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Friday
Evening

August 19, 2011

The

High Space Drifter

The Official Newsletter
of Renovation

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PROGRAMMING CHANGES

New Item 10:00 AM Saturday

- **A04** Absent Antipodeans 1. Kylie Chan, Lisa L. Hannett, Fiona McIntosh, Angela Slatter, Mary Victoria are authors from Australia and New Zealand. Bob Kuhn will be reading excerpts from their works, including new material.

Midnight - Werewolf RPG in Naples 1 & 2

New Item 2:00 PM Saturday

- Pandemic "In the Lab" expansion play test with designer Tom Lehmann

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

As of 2:30 PM, you are sharing the convention space with 3,880 other attendees! Renovation has 5,420 members

PUBLICATION NOTE

Due to the timing of the site selection vote for Worldcon 2013, Newsletter Issue 7 (Saturday Morning) will be slightly delayed, so that we may bring you the news as it breaks. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

MORE VOLUNTEER RAFFLE WINNERS!

Three cheers for **Migan Gardner** (Badge #8021) and **Robert Klein** (Badge #148), who each won two preferred seats for the Hugo Awards Ceremony on Saturday night. Please pick up your certificates from the Volunteer Desk by **4:00 PM Saturday**.



Dragongirls, Cowboys and Pirates

On **Saturday at 10:00 AM**, drop your hatchlings off to make Dragon and Fairy Wings with Cyd! At **2:00 PM**, young Padawans can build their own light saber. Childcare services are provided in E02 and E03 of the RSCC. Hours are **9:30 AM to 6:00 PM** daily, with an evening service on Friday and Saturday to enable parents to attend the Masquerade and/or Hugo Award ceremony. KiddieCorp has many more exciting projects and adventures that will keep young creative minds busy. Remember, children must be registered with the convention before they can be booked into childcare services. Bookings are available online at www.kiddiecorp.com/renovationkids.

“ *We don't make the news, we just snark about it.* ”

Don't Miss the Masquerade

The doors open at **7:30 PM** in the Peppermill's Tuscany Ballroom.

Think Jane Austen (zombies optional)

Tonight's Regency Ball at **8:00 PM** in the Peppermill's Capri Ballroom is your opportunity to time travel to a more gentle, gracious era — the England of the early 1800s. Dance Master Alan Prince Winston has devised a program of country dances, cotillions, and waltzes, and live music will be provided.

Costumes are optional but popular. You're likely to see anything from historically accurate Empire-style gowns and cutaway coats to Steampunk, fantasy-inspired, and space-opera garb.

Winston, along with Dance Historian Susan de Guardiola, provided a preview of the dances at this afternoon's Regency Tea Dance.

And Now for Something Completely Different:

Two special guests will help rock DJ Neshamah's Club Dance at the Peppermill tonight from **12:00 AM** until **6:00 AM**. Shortly after midnight, Renovation special guest Dr. Demento will take the stage to spin some "danceable but demented" tunes. He'll be followed by Hugo nominee Rachel Bloom, performing her notorious musical invitation to Ray Bradbury.

Our take: Totally worth staying up until the wee hours.

In a Universe Very Close to This One...

The winners of the Sidewise Awards for Alternate History were announced Thursday.

Long Form: *When Angels Wept: A What-If History of the Cuban Missile Crisis*, by Eric G. Swedin

Short Form: "A Clash of Eagles," by Alan Smale

The Sidewise Awards for Alternate History were conceived in late 1995 to honor the best allohistorical genre publications of the year. To learn more about the awards, visit www.uchronia.net/sidewise/.

“*The woman next to him looks like a vampire. I think she's his ex-girlfriend.*”

Masquerade Total Recall

Masquerade and Hugo Awards Ceremony DVDs with full entry and winner information – along with still photographs – will be available for \$10 each (plus shipping) in time for the holidays. Contact dvd@sydweinstein.net for full details.

Official Masquerade photographic prints will be available on Saturday and Sunday at the Masquerade table in the RSCC. Prints may be ordered on-line in two weeks at www.rfman.com. A complete photo CD will be available for \$20 (including shipping). Contact richard@imagecraft.com for more information.

WSFS Business First Passage of Fancast Hugo

An amendment to create the Best Fancast Hugo received first passage at Thursday's WSFS Business meeting. Also receiving first passage were revisions to the Best Semiprozine and Fanzine Hugos. They will now go for final ratification at Chicon 7 next year.

In addition, all five proposals presented from Aussiecon passed final ratification. (For details, see your Renovation souvenir book.)

Saturday's Business Meeting will include the official announcement of the results of the 2013 Worldcon Site Selection (including the announcement of the Guests of Honor), followed by questions for Chicon 7 and future Worldcon bids.

No other business is scheduled for this year's meeting. Thus, Sunday's Business Meeting has been canceled.

The WSFS Mark Protection Committee will meet following the Worldcon Chairs' Photo Session in RSCC **Room A02**. All members of Renovation are welcome to attend.

