



Membership:
\$28 to 10/30/2000
\$33 at-door

GoH Banquet
Buffet: \$30
Dealers Table: \$45
Art Panel: \$25
half: \$15

Tropicon/SFSFS
PO Box 70143
Fort Lauderdale,
FL 33307-0143
or email:
Tropicon@sfsfs.org
Website:
<http://sfsfs.org/Tropicon>

Guests of Honor

Vernor Vinge & David Cherry
Hugo-winning Author & Award-winning Artist

Special FanHistoricon Speaker
David Langford

(Ansible, TAFF-winner, SF author & authority)

**Other Guests: Adam-Troy Castro, Hal Clement,
Charles Fontenay, Kathleen Ann Goonan,
Joseph Green, Mike Resnick, Jean-Pierre
Targete**

Clarion Hotel
on Hollywood
Beach
4000 S. Ocean Dr
Hollywood, FL
33019
Rates: \$65
(single-quad)
\$79 (Deluxe)
Reservations:
(800) 329-9019

Nov. 10-12, 2000

SMOFcon 2000

Dec. 1 - 3, 2000

Cocoa Beach, Florida

Sponsored by the South Florida Science Fiction Society with help from F.A.N.A.C., Inc. & fen from central Florida.

"The original convention to assist science fiction conrunners."

Membership: \$50 to Nov. 15, 2000
\$65 at-con

Web site: <http://sfsfs.org/SMOFcon/>

Hotel: Holiday Inn Oceanfront
1300 N Atlantic Ave.
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

Room Rate: \$69.00 plus tax, single through quad.
Reservations: (800) 20-OASIS
(800) 206-2747

We suggest you book your rooms early. There is a Space Shuttle launch scheduled for Nov. 30. If the launch goes as scheduled, we will have an unobstructed view from the hotel beach front!

Possible SMOFcon activities:

Create-a-Con: Part of the convention program will be a special series of how-to basics for new con workers and those people thinking about working in a new area.

Thinking It Through: A pre-con series of articles by fen who are considered authorities on particular topics. These would be "how-to" articles -- how they do it, and how they think through an activity as they are planning it. These articles would form the core of follow-up panels on the topics. Yes, we would ask people to read (gasp!) the articles before they attend the panel.

Breaking Traditions: A series of panels looking at the way we have done things and what new directions or evolving innovations we should be contemplating. This might include a brainstorming panel for ideas, after which we could schedule some follow-up panels for the *Thinking It Through* part of the theme.

Resource Room: There will be a room available for showing computer programs and displaying convention materials or for other workshop activities. If you would like to do a demonstration or workshop, please contact us at jsiclari@bellsouth.net or at the SFSFS address below.

Since we will be on the Spacecoast, we are negotiating for a tour of *Kennedy Space Center* on Friday morning. We plan to videotape all the programs to have them available as references and for those who can't make the con.

SMOFcon 18 Membership Form

Please make checks out to the *South Florida Science Fiction Society* or *SFSFS*.

Mail to: SFSFS, P. O. Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Memberships _____ @ \$50 to Nov. 15, 2000. Total enclosed: _____

Tropicon 19

Progress Report

Hugo Winner Vernor Vinge
to be Guest of Honor
at Tropicon 19,
November 10 through 12, 2000
Clarion Hotel in Hollywood Beach, Florida!

If you haven't read Vernor Vinge's ⁽¹⁾ work, what the heck are you waiting for? His first publication was "Apartness" in the June, 1965 edition of *New Worlds*. His latest novel, *A Deepness in the Sky* just received the Hugo Award for Best Novel at this year's World Science Fiction Convention in Chicago.

His last novel, *A Fire Upon the Deep* (1993) won the Hugo, and his two previous novels, *Marooned in Realtime* (1987) and *The Peace War* (1985) were both finalists for this award. He earned the Prometheus Award for *Marooned in Realtime* and the Hamilton Memorial Award for *The Peace War*.

Vernor Vinge has a doctorate in Mathematics, and teaches Computer Science at University of California in San Diego. Sometimes, it shows in his writing. *True Names* has been cited as one of the seminal works in the prediction of cyberspace. Unusual and advanced ideas in distributed computing, nanotechnology and communication are among the many SF devices in his work.

