

The National Fantasy Fan

Volume 74 Number 4

April 2015

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Cover Art by Sarah Harder

For full size work, wait for Tightbeam

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Presidential Appeal

We Need More Volunteers

Because work does not do itself.

We need electronic outreach. We need representatives at conventions.

We need a world SFCon Calendar that is up to date.

We need social media outreach.

We need our traditional activities:

Fan recruitment. Fandbooks. Services for the deaf and blind.

Con suites. Outreach to other Fen and their groups.

Book Reviews—Every ebook needs a review!

Do your part! Please stand up for fandom! Contact me!

Your President: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net



Your Volunteer Team

Directorate:

Heath Row
Jean Lamb
Jefferson Swycaffer
Jon Swartz
R-Laurraine Tutihasi

President: George Phillies

Treasurer: David Speakman

Editorial Cabal:

Official Editor:

Editor and Publisher, Tightbeam: David Speakman

Editor and Publisher, TNFF: George Phillies

Keeper of the URLs: Ruth Davidson

Host of the Web Site: David Speakman

Maintainers of Electronic Publications: vacant

Bureau Heads

Artist's Bureau: Sarah E. Harder

Birthday Cards: R-Laurraine Tutihasi

Convention Calendar: new volunteer needed

Games Bureau: George Phillies

Historian: Jon Swartz

N'APA: Jean Lamb

N3F Bookworms: Heath Row

Round Robins: Patricia Williams-King

Short Story Contest: Jefferson Swycaffer

Video Schedule: David Speakman

Welcommittee: Heath Row

Writers Exchange Bureau: Joy Beeson



Future Tightbeam Art

Eclipse, from This Shining Sea by George Phillies

Artwork by Alexander Clemens

with the support of Samuel Machlin

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Franson Award Given

Named after former N3F president Donald Franson (1916-2002), this award is presented annually by the current president to an N3F member (or members) who have shown outstanding service to the organization. For the year 2014, the Franson Award was given by outgoing President David Speakman to George Phillies for vigorously encouraging David when it seemed needed.

Neffy Nominations Invited

The National Fantasy Fan Federation Speculative Fiction Awards continue the tradition that helped launch the career of Ray Bradbury back in 1949. With an eye on the future, the Neffys aim to honor achievements in speculative fiction in news media as well as traditional media. Awards are given for such works as books, comics, games, motion pictures and the Internet.

In recent years, we have given this award via large ballots and all sorts of categories. In the absence of any instructions, I propose an alternative, namely inviting nominations for particularly outstanding and unusual contributions to scientific fiction, fantasy, horror, and related categories. Please forward your nominations to George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609.

Kaymar Nominations Invited

Nominations are now invited for the KayMar Award.

Named after fandom legend K. Martin Carlson (1904-1986), the KAYMAR award has been given every year since 1959. The selection is made by a

Join or Renew

We offer three different memberships. Memberships with zines via paper mail are \$18; memberships with zines via email are \$6. Joint memberships at one address are \$22. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. or pay online at N3F.org

committee, consisting of previous winners who are still in the club, from nominations submitted by members. The Kaymar Award, like few other awards in fandom, is awarded only once. It is given not for talent or popularity, but for work, for the benefit of the club and its members.

The award is a memorial to K. Martin Carlson [1904-1986], who originated, maintained, and financed it for 25 years. Carlson was a long-time N3F member who held many positions in the club, including club historian. He went by the fan name of Kaymar. The first winner was Ray C. Higgs in 1959. An award has been given for every year since, most recently to David Speakman in 2014.

Now the Award is paid for by the N3F Treasury, which is small compensation for the value of the work done by the winners over the years. Prizes include a year's membership extension, \$10 cash and a certificate.

Any member of the N3F may nominate someone who seems worthy of the KAYMAR Award by sending a nomination to the chairman of the Kaymar Awards Committee, at any time; but at least by the end of the year, so that the names can be voted on in time for next April's award.

All names will be kept confidential. This is an honor, not a campaign, and only the winner's name will be made public.

The Kaymar Award is given in April every year, supposedly because the N3F was organized in the month of April. The selection is made by a committee, consisting of previous winners who are still in the club, from nominations submitted by members.

The Kaymar award, unlike other awards in fandom, can be awarded only once. It is not given for talent or for popularity, but for work — work for the benefit of the club and its members.

