y'all to come party with us, support us, and vote in Montreal. Other than that, I've been relaxing. This is a shorter issue, though the letter column is good. Hope y'all enjoy!

Upcoming Southern Conventions in April:

April features less weekend-long conventions, though it does offer plenty of interesting things to do. Check out the Southern Fandom Resource Guide at www.scenic-city.com/sfrg/calendar.htm for details on the loads of one-day events this month. A curiosity that arises from the odd schedules is that it would be possible to spend eighteen days straight at conventions in April! Simply start at Frolicon in Atlanta, go on the Sci-Fi Sea Cruise from Florida, and then rush up to Richmond for Ravencon! So without further ado, here's a run-down of some of the things to do this month.

First off, April 3-5 you can find a bevy of good fannish fun all over the South. If anime's your thing, check out MTAC Ninja in Nashville at the Sheraton Music City. They'll have Colleen Ann O'Shaughnessey, Jeff Nimoy, Jonathan Brands, Sonny Strait, and several musical acts and webcomics/manga folks. This may be

displaying my total ignorance of what goes on at anime cons, but the program includes cosplay and martial arts tracks, which sounds pretty cool to me. If you prefer dressing up like a scurvy dog and swilling tankards of grog, then check out Pystatecon. This pirate gathering in New Orleans pretty much ranges all over the French Quarter, and while the \$85.00 price tag seems a bit steep, it includes drink discounts all over the Quarter. Participating guilds include the Buccaneers of Tortuga, Krewe of Pirates, Pirates of New Orleans, and Krewe of Pirate Wenches. And if you're captivated by the recent trends in fiction sweeping the kids these days, check out AccioCon in Orlando. This dual-purposed Harry Potter/Twilight gathering will be held at the Holiday Inn International Drive Resort. They feature Kellan Lutz, Gil Birmingham, and lots of bands.

If you're bored over Easter weekend, April 9-12, check out Frolicon in Atlanta, GA. This adults-only convention has been going for a while now, and features a whole lot of folks presenting on various alternative lifestyles. They've even got some SF still in the mix. Alternatively, if you're looking for some anime on the other end of the south, April 10-12 finds Anime Matsuri in Woodlands, TX, at the Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel and Convention Center. Their Host this year will be Matt Mercer, and the con will feature Cynthia Rothrock, Misako Takashima, Jason David Frank, and Strong Machine 2.

And if you're looking for something a bit different, the Sci-Fi Sea Cruise runs April 13-23. Leaving from Ft. Lauderdale, the cruise will have a Dr. Who theme, featuring guests Frazer Hines, Laura Doddington, and John Leeson.

Back on dry land, in the realm of fairly specific conventions, JordanCon will be in Alpharetta, GA at the Embassy Suites, April 17-19. Guest of Honor Harriet McDougal, will be joined by Wilson Grooms, and Brandon Sanderson. If you can't guess, this will mostly be centered on the Wheel of Time series by the late Robert Jordan. And April 18-19, a couple of two-day events can be found down in Texas. In Houston, at the Crowne Plaza Houston Suites, check out InstaCon 8, a regional convention focused on conrunning. This is being run by ALAMO, the folks behind the Texas in 2013 Worldcon bid, as well as the previous Texas Worldcon, so I reckon the topic will come up. And if you're less inclined to get your SMOF on, and favor some media fandom instead, try Sci-Fi Expo in Richardson, TX at the Richardson Civic Center. Featured guests include Michael Hogan, Bill Mumy, Mark Sheppard, Tony Todd, Joanna Cassidy, and Adrienne Wilkinson. And all that for only \$10!

April 24-26 will mark my return to conventions after a little more than a month of rest. It will also, on Saturday, mark my birthday. I'll be attending RavenCon in Richmond, VA, at the Crowne Plaza West. Their Guest of Honor will be Jack McDevitt, Artist Guest of Honor will be Hugo nominee Alan F. Beck, and they'll have Special Guest R K Milholland, creator of Something Positive. RavenCon's a darn good convention, and they continue to talk me into volunteering. This year, I'm running the charity auction, which will actually have a decent time slot this year (last year's, a last-minute affair, was on Sunday morning).

