

Pulsar 40¢

The Newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society



August 1998

Issue No. 238

TIMELINE

Compiled by Sam Butler

PorSFis holds a formal meeting on the second Saturday of each month -- usually these are structured and have a program. After the meeting we adjourn to a social place for snacks, drinks and socialization. Some folks gather after the meeting for dinner at the place listed in the timeline.

There are often a social gathering in varying locations on the fourth Saturday. Everyone is welcome to both.

Saturday August 1 6825 N Fenwick	PorSFis Meeting Portland, Oregon	1 PM	PICNIC telephone: 283-4060
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AFTERS: There is no scheduled afters

Dinner is open for suggestions.

Saturday August 22	PorSFis Social Event	Bizzaro PorSFis
The movies at Jim & Linda Pilcher's apartment continue.		7 PM

Saturday September 12	PorSFis Meeting	2 PM
Portland State University	Room 229	Smith Memorial Center

Guest Speaker: K. W. Jeter

PRESIDENTS QUOTES:

FIRST SUBJECT: THE CONVENTION HAS BEEN CANCELLED

By the time that you read this if you've gone to Beaverton looking for CON 8 you will have discovered that we were not there. sorry we missed you. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer [or volunteer someone else] please let us know.

SECOND SUBJECT: THE PICNIC

NOTE: The Picnic will happen Saturday August 1 starting at 1:00 PM
6825 N Fenwick Portland 283-4060

This will be the usual potluck, so ignore any rumors to the contrary. Please bring something to share with everyone else. PorSFis will be providing hot dogs and hamburger to bar-b-que as well as some buns, condiments and a few things to drink.

The picnic will be happening at Mike & Sharon Parker's home. Although the Parker's have been long time members of club, they do not usually attend the monthly meetings, but do make appearances at the conventions. We should thank them profusely and think

about hosting events at our homes/apartments etc as well.

YOU ARE ADVISED THAT IF YOU WISH TO USE THEIR HOT TUB YOU WILL NEED TO BRING YOUR OWN TOWEL.

Don't forget that it might be advisable to bring a lawn chair or two in case we run out of places to put people.

Also to be noted, the picnic has been moved forward one week, and is falling on the first weekend of the month, not the second. The usual monthly meeting on August 8 will not occur unless those who are interested wish to get together. The president, [myself] will not be available, but this is not a reason that the meeting cannot occur. As I had already cancelled the meeting space at Portland State University, I might suggest that the meeting be held in an alternative location. Since some of the members will be away on the east coast at the WorldCon [in Baltimore] something more exciting might be appropriate, or not. Let's talk about it at the picnic.

For directions to the Picnic see the map.

THIRD SUBJECT: THE SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

K. W. JETER will be attending our meeting on Saturday September 12 at 2 PM.

FOURTH SUBJECT: COUNTER CULTURE

Our member John Bartley III mentioned that there was now a science fiction discussion session at Counter Culture, a new eatery on the corner of NE 30th & Killingsworth. I believe that he mentioned the event was going to be held on the 4th Tuesday evening of the month and he suggested that we go there and 'take over', this is certainly a idea worthy of exploration.

FIFTH SUBJECT: A CHANGE IN PARKING

It appears that Portland State University has changed their policy in regards to parking on Saturday. In the past parking in either of the two parking structures on Broadway has been without charge. At the last meeting they were charging \$2 to park there. It may be that this was a one time event as it coincided with the Seattle To Portland bicycle tour. joyce, however, feels that this change is permanent, but noted that if you park there after 2 PM there would be no charge. She also stated that the parking structure between 12th & 13th and about Montgomery was not charging anything. You can reach this parking structure easiest by I-405 from the Marquam bridge by taking the Sunset Highway exit and turning onto the 12th street exit instead of going towards the zoo.

SIXTH SUBJECT: WHAT'S UP WITH THE COVER

Well it's like this, the first was a complete cover, then when CON8 exploded and was cancelled the artwork reflected this. This month is shows the forthcoming picnic picking up the pieces and putting them back together again.

Really, what it shows is that we need artwork, how about it? Some articles perhaps, book reviews, gripes etc.

