

WESTWIND

The Magazine of the Northwest Science Fiction Society



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Issue #276

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The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity or space.

Contributions of art, reviews, articles, short stories, poetry, etc. are welcome. The deadline for submissions is the 1st of the month prior to the issue date.

Advertising is accepted; must be camera ready and received by the 5th of the month prior to issue. Full page (7.5x10), \$20; half-page (5x7.5), \$12; quarter-page (3.5x5), \$7; business card, \$5.

The editors and publisher of Westwind do not necessarily endorse any product or service that may be marketed herein.

Westwind will accept electronic submissions only with an advance email query to: westwind@nwsfs.org

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From under the Chair's Hats

Welcome to the new *Westwind*. And welcome to our new editor: Karen Van Brunt

We hope you'll enjoy reading *Westwind* and will be interested in submitting reviews, articles, art, stories, and announcements. The plan is to publish four times a year in .PDF and distribute it electronically as well as print a few copies for distribution at club tables and events. We will continue to mail hard copies to members who don't have computer access.

I look forward to chatting with you all in the future as NWSFS embarks on its fourth decade. Who would have thought that Science Fiction fandom in the Northwest would last so long...well, we all did of course.

Michael Citrak
Chair
Northwest Science Fiction Society

WESTWIND SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

Submit by February 1 for March publish date
Submit by May 1 for June publish date
Submit by August 1 for September publish date
Submit by November 1 for December publish date

Letter from the Editor

Well, howdy y'all! I'm going to repeat Michael's 'Welcome!' and add on a 'Glad to be here!' *Westwind* is up and running again -- but we're gonna need your help. To paraphrase a certain famous doctor: "I'm an editor, damnit, not a writer!" So we need for you writers and artists and, heck, even just you readers, to help us out and send stuff to be put into the next issues!

We're looking for book reviews, movie reviews, TV show reviews, gadget and toy reviews, articles on just about anything that tickles your fancy, art (photos and drawings and...!), announcements, advertisements, upcoming and on-going event listings...anything you want to spread the word on, or tell people about, we want to have you submit!

Westwind will be published in electronic only format after this issue, so make certain your email address with the Society is up-to-date.

We're also looking for some regular contributors, as well as an artist to provide some formatting art -- if you're interested, please contact us!

Its nice to get back off the ground and I look forward to seeing *Westwind* move on to new heights! I've got some pretty big plans for this little newsletter -- I sure hope y'all are happy with what you're getting!

All feedback is appreciated, so don't be shy in telling me what you think of our efforts here!

K Van Brunt
Editor, *Westwind*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NWSFS is changing the phone number of its info line to something a little easier to remember.

(425) 68-NWSFS

NWSFS member Robert Blevins and head of Adventure Books wrote to inform us that they are releasing a new book, 'Into the Blast - The True Story of D.B. Cooper'. This book presents evidence that supports most recent theory that Kenneth Christiansen was the hijacker known as DB Copper.

Adventure books also publishes Escape Velocity Magazine (<http://escapevelocitymagazine.com/>) which is a multi-faceted magazine publishing hard science fiction stories, film reviews, science articles, historical space articles, and other features of interest to science fiction readers.

CONGRATULATIONS

On Nov 4th, Michael Citrak received the following Text Message on his phone from NWSFS Treasurer, Bill Boyde:

"Hey check the news - our team just qualified for part of the prize in the Space Elevator contest :-) More competition is tomorrow - we may get more prize."

So, congratulations to Bill Boyde!

<http://www.spaceelevatorblog.com/?p=1321>

LaserMotive was created to win the NASA-sponsored Elevator:2010 Power Beaming Challenge. LaserMotive brings together a team with literally decades of experience in each of the key areas of expertise needed to win.

Based in the greater Seattle area (with our place of business in Kent), we believe our team (comprising both members of LaserMotive LLC and experts from our industry partners) is by far the most experienced of all entrants to date.

(Second from the left is our own Bill Boyde, NWSFS Treasurer! Thanks to the Space Elevator Blog for use of the photo.)