Please send nominations to David Speakman (davodd@gmail.com)

June is Neffer Author Month

My inspiration was the byline on an email from Jean Lamb. The closer read:

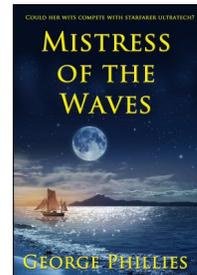
<http://www.amazon.com/Hatchling-Tameron-Dragon-Jean-Lamb-ebook/dp/B00HMTR8ZC>

Tameron must have magic to be his father's heir—but he doesn't. What happens now?

See more at <https://www.amazon.com/author/jeanlamb>.

That line was a reminder that we have many distinguished members who have published novels and other fictional works that are actually still on sale. A special issue dedicated to their work, showing what is out there, is planned.

Roughly speaking your editor here plans something like the following, repeated for all the books our members have published.



Mistress of the Waves—Orphaned

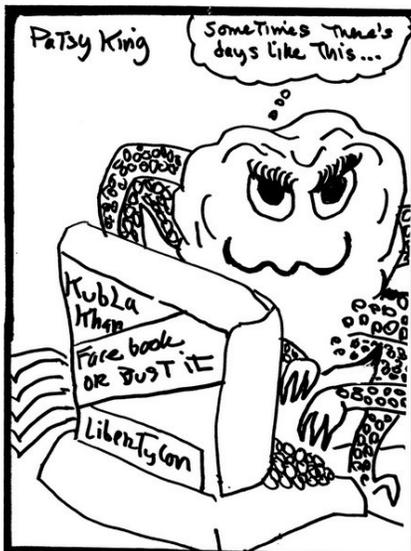
Amanda Kirasdotr is a sailor on the lost planet Goddard. When she rescues a visiting starfarer from drowning, her reward is a trip into orbit. Now she wants to go there again, not easy when the hottest ship on Goddard has three masts and a full set of sails. Amanda begins with her wits, her determination, and her dory Northstar. She's up against typhoons, pirates, assassins, financial bubbles, starfarer ultratech, and the mythical giant ship-eating squid. Can she beat them all to find the path to her dream?

N'APA Returns

Yes, the N3F APA has returned in electronic format. We quote from the latest issue, which is number 216, with Jean Lamb as collator.

Table of Contents for N'APA #217
 N'APA Official Organ #21 Jean Lamb
 Archive Midwinter Jefferson Swycaffer
 The Murdered Master Mage #1 George Phillies
 This Spud's for You for 215 Jean Lamb
 Page Count Total — 20

Art from Patsy King:



Next deadline:

15 May 2015
 N'APA is the Amateur Press Alliance for members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F). As it is distributed in PDF format, there are no dues or postage fees except as necessary for mailing paper copies. It is open to all members of

the N3F within the restrictions stated below in the Rules and Regulations (copied from the last collation and updated). If there are members interested in joining who have no computer access, special arrangements are possible. Check with the official collator, who is currently Jean Lamb, who may be reached at tlambs1138@charter.net or by snail mail at 4846 Derby Place, Klamath Falls, OR, 97603, or on Facebook (I check it once a week, though).

Currently the frequency is every other month, with the deadline being on the fifteenth day of odd-numbered months. The mailing will normally be collated the following day or the closest weekend, considering Jean still has a day job. Undecided members of N3F may receive the collation without contributing until they decide one way or the other.

N'APA has been in existence for a number of years and recently transitioned from being a paper APA to an electronic one. Unfortunately there has been an interruption in its existence and only recently has been revived after three years.

Cover artwork or photos are invited from all and any members. (including from icanhazcheeseburger, heh). I would like to dedicate this issue to Terry Pratchett, and plan to have a Bad First Draft

of a Discworld fanfic in this issue.

...Jean Lamb

Games Bureau

You are unlikely to be able to reach the first two game conventions, but the apparent focus on conventions by or for women struck me as being worth a mention, since I have not noted such a thing before:

Apr. 18, Bellflower, CA
 GAMERGIRL'S GAME GATHER ALTERNATIVE
mibnumber1222@gmail.com

Apr. 18, Ontario, CA
 GIRL GAMER GATHERING
 Postponed for a year, but worth noting.