LETTER FROM SHERYL BIRKHEAD

June 20, 1998

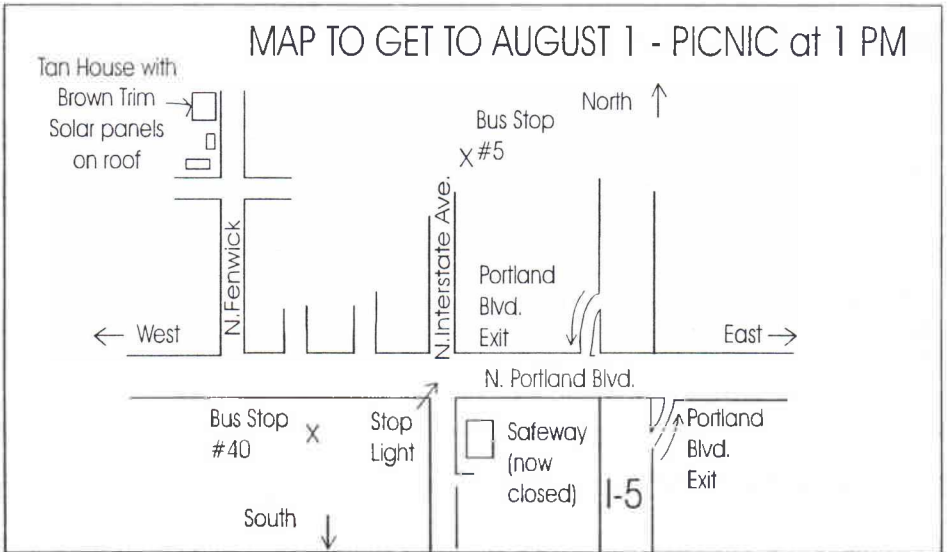
Hi -

I've been too busy lately (pity it wasn't paid work) to delve into things fanish. I haven't heard anything more about either Ian Gunn or Len (Laskowski) so can hope everything is going okay with both of them.

Just got the mailing from the Boston in Orlando Worldcon bid - looks fairly attractive financially even though only free would actually be affordable.

I need to fill out that Hugo ballot and get it sent off ... RSN!

Sheryl



Government Policy:

Snake Attack

The following is from the US Government Peace Corps Manual for its volunteers who work in the Amazon Jungle. It tells what to do in case you are attacked by an anaconda. Now an anaconda is the largest snake in the world. It is a relative of the boa constrictor, it grows to thirty-five feet in length and weighs between three and four hundred pounds at the maximum. This is what the manual said:

1. If you are attacked by an anaconda, do not run. The snake is faster than you are.
2. Lie flat on the ground. Put your arms tight against your sides, your legs tight against one another.
3. Tuck your chin in.
4. The snake will come and begin to nudge and climb over your body.
5. Do not panic.
6. After the snake has examined you, it will begin to swallow you from the feet, and always from that end. Permit the snake to swallow your feet and ankles. Do not panic.
7. The snake will now begin to suck your legs into its body. You must lie perfectly still. This will take a long time.
8. When the snake has reached your knees slowly, and with as little movement as possible, reach down, take your knife and very gently slide it into the side of the snake's mouth between the edge of its mouth and your leg, then suddenly rip upwards, severing the snake's head.
9. Be sure you have your knife.
10. Be sure your knife is sharp.

Alan Shepard 1923-1998

(Excerpt from Oregonian July 22, 1998 AP writer Paul Recer)

WASHINGTON – Astronaut Alan Shepard, the first American to fly in space and the fifth human to walk on the moon, has died at 74.

Shepard, one of the revered original seven Mercury astronauts named by NASA in April 1959, died Tuesday night at Community Hospital near Monterey, California, said Howard Benedict, executive director of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation in Titusville, Florida, who had talked to Shepard's wife.

The former Navy test pilot made a 15-minute suborbital flight—five of those minutes in space—on May 5, 1961, aboard the Freedom 7 spacecraft.

Ten years later, after overcoming a serious ear infection that lingered for six years, Shepard returned to space for his second and last flight as

comander of Apollo 14 on January 31, 1971. He was one of only a dozen people to walk on the moon.

“Those of us who are old enough to remember the first space flights will always remember what an impression he made on us and on the world,” President Clinton told an audience after being passed word of the astronaut’s death. “So I would like to express the gratitude of our nation and to say that our thoughts and prayers are with his family.”