This page has info about the contest, and a you-tube video of the qualifying climb:

<http://nextbigfuture.com/2009/11/lasermotive-has-qualified-for-900000.html>

And another blog post with more info and another team picture:

<http://illumina.blogspot.com/2009/11/spaceward-ho.html>

From One Chair to Another: An Interview with Sheila Pool, Chair of Rustycon 2010

By Michael L. Citrak

Recently I had a chat with Rustycon's Chair, Sheila Pool. Rustycon will be held January 15-17, 2010 at the Seattle Airport Marriott.

Do you have a theme?

Our flavor / theme this year steam punk.

Who are your Guests of Honor?

We are excited about our Guests of Honor: Writer James P. Blaylock, his novel *Homunculus* received the Philip K. Dick Award; Artist Theresa Mather, who is best known for her pieces painted on feathers and stone; and Fan David-Glenn Anderson, an advocate for Reading for the Future, and active convention runner

Any important words or ideas you want to share?

It's important to us to show that Rustycon is not dying, Come on down and try Rustycon again.

I was happy with the hotel last year, how it's working out for you?

Rustycon loves their hotel, (Seattle Airport Marriott), and are looking forward to a long Term relationship with them. It's a great hotel and people love the indoor pool in the atrium and members love the restaurant, good food for appropriate prices.

How's programming coming along?

Programming is coming along, and as we get closer to the Rustycon, look at our website for the programming schedule. We are also working on some new games for teens to participate in during the evenings. Plus we will have a hall costume parade along with a photographer set up for good pictures.

How about the party suites, they worked out great last year for NWSFS. Will you have them again?

Yes, we will use the small suites that all grouped together for the party rooms. These suites are in function space and were well received last year. They were a fantastic success.

You chaired several years ago, why did you want to chair again?

I wanted to be chair again to bring back the flavored of Rustycon from prior yeas when I was chair, Rustycon 10. Then it was a small and fun convention, it had a family feeling, and I love that.

From one chair to another, I wish her and Rustycon the best of luck, break even, and most important, have fun. For more information, see the Convention Listings here in *Westwind* or their web site:

<http://www.rustycon.com/>

Jules Verne, or Steampunk, the Beta version

By Elisabeth Knottingham

Political Intrigue! Fascinating Technology! Amazing Voyages! All, and more, await you in....

Yes, I'm talking about Jules Verne: the original steampunk. The author we've all heard of but never read; the one that's been dead more than 100 years. The man who would be rolling over in his French grave if he ever saw that horrible Brendan Fraser movie.

Jules Verne is one of the pillars of modern speculative fiction, but he's one that's too much fun to ever be an English 201 assignment, even if he was writing in late 1800's France. He completed over a hundred works of nearly every type, and almost every one is better than you think.

Sadly, unless you read French, you'll have to do your reading in translation, and therein lies the problem. Verne is one of the five most translated authors of all time, and has suffered mightily from too much poetic license. Bad movies, worse "adaptations", and horrible translations have taken their toll on this sci-fi giant. Early publications were often edited for political content, translated horrifically, or even simply cut for space, leaving most modern readers to feel he is a bad pulp writer better left unread.

Thankfully, modern translations, as well as the much beloved expiration of copyright, means that many of his works are now available for download free from sites like Project Gutenberg or LibriVox. With a little surfing you are sure to find a audio or print version for your mobile enjoyment, and after all, isn't that what Verne would have liked the most? You enjoying him on your mobile handheld computer, as you are traveling through this undiscovered country at dizzying speeds in a gas-powered vehicle? Start with the well-known titles, and soon you'll be branching out into adventures you never imagined. Thankfully Verne did.

Elisabeth Knottingham lives a Victorian life deeply entrenched in modern Seattle. She can cook a meal, saddle a horse, and even change a tire. She can be found daily pouring tea on top of Queen Anne

Fen Projects: Colas for the Cosmos

By Jim Cox

Like many fen, I have many hobbies, and one of those hobbies is astronomy. Having an interest in astronomy, and living in the Seattle area requires a certain amount of optimism and creativity. Many local stargazers have their own pet projects to help them get past the dreary days. Now my pet project mixes both my interest in astronomy, my addiction to Diet Coke, and desire to help others.