Apr. 24-26, Richmond, VA
 RAVEN CON
<http://www.ravencon.com/>

April 24-26, St. Charles, IL
 LITTLE WARS
<http://www.hmgsmidwest.com/>

Apr. 24-26, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 GAMING HOOPLA
<http://www.gaminghoopla.com/>

Apr. 24-26, Scranton, PA
 MEPACON
<http://mepacon.com/>

Apr. 25, West Palm Beach, Florida
 FLAMINGOCON
<http://flamingocon.org/>

May 1-3, South Sioux City, NE
 TRI-CON SPRING 2015
<http://tristategamers.org/>

May 1-3, Cincinnati, OH
 CINCYCON
<http://cincycon.org/>

May 8-9, Bloomington, Minnesota
 2D CON
<http://www.2dcon.net/>

May 14-17, St. Louis, MO
 GEEKWAY TO THE WEST
<http://geekwaytothewest.com/>

May 15-17, Portland, Oregon
 PDXAGE
<http://www.pdxage.com/age/>

May 21-25, Atlanta, GA
 GAME-O-RAMA
<http://game-o-rama.com/>

May 22-26, Birmingham, West Midlands, UK
 CONFUZZLED
<http://2015.confuzzled.org.uk/>

May 22-24, Traverse City, MI
 CHERRY CAPITAL COMIC CON (C4)
<http://www.cherrycapitalcon.com/>

May 22-25, Burlingame, CA
 KUBLACON
<http://www.kublacon.com/>

Art Bureau

Yes, the N3F has a working Art Bureau. You can see a piece of cover art that they supplies on the cover. That's a small-scale reproduction; for full scale, you must await the next issue of Tightbeam.

Letters

[Angela Meyers on the last issue](#): Enjoyed the poem a great deal. Neat story, and rhythm and rhyme nearly perfect.

[Lloyd Penney writes](#): Dear Neffers:

Thanks kindly for The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 74, No. 3. I will try my best to write up a fast letter of comment, and see if there's sufficient zine here for me to do that.

I hope enough volunteers step forward to help out...too many clubs I see are losing their ability to staff the club for full service to their members. Two clubs in Canada do not charge dues to their members because there's not enough people to run the club and produce events and meetings to attend.

The idea of a new fandom directory...I have old issues of Harry Hopkins' Fandom Directory, big annual directories full of contacts, and published in Springfield, Virginia. The issues I have go back as far as 1984. I think the Directory went online, not sure, and not sure if it's still around, but it was very handy. Today, there's a lot of people you might find at conventions, but many of them do not identify themselves as fans. A directory for the N3F is fine; one for what we'd call fandom today is probably not feasible any more.

Anyway, I might be done already...looking forward to more. Next weekend is our own local literary SF convention, Ad Astra 2015, and we will have a dealers' table there, selling our steampunk jewelry and other assorted items. We have several tables at other upcoming conventions, and spring and summer will be busy.

Thanks again, see you the next time.
 Yours,
 Lloyd Penney

[Jacqueline Lichtenberg writes](#):

Thanks, Chuck Gannon, for tagging me into this discussion. I joined organized fandom when I was in 7th grade, and learned fanspeak via correspondence in the (then lacking fiction) 'zines and afterward via Dick Eny's FANCYCLOPEDIA. "Gafiate" is one word I've had to explain recently to one of the fans of my Sime~Gen novels who gafiated at a particularly awkward moment for the Sime~Gen fandom (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SimeGen/>). It means Getting Away From It All, and it happens when Life Intervenes (in her case deaths in the family etc), and I had to explain to her that she was welcome back, and nobody would ever be miffed at her for gafiating -- we all do it.

I joined organized fandom (The National Fantasy Fan Federation <https://www.facebook.com/TheN3F> founded by SFWA's founder, damon knight (both names small letters)) when I wrote a letter to the editor of Amazing lambasting the illustrators for inaccuracy, and they printed it with my street address. For decades, Fred Pohl was a member. I'm still a dues paying member.

Yes, it was a different world! No danger from printing street addresses!

I later became good friends with lambasted illustrator! And much later, became a life member of SFWA.

Members of the N3F Welcomittee wrote me because of my first publication, a Letter To The Editor, (yes, being published is addictive) and invited me to join, which I did, and I became a letter hack, (yes, writing is addictive) and got my first writing lessons from a prof writer N3F member.

I am definitely a FIAWOL (Fandom Is A Way Of Life) type fan.

Fandom is my home, my native country. That's why I named the STAR TREK WELCOMMITTEE after the N3F Welcomittee (Welcomittee being fanspeak).

In fact, "fandom" is fanspeak -- combining fanatic with kingdom or in today's parlance "domain." We think of fandom as a place, and today everyone understands "virtual place." Back then, it was a strange idea that two people 3 thousand miles apart could be in the same place, but that's what fandom was, is, and I expect will be.