Vinge's work is not only fun, but incredibly stimulating. Read his books! There are more ideas per page than any reader can expect, as well as action, adventure, striking characters, well tuned plots and an insight into the effects of technology that is scary bright. Even the little comments are fascinating (e.g. when everyone has a pocket computer, and there's one big screen in the room, what does it show?). He hasn't been to a Florida convention, so this is a rare and most welcome opportunity to meet and speak with one of the great SF writers in the field. An interesting piece can be found at <http://www.edventure.com/pcforum/pc97/agenda/panel5.html#vinge>

(1) Yes. Joan Vinge is his ex-wife.

And now, a few words from our chairman...Joe Siclari...

I hope you will be able to make it to Tropicon 19. We have some special activities planned. Our Guest list is better than ever. With our Guests of Honor Vernor Vinge and David A. Cherry, we have two of the best in the field. You won't want to miss our special filk guest, Heather Alexander, or our FanHistoricon Speaker, Dave Langford.

Let me explain about FanHistoricon, several years ago a few fen gathered together to try to do some planning to preserve our fannish and SF history. A lot of projects have been undertaken in the subsequent years, web sites, mailing lists, interviews, fanzines, and even conventions devoted to this preservation effort. Tropicon has been selected to host FanHistoricon this year. This will be the tenth gathering of fans from all over to focus on fanhistorical preservation. To celebrate all this, the FANAC Fan History Project (<http://fanac.org>) is sponsoring a fund to bring Dave Langford from England to participate in the FanHistoricon 10 program. Please come and be a part of it all.

Tropicon 19 will have all the great things that you expect from the convention. But the effort is only worthwhile if you come to the con. Read through this progress report, discover some of what will be happening, and send in your membership. I'm looking forward to seeing you this November.

David A. Cherry Artist Guest of Honor

Tropicon is proud to have David A. Cherry join us as this year's Artist Guest of Honor. In addition to being the recipient of several Chesley Awards (voted on by ASFA, the Association of Science Fiction Artists) and numerous Hugo Award nominations, rumor has it Mr. Cherry has a sister who seems to have had several books published <wink, wink>

But seriously, David A. Cherry has been honing his craft for the last twenty years, after the siren's call of the artist's palette seduced him away from the honorable profession of providing legal counsel. A compilation of his early works can be found in *Imagination: The Art and Technique of David A. Cherry*. He has also had short fiction published in an anthology. Mr. Cherry has served as President for ASFA.

For this writer, I know it will be a visual treat to view whatever is displayed in the Art Show from this Guest of Honor's portfolio. As he hails from Oklahoma, it would be a shame for you all to miss this opportunity to see his work in person and meet the artist who has provided you with many stunning visual images during his first twenty years in the business. I can hardly wait to see what he'll dream up in the next twenty years!

Dave Langford Special Fan Guest (or, "who is this guy Langford and why is he coming all the way from England to talk about fans?!?!")

Aside from having won a dozen and half Hugo Awards (give or take a half dozen) as Best Fan Writer of the Year or as the publisher of the Best Fanzine of the Year, Dave Langford actively searches out great writing for a Thog Masterclass mention. He publishes (seemingly forever, the most widely read monthly fannish newzine, *Ansible*, and has created an excellent website which includes more than anyone would like to know about a guy named Langford (<http://www.ansible.demon.co.uk/raq.html>). His alternate life includes writing science fiction, writing about science fiction, writing about fandom, writing funny stuff, writing about computers and writing other stuff. Dave has organized an effort to promote and support the Trans Atlantic Fan Fund (<http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/SF-Archives/Taff/>) one of the topics we will be covering as part of FanHistoricon 10. Help us welcome him to South Florida.

Heather Alexander Special Filk Guest

Heather Alexander was raised with the customs of the Isles firmly bred into her by her mother and grandmother, both natives of Britain. Her father, a prominent jazz vocalist/guitarist, began Heather's musical education at the age of six when he started teaching her guitar. By age nine, she was teaching herself to play the violin. She later began composing songs and honed her skills with several years of private study in music, voice and drama. In 1985, she joined a country and western band as vocalist and lead fiddler, while at the same time finding her niche in Celtic music by playing fiddle for the Irish and Scots dancers at the Renaissance Pleasure Faire. Since that time, her original music has been heavily influenced by the traditions of her roots.

Currently, Heather performs solo at pubs, coffee houses and festivals from L.A. to Seattle, and with other groups throughout California and Nevada. She has worked with and opened for many notables, including the Bay Area's Tempest, Tommy Makem, the Clancy Brothers, Ed Miller, and Alex Beeton. With publisher Firebird Arts & Music she created albums based on fantasy stories. In 1994, Heather produced her first solo CD, *Wanderlust*, with backup from Rob Wullenjohn and Lief Sorbye of Tempest, and concert harpist Jenny Lindner. She has released two more albums, *Midsummer* and *Life's Flame*.