That project is called "Colas for the Cosmos"

For the last few years the Coca-Cola company has been offering rewards to those of us who imbibe in their products through their Coke Rewards program. Two of the items offered by the program that are of interest to astronomers have been a small telescope and a pair of binoculars. While the telescope and binoculars offered may not be top-end, they are good enough to be of use to children who are interested in astronomy, and do not have the means to get their own telescope or binoculars. Getting some of these telescopes and binoculars to these children is where the Colas for the Cosmos project comes in.

I have been collecting Coke Rewards points in the form of Coca Cola bottle caps and box tops, and trading them in for telescopes and binoculars to give to kids for about two years now. Originally this was a one person project, but it has recently received a big shot in the arm by several of my friends including a couple other NWSFS board members. There are posts about this project on both my own Cloudymidnights astronomy blog (<http://cloudymidnights.blogspot.com>), and on the NWSFS News Blogs (<http://nwsfsnews.blogspot.com/> and <http://community.livejournal.com/nwsfs/>).

What I really like about this project is that it helps to promote science, and helps those who are less fortunate. Also anyone one can participate, or even start their own similar project if they want. Feel free to contact me if you are interested in participating or would like some help in getting your own project started. Hopefully together we can help get more young people discover astronomy.

Unfortunately Coke no longer offers the telescope, but the binoculars are still available and as a matter of fact I have three pair of binoculars to give away. If you know of a child who might like a pair of binoculars then please let me know. You can find me at jimcox9@gmail.com.

Thanks!

GeekGirlGamut: *Star Trek vs Star Wars*

By Amanda Kay Meuwissen

I am a Trekkie. I admit that readily, prepared to take whatever teasing and low-blow remarks naysayers might think to throw at me. My husband, John, is more of a *Star Wars* fan, however, which would usually mean we were set for a death match. Somehow we still manage to love each other.

The rivalry between *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* has been around for as long as both fandoms have existed. Both are science fiction themed, set in outer space on starships and alien planets in some distant future, but their universes could not be more different, and they each have a very unique following of fans.

Allow me to give you a quick history.

STAR TREK

The original *Star Trek* series first aired in 1966, starring William Shatner as Captain James T. Kirk of the starship *Enterprise*, accompanied by a widely varied crew, exploring the galaxy and narrowly escaping dangers regularly each week. The *Enterprise's* purpose:

“Its continuing mission to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations. To boldly go where no one has gone before!”

That still brings a tear to my eye.

The series only lasted until 1969, but it created a legacy that would continue far beyond that, including 6 films with the original cast, and four more series based in the same universe. *The Next Generation* (1987–1994), *Deep Space Nine* (1993-1999), *Voyager* (1995-2001), and the prequel series *Enterprise* (2001-2005).

There have also been 4 films with *The Next Generation* cast. Shatner and a few other original series cast members made appearances in the first one, *Generations*, and there was a reboot movie this summer simply named “*Star Trek*” with a young cast reprising the original cast’s roles. Sequels are already in the works and the DVD and Blue-ray are out for your purchasing pleasure.

There was an animated series from 1973-1974, and like many successful franchises there are books and merchandise of all kinds. Some people even choose to

learn Klingon as a second language, a harsh sounding tongue from one of *Star Trek*'s best known alien races.

Yeah, that's fans for you.

STAR WARS

Star Wars began quite oppositely with a film in 1977, *Episode IV: A New Hope*, which was only the beginning of a trilogy that promised a universe of possibilities beyond even that three-part story.

Luke Skywalker, longing to become a Jedi like his father before him, is whisked away into a galactic battle between the Rebel Alliance and a corrupt Empire ran by the evil Sith Lord Darth Sidious—Sith being the eternal opponents of the Jedi—and his equally evil apprentice Darth Vader.

The Jedi and Sith manipulate a power called The Force that allows them insight, faster reflexes, telekinesis, and much more. There are fascinating alien races in *Star Wars*, a cocky smuggler played by Harrison Ford, and amazing lightsaber fights—the Jedi and Sith weapon of choice which are basically laser-bladed swords in various colors.

After the success of the first three films in 1977, 1980, and 1983 respectively, *Star Wars* came back to the box office in 1997 with special edition versions of the original films. In 1999 the prequel *Episode I: The Phantom Menace* came to theaters and was then followed up to complete a second trilogy, the next two films coming in 2002 and 2005.

