

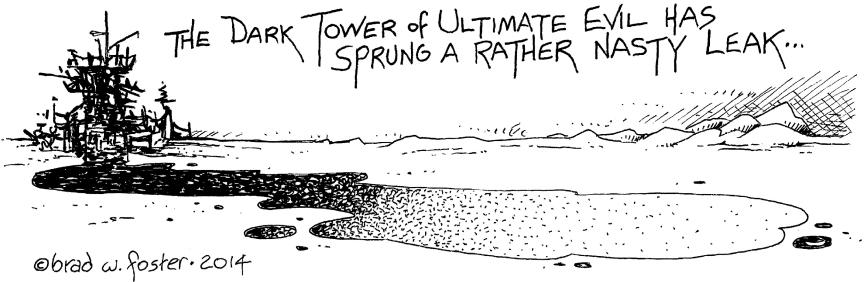
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#499

\$3.00/Issue

December 2014



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or Apartment 601, Manhattan Tower, 6611 Cooney Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V6Y 4C5 (*new address*).

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This and Next Month in BCSFA

- Sunday 14 December at 6 PM: December BCSFA meeting/holiday dinner—at ABC Country Restaurant, 3580 Number Three Road, Richmond. *Note that this is one week and one hour earlier than usual.* Reservation is for 12 people and under the name “Michael.”
- Friday 19 December: Submission deadline for January *BCSFAzine* (ideally).
- Friday 26 December: January *BCSFAzine* production (theoretically).
- Sunday 18 January at 7 PM: January BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
- Friday 23 January: Submission deadline for February *BCSFAzine* (ideally).
- Friday 30 January: February *BCSFAzine* production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

WCSFA Social Committee Chairman/Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562

Vice President: TBD

Treasurer/Supporting *BCSFAzine* Production Donor: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-447-3931 (*new number*)

Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 778-895-2371

VCON Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

BCSFA’s website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster [Garth Spencer](#)). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Assc. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_sci_fi_assc/). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Low-resolution back issues of *BCSFAzine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (thank you to webmaster Bill Burns). Contact Felicity for high-resolution copies.

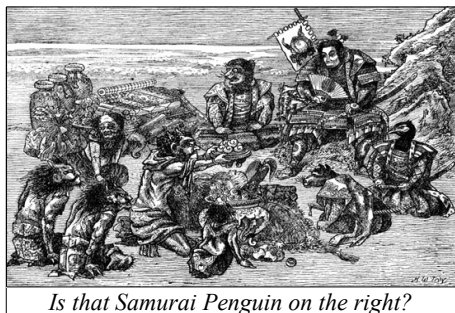
Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

Dave Haren

tyrbolo@comcast.net

Monday 1 December 2014



Is that Samurai Penguin on the right?

Hi Felicity,

Lots of disconnected oddities this time around.

For the boardgamers: there's a site called Game Box¹ with videos done by a rambling prototypical gamer type. He is also on YouTube as Calandale² with the same material. He does the YT then links them to Game Box.

I bumped into this because he did a review of *Bloodtree Rebellion*. This was a Lynn Willis design and one of his best efforts. It was an attempt to introduce the complexities of counterinsurgency wars by using a science fiction setting. Lynn didn't just change the names but did a quite reasonable backstory and motivation for both sides.

Calandale isn't a completist as far as the *Ares* magazine games put out by SPI³ but has quite a few. After watching him play *Wreck of the BSM* (Biological Survey Mission) *Pandora*, I noted that the desire to win the game overrode his interest in being a good crewmember. I always missed getting a copy of *White Bear and Red Moon* when it was first out. Turns out they redid it a couple of times. Even had an Avalon Hill version called *Dragon Pass*.

So I watched one of his runthroughs of that one and checked for Glorantha material at archive.org. Found *Rule One* zine, which is worth a look.⁴ This is all related to *RuneQuest* RPG.

Like *Empire of the Petal Throne* it has an elaborate fantasy world modelled but allowed some materials by fans instead of being a one man builder.

Anyway if you want to see what was on the table in the days before comps were in every house check it out.

He has run through a couple of the Tolkien spinoffs as well.

This is one way to investigate games without the angst of the beastly learning curve if all you have played is Euros⁵ and *Monopoly*. There are science fiction games in board format but haven't been very many lately that have a solid engine in them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBjYmIFDQ0U>

[Voyage of the BSM Pandora review by Calandale.]

1 <http://thegamebox.gamesontables.com/>

2 <https://www.youtube.com/user/calandale>

3 Simulations Publications, Inc.

4 <http://ruleonemagazine.com/>

5 European-style board games.

Battle for Westnoth has finally ground through the testing stage and has a new stable version 1.12 after 19 version changes.

I remember reading recently about a diplomat in Japan inquiring of a new recruit for his job, said, “Did you read any Japanese history?”, and the new young hot-shot fresh from training said “If you know analysis, you don’t need to know history.”

<http://www.acceler8or.com/2012/11/the-great-consciousness-swindle-why-philosophers-will-never-find-consciousness-and-why-they-secretly-dont-want-to/>

[*And another angry skeptic widens the gap between the two cultures.*]

IEET⁶ has an article about AI⁷ with typical quibbles.

The problem is without a real grasp of how the mechanisms of our own brains work trying to guess how a machine intelligence will work is pretty much a waste of time. You have to discard all of the past ideas into the trash and start over. That is a very difficult thing to ask from anyone who has a vested interest in those ideas. Given the savage treatment Gödel did to math without anyone realizing what it did to philosophical certainty, I don’t hold much hope for a new view of the human brain in light of what Rod Brooks did to it.



There’s also a new physics paradigm being talked about. It assumes the quantum world is the “real” and what we perceive as reality is a simulation running on the quantum reality. That may require the discarding of a lot of assumptions before it is the accepted explanation. The material also has the unkindest take I ever heard on logical positivism.

<http://thephysicalworldisvirtual.com/>

[*That is some weird, wild stuff. I have some ideas to test.*]

If you pay attention to world news keep your copy of Orwell’s *1984* handy in case you need to understand what is going on.

This may not be germane but I seem to recall the way to defeat the DVD lock-outs was done with a felt tip marker. It might be worth an online search on the subject. My favorite DRM tale is the inventor of a very popular piece of software who can’t access his own work anymore because of the copy protection they used at the time. Bill Gates used to whine endlessly about the spread of his stuff but it was that base that made him a billionaire. I used to get it through the bundling with the computers. Then I bought an OS upgrade from them, it turned out to be broken in the worst possible way. It did a fatal machine crash if a line of code was too long and wiped out all of your work. It was the only version Microsoft ever made that did that ugly trick.

One way to get in some science fiction movies is to check out the *StarCraft* videos on YouTube. The epic love story of Raynor and Kerrigan is cute. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3mwNMnkkoY>

[*Arcturus Mengsk would fit right in as a villain from The Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers (1986).*]

6 Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies.

