

BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#498

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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

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Sunday 16 November at 7 PM: | November BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. |
| Friday 20 November: | Submission deadline for December <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally). |
| Friday 27 November: | December <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically). |
| Sunday 14 December at 6 PM: | December BCSFA meeting/holiday dinner, ABC Country Restaurant, 3580 Number Three Road, Richmond. <i>Note that this is one week and one hour earlier than usual.</i> Reservation is for 12 people and under the name “Michael.” |
| Friday 19 December: | Submission deadline for January <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally). |
| Friday 26 December: | January <i>BCSFAzine</i> 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_scfi_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

Sunday 2 November 2014

Hi Felicity,

Sounds like you are typical of those doing an event, but the ones who get to participate should appreciate your effort.

[*Well, I didn't do that much for the event, but thanks!*]

I learned about this movie from Dr. Faustus at Erotic Mad Science which is NSFPrudes.¹

At the Internet Archive you can find the 1915 serial silent movie *Les Vampires*. Do not miss this one. Right after the turn of the century (early 20th) a femme fatale was known as a vamp. Once you see Irma Vep you'll know why. This was the same era of the Stirner anarchists who used the latest technologies (getaway autos) in their escapades. This is a must see epic if only for the tech involved.



Brian Train, local Canadian game designer who also sells some of his own works as BTR Games, received a couple of footnotes in an epic of art snobbling crashes head on into wargaming. You can Google this and get your own PDF. If you thought the “Left” was one big happy family of comrades this might change your mind:

Class Wargames: Ludic Subversion Against Spectacular Capitalism.²

Ian Weir at Red Sash games has another Lace Wars module out. This one is a must see for fans of piratic daring do. Yellow Jack—The War of Jenkins’ Ear. If you long for a simpler era this isn’t it. Lots of fun just reading the historical commentary.

You’ll be glad to know Lamergate is still going on with a nice 50/50 split between two camps who are both wrong. While both sides have some meritorious ideas those have disappeared in a sea of vituperations.

[*Gamergate is so poisoned by now that it needs to collapse so that the part of it that was legitimate—the campaign for ethics in gaming journalism and criticism—can move on and call itself something else. When a movement is decentralised, like Gamergate, Occupy, or Anonymous, it has tactical advantages, but there’s a tradeoff: there’s no in charge who can make a clear decision about the message.*]

The nicest thing about these eruptions in fandom is that everybody gets involved, feathers fly, feelings are hurt, opinions are espoused that will haunt the

1 [Link](#).

2 [Link](#).

source forever. Since the debates are religious in nature none of it will ever go away or be settled.

[If that's the nicest thing about it, I'd hate to see the other things.]

I see the ISIS (Intelligence Services Islamic Stooges) are stirring up things again. Like the previous incarnation of meddling it won't do much for the natives. But that is the plan.

I predict that Virgin Galactic will go back to their old fuel mixture. The tragedy of losing a pilot to find this out is pretty sad.



Femmes fatales are known to prey on white knights.

The hits just keep on coming for Taral. Awards and now a book to push his fame!! Bask in the glory while it lasts.

It is perfectly all right for people to choose how they want to be limited in freedom. It is not all right to choose for others. No corporation should be allowed to make the choice for everyone.

As soon as Harper came out from hiding in the closet he began to make noises about bravery. That is the essence of government in a mini-vignette.

Down here we are being deluged with a wave of anti-Russian rhetoric. The glorious days of cringing in fear of a mass missile strike are forgotten in the glory of imperial hubris. If we could supply the ISS it might sound better than just a hollow bluff. I was promised a lead role in *A Boy and His Dog* in my youth but it never

happened. Now they want to continue the farce. Before anyone buys into this they might want to look at BRICS on a world map. No amount of paranoid delusions is going to change the odds. The Indian word for people who pick a fight with a bear is food.

[When I was growing up, we were promised we could go to punk clubs and get high because the world was about to explode anyway. Instead we got the recession.]

Mad Science in the news:

<http://www.theguardian.com/science/2014/oct/05/laboratory-penises-test-on-men>

Ultimate test of Freud's theory about penis envy in women; have one grown from your own cells!!

[Why stop at one?]

Caught a nice new item from nanotech. It's a solar panel which is also a battery. This may be just what the power demands ordered since it can deliver power when the sun is down and collect it while it is up.

Facebook (its invisible handlers) have decided to hook it up as a TOR hidden service. Some countries were blocking Facebook. This is real world irony. The blocks made it harder to spy on their citizens.

Had a nice quiet Samhain. Hope everyone else did too.

Now all I need is a picture of my latest model spaceship and I can beat your deadline.

Warm regards,

Dave

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court,
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
USA

Wednesday 22 October 2014

Dear *BCSFA-ites* “via” *Felicity*,

(I give up—I can’t force this software to do *anything* I ask it to, so I figure I’ll type now and come back later to try to get it into a format at least close to what I have in mind...mumble mumble...silly software...)

(Okay, so *now* it does what I ask—guess the first paragraph gets tossed under the bus. Moving right along...)

Aha, found June and July. I know there has to be a few other issues around but if I wait until they come up for air, this may never even get started...



Congratulations to the winners in the *Canadian* awards—I didn’t get a chance to donate etc.—got several e-mail notices that came too close to the deadline and were not picked up until after the deadline. I’ll try to do better, but computer constancy is not high on my list, even when things are behaving.

As always/ever, I enjoy the nifty little *Foster* images on the cover of each issue—and repeat—keep ’em coming!

[OK!]

Dave Haren—it took a moment, but chemistry major that I was—I finally got *cis* versus *trans* gendered! Isomers rule (in at least two sense of the word)!

