

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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TOC

News & Notes	Chris Garcia	2
Letters of Comment	Jean Martin	3
Editorial	Chris Garcia	5
This Old Fanzine: <i>Noreascon II Memory Book</i>	Chris Garcia	7
BayCon Checks into New Home	Jean Martin	8
Smallish Super-Con Has Lots to Offer	Dr. Noe	17
Time Travel Demo Lands at Costume-Con	Dr. Noe	18
From Atlanta to Beyond Thunderdome	Jean Martin	20
BASFA Minutes		23
Bay Area Fannish Calendar	España Sheriff	24

Art credits:

Page 2 - Miko Simmons

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

We've got a Steampunk Convention going on here in the BArea come this Halloween! It's being pushed as a big deal, with the band Abney Park being one of the events, as well as a Steampunk brass band playing the Friday Night Party. I'll be doing a talk on the Babbage Engine, which should be entertaining. You can find more info at www.steampunkconvention.com.

I don't think I've mentioned Xanadu, the Las Vegas con that's coming up next Easter weekend. Y'all should go down and experience Vegas fandom because they're good folks, and enjoy the guests: Robert J. Sawyer, Brom and an effects guy who worked on ID4 among other things. I'll be MCing the costume contest and there's more planned. Scott Anderson, the husband of the artist Lubov, is chairing the thing and it should be a lot of Downtown Vegas fun at the Plaza Hotel on Fremont Street. Dig it!

eFanzines.com has picked up a bit. There have been some great zines up, including another *Drink Tank* featuring photos of Wild Parrots and a discussion of the mystery of a potential Jackson Pollock painting. It's a strange and short issue.

Interstellar Ramjet Scoop is another great zine out of Australia. It's from Bill Wright, one of the nicest guys in fandom. I totally wish I could make the Australian Worldcon so I might get a chance to meet him and so many other great fans out there. Give it a read.

If you like *Steam Engine Times* from

Jan Stinson (the first person to really get me interested in writing for fanzines) and Bruce Gillespie (a really nice dude), then you should go to the eFanzines site and look at the latest issue. And if you haven't read the earlier issues, take a look at those too.

There's also a new *eI*. This one has taken me a long time to LoC because there's a massive article from Alexei Panshin, the first winner of the Best Fan Writer Hugo and a writer of some renown. It's on Heinlein and it's exhaustive and really well-written. Most folks know my position on Heinlein (if it were possible to wipe all his works off the face of the Earth except for *Stranger in a Strange Land* and the film version of *Starship Troopers* for the shower scene, I would totally do it). It's still a great article.

I just have to say, I've been watching a lot of *Venture Brothers* and the first episode alone makes the entire series worth watching. I mean, a plane crashes into the New Jersey Pine Barrens. And how can you go wrong with a series that features a character called Dr. Girlfriend?

I'd like to officially welcome Knarley himself, Henry Welch, to the BArea. He swung by a BASFA meeting and said hello. He's a good guy and if you haven't read *The Knarley Knews*, you're missing out.

Joe Major has put out another solid issue of the *Alexiad*. Sadly, this issue is lacking the wonderful candy bar reviews of Johnny Curruthers but does have some deep thoughts on the state of horseracing. It's a wide-ranging and



well-crafted eZine. I'm not sure how you'd go about getting it; you'd probably have to find his edress.

If you're going to be around on the 28th of June, you should go to the St. George Spirits Summer Open House in Alameda. The Tactical Alcohol Consumption Unit will be there in uniform and I'll be drinking and eating and basically doing the Chris Garcia thing all day. www.stgeorgespirits.com for info and to buy tickets, which are a reasonable \$30 in advance.

Letters Of Comment

Lloyd Penney writes:

Issue 67 of *SF/SF* is probably all set to come out, given how Chris produces zines at warp speed, but I've got 66, and it's next up. I will work on this loc as it becomes time for the next chapter in the Virtual Fan Lounge comes up. It's several hours off, but this will get me in practice.

Chris, I want to learn more about the fanzine lounges you're running. Could you do an article on how you produce them? As you know, I'm in charge of the one in Montréal, and I'm a little out of practice, seeing the last one I ran was in Winnipeg in 1994. Such an article might get people encouraged to run such a room at other conventions.

Jean, Chris will be in Vegas in a couple of weeks, running the fanzine lounge at the Westercon. Perhaps an opportunity to tag along with Chris and see some more of Vegas? I did get to see the second Narnia movie...the reviews were mostly positive, and I very much enjoyed it. My name is Prince Caspian...you killed my father...prepare to die! Lots of fun, great effects, and any trip to Narnia, like Middle-Earth is welcome.

Jean Martin responds: I love Vegas and have been several times. But I'm too busy to go to Westercon, unfortunately. And I'm actually a little bit conventioned out at the moment. I'm heading to Portugal a week after this issue

comes out so I'm prepping for that. I've decided not to go to Comic-Con either, although I was very tempted by my friend's offer to be included in her masquerade routine. Maybe next year!

My loc...got the taping done. I worked with a cast of amateurs and students at the International Academy of Design and Technology on a radio show, a dramatic presentation of "The Drop" by John Christopher, taken from the short story of the same name that appeared in the March 1953 issue of *Galaxy Magazine*, and from the television series *Tales of Tomorrow*. There is a chance that if it's considered good enough, it may be broadcast on CBC Radio at some point. Seeing that this show in a finished CD format is worth a substantial part of their marks, the students are in post-production, and we might see a CD in a few weeks.

Sounds like a fun project... congratulations on getting it done.

I can see where Arnie Katz would call fanzine fandom Core Fandom, seeing that fanzine writing and production was one of the very first forms of fanac. Perhaps Arnie means that fanzine fandom should be first among equals...I prefer a more inclusive approach. There is so much to interest and engage you in fandom; I wouldn't want to push so much of it aside for one particular interest. I am very busy in fanzine fandom, but we will be attending Polaris 22 in July, and we were on a conrunning

panel at Anime North in May.

So many cons, so little time! I can see how fanzine writing was among the first forms of fanac. Most of us sci fi fans are also into writing and publishing as a great way to connect with people and keep everyone informed.

Now, fanzines are often left out of Worldcon planning, and that is because it's one of more than a hundred special interests demanding a little time and space. Most Worldcon runners have never pubbed their ish, and all fans believe that their own interest is more important than others. When the Toronto in 2003 Worldcon bid came about, Yvonne and I were the first people asked to assemble the local fans who might be interested in the bid.

Because we knew all the local groups, we were able to notify almost all of local

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fandom, and we helped to assemble nearly 100 people in a room in a downtown hotel, and the local filkers, Whofen, Trekfen, litfen and oldtimers were able to meet and work together. We couldn't have done that if I'd been exclusive, and not inclusive. What's at the Core of Fandom? Your own good times, your own personal fulfillment and involvement, your own opportunity to participate and possibly excel, and your opportunity to make friends and acquaintances that will last a lifetime.

Ditto on what you said about being inclusive and what fandom is about. All this talk about core fandom I think is our way of doing self-reflection and also relating to other people's experiences.

I miss zines like *Mimosa*...not only was it the Lynches' opportunity to participate, but it was an educational zine, to tell fans what had happened in the past. Peter Weston's *Prolapse* is in many ways a successor to *Mimosa*, full of fannish reminiscence and writing, with lots to learn along the way. They always got a loc from me, even the last issue.

The best way to learn about an activity that interests you is to volunteer to be the test subject. I must dig up a photograph of Yvonne... she was the test subject at a make-up demo about 25 years at an early Maplecon in Ottawa, and she spent the rest of the convention looking like an escapee from the Planet of the Apes. Great make-up!

Off it goes into the vibrating ether, to land in your Gmail box. Take care, and perhaps the next issue is on its way, even as I type.

We're always constantly working to get our issues published. Here's another one!

Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley Make it Legal!

Three years ago, popular local Costumers/Con-Runners/Party Hosts Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley were married in front of family and friends. With the recent ruling by the California Supreme Court, Kevin and Andy decided to make it official with the State by having a wedding at the June 23rd meeting of the Bay Area Science Fiction Association at Coco's in Sunnyvale.

Word got out, and nearly 50 people turned up to witness the event. Chris Garcia presided over the ceremony which lasted less than one full minute from beginning to end.

Kevin Standlee has posted video of the ceremony on LiveJournal at community.livejournal.com/basfa/.

All of us here at *SF/SF* send our congratulations to the happy couple.

Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

My editorial this time will not talk about BArea happenings, but stuff that happened in Texas. Why? Because it relates to stuff that's happened out this way in a form that is far too familiar, and gives us some understanding about what's gone wrong in this area as well.

No matter what you've heard in quotes from war films, failure is always an option. You can always let yourself fail and then go on from there. You might even discover that you're better off failing and moving forward than half-heartedly succeeding. That's what makes the FedConUSA thing so difficult to understand. It was a massive failure that played at making itself a success at the beginning.

I shall only explain a bit, but I'll be referencing two of the great recent failures in BArea conventions: Con-X-Treme and Wrestling Fanfest.

Fedcon is a big group in Europe that does media cons. Maybe I'm misinformed, but they seem to be sorta the European version of Creation. They've got a great reputation and have been doing great stuff all over the place. I can remember reading posts talking about how they were very interested in breaking into the US market (this was something like 2000 or so), but hadn't heard much from them since.

Apparently, sometime in 2007, they were asked to give the naming rights and a bit of financial participation to FedConUSA. It was to

be a big deal that would invite a ton of folks from the *Star Trek/Battlestar/IQ145* world to join in and throw a big con in Texas.

Texas is a state where there are lots of fans and there are lots of good cons. There's Aggiecon, Armadillocon, Fencon, etc. It's an interesting place for fandom, and the fan communities surrounding the various shows represented were very excited, and started signing up to come down to Texas, got rooms at the hotel, and spent a lot of money. The committee, which was small and as I understand it was mostly one guy, put up a big list of stars who would be attending.