7 <http://ieet.org/index.php/IEET/more/searle20141130>

I heard Aubrey de Grey was in Vancouver for a life extension event.
<http://www.lifespanbc.ca/>

All of our citrus trees are showing coloured balls just in time for the winter solstice. Some are even edible now.

Warm regards,
Dave

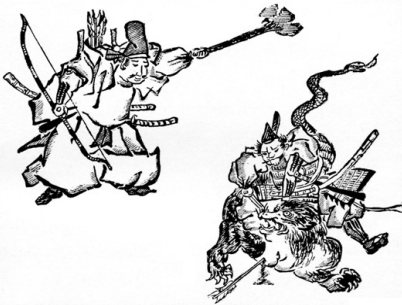
Lloyd Penney
1706-24 Eva Road,
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9C 2B2
penneys@bell.net

Thursday 20 November 2014

Dear BCSFen:

We've just had our first massive snowstorm of the season (and it's not even winter yet), which, I guess, gives everything a Christmassy look. Time to stay inside, warm up, and have a look at *BCSFazine* 498.

Gamergate, or Lamergate, can dry up and blow away. This tempest in a teapot has seriously disrupted the lives of Frank and Brianna Wu, who deserve a great Christmas to at least try to make up for death threats at the hands of overgrown children.



Greetings to Sheryl Birkhead, and thank you for your good wishes. We're trying our best to stay fully employed, and with our experience and greatly improved resumes, I think we can do it. I hope you are enjoying the *Murdoch Mysteries* archive online. If you get the Ovation channel, they are broadcasting the episodes, but under the title *The Artful Detective*.

I think we all know the horrible news about Spider Robinson's daughter Terri succumbing to cancer. Not fair...how much pain is one man supposed to take? I hope there's been someone to help him take the pain away, as least as much as can be done. If you see this, Spider, know that you have many people who'd hug the stuffins' out of you if you'd let them, and share your burden with them.

Everyone take care, and Yvonne and I wish you all a joyous Christmas, happy New Year, peaceful Hanunkkah...whatever you celebrate, have fun, and see you in that SFnal year of 2015.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

"THE REVENGE OF BRUTICUS"
"HOT RODDING TEENAGERS FROM DIMENSION X"
"THE CASE OF C.O.P.S. FILE #1"

John Purcell
j_purcell154@yahoo.com

Saturday 6 December 2014

Hey, Felicity, two more issues and this zine hits #500! Dang, that's a long time for a clubzine to be running. In advance, allow me to wish you and the BCSFA group a happy fanzine birthday!

Dave Haren's LOC covers a lot of territory, and I found his comments and links to those old movies quite interesting; they are definitely worth checking out. I like the concept behind the NSFPrudes name, and a quick perusal of that Twitter page shows why it is Not Safe For pretty much anything. Uh, thanks, Dave...I think.

Sheryl Birkhead's LOC reminded me to check out the *Murdock Mysteries* online. I keep meaning to do that, but time keeps on slipping, slipping, into the future. Or slip-sliding away. Not only that, but time won't let me do the thing I want to do, even if I consider that time is on my side. I'd be better off putting time in a bottle, especially if time keeps flowing like a river to the sea.

That's enough of that. Moving on, citizens:

Hey, Lloyd Penney! I have a smart phone, too, and definitely think that it's way smarter than me. There are apps on this fershlugginer little device that I will never use because I don't need them, but there are quite a few that I do use on a regular basis. Thing is, these buggers are damned distracting. On the other hand, they do come in handy for checking bank account balances, doing a quick computation, getting ahold of someone if urgently needed—that sort of thing. Technology can be your friend if you're careful with it. It can also swamp you with its distracting siren call of mindless entertainment. That reminds me: I need to check Facebook real quick. Be right back.

Okay, I'm back.

I think this might be a good place to stop. There is a stack of graded quizzes and papers to enter into my classes' gradebooks, so I'd better get onto those then grab a batch of essays to read through today. A college professor's work is never-ending as finals week approaches. Take care, and I look forward to seeing that 500th issue in a couple months.

[*Optimistically.* ☺]

All the best,
John Purcell

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Wednesday 17 December 2014

Hello again BCSFAns!

Well, I finished my NaNoWriMo book in November, and now it lurks on my hard drive, waiting for me to edit, proofread, and discipline it. I find the editing process very dispiriting, so I am going to let the story lay fallow for a bit before tackling it and wrestling it to the ground in January.

And speaking of my novels, I finally took the plunge and put last year's novel up on Amazon in eBook format. The book is called *The Scrambled Man*, and it's about a world where teleportation is as common as air travel. One day, a thoroughly randomized corpse materializes on a teleport pad, and it's up to Adam Eden, the

world's first genetically perfect man, and his team of investigators to figure out what happened to... *The Scrambled Man*.

If you would like to try it on your Kindle, the URL is: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00QJITGOI>

[Please sell me a print copy when they become available.]

Re: Erotic Mad Science:

I am *so there!* Anything with that name has to be awesome. Thanks for the tip, Dave!

Re: Goddamn fucking Gamergate:

Just a big juicy swollen impaction of the body Internet, finally lanced. These kinds of things are a nightmare to experience, especially for those of us of a more moderate and thoughtful nature, but my dearest hope is that while the process is ugly as hell, it does provide a kind of emotional release for the tensions of the day, as well as providing, somewhere in the fray, some actually useful debate on topics that need to be addressed.

The Internet provides both unprecedented opportunities for consequence-free conflict and the building of fortified enclaves of thought from which to attack. Thus the growing zeitgeist is born covered in blood and screaming, as were we all.

Re: The Virgin Galactic disaster:

Historically, the space program has cost lives. We like to think we can prevent that with all we know now, but breaking new ground always brings unpredictable risks. I am glad that, this time, nobody is seriously suggesting the whole thing isn't worth it.

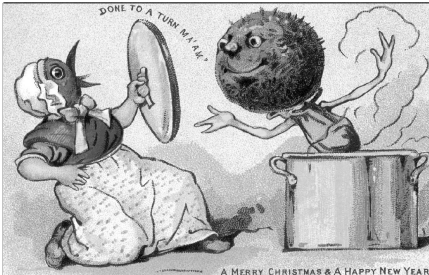
Well that's all for me for this month. I will talk to all you nice people again in the next issue!

Oh, and remember, as always, my blog is at <http://michaeljohnbertrand.com>.

Brent Francis

b-francis@sympatico.ca

Tuesday 23 December 2014



(When plum puddings go bad...actual Victorian Christmas card @ 1850)

Happy holidays!!!

Hi folks!

Here's to a nice relaxing time off and a good year in 2015!

Brent Francis

[Caption at left by Brent.]

We Also Heard From: Garth Spencer.

RANDOM NOSTALGIA
"DOONESBURY" P.D.A. EDITION

"HELL JARS, HOWARD YOYO?"

"LUNCH WITH DLOP AT BURGER KLING!"