[*I just realized that means most people are cisvestites. Sweet cisvestites, from Cissexual, Cissylvania.*]

Ghreat news for *Yvonne* and *Lloyd*—may it continue!

Michael Bertrand—under the headings of “duh” comments...long time ago, one of my visits to the doctor, under the heading of miscellaneous/complaints or points of information was that when I knelt down in a certain way, my right knee felt as if I happened to be kneeling on either small pebbles or *very large* sand grains. The doctor’s insightful comment was “Then don’t kneel down like that”...Okay, got it.

[*I hope he didn’t bill you for that information.*]

I have no idea where I am in being timely—the last LOC I can find saved says April 2014 which seems wrong. Since the computer can’t be wrong, I guess I’m really tardy! Consider this a confused but sincere apology—I honestly thought I was at least close to timely!

Ah, in July I see a COA clearly pointed out on the envelope—duly noted and (hopefully) utilized!

Diligent digging has unearthed the August ish. I cannot locate cancellations (at least any that are legible), so I am guessing this is the last ish that has dropped in so far. Following suit—another nice *Foster* illo graces the cover on ish #495—the tradition continues.

Nice to read that *Lloyd* is still enjoying gainful employment. I'm still slowly (verrrrry slowly) working my way through the *Murdoch Mysteries* episodes I located online.

Michael (Bertrand)—upgrading is (usually) a desirable experience. One potentially *bhig* snag is that the nice added perks frequently (read that as pretty much always) come with an increased price-tag. This might not be a big deal if you have been contemplating a move and were looking that direction. Hope the added amenities are enjoyed.

The calendar surely does come up with some interesting (arcane?) happenings. Thank you.

Hmm, it would appear that I have not managed to work up a single new sketch this whole year. Now, mind you this doesn't mean I haven't done anything...just that I have yet to catch up with those still sitting in files from before 2014 and patiently waiting to be finished. It would appear that the 36–48-hour day is never going to become a reality so I need to re-consider the whole sleeping issue. There simply *must* be a way...

I am hoping the illo on the letterhead prints up better than it looks. The original was pen and ink—with the paper slightly yellowing by the time I got around to try to scan everything and find a way to use everything. From the monitor perspective, it looks a bit fuzzy—printing out will tell.

[*I hope it scanned well. My flatbed scanner is old and its glass plate is scarred.*]



Hmm—let me see if I can import a photo one of the *MCSPCA* fosters sent me—case that is worthy of a paper, but I doubt it will happen—shows *Solo*—so named because he is slow and always by himself—along with *Storm*—one of his littermates (the other one, *Skye-Walker*, isn't in any of the photos). It is not *apropos* of anything other than fen liking cat pictures. FYI—*Solo* has now been diagnosed with congenital hypothyroidism (more to the

name than that, but why confuse things) and is starting to grow after only 10 days on medication. Fingers crossed that the mental dullness will resolve. I trust you can figure out which kitten is which!

Couldn't pass up including the image after seeing the “black cats” pic on page 14.

I figure I ought to quit while the quitting is ghood—I'll get this printed tomorrow and mailed. I still cannot figure out the formatting glitch, so as long as things are legible I'll give in.

Agh—seems as if it was just winter (and a cold one it was!)—and now I am again awaiting wood for the fireplace as the temperatures are variously inching and nosediving. Keeps things interesting!

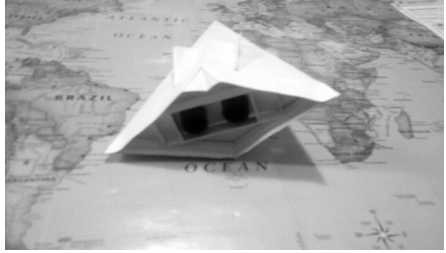
Thanks for the ishes!

'Bye,
Sheryl

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Thursday 13 November 2014

Hey there BCSFAns (or should that be BCS-fans?). I come to you this month from deep inside the salt mines of National Novel Writing Month, known as NaNoWriMo to the hip set. It's an event where writers all over the world try to complete a 50,000 word "novel" (more like a fat novella) in the month of November.



That's 50,000 words in the 30 days that hath November, or 1667 words a day. I blog 1000 words a day as a matter of routine, so it's not that big a stretch for me, but it's fiction, not my usual journaling and thought pieces and so on, so those words take a lot more concentration and thought.

This is my fourth time doing it, and yes, that means I have three fat novellas sitting on my hard drive that have more or less never seen the light of day. And it's not like I don't think they are any good. They're all pretty good. It's just tough to get my poop in a group enough to send one out to someone who might, like, publish it.

Oh well. A lot of writers write a bunch of novels before they ever send one out. Guess I am one of them.

As for the current one, I found myself writing it in epistolary form, in the form of emails (so maybe it should be the e-pistolary mode). I've never written that way before, and I must admit, I like it. You can fit a lot of story between the lines when people are firing emails back the forth at each other.

Well, that's enough from me for this month, BCSFAns. When next we talk, I will have finished the darn thing and be back to my usual level of jackassery.

I will talk to you nice people again in December!

Lloyd Penney
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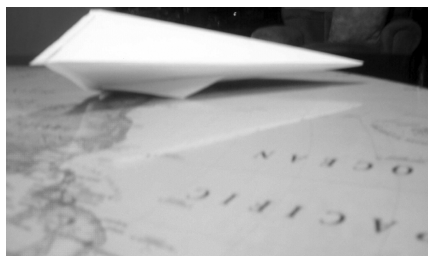
Thursday 20 November 2014

Dear Felicity:

Many thanks for issue 497 of *BCSFAzine*, for the not-as-green-as-it-could-have-been month of Spocktober. Live long, and stay warm! This November, it shouldn't be this snowy and cold! And, we're just up the highway from the Buffalo area, which has had the worst lake-effect snows ever. Stay inside, and write this letter.