The problems probably started from the beginning, but the first big sign was when Fedcon in Europe pulled all their support, although they allowed the con to keep the name. They pulled out their money, which was a bad thing, and I remember reading about that happening so it wasn't exactly an unknown thing. If a guy who doesn't really pay attention to these things knows that something like that happened, it must have been well-known to those who were in the community.

The problems started to show up: Apparently some of the stars who were listed as coming had not even been contacted, and some of those who were contacted had trouble getting answers to questions, and many didn't get paid, or get plane tickets. As I understand it, some did get paid up front, but most did not. The ones who weren't given plane tickets were still being

advertised. A few folks cancelled and they were still being advertised. A couple of names were taken down, but they were then put back up on the site sometime later. One thought goes that they took them down, then realized that sales were slow, so they put them back up. The other version that a defender offered was that they lost the webguy and they simply used an old version of the page announcing the previous names. (That doesn't explain why they were advertising names that weren't showing for sure.)

Now, the days got closer and there were more problems. The check to the hotel apparently bounced. That's a big deal.

The show days arrive, and it ends up with about 300 people showing up. For a convention of that size, an attendance of 300 isn't even going to pay the minimum for one day. (Con-X-Treme got less than 100 people and ended up with a huge debt to the hotel. That's a bad thing.) If they were even a month out and had sales that low, they probably should have announced that the thing was cancelled, but they didn't. The explanation said that they thought sales at the door would be strong. They had also sold a few of the \$267 Gold Passes. More than one media con has made it because they managed to sell the really expensive packages.

Now, up to this point, the story somewhat resembles the Wrestling Fanfest of October 2007. Fanfest promised tons of talent and paid a few of them up front, while others never got their plane tickets. The ones who did show up had a

good time and fulfilled their deals to the letter. They even had fun hanging out with the fans.

The problem was no one got paid, and the Fanfest producers skipped showing up on Sunday morning to pay people. Now, when you've got pissed-off wrestlers, you should expect trouble, and there were a number of people waiting outside the hotel where the producer had been staying waiting for him to come out so they could get their money. There were portions of the event cancelled, in this case an MMA fighting show that the commission stopped because the cage they had set up was faulty. The show was a disaster, but they held it, and it drew about 500 or so people total. Their top autographing package was 1000+ dollars. Rumor has it they only sold about 5 of them. The wrestlers and vendors and such got their money, or at least part of it, over the following months. They managed to keep the event going through to the end, which FedConUSA couldn't manage to do.

FedConUSA had its Friday night, which featured what many folks said was a really good little party. Sounds a lot like Con-X-Treme, which had a decent party, a bare-bones-but-there Con Suite, and a few other entertainments. FedCon also had a problem that led to their not having any badges, and saying that they weren't going to require badges to attend things because they just couldn't put them together. (That one little fact deserves a Wow all its own, because they simply could have used "Hello, My Name is ____" stickers.)

FedConUSA had their GoH speech by John Billingsley, and afterwards the MC announced that the con was ending. They

managed to keep the autograph room open and the stars sold photos and autographs to make a little bit of money, since everyone was suspecting that they were about to get super-stuffed on things. Folks apparently were very nice, and they managed to make it up to some of the folks who had traveled in from far off (including some from Canada) by being personable and entertaining and just plain having a good time. Good for them, especially John Billingsley who everyone said was something of the lemonade stand boy when the con-goers had all those lemons shot at them.

This does happen to fan-run cons once in a while. The examples are out there, but the costs for a traditional fan convention are lower than those for a media con, partly due to lower fees for bookings, and not having to pay for as many flights. The apology put up on the FedConUSA site said that the stars had required expensive tickets and special arrangements and they just couldn't keep up. That's not a good thing to say, but it's something you have to expect when you do these things.

I'm in ownership of the trademark for a former media convention and have thought once or twice about holding it again in the BArea. I won't be doing it, trust me, but I've thought about it. Stories like this show how dangerous it can be. The organizers obviously didn't have the cash to do it, made big promises, bet on a miracle, and went broke. The apology said they'd go personally into debt in order to pay everyone. I for one hope they follow through on that, pay everyone what they were promised, and give back as much of the attendees' cash as they can. It's the right thing to do — the kind of thing

that can drive a family into bankruptcy, but it's the right thing to do.

Now, I've only personally talked to one person who was there, a friend of a friend who's in my buddy's WOW guild, and he had a very similar experience to mine at Con-X-Treme. He said that he could tell the thing was going down in flames, but that he had a good time hanging out and chatting with friends. That's the way to go.

Con-X-Treme was considered a failure, but nothing like this. This was the kind of thing that can happen if you're not fully understanding the idea of financial responsibility and the reality of setting expectations. There's no sure way to know how many people you're going to draw, and once you've announced something it's even harder to say "Nope, it ain't working" once it's out there. The real problem is that the money outlay starts as soon you get rolling, and there's a fair percentage that's not refundable. That means if you call it off, you still lose; and even worse, if you've sold some, you've got to make refunds. That's something that really has to be taught somewhere: how to really know what you can get.

I'm a pessimist. I think failure is always going to happen, and so I seldom try for anything that'll put me down to hard. You won't see me bidding for a con unless I know I can cover the potential loss.

And so we must learn from this, take home the truth of a terrible situation, and make sure that we never find ourselves in that same loop. We will not go blindly stumbling into an obvious trap.

This Old Fanzine

Noreascon II Memory Book

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

There are definite upsides to being the TAFF Administrator. The first one is being able to say, “Hey, I’m the TAFF Administrator and you will bow before me!!!” After that, it’s the TAFF archives. These are things that are for sale and things that are the collective memory of TAFF that go from admin to admin.

And now I’m that Administrator.

The things we’ve got include issues of *Hyphen* and tons of Worldcon memorabilia. One of the things is also the Noreascon II Memory Book from 1980.

It’s the kind of thing that most Worldcons don’t do now. It’s a book that acts as a commemorative of the con, and features photos and reviews and info. It could almost be seen as the post-con program book.

Now, there have been Worldcons that have done post-con websites, and Costume-Con is working on getting the best of those finished, but this was an exceptional piece. In fact, Noreascon is seen as one of the most popular Worldcons of all time. The reviews are featured in the Memory Book, including a couple from *Locus* and a long review from Pat Kuras and Rob Schneider of *Gay Community News*. Their review is very interesting from the point of view of where Fandom was in terms of politics at the

time. “Progressivism is now taken for granted among SF writers and fans alike,” they write, and talk about the amount of political content in fanzines around the time. This was the heyday of a lot of the great political fans, including the great Avedon Carol. There’s another good one from Jim French of *SF Chronicle*. At first, I thought it was the San Francisco *Chronicle* and then I remembered the old Semi-Pro *Science Fiction Chronicle* and all made sense.

The Hugo Awards winner list is interesting as it’s a year I don’t remember and isn’t one of the ones that folks talk about still. It was the year of Barry Longyear, who won the John W. Campbell (which is NOT a Hugo) and Best Novella for *Enemy Mine* (which would later be made into a decent science fiction movie) and was up for Best Novelette. I’m not a big fan of Longyear, but this was certainly his year.

The other awards listed are pretty cool. The Worldcon was awarded to Chicago over Detroit, George O. Smith won the First Fandom Award and Lou Tabakow won the Big Heart. The TAFF Delegate was Dave Langford. He’s a good guy. I totally like that guy and I think he eventually went on to do something in fandom.

The Art Show Awards are typically not as well announced as they should be, and here they are. Michael Whelan won Best Artist Color, while Monochrome went to Thomas Carity. Best 3-D Artist in the Amateur Division went to Anne E. Trembley. (I wonder if she’s any relation to Andy.) The awards for the Popular vote were almost exactly the same as the Judge’s vote.

That’s a rarity.

They have a fine list of statistics, including a list of the events, the function spaces they used, and the Special Exhibits. I really like the fact that there was not only a Fanzine Exhibit, but a Hugo Nominees Reading Room. The Masquerade winners were listed, but the color photos that come later are much more awesome.

There are photos of the GoHs, Damon Knight, Kate Wilhelm, Bruce Pelz and Toastmaster Robert Silverberg, as well as of the TAFF and DUFF delegates. There are some nice photos of attendees enjoying the con, but mostly it’s shots of pros and well-known fans standing around. There’s a shot of a Regency Dance, though I didn’t notice Mr. John Hertz in it. There is a lovely 1980s lass in the shot, though. There are some good shots, like Art Widner with his eyes closed, but mostly it’s static shots.

There’s a nice bit of writing in the back, especially the piece explaining how Harlan had bought a desk in the Art Show and shipped it out. I’d never heard that Harlan story, and now I have to find out who wrote it so I can use it in my...well, I’ll talk about that someday in the less-litigious future. There’s also a full Financial Report on the con! That’s a nice touch!

So, this is one of the really good things. I’m hoping that some Worldcon will do it again. Maybe Kevin Standlee will do one for the Worldcon he’s currently bidding. You should give him a twenty the next time you see him, and say, “This is my pre-support.”

BayCon Checks into New Home

By Jean Martin
Editor

BayCon is my favorite con, as I've said often in the past. It even proved to be great at a new location, as last year when it was at the San Mateo Marriott. Still, I had a sense of trepidation in the days leading up to BayCon this year, which was held May 23rd through 26th at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara. I didn't know anything about the Hyatt, where BayCon would be held this year and for the next few years. Another reason was that I had had such an unexpectedly amazing time at Costume-Con just a month prior, at the former home of BayCon, the San Jose Doubletree.