Reminder for Past Worldcon Chairs

The traditional Worldcon Chairs' photo opportunity will be held after the site selection announcement during the Saturday WSFS business meeting in RSCC **Room A02**, at approximately **11:00 AM**.

A Chat With Tim Powers

Can you tell me what a "Secret History" is?

Well, I've always thought that it's an inevitable consequence of writing fantasy stories set in the real world, which I kinda like to do. But, if you're gonna do that, you've got Los Angeles, or New York or London as they really are, but for the purposes of your story you're saying that there's a magical undercurrent. Some people here and there have goals and skills and methods that the rest of us are unaware of. Now, unless you say that this is a brand new situation, that they only just now got hold of this, then it's been going on for a while, and really with things like magic, half the fun is to say that it's been going on for a while. But of course it hasn't made it into the newspapers or history books. And so it's always seemed to me inevitable that if you're going to write fantasy set in the real world its gotta be a secret history. You're gonna have to say "this event 100 years ago or 500 years ago which the normal world has come up with an explanation for actually had this other secret explanation. So it's always seemed to me that you kinda cant help it if you do real world fantasy. And also I find just in writing this stuff its a real advantage in that you don't have to make things up. Most writers have to make stuff up, especially in science fiction and fantasy. But if you're doing this stuff all you have to do is read a whole lot of history and biographies and old news stories and things like that with a special kind of paranoid squint so that you're constantly looking at some anomalous enigmatic event, which of course history is full of, and you simply say "huh, what was really going on there?" And of course you're in a mood where what was really going on was science fiction or supernatural.

So how do you do your research?

I do my research in a very kind of a broad, spread the net widely way, because I'm looking for my plot. I never come up with an idea and then do the research for it. I always do the research hoping to find my plot in it and so I'll find some, usually I'll be reading some nonfiction book just for entertainment and I'll stumble across something that makes me think, huh, that's weird, and if I stumble across another one I'll



start to think this isn't entertainment reading, this is now research reading. It happened with spies I was reading a book about Kim Philby the famous British double agent and I'm a fan of John La Carre so I was reading this for fun and there just were two or three things where I just thought, huh, how odd, why would he do that? And I thought, you know what? I think this is research. You try to find an area that looks promising. I could have written three or four books set in the cold war situation. And pirates was the same thing. I thought, well you know pirates, carribbean, voodoo, how can that not provide enough stuff for a story. So generally I just try to read very widely and follow any indicated side trails. If I'm reading about the carribbean and I read about some kind of interesting eel, it's like, well, you know, what the hell, peruse that, read more about that eel. Which means that I take an inexcusable amount of time doing research, I mean you can happily spend a couple years just tracking down every weird little implication and side topic. Eventually I have to tell myself, hold it, stop. The end result here is supposed to be a book not just a bunch of underlining in books other people wrote.

The Drifter Staff



Art by Howard Tayler

Overheard in the Jackal Lair

“ **I spackled over it electronically...** ”

- Quick Draw McGraw:**
Meredith Branstad
- Black Hat:**
Stephen Libbey
- Fast Hands 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
- Rockin Ranger**
Craig Glassner
- Yellow Rose Madam:**
Karen Meschke

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Friday Night Parties

Remember that tonight's festivities don't end with the Masquerade! There are many fine parties to explore. Shuttles will be running every 7 minutes from 10:00 PM to midnight, and will keep running, though less frequently, until 3:00 AM.

- Room 1524, 9:30 PM Chicon 7 - All Roads lead to Chicon
- Room 1634, 9:30 PM-1:00 AM 'Eric in the Elevator' Screening Party
- Room 1525, 8:00 PM San Cipriano Founders Day - The city of San Cipriano will be celebrating Founder's Day tonight in room 1525. I have no more idea what that means than you do, but I'm curious.
- Room 1635, 9:00 PM London in 2014
- Room 1552, 9:00 PM-Midnight Book Launch Cooper & Harley
- Room 1638, 9:00 PM The Heinlein Society
- Room 1624, 9:30 PM Kansas in 2016
- Room 1652, 8:00 PM Klingon Black Hole
- Room 1625, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM Locus Party, 9:00 PM-Midnight Randy's Turning 50
- Con Suite (Grand Ballroom 5-7), 8:00 PM-Midnight Sime-Gen Academy of SF/F/H (also open hospitality here - until 2:00 AM)
- RSCC A13, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM Sacramento Geeks Meet & Greet

World Jay Day

World Jay Day launched just after noon in Hall 2, when Hugo Awards emcee Jay Lake arrived for a lunch date with publisher Patrick Swenson. Lake, wearing one of his trademark Hawaiian shirts, was ambushed by more than 50 cheering friends decked out in Hawaiian garb.

"The whole day is for celebration," said Diana Sherman, who organized the surprise event via Facebook messaging and word of mouth.

Jay Lake with friends wearing Hawaiian shirts for World Jay Day.



Correction

We're sorry, there was an error in Issue 5. The Nevada Historical Society event was last Saturday, August 13. Anyone wishing to attend this event, please meet at the blue police box in Hall 2. The time doesn't matter, it's all wibbly-wobbly, anyway.