Programming

Something old, something new, something borrowed.... That's the story as usual for Tropicon programming. In the something old category, we plan to reprise several of last year's most enthusiastically received panels.

Fantiques Roadshow - Bring your treasures, and our experts will evaluate them. Last year, we seeded this with items from the committee's private collections. Now that you know what to expect, BRING YOUR STUFF. We'll have experts on books, magazines, collectibles, art, toys, comics, and fanzines. Some of your treasures may be duffers, some of your duffers may be treasures. This is your chance to find out.

Technology Today - Closer and closer we come to Dick Tracy's wristwatch. We don't have it yet, but we do have experts in technology, computers, rocket science and more to tell you what's fiction, and what's science. Want to know how much of nanotech is real? Want to know how much of your emotional state your computer can read? If so, this is your panel.

The Tropicon Annual Trivia Knock Yourself Out Free-for-all - Thanks to everyone who has participated in this through the years. We're making some changes for 2000. This year, we plan only one trivia session. There'll be no runoffs. So limber up your voice, ready your memories and calm your thoughts. It's time to answer those questions, and duck when Joe throws those nickels at you. The winner of the 1993 Hugo for Best Novel was?

Of course, we also have our traditional Saturday night Banquet (menu details elsewhere in the PR) with our Guest of Honor speeches and, perhaps, a few surprises. Our Special Filk Guest will be having a concert along with our long-lasting filksinging.

There are lots of panels in preparation, showcasing our guests. If you have any ideas to suggest, please send them in now to Edie Stern at Tropicon@sfsts.org.

Meet out VIPs -- Guests Writers, Artists, Editors, Fans!

On Friday night, Tropicon presents the first opportunity for you to meet all the important people at the convention -- and for them to meet you. Tropicon is small and informal and everyone who comes is a fan and a friendly one to boot. At 8:00 PM we will gather on the Con Suite Terrace for talk, fun and ice cream. Join us for the Ice cream Social event of the SFSF calendar (that's South Florida Science Fiction).

Tropicon to return to Hollywood Beach's Clarion Hotel

Once again Tropicon will be held at the beautiful Clarion Hotel on Hollywood Beach. Located on the Intercostal Waterway between Fort Lauderdale and Miami, the Clarion has two types of guest rooms:

Standard Deluxe Room: \$65.00/night (includes two double beds, private balcony, cable TV, and coffee pot). The price covers up to four people per room. Rollaway beds and refrigerators are also available for a nominal fee or,

Clarion Business Class Room: \$79.00/night (includes one king-size bed, microwave oven, refrigerator, iron, ironing board, hair dryer, data port, private balcony, cable TV, and coffee pot).

The room rates are very low for this time of the year in South Florida, so please come and spend the weekend. If you've never stayed over at a convention, you're missing half the fun!

The function space is just right for Tropicon. We'll have the second floor almost to ourselves. Registration will be on the second floor, right in front of the elevators, with the rest of our meeting rooms just down the hall including the Con Suite, which has its own outside terrace.

If you just hate being torn away from the convention to go in search of food, never fear! On the first floor, is a small Food Court featuring Pizzeria Uno, Nathan's Hot Dogs, Healthy Choice Deli, I Can't Believe It's Yogurt, Nestle Cookie Cafe and Sark's Gourmet Coffee! You can nip down there for a quick bite before heading back to the next amazing panel or slide show. The food court is open from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Other hotel restaurants include Silks, for more upscale dining, which is open from 5:00 to 10:00 PM. Entrees average around \$15.00. Then there's the Palm Court breakfast buffet for \$7.95. This runs from 7:00 to 10:00 AM.

There's an excellent outdoor swimming pool with a Tiki Bar, tennis and shuffle board courts. The pool-side terrace is elegant and spacious.

The Hotel has plenty of free parking with easy access to I-95. Fort Lauderdale International Airport is just 7 miles to the north, and Miami International Airport is 22 miles to the south. Simply take I-95 to Hallandale Beach Blvd. then head East. When you reach Ocean Drive (A1A), make a left and the Clarion will be on your left.

Please reserve rooms by October 15, 2000 to ensure availability.

4000 South Ocean Drive
Hollywood, FL 33019-3010
(954) 458-1900
(800) 329-9019
(954) 458-7222 (FAX)

Robert A. Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive

Once again, we are all set for the Robert Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive. The Bloodmobile will be at the hotel on Saturday at 9:00 AM. We again have hardcover books for donors but this year there is a wide selection with almost no duplicates. With a wide selection obviously the earlier people donate, the better selection they will have. So make plans to donate if you can and sign up at the Registration Desk...or wherever those lovely folks at Registration will send you to in order to sign up!