Moshe Feder nailed it in response to Chuck Gannon - the mainstreaming of Science Fiction was the unspoken goal, the drive, the hope, the vision of fandom from its founding in the early 1930's (or so). Fandom was mature when I joined, but devoid of women except for a few writers and the guy's dates.

Trek brought women into fandom, and that opened doors into mainstream. It also split off adult Fantasy, and decades later gave rise to Science Fiction Romance as a recognized genre.

I do think Moshe Feder is correct that the history of these developments is important. On simegen.com, we have just completed an update and re-formatting of our Fan History section, enumerating all the myriad contributors and their accomplishments over decades. We saved the records of what fans have done because the future will be such a puzzle without that knowledge.

BTW the plural of fan is fen. You want the "secret handshake" of fandom online? Use fen as the correct plural.

Almost nobody uses "fen" anymore, or has any idea that fandom doesn't mean fanatic. And few remember the 2 inch thick mimeographed FANCYCLOPEDIA filled with specially coined terms to describe our world. The internet has made all that in-group stuff unnecessary -- but on the third hand, the newest generation is developing their own "speak" and texting shorthand is only one small manifestation.

The reason I became an active fan ("actifan") was for the exchange of Ideas, what we called "intelligent conversation" with those of a common background (SF books). Inside fandom was the only place you could get that kind of conversation. Today, I regularly attend the #scifichat on twitter every Friday afternoon where we discuss the latest science fiction/fantasy in context with the oldest.

Trek zines ('zine being fanspeak you understand) provided conversation via LoCs (LoC being fanspeak for Letter of Comment), which we now do on twitter and Facebook, and via blogs. In fact fanzines have moved online, and opened up a whole new world. If any of this modern-history-of-fandom interests you, you should read some of the reviews on Amazon for a book I have an essay in, FIC

<http://www.amazon.com/Fic-Fanfiction.../dp/1939529190/>

Electronic Publications

Yes, we have a bunch of electronic venues:

We have a web site www.N3F.org We have a Facebook mail list: [facebook.com/groups/n3flist/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/n3flist/) We have a Facebook Group [facebook.com/TheN3F](https://www.facebook.com/TheN3F). We have a Yahoo Group/email list groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/n3f We also have a Google group: plus.google.com/u/0/communities/104301173814396528446

Video Scheduling

Reminder: Courtesy of our own indefatigable David Speakman, FanDominion.com maintains a regularly-updated schedule of scripted media programs of interest to fen.

Treasurer's Report:

\$2493.87 Starting Balance (Jan 14, 2015)
 +172.00 Paypal Dues
 +40.00 Cash Dues
 +112.00 Check Dues
 - 14.40 TB #270 Printing (Reimb)
 - 60.22 TB #270 Postage (Reimb)
 - 23.40 TB #271 Printing (Reimb)
 - 54.08 TB #271 Postage (Reimb)
 - 18.00 TNFF 73.2 Printing (Reimb)
 - 34.30 TNFF 73.2 Postage (Reimb)
 - 21.60 tNFF 73.3 Printing (Reimb)
 - 36.40 TNFF 73.3 Postage (Reimb)
 - 14.40 TNFF 74.1 Printing (Reimb)
 - 32.90 TNFF 74.1 Postage (Reimb)
 - 6.84 PayPal Fees
 + 0.02 Interest

 \$2501.35 (April 15, 2015)

That was six new and renewed regular members, one for five years, and two household members.

New Members

New Member Roy Moore is a retiree living in Mobile, Alabama. Roy is a fan of reading books and comic books as well as

watching TV & film. He is interested in teaching SF, correspondence and in reading & book clubs. He has been a fan of SF/F for 49 year and involved in fandom for 46. Along with N3F, he has been involved with the University of South Alabama's Science Fiction Club and the the Mobile Panelology Association. Roy attended Nolacon in 1971 and "Mobile, AL Con 1984" (MobiCon?? - ds). He says his favorite flavor of

Art from Patsy King:



genre fiction is classic SF and lists among his favorite authors: Olaf Stapledon and Isaac Asimov.