Friday

I got to the Hyatt earlier than I'd expected on Friday, and checked in at the front desk. The hotel has a beautiful airy and spacious lobby, but it looked quite fancy and sleek. It didn't feel cozy like the Marriott, nor as welcoming as the Doubletree. My room turned out to be on the 13th floor. I almost asked for another room but I told myself not to be superstitious. I thought this might either be an omen of some impending doom or of a devilish great time... so I let it



Sweeney Todd and Mrs. Lovett offer Spike a close shave.

Photo by Jean Martin

be. My room looked quite new with modern furnishings and décor. Again, it didn't seem homey to me. But since this was going to be my abode for the next few days, I made myself comfortable. I also told myself to just go with the flow and enjoy the con as much as I could, with no expectations either way.

The first person I ran into when I arrived was, once again, our layout editor David. We had both run into each other first at Costume-Con as well. He helped me with my luggage then and offered to remember my room number for me. (I get all frazzled and forget important details.) So he jokingly taught me the cool trick of associating my room number (1307) with the unlucky number 13 and the lucky number 7. It didn't even occur to me that I had both numbers in my room number. I suppose those two cancel each other out. — still not a good portent, but things were starting to look up.

I went down to the lobby in my civilian clothes and couldn't find anyone. What... me not knowing anyone? Horrors! So I wound up in the Dealer's Room and bought a fabulous steampunk jacket

from Kristi Smart whom I had bought a cool pirate coat from several years ago. Thus attired in some form of costume, I finally began to see friends and acquaintances in the lobby bar. The lobby bar proved to be the meeting point for lots of the attendees as it was not walled in and you could walk by and see who was there.

And, as has happened spontaneously at previous cons, the first gathering I found myself involved in was an *SF/SF* “staff meeting.” Chris, David, España and myself had a few drinks and snacks and generally just chatted about nothing at all. My friends from the Black Fleet Star Pirates’ Guild were at a nearby table and I found myself going back and forth between the two tables for a while.

Chris said he was going to see Leigh Ann Hildebrand and Jason Schachat’s panel on Fanboy Etiquette, and everyone followed him. That panel wasn’t on my list of things to do, there were very few panels I actually was interested in this year, but since I had nothing else going at the moment, I went along. I was treated to a very entertaining panel, which actually probably got more entertaining when our posse arrived and occupied the last row. Chris, being Chris, made funny remarks and our group started an interesting repartee with the panelists, which also included Annabella Benson. I actually learned a few things!

Then I went to change into my new Aviatrix steampunk outfit. My new coat actually went quite well with it and lots of people admired my costume. I went to the second floor

— where all the panels were— to meet up with my masquerade friends. We then went to a sushi restaurant at the Mercado nearby. I love hanging out with this group of friends. We don’t get together as much as we would like because we live in different parts of the Bay Area. The only

favorite form of dance, and so this really holds a place close to my heart. I enjoy seeing people in different types of costumes dancing the elegant and energetic patterns to beautiful and sprightly live music. Alan Winston from the Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS) was the caller and there were several musicians I recognized.

After that, I went to the parties on the third floor. The first one I stopped at was the Browncoat party, which was decked out in Western saloon/Eastern temple style. I ran into some Browncoat friends but it was hard to connect and talk as the small room was packed. The Klingons’ Black Hole bar was great as usual, but again, suffered from space constraints.

The League of Evil Geniuses’ party was a lot of fun. It was a little bit sad to know that this would be the very last one.

Chris’s Fanzine Lounge at the very end of the hallway was surprisingly full of people, and people I knew, which was a plus. I still wonder why it was so popular because there was no visible theme, food or alcohol at this joint. Drinks and food seemed to show up out of nowhere, and there was a table with lots of



Plainly, this zine is in good hands.

time we see each other is at parties, conventions and rehearsals. Come to think of it, that is more often than I realize, but not as often as I would like. We also went for Ben & Jerry’s ice cream and then some of us went back to the con and the rest went home.

I made it to the latter half of Friday evening’s Regency dance. Regency dancing is what first brought me to BayCon, and it is my

fanzines on it. But it wasn't an elaborate affair like the other parties were. I found myself gravitating to this party all weekend. I thought at first it could be that Chris was the main attraction, as he is popular and generally well-liked. But even after he left early each night, the party raged on when other parties died down. A mystery, for sure!

The parties Friday night were sparsely attended, though, and I was a little bit disappointed. Especially since I remember Friday night at Costume-Con being such a blast with the Victorian (Steampunk) Underwear Dance and the Pretty Pretty Princesses room party. To make matters worse, the fire alarm went off and we all had to evacuate. We weren't quite sure whether it was a prank, an accident or a real emergency. At first, I thought we were just being told to shut down the parties... and it wasn't even 2:00 a.m.! I'm glad I had a jacket as I wound up outside in front of the hotel after going down the nearest staircase with my friend Thad who was in a Wash (from *Firefly*) outfit.

A fire truck arrived and it didn't seem like a big deal as there was only one and the firemen didn't look like they were in any hurry. Which was a huge relief as I had at least nine costumes in my suitcase in my hotel room, and not only do



Sharon Valerii and Lee Adama.

these cost a lot in the aggregate, they would be very difficult to replace. One of them was my costume for the masquerade on Saturday.

After we were let back in, which was thankfully not too long after, I went back to the party floor but the momentum of the evening, which was already lackluster, just died, and most parties folded up for the night. I went back to my room a little bit disconcerted. It didn't feel like BayCon at all! I hoped the next day would be better.

Saturday

I woke up late Saturday morning and decided to keep to my goal of taking it easy. So I ordered room service, which arrived quickly, and I just ate and relaxed. As soon as I felt ready to face the day and be social, I put on my revamped Boomer (from *Battlestar Galactica*) costume. I recently bought a better-fitting flight suit and my friend Johny aka Dakron Slaxx gave me pins and pips for my birthday last March. I had just washed my hair, which usually has more body when I'm at hotels, so I didn't want to put my hair up in a ponytail like Boomer does. I decided last minute that I would be Boomer's alter ego, Athena, who has her hair down.

Thus feeling quite confident in my costume — being in a cool sci fi military uniform complete with blaster certainly does wonders for one's confidence — I walked around the entire con

and finally started seeing more people I knew. At one o'clock, however, I was due to meet my masquerade friends for the Masquerade contestants' meeting in the ballroom. The ballroom where the Masquerade was to be held was actually in the Santa Clara Convention Center, which is attached to the hotel. There really wasn't much for me to do at the meeting other than sign some paperwork, so I excused myself so that I could spend a little bit of time at Chris Garcia's Fanzine in an Hour in the Fanzine Lounge.

I ran to the Fanzine Lounge and typed up a few paragraphs into a laptop that Chris handed me. I chatted with some people at the lounge, which was again full, now with people actually writing! That was so awesome to see people taking the time to write in the midst of a busy con with lots of other activities competing for one's time.

I hurried back to the Convention Center as my group was scheduled to rehearse at 2 p.m. That was when I noticed, while waiting for everyone to arrive, that there was another convention taking place in the main auditorium of the Convention Center. It was for a Filipino Charismatic (Evangelical) organization. I thought it was interesting to have that convention juxtaposed to BayCon. It really brought home to me how far away my interests are from my culture of origin! There I was in a sci fi costume hanging out with non-Filipinos.

Another interesting thing I noticed was that the hallway and even the walls of the convention center were made of reflective glass. My friend Kim took a photo of me pointing my blaster at the walls inside and outside, and it

looked like Boomer and Athena were shooting at each other. We used the reflective walls again while we were rehearsing, and I have to say that our dance routine looked really good, and that we looked funny in our different costumes.

After rehearsing, I went to the second floor and chatted with friends manning some fan tables. Johnny Absinthe was promoting Can't Stop the Serenity — a *Serenity* screening fundraising event — at the Browncoat Table. Next to him were Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild (GBACG) gals Sally Norton and the Lovely and Talented Linda, who were promoting GBACG as well as the BAERS Shipwreck ball.

I ran into Rebecca and her daughter Emily who were dressed as Jane and Judy Jetson from *The Jetsons*. They were so adorable! There was also Raven as a Green Orion Slave Girl (I missed the Charity Auction skit she was involved in, wearing that costume or lack thereof), David in a *BSG* flight suit complete with helmet, and Marianne and Elena as Sweeney Todd and Mrs. Lovett. The latter two looked fabulous with their authentic-looking costumes and dramatic poses. I had seen them at Costume-Con and they were great then, but an added bonus this time was someone posing with them who looked exactly like the vampire Spike. Although I think this guy was a little cuter than James Marsters... if that's possible.

After all this activity, I took a break at the bar with my friend Marcin. I didn't have much time for more than a quick snack and a drink, though, because I had to be in the Green Room by 6 p.m. And I still had to change into my costume for the Masquerade. I rushed back to my room, put on my costume, and then headed

to the Green Room with Marcin. I put makeup on in the bathroom next to the Green Room and then braced myself for the long wait before the Masquerade began.

I heard from someone that there was a long line to get into the ballroom and half of the people in line weren't even allowed in, which I thought was too bad. But I was surprised the Masquerade was so popular that folks waited in line for a long time just to see it.

The Masquerade started almost an hour late due to technical issues. My group mates and I entertained ourselves in the narrow and cramped backstage area by rehearsing, chatting and taking silly photos of ourselves. We even did photos of us jumping in mid-air. Jade Falcon, the official photographer for the Masquerade, also had a setup at the end of the room where we all posed for formal photos for the judges to look at. Our group was slated to close the show, but there were fewer entries than in past years so once the Masquerade actually got going, it went really fast.

