

THE INSIDER

The Insider is (usually) published February, April, June, August, October, and December--the same months we are now meeting. Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each publishing month, 1:30 PM, at various places (changes will be published). Full voting membership and a year's subscription to this newsletter is \$7. Club officers are: President Michelle Zellich [[is mzellich@calvin.army.mil OR zellich@i1.net]], Vice President Sean Sendlein [[jacara@i1.net]], Treasurer Richard Zellich [[zellich@i1.net OR zellich@bosco.army.mil]], Art Director Mary Wonderful [[MBrought@www2.alpeng.com]], Web Page Editor Randy Davis [[sffen@stlnet.com OR rd@schweiss.com]], and Secretary AND Hard Copy Editor Kay Goode [[cagey@i1.net - that's @ letter eye, number one.net]], plus our Minneapolis Ambassador Jeannie Yaffe.

CONTRIBUTORS: Sheryl Birkhead, Harry Warner, Randy Davis, Rich & Michelle Zellich, Sean Sendlein, Brooks Powell, Carol Leathers, and all the many, many others - THANK YOU!



RENEWALS: Zoanne Allen, Marie Willbrand, Linda Zang, Richard Zellich, Roger Zimpel

NEW MEMBERS: Jim Garrison

NEED TO RENEW: Look for the GREEN mark on your newsletter!

EXPIRED: Look for the RED mark!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well ---- Here we are going into June and we still haven't had a "real" meeting this year. There was one at Chez Zellich, but there weren't many people there. There was *supposed* to be one at Name That Con, but it wasn't on the printed schedule, and when we got to the room it was supposed to be in, it was locked. - - - Oh, well. We could have a short meeting at the picnic, but there'll be a lot of folks there (I hope) that aren't currently members - we could just invite them to a "real" meeting at a real facility at a later date (currently scheduled for Fathers' Day). Or, we could use the Fathers' Day meeting for our annual trip to the zoo.

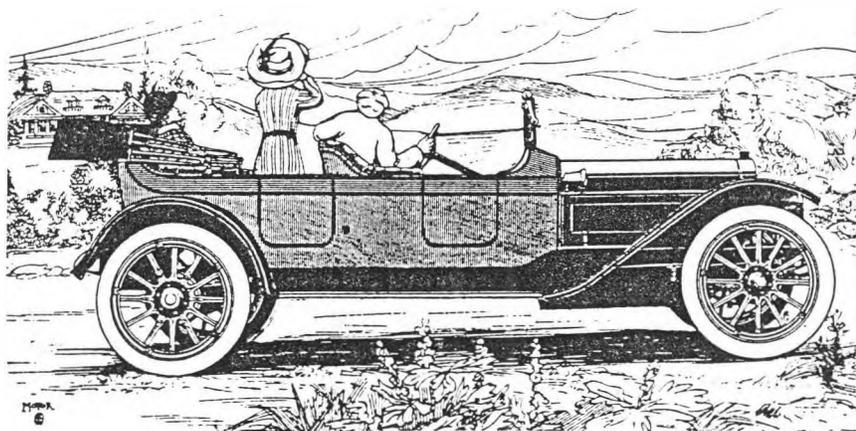
Speaking of meetings - does anyone know who's involved with the "Science Fiction Discussion Group" that meets at Borders in Sunset Hills????

I just want to wish everybody who has a birthday or a wedding anniversary in the next couple of months a good year and many more to come.

On 20 July, we will be celebrating the 29th anniversary of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's first steps on the moon. Instead of celebrating, though, we should be complaining about, at least, not going back, but also not going on to Mars.

The next meeting (after June) is 16 August. We'll be back from Worldcon, so there should be a meeting. Hopefully, we'll have a facility scheduled before then.

Everybody take care, and we'll see you at the picnic. - Michelle



YEARLY CALENDAR:

- February = Election of Club Officers
- April = Kite Fly
- June = Zoo & Picnic
- August = Baseball Game
- October = Grant's Farm & Wine Trip
- December = Nominations for Club Officers & Christmas Party

BIRTHDAYS:

- June 1 - Chad Sies
- June 9 - Keith Berdak
- June 10 - Diana Bailey
- June 10 - Don "Hugh" Cox
- June 14 - Roy Burkhart
- June 17 - Dan Phillips
- June 18 - Michel Wilson



- July 2 - JoEllen Potchen
- July 9 - Glen Cook
- July 12 - Kay Goode
- July 13 - Harrison Ford
- July 16 - Lori Lynch
- July 17 - Chris Cook
- July 19 - Roger Tener
- July 21 - Robin Williams
- July 24 - Mark Moore
- July 26 - Michelle Neubauer
- July 30 - Arnold Schwarzenegger
- July 30 - John Sies



- August 4 - Michael Henry
- August 4 - Karla Medley
- August 5 - Neil Armstrong
- August 7 - Ed Kraemer
- August 7 - David Duchovny
- August 10 - Justin Cook
- August 13 - Alfred Hitchcock
- August 25 - Sean Connery
- August 26 - Mary Stadter
- August 28 - Jeanne Norris
- August 30 - Jeff Bergeran
- August 30 - Carol Cook
- August 30 - Jeff Bergeran
- August 31 - Melissa Knappenberger

- September 2 - Sherry Mitchell
- September 4 - Jenny Overkamp
- September 9 - Ben Overkamp
- September 11 - Bob Mattingly
- September 11 - Dan Patterson
- September 18 - Jim Belknap
- September 20 - Mark Rowley
- September 20 - Rich Zellich
- September 21 - Stephen King
- September 21 - H. G. Wells
- September 23 - Trish Overkamp
- September 25 - Mark Hamel
- September 25 - Christopher Reeve
- September 30 - Jake Overkamp



- October 1 - Elaine Schultz
- October 4 - Jackie Moore
- October 5 - Ben Moore
- October 8 - Sigourney Weaver
- October 9 - Scott Bakula
- October 11 - Colleen Joerger
- October 12 - Dan Stratmann
- October 12 - Mary Sies
- October 12 - Mark Teidemann
- October 16 - Patty Hildebrand
- October 18 - Florence Achenbach
- October 18 - Michelle Zellich
- October 21 - Sean Sendlein
- October 26 - Lina Zang
- October 29 - John Donigan
- October 30 - Marella Sands