[Writing LOCs is a nice cozy hobby.]

I saw the CBC *Nature of Things* programme about Stonehenge. If you wondered about why they'd build that in the middle of nowhere, it's because this religious ceremonial site was in the middle of everything. There were other formations here and there, and some were meant to be used for crowd control as the community gathered for special events and ceremonies there.



Yes, things have improved for me...I am now working for a private customs agency. However, the boss is a micromanager, so I am thinking it's time to move on, and the hunt continues once more. Money is one thing, but working where you are comfortable is another. Yvonne's current job is a good one, but she's been there about three months, and they have

yet to get her a desk and telephone number. She works where there is space, and borrows a phone where she can. It's like they weren't ready for her. Worst thing is that others who have come on board have desks and phones, and she asks why she can't have that, and doesn't get an answer. The contract is for four months, and I don't think she will stand for a renewal.

The last convention I was at, I had spent the weekend elsewhere, and I only got to see the dealers' room and con suite. And, I was okay with that...sometimes, it's enough. Got caught up with friends, did a little business, had some laughs and a few snacks, all in the space of a few hours.

Technology by itself is not evil or horrible. It's all in how it is used. It's also not to be feared, but it has to be taught properly, especially to older folks (like me) who have some tech experience, but who either can't afford the new tech, or haven't had the chance to learn about it. For example...I don't have a smartphone, and I don't expect to ever have one, but if I ever do get one, I think I'd need a Dummy's Guide or something like that. I would need something to bridge the knowledge gap.

[I never thought I would have a smart phone either, but my mother upgraded to the new model and handed her old phone down to me and paid for my plan. It covers calls and texts, but using apps and browsing is extra. While testing Siri I found that my smart phone is bit of a smart alec. It can also do different accents. I currently have it set to Irish. Its Irish accent is very toothy-sounding.]

My LOC...the Facebook page for Penney's Steampunk General Store is up and running, with several albums of pictures from the assorted shows and conventions we've been to over the last few years. We weren't accepted at the juried show, but it looks like we will be returning to our original convention, Ad Astra, and I will be taking on a role I've never had before there...dealer. I hope it will be a good time for everyone.

[Readers: <https://www.facebook.com/PenneysSteampunkGeneralStore>.]

Given how Taral has been the subject of a Betascript Publishing instabook, perhaps it's just as well that few others of us have been so prolific. It looks like they didn't ask for permissions at all, assuming that whatever was online was fair game for inclusion. Such is the Web these days, and what we choose to scatter across it.

Time to go, and get it to you. Take care, and I'll be looking for the December issue ASAP.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

We Also Heard From: Lynda Williams.

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

5, 12, 19, and 26 November and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 December 2014 (*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](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 November and 4, 11, 18, and 25 December 2014 (*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](#)

7, 14, 21, and 28 November and 5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2014 (*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](#).”

7, 14, 21, and 28 November and 5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2014 (*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](#)

7, 14, 21, and 28 November and 5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2014 (*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](#)

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 November and 6, 13, 20, and 27 December 2014 (*Saturdays*): [Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming](#), 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come in anytime on Saturday afternoon until 7 PM and play any of the many open games there are here at the store.—Kirby”—[Keith Lim](#)

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 November and 7, 14, 21, and 28 December 2014 (*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](#)

3, 10, 17, and 24 November and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2014 (*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, nay 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](#)

3, 10, 17, and 24 November and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2014 (*Mondays*): [Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night](#), 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. 2 October, 7:30–11:20 PM: Craft Night: Shoebox Loom-Making. 9 October, 7:30–11 PM: The Craft Element. 16 and 23 October, 7:30–11:30 PM: Craft Night: Halloween Costume Making Night Parts 1 & 2. [*See Vancouver Hack Space Open House for more VHS details.*]—[Julian Castle](#)

4, 11, 18, and 25 November and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2014 (*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](#)

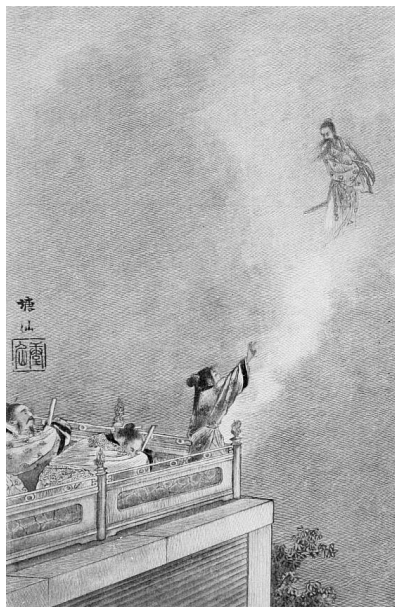
4, 11, 18, and 25 November and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2014 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue (new location as of May 2013), Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. “Bring your ideas, projects, kits, art, music, robots, etc. down for some good times with 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

4, 11, 18, and 25 November and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2014 (*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.

