

# BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#493

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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at [felicity4711@gmail.com](mailto:felicity4711@gmail.com) or #209–3851 Francis Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C 1J6. *BCSFAzine* solicits electronic submissions and black-and-white line illustrations in JPG, GIF, BMP, PNG, or PSD format, and offers printed contributors' copies as long as the club budget allows.

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## This and Next Month in BCSFA

Sunday 15 June at 7 PM:	June BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 20 June:	Submission deadline for July <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 27 June:	July <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Friday 19 July:	Submission deadline for August <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 20 July at 7 PM:	July BCSFA meeting.
Friday 29 July:	August <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).

## About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

WCSFA Social Committee Chairman/Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562  
Vice President: TBA  
Treasurer/Supporting *BCSFAzine* Production Donor: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845  
Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973  
Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-448-8814  
Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 778-895-2371  
VCON Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster [Garth Spencer](#)). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Assc. ([http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc\\_sci\\_fi\\_assoc/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_sci_fi_assoc/)). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Low-resolution back issues of *BCSFAzine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (thank you to webmaster Bill Burns). Contact Felicity for high-resolution copies.

## Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

**Kathleen Moore**  
[manxkat@sphericalcows.net](mailto:manxkat@sphericalcows.net)

Friday 9 May 2014

Good evening, again, Felicity.

In the discussion of typing and keyboards, I said I'd seen a *picture of* a Chinese keyboard (it was in one of our family Time-Life Science Library volumes, which means the picture dates from the early 1960s).

[*I think I may have seen that same picture, in elementary school.*]

美好  
A moderately careful look at Chinese characters will reveal that their strokes are highly variable in number, direction, curvedness and 3-D placement within the pictograph “character frame,” even in standardized print. It would be difficult to tell a typing keyboard where to overlay strokes, much less when to start and stop overlaying. More like using Identikit than composing phonemic (or even syllabic) text.

There is one “spell it out” shortcut that I know of for Chinese: quite a few characters are made up of two root parts: a “sounds like this” part, and a “means something like this” part. It's one way that they deal with some of the huge clusters of homonyms.

Regards,  
Yer not-quite-all-knowing Treasurer,  
Kathleen

**Dave Haren**  
[tyrbolo@comcast.net](mailto:tyrbolo@comcast.net)

Friday 30 May 2014

Hi Felicity,

I'm using a new mad editing scheme involving too many open files.  
Fairly timely news items.

Al Feldstein has died. His art was virtually a signature for SF for years. The picture attached shows what I mean by that. It could serve as a movie poster for Heinlein's “Destination Moon” script.

Cherryh and Fancher have married with a lot of VR guests in on the toasts and well wishing. They had been together for 27 years which is long enough to see if you like each other enough to make it permanent.

Sheryl, great epic of battery fixing! If you were bemused by the LonCon row over some comic, you'll be even more thrilled by the Hugosity flapping. Vitamin C cures the common cold. Linus Pauling told me that a long time ago.



Putting on my Great Grandfather hat, both sides are wrong in the Hugo dispute. Degrees of wrongness may vary but neither side has the right or the moral high ground. The whole mess started in SFWA and hasn't got any prettier by spilling the bile over a con.

Think of it as entertainment of the basest sort designed to arouse emo all around.

The comp security boys are all excited over TrueCrypt disappearance from the open source.

The announce was weird. The web presence has been sporadically lost. All very mysterious.

However, given that it went from a relatively obscure program that wasn't common knowledge to one with a high profile (Snowden/Greenwald), Law Enforcement had to be less than thrilled to realize people who didn't know about it would suddenly start making it a lot harder for them to steal grandma's donut recipes.

Can't break the crypto, then what you do is break people's trust in it, and recommend something that the spooks already have the keys to.

It's available from Switzerland now.

Here's the verification hashes.

TrueCrypt 7.1a verification hashes

SHA1

7689d038c76bd1df695d295c026961e50e4a62ea

The MD5 is

7a23ac83a0856c352025a6f7c9cc1526

Don't use this if you are a real criminal or someone with any illicit behavior to hide. This only works at the same level as a lock on your front door. Leaving the front door lock off makes it easier for police but it also makes it a lot easier for criminals to access your house.

You do want journalists and your lawyers to have something like this available because there are things that need to be kept secret in this world. Ask Winston Smith for the details.



Not so newsy items.

You can't be a real steampunk without wanting this brass top hat (Guy Himer photo).