- November 1 - John Mitchell
- November 8 - Daryl Phillips
- November 9 - Carl Sagan
- November 13 - Cheryl Medley
- November 18 - Alan Shepard
- November 23 - Bob Tucker
- November 25 - Genie Yaffe



I'm sure the movie versions of computer operation won't be completely true to life. But even worse is the way the movies and television depict the experiences of drivers. You never, never see anyone needing to back into a tight parking space along a curb and when the driver is ready to pull away from the curb, there is never oncoming traffic that forces him to wait until the way is clear. The engine always starts as soon as the ignition key is turned, even in the coldest and rainiest weather. The driver who wants to make a left turn never sits there waiting for oncoming traffic to clear on a two-way road or street.

It's easy to believe the deep thoughts by school children. At a local Catholic school, I attended a rummage sale recently. On one wall were posted various questions from students of the school. One was directed to God: "Are you really invisible or is it just a trick?"

Happy thanksgiving.



Yrs., &c.,

Harry Warner, Jr.



Sheryl Birkhead
23629 Woodfield Rd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

started Dec. 5, '97

Dear Inner Circle (well, you all are Insiders),

Happy Holidays to one and all.

I'm - at this moment - sitting in the waiting room at a Toyota dealership - where I bought a used Geo Prizm as an emergency about 3 weeks ago. Suddenly, this AM I had not turn signals and couldn't tell about the brake lights. When I finally got someone to help me check, both brake lights and turn signals worked - but since I do house calls (mainly in the evening and often in areas I don't know) I can't gamble that cars around me have no idea what I intend. So - I made the impromptu trip 30 miles to have them look - since the limited warranty is about up AND they said they'll LOOK, but since everything works, they probably can't find anything plus even if they do, since it is a Prizm, they probably won't have parts - just great. Anyhow - here I sit fuming since I have a huge list of

stuff that needs doing and have to get home (etc.) for a call this evening. GRUMBLE...

I hope (poor but appropriate choice of words) that next ish will tell of better happenings, but also recount Dotsar's (?sp) death - I haven't heard if there is any charity or fund for donations. Hard to believe future zines around the world will not sport his super fillos.

Uh - it's Ian - not Jan, pardon my scrawl. I heard via the grapevine that his cancer is considered "cured," but since my definition is at least 3 years and without a recurrence and it's too soon for that, but at least the news from Down Under is in the ghood category.

((Oooof - bad news - they can't find the problem and I can't afford the risk, so a part (maybe at fault) will be ORDERED - yuch - another 60 miles round trip over this holiday season - fume) and I have to pay \$50 "deductible" on a used car repair. Well, I had just calculated I could cover my holiday bills by about \$12 - so this puts me in the red - as opposed to paying for the holidays. Oh well - only money - hohoho))

Agh - Dec. 12 - time has done it's thing again. I'm back at the same dealership getting the problem (see above) cured - I hope.

I can understand Harry's comment about the Star Wars cast, but as far as I'm concerned, they were, essentially, unknown. But, for true media fans, I'd imagine they were known.

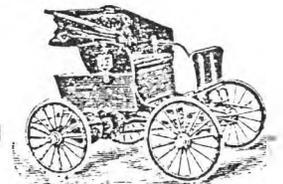
- Sheesh - and still time does it's thing - Dec. 15 - I don't (so far) think much of the newest (last?) Rodenberry show - but who knows?, other shows have been known to "blossom" after a lackluster first season.

Worldcon memberships are NOT cheap - even the cheapest route, these days, isn't - I guess that's just the way it'll be (\$\$). It sounds as if the biggest Worldcon complaints are of what didn't happen (evening doings and convention suites).

This ish IS jammed full of interesting tidbits! "Like" the bat story. <<Thanks, sorry it has taken me so long to get this ish out.>>

I WILL mail this NOW. Happy Holidays.

Sheryl



THEY CAME IN THE MAIL

Here is this month's listing of what came in the mail. All publications are kept on file and are available for reading. The ones listed below will be available at the next club meeting, or just let Kay know which ones you are interested in and she will make arrangements to get them to you.

Emissions from Flotilla 13, Vol. 10, #1 & 2, %Alice Yount, P.O. Box 31715, Saint Louis, MO 63131-0715, published bimonthly & is a multimedia writer's & artists not for profit group. A large, enthusiastic, well written fan newsletter with good art work and fun to read (not all about Blake's 7). Contains poetry, art, short stories and reviews.

File 770:120, 121 & 122 (20th Aniversary Issue), Mike Glycer, P.O. Box 1056, Sierra Madre, CA 91025; email: MGlycer@compuserve.com: irregularly published, but full of very interesting articles with excellent art work.

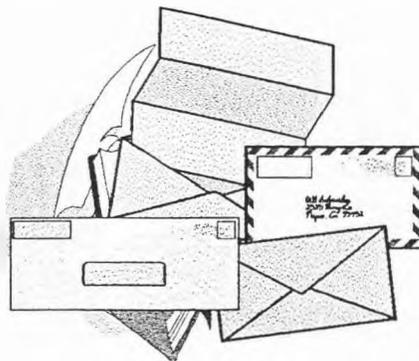
IKV Purple Haze, Dec. 97; IKV Purple Haze, %Jenny Overkamp, 9859 Big Bend, Saint Louis, MO 63122; Klignon Assault Group zine put out by three KAG groups.

Instant Message #614 - 621, NESFA Inc., P.O. Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0203; published twice monthly by the New England Science Fiction Association.

Mimosa 21, %Nicki & Richard Lynch, P.O. Box 3120, Gaithersburg, MD 20885; Lynch@access.digex.net; www.smithway.org/mimosa; a really wonderfully interesting zine, must be read to be appreciated.