5 and 19 November and 3, 17, and 31 December 2014 (*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

6 and 20 November and 4 and 18 December 2014 (*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@dcenet.com for details.”—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

8, 15, 22, and 29 November and 6, 13, 20, and 27 December 2014 (*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 November and 11 December 2014 (*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

9 November and 11 December 2014 (*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

11 November and 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.”

11 November and 9 December 2014 (*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

21 November and 9 December 2014 (*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](#)

15 November and 20 December 2014 (*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 information, [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](#)

16 November and 21 December 2014 (*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](#)

29 November and 27 December 2014 (*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 & Critty”—[Keith Lim](#)

Already in Progress

27 October–22 November 2014: [StoryStylus Launch Tour—Interactive Fiction Publishing Engine](#). “Know a writer, screenwriter or game designer? Please share this—your support means so much to this indie games studio! One More Story Games is launching StoryStylus, a platform for storytellers to create, publish and profit share from the development of interactive story games. This is an hour long demo with a Q&A session afterwards. See below for more info on the software. For Twitter, this is what we’ve been tweeting: ‘Love #interactivefiction & #storytelling? Get a sneak peek of new publishing software #StoryStylus on eight-city tour <http://bit.ly/OMSG>’

Tour. [...] *Vancouver*: Sunday 2 November, 3:30 PM <http://bit.ly/OMSGVAN3>. Sunday 2 November, 7 PM <http://bit.ly/OMSGVan2>. Monday 3 November, 7 PM—The Network Hub, Gastown, <http://bit.ly/OMSGVan1>. Tuesday 4 November—Vancouver Film School, Game Design—private. *Victoria*: Wednesday 5 November, 7 PM—<http://bit.ly/OMSGVic>. *Seattle*: Friday 7 November, 7 PM (limited to 15 people). Please enquire. Saturday 8 November, 11 AM—Redmond area, TBA. Saturday 8 November, 7 PM (limited to 15 people). Please enquire. Learn about the features of StoryStylus: • Create simple or complex worlds • Make custom maps and locations • Write rich and detailed characters, branching dialogue and story endings • Work with translators and publish worldwide in 20+ languages • Retain full copyright of your own work • Have your own storefront and social media fan page for your stories • From start to finish, we provide you with the platform to create, share and sell your storyworlds. Game developers will love prototyping in Stylus. If you've used Twine, you'll find this an easy to use system that is intuitive, requires little coding and ports out easy to our marketplace. Or if you just want to prototype your stories, be our guest! For writers and screenwriters, Stylus is a great way to expand into a new market—interactive fiction and social games. Create free short story mini-games and direct readers to your full novels. This is part of an eight-city launch tour, with stops in Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, San Francisco, Long Beach and Los Angeles. One More Story Games is an indie games studio based out of Barrie, Ontario. It is led by Blair Leggett, 14+ year industry veteran formerly of Electronic Arts and Zynga, and his wife Jean Leggett. They have an amazing team that has grown from 5 to 20 since January 2014. Once a bootstrap company, OMSG has successfully raised \$156,000 from friends and family and is poised to launch StoryStylus and its first games portal *Mystery World* in November 2014.”—[Richard Walters](#)

November 2014

1 November 2014: Book Lovers' Day.

1 November 2014: [NW-B5 20th Ann. Seasons 1 & 2 Gathering](#), 4 PM at La Fontana Caffè, #101-3701 East Hastings Street (at Boundary Road), Burnaby. “We are going to hold a screening of some key Season 1 and 2 eps. RSVP: nw-b5@intergate.ca so I can get a handle on numbers.”—[John Francis](#)



1 November 2014: [Parade of Lost Souls 2014: Masquerade!](#), 6 PM at Britannia Community Services Centre, 1661 Napier Street, Vancouver. “[...] Public Dreams has closed and passed the torch to [...] the [...] Dusty Flowerpot. [...] It is the time for celebration and for ceremony. For reflection and renewal. Wear a costume. Bring an instrument. Make a dance. Join a dance. This parade is for you and by you, all the lost souls of the world. Bring your past and your presence for a celebration of life, and depth. We may all be lost, but at least we are lost together. Let the revelry begin, at the Parade of Lost Souls! [...] *Theme*: As you know, this harvest time is simultaneously a celebration of life and an acknowledgement of death. This year we will be

looking at the life and death of civilizations, presently and throughout history. Include the animal kingdom in your musings on this topic. [...] To contact us to get involved in performance, volunteering or production: katsingledain@gmail.com. Most workshops will be held at Britannia Community Centre! The Sounders. Thriller. Leather Mask Making. [...] Check out <http://www.dustyflowerpotcabaret.com/> for information on more workshops hosted at the Dusty Flowershop, the studio located at 2050 Scotia Street, [*Vancouver*].” After-party: 9 PM–2 AM at Astorinos, 1739 Venables Street, Vancouver. (After-party tickets only available on-line.)

2 November 2014: Vanpla 2014 November Workshop, 1–5 PM at 木: Ki Tea House Cafe, #105–6888 Royal Oak Avenue, Burnaby. [*See description for Vanpla 2014 October Workshop*.]

2 November 2014: Amazing Bingo—The Tournament, 1–4 PM at the Lux Lounge, 1180 Howe Street, Vancouver. “Doors: 12:30 PM. Proceeds to benefit Children’s Wish. Grand prize ‘an amazing night out’ includes a special: River Rock Casino Resort & Keg Richmond package! This is bingo with strategy! 32 seats only. Age 19+ only.”

3 November 2014: **Dale Speirs’s** birthday.

4 November 2014: Weird Al Burlesque, 8 PM at [*Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (no location given)*]. “\$10 advance/\$12 at the door. Strictly 19+.”

5 November 2014: **Hello Kitty’s** birthday.

5 November 2014: Anonymous Million Mask March, [*no time given*] at Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver. “We March from Vancouver Art Gallery (‘Court Houses’), to our City Hall in Vancouver...and demand justice...!!!”