“As of 2008, the overall box office revenue generated by the six Star Wars films has totaled approximately \$4.3 billion, making it the third-highest-grossing film series, behind only the James Bond and Harry Potter films.” –Wikipedia

There have also been a number of books, video games (*Lego Star Wars* and *Knights of the Old Republic* to name a few), comic books, and TV series, including the currently running *Clone Wars* series after the CG film that came to theaters in 2008. We now await the Old Republic MMO set to come out next year.

COMPARISON

Star Trek is over a decade older than *Star Wars*, but both still compete for popularity today through their

older classic versions as well through the new additions to each franchise, like the new Star Wars MMO, and the recent *Star Trek* movie.

Jedi vs Starfleet Officer:

No contest. Even I can admit that the Starfleet Officer would stand little chance against Force powers and a lightsaber that could send those phaser blasts right back at them.

Star Destroyer vs the Enterprise:

Star Destroyers are impressive but I think everyone would agree that the *Enterprise* and other starships from the Trek universe are faster and more maneuverable. They also have kick-ass shields.

Storm Troopers vs The Borg:

Stormtroopers are the most inept forces in the universe for aim and tactics, so I'd say this one goes to Trek too. Throw in Vader, however, and it's another story, unless of course the Borg could adapt to the Force, but then Vader is half machine so they might end up making him their leader. We'll call that one a draw.

Both franchises have been honored with spoofs, such as one of my favorite movies of all time, *Space Balls*, a Mel Brooks film that, of course, spoofed *Star Wars*.

Both franchises also have flaws, as we all very well know, like a few of the *Star Trek* movies sucking, though after recently watching all of them again (and I mean ALL, original Trek included) I would say that the first Trek movie is my least favorite, not the ones usually called out for being bad, like *Insurrection*.

On the *Star Wars* side the newer trilogy is mostly thought of as a poor attempt to recreate something classic. *Episode III* was a disaster of bad writing that even veteran actors like Ewan McGregor and Natalie Portman couldn't make work.

Along that same vein of *Episodes I, II, and III* falling short, the film *Fanboys* that came out in 2008 brought us back to the mindset before any of those films came out. It follows the misadventures of four (eventually five) friends, all *Star Wars* aficionados, on their way to Skywalker Ranch to steal a copy of *Episode I* before its release.

This movie was hilarious for fans and casual admirers alike, and also had a heartwarming and sad story since the reason the friends are attempting their trek (haha) is so that one of them can see the movie before he dies of cancer.

Fanboys ends with the characters about to watch *Episode I* in theaters and the more or less main character of the group asking:

“What if the movie sucks?”

The End.

I laughed so hard I cried at how the film just stopped on that note, because, as I have mentioned, a lot of people see the newer movies as failures compared to the original trilogy. It was an inside joke for all fans who understood that *Episode I* and its successors just weren't as good as the original.

One particular highlight in *Fanboys* for me was how they also portrayed the rivalry between *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*. Trek fans are often associated with their conventions, like *Star Trek Las Vegas*, gatherings of like-minded individuals discussing and sharing information about the fandom, often in costume as an officer, alien race, or specifically as their favorite character.

William Shatner made a cameo as one of the contacts helping the characters in *Fanboys* break into Skywalker Ranch, meeting them in Las Vegas at that convention.

CONCLUSION

I understand that these are two very different fandoms about similar sci-fi themes, and therefore there will always be arguments over which is superior, but I still question why there has to be rivalry at all. I love both, without feeling I am betraying the good name of either. They fill different needs for me.

Star Trek can always be counted on to continue with new series and movies, and *Star Wars* has had some incredible video games and has such a rich history and universe. And yet fans set at each other's throats, like in *Fanboys*, where the *Star Wars* fan characters just have to mock Trek fans for being inferior.

I also always think of *Undergrads* in this debate, a briefly lived animated series on MTV in 2001. One character, referred to as Gimpy, is a *Star Wars* fan, and feels threatened when Trek fans start taking over his dorm.