Saturday Night With Our Guests!

On Saturday night we will have our annual Guest of Honor Banquet. Our guests will speak and you will eat...not necessarily at the same time...unless you are a very slow eater. Tropicon banquets have proven to be full of surprises, examples range from the shocking life history sprung on Tropicon 18's GoH, Mike Resnick to the reactionary songfest led by Tropicon 16's GoH, Esther Friesner - through the hotel's atrium area - in response to the religious songfest that was drowning out her speech! Basically, there is no telling what may happen. Don't miss it, purchase your ticket today!

Based on the excellent comments on the food last year, we are again having a buffet. The menu will consist of: Sauteed Snapper with lemon wine sauce; Marinated Grilled chicken breast with red pepper coulis; or, Citrus Marinated Pork Loin with pan juices. The rest of the fixings include: Tossed Green Salad; Baby shrimp and corn salad; Roasted orzo primavera salad; Hearts of Palm citrus Salad; Fennel mashed potatoes; Wild Rice Pilaf; and, Fresh Seasonal Vegetables. To top it off the desserts are Key Lime Pie, Carrot Cake, apple Pie and Cheesecake. Of course, coffee, tea rolls & butter will be available.

All this and the Guest of Honor speeches too for a mere \$29.50! Cash bar opens at 6:45 p.m. with food service to begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Gaming

Ned Bush, our Gaming Room Head, is currently compiling the schedule for this year's gaming. Any and all interested GameMasters are asked to contact him at nedbush@mediaone.net. You can also write to him at the contact address listed under the REGISTRATION section of this Progress Report.

Program Book Ad Rates

In addition to features and articles about our guests, artwork, the list of charity auctions, and local spots you can get a bite to eat at, there will be space for publishers' and dealers' ads, and assorted other advertising.

Advertisement space will be available in the Tropicon 19 Program Book at the rates listed below. All advertising copy must be complete and photo ready. Typesetting, graphics and artwork is available at additional cost. Let us know what you want and we will quote a rate.

Program Book size: 8.5 in. by 11 in. (minimum 1/2 inch border all around) Full page bleeds are NOT available. Color prices available upon request.

Ad specifications (actual copy size)	Professional	Fan
Full: 7.5 X 10	\$110.00	\$60.00
Half: Horizontal (5 X 7.5)	\$60.00	\$35.00
Vertical (3.75 X 10)	\$60.00	\$35.00
Quarter: 3.5 X 5	\$35.00	\$20.00
Eighth : 3.5 X 2.5	\$20.00	

Reservations should be made by October 1, 2000. Final ad copy must be mailed so that it is received by October 10, 2000. Reserve your space now to get the best position. Publication date is November 1, 2000.

Registration and other rates

Three Day Advance Memberships:	\$28.00 to 10/30/00
	\$33.00 at the door
Children's Memberships (ages 5-11)	\$10.00
Banquet Tickets:	\$29.50
Dealer's Tables (w/1 membership):	\$45.00 each
Dealer's Assistant:	\$15.00 (1 per table)
Art Show:	Full panel/table: \$25.00
	Half panel/table: \$15.00

In case you decide to wait until you actually show up to Tropicon to register, the registration hours are as follows:

Friday: Noon to 8 PM
Saturday: 9 AM to 7 PM
Sunday: 9 AM to 3 PM

To register, submit copy for program books ads, or for more information (including Dealers' Room or Art Show information), please contact one of our Chairpersons at: TROPICON XIX
c/o SFSFS
P.O. Box 70143
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143

Or send an e-mail message to tropicon@sfsfs.org. Or call Shirlene Rawlik at 561-844-6336.

Art Show Goodies

In addition to the excellent artwork of our Guest of Honor, David A. Cherry, there will be other visual delights on display (and for sale) in the Art Show.

Artists interested in displaying please contact the Art Show Head either by snail mail addressed to the Art Show Head at the SFSFS address or via e-mail to tropicon@sfsfs.org.

Have we got a "deal" for you!

You can call them dealers and you can call them vendors--heck, you can even call them hucksters...just make sure you call on them! Tropicon's Dealers' Room promises to be full of gift ideas for those friends and family on your gift-giving list...especially if they are interested in printed materials...