Only four of the original seven Mercury astronauts are still living: Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Scott Carpenter and Walter Schirra.

Shepard spent 33 hours on the moon during the third lunar landing mission and became the only lunar golfer, playfully whacking golf balls with a six-iron. On that flight, Shepard, Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa spent nine days in space; Mitchell and Shepard stayed on the moon for two days.

Although Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin beat Shepard into space by 23 days, Shepard’s 1961 flight marked the beginning of the infant U.S. space program. He prophetically called that first flight “just the first baby step, aiming for bigger and better things.”

On the historic launch morning, Shepard—and the nation—waited impatiently for more than four hours as NASA corrected problems with an electrical system, a ground computer and the rocket’s fuel pressure. It was the second launch attempt; the first one three days earlier was foiled by storms.

The Redstone rocket finally ignited at 9:34 a.m. and lifted Shepard 116 miles high and 302 miles downrange from Cape Canaveral, reaching a speed of 5,100 mph before plopping into the Atlantic Ocean.

“Everything is A-OK!” an excited Shepard said after the flight as his capsule bobbed in the Atlantic Ocean.

Less than three weeks later, on May 25, 1961, President Kennedy set forth the goal of landing a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

Known for his cocksure determination and ready wit, Shepard also could be perceived as icily distant and stubborn. He had been characterized as the most eager to be picked from among three astronauts who were finalists for the famous first flight.

“There are lots of answers why I want to be the first man in space, by a short answer would be this: The flight obviously is a challenge, and I feel that the more severe challenge will occur on the first flight and I signed up to accept this challenge,” he said before his selection from the trio in early 1961.

Thirty years later, Shepard looked back on his historic Mercury flight—wich he said he considered the most exciting point of his career—and marveled that the U.S. space program had encountered only two fatal accidents: the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986, which claimed seven lives; and the burning of the Apollo I cabin January 27, 1967, on the Kennedy Space Center launch pad, which killed three astronauts.

“Thirty years ago, the large percentage of (the) population thought we were crazy sitting on the top of a rocket and allowing ourselves to be thrust into space,” Shepard recalled. “There was a lot of doubt...especially from some of the more learned members of the medical community who thought that man shouldn’t be in space; it wasn’t his place to be there.

“Had we said 30 years ago that we were going to put man in space for 30 years and we’re only going to have two accidents, we would have said,

‘Boy, we’ll take that right now.’ Certainly, pushing out the frontiers as we did and still are doing, and having one accident in flight, the other on the ground, really is remarkable.”

After his second flight, Shepard served as a delegate by presidential appointment to the 26th United Nations General Assembly in 1971. He continued as chief of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronaut office from June 1971 until August 1974, when he retired.

His awards include the Medal of Honor, for space, in 1979.

Review

Hmm. What blockbuster summer hit should we review today? Armageddon? The Mask of Zorro? Lethal Weapon 4? Nah. Sam Butler went and saw “Wind In The Willows” at Cinema 21.

This is not a cartoon, but rather Terry Gilliam’s live action version—and it’s a musical ☺

Sam said it’s **not** just a kids’ movie, though. Adults would enjoy it to, if you like fantasy. (Or Monty Python)

The actors are in minimal makeup—whiskers for Ratty, and some obviously fake ears for the rabbits. Th roll call alone makes this movie sound good to me.

Terry Jones	Toad
Michael Palin	Ratty
Nichol Williamson	Badger
(Merlin in “Excalibur”)	

And in “bit” parts,

Stephen Fry	The judge
John Cleese	The defending attorney

Sam said he didn’t know how much longer it would be playing at Cinema 21, so I’d say it’d be better to go see it soon. He also implied, for all those who couldn’t get through it in school, that this is the movie you’ve been waiting for. (Unless you don’t like Terry Gilliam, et al.)

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Pulsar, the newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFiS), comes free with membership. It is also available in trade with other fanzines, and can be purchased at Excalibur Books, Future Dreams/Burnside and Looking Glass Books, all in Portland, Oregon.

Your editor has been Debra Stansbury. Next month's editor is the same. Deadline is generally the 20th of each month. Contributions are always welcome, and may be sent to the PO box above.

PorSFiS meetings are open to everyone. Check the Timeline for meeting times and places.

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