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Wednesday
Evening

August 17, 2011

The

High Space Drifter

The Official Newsletter
of Renovation

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MUSIC NIGHT: DON'T MISS IT

After kicking off the Opening Ceremonies with style, Tricky Pixie bring their delirious blend of fey fusion to the dance floor tonight! The musical mayhem begins at **7:00 PM** in the **C2 & C3** rooms of the Convention Center.

Don't miss the second-ever performance of Roger Zelazny's play *Godson*, presented with original music by David G. Grubbs, Jerry Sabatini and Debra Lebrun. Don't miss this unique experience, tonight at **9:00 PM** in **C4**.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Launch Party for 'A Woman of Mars'- 9:00 PM, Room 1525.

Boston in 2020 Christmas Worldcon Bid Party Room 1552, come celebrate 'No Pants Wednesday', starting at 9:00 PM.

Texas 2013 Bid Party - Room 1624 - have some Serious BBQ & Sauces with Fixens (And Beer), starting at 8:30 PM.

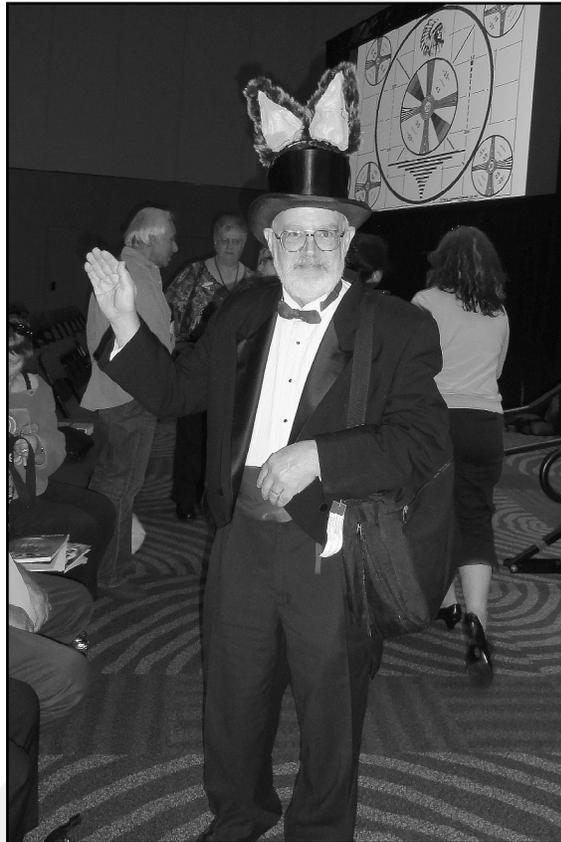
Spokane in 2015 Worldcon Bid - Room 1638 - Join Patricia Briggs at 9:00 PM to kick off this Worldcon bid.

The Real Eureka Science Fiction Club of Humboldt - Room 1652 at 8:00 PM.

And the Con Suite is open until 2:00 AM on the second floor of the Atlantis.

Local Guides Now Available at the Info Desk! Get Yours Today.

Worldcon Gets Demented



Renovation officially opened this afternoon with a short show from Tricky Pixie and Dr. Demento and a discussion with our Guests of Honor and Special Guests about their views on the changes in science fiction. If you missed the opening ceremony, don't miss Dr. Demento on Thursday when he will be playing a history of Science Fiction music or Saturday when he talks Frank Zappa.

Dr. Demento preparing for the opening ceremonies.

Independent / Fan Film Festival

Renovation is excited to host the Renovation Independent/Fan Film Festival! The Film Festival will showcase the best film shorts, features, and trailers from around the world, specializing in the science fiction, fantasy, horror and comic genres. The first features will be shown Wednesday evening at **8:00 PM** in **Room D06**. For a complete film list, see page 26 of the Convention Guide.

Fans Helping Fans

Help send the ultimate sci-fi fan to the next convention. Donations to the Fan Funds Auction can be delivered to the Con Suite, located in the Atlantis Grand Ballroom 5-7. Donations must be received by Noon on Saturday. The Auction will be held Saturday at 3:00 PM on the Hall 2 Stage of the RSCC. Items requested for donation include: books, t-shirts, art, and stuffed toys. If you need a sample of what to expect to find, our current collection of donated items already includes autographed *Dark Tower* comics.