Finally, it was our turn to go on stage. Our group, Dumbledore's Army, consisted of Dumbledore and eight Hogwarts students in various costumes. Molly (as Harry), Breanna (Ginny), Kim (Hermione) and myself (Cho Chang) were in school uniforms; Kel (Luna) and Corli (Ron) wore casual clothes; and Nina (Katy Bell) and Raven (Draco) sported Quidditch robes. Our routine started with Jon (Dumbledore) entering and posing on stage, quite nonchalant. Then he whipped out his multi-colored wand as the song "We're All in This Together" from *High School Musical* played. We students came out running and cheering, and then we went into our

positions and did a fun hip-hop flavored dance routine with lip synching.

I know our costumes looked fabulous, and we rehearsed a lot, but nothing prepared me for how exciting the actual performance would be. I've done masquerades and other performances in the past, but I have to say that this was the most amazing one I've ever participated in. The energy was just off the charts! I felt like we were feeding off of each other's energy as well as that of the audience, who were all clapping and laughing. It never felt like that during rehearsals, but once we were on stage... it kind of just flowed like magic. We were all giggling and screaming even after we left the stage and went outside for the post-performance photo shoot because we were all so thrilled and transcendently happy!

After our number, we waited for the judging and results. We all went and did our own thing and I decided to watch the half-time game show "Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me" hosted by Chris Garcia. Chris had been hilarious emceeing the Costume-Con fantasy and sci fi Masquerade so I was interested to see him do a show.

The contestants included Martin Young, Patty Wells and Tadao Tomomatsu. It was a very entertaining show and I laughed hard at Chris's funny questions and the contestants' funny answers. There was a segment that involved asking questions of audience members, including BayCon chair Michael Siladi and SETI scientist Seth Shostak. I wanted to meet Seth later on but could not find him. I've been wanting to do an interview with someone from SETI for ages and here was one of their most visible spokespersons at BayCon watching the masquerade!

Author Scott Sigler came on stage



'Dumbledore's Army,' Best Presentation winner in the Masquerade.

Photo by David Bedno

afterwards and announced that the results were finally ready. The workmanship awards were handed out first. Our group knew that we probably won't get an award in that category because most of us had bought our costumes. A few actually made theirs and they were quite amazing, but we didn't expect that to compensate for the rest, although we hoped they would get recognized individually. Still, we were aiming

for Best in Show for Presentation, the last award to be announced, and we got it. So our group has now won a Best in Show award for the third year in a row! It was quite rewarding to win for our hard work but it was also just a lot of fun to perform and feel appreciated by an audience.

It was interesting to note that most of our previous competitors were either judges, judges' clerks or running the Masquerade this year. Phil

Kate serves tea in Kadin's Garden.



Juan was the auctioneer, and he kept things under control. While I was there, Johanna went for a high price as she confidently and seductively posed in her black fetish/BDSM outfit. Sweeney Todd and Mrs. Lovett were up next. I left at that point as I needed to change into my evening party outfit. I was hoping to come back and bid on a couple of slaves, such as the good-looking Spike and our very own Dr. Noe (who was in a dashing pirate outfit), but when I got back it was all over. Apparently, Alex's girlfriend and her friends pooled their money to win Spike, whom they

took to the Rock Dance and enjoyed dancing with.

I really had wanted to get out of my conservative Hogwarts schoolgirl uniform, which apparently guys find sexy (go figure!), and into something more risqué. So I wore my Marlena Moreau costume from the *Star Trek* episode "Mirror, Mirror." Marlena was played by half-Filipina actress BarBara Luna. And I just realized as I'm typing this that all the characters I portrayed that day were played by Asians (Korean, Chinese and Filipino). Sci fi has always been at the forefront of having other races play

strong and visible characters, and I find that very cool and empowering at the same time.

I also wore my "Mirror, Mirror" outfit in honor of my friends at the Klingon Black Hole Bar including Mike aka Admiral KataH. That night, the Black Hole was too crowded to really hang out at for very long. But the other parties were quite fantastic... finally! In fact, it was the best party floor ever. There were over a dozen different themed parties on Saturday night. The Browncoats were there again, and the Fanzine Lounge was yet again a popular hangout.

My favorite one was a new party called Kadin's Garden that was patterned after a Turkish tea house. It was an oasis in the raucous party floor. The hostess was wearing a Turkish outfit and was serving Turkish tea and coffee. The room was decorated with colorful scarves and the bed had exotic pillows on it. She also had hummus on homemade bread, baklava and the most delicious Turkish Delight I've ever tasted.

Another good party was Sir Lance's room, thrown by my friend Farshad. Farshad and I met at BayCon in 2005 when he bought me at the slave auction. We've been friends ever since. That night three years ago, he asked me to dance on his bed to entice people to come into his room and party. He always has a good mix of dance music and some colorful mood lighting. I danced for two hours that evening and successfully drew in a few people. So when I told him that I would do the same again this time (for free), he said yes. Sure enough, lots of people came in to watch and/or dance.

The hallways got more crowded and it became hard to move around, but I managed to stop by as many parties as I could, and actually

and Kathe Gust organized the Masquerade. That doesn't take away from our winning but it made me realize that our group loves performing too much to be behind the scenes.

After the masquerade, I went to the Klingon Slave Auction, which for the first time was held in a function room. In fact, it proved so popular that the adjacent room was opened up to accommodate the crowd that showed up. And what a rowdy crowd it was! It felt like a real Klingon slave auction as there were two Klingon bodyguards behind the auction block and a lot of hooting and hollering. My friend Alex aka Obi-

just hung out in the corridors once in a while. I did take a break from the parties to see Avalon Rising perform in one of the function rooms. I love Celtic Rock and they're one of the best. I also went to the Rock Dance, which was supposed to be "Quark and Joe's Maidenhead Cantina"... but it didn't feel like either. Still, the music was good and I danced with España (who always comes up with the most unique, colorful and artistic party costumes) and my friend Jim. I particularly liked the Middle Eastern-inspired dance music that was played while I was there, so I got to do some belly dance moves.

I think I partied until 4 a.m. and I was still reluctant to leave, but I had to get some sleep as there were still Sunday and Monday to come.

Sunday

I had room service again, as I woke up late. I love room service! For Sunday, I decided to wear my new pirate costume with a red blouse. The theme for this year's BayCon was "A Pirate's Tale" so I had to at least wear one pirate outfit.

The first thing I attended that afternoon was Phil and Kathe Gust's Early Flying Machines workshop. At the workshop, which was geared toward kids of all ages, we made models of three of Leonardo Da Vinci's Flying Machines (plane, helicopter and parachute). My friends Phil and Kathe were the instructors. Phil was wearing a Leonardo Da Vinci outfit and spoke with an Italian accent. Kathe was aviatrix Harriet Quimby.

Afterwards, I ran into an old acquaintance, Martin, from my No Man (non-Burning Man Playa event) days. We caught up for a bit and walked around the Dealer's Room

together, as well as the Costume and Clothing Swap. I asked him if he wanted to join my friends and me for dinner. He said yes, and surprisingly, the other person he wanted to run into other than myself (it was his first BayCon) was his old college friend, sci fi author Kevin Murphy.

Kevin was part of our dinner group, but I didn't know that beforehand. Talk about synchronicity! Some of us had sushi and others had regular dinners. It was a fun group that I had never had the chance to dine with before. Some of the folks at dinner were España, Deborah and Anthony, Joe and Lynn, and Eric and Jade. Getting the bill sorted out took forever, but thanks to Anthony, it was squared away correctly.

Martin then offered to read my fortune using tarot cards. The last time he did this was three years ago, very late at night in the Playa. It was surreal then and quite prophetic. The reading he did for me this time was eerily similar but very profound and helpful.

Then it was on to Regency dancing for a little bit. The leashed corset group of ladies that



Leonardo (Phil Gust) demonstrates a flying machine as Aviatrix Harriet Quimby (Kathe Gust) looks on.

Photo by Jean Martin

always go around BayCon were at the dance with the most amazing elegant, ghostly pirate outfits, complete with ships on top of their heads. They made quite a striking crew.

I had to leave the dance to do another costume change. I portrayed another Asian character —Oren Ishii (from *Kill Bill*) — as my friend Johny/Dakron planned to have me and mutual friend Karisu — who dresses as The Bride — have a showdown. I mean photoshoot. Karisu didn't arrive until around 11:00 p.m. but I enjoyed the parties that evening while waiting

for her. The Sunday night parties were still quite lively although not as wild as the previous evening. Yet again, the happening place was the Fanzine Lounge where wine flowed freely, and I do mean freely as several people got doused. So I took the bathrobe hanging in the non-existent modern closet and wore that over my white Oren kimono. It was funny as the bathrobe was a white kimono as well. I didn't want to take any chances that my white costume, which I made myself, would get ruined by wine!

There was also a blow dart gun of some sort that people were shooting at the window with, some spontaneous dancing to Euro-Pop music by some friends including expert costumers Bryan and Mette, and some guys competing to see how fast and loudly they could open up some Japanese fans. Other friends there were Jim, España and Tadao. It was truly a bizarre and eclectic party...but the most interesting attraction at the Fanzine Lounge was the Happy Wall, which Chris asked me to lean on. It vibrated, and well, I'll leave the rest to your imagination.

Karisu and I had our informal photo shoot in front of the Happy Wall. Johnny/Dakron played one of the Crazy 88s. It was the first time Karisu and I had worn our costumes together. I could not stop laughing as her husband Richard Man, who was one of the photographers, was being goofy. He told me to relax, but it was hard to relax when he was being funny and there were two naked, albeit not sharp, blades being thrust at each other, with yours truly at the other end of one. I also made the mistake of wearing a short lacy stocking instead of a long one, and it kept showing up as my kimono opened up a



bit as I was posing. Leigh Ann remarked that my stocking was not canon, but it was sexy so I suppose that made up for it.

That evening, instead of the Turkish tea house, there was a Hawaiian Tiki Room. It was quite pretty but not as much fun as the tea house with all the exotic food and drinks. I'm not sure what time I went to bed that evening. I think it was around 4 a.m. as well.