New member Logan L Masterson is an author (scoot over, we gotta fit in another one! - ds) based in Nashville, Tennessee. If it has to do with SF/F, he likely likes it as he lists his interests as: art, books, cartooning, cartoons, animation, collecting, comics, computers, cons,

editing, filk, publishing, reading, reviewing, RPGs, Teaching SF, and writing. He wants our zines in both PDF and print formats. Logan says he got the SF bug in 1977 or so (I sense Star Wars, here - ds) and got involved in fandom in 1985. He was once involved with The Houses of Infinity LARP Society.

Logan also is a con-goer; he's attended the Dallas Comic Con, Chattacon, Conooga, Eclipse, River City Comic Expo, Killer Nashville, Memphis Comic & Anime Con, MidSouth-Con, Archon, OutsideCon, and FantaSciCon. When he is not too busy at cons and can pick up a zine, he may be seen reading Analog, Asimov's Fantasy & Science Fiction, and Witches & Pagans. If you ask him what his favorite type of SF/F is as we did, you'll get a quizzical look and an explainer that he loves it all, from SF pulp to grimdark fantasy. As for favorite authors, Logan lists Tolkien, Gaiman, Donaldson, Feist, LeGuin, Asimov, McMaster-Bujold, Stan Lee, and Chris Claremont. An admitted Facebook addict, he says he also is willing to help out with recruiting at cons and writing for club pubs (yesss... another victim... - ds)

Fiction Fragment

I offer for your entertainment the opening paragraphs of my novel *Mistress of the Waves*, now out on Smashwords and Amazon Kindle.

“The pen is mightier than the sword... the sword -

States can be saved without it!”

Edward George Earle Bulwer-Lytton, *Richelieu*

[Part I](#) [Chapter 1](#)

The weather was absolutely gorgeous. The sky was crystal clear, the Five Day Stars sharply visible at the eastern horizon. I'd caught the fish I needed to keep the cook happy. I could catch a few more for the fishmonger. He pays cash. I don't need lots of money, but my clothing was frayed and patched before I bought it, and besides it was getting small again.

The first time I took my boat into the Outer Bay, meaning me by myself against the wind, the waves, and the blue sky, I was more than a bit scared. Yes, I did wear a life-jacket. I did have a life line. *Northstar* is a planked dory with solid deck and flotation compartments, not an overgrown rowboat. It's big enough for the Outer Bay, if you're careful and the weather isn't too rough. I'm not scared of the Outer Bay any more, not more than a sensible sailor should be. Besides, I've grown a bit since then. Dad always said I would grow up to be my mom's daughter, and she'd been even taller than he was. Than he *had been*. How tall was she? I only have a little girl's memories. I can remember her calling me Amanda, but never me saying 'Kira' instead of 'Mommy'.

There, across the bay, were the visitors. The fellow handling their main sail might have travelled from another star, but he wasn't that good at tending his sheet. He kept letting his sail luff. Then I got curious. I'd watched him tack. He wasn't close to going into irons, and he was still fewer points from the wind than I'd ever been. The pennon on his mast made that very clear. Blinding hot pink and a lattice of black lines on his pennon was nothing like the Starlanding Island star, the bottom two feet touching a very stylized island, but his pennon still trailed downwind. How did he do it? I knew the answer I'd get from another sailor. That starfarer uses the Starry Wisdom. If you copy his Starry Wisdom ways, you'll be worse off for it.

Starfarer? Like everyone else in town, last week I'd walked the miles up to the landing field to see the starship. I'd never seen one before. Odds are even that I'll ever see another. The Shire Librarian did his duty and talked to the Starfarers. They didn't want to trade. They only wanted to go sailing.

It took no end of time for them to explain that they went sailing for fun, the way other people read stories or listen through the twilight to a chantey. They went from star to star, so they could say they'd sailed more seas than anyone else. Okay. Some people collect sea shells. They were collecting, well, having done something. I think. At the landing field, I didn't see how they could sail at all, their starship being up on the plateau. Then their... machines... flew their sailboat down to the bay. Now the two of them tacked across

the waves.

I carefully did all the things I needed to do to come about, put my tiller over, and made a guess where I might meet them when they came back across the Bay. *Northstar* wasn't as fast as they were, not by a fair piece, but on their return they would come to me. Of course, they'd be heading down wind, but I'd get a good look at their rigging. Perhaps they would say hello. Perhaps they'd even let me board their yacht. A yacht wasn't their starship '*Sorcerie...ex-Veil Worlds Battlecruiser Glorious Hot Pink*'—whatever that meant; it seemed like a long name—but their yacht was still a ship from another world.