6 November 2014: **Stan Hyde’s** birthday.

*Egoboo is the currency of Fandom...
be a Big Spender!*

7 November 2014: **Tim Maruyama’s** birthday. Premiere of films *Interstellar* (action/SF; Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Wes Bentley, Michael Caine, Tophér Grace, Casey Affleck, Ellen Burstyn, John Lithgow, Bill Irwin, Francis X. McCarthy, Matt Damon) and *Big Hero 6* (computer animation; Alan Tudyk, Damon Wayans, Jr., Maya Rudolph, James Cromwell, Charles Adler).

7–9 November 2014: Fifth annual Bent Con (LGBTQ & allies geek convention) in Burbank, California. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OfficialBentCon>.—Julian Castle

7–9 November 2014: BottosCon 2014: A Mere Matter of Gaming at Vancouver Sheraton Guildford Hotel, Surrey. “The North Shore Wargaming Society is proud to host BottosCon [...] our [...] *annual* gaming convention for all gamers in the Great-

er Vancouver area and Pacific Northwest. This year's convention will return to the *Vancouver Sheraton Guildford Hotel*. We have more gaming space and room to grow our convention. Our focus will be on gaming, not structure. BottosCon is an opportunity to play some great games, whether they be war, Euro, or miniatures, and make some new friends. George Kelln's ASL West Coast Rumble and Andrew Nick's ever popular BottosFront Up Front tournament will be returning again to this year's BottosCon. The majority of the games are arranged between players ahead of time, but there is always room for a pick-up game. Open gaming will be subject to space availability and will be on a first come, first served basis. Last year's game swap table was a resounding success, so if you have a game you're looking to sell or trade, please bring it along and there will be space to display your wares. I'm asking each attendee to please bring a non-perishable item for the local foodbank. I'll have a bin at the sign in desk for any and all donations. Thank you. \$35.00 pre-reg. \$40.00 @ the door. \$25.00 day pass. Couples/family rates available. [...] PayPal for pre-reg in Canadian funds to scouterrob@telus.net. Cash at the door. Convention hours: Friday 12 PM–12 AM, Saturday 8 AM–12 AM, Sunday 8 AM–6 PM. If you have any questions please e-mail me at scouterrob@telus.net.—Rob Bottos, Bottos-Con Actual.”

8 November 2014: 12th annual Howloween (furmeet) at Executive Hotel & Conference Center Burnaby, 4201 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby (west of Brentwood Town Centre SkyTrain station). This year's theme: “Mad Science.” Hotel reservations: 604-298-2010, option 1. Hotel event code: #19088. Admission: \$20 (cash only at door).—Julian Castle

8 November 2014: Pop Culture Collectibles Fair & Computer Swap Meet/Sale, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. “Monitors, printers, hardware, software, parts, games, cameras, printer refills, vintage comics, toys & collectibles, records, CDs, VHS, DVDs, manga, Warhammer, books, magazines, Star Wars, Hot Wheels, wrestling, Canucks memorabilia, jewellery... and lots more at great prices! Lots of great Christmas gift ideas! Free comic book to the first 100 guests. Turn your extra items into cash \$. Eight-foot dealer tables \$40 each or two for \$70. Admission: \$3; children 12 & under free. Free parking. For more info, please visit <http://www.fun-promo.com/>. 601-521-6304. funpromo@shaw.ca.”—Verne Siebert

8 November 2014: Canzine 2014, 1–7 PM at Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, 149 West Hastings Street, Vancouver. “Festival of zine culture and independent arts. Hundreds of zines and comics on display and for sale! With special guest cartoonist Mimi Pond, author of *Over Easy* (Drawn & Quarterly).”

8 November 2014: Nerdfest—A Night of Epic Fantasy, 7 PM at the Rickshaw Theatre, 254 East Hastings Street, Vancouver. Tickets: presale \$15; door \$18.

9 November 2014: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver. “Admission: \$4; kids under 14: free. Dealer tables: \$60/centre; \$70/wall. 604-322-6412. Guests: Ed Piskor (*Hip Hop Family Tree*,

Wizywig), Joe Keatinge (*Shutter, Tech Jacket, Glory*), Leila del Duca (*Shutter*), Steve Rolston (*Queen & Country, The Escapists, Ghost Projekt*), Ed Brisson (*Sheltered, The Field, Robocop*), Mike Myrhe (*Space Jet*), MEL Levrault (*Phobiasoft*). Hourly door prizes. Win tickets to Vancouver Theatresports' The Superhero Show! Comics for classrooms: donate a new or gently-used school-appropriate graphic novel for free admission to this show. Books collected will be donated to Vancouver schools. (Sorry, no manga can be accepted.) Follow us on [Twitter](#)."

11 November 2014: The Gentlemen Hecklers Present: An Encore Performance of *Gymkata*, 6:30–9:30 PM at the Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway, Vancouver. "Join the Gentlemen Hecklers for an encore performance of one of their most popular screenings from the past couple of years, *Gymkata*. (You know, the 1985 martial arts movie starring Olympic gymnast Kurt Thomas as an Olympic gymnast—shocker!—who combines his gymnastic ability with martial arts to enter a deadly competition in a fictional country, Parmistan. Not to be confused with Parmesanistan.) The Gentlemen Hecklers provide live, hilarious commentary for the best bad movies! Eric Fell, Patrick Maliha, and Shaun Stewart are Vancouver's masters of movie riffing, making so-bad-they're-good movies even better by talking you through them. Doors 6:30 PM/show 7 PM. \$6 advance/\$9 door. [Rio Theatre](#). [Gentlemen Hecklers—Face-book](#). [Gentlemen Hecklers](#)."