Rebel Yells:

Our first letter this month came from Arnie Katz, who has a new zine to announce. In case you don't know where to look for it, he tends to post his up on efanzines.com – also a good place to find this and other fine zines.

Dear Warren:

Thanks for the zine. I always find it of interest.

I'm working on the letters issue of VFW. I expect to give it to Joyce by Monday.

After that, I will start putting together the first issue of QUIBBLE. If you have something fannish you'd like to say, I'd guess the deadline is around April 1.

Faanishly,
Arnie

*Thanks, Arnie! Always good to hear from you and catch more of your zines. Like me, Arnie wasn't able to make it to Corflu this year, and while he stayed home, he and the Vegrants put up a one-shot zine on efanzines.com – so go check out **Home Kookin'**.*

Next, Jeff Thompson checked in:

Thank you for yet another wonderful issue of your e-zine. I was overjoyed to read those three wonderful Letters of Comment acknowledging my Red Sonja article. I really appreciate your including the link to my book *The Television Horrors of Dan Curtis* at www.mcfarlandpub.com. My book has been published now, and it looks beautiful! The blue-and-black cover is attractive, and the 69 photographs are terrific. Thanks again for Bulletin #3. I especially enjoyed your "What's Up in March?" article. Have a good weekend, Warren, and keep in touch! F.I.A.W.O.L.

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Thanks, Jeff! I've seen a bit of McFarland's work, and I have to say I admire it. They've had tables at a few local cons over the past couple of years, and I really like the level of scholarship they're bringing to the table. It's good to hear that you've hooked up with them.

We next heard from Curt Phillips, who runs the Southern Fandom Classic Yahoo Group:

Hi Warren,

I've just read your SFC Update # 3. Well done and I like the inclusion of the lettercol, and enjoyed your conreport. I'm glad that you published an honest account of your impressions of that Chattanooga convention even though it was largely a negative one. It's instructive to those of us who might consider attending in the future and to those who ran this one. Let's just hope that your criticism will be received by those fans with an open mind and that they'll use your report as a basis to improve their future convention efforts. The lack of a consuite was obviously a bone-headed move, but perhaps the con planners were fans who were used to getting their own fanac done in other areas of a convention and they simply didn't consider the needs of fans who might not be into the same areas of interest as they. Well, now they've learned something - or at least have had the chance to learn. Let's see if they choose to improve their convention as a result.

I like the NASFIC T-shirt design. Is it available on a black t-shirt, as I believe you wrote? That would be a great shirt for me to wear at Corflu (The World Fanzine convention) in Seattle next weekend. Are those t-shirts ready for sale *now*? I mean, *right now*? I'm getting on a plane for Seattle early Thursday morning of this week so I'd have to receive it in the mail on Wednesday. That's possible with Priority mail, but is it possible that one of those shirts in XL can be put into the mail to me not later than Monday morning? And, you or whoever is receiving the payment would have to blindly trust me to mail the check on Monday which means that it would only be received several days after the shirt had been posted. (On the other hand, fandom is small and you all know where I live...) I'd particularly like to wear that shirt at Curflu since many of Corflu's attendees will be among those who *vote* for Hugo Awards and Worldcon site selection, and like that. So the message of the t-shirt would be displayed to the right audience.

So, is it possible? Even a one day delay would be one day too much so disregard if that's the case. Are there color options (I like black) and what's the total price. And if you have a Nasfic flyer you can e-mail me that I can print out, I'll be glad to print some copies to take along for handout at the con. In fact, I'll fold them and insert them in the fanzine I'll be handing out there.

I'll be visiting the SF Museum in Seattle on Friday. Maybe I can get a few photos and do a write-up for you for your next SFC Update.