I would never have guessed what happened when we closed. I waved. The two of them stood and waved back. No one at their tiller. No one tending the sheets. No one over there thinking, not at all. The wind shifted. Their boom swung. Their yacht heeled, just enough to send one of them into the water. Of course, if he'd been more cautious than standing right against the gunwale, he'd only have fallen onto his deck.

His companion screamed. I knew all the words, but she made no sense. He thrashed, arms pumping desperately, not swimming at all. She finally remembered to put her tiller hard over and drop her sails, something I would have done in half an instant. She had my weather gage. She had at least remembered to turn to windward. Her bare poles would blow her back to him.

By this time I was very close indeed. He paid no attention when I threw him a life ring.

"Help!" she shouted. "Help! Where's the harbor tractor net? Save him! Save him! He can't swim!"

I had no idea what a tractor net was, had no idea why tangling him in a mesh of ropes would help keep him from drowning, and had no idea how anyone could go sailing, not know how to swim, and not wear a life jacket. Dad had drilled into me how to save a drowning man, starting with the marlinspike tucked into my belt. Yes, marlinspike. To knock him out if he grappled me. Release my life line. Then grab a long line, and another life ring. Lucky I had two. Spill my sails; they'd be enough of a sea anchor to keep *Northstar* from escaping.

OK, have to do this the hard way. I kicked off my sandals, dove, stayed under with life ring bobbing across the waves on its tow, came up behind him, grabbed him by the neck so he couldn't turn around and choke me, took in the life ring, and got it around his head. That was a struggle. He couldn't grab me, not in a choke hold, but he was happy to try. He did remember to grab the ring. I got one swallow of water while he thrashed, and coughed it up before I had us back to the side of my dory. I can swim like a fish, but water doesn't fight back. He did. That's blind panic. It makes you stupid. He hung on to *Northstar*'s gunwale for dear life. I

swam to the battens and climbed. Yes, I can hoist myself over the edge, but that's a long lift, something I'd only do to show off how strong I am.

His yacht drifted alongside. Machines overhead, machines from his ship, glittered like silver-metal sea eagles. He calmed down, enough hear me. "On Nova Capricornis 4," he declaimed, "I almost drowned." I completely pass on what 'now caper corn is for' means. His companion and I got him into their boat. He flopped on their deck, gasping for breath. I was soaking wet myself. Bright sun or not, the spring breeze was not making me any warmer.

His companion looked at him. She was pretty, in an odd sort of way. They couldn't go sailing very much; she didn't have the tan or the muscle. "Jim, I've called the *Sorcerie*; we'll have you in an autodoc in a couple minutes." She had an accent, every sound cut short. Every so often there were funny sounds from her mouth, sounds where there should have been a word. Not strange words. Funny sounds. Chirps. Whistles. Bird calls. Noises a human being can't make. Well, human beings not from starships. "Where was the harbor tractor net?" she asked.

"The harbor what?" I answered politely.

"The tractor net." She said those three words very firmly. "The harbor computers should have seen Jim was drowning and pulled him out of the water."

I was baffled. "Our computer? She sailed for Westport yesterday." I know the Spencerport computer. She teaches business arithmetic at Stone Academy. I'd waved her good-bye.

"No. The harbor computers." She was more emphatic.

"She's off checking the books of their Readers. She'll be back next week," I said.

"Computer." She looked puzzled. "A machine who thinks." Were we speaking the same language? Machines are not 'who', and only people think. It seemed a good idea to change topic. "I did pull him out of the water," I said. "That saved him." I sneezed. I didn't know what she'd been expecting to happen, but it hadn't. "You saved Jim," she said. "And you need an autodoc, too." Suddenly her boat, followed by my dory, rose skyward and moved, impossibly fast, toward the landing field.

TO BE NOT CONTINUED. AND IF YOU ARE ANOTHER NSF AUTHOR, I WILL GIVE YOU A BLURB LIKE THIS IN A FUTURE ISSUE.

Contributions Needed! We need more reports! We need more art! We need more letters and comments, and fannish news of every sort. Please send to the Editor of this, our Official Organ: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609 phillies@4liberty.net 508 754 1859

2015 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2015.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to do sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Royalties will be divided evenly between all contest writers once publishing costs are covered. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made in March 2016. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2015. Good luck!

Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.

Title of story (for identification):

Author's name and address:

Author's email address:

I have read the above rules for the 2015 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature:

Date: _____

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email abontides@gmail.com

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2015 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

N3F TNFF
c/o George Phillips
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Worcester MA 01609

N3F TNFF