Proper Boskonian #42, New England Science Fiction Association, %NESFA, P.O. Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0203; semi-annual gazette; email pb@nesfa.org.

Time Lord Times, Vol. 14, #3 & 4, CIA, P.O. Box 733, Saint Louis, MO 63188; bimonthly newsletter of The Saint Louis Celestial Intervention Agency, Inc., a Dr. Who club.



LOCs

423 Summit Ave.
Hagerstown, MD
21740

Nov. 20, 1997

Dear Kay:

Rhw (misplaced-finger synonym for The) October issue of *The Insider* has arrived <<YES, I am that far behind! Oh, well. I am "trying" to catch up.>>. It confirms my belief that you publish the most legible fanzine in the world.

Everything you published about the loss of Cam Nickelberry sounds very sincere and in the best of taste. He must have been a wonderful person. And it is another addition to the long list of fans who have been dying in youth or middle age in numbers much greater than statistics would seem to justify. I know several of the premature deaths in fandom have been caused by the effects of AIDS, but most of them, like Cam's, seem to result from physical problems that usually occur only in old age.

I bought a rather inexpensive receiver recently and the salesman advised me not to bother to fill out and mail in the warranty card. His store offers its own warranty that lasts twice as long as the manufacturer's. I remember vaguely reading in a photography magazine years ago that returning the warranty card after a purchase of a camera may actually lessen the chances of getting justice from the manufacturer if a problem arises.

There were a few facts in the two Worldcon reports in this issue that I haven't seen in conreports published in other fanzines. I was particularly staggered by Rich's mention of the \$1 per pound cost of ice. That seems to be the all-time inflation champion in my experience. I'm old enough to have lived with an ice box as a boy, complete with a water pan that became very heavy and needed to be emptied regularly. I can't remember the exact price we paid for a 25-pound or 50-pound block of ice, unfortunately. Even more unfortunately, we disposed of the old ice box when we acquired an electric refrigerator. I saw a classified advertisement in the local newspapers last week that offered an ice box for sale for \$750.





EMOCs (E-Mails of Comment)

<<In an effort to get SOME KIND OF RESPONSE from SOMEBODY, I sent an e-mail message out to those addresses that I have (go ahead, send me yours-if you dare). Ha Ha!!! Mine is cagey@i1.net (that's @ letter eye, number one.net) - see you on the Internet! . I would LIKE to have anything you would care to send me about 3 days before the end of the month just before I need to publish the newsletter (Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct. & Dec.).>>

From: Bill Hodgson bhodgson@okc.cc.ok.us

At least you only raised the panel fees \$2. Many shows are both raising fees AND taking a larger percentage. Combined with the increasingly common practice of charging extra for mail-in art (sometimes only a small extra fee, but often hefty, such as a significant fee (\$20-50) plus requiring the artist to buy a membership despite not being there), they've largely driven me from the convention market. Sometimes the art show staff is responsible, but usually it seems to be others on the con, especially those who look at the art show as "part of a con but not their part."

I've tried periodically over the years to inform folks, usually in the form of a combination con critique & run-down of sales/expenses. It seems to carry impact sometimes, especially if I was high-seller in the show, to illustrate just how little actual profit, then compare it to a "real job." (e.g. "That \$1200 gross comes out to \$800 net, but then you have to cut that in half, to cover continuing & overhead expenses, for about \$400 final net, which took more than a week, for maybe \$1500 per month, before taxes, etc." People who turn burgers at McDonalds say that sounds grand, but anyone who lives in the real world knows how little incentive that is to stick with it, especially with a family.)

Back when Sherrie & I used to hit Archon together, we only had tiny Joseph, & Sherrie was still working about half-time. We'd traded our Saab Turbos in for Subarus & adopted a more-modest lifestyle. It was easy to say it didn't matter that going to Archon cost as much as I made there. Now I have to go without her, room with fellow artists, & keep expenses & time gone to a minimum. I feel like I hardly attend cons, at all, even though I'm there. I'll bet you get a lot of the same thing, working the art show. Except for trading sleep for hanging out with friends, it's tough to get to do much of anything, huh?

If there's any way I can be at Archon, I will. I'll know in June, concerning the Ren Fest, & I'll let you know then. J.R. & I trade off carrying each other's art to shows the other can't attend, & he's already agreed to carry mine to Archon, so I should be able to send some nice work. Everyone got a kick out of watching one of my \$1 pieces reach \$300 in the auction. Though I seemed to miss some of the Archon regulars I was used to seeing, I did get to meet a number of new people last year. It's one of the big lures which keeps me returning to cons, the chance to make friends as much as collectors. For someone as shy as I am, that's awfully nice.

Sorry about your winter blahs. I'm kinda blah this week, too, but it's probably lack of sleep. I hope you get to get out & do something wild, have fun, & shake those blahs. (And no, when the cops stop you, you

can't say, "Bill said I could." – ah, heck, go ahead & say it, & if they think "Clinton," so much the better. . .)

And by the way, the remaining of those 3 Subarus turned over 200,000 miles an hour ago. Cool, huh? It got to 200,000.1 & stuck! I thought it was going to refuse to register another mile. I thwomped it with my knuckles, & off it went again. That's all the rest it gets!

I have "fond" memories of trips in that Subaru, such as the Boston Marathon, coming back from the World Con in Boston. I had a blow-out in St. Louis rush-hour traffic. While changing the tire, I noticed cars seemed to be making these strafing runs at me. It seemed awfully rude. Then I noticed that the lane I'd been in merged left just behind the car, which was just behind the top of a hill. That was the time when I proved that an inspired artist can indeed qualify for an Indy pit crew.

Uh, oh. I'm rambling again, aren't I? I'm supposed to be painting. I'll pop a check for \$30 in the mail before the end of the month.

Thanks, Kay.

Your silly artist, Bill Hodgson

<<Thank you, Bill. Archon had to raise their prices this year, but spread it out over the whole con. I don't know the thinking behind other cons' charges, especially for mail-in art, but I like getting mail-in art for the variety it offers the local fan who can't travel to see the artists' works at their local cons.