14 November 2014: All-Star Wrestling Memorial Rumble V, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. "Gangrel vs. Fabio. \$20 front row, \$15 general. Doors 7:15 PM, first match 8 PM. More more info call 604-710-0872."

16 November 2014: Button Day.

18 November 2014: **Ken Kato**'s birthday. Occult Day.

18 November 2014: George Takei, 8 PM at Queen Elizabeth Theatre, 650 Hamilton Street, Vancouver. Tickets \$25–199.

20 November 2014: **Boggle Rat**'s birthday.

21 November 2014: Premiere of films *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part 1* (action/SF; Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Woody Harrelson, Julianne Moore, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Jeffrey Wright, Stanley Tucci, Donald Sutherland), *V/H/S: Viral* (horror), and *Extraterrestrial* (horror/SF; Emily Perkins, Michael Ironside).

22 November 2014: The Return of Write Club!, 7:30 PM at Little Mountain Gallery, 195 East 26th Avenue, Vancouver. "Audience members dress up as their favourite authors and comedians perform in their styles, in a head to head battle to determine the greatest writer of all time! Created and hosted by Ian Boothby and featuring Taz VanRassel, Allen Morrison, Briana Rayner, Ryan Beil and more! Doors at 7:30 PM, show at 8 PM sharp. \$5 at the door or *free* if you dress as your favourite writer!"—[Ian Boothby](#)

23 November 2014: Victoria Comic Book Expo, 11 AM–4 PM at Comfort Inn & Conference Centre, 3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria. Dealers: \$35 per eight-foot table (doors open at 9 AM for setup). Free admission. For more info contact Glen at 250-361-6227 or gjcomics@shaw.ca.—Julian Castle

24 November 2014: **Spider Robinson's** birthday.

25 November 2014: Fox Film Club Presents Graphic Thrills with Robin Bougie, 8–11 PM at Fox Cabaret, 2321 Main Street, Vancouver. “Join us for a screening [of] vintage, sinful, and sexy trailers hosted by *Cinema Sewer's* Robin Bougie.³ [...] Bougie [...] brings smut back to the Fox with a collection of trailers from the dirty end of the 1970s and 1980s! These vintage two-[to]-three minute previews let the raincoat crowd know what upcoming delights they could expect back in the era when porno had funky music, cool clothes, shag carpeting (on both the floor and the performers), and outrageous storylines! Also available will be Bougie's new coffee table book, *Graphic Thrills*, a celebration of the theatrical poster art that advertised this sinful and sexy celluloid. Screening is at 9 PM. Admission is \$5.”—Robin Bougie

28 November 2014: Red Planet Day. Premiere of films *Penguins of Madagascar* (computer animation; Chris Miller, Benedict Cumberbatch, Peter Stormare, John Malkovich, Werner Herzog) and *Babadook* (horror).

28 November 2014: Elite Canadian Championship Wrestling Dropkicks for Kona, 7 PM at Ukrainian Community Centre, 5311 Francis Road, Richmond. “Show 7 PM; bell 7:30 PM. \$18 general; \$20 front row. Special *fundraiser* for the Richmond Animal Protection Society. Canadian Title Match—Halloween Hell Rematch!—Sid Sylum © vs. Tony Baroni; ECCW Title Match—Bishop vs. Gurv Sihra; Grudge Match—Billy Suede vs. Brady Malibu; Intergender Tag Match—Scotty Mac & Nicole Matthews vs. MR2 & Jaida; Kenny Lush vs. Mr. Smyth; Pete Powers vs. Nick Pesky; also in action: Alex Plexis!” Kona is a year-old dog in need of expensive surgery.

28 November 2014: All Star Wrestling November Nightmare in Cloverdale, 8 PM at Alice McKay Building, Cloverdale Fairgrounds, 6050 176th Street, Surrey. “*Casket match* for ASW Heavyweight Title—Cremator Von Slasher vs. Gangrel (champion). *ASW Tag Team Titles*—Jinder Mahal & Gama Singh Jr. vs. Travis Sionys & Nick Price. *Tables, ladders & chairs* for cruiserweight title—Great Kasaki (champion) vs. Adam Ryder vs. Matt X Static. *Legends Title*—Bad Boy Jason Cage (champion) vs. Breaker Iton. Riea Von Slasher will defend the ASW Ladies' Title. *Note: the bleachers are being removed from the building. This will greatly reduce the seating capacity so get your tickets early. Front row \$20. General admission \$15. Group rates available for birthday parties (10 or more people must be purchased in advance).*”

3 Robin Bougie is a local comics creator, zine editor, writer, critic, and collector.

29 November 2014: Weird Al Karaoke, 10 PM at Little Mountain Gallery, 195 East 26th Avenue, Vancouver.

30 November 2014: Retro and Relevant, 11 AM–3:30 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver. “Vancouver’s retro and modern toy show! Transformers, Star Wars, GI Joe, Lego, Gundam, Masters of the Universe, Ninja Turtles, Spawn, DC, Marvel, Ponies, anime, Power Rangers, 1/6 figures, Micronauts, Mego, and much more toys and collectibles for all ages! General admission: \$5; children 13 and under *free!* Retro and Relevant. Facebook.”

30 November 2014: Stand Up for Mental Health at Yuk Yuk’s Vancouver, 2837 Cambie Street, Vancouver. **Ray Seredin** will be performing. “Laugh your head off and support mental health! Stand Up for Mental Health 10th Anniversary and 2014 Graduation Show! Featuring David Granirer, the 2014 class, and the SMH alumni. Tickets \$20.00 (click here). Low income tickets \$10.00 email us or call (604) 205-9242. Our last event sold out and we had to turn people away, so get your ticket now to avoid disappointment! Led by award-winning counsellor and stand up comic David Granirer, Stand Up for Mental Health (which was featured in the VOICE Award winning CBC documentary *Cracking Up*) teaches stand-up comedy to people with mental illness as a way of building confidence and fighting public stigma. Check out our site.”