The two Eris pictures are from RW Chambers' novel. He's the guy who did *The King in Yellow*. Like Lovecraft he had a nice touch with oddity but is not overly popular these days.

Fortunately the next Worldcon is closer, so Penney can make it. If the "ilk" show it should be a realfanfest. Bring popcorn and opinions!!

Snips from the Hugofest:

correia45,<sup>1</sup> on April 25, 2014 at 2:41 PM said:

"I remember it well... There I was, hanging out in the Home Depot parking lot when Toni Weisskopf pulled up in her pickup and said 'I need two guys who can do tile and a novelist.' I hopped in back and have been taking their jobs ever since. ☺"<sup>2</sup>

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1 [Larry Correia](#).

2 [Link](#).

“However, the position of a white, cisgendered, heterosexual man is a demographic position of privilege and power both in fandom and without it.”<sup>3</sup> Do what?!! Huh? Do people actually talk like that? Seriously? What the hell does “cisgendered” mean anyhow?

[*Non-transgendered. When it was coined by transpeople in the 1990s, that was all it meant, with no negative connotations intended.*]

Oh wow, this’ll leave a mark. From a fellow named Jake Freivald: “If you’re not watching the Hugos this year—and why would you? They’re normally a popularity contest among people who think they can understand how alien species would think when they can’t even understand how people from their own culture think—you might just consider paying attention.” Whoever Jake is, he owes me a keyboard. ©

[*Ouch.*]

<http://jake.freivald.org/wp/hugos-correia-vox-day-conservatives-sad-puppies/>

“My privilege is my intelligence. It’s hardly my fault that the other side correctly sees itself as being disadvantaged and underprivileged.”—Vox Day

[*It’s not his intelligence that’s objectionable. It’s what he does with it.*]

Comical:

Comics Code:

“What Murphy came up with was, in essence, a framework for forcing comics’ compliance with a uniquely American puritanical fascism. Some of the Code’s more illustrative points: ‘Crimes shall never be presented in such a way as to create sympathy for the criminal.’ ‘Romance stories shall emphasize the value of the home and the sanctity of marriage.’ ‘Sex perversion or any inference to same is strictly forbidden.’ ‘Policemen, judges, government officials and respected institutions shall never be presented in such a way as to create disrespect for established authority.’ ‘All scenes of horror, excessive bloodshed, gory or gruesome crimes, depravity, lust, sadism, [and] masochism shall not be permitted.’ And, perhaps, most amusingly: ‘Although slang and colloquialisms are acceptable, excessive use should be discouraged and, wherever possible, good grammar shall be employed.’ The Code also contained the surprising provision that ‘ridicule or attack on any religious or racial group is never permissible.’ Given the countless depictions of monkey-like Japanese and minstrel-show black people in Golden Age comics, one might think this provision a good thing. But Murphy soon made it clear that this provision really meant that black people in comic books would no longer be tolerated, in any form. When EC Comics reprinted the science fiction story ‘Judgment Day’ by Al Feldstein and Joe Orlando (which had originally been printed to little controversy before the Code), Murphy claimed the story violated the Code, and that the black astronaut had to be made white in order for the story to run.”

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/saladinahmed/how-the-comics-code-killed-the-golden-age-of-comics>

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3 [Link](#).



Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZqx0rNMyt0>

Self transforming Elf machine from hyperspace:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXoNY\\_Qa9CM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXoNY_Qa9CM)

Celebrity:

Sakhra-l'Assal is independently unemployed. As a member of the Amsterdam collective for applied schizophrenics, ZZ Produkties, he was involved with translations of work by Peter Lamborn Wilson and Hakim Bey, among others. He spends his spare time drinking beer.

Comp:

<http://stilldrinking.org/programming-sucks>

This is the real story unknown to the users everywhere.



Stolen quote of the day:

“I don't have the time to fix other people's problems, I am busy making my own.”

Movie:

*Blond Savage*—an amazing epic production from archive.org storehouse of ancient goodies.

If this keeps up things may become interesting again.

I have added Robotic Love Dolls (Doomsday Device) and Merciless Ming of Mongo (Villain) cards to *The Adventures of Rocket Patrol* game.

Check out RocketManTan on Deviant art. I'll send you some pics of these later.

Warm regards,

Dave Haren

**Cathy Palmer-Lister**

[cathypal@sympatico.ca](mailto:cathypal@sympatico.ca)

Monday 2 June 2014

LOL, when I saw this—

“Anything for a Buck—Relating Events That Took Place at the Third Ditto, Held in Chicago by Dick and Leah Smith in 1990.”