Of course, it causes me, personally, some effort in unpacking, checking to see the art made the trip undamaged & matches the paperwork sent by the artist, repacking, & hauling it to the con. At the con I have always been lucky to have volunteers who help me set up & tear down, so unpacking again & hanging & taking down & repacking is a matter of supervision on my part. But then I haul it to my home again, unpack again & double-check unsold art against paperwork & in the correct box, etc., repacking & then hauling to the post office or UPS to finally mail back to the artist is a hassle and generally takes me a full week of vacation time after the con to get done. But, at the end of the week, I have ALL of my paperwork & finances done & checks sent out to the artists for any sold art ALL DONE. If I didn't, I would just scream, cause by then, I am SOOOOOO TIRED!!!!

But we don't charge for this because I do it for free cause I guess I just love doing the Art Show so much - along with the help of my wonderful friend Sher Neander, who I "con" into helping me. Besides, if we charge for it, who gets it? The con? (why?) The art show chair who is doing all the backbreaking work? (If so, I may re-think the matter - he he he.) Or do they use this money to hire someone to do all the work? (The only real reason I can see for charging for mail-ins.) Oh, well, whatever.

Thanks for the Subaru stories. So, Subarus do hold up for a long time, huh... Betcha didn't know that I steal good emails and put in the newsletter I edit - at least, not till now. ;) He He He... Hmmm, wonder if I'll ever get email from him again? I HOPE SO. kg>>

Gentles,

Here's one Dave Phelps came up with on the spur of the moment. I'm sending it in because 1) he probably won't and 2) it's a real groaner:

A Spaniard took a French friend to see a bullfight - his first - and afterward asked, "How did you like it?" The frog responded, "It was OK, but I'm confused about one thing. If those were bulls in the ring, why did everyone keep shouting, "With milk! With milk!?"

(Non-francophones should be advised that the French for "with milk" is "au lait.")

Yrs xwly,

Brooks Anderson



P.S. This just in. A fellow I know is starting an organization to oppose the folks who don't eat meat or wear leather or fur. It will be called PETA - People Eating Tasty Animals.

P.P.S. You've seen folks with signs "Will work for food" of course. If you see one with "Will work in exchange for false teeth" that's an indentured servant. I know cuz D. Phelps told me so.

↵ ↑ ↗ ↘ ↓ ↙ ↵ ↑ ↗ ↘ ↓ ↙

LET ME PICK YOUR BRAINS! (BWAH - ha-ha-ha!)

I'm hoping this will be a year long, ongoing feedback from members of the club to this member (Robert "Bowb" Mattingly), via letters in *The Insider*, concerning my future computer purchase.

I plan by the end of 1998 to have about \$1,000 to \$1,500 set aside for the purchase of a good computer system for my writing; writing/word processing will be the only use for this system.

I'm not going to use it for: going on-line; graphics; computer games.

My needs are fairly clear: Computer, with enough memory to run specialized word processing software (such as for scripts) in reasonable real-time; Software, script and manuscript, with some flexibility to fine-tune it to my needs; Hard-Drive, big enough to at least store the equivalent of a 60,000 word novel

(and I would prefer sizable files for storing revisions); Monitor, which I won't be spending most of the day staring at (don't have that kind of writing time), but remember I'm a bifocal-wearing old fart; Printer, with 2 speeds; one fast and rough, for printing out rough drafts (yes, I need to do this) and an excellent quality mode, hang the slowness, for the final draft.

I've only got one phone line, which I'm not going to tie up, so I don't need a modem.

Expansion ports, or at least the capability of expansion, would be very nice; I'll probably own this system for some time, and upgrades will probably be necessary.

I'm not a technophobe, just haven't had the money before now. Any advice, even contradictory, on soft and hardware would be greatly appreciated.

Send all letters to *The Insider*, and maybe this'll be a year long forum for this. The forum can be "Advice to Techno-Bowb."

Thank you,

Bowb Mattingly



Deaths

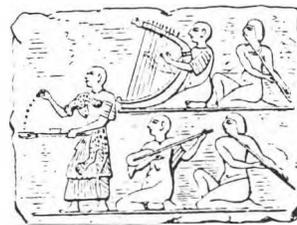
From: Leonardo Bixby SMEAGOL@aol.com; Date: 30 Apr 1998

I don't know if you folks handle the obituary section or not but I wanted to let you know that Jerome Bixby, a Si-Fi writer who wrote for the old Twilight Zone and Star Trek series as well as such classics as "Fantastic Voyage" has passed away this week in San Bernardino Ca.

He was one of (I believe only 12) writers in the Si-Fi Hall of Fame along with greats Gene Roddenberry and Ray Bradbury.

He is survived by three son's (Russ Bixby, Emerson Bixby and Leonardo Bixby) He was age 75 and died for Heart Failure.

I can provide photos or other information as needed.



And in response to the above:
From: Sean Sendlein <Jacara@i1.net>

Screams of panic,
Cries of doom,
"Steak at 12:00!"



From: Jenny Overkamp jennyo@mactemps.com & Terry & Stacie, cmdrkmak@swbell.net

Greetings Everyone!! Here's an update on the Klingon Convention, HopeCon '98

Thought I should drop a note just to make sure everyone has the info they need. HopeCon '98 is to be held AUGUST 7-9 1998. Our hotel is HOWARD JOHNSON'S AIRPORT - ST. LOUIS MISSOURI. Room reservations can be made by calling (314) 731-3800. Room Rates are: \$65 PER NIGHT FOR 1-5 PEOPLE/KLINGONS. PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS SOON!! Convention registration can be done in advance for the following rates & dates: \$25 UNTIL JULY 1ST, \$30 AFTER JULY 1ST BUT BEFORE AUGUST 1ST, \$35 AT THE DOOR, CHILDREN UNDER 5 ARE FREE, CHILDREN BETWEEN 5-12 ARE \$15 IN ADVANCE OR \$20 AT THE DOOR. Dealers Space is available for: \$60 for 1 table including 1 membership. Art Show Space is available for: \$12 full panel or table \$6 for half.