"SIAM FIGHTING ATOMIC SENTRY!"

"IAN IS RIDING A TASTE SENSATION!"

"I'VE GOT A ONE O'CLOCK WITH BDIPPL AT CAFE FWIBLOB!"

Calendar

Note to print readers: underlined events have an associated URL. Links are included in the PDF version at <http://www.efanzines.com/BCSFA/>.—Julian Castle

Recurring

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2014 and 5, 12, 19, and 26 January 2015 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Painting miniatures can be fun, challenging, and sometimes even outrageous. Feel free to come by the store to paint, share tips, or maybe even learn a thing or two about the craft, may artform, that is miniatures painting. There are some paints available to use, and brushes, as well as primer. War-machine figures will likely be the name of the game for most, but anything is welcome.”—Keith Lim

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2014 and 5, 12, 19, and 26 January 2015 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. [*See Vancouver Hack Space Open House for more VHS details.*]—Julian Castle

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2014 and 6, 13, 20, and 27 January 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Feel free to come by anytime from 5 PM to about 10 PM to play a game or two. There are hundreds of open games for playing, or feel free to bring your own. Parking out front is a buck thirty-five an hour (free after 6 PM), or there is a parkade a block away (buck an hour), across Columbia and down by the river. We are located two blocks northeast of the New Westminster SkyTrain Station, at Columbia and Begbie. There is a Waves coffee shop in the same building. Go uphill on Begbie to Clarkson, and the store is to the right. Tuesday is also the Buck a Slice special feature at Fresh Slice Pizza just down the street. Have a good day.—Kirby”—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2014 and 6, 13, 20, and 27 January 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue (new location as of May 2013), Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. “Bring your ideas, projects, kits, art, music, robots, etc. down for some good times with good people.” VHS mission is “to provide a common workspace where its members, hackers, makers, crafters and otherwise (technically) creative people could work on projects and find like-minded people, in sharing knowledge and ideas.” “There are stairs down to the space from the back alley and a wheelchair-accessible level loading bay entrance from the street, although someone has to have opened the space through the stairs before the loading bay is available.” Parking is available outside the space. Bikes can be brought inside the front door. No membership required. Admission is by donation.—Julian Castle

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2014 and 6, 13, 20, and 27 January 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!, 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. “The Fictionals are serving up kickass comedy every Tuesday night at Café Deux Soleils! Everything onstage is made up based on your suggestions, so come down and help us create a hilarious show ‘guaranteed to tickle your funny bone’ (*The Georgia Straight*). Short form classics, long form insanity, special themes and special guests. Remember: only the laughs are real. Home of Vancouver Improv Fight Club! Tickets: \$7 at the door. Doors @ 7:30 PM. Show @ 8 PM. More info at <http://thefictionals.com/>. Twitter: @TheFictionals. Instagram: @thefictionals.”—The Fictionals Comedy Co.

3, 17, and 31 December 2014 and 14 and 28 January 2015 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Wednesday is the new Monday! And by that I mean, we’re switching our every-other-week, weeknight games to Wednesdays, so that I can actually attend! Also popular opinion (i.e. I asked a couple of people) seems to agree—Wednesdays are superior. Some come on down to Cuppa Joy, grab a pint and a samosa, and play some *board games!* *Wednesday Wednesday Wednesday!*!”—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 December 2014 and 7, 14, 21, and 28 January 2015 (*Wednesdays*): Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meeting, 7:30–11:30 PM at top floor of Memorial South Park’s fieldhouse, located inside the park at 5955 Ross Street (at 41st Avenue), Vancouver. “The Cloudscape Comics Society is a community of comic creators in Vancouver, BC who together publish and distribute quality graphic novel anthologies, as well as host comic workshops and other related events. Here enterprising comic artists come together to network, develop their ideas, and help each other perfect their craft.” “Everyone is welcome to attend” the weekly meeting on Wednesdays.—Keith Lim/Julian Castle

4, 11, 18, and 25 December 2014 and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 January 2015 (*Thursdays*): Thursday Hobby Build Nights, 6–9 PM at Ages Three and Up Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby. “Is your backlog looking rather full? Are un-built kits starting to stack up in your room? Bring your kits, tools and Gundam knowledge and come on down for three hours of quality build time. Share what you’re working on, ask for some help or just argue about if Kamille is a really a girl’s name (it is). Hobby nights are informal and fun ways to network and learn more about the gunpla community!”—A3U Gundam

4 and 18 December 2014 and 1, 15, and 29 January 2015 (*alternate Thursdays*): “Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers’ Group meets alternate Thursdays 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library (program room) or Connections lounge. Open to new members, mainly sci-fi/fantasy or what have you. Contact Allan @ (604) 946-2427 or email lowson@dccnet.com for details.”—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2014 and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 January 2015 (*Fridays*): *Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games*, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “Tonight is the night for *Magic: The Gathering* here at Imperial Hobbies! Drop by and play in a casual open setting with a group of great people, or learn one on one how to play with one of our staff. Contact: [Stephanie](#).”

5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2014 and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 January 2015 (*Fridays*): *Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic*, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. Open gaming; seven to eight tables. “For Friday Night *Magic* we will be running a limited Draft FNM. Cost is three booster packs plus \$2, starting at 6:30 PM. Also feel free to come by for some casual *Magic: The Gathering* from 6–9 PM. Feel free to use the house decks if you just want to try out the game. Don’t forget to check out [our Facebook page](#).”—[Keith Lim](#)

5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2014 and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 January 2015 (*Fridays*): *Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games*, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue (½ block west of MacDonald Street), Vancouver. “In our stores, it’s *open gaming* any time we’re open, so stop in with a friend and try a game! Both of our locations have 7–8 tables and plenty of seating. Space may be limited during tournaments—scheduled events take precedence over open gaming tables. We have about 100 open board games for playing in the store. Playing is *free* except for some tournaments.”—[Keith Lim](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 December 2014 and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 January 2015 (*Saturdays*): *Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming*, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come in any-time on Saturday afternoon until 7 PM and play any of the many open games there are here at the store.—Kirby”—[Keith Lim](#)

7, 14, 21, and 28 December 2014 and 4, 11, 18, and 25 January 2015 (*Sundays*): *Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays*, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Sunday afternoons: they are made for relaxing, cups of warming beverage, and most especially board games. Thus, *Sunday board games!* Cuppa Joy’s large tables, usually unoccupied space and laid-back attitude suits this purpose perfectly. Bring board games, friends, and of course your lovely selves! If anyone has any board game requests, feel free to post them in the comments and I will try to accommodate. You can also post less specific requests (e.g. ‘games that take eight players,’ ‘games that don’t involve math,’ ‘games about farming’) and I’ll see what I can do. Happy Sunday!”—[Keith Lim](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 December 2014 and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 January 2015 (*Saturdays*): *Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub*, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey. “Jam every Saturday night at the Brownsville Pub in North Surrey.”—[Greg Cairns](#)

9 December 2014 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby. “BC’s original model car club since 1982. For more information visit us at <http://vancouvermodelcars.ca/> or call Gerry Chevalier 604-599-8213 or Jim Ervin 604-420-3768.”