I misread it as “Anything for a Book.”

[☺]

**Steve Green**

[ghostwords@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ghostwords@yahoo.co.uk)

Tuesday 3 June 2014

Hi Felicity,

Just noticed your comment in *BC-SFAzine* #484 regarding movies set against the backdrop of a future ice age. You may wish to check out *Quintet* (1979), directed and co-written by Robert Altman, featuring Paul Newman as a fur-clad traveller who arrives in a largely deserted



city with his pregnant wife, then becomes embroiled in a bizarre game in which the players gamble with their own lives. Incidentally, it was filmed at the Expo '67 site in Montréal.



[*Neat! I'm not a fan of post-apocalyptic movies but Quintet definitely qualifies as an ice-world movie from my era (late-1970s to early 1990s). Thanks!*]

Regards,  
Steve

PS Are you aware that issues #485–487 aren't displayed on eFanzines?

Quinjet? Like the Avengers' plane?

[*I relayed this to Bill Burns and they are now re-displayed. Thanks. ☺*]

**Lloyd Penney**

Friday 30 May 2014

1706–24 Eva Road,  
Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9C 2B2  
[penneys@bell.net](mailto:penneys@bell.net)

Dear Felicity:

Just got this earlier today, but this has been a month of massive catch-up for me, and with that in mind, a near-instant LOC on *BCSFazine* 492.

First of all, our own news. May 28 was our 31<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary, my birthday is on June 2, I start a new job at Transcontinental Media on my birthday (yay!), and Yvonne starts a new job herself on June 16. Finally, our luck has turned from bad to good, all at once. We did buy some LottoMax tickets, just in case...

[*Great! ☺*]

Because of those new jobs, and because of an inability to save enough, we have sold our memberships to the London Worldcon this year, and of course, cancelled our hotel reservations. A shame, but I'll take the new jobs any day, and perhaps we can go to England in a year or two.

I don't even try to keep up with current SF...there's just too much of it, and with so much going on the web, the needle is getting much smaller, and the haystack is getting much, much bigger. I don't even try any more; the SF I like is from the past, and SF and fandom have largely left me and my interests behind.

[*I feel that way too, which bothers me. I guess it's a combination of new fiction's premise/subject, dialogue style, typography/art, and price that keep me away.*]

Our greetings go to Spider Robinson. You are much missed.

Yvonne and I have had our successes when it comes to being dealers, with very successful tables for Penney's Steampunk General Store at CostumeCon 32 and Anime North 2014. CostumeCon will return to the Toronto/Hamilton area in 2017.

Check Graeme Cameron's column on the *Amazing Stories* website from March 28 of this year...he writes about BCSFA's interaction with the Zorany Shlyah SF club in Ukraine, and especially with Alexander Vasilkivsky and Boris Sidyuk. Alexander, or Olexander, is a Facebook friend of mine, and would probably like to hear from BCSFA again.

[*Please say hi to him for us!*]

I wish I could write more...this is my 40<sup>th</sup> letter of the month, and I am still not yet caught up. Who says fanzines are dying? Take care, everybody, and see you next issue.

Yours,  
Lloyd Penney

**Michael Bertrand**  
[fruvousfox@gmail.com](mailto:fruvousfox@gmail.com)

Tuesday 3 June 2013

Heya BCSFans! Well, I finally remembered to write this LOC more often than I forgot, so let's get down to it.

On the home front, I have been nursing a mysteriously injured left knee lately. I have no idea how it got hurt, but I get this weird and disturbing pain when I flex it certain ways, and I am currently using Voltaren Emugel to treat the pain.

I honestly can't tell if it's getting better or not. But I am seeing my GP soon. I'll ask him.

*Re: the Moore/Morrison war:*

I can totally see this whole thing being a "frenemies" type deal just like you said, Dame Editrix. Both of them are behaving in ways that seem entirely out of character (well okay, more for Morrison than Moore) that I find it easy to imagine them getting together to have a good chuckle at all the mess they have made.

And they need not have actually made an agreement that they would do this. It suffices that they both are not taking it too seriously and are having fun with it.

And speaking of feuds...

*Re: Diplomacy blood feuds:*

I had no idea that the game called Diplomacy harnessed such bitterness and vindictiveness. I guess that means that the game simulates real world diplomacy extremely well. Maybe too well. But I am intrigued by the notion that we might be able to redirect people's darker side into a game and thus render them harmless.



But then, I am the guy who thinks we should send all youths aged 18–25 to enormous Academies where they can compete in violent (but non-damaging) combat.