Monday

I missed Leigh Ann's panel on Personal Ads and Online Dating for SF Fans. Personally, I have given up on online dating (for various reasons), but I thought it would be interesting to see how non-mainstream people such as ourselves find people with similar interests through these more mainstream means. A friend who went to the panel filled me in on some of the details later that afternoon.

I did go to the Masquerade playback as I wanted to see the other entries, which I didn't see as we were the last entry and had to be in the Green Room the entire time. I also wanted to see some of my Masquerade friends who I knew would show up. I barely made it, as it took over an hour for someone to come get my luggage, and even then, apparently, someone came and saw the Do Not Disturb sign on my door, which I had left there for housekeeping. They didn't even knock... I would think it would be common sense that if someone asked to have their bags picked up, they would want you to knock as you are expected! After complaining to the front desk several times, I finally checked out of my room and got my bags stored. It wasn't a good feeling to deal with such unpleasantness after having a great time, but I suppose these things happen.

Apparently, they only had two people handling bags. Everyone was checking out at the same time from a convention of over 2,000 people and they only had two bell hops! Other than this hiccup, though, the hotel staff was great, and the food was excellent.

I wandered around wondering if I should just go home, as once again I didn't find anyone I knew. The Hyatt is so spread out that I found it difficult to just run into people. Finally, I found España having lunch at Tresca, the main restaurant. With her was Tadao and Author Guest of Honor (GOH) Tim Powers, both from L.A. When I was looking for Steampunk books on Amazon a while back, Tim Powers' *The Anubis Gates* came up as one of the most popular. Tim was a lot of fun to talk with and he told several interesting and hilarious stories. He also encouraged me to go to Los Angeles for LosCon, and I think I may just go as several of my friends apparently go regularly. And they have Regency dancing too!

I then followed Tim and our lunch gang to one of the function rooms for Closing Ceremonies. I think this was the first time I actually went to a con's closing ceremony. It seemed quite sad to know that the con was wrapping up, but the panel was actually quite interesting. Also included in the panel were BayCon chair Michael Siladi, artist GOH Todd Lockwood, fan GOH Patty Wells and Toastmaster Scott Sigler. Scott approached me afterwards and gave me a press kit and a copy of his latest book, *Infected*. His books are not quite my genre but they're right up España's alley, so I wound up giving it to her later.

Registration for next year's BayCon

began after the Closing Ceremonies and so I signed up. Eric from Eric in the Elevator was in line as well and wondered why I was paying, as he expected that I would be part of the programming or working in some capacity for the con. I thought about that for a second and realized, again, that BayCon to me is about being in the Masquerade, covering the event for *SF/SF*, and just plain old partying. I think working at this con would get in the way of that. I was proven right when I ran into Dr. Noe soon after and he told me that the reason I had hardly seen him at all was that he was so busy working.

I wound up at the lobby bar with Al (Captain Jack), Debbie, Leigh Ann, España, Bryan and Mette, etc. and just hung out. I thought about how great it would be if we all just moved into the hotel and lived there as one big happy fandom family.

Eric needed a ride to the nearest BART station and I said I could do that. He asked me where I was headed and I told him it didn't matter. But he didn't want to take me to out of my way so he pressed me for an answer. To which Leigh Ann said "Jean goes where happiness dwells," or something like that. I laughed because she was so right on about me, and the way she said it was so poetic!

I left close to 7 p.m. and drove back to Foster City... and the real world. It's always hard to go back to reality after four days of non-stop fun and freedom.

The next con for me is not until October, at SiliCon. That seems a long way away, but I suppose in the meantime I need to catch up with the rest of my life after three big and fabulous cons in this first half of the year.

Smallish Super-Con Has Lots to Offer

By Dr. Noe

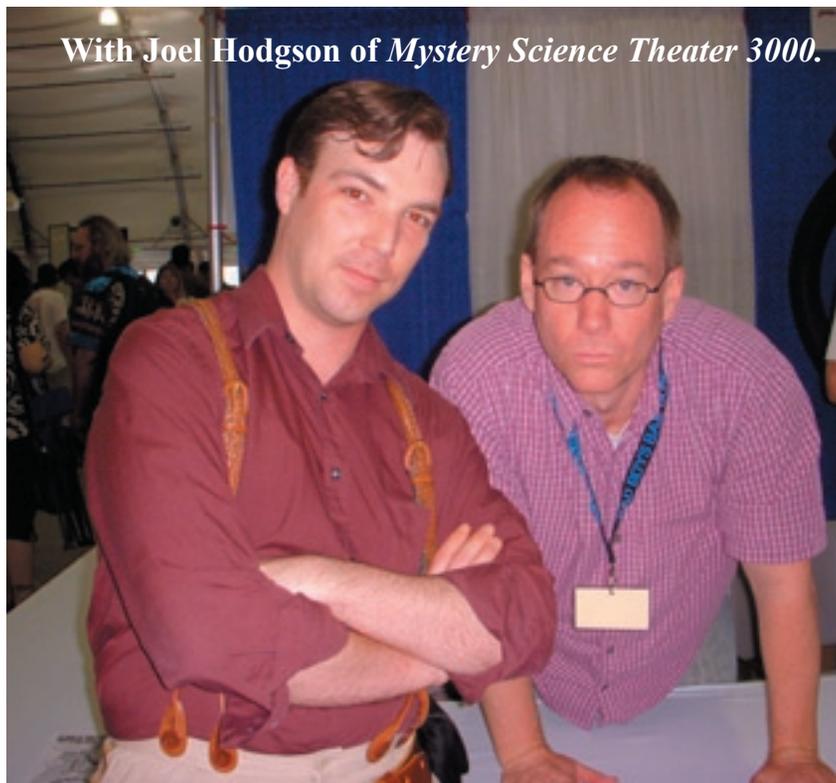
Staff Writer

For those looking for a mini-convention to tide them over until Comic-Con, Super-Con is it.

For the second year, Super-Con has settled into its new home in San Jose Convention Center. While small, Super-Con has a lot to offer in the small portion of the center it occupies. There are vendors a-plenty and, thanks to con operator Steve Hyatt's many friendships, several big-name actors, artists, and industry representatives.

Returning this year were Frank Cho (*Liberty Meadows*, *Avengers*), Jane Wiedlin (*The Go-Gos*, *Star Trek IV*), and Paul Smith (*X-Men*, *Dr. Strange*), among others. New highlights this year included Joel Hodgson, Trace Beaulieu, Frank Conniff and J. Elvis Weinstein of *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, Wil Wheaton (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*), and Jorge Garcia from *Lost*.

According to Wyatt, the con is done out of love for the industry. He typically breaks even, but that's OK. He gets several repeat guests for the con, including some friends who enjoy it so much (like Jim Lee) they want to keep coming year after year. Wyatt actually declined Lee's offer to attend this year as he wanted to avoid over-saturating the con with too many repeat guests, and to let the Lee fervor have a chance to



With Joel Hodgson of *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.

rebuild for a year or two.

The con itself, while small, not only offers a bevy of celebs but also has panels throughout the day, split between the two panel rooms. Although the panel rooms are basically just curtained-off nooks of the hall, noise reduction was taken into account. This year, the panel "rooms" were set at opposite ends of the hall, instead of right next to each other like last year. It was nice that panel discussions didn't bleed into one another, and the fact that the panelists

had microphones helped drown out the background con noise.

In addition to the panels and vendors, Super-Con treated attendees to an art auction (with contributions from the many artists on hand), an inking panel, and two films: *Red Velvet*, starring Henry Thomas and Kellie Garner; and the world premiere of a short feature by *Liberty Meadows* creator Frank Cho (which, I unfortunately missed).

As Super-Con has now become annual (it has had a sporadic showing since the 80s), it has joined the grand traditions of the con world with a costume contest. Unfortunately, as the convention is on the small side, costumers were a bit in short supply; so much so that those who worked the convention (some in costume) wandered the con in search of entrants for the costume contest.

Due to my Saturday schedule I did not get the chance to enjoy the full gamut of the convention. But there was much mirth and merriment to be had wandering the convention, perusing the vendors (of which there were plenty), and sharing in the company of friends that also attended.

Despite the brevity of this review, there actually is enough to do at Super-Con. It's a great breather from the big cons before gearing up again for what the summer has to offer.

Time Travel Demo Lands at Costume-Con

By Dr. Noe
Staff Writer

Probably few attendees at Costume-Con 26 expected a time-travel demonstration, but those who witnessed it were treated to quite an event.

Enter Will Collins, a 30-year-old budding

scientist who has, with the help of his assistant Tom, actually created a time machine. After the years of trial and error, things just seemed to fall into place and the door opened on the secrets of time travel.

There was just one thing Collins never intended on: a broken heart.

The first demonstration was during Costume-Con 26 (April 25-27 at the San Jose Doubletree) where several people witnessed this miracle of science first hand. Just as the experiment was set to proceed certain factors intervened and threw a monkey wrench into the works.

Collins and his assistant were all ready to dazzle the audience but one factor was missing: Collins's girlfriend, Lisa, was supposed to be on hand to help out and wish her boyfriend luck. Preparations were well underway and Collins seemed to be able to move past his missing girlfriend and go through with the experiment, but at the last moment, his feelings for Lisa intervened and the experiment was halted.

Tom allowed the scientist to postpone the experiment momentarily to allow Collins to call Lisa, warning him that the phone Collins was using was also experimental and would allow those gathered for the demonstration to eavesdrop on the conversation. In order to get his answers, Collins was willing to subject himself to the potential of public ridicule before proving his genius. Unfortunately, the call to see if Lisa was OK ended with Collins essentially being dumped. Heartbroken, the experiment took a new turn.