9 December 2014 and 13 January 2015 (*second Tuesday*): Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch, 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—Large Private Room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver. “Second Tuesday of every month. In the Victorian tradition of conversation in coffee houses, this casual monthly event is open to everyone who wants to just get together and meet up with other local steampunks. Whether you’re new to steampunk or well-seasoned, young or old, silly or serious, please feel free to drop by. We can discuss whatever folks want, plan nefarious plots, or just relax, hang out, and get to chat with one another. Costumes welcome but not required—dress as you feel comfortable! I will be at least steamily accessorized, since I have to work immediately beforehand. The only requirement for us to have this space is that everyone should purchase something at the coffee house. They offer teas, coffee, hot chocolate, and various cold beverages, as well as some baked goods.”—Keith Lim

9 December 2014 and 16 January 2015 (*third Friday*): IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, Second Floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. “Club meetings are held on the third Friday of every month (with very few exceptions such as if the third Friday falls on Good Friday or is too close to Christmas—check schedule). Doors open at 7 PM. Meetings officially run from 7:30–9:30 PM.”—Keith Lim

11 December 2014 and 8 January 2015 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford. “Meetings held second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM from September to June (July & August have no meetings—summer break).”—Keith Lim

11 December 2014 and 8 January 2015 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*] “Second Thursday of every month. This is the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Vancouver monthly meeting and is shared with the general public at no charge. Please be advised that RASC Vancouver’s monthly lectures will be held at different locations. The location of each meeting will be posted in advance, along with details of the speaker and topic. We meet at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month, with astro-coffee, cookies, and juice served after the presentation. Please join us for interesting and informative lectures on all aspects of astronomy and space-science, along with stimulating conversations!”—Keith Lim

20 December 2014 and 17 January 2015 (*third Saturday*): Vancouver Comic Jam, 8 PM–late (sometimes ends when Wallflower closes at 1 AM) at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2420 Main Street, Vancouver. “The Vancouver Comic Jam is generally held the third Saturday of the month. In cases of long weekends or other conflicting dates, the jam may move to the second or fourth Saturday. For up to date in-

formation, [join the VCJ Facebook group](#) or [follow us on Twitter](#). *Who can come?:* Anyone who is of legal drinking age is invited. *How much?:* No admission fee. There is a \$5 minimum purchase per person required by the Wallflower. They provide their full menu to order from and alcohol galore: beer, wine, highballs and shots. *There will be a gratuity of 18–20% added to all bills because we are a large group.* Bring your own pencils/pens. Paper is provided. If you're drawing with markers that bleed through paper, be sure to either bring a drawing surface or place extra sheets of paper under the paper you're drawing on."—[Keith Lim](#)

21 December 2014 and 18 January 2015 (*third Sunday*): [Board Game Swap Meetup](#), 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. "Every third Sunday of the month a swap meet will be held where gamers can sell or trade any board games they would like to get rid of. RSVP for the event and you can list what you are looking to sell, or what you would like in trade. Use the message board to propose trades or list items for sale. Board Game Warriors can be a neutral site for meeting and doing transactions during store hours."—[Keith Lim](#)

27 December 2014 and 31 January 2015 (*last Saturday*): [Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming](#), 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. "Hello. Feel free to come by anytime on Saturday from noon until midnight and play any of the many open games there are here at the store. The event is perfect for any of those more epic games we have at the store that you've been wanting to try or for any you might own but can rarely find the time/space/players to accommodate. Besides a couple of local coffee joints, there are a bevy of nearby eating establishments, and we will probably order some supper at around 6 PM. Hope to see you there.—Kirby & Critten"—[Keith Lim](#)

Already in Progress

22 October 2014–30 March 2015: Call for submissions for seventh annual [Carded!](#) (one-night show of art on trading cards). Art deadline Monday 30 March at noon. "We are open to all styles of art, photography and design. You can submit art created digitally, provide us with a photo of your work, or give us an original piece to scan (no larger than 8.5"x11")... We only accept one submission per artist... If you're one of the 50 artists chosen, you'll receive 20 copies of your trading card." More details at <http://hotartcard.com/how-to-submit/>.—[Julian Castle](#)

December 2014

4 December 2014: [Drop-In Drawing for Adults](#), 6–9 PM at Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond. "Free. For ages 16+. Draw inspiration from original works of art! This program is a social time for adults to experiment and create artworks in the Gallery. Some instructions are provided, and you are welcome to draw, collage, and sketch whatever you like. All artistic skill levels are welcome! Some materials are provided, but feel free to bring your own collage and drawing materials. Drop-in for a quick sketch, or stay for the whole

three hours. For more information: phone 604-247-8312; e-mail gallery@richmond.ca; website: <http://www.richmondartgallery.org/>.”

5 December 2014: Day of the Ninja. Premiere of films *The Pyramid* (horror) and *Comet* (SF/romance/comedy; Justin Long).

6 December 2014: Elite Canadian Championship Wrestling Payoff, 7:30 PM at Russian Community Centre, 2114 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver. “*Grudge match*: ‘Supernatural’ Nelson Creed vs. Artemis Spencer. *ECCW Tag Team Championship, triple threat match*: DTA (Jordie Taylor & Daniel Adonis) (champions) vs. the Cunninghams (Jack & Carl) (challengers) vs. Scotty Mac & Shreddz (challengers). *ECCW Women’s Championship (vacant), semi-final tournament match*: Jaida vs. Kate Carney. *Blindfold match*: the Natural vs. ‘The Loose Cannon’ Kenny Lush. Brady Malibu vs. ‘Brilliant’ Billy Suede. And much more! Front row \$20, general \$16. Doors @ 7:30 PM, bell @8 PM. Join us after the show! Food, drinks, karaoke. 395 Kingsway, Vancouver.”

6–7 December 2014: Imaginarium Fantasticus IV—Game of Gnomes, 12–6 PM at International Village Mall—Tinseltown, 88 West Pender Street, Vancouver. “Alison Spokes—Ethereal Earth Fantasy Art will be participating. [...] This is a fantasy-themed Christmas craft fair [...] a fanciful festival affair, with *fun* entertainment, dressed up vendors with over-the-top displays, Christmas decorations and bright lights in the background and of course, plenty of gnomes. We have a great line-up of free entertainment for all ages! The world’s *tallest* gnomes will be on hand to give free balloons to kids. Visit the ‘Medieval Village Highlights’ interactive visual exhibit in the center court, and learn what life was like in Medieval times. Stroll through Gnome Forest for ‘Game of Gnomes’ photo-stand-ins. Shop from BC’s fine local merchants, including the lovely boutique shops of International Village Mall. Visit the fantasy-themed ArtWalk, featuring local artists. Thrill to live swordplay demos. Enjoy fantasy-comedy video shorts on a big screen! Get a reading from Wizard of Runes Richard Hanson—the \$7 rune readings are a fund raiser, with every penny going to the BCSPCA! Bring the family, dress up, enjoy a step outside the typical and embrace the magic of Imaginarium Fantasticus. Free admission—free two-hour parking in the mall parkade off Abbot Street.”