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).



Another great fictional Irma.

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 tourna-*

ment 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.”

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!”

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: 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.”

19 December 2014: 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).

News-Like Matter

Notes from October 2014 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (chairman/archivist), Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand, Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, William Graham, and Stewart Smyth.

Ray said that a train magazine he reads is banned from being imported into Canada because of the latest Paul Bernardo court case. Bernardo wants to call as a witness a man who’s a writer for the magazine, so the publication ban has already taken effect while the writer waits to hear if he will testify or not.

I talked about the problems Joe, Fru, and I had with finding a DVD player that will play computer-created discs. So far, it seems that older players can play them, while new ones can’t. Our old player died, and we couldn’t find a new one that

would play computer-created discs. My theory is that the forces of DRM have gotten the manufacturers to hobble the newer players (one way in which VHS was superior!). William suggested trying different flavours of blank disc, such as DVD+, which might make a difference because of the strength of the player's laser.⁴



First the Golden Gate Bridge...

Graeme said that he received the link I sent him to the appearance of the monster from *The Giant Claw* (1957) in the *Angry Video Game Nerd* episode “AVGN Games”⁵ and enjoyed the video's references to *The Giant Claw* and ‘Manos’—*The Hands of Fate* (1966). I thought of Graeme when I saw the video because the first time I met him,⁶ he told me about *The Giant Claw*. Graeme said “I guess I was trying to convert you to B-movies!” At the time, I replied that I thought the robot bird monster from the *Transformers* (1984) episode “The Secret of Omega Supreme” might be a reference to *The Giant Claw*.⁷

Graeme remembered the time that he and Stan Hyde went to a video store in Bellingham because they had rare B-movies, and they fought over the store's one copy of *The Giant Claw*. Eventually, Stan gave up. I asked when this was and Graeme said it was probably in the 1980s because all the movies were on VHS.

From Imperial Hobbies, Julian brought the comic *Alien Legion* #2 for me to look at. Graeme said that he had a long subscription list at Imperial Hobbies once—mostly magazines about B-movies. Fru remembered when he had a huge subscription list of comics in the 1980s—all the *Spider*-titles, all the *X*-titles, and both *Avengers* and *Avengers West Coast*. I have the issues of *Avengers West Coast* from John Byrne's run as writer/artist. I remember when humanoid cat superheroine Tigra became more cat-like—her body became more catoid than humanoid, she hunted small animals and brought them back to the mansion, and she affectionately forehead-butted US Agent. Fru remembered that Hank Pym then had to shrink her to the size of a house cat and keep her in a cage, and added that eventually they explained that “she was of a race of cat people who are from another dimension who are demons but not.”



...then the Transamerica Pyramid.

4 That turned out not to work—our DVD player won't play those either. However, I bought a new DVD player for my parents and traded it for their old DVD player, which plays computer-created discs. Ironically, the new player I gave my parents *will* play computer-created VCDs.—Future Felicity

5 Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEz0IoffV9g#t=1010> (cued up to Giant Claw).—Past Felicity

6 At NonCon 15, held at the University of British Columbia in the summer of 1992.

7 Check out the screenshots and let me know what you think.—Future Felicity

Barb said that she was at a Halloween parade (or train ride?) and Ray saw a girl dressed as a Transformer. She said it was the Transformer that's an ambulance. (Ratchet?) Also, the Ghostbusters were there.

Fru asked if I'd seen the *Cracked* article about bit characters who deserve their own spin-offs. It mentioned a female Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle that appeared in one episode. My first guess was that it was that Mona Lisa from the original series (1987) episode "Raphael Meets His Match." She was a human environmentalist who mutated into a turtle/human hybrid. Fru said that wasn't it, and after further discussion it emerged that it was Venus de Milo from *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Next Mutation* (1997). I think she was in all the episodes, however.

The group talked about 3D printers and whether it was necessary to scan an existing object or whether a model could be built in CAD and then printed.

Someone (Fru?) mentioned video game scams—the game isn't finished or doesn't work. Graeme remembered a space battle game that promised you could fight ship-to-ship in space or land and fight soldier-to-soldier in cities. That seemed overly ambitious for the technology at the time. An ad for the game came out with a naked British woman holding the game between her legs, but no information about the actual game, which is never a good sign. Finally the game came out and did not work *at all*. The company went out of business. Someone replied that Electronic Arts used to make good games, but downsized its testers and now gets the public to be the beta-tester.

Graeme asked if video games still present a jarring switch between the blocky graphics of gameplay and the live-action footage of out-of-work actors in cut scenes. I thought that sounded like a 1990s thing, when CD-ROMs could offer non-interactive filmed scenes that were way beyond the computing power of the console during gameplay. Today, the story scenes are computer animated in the style of the gameplay. Sometimes the publisher claims the cut scenes were animated "in-engine," implying that the whole game should look as good as the cut scenes, but this is rarely true. Someone said that sports games rotoscope actual athletes and are getting eerily realistic. Fru said that it's because sports games are simpler, and always have been—like tennis. (For example, *Pong*.) Kathleen replied that all you need now is a simulation of the temper tantrums.