Would practically eliminate crime.

As for the people who go to college instead, they tend not to cause too much trouble anyhow. So in a sense, it's self-selecting.

Well that's all my gab space for the month. See you next issue, friends!

Oh, and as always, my blog is at <http://michaeljohnbertrand.com>, in case you want to read more of my weird thoughts.

**Jason Burnett**  
[jason@jason-burnett.com](mailto:jason@jason-burnett.com)

Monday 16 June 2013

Hi folks,

I just got an email saying that if I don't cough up some money for the next year's service, they're going to cancel my @starfleet.com email address. While it's not a lot of money (I think it's \$15), I can think of any number of things I'd rather do with it. So from now on, you can reach me at [jason@jason-burnett.com](mailto:jason@jason-burnett.com).

Hope you're all doing well!  
Jason

**We Also Heard From:** Mail Delivery Subsystem, Spider Robinson, Garth Spencer, Taral Wayne, Vancouver Public Library Teen Services, Dale Speirs.

## Calendar

Note to print readers: underlined events have an associated URL. Links are included in the PDF version at <http://www.efanzines.com/BCSFA/>.—Julian Castle

### Already in Progress

2 February, 16 March, 13 April, 4 May, 1 June, 6 July, 10 August, and 7 September 2014: [VCON Convention Committee \(ConCom\) Monthly Meetings](#), 2–4 PM at Brandywine Bartending [School], 241 Union Street, Vancouver. “If you are on our concom, or interested in becoming involved with VCON 39, we invite you to attend



our monthly planning meetings! VCON is Vancouver's premier fantasy and science fiction convention since 1971 and everyone who works to make VCON happen is a volunteer. We are completely non-profit and fan run. Lots of people volunteer a little of their time, usually at or just before and after the event, but some volunteers—the convention committee (concom)—are involved all year long and do

the major lifting of planning and organizing the event. It's these people that are the heart and soul of the VCON experience. So if you like sci-fi/fantasy art, writing, craft, film, costuming, or gaming, etc. and want to meet some new fellow geeklings, let us know and come on out! We'd love to have you in on the inner workings of our convention and be front row for the newest happenings in the world of the geektastic! *Note:* The location is all-ages appropriate as it is a bartending school with no alcohol on site. Meeting schedule for 2014: Sunday 2 February • Sunday 16 March • Sunday 13 April • Sunday 4 May • Sunday 1 June • Sunday 6 July • Sunday 10 August • Sunday 7 September—last regular meeting before the convention • Sunday

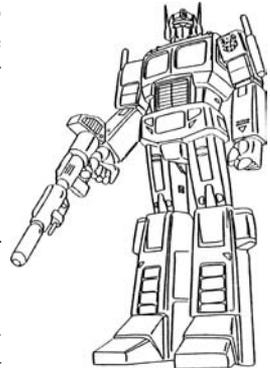
28 September—bag stuffing (time and location to be determined) • Thursday 2 October—evening Guest of Honour/concom reception (exact time and location to be determined) • Friday 3 October—morning Guest of Honour/concom breakfast (exact time and location to be determined) • 3–5 October: VCON! • Sunday 2 November—VCON 39 debrief.”—[VCON](#) via [Jenni Merrifield](#)

31 May–1 June 2014: [Terminal City Tabletop Convention](#), 10 AM–12 AM (Saturday) & 10 AM–6 PM (Sunday) at Firefighters’ Banquet & Conference Centre (close to Metrotown Skytrain), 6515 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. Early bird tickets prices end May 1, available via website. Full weekend: at door \$40, early bird \$35 + \$1.87 fee. Saturday only: at door \$25, early bird \$20 + \$1.49 fee. Sunday only: at door \$20, early bird \$15 + \$1.37 fee. Kids 10 & under get in free (must be accompanied by an adult, provide proof of age if asked, maximum two free child admissions per adult). [[Facebook link.](#)]—[Julian Castle](#)

## June 2014

June is Adopt a Cat Month, Bathroom Reading Month, and GLBT Book Month.