Gimpy alludes to the leader of the Trek fans that he is contradicting the Prime Directive—a *Star Trek* staple idea that Starfleet will not directly interfere or impose their ideals on other races and cultures not yet familiar with interstellar travel and warp drive—by trying to

impose his influence of *Star Trek* superiority on the other undergrads.

The Trek fan has a meltdown and when another character asks how Gimpy did it, he answers:

“Jedi mind trick.”

As I said, I am not here to choose a side. Trek seems to get more mocking when the two are compared, and yet both fandoms get mocked by complete outsiders. I, for one, believe we can all get along because both franchises are awesome in their own right, and both have their drawbacks from time to time too.

I may always be a Trekkie deep down, but I love me some Han Solo and I cannot wait to make a Sith Warrior in the new Old Republic MMO.

So come on fanboys and fangirls, there's enough room in this universe for all of us. And yes, William Riker was one of my first fictional crushes, and my nephew Ryker was named after him. If you're reading this article then you should have already guessed I was that much of a geek.

The author is a happily married woman from Minnesota currently working full-time in digital marketing. She writes fiction and spends much of her free time with her husband and friends partaking in the topics she loves best, namely sci-fi. Her weekly blog on the subject can be found at (<http://www.geekgirlgamut.com/>) This article is found specifically at (<http://www.geekgirlgamut.com/2009/11/16/star-trek-star-wars/>).

The Magicians and Mrs. Quent, a novel by Galen Beckett

By Elisabeth Knottingham

The last twenty years have seen an ever increasing interest in the writing of the venerable Jane Austen. We've seen numerous "special collector's editions", countless movies of dubious quality, and her tales even re-imagined with everything from high school students to zombies (though, truth be told, those two groups do have quite a bit in common).

So, it was with much trepidation that I, a life-long lover of Georgian women writers, picked up this volume with a graceful woman on the cover, dressed in a white empire-wasted gown, staring out an open window. Thankfully, the first few pages of Lily's story swept me into a fully formed world, just barely reminiscent of the one I thought I knew, and held me there until the final page.

As a first novel, The Magicians and Mrs. Quent is an amazingly tight page turner, with multiple narrators and mysteries galore. Beckett skillfully weaves a pungent mix of Austen-like sensibilities with Victorian fantasy, adding a dash magic just to make the edges gleam.

Lily's story is at the heart of the novel, as she attempts to keep her mother in check while her ex-magician father wanders around madly in the attic. We are given access the workings of upper society through the eyes of a classically lazy rich son, as well as the streets of poverty from the driven son of a drunken failed aristocrat.

As the story builds, you realize this world about to undergo massive transformation, both within and without, and you find yourself unable to turn away from what can only be looming destruction. How will Lily save her family? How will the two men find their way in this world, one without means, the other without motive? As an added treat, Beckett never lets you forget you're in a strange land, using such devices as the changing lengths of day and night to heighten the drama instead of simply distracting the reader.

Lovers of Austen's work need not worry about another overly drawn out one-note idea here, and lovers of modern fantasy will find themselves drawn into this odd little mystery. Everyone will enjoy the underlying threads of the importance of history, the struggle against society's bondage, and the urge to better our lot no matter our place in life. Compelling, satisfying, accessible, and yet somehow it still leaves you asking "when's the next book coming out?" as you turn the final page.

ONGOING EVENTS

Norwescon 33 ConCom Meeting

January	Saturday, January 09, 2010
February	Saturday, February 20, 2010
March	Saturday, March 20, 2010
(PLEASE NOTE: this is a REVISED meeting date)	
Stuffing Party	Sunday, March 28, 2010
Convention	Thursday, April 1 through Sunday, April 4, 2010
Post-Con Meeting	Saturday, May 08, 2010
Volunteer Picnic	Summer 2010

TIME:

Executive Team Meeting: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

General ConCom Meeting: 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Post Meeting Social: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

PLACE:

Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport

18740 Pacific Highway South

SeaTac, WA 98188

206-246-8600

(NOTE there is a discounted charge of \$8.00 for parking.)