Our Guest of honor is DR. LAWRENCE M. SCHOEN who will help coach us in the proper pronunciation of our native tongue. Dr. Schoen will have books available for signing. He runs THE KLINGON LANGUAGE INSTITUTE & will be actively recruiting.

WHERE DO WE SEND REGISTRATION ???? Send all registration to: HopeCon '98 c/o Stacie Cupples; 2335 Whittermore Place; St. Louis, MO 63104-2531

Please enclose YOUR NAME & THE NAME OF PERSON YOU ARE REGISTERING, YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE IF POSSIBLE, E-MAIL ADDRESS, AGE, NUMBER OF BANQUET TICKETS BEING PURCHASED & A NOTE IF YOU ARE HOSTING A ROOM PARTY.



From: Sunni Maravillosa sunni-snake@utah-inter.net (by way of Rich & Michelle zellich@i1.net)

Hello, fellow Con goers! I'm writing to give you a preview of an upcoming Con that is a first of its kind & to ask for your help in expanding the frontiers of fandom. ** What happens when scifi meets cyberspace? **

VirtualCon 1 is what happens! VirtualCon 1 is an on-line Con sponsored by Laissez Faire Books, Sportsmen's Paradise ~ On-line, & the Liberty Round Table. VirtualCon 1 is actually "2" conventions in one: the first ever SF convention held in cyberspace, & a cyber-meeting of

pro-freedom authors & readers! This web gathering will bring together 2 worlds of writing that have more in common than they know, & will make the fun accessible to people around the entire world, many of whom have never been able to attend a Con in realspace.

VirtualCon 1 attendees will get to meet more authors than at most Cons (19, plus an artist GoH) without the expense of travel, hotel rooms, & meals! True, we can't host a masquerade ball, but we will have a variety of events & entertainment running during the Con. We're also hosting 2 fun Con-tests, there'll be a virtual filk room running (attendees can vote for their favorite songs, with the winner getting a \$100 prize), & a Huckster's Page is on-line now & still accepting hucksters.

VC1 is scheduled for the Saturdays of Nov. 14 & Nov. 21, 1998. Our scifi GoHs include James P. Hogan, F. Paul Wilson, & L. Neil Smith, & 6 more SF authors! Other goodies include door prizes & autographed bookplates for all books by participating authors that are ordered through Laissez Faire Books, with more surprises to be announced!

Please check out the details on VirtualCon 1 & help us spread the word! The URL is: <http://home.lrt.org/lrt.vc1.homepage.htm>. We are very excited about bringing more fans together in cyberspace & hope you like the idea too. If you need more info or have questions, please don't hesitate to e-mail me (sunni-snake@utah-inter.net). Thanks, & I'm looking forward to "seeing" you at VirtualCon 1! To join in the fun, go to <http://home.lrt.org/>



ITEMS SHAMELESSLY STOLEN FROM THE INTERNET

<<These are items that I found or that someone was kind(?) enough to send me that might be of interest to members of the club.>>

From: Randy Davis <rd@ns1.think-net.com>

RELEASE: 98-76 CONCEPT FOR SPACECRAFT 'SOLID SMOKE' TILES CAN BE USED ON EARTH

A new concept for spacecraft tiles also can be used on Earth to make efficient, vacuum-like insulation for refrigerators, furnaces & automobile catalytic converters. The new material is similar to that used for the tiles on the Space Shuttle to protect the vehicle from the heat generated during reentry into Earth's atmosphere. However, the new tiles have a layer of aerogel, or 'solid smoke,' mixed into the tile's air spaces. "Solid smoke, or aerogel, works like a vacuum layer because it's a great insulator," said aerogel tile co-inventor Dr. Susan White of NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA. "The new aerogel tiles can insulate spacecraft from ten to 100 times better than today's tiles." Aerogel is made of silica, alumina & carbon as well as other materials, & can weigh less than the same volume of air. "Aerogel is very brittle & can't be machined, but spacecraft insulation tiles filled with a layer of aerogel can be cut, machined, drilled & attached to a surface," White said. "Aerogel-tile insulation can be made into different shapes for many uses here on Earth."





From: Rich Zellich zellich@stl-17lssc.army.mil & Forwarded via Uncle Timmy & ARobards ARobards@aol.com

From: Earthmother <earthmth@swbell.net>

Those of you doing mail-order WATCH OUT. Lois McMaster Bujold's new book, KOMARR, seems to be having a problem. There's a binding problem from Baen. She found 3 copies with KOMARR dust cover & binder, but ***it was some other book on the inside***. Baen will exchange, but be warned.....

Attention, all you people who spend long hours on the net & hunched over desks, staring at computers or eating popcorn in darkened movie theatres:

Emma "Fingers" V. Richard, Certified Massage Therapist has opened her new office in beautiful downtown Kirkwood.

<<SO, what story IS in it? Might be interesting to find out, maybe. kg>>



Down-to-Earth Massage
109 W. Jefferson Kirkwood MO 63122 Ste. #205
Phone: 909-6500
Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday after 4 p.m. & all day Saturday. (Different times can be arranged)
Make your appointments early. Prices: \$25 1/2 hour (back only); \$45 - 1 hour (full body); \$60 - 1 1/2 (deluxe)

From: "Eileen M. Lenkman" 75060.172@compu serve.com

Anyone want to go on a Star Trek theme cruise in May 99? I am looking for a single woman who would like to share a cabin with me on SEA TREK 99.



From: Randy Davis <rd@ns1.think-net.com>

If you've never heard of it, its a Star Trek theme cruise. You get to do everything the regular cruise passengers do plus there are a whole bunch of Star Trek (and possibly other shows like B5) related activities. I went on SEA TREK 96 & had a blast. Stars on that cruise included Walter Koenig (his luggage was delivered to my cabin so I had to redeliver it), Tim Russ, Rene Aubujonois, Armin Shimmerman, Robert Picardo, Robyn Douglas, the Traveler from Next Gen (can't remember his name) & the Klingon "Over the Hill Gang", Michael Ansara, John Colicos, William Campbell. We had a wonderful time. I have lots of information about the upcoming cruise as well as videos & scrapbooks from the previous one.