7 December 2014: Letter Writing Day.

7 December 2014: Vancouver Anime Conventions Society Presents Akimatsuri at UBC Robson Square. “Join us for the holiday season in downtown Vancouver with a day of Japanese festival traditions, games, and anime!”

11 December 2014: Vanpla 2014 December Build Night, 6–9 PM at 木: Ki Tea House Cafe, #105–6888 Royal Oak Avenue, Burnaby and at Ages Three and Up, #226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby. “Join us for a gunpla evening at Vanpla Build Night. Whether you are new to the hobby or veteran modeler, drop by and build in a casual open setting with a group of fun people.”

13 December 2014: Collectibles Fair and Computer Swap Meet, 11 AM–4 PM at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. [See *description for 8 November 2014*.] “Free comic to the first 100 guests! Lots of Christmas gift ideas!”

13 December 2014: Vanpla 2014 December Build Night, 6–9 PM at Metropolis Comics and Toys, 4735 Kingsway, Burnaby, and Sakura Media, 4700 Kingsway, Burnaby.

13 December 2014: All Star Wrestling Bodyslams for Toys, 8 PM at Cloverdale Fairgrounds, 6050 176 Street, Surrey. “Benefitting the Surrey Christmas Bureau. Admission is the donation of one toy with a value of \$10 or more.”

13 December 2014: Elite Canadian Championship Wrestling: Wrestling with Hunger, 7:30 PM at Elks Hall #49, 2272 Leigh Square, Port Coquitlam. “Tony Baroni, Sid Sylum, and hometown hero Nicole Matthews will be *Wrestling with Hunger* to support SHARE Food Bank and Blanket BC. [...] ECCW is holding their sixth annual *Wrestling with Hunger* event [...] Fans are encouraged to donate food, new toys, blankets and warm clothes, and cash. Everyone donating has a chance to win some great prizes donated by local businesses. This is a family-friendly event and typically attended by lots of children. General admission seats are \$16. Doors open at 7:30 PM and the show begins at 8 PM. \$1 of every ticket sold will be donated to SHARE.”

16 December 2014: Vanpla 2014 December Build Night, 6–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

17 December 2014: **Neil O’Brien**’s birthday.

18 December 2014: **Fran Skene**’s birthday.

18 December 2014: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 5:30–8:30 PM at Ladner Pioneer Library, 4683 51st Street, Delta. “Do you love to play board games? Are you between 12 and 19 years old? Then come to the library for a fun night of gaming and free pizza. Food and games compliments of Imperial Hobbies. Registration is required. Phone (604) 946-6215 Contact: Chris.”

19 December 2014: **Yvonne Penney** and **Terry Wyatt**’s birthdays. Premiere of films *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* (fantasy; Benedict Cumberbatch, Cate Blanchett, Orlando Bloom, Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Christopher Lee, Hugo Weaving, Stephen Fry, Billy Connolly, Ian Holm, Stephen Colbert, Sylvester McCoy) and *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb* (fantasy/comedy; Robin Williams, Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Ben Kingsley, Rebel Wilson, Dick van Dyke, Steve Coogan, Ricky Gervais, Mickey Rooney).

20 December 2014: Vanpla December Workshop and Christmas Party, 1–9 PM at 2553 Stoney Creek Place, Burnaby. “Gunpla + Christmas + potluck + gift swap +

fun = Vanpla Christmas Party & Demember Workshop!!! Remember all the fun we had last year? Well, this year's event will be held at Dojo 2.0, AKA Granada. Everyone is welcome to join. You can come for the usual monthly workshop activities or stay for the potluck dinner. This is also a good opportunity to check out the Dojo and see what Vanpla is all about. Meeting: 1–5 PM. Swap meet: 3–9 PM. Potluck: 6–9 PM.”

26 December 2014: **Chris Sturges**' birthday.

26 December 2014: The Charlesworths' Neighbourhood Boxing Day Party, 6 PM at 39 Ruskin Avenue, Toronto. “Come celebrate the end of crazy holiday crowds, and shopping extravaganzas, with egg nog, and nibbles!”—Adam Charlesworth

26–31 December 2014: Boxing Week Sale! at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

January 2015

1 January 2015: **Jens Haeusser** and **Marlon Richmond**'s birthdays.

2 January 2015: Premiere of film *The Woman in Black 2—Angel of Death* (horror).

4 January 2015: Trivia Day.

4 January 2015: PodMash!, 6:30 PM at Skinny Fat Jack's, 3475 Main Street (back alley), Vancouver. “Three of Vancouver's favourite comedy podcasts, Sneaky Dragon, Dazed & Convicted, and Science Us! all doing their shows live! How much? Free! How long? One hour! How many bathrooms? Two! Seating starts at 6:30, show starts 7 PM sharp!”—Ian Boothby

5 January 2015: **Garth Spencer**'s birthday. Gotham resumes on CTV—Gotham City before Batman.—Julian Castle

5–30 January 2015: Rubberman's Cage Official Virtual Book Tour, 12 AM (Monday 5 January) to 3 AM (Friday 30 January) at Internet. Tour signups: <http://goo.gl/forms/JOmfBs734j>.—Joseph Picard

6 January 2015: **Eileen Kernaghan**'s birthday.

8 January 2015: **Ursula Hitler**'s birthday.

9 January 2015: **Steve Fahnstalk**'s birthday.

10 January, 14 February, and 14 March 2015: Teen Manga and Anime Group (former name Teen Manga Advisory Group), 3:30–5:30 PM at Harvey Southam Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. “Do you like manga and anime?... We meet the second Saturday

of each month for two hours of discussion, viewing, and activities!” For ages 13–18. Language: English. For more info phone VPL Teen Services: 604-331-3690. Free.—Julian Castle

16 January 2015: Premiere of film *Paddington* (fantasy; Nicole Kidman, Michael Gambon, Peter Capaldi, Imelda Staunton, Jim Broadbent, Julie Walters, Matt Lucas). *Constantine* (occult detective) resumes on Global—based on Vertigo comic.—Julian Castle

19 January 2015: **Stewart Smyth**'s birthday. Series premiere of *The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore* (news comedy) on Comedy Network.—Julian Castle