Vampires, Wizards, and Werewolves, Oh My!

Join *Summit Arcane*, a Live Action Role-Playing Game set in the world of Jim Butcher's *Dresden Files*. Journey back to 1928 and celebrate Mardi Gras with supernatural enthusiasm.

No LARP experience or knowledge of the source material is required, but slots are limited. To reserve a space or for more information, contact dresdenlarp@gmail.com. Alternatively, utilize the sign-up sheet in the gaming area. This event is #1570 in the pocket program.

Go Up, Young Man

As some of us have noticed, the Pepermill Hotel contains multiple floors. Both the Tuscany Ballroom and the Naples Ballroom Complex are located on the second floor. To reach either of these venues, take the escalator to the LEFT of the hotel check-in desk to reach the second floor and then follow the signs to the desired location. To reach the second floor via elevator, turn RIGHT at the hotel check-in desk, followed by an immediate left into the elevator lobby. Upon reaching the second floor, exit the elevator and follow the signs to your destination. For details of events being held in these spaces, please see the pocket program.

Cheap Eats!

Foley's Irish Pub is offering special deals for Worldcon members. Including lunch specials as low as \$4.25 and Happy Hour from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM and from 10:00 PM until closing.

Hotel Rules

While the presence of legal gambling in the convention hotels provides several new ways to spend your time, it also brings several new restrictions. While minors are permitted to traverse the gaming area, they are prohibited from loitering or gambling. Hotel policy states that any person on the casino floor must have a visible & identifiable face. Therefore, masks, face paint, and costumes that enclose the body/face are not permitted on the casino floor. The hotels reserve the right to prevent individuals from gambling while in costume if the costume could potentially be used to conceal electronics or other potential cheating devices. Also, photography is prohibited on the casino floor.

Alien Facilities

In an effort to accomodate our non-human visitors, one of the restrooms in the Convention Center has been converted to a Group/Interspecies facility. This restroom, across from room A9, may be used by any sex or species of attendee, as well as those species which travel in small family groupings.

Tipping: Not Just for Cows

The staff at both the Atlantis and the Peppermill are doing a fabulous job of making us feel welcome and providing high levels of service. They're well-informed about everything going on in the hotels, and happy to answer questions.

We can thank them by tipping. A good rule of thumb is \$1 per night per bed used in your room and \$1 per bag carried by the valets. (Tip housekeeping every morning, not just on the day you check out, because you may have different service staff on different days.) For waitstaff at the restaurants, and for spa services, 15 to 20 percent of the bill is standard.

There are even special customs for tipping in casinos. You are under no obligation to tip when you play, but if you win big, it's good form to give a tip to the dealer in the form of a low-value chip or two. Place the chip on the table and tell the dealer specifically that it's a tip. A tip is also in order if you win at video poker or the slots and a casino employee hand delivers your winnings.

Interview Ellen Asher

Be sure to check out the complete interview on the *Renovation Podcast*

When was the first time you read science fiction?

E: It was at summer camp, at the age of 12. I was browsing through the camp library, and there was a copy of *Slan*. That was it—I was corrupted for life.

Did you expect you'd wind up working in the field?

E: No. It was more or less an accident that I got into the field. I started when I was working at the New American Library for the editor of the school and college division. One day the science fiction editor looked around and said, "You. Over there. You read that stuff. How would you like to be the science fiction editor?" And I said "Sure, do I get a raise and a promotion?" And they said, "No, but you get to be the science fiction editor."

So I did that for two years. Then there was a big downsizing. Within a month of running out on my unemployment insurance, I got the job at the book club. I was interviewed first for a job as a reader for the general interest club, for which I was monumentally unsuited since I read almost no popular fiction.

The following week their science fiction editor left. And they said, "Ah ha! We've just spoken to someone who reads science fiction!" So I started as a club editor instead of as a reader, which was more grand.

How do you decide which two books to buy?

E: Well, basically ... read them. And then one makes an evaluation as to, 1) is this book any good? And 2) can we sell it? If both answers are yes, you buy it. If question #1 is yes and question #2 is no, you don't buy it. If #1 is no and #2 is yes, you grit your teeth and buy it. And that usually wasn't a problem—there were always more books I liked than we had the space for.