Some of you may have heard this already, but I am opening a hobby store in the St. Charles area. Actually, it is the location that Sam (Wizard's Wagon) was in before he moved to Mid-Rivers Mall. At least for the first month or so, we will only be open Friday (10:30 - 09:30), Saturday (10:30 - 09:30) & Sunday (noon - 6:00). We're going to be specializing in games (Games Workshop, TSR...), Card Games (Magic, Star Wars...) & we'll also carry models & dollhouses.

Where is it located? Basically along Highway 94 between Hwy's 70 & 40 in a mall called "Plaza on 94" [4119 Old Hwy 94 South]. How do you get there?

If you are interested, please let me know via email & we will get it touch. If you are just interested in SEATREK 99 for yourself, I can give you the email address & 800 telephone number for more info. If you are already planning on going, lets get in touch too.

>From Hwy 40: North on Hwy 94 You'll see a sign before the intersection announcing Harvest Drive at the next signal. Make a right, & you are now directly behind the mall. The store is located a couple of doors down from Chuck's Boots.



>From Hwy 70: South on Hwy 94 You'll see the "Plaza on 94" sign just as you get to the cross street of Harvest Drive. Make a left & you are now directly behind the mall. The store is located a couple of doors down from Chuck's Boots.

From: Jenny Overkamp <jenny@mactemps.com>

Attention all St. Louis SF fans, we have to coordinate a trip to Las Vegas. Check out the Star Trek Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton: <http://www.startrekexp.com/>>Star Trek: The Experience

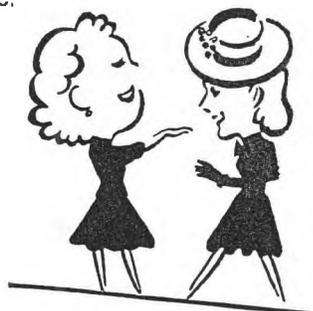


Yes, I am willing to take names of those interested, get info out, & plan a date & make travel arrangements. If you are interested, please respond via email, or if you have a friend that is interested, have them send their name, address & phone # to me:

From: Rich Zellich zellich@stl-17lssc.army. mil

Jenny Overkamp
9859 Big Bend
St. Louis, MO 63122
(314) 821-4094

Check out: The SciFaiku Manifesto at <http://www.crew.umich.edu/~brinck/poetry/manifesto.html>



RELEASE: 98-77 TEST PILOTS TO TESTBEDS – NASA CUSHIONS LIFTOFF & EASES BEDSORES

A foam material developed by NASA researchers to cushion pilots against the rigors of test flight, & currently in use aboard the Space Shuttles, is now being successfully sold in pillows & mattresses by a Lexington, KY, company to treat disorders ranging from sleeplessness to the more severe illness of pressure ulcers, commonly known as bedsores.

Tempur-Pedic's products have been cited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as "very effective for the treatment & prevention" of bedsores & "very comfortable" to patients. Both the Veterans Affairs Department & the National Institutes of Health have purchased hundreds of Tempur-Pedic products for use in their pain management & ulcer treatment programs. Bedsores, which can be fatal if left untreated, cost the Medicare & Medicaid programs almost \$2 billion annually for treatment of wheelchair-bound, nursing home & hospital patients. Tempur-Pedic can be contacted by telephoning 1-800-886-6466 or at the web address: www.tempurpedic.com

NASA actively encourages commercialization of its technologies. To learn more about NASA innovations, commercialization efforts & the agency's technology transfer programs, interested parties can access the NASA Commercial Technology Network web page at URL: <http://nctn.hq.nasa.gov/>



From: "Powell, Brooks - x3722" <brooksp@mohela.com> & Lisa K Holsberg [SMTP:lisa@hypermail.com]

The following are actual conversations between clients and travel agents.

A client called in inquiring about a package to Hawaii. After going over all the cost info, she asked, "would it be cheaper to fly to California and then take the train to Hawaii?"

I got a call from a woman who wanted to go to Capetown. I started to explain the length of the flight and the passport information when she interrupted me with "I'm not trying to make you look stupid, but Capetown is in Massachusetts." Without trying to make her look like the stupid one, I calmly explained, "Cape Cod is in Massachusetts, Capetown is in Africa." Her response ... click.

A secretary called in looking for hotel in Los Angeles. She gave me various names off a list, none of which I could find. I finally had her fax me the list. To my surprise, it was a list of hotels in New Orleans, Louisiana. She thought the LA stood for Los Angeles, and that New Orleans was a suburb of L.A. Worst of all, when I called her back, she was not even embarrassed.

A man called, furious about a Florida package we did. I asked what was wrong with the vacation in Orlando. He said he was expecting an ocean-view room. I tried to explain that is not possible, since Orlando is in the middle of the state. He replied, "Don't lie to me. I looked on the map and Florida is a very thin state."

I got a call from a man who asked, "is it possible to see England from Canada?" I said, "No." He said "but they look so close on the map."

Another man called and asked if he could rent a car in Dallas. When I pulled up the reservation, I noticed he had a 1-hour lay-over in Dallas. When I asked him why he wanted to rent a car, he said, "I heard Dallas was a big airport, and I need a car to drive between the gates to save time."

A nice lady just called. She needed to know how it was possible that her flight from Detroit left at 8:20am and got into Chicago at 8:33am. I tried to explain that

Michigan was an hour ahead of Illinois, but she could not understand the concept of time zones. Finally I told her the plane went very fast, and she bought that!

A woman called and asked, "Do airlines put your physical description on your bag so they know who's luggage belongs to who?" I said, "No, why do you ask?" She replied, "Well, when I checked in with the airline, they put a tag on my luggage that said FAT, and I'm overweight, is there any connection?" After putting her on hold for a minute while I "looked into it" (I was actually laughing) I came back and explained the city code for Fresno is FAT, and that the airline was just putting a destination tag on her luggage.