Now obsessed with discovering the reason Lisa left him, Collins was determined to travel back in time to the moment (as he feared)



Scientist Will Collins attempts to travel through time.

Photo by Howeird

where he had done (as he believed) whatever it was to make Lisa stop loving him. Despite Tom's objections, Collins insisted on using his work for personal reasons. After a slight intervention from a hotel security guard that was quickly dispatched, Collins was sealed into the Time Chamber while the assistant operated the controls. Both got more than they bargained for.

Shortly after the experiment began Collins began convulsing and foaming at the mouth. Tom stopped the experiment in fear for his friend and colleague only to be chastised for doing so. Collins swore that he had gone back in time one month, despite never leaving the chamber. Still obsessed with his mission, Collins vowed to prove himself by taking a video camera he created that would relay everything he saw in the past to those in the future. Again against the wishes and warnings of his friend, Collins re-entered the chamber.

This time, the audience was able to see what Collins was experiencing thanks to the device he wore on his head.

Collins arrived at Lisa's house. After satisfying her questions about the device (she did, after all, know he was a scientist) he was about to whisk her away until he noticed the incoming call on Lisa's cell phone: it was from Collins, the Collins of the past. Desperately wanting to avoid more questions from Lisa, and to avoid any encounter with his past self, Collins ushered her out of the apartment as quickly as he could, only to be confronted by his previous self as the duo attempted their getaway. The onlookers were forced to watch as the events unfolded, as was Tom, despite his best efforts of manipulating the controls to end the experiment-turned-fiasco.

After a harried chase worthy of any high-budget action film, Collins and Lisa arrived back to the present with Collins falling out of the Time Cabinet and Lisa busting through the screen



The author with Amy and director Maimone Attia in a previous appearance at the Library.

Photo by Peggy Fok

which everyone else was watching on.

After a quick bit of reconciliation, Collins, thanks to his much more level-headed assistant, realized that he must send Lisa back

to her own time and get on with his life, whether the events included Lisa or not.

The event that you have just read, while it would have been phenomenal and worthy of Dr. Emmett Brown, it was actually the brain-child of Maimone Attia, a budding writer, filmmaker, etc. Due to various odd occurrences, Jean Martin and I wound up being enlisted to help Maimone create this wonderful epic which was very well received by the Costume-Con crowd.

I had actually met Maimone through his sister, Maya, who I'm friends with. We began talking about movies and what-not, and not long after he asked me to perform in a skit he was doing at the San Francisco Library Main Branch. That event was very film noir (as that was the theme of the library's fund-raising event). He and I played a cop and detective, respectively, to solve the mystery of a missing librarian.

The event took place throughout the entire mingling session of the fund raiser, with the action taking place in various places in the library, thus actually involving, in some way, the guests. There were actually specific plot points that involved asking the library patrons questions regarding suspects.

This was well received and proved that people that were paying attention to the show around them. That skit actually lasted throughout the course of the meet-and-greet so that while everyone was mingling, they also had a show going on about them.

While Maimone is currently working on other projects, there has been talk of reenacting the Time Travel skit for SiliCon, which takes place October 3-5 this year at the Doubletree.

From Atlanta to Beyond Thunderdome

By Jean Martin
Editor

I was looking forward to the Period Events & Entertainments Re-Creation Society's (PEERS's) *Gone With the Wind* Ball that was scheduled to be held on June 7th at the San Mateo Masonic Temple. I wasn't a big fan of the movie but I did love the costumes and the dancing.

There's just something romantic about the Antebellum era and I've always wanted to dance in a belle ball gown at a ball. I searched high and low for a gown and found one on eBay that was used and actually quite reasonable. It was a light pink one with an overlay of sheer white cloth and white lace. It arrived by mail a few weeks before the ball and it needed no alterations, which is quite unusual.

Then my friend Jim told me about another event slated for that same evening. It was Death Guild's fundraising party to help them take their Thunderdome attraction to Burning Man this year. Thunderdome was my favorite theme camp when I went to Burning Man in 2005. I figured that the only way I would get to see it once more, since I may never go to Burning Man again, was to see it at Ace Auto in San Francisco where the party was going to be held. This fundraiser happens only once a year and I didn't want to miss this one either.

So there was no help for it, I was going to have to go to both in one evening. I thought



Scarlett and Rhett make a dashing couple at *Gone With the Wind* Ball.

Photo by Jean Martin

that really just brought into sharp contrast the extremes of my interests. On the one hand, I love historical dance and costuming, which I would

say exemplifies my more conservative, romantic and feminine side. On the other hand, I love loud and heavy music, leather, seductive clothing, and the darker and weirder side of human nature. I'd never actually been to Death Guild. I'd wanted to go for years, but it's on Monday nights in San Francisco, which is difficult as I always have to work the next day and I don't live that close to the city.

I had been quite thrilled to see Thunderdome in the Black Rock Desert. It really looked straight out of the movie *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*. That movie wasn't that memorable in and of itself, but Thunderdome has been imprinted in my mind, and I'm sure of most Gen Xers'. I just could not believe how amazing the geodesic dome looked at night. It's completely pitch black in the Playa after sundown. People were draped on the dome, and there were lots of people around it too, all cheering the competitors who were attached to bungee harnesses. Loud, industrial music added to the heart-pounding excitement. I don't really quite understand why I enjoy this kind of spectacle. I suppose we humans

are all animals underneath it all, and seeing other people fight is so primal. I think it's the same thing that drew ancient Romans to watch

gladiators and modern-day television viewers to enjoy wrestling.

Before I went to the San Francisco Thunderdome, though, I began the evening at the *Gone With the Wind* Ball. I didn't get much dancing in because I worked at the gate for one shift, and I was only there for less than two sets. At least I was able to dance my favorite dance, the Congress of Vienna, with my friend Scott. Bangers & Mash provided the beautiful dance music.

There was some role-playing, as is usual at PEERS events. Rene Rodgers (who was one of my cohorts in the Cell Block Tango number at last month's PEERS Chicago Ball) portrayed Scarlett in her black mourning attire, and Raymond Andre was the dashing Rhett Butler. Jane Barnes (our choreographer and also one of the performers for the Cell Block Tango) played Melanie, Scarlett's friend and fellow widow. The scene being replicated for the evening was the Charity Ball in Atlanta from the first part of the movie.

There were lots of attendees in impressive Civil War attire, and my friend Gloria was in an exact replica of Scarlett O'Hara's famous green gown.

After the second set ended, I rushed to the ladies lounge and changed into a new Burning Man-like Goth outfit, complete with leather buckled boots and a PVC corset with chains. I think I may have shocked a few PEERS patrons when I came out of the lounge and said goodbye to some friends, but I think some people thought it was cool and appreciated seeing a different side of me.

I then went with Jim to Ace Auto, a car



Thunderdome comes to life in San Francisco.

Photo by John Adams

junkyard in the Bernal Heights area, and was so excited to see Thunderdome again. It looked just like it did in the Playa, and there were lots of people around in black Goth and Burning Man outfits like myself. There was a DJ playing really good industrial music, music that made me feel alive and wanting to dance.

I watched a few fights in the dome, the most interesting of which were between two women. Catfights are just so amusing! I wasn't quite keen on the fights between members of the opposite sex. It just didn't seem right to me for a man to hit a woman, even for fun. There

was an emcee in a long, black leather jacket who kept things under control, and some Death Guild folks who helped strap the warriors into the bungee cords and gave them colorful padded clubs. The fighters were swung apart, and then collided and commenced their pummeling.

They also played some heavy metal tunes that I liked by Guns 'N' Roses and Iron Maiden. Four women in awesome Burning Man costumes who were within the dome started dancing, and they looked like Goth cheerleaders.

After that round of fights, I walked around and saw some metal and flame art, a vendor



selling metal jewelry, and the disassembled parts of Cyclecide (an attraction I saw at the recent Yuri's Night and which was also at Maker Faire). Then I ran into Laura and Ariyana who were also part of the Cell Block Tango. It was interesting to note that the only people I ran into at Thunderdome that evening were not only from PEERS but were my fellow performers! It's good to know that other people have varied

interests like I do.

The event was supposed to end at 3:00 a.m. but I was ready to head home way before that. I was at another event earlier, after all, and I was getting tired. Before I left, however, I was treated to some entertainment. Ariellah did dark fusion bellydancing and the group Lapsus did creepy fusion bellydance, which involved fire and blood. Both dances were interesting but I wasn't too impressed by them.