1 June 2014: [Retro and Relevant 2](#)—Vancouver’s Retro and Modern Toy Show!, 11 AM–3:30 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver. “Transformers, Star Wars, GI Joe, Lego, Gundam, Masters of the Universe, Ninja Turtles, Spawn, DC, Marvel, My Little Pony, Anime, Power Rangers, 1/6 figures, Mego, special guests, charity raffle, and much more! Toy raffle in support of BC Children’s Hospital Foundation. Early bird: 11 AM—\$10. General admission: 12 PM—\$4. Children 10 and under free!—[Julian Castle](#)



1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 June and 6, 13, 20, and 27 July 2014 (*Sundays*): [Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays](#), 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Sunday afternoons: they are made for relaxing, cups of warming beverage, and most especially board games. Thus, *Sunday board games!* Cuppa Joy’s large tables, usually unoccupied space and laid-back attitude suits this purpose perfectly. Bring board games, friends, and of course your lovely selves! If anyone has any board game requests, feel free to post them in the comments and I will try to accommodate. You can also post less specific requests (e.g. ‘games that take eight players,’ ‘games that don’t involve math,’ ‘games about farming’) and I’ll see what I can do. Happy Sunday!”—[Keith Lim](#)

2 June 2014: **Lloyd Penney’s** birthday.

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 June and 7, 14, 21, and 28 July 2014 (*Mondays*): [Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures](#), 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Painting miniatures can be fun, challenging, and sometimes even outrageous. Feel free to come by the store to paint, share tips, or maybe even

learn a thing or two about the craft, nay artform, that is miniatures painting. There are some paints available to use, and brushes, as well as primer. Warmachine figures will likely be the name of the game for most, but anything is welcome.”—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 June and 7, 14, 21, and 28 July 2014 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. 2 October, 7:30–11:20 PM: Craft Night: Shoebox Loom-Making. 9 October, 7:30–11 PM: The Craft Element. 16 and 23 October, 7:30–11:30 PM: Craft Night: Halloween Costume Making Night Parts 1 & 2. [See *Vancouver Hack Space Open House* for more VHS details.]—Julian Castle

3 June 2014: **Karl Johanson**’s birthday.

3, 10, 17, and 24 June and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 July 2014 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Feel free to come by anytime from 5 PM to about 10 PM to play a game or two. There are hundreds of open games for playing, or feel free to bring your own. Parking out front is a buck thirty-five an hour (free after 6 PM), or there is a parkade a block away (buck an hour), across Columbia and down by the river. We are located two blocks northeast of the New Westminster SkyTrain Station, at Columbia and Begbie. There is a Waves coffee shop in the same building. Go uphill on Begbie to Clarkson, and the store is to the right. Tuesday is also the Buck a Slice special feature at Fresh Slice Pizza just down the street. Have a good day.—Kirby”—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, and 24 June and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 July 2014 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (new location as of May 2013), Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. “Bring your ideas, projects, kits, art, music, robots, etc. down for some good times with good people.” VHS mission is “to provide a common workspace where its members, hackers, makers, crafters and otherwise (technically) creative people could work on projects and find like-minded people, in sharing knowledge and ideas.” “There are stairs down to the space from the back alley and a wheelchair-accessible level loading bay entrance from the street, although someone has to have opened the space through the stairs before the loading bay is available.” Parking is available outside the space. Bikes can be brought inside the front door. No membership required. Admission is by donation.—Julian Castle

4 June 2014: Hug Your Cat Day.

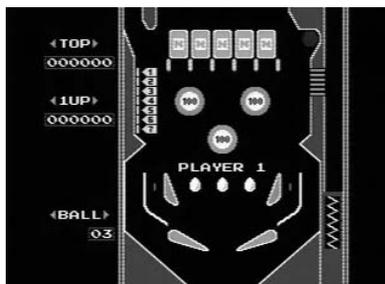
4 and 18 June and 2, 16, and 30 July 2014 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Wednesday is the new Monday! And by that I mean, we’re switching our every-other-week, weeknight games to Wednesdays, so that I can actually attend! Also popular opinion (i.e. I asked a couple of people) seems to agree—Wednesdays are superior. Some come on down to Cuppa Joy, grab a pint and a samosa, and play some *board games! Wednesday Wednesday Wednesday!*”—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 June and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 July 2014 (*Wednesdays*): [Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meeting](#), 7:30–11:30 PM at top floor of [Memorial South Park’s fieldhouse](#), located inside the park at 5955 Ross Street (at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue), Vancouver. “The Cloudscape Comics Society is a community of comic creators in Vancouver, BC who together publish and distribute quality graphic novel anthologies, as well as host comic workshops and other related events. Here enterprising comic artists come together to network, develop their ideas, and help each other perfect their craft.” “Everyone is welcome to attend” the weekly meeting on Wednesdays.—[Keith Lim/Julian Castle](#)