When I started out I certainly made mistakes in what I bought. I remember turning down a book by Cliff Simak because I didn't think it was much good. And then I watched it be at the top of the Locus best seller list and I thought, "Oh dear, not doing that again."

You've won some awards in your career—you've got the E.E. Smith Memorial Award for imaginative fiction (the Skylark).

E: That's an award given by the New England Science Fiction Association every year to somebody who exemplifies the service to science fiction and sterling personal qualities that made Doc Smith so beloved. What it really means is that you've done a lot of good things in the field. It's a really nice award to have.

But it's probably the only award presented with a warning, because it physically consists of a lens. Jane Yolen was given the Skylark and put it in her kitchen and everything was very nice. Then one day it was



spring (the award is given in February) and she tossed her new spring coat across the back of a kitchen chair and went to bed. The next morning she smelled a funny smell. She walked into the kitchen and saw that the sun was streaming through the kitchen window and through the lens of the Skylark. It had caught her coat on fire.

So she decided to take that award and put it where the sun doesn't shine.

You also have a World Fantasy Award, in the Professional Special Award category for your work with the SFBC.

E: I have two World Fantasy Awards. That one, and I also have a Lifetime Achievement, I think it's called, both of which I got after I retired. Retirement has really been a wonderful career move for me. I got these two World Fantasy Awards, I've been invited to be WorldCon Guest of Honor, I was made a fellow of NESFA... Really, I should have done it years ago.

CUE STAGE LIGHTS!

It's not too late to enter the Masquerade! Prospective contestants should sign up at the Masquerade Registration table in the Registration Lobby. If you're already registered, you still need to check in at the Masquerade Table to confirm your arrival on-site.

The Drifter Staff



Overheard in the Jackal Lair
“Plan B is in effect and already out of date.”

Quick Draw McGraw:

Meredith Branstad

Black Hat:

Stephen Libbey

Fast Hand McCoy:

Matt Branstad

Bloody Meri:

Meri Meraz

Momma Malone:

Kimmi Allbee

Woody:

Stephen Nelson

Chuckwagon Charlie:

Charlie Holmberg

Honky Tonk Sue:

Karen Anderson

The Hangman:

Tom Galloway

Wile E Coyote:

Gary Blog

Text McGraw:

Michael Nelson

Rifleman:

Brian Branstad

Lone Ranger:

Jan van't Ent

Yellow Rose Madam:

Karen Meschke

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Strolling With the Stars

Come take the air with your favorite Worldcon guests! Join us every morning for a leisurely walk with a group.

Departing from the parking lot of the Walgreens on Virginia Street (located between the Peppermill and the Atlantis) each morning at **9:00 AM** and arriving at the Convention Center before 10:00 AM.

Look for the man with the STROLL! t-shirt and bullhorn. And a reminder to all you folks who live at sea level, on the East Coast, the West Coast, or where ever — Reno is 4,500 feet ABOVE sea level. This means your body reacts differently, and sweats differently, and you need to keep yourself well-hydrated. Drink plenty of fluids.

We're delighted by the great line-up of guests who will be strolling with us in Reno - GoH's, Special Guests, Hugo Winners, Nebula Winners, Authors, Artists and Editors. Thursday morning will include: Boris Vallejo, Bill Willingham, Julie Bell, Lauren Beukes, Ellen Datlow, Cory Doctorow, and Dr. Lawrence M. Schoen.

Converting the Mundanes

In honor of Renovation, the Washoe County Library's Sierra View branch in Reno focused on science fiction this week, hosting author readings by Cory Doctorow, Carol Berg, Connie Willis, Jo Walton, Steven Gould, Walter Jon Williams, Sharon Lee and Steve Miller.

Williams regaled library patrons with an excerpt from his next book, *Fourth Wall*, about a former child star whose attempt to regain fame leads him into the world of gaming. For *Deep State*, his most recent novel, Williams imagined what might happen if social media tools were used to foment revolution in the Middle East. "A few months later it was interesting to turn on CNN and see scenes from my novel," he said.

The library also hosted a film series and a science fiction exhibit, and held a drawing with a bag of Renovation authors' books as the grand prize.



Walter Jon Williams cuts the Renovation cake at the Sierra View public library.