I just got off the phone with a man who asked, "How do I know which plane to get on?" I asked him what exactly he meant, which he replied, "I was told my flight number is 823, but none of these planes have numbers on them."

A woman called and said, " I need to fly to pepsi-cola on one of those computer planes." I asked if she meant to fly to Pensacola on a commuter plane. She said, "Yea, whatever."



From: colleen joerger <cjoerger@swbell.net>

TOP TEN REASONS WHY THE STAR TREK CHARACTERS WOULD KICK BUTT IN THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE

In the Star Wars Universe weapons are rarely, if ever, fatal unless they hit stormtroopers. In Star Trek the guys evaporate, melt, go poof, catch fire, disintegrate; it all depends on what the effects guys want to happen. And the good guys don't just "get wounded" - ask the redshirts.

Nobody laughs when the Enterprise shows up. The Millennium Falcon is a flying junkheap that nobody takes seriously. (Except Lando and anyone who wears a cape and hangs around with a four foot blue alien with a female sex organ on its face has problems keeping reality in focus as it is.)

Han Solo couldn't even beam his way out of a snowstorm and came home smelling like dead tauntaun.

One Letter: Q.

If you think the Imperials have trouble with the lame Rebels, think what the Romulans or the Klingons would do to them, let alone the Dominion.

The shields on Star Trek ships go ALL THE WAY AROUND, unlike the Death Star "let's leave this one unshielded portal to the reactor wide open" - boy does the Emperor need to get away from this lowest bidder thing.

Maybe if Luke thought about getting laid a bit more often he'd mellow out, maybe even garner some much needed support for his pathetic Alliance, not to mention the thousands of worlds that would line up to join in if Leia ever put out.

Ferengi don't let their women wear ANY clothes and they sure as heck don't feed them to starved monsters when there's ear lobes that need rubbin'; Beats the heck out of a desert world with sweaty Gamorrean guards any day of the week.

C3PO and R2D2 are a couple of talking kitchen utensils next to Data.

Han Solo never hangs around during any real battles. His puny ship can't hack it so he runs and picks on TIE fighters the whole time. Every Enterprise ever out there kicked ass.; Ask the Romulans, Klingons, Cardassians, Dominion, anybody. You don't F#@! with the Enterprise.



From: "Powell, Brooks - x3722" <brooksp@mohela.com>

My spell checker went crazy with the message below

Subject : How Things Would Be Different If Microsoft Moved to West Virginia

1. Their number 1 product would be "Microsoft Winders". 2. Instead of an hourglass icon, you'd get an empty beer bottle. 3. Occasionally, you'd bring up a winder that was covered with a Hefty bag and duct tape. 4. Instead of Yes-No-Cancel buttons, you'd get Awright-Naw-Git. 5. Instead of playing "TaDa", the opening sound would be "Dueling Banjos". 6. The Recycle Bin in Winders95 would be an outhouse. 7. Every time you opened the sound player, you'd hear "Freebird". 8. Instead of "Start Me Up", the Winders95 theme song would be "Boot Scootin' Boogie". 9. Powerpoint would be named "Par Pawnt". 10. Instead of VP, Microsoft big shots would be called "Cuz". 11. Hardware could be repaired using parts from an old Camaro. 12. Four words: Daisy Duke Screen Saver. 13. "Well the first thing ya know old Bill's a billionaire..." 14. Flight Simulator replaced by Tractor-Pull Simulator. 15. Microsoft CEO known as "Billy-Bob" ("Bubba" to his friends). 16. Winders95 Plus pack would include "Pond Scum" and "Junkyard" schemes. 17. One wrong turn on the web would send you face with a 12 gauge shotgun. 18. "This computer protected by Smith and Wesson" Screen Saver. 19. Directions to Corporate Headquarters: "Down the road a piece, over yonder." 20. Microsoft Word includes phonetic spell checker "Hook on fonics werkt 4 me".



From: Caroline Meyer <telaboo@madisontelco.com>

A lawyer and a blonde are sitting next to each other on a long flight from LA to NY. The lawyer leans over to her and asks if she would like to play a fun game. The blonde just wants to take a nap, so she politely declines and rolls over to the window to catch a few winks.

The lawyer persists and explains that the game is really easy and a lot of fun. He explains "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me \$5, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$50!" Figuring that since she is a blonde that he will easily win the match. This catches the blonde's attention and, figuring that there will be no end to this torment unless she plays, agrees to the game.

The lawyer asks the first question. "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?" The blonde doesn't say a word, reaches in to her purse, pulls out a five-dollar bill and hands it to the lawyer.

Now, it's the blonde's turn. She asks the lawyer: "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?" The lawyer looks at her with a puzzled look. He takes out his laptop computer and searches all his references. He taps into the Airplane with his modem and searches the Net and the Library of Congress. Frustrated, he sends E-mails to all of his coworkers and friends he knows. All to no avail. After over an hour, he wakes the blonde and hands her \$50. The blonde politely takes the \$50 and turns away to get back to sleep.

The lawyer, who is more than a little miffed, wakes the blonde and asks, "Well, so what is the answer?" Without a word, the blonde reaches into her purse, hands the lawyer \$5, and goes back to sleep.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 6 - **CLUB PICNIC**, Fenton City Park, Noon - 5 PM, Pavilion #1.

June 8 - **ARCHON MEETING**, 7 PM, Chez Zellich, call 349-0594 for more info.

June 13 - **ANIMATION SOCIETY MEETING**, 11:00 AM, at Schlotzsky's in Clayton.

June 13 - **SAINT CHARLES CLUB MEETING**, Noon, at D. K. Hobbies in Saint Peters.

June 21 - **SAINT LOUIS CLUB MEETING**, 1:30 PM, (Optional meeting, be sure to call first), at Zellich's; call Zellich at 349-0594 for more info.

July 10-12 - **CONJURATION 98**, Columbia

July 11 - **ANIMATION SOCIETY MEETING**, 11:00 AM, at Schlotzsky's in Clayton.

July 14 - **ARCHON MEETING**, 7 PM, Chez Zellich, call 349-0594 for more info.