There are still a few tables available for dealers interested in participating. A table is \$45.00 (includes one three-day membership) and one table assistant's three-day membership is \$15.00.

For more info, contact Pete Rawlik, Dealers' Room Head, by phone at 561-844-6336 or by e-mail at prawlik@mindspring.com.

Con Suite Update!

Chili and muffins and Cheebles, oh my! What do you get when you combine a Costco membership with a full kitchen and a first time Con Suite Head with anal retentive tendencies? See the first sentence!

Seriously, there will be some gustatory delights to be had each day in the Tropicon Con Suite! Recipes are currently being "auditioned" and the winners will be prepared on-site in the Con Suite's full kitchen!

Drop by and see what's cooking!

CheebleCon is back!

Yes, believe it or not, CheebleCon is back! Tropicon veterans know what we're referring to...and are fully expected to bring any "extras" to enhance their own creations. For everyone else, suffice it to say that our first CheebleCon at Tropicon was held at Tropicon 16, Esther Friesner was the GoH. While no one can fully explain the importance of hamsters in Esther's life, we can tell you that "Cheeble" is rumoured to be the sound a bull hamster makes when he's busy procreating.

There are two elements to a CheebleCon at Tropicon event. The first is the CheebleCon Colouring Contest! Crayons will be available in the Con Suite. Everyone is welcome to participate and all entries will be posted on the Con Suite wall for the enjoyment of all convention attendees. The second element is the actual CheebleCon event on Saturday night...after the Banquet festivities have ended. Munchies will be on hand as we vote on the entries for "ribbons" to be awarded to the winners.

Video Room

There will be one...there will be movies...if there is something that you're dying to see that you either haven't seen in a long time or have never seen before, contact Joey Reynolds and Bill Wilson, Video Room Heads, via the tropicon@sfsfs.org e-mail address and we'll see what we can do.

Charity Auction

Thanks to the efforts of our donation procurers (mainly Dan F., Judi G. and Pete R.) and the generous donations from SFSFS members (the Siclari/Stern family, the Lymans, the Rawliks and Dan Foster) bidding at Tropicon's past Charity Auctions has always been fast and furious. This year's Charity Auction promises to be no different.

Recipients of this year's proceeds are a local literacy group as well as the SFSFS Clubhouse Maintenance Fund. Donations can be given to Judi Goodman either before or at the convention. Check at the Registration Desk for further directions.

Volunteers Needed

Running a science fiction convention is a lot of work, and an extra pair of hands sure comes in handy. A lot of the "work" is also FUN! And you earn a lot of egoboo, too. So, if you've ever wanted to get in on the behind the scenes stuff and make things happen, or just wanted to lend a hand, then volunteer.

Here are some of the assistance needy areas:

- * Art Show: Thursday evening setup; room monitoring; and, Sunday afternoon teardown.

- * Con Suite: making coffee, cleaning up, answering the phone, keeping an eye on the room. If you're going to be hanging, why not help out?

- * Gaming Room: GMs needed.

- * Program Ops: Setting out name cards for panels, rounding up panelists, refreshing water station, giving the 5 minute warnings at the end, helping with video taping. We are always looking for new ideas, so tell us there's a program you want to see.

- * Registration: Help with filling out cards, making badges, handing out registration packs.

- * Video Room: Starting and stopping the tapes, but mostly just watching the room. Let us know if you've got a rare or unusual video you think we might want to run; please tell us in advance so we can fit it into the schedule.

And there's more! If you want to help out, there's always a job waiting. Contact us by snail-mail or phone (see Registration) or send e-mail to tropicon@sfsfs.org.

Don't forget to keep up-to-the minute on all the latest Tropicon plans on our web site at <http://sfsfs.org/Tropicon/Tropicon19.html>

Tropicon 19

c/o South Florida Science Fiction Society
P.O. Box 70143
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
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01279

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South Florida
Science Fiction Convention
November 10 -12, 2000

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Cherry

Special Fan Guest:
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4000 S. Ocean Drive,
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800-329-9019
or 954-458-7222

sponsored by the South Florida
Science Fiction Society
a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

TROPICON 19 REGISTRATION FORM

Mail to: Tropicon 19, c/o SFSFS, P.O. Box 70143, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for:

_____ 3 Day Membership(s) (\$28.00 until 10/30/00)

_____ 3 Day Membership(s) (\$33 after 10/30/00)

_____ Banquet @ \$29.50

_____ Dealer's Table @ \$45.00 (includes 1 membership)

_____ Art Show Panel/Table

_____ Contribution to Filk Fund

Make Checks Payable to SFSFS