Best,
Curt

Indeed it was possible to get you that shirt, and for those following this at home, it got there in plenty of time, though I wound up sending it directly to Corflu, thanks to not getting to my email until Monday morning. I've also received the zine Curt referenced, though it came in the same day as my mailing of the Southern Fandom Press Alliance, so it's rather ingloriously relegated to the Real Soon Now pile. I do mean to get to it, though, and hopefully loc it – how about I trade you that for a report on your trip to the SF Museum?

We also heard from Alan Welch:

Announcing my Café Press newsletter. I know some of you are already subscribed, but I would like to ask, as a favor, for you to sign up for a small amount of spam from me. I am trying to keep this up to date as to news of what is happening with my site, personal appearances and new works and, hey, who knows, you might just enjoy it. In any event, having more people signed up for it will be an incentive for me to write more.

Its on the right side of my shop here: <http://www.cafepress.com/reverierealm>

Many thanks,
YPA

That would be “Your Pal Alan”, not some contrivance such as Ygdrassil Pale Ale, right? Cause if you've got Ygdrassil Pale Ale, I just might know some interested buyers! Alan's a fantastic artist of the fantastic, and I always enjoy seeing him around local fannish happenings.

And of course, we heard from the omni-locer, Lloyd Penney!

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March 20, 2009

Dear Warren:

Many thanks for the third SFC Update. Four cons in a month...yeah, I've done that too. Took me a while to recover from it, and my bank account even longer. Don't do much of that any more, but we do have our local annual litcon, Ad Astra, coming up in a matter of days. (Edtior? Sorry, I'm a proofreader by trade...)

So, how was StellarCon? Both Yvonne and I have 25-year careers of running conventions, but now that we have gracefully retired, we don't miss it as much as we thought we might. We don't travel as far as we used to; it's difficult enough to keep in touch with local fans. The IAFA is on right now...I've never had the

chance to go to this, but I think I'd need a little more fannish content. The World Fantasy is about as sercon as I like to get.

I agree with you in that we're all fans, and interest shouldn't matter, but I find up here that mediafans greatly outnumber the litfans, and because of this, and trying to raise the profile of literary interests, the litfans are somehow snobbish. I wish it weren't so. As part of this friction, there may soon be a new litcon in Toronto that may be far more literary than Ad Astra. Time will tell if there's sufficient interest in it, and if there may soon be complaints if they don't allow media interests into its programming.

From Corflu Zed in Seattle, the FAAn Awards were handed out. Best Fanzine: eI, edited by Earl Kemp, Best Writer: Bruce Gillespie, Best Artist, Dan Steffan, Best Letterhack: Lloyd Penney, Best Website: eFanzines.com, Best New Fan: (tie) Jean Martin and Kat Templeton. Then, I found out that I am nominated for an Aurora Award in the category of Fan Achievement (Other) for fanwriting, and I hope I came close for the Hugo for Best Fan Writer. Add in the fact we've been asked to nominate candidates for TAFF, DUFF and CUFF, and I think we've had a stellar year. If we could both get working again, it would be perfect.

My loc...what interview did you have in mind, Warren? Tell me more by private e-mail. Also, because of the Seattle pull-out for 2011, we have sent in our pre-supports to the Canadian agent for the bid, Murray Moore, and with luck and some money, we will return to Nevada for some Worldcon fun.

I think a page will do it, Warren...take care, and see you in the next SFC publication.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

*The idea of the interview, currently delayed, I'd say, until the summer issue of the **Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin**, the traditional print organ of the club. Thanks for the update on the FAAn Awards, too! I heard I did alright in the Best New Fanzine Fan category again this year, finishing one place better than last year. Given the joyously fanarchist approach to who can be a new fan (didn't Earl Kemp win one year, some decades after he ran a Worldcon?), I may just take it one of these days.*

*StellarCon was a blast, and I'll hopefully get it all written up for John Purcell, who asked for a conreport for **Askance**. I'll see what I can do.*

WAHF: Dina Krause, Joy V. Smith, Tom Feller, Pat Gibbs, Karen Boyd, Ernie Nichols, Tim Marion