For directions and a map, please see <http://www.doubletree.com/en/dt/hotels/directions.jhtml?ctyhocn=CTAC-D>

Every 2nd & 4th Sunday Dominoes and Such

Seattle Browncoats (<http://seattlebrowncoats.org/default.aspx>)

Sundays @ 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Wayward Coffeehouse

8570 Greenwood Ave N

Seattle, WA 98103

206-706-3240

How to find us: "Look for the misbehavin'

Browncoats in the back of the coffee shop. We'll be at the large table near the fireplace."

First Friday Sci-Fi/ Fantasy Film Night

First Friday of each month

9 pm - 11 pm, no cover

Wayward Coffeehouse

8570 Greenwood Ave N

Seattle, WA 98103

206-706-3240

UPCOMING EVENTS

NWSFS Summer 2010 Alaska Cruise

Next summer more than 20 NWSFS members are going to be taking a week long cruise. We will be sailing on the Royal Caribbean's Rhapsody of the Seas for a 7 day round trip cruise to Alaska. In the land of the midnight sun, you'll need every extra minute of daylight if you want to experience it all. From the awe-inspiring blue ice of a massive glacial field to the expansive grandeur of its wildlife and nature, everything in Alaska is bigger. NWSFS will set sail on July 16th 2010 and be back in Seattle on July 23rd. There is still time to join us if you want to take part in all the fun.

We have set up a Google group where you can find out all the info, and ask any question you might have. <http://groups.google.com/group/nwsfs-cruise>. To book your rooms please contact our travel agent Barbara Marsh at 425 637 9214 or her email barbmarsh@aaawin.com

We hope you will join us on the cruise.

NWSFS at Rustycon this January

Rustycon is coming up fast, Jan 15-17, 2010 at the Seattle Airport Marriot, and NWSFS will have a room party that Saturday evening. Come to room party, stay for con, or is that the other way around. We don't know which room, but we'll post signs around the hotel. And if we have your email address we'll send you a reminder / update just before Rustycon. For information about Rustycon, see: www.rustycon.com

NWSFS Social, Saturday, March 20, 2010,

in Federal Way, WA at the home and Sally Woehrle and William Sadorus. This is our annual P.K. Dick Memorial Award social where we review the works of the nominees. Winner will be announced at Norwescon 33. More details on the social will be posted to the nwsfs-announcements Google list as we get closer to the social.

NWSFS is looking for hosts for upcoming events.

NWSFS Socials: Do you have a house which can host between 20 and 40 people for an afternoon or evening? Socials can be themed parties or just a place for people to get together and talk. Socials are usually potlucks. Socials normally take place on the third Saturday of the month, but we can be flexible on this.

My Favorite Restaurant: Ever wanted to take a large group of people to your favorite restaurant? This is one of our easiest social events to host, pick the restaurant, supply some basic information about the

restaurant to NWSFS, and then a few days before the MFR make the reservations. This normally takes places on a week night during the first week of the month.

Afternoon at the Movies: This is a new event which NWSFS is currently trying. Pick an upcoming movie, a theater it will be showing at, and a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. After the movie the group can get together at a local coffee house or restaurant and discuss what they just watched.

Special NWSFS Events: Do you have some activity or place which you wish to take a group to? NWSFS is always looking for fun new events for its membership.

If you would like to host any of these events please send email to info@nwsfs.org

Norwescon is looking for NWSFS volunteers.

Did you know NWSFS and Norwescon have a very long history of working together? When Norwescon was just starting most of the people working the convention were NWSFS members. Well NWSFS would like to see if we can get more of our members to volunteer to help with the running of Norwescon. Norwescon is always looking for people to help put on their convention. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities, they are looking for people who want to be on ConCom and help with planning all year long, or people who just want to help for a couple of hours at the convention.

If you are interested in helping Norwescon, then send an email to volunteers@norwescon.org or info@nwsfs.org

CONVENTION REPORTS

WorldCon Report from Bill Boyde

Summary:

Montreal: cool, love to go back

Subways: only take Canadian cash

Convention: large

Schedule: always changing

Panel I wanted to attend the most: rescheduled to previous day (D'oh!)

Pocket Program: size of small Buick

Airplane trip back: ended up on nightly news (flight from Toronto diverted to Boeing Field because plane broken - complete with full fire crew!)