I was, however, blown away by Diva Marisa, who did a couple of classical opera tunes and one hauntingly beautiful industrial opera number. As I left, I saw a replica of Mad

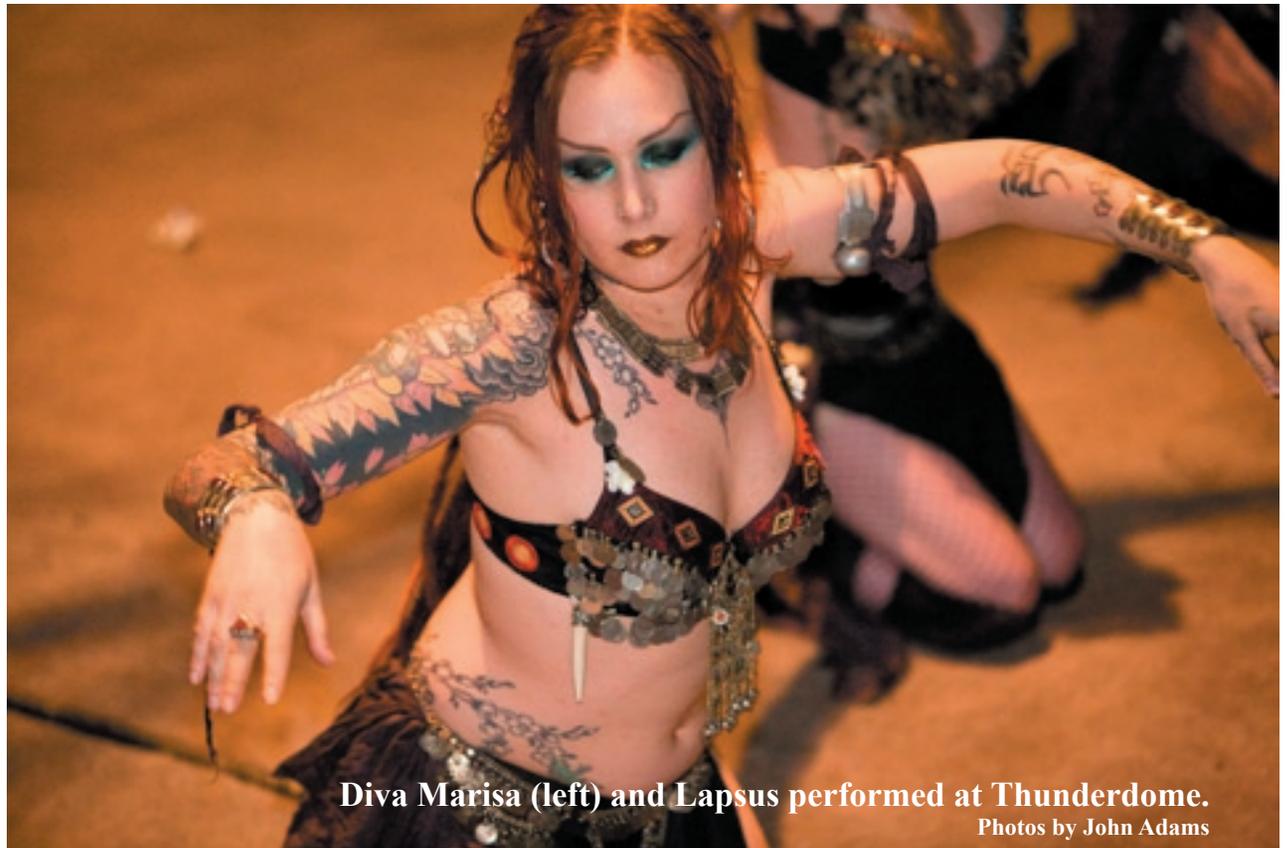
Max's black sports car.

All in all, I suppose what I realized that night was that although both events seemed very different on the surface, they were both about music, dance, costuming, creativity, self-expression, community, socializing, and just plain old having fun. And that's more than good enough for me on any given day. Two in one night is just a luxury.

Visit the following links for more information:

www.peers.org

www.deathguildthunderdome.com



Diva Marisa (left) and Lapsus performed at Thunderdome.

Photos by John Adams

BASFA Minutes: Meeting 933

Meeting 933

June 16, 2008

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:18

19 people attended

A party was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 932 were accepted as 'chortled'

No Treasurer

The VP [spoke about Schroedinger's voting method] & then reported there's a new 'Drink Tank' out - and he's officially obsessed with parrots [and was 3 for 3 in catching [tall] Kevin eating]

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements

Ken announced that the long-awaited 'Prisoner' remake will hit the screen in 2009

Dave C announced that next weekend will see a Psychotronic Film Festival, June 21 at Foothill College [12345 El Monte Rd, room 5150, bring 8 quarters for parking] & you will be sterilized with fear

[evil] Kevin announced that the Bay Area English Regency 'Shipwreck Ball' will be June 21 & announced that the 28th is the next open house for \$35 [at the door] at Saint George Spirits - check www.stgeorgespirits.com for more information

Reviews:

Joe reviewed a website 'you've been left behind.com' as it inspires silly knockoffs

Chris reviewed a chibi Chris as chibi, then commented how he did coffee shop hopping on Saturday, got donations to the Computer History Museum & now over his bed is a picture with a unicorn, a pegasi & a rainbow that Evelyn bought; he also reviewed 'Kung Fu Panda' as he should sue Jack Black for stealing his dreams - worth full price; reviewed the 4-hour version of Lynch's 'Dune' as the only way to watch it & reviewed flying to Las Vegas for a Westercon meeting as the meeting was great and he ended up on the positive side while gambling - plus best room key ever

I reviewed 'The Hulk' as it was really pretty

good - until the film broke halfway thru it

Dave C reviewed 'Robot Wars' as 'back' and called 'RoboGames' - that the arena is improved and all the robots are back & was worth full price; then Stellen follow-on'd with the comment that setting opponents on fire was a perfectly valid tactic

Miko reviewed Pirate Fest as there was no shade and that sucked, but there were a lot of folks dressed up like pirates & recommends sticking to Ren Faires; then there were follow-on's - aaaarr

We then did auctions: a book & stuff for \$0.25; a book & stuff for \$1.50; a book for \$5.00, a bag for \$0.25 & Venture Brothers 1 & 2 for \$50.00

We adjourned at = 9:21

And the rumor of the week was: '3 dollars and a unicorn for Chris'

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

New listings are in **red**.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

Thursday, June 26-Saturday, July 26

Evil Dead: The Musical

The Campbell Theater

Martinez

www.willowstheatre.com/evildead.htm

Check theater for prices and showtimes.

Sunday, June 29

Author: Steve Niles

Isotope Comics

326 Fell Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

www.isotopecomics.com

The author of 30 Days of Night promotes his new book, *The Lost Ones*.

Tuesday-Wednesday, July 1-9

Castro Theater 70mm Festival

100 Castro Street

San Francisco

www.thecastrotheatre.com

The Castro Theater hosts it's annual 70mm screenings, featuring several genre movies including Roger Corman's *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Tron* and *Brainstorm*.

Check theater for showtimes.

Saturday, July 5

Thrill-o-tronic Film Festival

El Cerrito Speakeasy Theatre

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.com

2 p.m.

\$8

Americana themed Thrillville all-ages show hosted by Will the Thrill and Monica Tiki Goddess. Classic cartoons, psychotronic shorts, vintage TV shows, drive-in movie trailers and more from the 16mm collections of *Bob Ekman* and *Paul Etcheverry*. With live theremin music by Rober Silverman. Special guests Mr Lobo and The Queen of Trash.

Saturday, July 5

The Emerald City Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (until June 28), \$20 at the door.

Come join us in honoring the singular courage of Dorothy Gale and her intrepid companions. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Wednesday, July 9

SF in SF Double Feature: Spirited Away and *The City of Lost Children*

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building

582 Market St.

San Francisco

www.varietync.org

6 p.m.

Free

Refreshments will be available for purchase, and your purchase benefits Variety Children's Charity of Northern California, a non-profit organization that supports children in local communities who are dealing with poverty, neglect, violence, and physical disabilities.

Wednesday, July 9

Ask A Scientist: Native American Science

Axis Cafe

1201 8th Street

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

Lecture series featuring a speaker on a different scientific topic each month, a short presentation and questions from the audience.

Wednesday-Saturday, July 9-12

The Crucible Annual Fire Arts Festival

1260 7th Street

Oakland

www.thecrucible.org

Each July The Crucible's Fire Arts Festival celebrates creativity through fire and light with a spectacular open-air exhibition of interactive fire art, performance and the largest collection of outdoor fire sculpture on the West Coast.

Saturday, July 12

Good Omens Con 2

EndGame

921 Washington

Oakland

www.goodomensgames.com

10 a.m.

Free (please bring a can of food to help a local charity.)

Gaming minicon, check the website for specific games schedule and to sign up in advance for games.

Saturday, July 12-Sunday, August 3

The Listener

Traveling Jewish Theater

470 Florida St.

San Francisco

www.crowdedfire.org

Check theater for prices and showtimes.

Saturday, July 12

Author: Jay Lake

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

The inimitable Jay Lake signs copies of *Escapement*, the sequel to his 2007 clockpunk novel *Mainspring*. Afterwards he will be heading over to SF in SF.

Saturday, July 12

SF in SF: Jay Lake and Susan Palwick

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market St.

San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

6 p.m.

Free

Ongoing monthly reading and discussion series sponsored by Tachyon Publications and moderated by Terry Bisson. There is a cash bar and books will be provided for sale by Borderlands Books.

Saturday, July 12

Mechanicrawl

San Francisco

www.longnow.org/mechanicrawl/

\$15

Spend a summer day exploring the mechanical marvels along San Francisco's North Shore.

Saturday, July 19

Unification Day Saloon Shindig

14 Canyon Lake Drive

Bull Valley Restaurant

Port Costa

7 p.m.

The Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild presents a *Firefly/Serenity* themed event. Check

[website for pricing information.](#)

Tuesday, July 22

Authors: Naomi Novik and Eldon Thompson

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Fantasy author double-feature! Novik promotes her new Temeraire novel, *Victory of Eagles* and Thompson the final book in his Legend of Asahiel trilogy, *The Divine Talisman*.

Wednesday, July 23

Author: Naomi Novik

Dark Carnival Bookstore

3086 Claremont Ave

Berkeley

5:30 p.m.

Free

Novik signs her new Temeraire novel, *Victory of Eagles*

Saturday, July 26

Author: Harry Turtledove

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Turtledove signs his new alternate history novel *The Man With the Iron Heart*.

More event listings next page.

Friday-Saturday, August 2-3

Ani-Jam
Fresno Radisson and Conference Center
2233 Ventura Street
Fresno
www.ani-jam.com
Central Valley Anime convention.
\$20

Saturday, August 2

The Impressionists Picnic
PEERS Event
Lincoln Park
1450 High Street
Alameda
www.peers.org
Free

Le Salon des Refusés invites painters, models, artistic subjects and interested members of the public to join us for an outdoor picnic, fete and dance. Picnic begins at 11:30 a.m. Formal dancing 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 9

Kin-Yoobi Con
Chabot College
25555 Esperian Blvd
Hayward
www.gzronline.com
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
\$15

Wednesday, August 6

Ask A Scientist: Robots
Axis Cafe
1201 8th Street
San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.
Free
Lecture series featuring a speaker on a different scientific topic each month, a short presentation and questions from the audience.