July 24 - **Marvin the Martian's 50th Birthday**, first appeared in Haredevil Hare.

July 25 - **SCSFFS FLOAT TRIP**, open to everyone.

July 26 - **ARCHON MEETING**, 2 PM, PR-2 labeling, Chez Zellich, call 349-0594 for more info.

Aug. 5-9 - **WORLDCON**, BUCCONEER, Baltimore, MD.

Aug. 7-9 - **HOPECON 98**, Howard Johnson Airport.

Aug. 14 - **ARCHON MEETING**, 7 PM, Chez Zellich, call 349-0594 for more info.

Aug. 15 - **ANIMATION SOCIETY MEETING**, 11:00 AM, at Schlotzsky's in Clayton.

Aug. 16 - **SAINT LOUIS CLUB MEETING**, 1:30 PM, at Zellich's; call Zellich at 349-0594 for more info.

The St. Louis Science Fiction Society

Invites **YOU** to come to a picnic!!

When - Saturday, 6 June 1998, 12noon - 5pm

Where - Fenton City Park, Pavilion #1

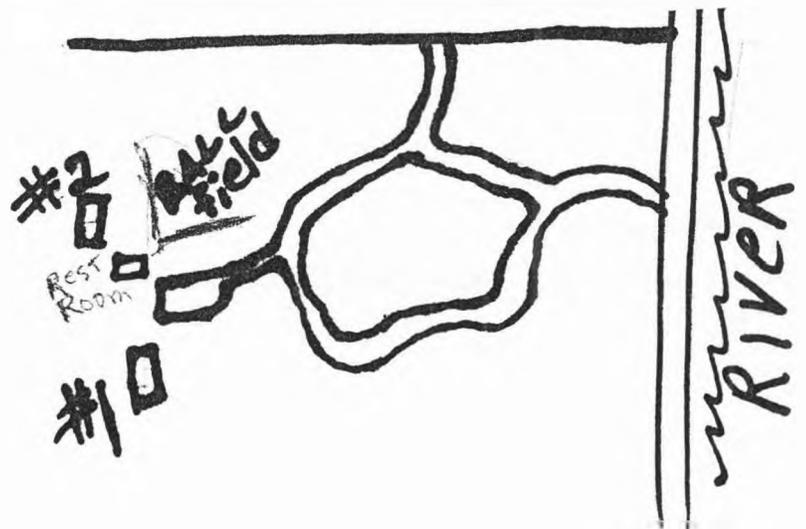
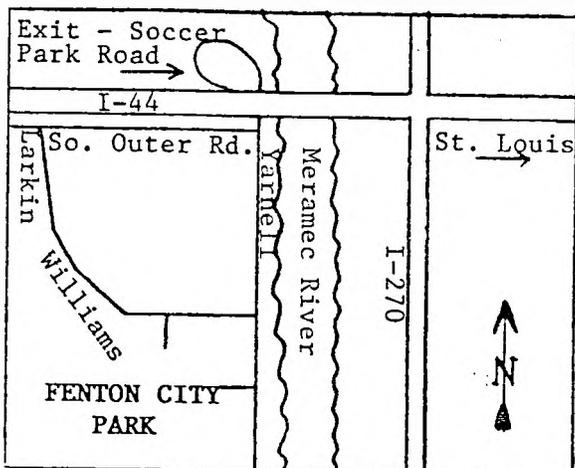
Cost - \$3/person (\$1/kid) & a side dish for ~5
(cheap at twice the price)

Bring - Kids, drinks (soda, tea, beer, wine/coolers, koolaid, water), lounge chairs, towels/washcloths, tablecloths, bikes, skates, hats, cards, board games, bats/balls/gloves, horseshoes, sunscreen, radio/tapes/CDs, dogs (on a leash)

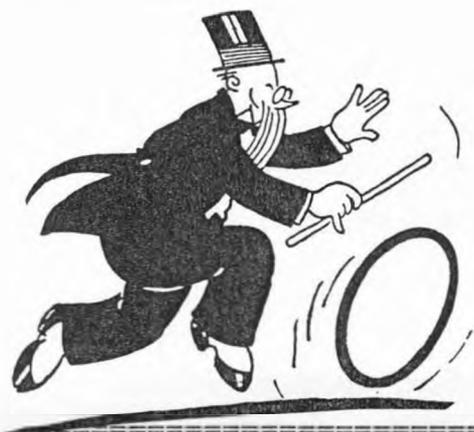
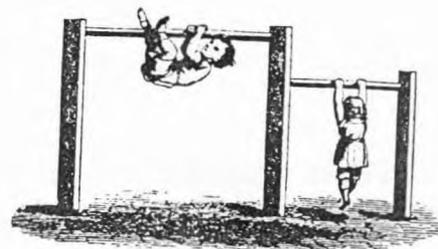
Side Dish Hints - Salads (potato, cole slaw, tuna, chicken, shrimp, macaroni, 3-bean, tossed, tomato, pea, carrot, fruit, etc.), Veggies (raw/dip, sliced tomatoes, corn-on-the-cob, baked beans, green beans/green bean casserole, corn, potatoes, macaroni & cheese, etc.), Fruit (strawberries, grapes, melon slices/balls, mixed berries, watermelon), Desserts (cake, pie, cookies/brownies, etc.), *Family Favorites*, Chips/dip/salsa, Crackers & Cheese.

We'll supply the paper & plastic products (plates, napkins, utensils, cups), ice, condiments (mustard, ketchup, mayo, pickles, BBQ sauce), bread/buns, and meat (hot dogs, pork steaks, bratwurst, hamburgers, & chicken).

RSVP/questions - zellich@il.net OR (314) 326-3026



June 6 - **CLUB PICNIC**,
Fenton City Park, Noon -
5 PM, at Pavilion #1, call
Zellich's at 326-3026 for
more info.



SAINT LOUIS SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY
PO BOX 1058
SAINT LOUIS MO 63188-1058

06/03/98 8 ST LOUIS MO F&DG <XXXXX>



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