CONVENTION LISTINGS

Please send updates, corrections, additions, deletions to info@nwsfs.org , or the club PO Box. Note: Submissions to this listing are due to by the 1st of the previous month of publications: Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, Nov 1. Note: Hotel rooms are usually plus tax.

Updated/New entries designated by * preceding the date

For a more complete list of upcoming conventions, see: <http://www.sfnorthwest.org/>

***January 15-17, 2010:**

Rustycon 27:

Seattle Airport Marriot / 3201 South 176th St, Seattle, WA 98188, 206-241-2000 / Hotel Rates: \$99.00 a night for up to four people per room.

Guests: WGoH: James P. Blaylock, AGoH: Theresa Mather, FGoH: David-Glenn Anderson

Memberships Rates: \$45 Until 11/29/09, \$55 at door;

Info: Rustycon 27, P.O. Box 27075, Seattle, Wa 98165-1475 / e-mail / <http://www.rustycon.com/>

***January 29 - 31, 2010:**

Conflikt 3 - Seattle, Washington (local northwest filking convention)

Holiday Inn Seattle-Renton, One South Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057, (425) 226-7700

\$100.00 plus tax for single-quad occupancy. GoH: Tom Smith, Interfilk Guest: October Country, TM: Andrew Ross. Pre-reg membership (until 11/29/2009) Cost: \$50.00. Info: Conflikt, PO Box 30113, Seattle, WA 98113,

<http://conflikt.org/>

***February 12 - 14, 2010:**

RADCON 5B:

Red Lion Inn, Pasco, Washington, \$99.95; Guests: WGoH: Ben Bova; GoH: Ellen Datlow; FGoH: Gay Haldeman; Husband of FGoH: Joe Haldeman; AGoH: Tim Kirk; Memberships Rates: ?; Info: <http://www.radcon.org/>

***March 5-7, 2010:**

Potlatch 19:

HOTEL DECA, 4507 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle, Washington 98105, 206-634-2000, Rates: Deluxe Room: \$129.00 per night, Jr. Suite: \$159.00 per night; Guest: Book of Honor: Lord of Light, by the late Roger Zelazny; Memberships Rates: \$65.00 more at the door; Info: Potlatch 19, c/o Suzanne Tompkins, P.O. Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165; Email: chair@potlatch-sf.org; <http://www.potlatch-sf.org/>

***April 1-4, 2010:**

Norwescon 33:

DoubleTree Hotel Seattle Airport, 18740 International Blvd, SeaTac, Washington, Tel: 1-206-246-8600; Rate: \$114; Guests: WGofH: Vernor Vinge; AGoH: John Jude Palencar; SpGoH: Cory Doctorow; Spotlight Publisher: Tor Books; Memberships Rates: \$50 through 12/31/09, more at door; Info: Norwescon, PO Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547 / Info Line: 206-270-7850 / email: info@norwescon.org / <http://www.norwescon.org/>

***April 2-4, 2010:**

Sakura-Con 2010:

Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA; Guests: Feature Musical Guest: HIGH and MIGHTY COLOR; GoH: Brina Palencia; GoH: Luci Christian; First Musical Guest: Dazzle Vision; GoH: Richard Epcar; Memberships Rates: \$45 until 12-31-2009; \$50 until 3-7-2010; \$60 at the door; Info: Sakura-Con, 3702 South Fife St, Suite K-2, PMB 78, Tacoma, WA 984091 / <http://www.sakuracon.org/>

Trapped in a Bubble of Eternity

We are grounded fireflies, doomed to creep
Forever on this scrap of velvet ribbon.
Rubies receding, glowing pearls approaching,
Distinctly different, yet the same, transforming
Like creatures on a mobius strip by Escher.

Eternal twilight dims our minds and vision.
Nebulous shadows, black on black, loom faintly,
Half-noticed in the gloom beyond our treadmill,
Obscured by fog without and fog within.

Our mindless trek to nowhere has no ending.
The light of day is but a dim remembrance;
Both past and future fade into oblivion.
There's no escaping from our fog-filled prison,
The timeless sphere in which we hang suspended.

Janice Lewis Clark November, 1999
(describing my winter morning commute on I-5)

Westwind
Northwest Science Fiction Society
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Change Service Requested