Monday, August 11-Sunday, September 14

Little Shop of Horrors
Willows Theater
1975 Diamond Boulevard
Concord
Tickets go on sale July 1st. Check theater for prices and showtimes.

Friday-Sunday, August 15-31

The Listener
Ashby Stage
1901 Ashby Ave.
Berkeley
www.crowdedfire.org
Check theater for prices and showtimes.

Saturday-Sunday, August 16-17

Golden Gate Renaissance Festival
Speedway Meadow
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco
www.sffaire.com
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday/10am-5pm Sunday
\$15

Sunday, August 23

Mark Millar and Tony Harris
Isotope Comics
326 Fell Street
San Francisco

www.isotopecomics.com

8 p.m.
Free
Millar, author of *The Ultimates* teams up with Harris, the artist on acclaimed titles *Ex Machina* and *Starman*, for their new series *War Heroes*.

Friday-Sunday, August 29-31

Sac-Anime
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
www.sacanime.com
Details to follow

Friday-Sunday, August 29-September 1

Con-x-Treme
San Mateo Marriott
1770 S. Amphlett Blvd
San Mateo
www.con-x-treme.org
Con-x-Treme returns for a second year.
\$35

Saturday, September 6

Northern California Renaissance Faire
Casa de Fruta
10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy
Hollister
http://www.norcalrenfaire.org/
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat-Sun
\$25

Saturday, September 6

More event listings next page.

Space 1889: The Adventure of Le Cirque de Venus

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (until August 30), \$20 at the door.

Steampunk event: Space 1899 - a Victorian Ball in Space. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Wednesday, September 10

Ask A Scientist: How Computers Look at Art

Axis Cafe
1201 8th Street
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.
Free

Lecture series featuring a speaker on a different scientific topic each month, a short presentation and questions from the audience.

Friday, September 19

Book Release Party for Christopher Paolini's Brisingr

Clayton Books
5433 Clayton Road
Clayton
www.claytonbookshop.com

Midnight party to celebrate the release of *Brisingr*, book #3 of the Eragon/Inheritance series by Christopher Paolini
12 a.m.

Friday-Sunday, September 26-28

Yaoi-Con
San Mateo Marriott
1770 South Amphlett Blvd
San Mateo
www.yaoicon.com
18+
\$50 before August 22

Friday-Sunday, October 3-5

Silicon 2008: A Salute to FanAc
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
\$50 until September 14

Saturday, October 4

Swingin in the Rain
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until September 27), \$20 at the door.
An evening in 1929 Hollywood at a ball inspired by that most joyous of musicals! Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, October 11

The War and Peace Ball
Arlington Community Church
52 Arlington Avenue
Kensington
www.baers.org
\$15 advance, \$20 door
Natasha and Prince Andrei dance at the 1812 ball from Tolstoy's classic. Russian nobility,

Russian military, and civilians and military from friendly countries (English welcome; Frenchmen at their own risk.) Set dances and waltzes led by Alan Winston. 8 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, October 31-November 2 *Steam Powered: The California Steampunk Convention 2008*

Domain Hotel
1085 East El Camino Real
Sunnyvale
www.steampunkconvention.com
La Legion Fantastique and Steam Powered Events present the California Steampunk Convention.
\$50 until June 15th.

Saturday, November 1

Le Bal des Vampires
PEERS Event
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Ave
Alameda
www.peers.org.
\$17.50 in advance (until October 25), \$25 at the door.
Waltz the night away in a beautiful candlelit ballroom with SF Bay Area's most glamorous Undead at the 15th Annual Le Bal des Vampires. Dancing on two separate floors; Bangers and Mash performing live in the upstairs ballroom 7:45-Midnight and free-style dancing downstairs in the Dracula's Daughters Discotheque 6:30-Midnight.

Saturday-Sunday, November 1-2

Alternative Press Expo

The Concourse
620 7th Street
San Francisco
Details to follow.

Sunday, November 1

APE Aftermath

Isotope Comics
326 Fell Street
San Francisco
www.isotopecomics.com
8 p.m.
Free
With featured guest Josh Cotter.

Friday, November 28-Sunday, December 21

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair

The Cow Palace
2600 Geneva Avenue
San Francisco
www.dickensfair.com
\$22 each day
Victorian London is recreated for the four weekends after Thanksgiving.

Ongoing:

Daily
San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia
San Francisco
www.sfgghosthunt.com
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
\$20

Sundays
Sakramento Anime Society
Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard
Rancho Cordova
3-7 p.m.

Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.

Mondays
Bay Area Science Fiction Association
Coco's
1206 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale
www.basfa.org
8 p.m.
Free

Mondays
Dukefish
Jake's of Sunnyvale
174 E. Fremont Avenue
Sunnyvale
8 p.m.
Dukefish is a bunch of people who get together to play board games and, sometimes, bridge every week.

Mondays and Wednesdays
Silicon Valley Boardgamers
Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue
Mountain View
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb/
6:30 p.m.
\$2

Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multiplayer Avalon Hill-style, historical wargames, and others.

Wednesdays
Bay Area Role-Playing Society
Go-Getter's Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard
Foster City
www.BayRPS.com
6 p.m-10 p.m.
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com.

Wednesdays
East Bay Strategy Games Club
EndGame
921 Washington
Oakland
www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html
7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.
Free

Wednesdays
Fanboy Planet Podcast
Illusive Comics and Games
2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105
Santa Clara
6 p.m.
Free
Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it's the Fanboy Planet Podcast with your host, Derek McCaw.

Wednesdays and Saturdays
Hayward Collectibles Show
22300 Hathaway Ave (rear bldg)
Hayward
www.toysandbaseballcards.com
Wednesdays 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10
a.m.-5 p.m.
Free

Fridays
SF Games
Muddy's Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street
San Francisco
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
7 p.m. to midnight
Free
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of
people who get together and play board games
and card games every week. Also has a regular
cards night at Atlas Café, 20th and Alabama
Streets, Tuesday nights from 6:30-10:00.

Fridays-Mondays
Haunted Haight Walking Tour
Meets at Coffee To The People
1206 Masonic Avenue
San Francisco
www.hauntedhaight.com
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
\$20
Reservations required.

Fridays and Saturdays
Vampire Walking Tour
Meets corner of California and Taylor
San Francisco

www.sfvampiretour.com
8 p.m.
\$20
Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there
is heavy rain.

Saturdays
Rocky Horror Picture Show
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
www.parkway-speakeasy.com
Midnight
\$7
Barely Legal Productions presents the classic
midnight movie every Saturday night. No one
under 17 admitted.

Biweekly
PenSFA Party
The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association
meets every two weeks for a party at the
home of one of their members. They also
host parties at local conventions. Email
commander@pensfa.org for information on
attending.
PenSFA standard party rules: bring something
edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2.
Don't smoke in the house without checking
with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m.
but may vary depending on the host.

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each

month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at
sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly
Dorkbot-SF
Free, donations welcome
www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/
Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists,
designers, engineers, students, and other people
doing strange things with electricity.

East Bay Star Wars Club
Central Perk
10086 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito
510-558-7375
www.ebstarwars.com
Meets the second Friday of every month at 7:30
p.m.

Fantastic Frontiers
www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/
Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/
fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday
of the month. Check website for meeting times
and locations.

Foothill Anime
Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
Free
Monthly event where people can get together
to watch anime and meet like minded others.
Usually meets the first Sunday of every month
at noon.

The Gay Men's Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
Free
5:00 p.m.
The Book for July 13th is Contact by
Carl Sagan. Please contact the group
leader, Christopher Rodriguez, at
cobalt555@earthlink.net, for more information.

Legion of Rassilon
Carl's Junior
2551 N. First Street
San Jose
www.legionofrassilon.org
7:30 p.m.

Free
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth
Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who,
news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.

No-Name Anime
Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
www.nnanime.com

Free
Anime screenings usually take place on the
second Saturday of the month.

Other Realms Book Club
Books, Inc.
1375 Burlingame Ave.
Burlingame
Free
www.booksinc.net

Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.
The book for June 25 is Whitechapel Gods by
S.M. Peters.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
6:00 p.m.
Free
The story for June is "The Ones Who Walk
Away From Omelas" from The Winds Twelve
Quarters by Ursula K. Leguin. The book for
July is Perdido Street Station by China Mieville.
Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-
books.com for more information.

SF Browncoats
Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street
San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com
Noon
Free
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the
second Saturday of the month.

SF/SF Meetup
Mysterious Future Bookstore
531 Fifth Street
Santa Rosa
groups.yahoo.com/group/scifisantarosa/
Regular meetup for North Bay fans on the
second Sunday of the month.

Silicon Gulch Browncoats
Various locations (see website for details)

www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
Noon - 2 p.m.
Free
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up
on the first Saturday of the month.

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction
Book Club
Books Inc.
301 Castro Street
Mountain View
650-428-1234
7:30 p.m.
Free
Generally meets the 3rd Thursday of the month.

USS Augusta Ada
Round Table Pizza
3567 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco
trek.starshine.org
1 p.m.
Free
Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet
International and a Linux and *BSD user group.
Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every
month.

USS Defiance
Round Table Pizza
1566 Howe Ave.
Sacramento
www.usdefiance.org
7 p.m.
Free
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of
the month.

USS Northern Lights

Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for location.

7 p.m

Free

The 'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the second Friday of the month, with social event TBD.

Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE

Round Table Pizza

4403 Elkhorn Blvd

Sacramento

916-338-2300

Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.