20 January 2015: **Nancy Kress**'s birthday.

23 January 2015: National Handwriting Day.

23 January 2015: All Star Wrestling New Year's Resolutions, 8 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. “*Former WWE star Jinder Mahal vs. Travis Sionys*—straight from the WWE Jinder Mahal is taking on all comers! Travis ‘The Maverick’ Sionys is out to prove he is simple the best. Where there is a will Travis says there is a way. The Maverick way! *Azeem the Dream vs. Mr. India*—winner to be declared the Adam Firestorm Champion. These two men hit the ground at the same time at the Adam Firestorm Memorial show and there was no clear winner! Well on this night there will be two walking in and one leaving victorious. Who will be the Firestorm V Champion? *The Great Kasaki vs. Fabulous Fabio*—teacher vs. student. Fabio is a staple of the sport in the Pacific Northwest. He has held every title there is. The only person he hasn't defeated is his prize pupil the Great Kasaki! Kasaki has been in All Star Wrestling for the last 10 years. He has been pillar to post with the rest. Now he goes one on one with his teacher. This is a educational encounter. *Ladies' wrestling: Bambi Hall vs. Vixxen*—The second generation second runner up in the *PWI* Rookie of the Year Bambi Hall will be facing the knock-out Vixxen. Not only a 10 on the beauty scale but a 10 on the knock me out scale! *The Breakers vs. Johnny Obsession & Christopher Ryseck*—Breakers have beaten almost every team they have faced in the square circle. Not only are their antics strange and unusual their manager keeps them guessing what he wants next. Team USA has not been challenged yet in Vancouver and demand they get the best. I think they just might have bit off more then they can chew! *Don Ciever vs. Hurricane Adam Ryder*—Team USA member Don Ciever is a man who has a plan. His plan is to become one of the best. Hurricane Adam Ryder is on a hot streak like no other. He has concurred the opposition in every meeting and now wants to make his stalk even better than before! *Flexx Payne vs. Toga Boy*—the man who likes to party, the Toga Boy, is on a mission to prove why you always have to fight for your rite to party. Unfortunately he is facing the 270 lb Flexx Payne. He is a new addition to ASW but he wants to make his name known. In other words he will fight for his rite to inflict Payne! Tickets available at: <http://allstar-wrestling.com/>, 604-710-0872, or at Bruce Guitars, 434 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, 604-428-9118. Meet the wrestlers

after the show at Hudson's Landing Pub, 1041 Southwest Marine Drive, Vancouver."—Michelle Starr via Verne Siebert

24 January 2015: Sugar, Spice, and Everything Dice, 7 PM at Club 560, 560 Seymour Street, Vancouver. "Brain Teasers is here to tantalize your brain cells with a variety of entertainment. Our debut show will bring you into a fantasy world with host and dungeon master Eric Fell and his adventuring team from the *The Critical Hit Show: A Live Dungeons & Dragons Comedy Experience!* On our journey we'll witness performances of all kinds from music, comedy, dancing, drag, and more with our exciting list of guests: Valynne Vile, Miss Dee Twenty, Joanna Gaskell, Sherry Hymen, Barbara Kozicki, Sasja Vice, Ian Boothby, and Dezi [*Desire*]: cosplayer/nerdlesque showgirl. The show itself is only half the fun as our venue is set up with sitting areas full of tables with games, a photobooth, merch tables, and a dance floor. Contests, costumes, an array of options for any range of social interaction you want on a night out. 19+! \$10 at the door! Doors at 7 PM, show at 8 PM! Wheelchair accessible! Gender neutral washrooms!"—Ian Boothby

25 January 2015: **Ryan Hawe** and **Isaac Terpstra**'s birthdays.

26 January 2015: **Paul Carpentier**'s birthday.

30 January 2015: Premiere of film *Project Almanac* (SF).

30 January 2015: All Star Wrestling @ Sechelt, 8 PM at Sechelt Indian Band Community Hall, 5555 Sunshine Coast Highway, Sechelt. "Former WWE superstar Jinder Mahal vs. Azeem the Dream. Girls Gone Wrestling: Bambi Hall vs. Vixxen. ASW Cruiserweight Title: Matt XStatic vs. The Great Kasaki. Disco Fury vs. Flexx. Tickets on sale soon. \$20 front row; general admission \$15 adults and \$10 kids."

30–31 January 2015: Portal 2: The (Unauthorized) Musical, 7 PM at [no location given—*Rio Theatre (1660 East Broadway, Vancouver)?*]. "Geekenders with the Rio Theatre present: *Portal 2: The (Unauthorized) Musical—A Black Comedy About Science, Family, and Space*. [...] Doors at 7 PM. Show promptly at 8 PM. All ages welcome!!! Tickets: \$20 pre-sale general admission ticket. \$25 at the door. Get your tickets in advance to guarantee entry! Tickets on sale at <https://riotheatretickets.ca/>. In the distant future, in a far off laboratory standing silent and long abandoned, we meet Chell. She has been asleep for a long time. When she's awoken by a chatty, British, blue-eyed robot, she finds herself in a facility that is overgrown and falling apart. Together, the two attempt an escape, inadvertently stirring...something. Aperture is back. For science. You monster. Featuring a cast of fourteen of Geekenders' favourite performers, the theatre troupe called a 'cult sensation' by Vancity Buzz is pulling out all the stops to ensure a joyful, memorable night for geeks of all types. [...]"—Geekenders via April Clarke

30 January–1 February 2015: Conflikt 8 (filk convention) in Seattle, WA. Guest of Honour: Cecilia Eng. Interfilk Guest: Toyboat. Toastmaster: Alexander James Adams. Hotel: Hilton—SeaTac International Airport, 17620 International Boule-

vard, Seattle, Washington. 206-244-4800. Hotel rates for con members (group code “CON8”): 1 person \$106/ + tax; 2–4 people \$111/day + tax. A room includes \$5/day self-parking. Members without a room \$10/day self-parking. (Normal self-parking is \$21/day.) Pre-registration rates until mid-January: \$55 weekend; free for children 12 & under; \$25 supporting (non-attending) membership includes songbook/CD; \$40 lunch ticket (includes CD); \$25 child lunch ticket (age 4–12, no CD).—Julian Castle

31 January 2015: All Star Wrestling @ Cloverdale, 8 PM at Cloverdale Fairgrounds, 6050 176 Street, Surrey. “ASW Tag Team Titles: Jinder Mahal & Gama Singh Jr. (Champions) vs. Travis Sionys & Nick Price. TKO Cody Smith vs. Jorel Nelson. Information: 604-710-0872. \$20 front row and \$15 adult general admission; \$10 kids general admission.”

News-Like Matter

Notes from November 2014 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (chairman/archivist), Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, Doug Finnerty, William Graham, Stewart Smyth, and Sidney Trim.

Ray said that one of his stand-up comedy course classmates collapsed in his car.

Ray was wearing a T-shirt with a mecha on it. I asked what it was and he said “It’s from *Avatar*.”⁸ I misheard “It’s from *Abbattoir*.”