Barb said that she, Ray, and Duncan McGregor went to the International Plastic Modellers Society show. The theme was the Great War. Monster Attack Team Canada was there. Ray said that Stan Hyde won two awards! Barb said that after



IPMS show she and Duncan went to the Storm Crow Tavern, a fannish/gamer bar on Commercial Drive. Duncan can speak and write Elvish, and would have liked to have seen the Valinor⁸ group that meets there, but they weren't there this time (it was cancelled).

I wondered about noise, crowding, and parking at the Storm Crow. Kathleen advised not going during Italian festival days—it's super-busy dur-

8 A local JRR Tolkien meetup group.

ing those times, as she discovered when a concom meeting was there once. Graeme noted that Commercial Drive *is* a centre of the Italian community.

My notes say “Ebola/Africa/France/China/Canada.”

Barb asked why my two-litre Diet Coke bottle said “CO-WORKERS” instead of someone’s name like other recent Coca-Cola products. Kathleen thought it might be because two litres is a sharing size. Barb said “They’re insane over at Coke.” Kathleen replied “But profitable!” and Fru added “If you come across a bottle of Coke that says ‘Marjorie’ and you know a Marjorie, you’re going to get it for her.” Barb said that it seems to be mostly women’s names and that has been a trigger for her when she sees the names of women she knew who were killed by a serial killer. Barb wondered why bottles and cans would be triggers for her. Kathleen theorized that it’s because bottles and cans are not alive. Graeme was reminded of milk cartons with the names of missing people. Barb mentioned the “Highway of Tears” murders on the highway from Kamloops to Prince George, where a lot of aboriginal women disappeared. Barb wanted to mention the names Gail Webb and Pam Darlington.

Ray spoke of a rock concert where a guitarist played a chord so loud it shattered glass. The week before they had two biker gangs there and they fought. Graeme said that at a B-52s concert fights broke out. “At a B-52s concert?!” said both I and Fru. Fru asked if it was a drag queen catfight. Graeme replied that they were young delinquents in leather jackets beating the tar out of each other *outside* the venue.

Ray’s tales of crime in Powell River: there were fights on the ferries, and drug gangs were involved, but sometimes the police let people go because they were irreplaceable at their job in the logging industry. There are pot farms guarded with bear traps; one man stepped in one, then limped all the way to the bus stop still wearing the bear trap on his leg, and took the bus to the hospital. When he got out of the hospital the police put him in the first taxi out of town before the gang that owned the farm could kill him.

Fru said he wants to write a sketch about the Canadian mafia moving into a territory and scaring everyone with their politeness. This reminded me of a late-1980s movie I saw starring John Vernon as a New York mafia boss on the run who hides out in Winnipeg. He thinks the locals will be no threat but then sees someone get killed for their winter coat and says “Tough town!” I couldn’t remember the name of the movie.⁹ This reminded



Barb of Canadian cartoon *Fugget About It* (2012), in which the US Federal Witness Protection Program places a mafioso and his family in Canada. She said it’s on Teletoon’s “Teletoon at Night” block because of its “mature content.”

I had an idea for a group of Canadian cyborg superheroes called the Mecha-nucks. This reminded Ray that he’s performing at Yuk Yuk’s Sunday 30 November.

9 *Mob Story* (1989)—with such a generic title, no wonder I forgot. Along with Vernon, other starring Canadians were Margot Kidder and Al Waxman. Waxman also played a mafia boss in the Vancouver-filmed Chuck Norris movie *The Hitman* (1991). It’s starting to seem like Larry was the secret crime boss of Kensington Market, running his empire from the back room of that Toronto convenience store.—Future Felicity

I related my horror stories about all the times I won free tickets to the Yuk Yuk’s downtown and when my friends and I got there, the music playing over the speakers before the show was way too loud and the service was extremely slow. I kept filling out the comment form and winning more free tickets but it got to the point where I would *turn down the free tickets* because the experience was so unpleasant.

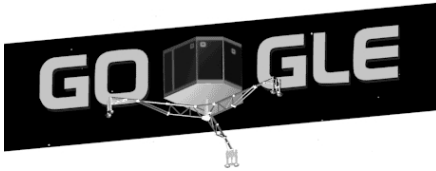
My notes say “my improv story and Ian Boothby’s ‘when it’s time to leave’ blog post.” I don’t remember what *my* improv story was, but Boothby’s post was about staying in an improv group for a very long time, becoming very comfortable and loving it and not wanting to leave, but knowing it’s time to leave when the newer members aren’t getting enough of a chance to hone their skills because your experience allows you to step in and save the show from every time it’s about to crash. Fru said if he wanted to be Machiavellian he could go to improv groups and look for people who look tired of it all and say “Would you like to do *written* comedy?”



Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron
 Sunday 21 September 2014

Google Doodle: Today First Controlled Touchdown on a Comet Nucleus



Google’s current logo (Google Doodle) is about “first controlled touchdown on a comet nucleus” which apparently happened today (12 November 2014) by robotic lander Philae. URL for smaller version of the Google Doodle.

Julian Castle

Wednesday 12 November 2014

Art Credits

- Sheryl Birkhead.....Masthead, Page 13
- Brad Foster.....Cover
- Clip art [*Les Vampires* (1915) screenshot].....Page 1
- Clip art (via Dave Haren).....Pages 2, 10
- Sheryl Birkhead (photo).....Page 4
- Dave Haren (photos).....Pages 5–6
- Clip art (via Sheryl Birkhead).....Page 12
- Clip art [*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (1987) screenshot].....Page 17
- Clip art [*The Transformers* (1984) screenshots].....Pages 19–21
- Clip art [*Mob Story* (1990) screenshot].....Page 22 (right)
- Clip art (via Julian Castle).....Page 22 (left)