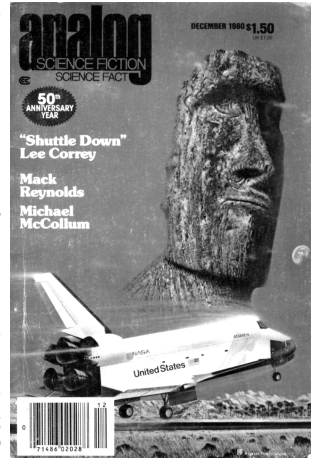
Inspired by Graeme’s latest zine about archeology, I had two things to show Graeme. The first was the September 2014 issue of *National Geographic* with its cover story “Rethinking Nero.” Graeme said that he toured Nero’s Golden House in Rome when he was 18. He has a photo of himself in the circular room. The Golden House had been more or less restored but was underground and still dangerous, so it was closed to the public soon after that, and apparently with good reason—part of the roof then collapsed.

The second thing was in the December 1980 issue *Analog*. In the book review column (“The Reference Library”), Spider Robinson reviewed Will Cuppy’s *The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody* (1949). Graeme said that he has that book! Graeme added that Cuppy named his house in an inaccessible part of Long Island “Tottering on the Brink,” and that Robinson named his house after Cuppy’s house. Graeme noted the synchronicity of Nero showing up in the *National Geographic* article and *Analog* review.

8 (2009).

There was also a review of a book by David Bischoff. Graeme said that he has one of Bischoff's books, and finds Bischoff to be a fun if minor writer. Graeme added that he's loyal to authors in that if he finds an author he likes he will keep buying every book by that author until he finds one he doesn't like. He doesn't buy anthologies unless all the stories are by the same author. I suggested *The Early Asimov* (1972). Graeme has that book too. (I used to have a copy, in my favourite printing—the 1986 Del Rey edition—but have since misplaced it.)

Julian had news for “Choose Your Own Adventure” fans: Neil Patrick Harris has done a “Choose Your Own Adventure” autobiography!⁹ Stew announced that the actress who played Mrs. Wolowitz on *The Big Bang Theory* (2007) has passed away.¹⁰ Graeme said that he identifies with Sheldon Cooper insofar as Sheldon is perplexed by ordinary things. Ray said that Jerry Seinfeld has Asperger's Syndrome. I wondered if that helped his observational comedy by providing an outsider's perspective, as with Montesquieu's Indian. Joe said “*Persian Letters*”¹¹—it turns out I had confused Voltaire's Indian¹² with Montesquieu's Persians. Someone (Kathleen?) replied: “The ‘man from Mars’ literary device.” Someone said that satirists noticed that travelogues are great for social commentary. Graeme said that when Commodore Matthew Perry opened up Japan, the Japanese sent a commission to Europe and America and their published observations included some fascinating stuff.



Ask about our stuffed crust!

jump too hard or they'd achieve escape velocity, get caught by Jupiter's gravity, and fall into Jupiter. Sid reassured me that if the volcanic eruptions on Io don't escape, a leaping man wouldn't either. Graeme said he wouldn't want to be standing on it when it erupted, adding that some scientists nickname it “the pizza moon” because of its colouring.

9 Titled *Choose Your Own Autobiography* (2014), of all things.—Future Felicity

10 Carol Ann Susi (1952–2014).—Future Felicity

11 (1721).—Future Felicity

12 *The Huron* (1767).—Future Felicity

Sid said something about the British nuclear weapon and nuclear power programs, and the Sellafield meltdown of 1957.¹³ He said they finally put out the fire by turning off its air supply.



Ray alerted us to his next Stand Up for Mental Health performance, 30 November 2014 at Yuk Yuk's, and sold us some tickets.¹⁴

In *Doctor Who* news Ray said that he was at a meeting at the West End Community Centre on 1 November 2014 with a group of fans¹⁵ who want to start a local *Doctor Who* convention like the ones from previous decades, such as Who Party West.

It would happen in either late 2015, or 2016. Ray said they need a good name for it, like “Vanwhoever.” Ray added that these fans had past conrunning experience, including media rooms at VCON. If there is a convention, Ray would like to volunteer to run hospitality. The group's next meeting will be sometime in January.

I showed *Circle of Ice* (1980), which was a digest-sized pamphlet I'd picked up at White Dwarf Books. Kathleen, cleverly reading the inside front cover, said it was a Pocket Adventure for the *Tunnels & Trolls* role-playing system, and that it's not a standalone game; you need the *T&T* rulebook.

Graeme asked if everyone voted in the municipal elections. I showed him my “I Voted” sticker. Graeme said he voted for 15 people and they all got in! I had a similar experience except that one of my choices, a rookie politi-

CIRCLE
OF
ICE

cian who spoke up for LGBT rights in his blurb in the voting guide, came in last. Joe & Julian said they'd voted for him too. Ray said “We [*New Westminster*] threw the mayor out.” Graeme said that the that a former mayor of Surrey tried to get back in but he failed, which is fine because in his campaign literature he had lied about his past history of cleaning up crime in Whalley.

Ray said that the model train society¹⁶ was mistreated by its venue, the Cameron Recreation Complex in Burnaby, who knew the train people needed four hours to set up for the National Model



13 The Windscale fire (10 October 1957).—Future Felicity

14 It turned out to be his graduation performance in the course!—Future Felicity

15 Vancouver Doctor Who Convention. [Wordpress](#). [Facebook](#). Two of the group are Bob Furnell and Bonnie Gale, whom I remember from the Telefantasy Appreciation Society of Canada (TASC) way back in the early 1990s.—Future Felicity

16 Presumably the West Coast Railway Association.—Future Felicity

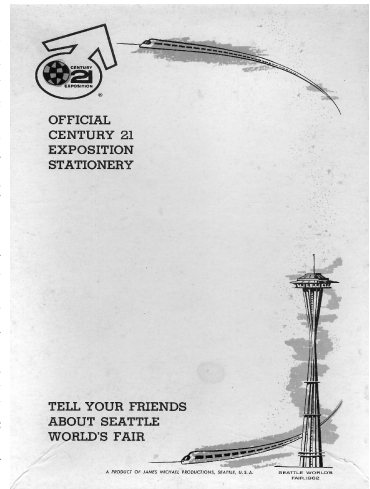
Railroad Association annual model train show, and only gave them three hours because of a provincial exhibitional basketball tournament, which ran into the train event's time.

Stew remembered a TV show called *Street Sense* that interviewed people on the street about basic historical knowledge, like “When was World War II?” The one girl who got every question right was a 22-year-old Hooters waitress from Vancouver! That’s when we realized Stew wasn’t talking about *Street Cents* (1989), the Canadian children’s consumer advocacy show featuring a young, unknown Jonathan Torrens. Stew remembered one girl correcting her mother about Canada: “They don’t have states, they have provinces.” That reminded me of the *X-Files* (1993) episode with a location awkwardly subtitled “Alberta Province,” as if it were an American state, like “Washington State.” Joe said that episode was “Provenance” (3 March 2002).

I asked Julian how many paper zine editors there were in Vancouver. Julian asked if arty zines that cost seven or eight dollars counted. I said no. Julian guessed in that case that there are about two dozen local paper zine editors. I asked if that would be enough to start a club or meetup. Julian recommended making it quarterly, if so.

Ray said that a bridge’s funding was pulled because it was not a highway. I asked whatever happened to the monorail funding in Seattle—was the track still going to be extended? Ray said that they decided it was too expensive and would invest in light (i.e. street) rail instead. I remembered an episode of *Frasier* (1992) where he got trapped on the monorail¹⁷—especially bad luck considering how short the route is! Graeme said it’s about one kilometre. Graeme first read about the monorail in *National Geographic* and imagined it running through the city, but in reality it was just a ride at the World’s Fair. When Graeme did get to ride it, he decided to enjoy it as if it were the monorail he envisioned.

Julian brought the Ray Bradbury *Martian Chronicles* graphic novel adaptation, and said that the introduction by Bradbury contained two inspirational stories. The first is that when Bradbury found he couldn’t sell his short stories, Doubleday editor Walter Bradbury (no relation) told him to collect the Mars stories into a “novel.” It worked. The second story was that having gotten the book published, he couldn’t get anyone to review it, but saw author Christopher Isherwood and gave him the book. Isherwood looked like he really didn’t want to read it, but he read it, and came back and said “You’ve written a wonderful book and I’m going to review it in *Tomorrow*.”¹⁸ Graeme said the moral was “Try like crazy but depend on luck.”



17 “The 1000th Show” (11 November 1997).—Future Felicity

18 Volume X, Number 2 (October 1950).—Future Felicity



Stew and Graeme said that Forrest Ackerman was scheduled to be a Fan Guest of Honour at VCON 15 in 1987 (Al Betz was the chair) but was sick and couldn't make it. It was a life-threatening flu, and he was under doctor's orders not to leave the house. Had Ackerman attended he would have given a fan history talk. Sam Moskowitz, also a well-known fan and fan historian, filled in. Al Betz asked Moskowitz "What was Hugo Gernsback really like?" and Moskowitz riffed on that for an hour. No one wanted to interrupt him, so we learned a lot about Gernsback and not much else.

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron

Sunday 16 November 2014

Speculative Fiction Film Festival Accepting Short Films

Filmmakers are invited to submit speculative films of both short and feature length. This includes films made within the genres of horror, thriller, science fiction, fantasy, avant-garde, experimental, the supernatural, alternative history, mystery, grindhouse, and everything else in-between!

CDFF welcomes films from local, national, and international filmmakers, and encourages submissions from filmmakers of diverse backgrounds. CDFF also invites filmmakers from the Greater Ottawa Area to submit one short film for free (see website for details). By encouraging local productions, CDFF spotlights the strength of the Ottawa film scene and showcases works by local filmmakers alongside those of their international peers.

Deadline: June/July 2015.

Cellar Door Film Festival

via Alayne McGregor

Monday 15 December 2014

'Doctor Who' Etc. Theme Park Due to Open in 2020 in UK

Rides based on *Doctor Who*, *Sherlock*, and other BBC shows "could feature at £2 billion theme park" planned for southeast UK. Paramount Pictures entertainment resort in Kent "is due to open in 2020." "London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH) said it had signed a deal with BBC Worldwide that would let it feature famous BBC programmes and characters. The theme park would also include Hollywood-inspired attractions."

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-30411131>.

Julian Castle

to BC Nerds Yahoo! Group

Wednesday 17 December 2014

Norman Bridwell (1928–2014)

Norman Bridwell, author of the *Clifford the Big Red Dog* series of children's books, died on December 12 at age 86. Clifford was adapted into a PBS Kids series. Bridwell is survived by his wife, Norma, his daughter Emily Elizabeth, his son Timothy and three grandchildren. A memorial service will be held in the summer of 2015.

(References: [CNN](#), [On Our Minds Scholastic Blog](#), [Martha's Vineyard Times](#).)

[Julian Castle](#)

Thursday 18 December 2014

'Significance' Completed Successful Crowdfunding

Significance will be a short science-fiction film, set at a small observatory.

The crowdfunding for *Significance* reached its £1700 target (raised £2004), and closed today (20 December). Crowdfund at [IdeasTap](#), a UK charitable organisation with a crowdfund component.

The directors are Jack Pirie & Alex Hylands-White. I think two of their works are of nerd-interest which you can see at [Halcyon](#) or [Vimeo](#).

* Jack directed *The Radical* (two minutes), based on *Infamous* videogame(s) (fanvid?).

* Alex directed *BWD—Time to Go* (two minutes), light sci-fi (also seems to be ad for a watch).

[Crowdfunding page](#).

(Wandered across via [Twitter](#).)

[Julian Castle](#)

to [BC Nerds Yahoo! Group](#)

Saturday 20 December 2014

FAAn Awards 2015

Hi folks!

Just a quick email to let you know that the voting season for the 2015 awards is now under way.

I thought you'd want to know, as you voted in recent times.

A copy of the ballot is attached for reference and guidance, but you can submit your votes by email if you prefer.

Bill Burns has put together a gallery of 2014 fanzine cover art, which you can find at [eFanzines.com](#).

Best wishes,

Mike Meara (FAAn Awards Administrator, 2015)

[*The FAAn Awards webpage is <http://corflu.org/history/faan.html>.—Felicity*]

[Michael Meara](#)

Wednesday 7 January 2015

VCON 40 Registration Is Live!

Online registration for VCON 40 is now live!

Want to get weekend memberships at the lowest online rates? Now's your chance—rates *will* be going up once or twice between now and the end of online sales, although exact dates of the rate increases are still to be determined (and will be announced later).

Buying your membership early helps VCON out a lot because the sooner funds are in the bank, the more confidence there is about available resources which increases the opportunity for planning more great stuff!

Click the button below, or type <http://vcon40.eventbrite.ca/?ref=anem> into your browser, and register today!

[Eventbrite—VCON 40 Online Registration](#)

VCON 40 will be held 2–4 October 2015.

Venue is still TBA.

VCON Secretary

Sunday 11 January 2015

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead, Page 13
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u>).....	Pages 1–3
Clip art (via <u>Brent Francis</u>).....	Page 5
Clip art (via <u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 16, 18 (top)
Clip art [<i>Analog</i> (1980)].....	Page 17 (top)
Clip art [<i>StarCom</i> (1987) screenshot].....	Page 17 (bottom)
Clip art [<i>Circle of Ice</i> (1980)].....	Page 18 (middle)
Clip art (“I Voted” sticker).....	Page 18 (bottom)
Clip art [Century 21 Exposition stationery (1962)].....	Page 19
Clip art [<i>Mystery Science Theatre 3000</i> (1999) screenshot].....	Page 20
Clip art.....	Page 22

The word "Electric" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. The letter 'E' is particularly decorative, with a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the 'l'. The overall style is reminiscent of classic calligraphy or a vintage logo.