5 June 2014: **Alyssa Foote’s** birthday.

5, 12, 19, and 26 June and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 July 2014 (*Thursdays*): [Thursday Hobby Build Nights](#), 6–9 PM at [A3U Gundam](#), 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby. “Is your backlog looking rather full? Are un-built kits starting to stack up in your room? Bring your kits, tools and Gundam knowledge and come on down for three hours of quality build time. Share what you’re working on, ask for some help or just argue about if Kamille is a really a girl’s name (it is). Hobby nights are informal and fun ways to network and learn more about the gunpla community!”—[A3U Gundam](#)

6 June 2014: Premiere of film *Edge of Tomorrow* (SF/action; Tom Cruise, Bill Paxton, Jeremy Piven).



6–8 June 2014: [Northwest Pinball & Arcade Show](#) at Tacoma Convention Centre, 1500 Broadway, Tacoma, Washington.—[Julian Castle](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 June and 4, 11, 18, and 25 July 2014 (*Fridays*): [Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games](#), 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “Tonight is the night for *Magic: The*

*Gathering* here at Imperial Hobbies! Drop by and play in a casual open setting with a group of great people, or learn one on one how to play with one of our staff. Contact: [Stephanie](#).”

6, 13, 20, and 27 June and 4, 11, 18, and 25 July 2014 (*Fridays*): [Friday Board Game Night](#)—[Drexoll Games](#), 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue (½ block west of MacDonald Street), Vancouver. “In our stores, it’s *open gaming* any time we’re open, so stop in with a friend and try a game! Both of our locations have 7–8 tables and plenty of seating. Space may be limited during tournaments—scheduled events take precedence over open gaming tables. We have about 100 open board games for playing in the store. Playing is *free* except for some tournaments.”—[Keith Lim](#)

7 June 2014: Vancouver Pop Culture Collectibles Fair & Computer Swap Meet, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. “Admission: \$3; kids under 12 free. Free comic to the first 100 guests!<sup>4</sup> Board games, cameras, Canucks memorabilia, CDs, DVDs, hardware, Hot Wheels, jewelry, magazines, manga, monitors, parts, printer refills, printers, records, software, *Star Wars*, toys & collectibles, VHS, video games, vintage comics, wrestling...and lots more at great prices! Dealer information: eight-foot tables \$40 each, or two for \$70! 604-521-6304. [funpromo@shaw.ca](mailto:funpromo@shaw.ca). <http://www.fun-promo.com/>.”

7, 14, 21, and 28 June and 5, 12, 19, and 26 July 2014 (*Saturdays*): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come in anytime on Saturday afternoon until 7 PM and play any of the many open games there are here at the store.—Kirby”—Keith Lim

8 June 2014: **Ian Boothby**’s birthday.

8 June 2014: Advance Gunpla Class, 1–5 PM at A3U Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby. “The advance class has finally returned! Featuring the HGAC Turn A Gundam, the first Gundam fitted with a manly combat moustache, unique among even classic collections, the Turn A will be an exciting class to learn advance techniques! *Sign up and pay at the store*: the class will cost \$40 and will require you to pick up and build the kit before attending the class. Some of the techniques our instructor will go over include: paint chipping, battle damage, back painting, detail painting, panel lines with pin washes, oil filters, and posing theory. [...] *Spots available: 5*.”—A3U Gundam

10 June and 8 July 2014 (*second Tuesday*): Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch, 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—Large Private Room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver. “Second Tuesday of every month. In the Victorian tradition of conversation in coffee houses, this casual monthly event is open to everyone who wants to just get together and meet up with other local steampunks. Whether you’re new to steampunk or well-seasoned, young or old, silly or serious, please feel free to drop by. We can discuss whatever folks want, plan nefarious plots, or just relax, hang out, and get to chat with one another. Costumes welcome but not required—dress as you feel comfortable! I will be at least steamily accessorized, since I have to work immediately beforehand. The only requirement for us to have this space is that everyone should purchase something at the coffee house. They offer teas, coffee, hot chocolate, and various cold beverages, as well as some baked goods.”—Keith Lim

11 June 2014: **Kathleen Moore** and **Ray Seredin**’s birthdays.

10 June and 8 July 2014 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby. “BC’s ori-

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4 Free comic may vary.

ginal model car club since 1982. For more information visit us at <http://vancouvermodelcars.ca/> or call Gerry Chevalier 604-599-8213 or Jim Ervin 604-420-3768.”

11 June 2014: The Gentlemen Hecklers Present: *Hercules 2* (1985), 9–11:15 PM at the Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway, Vancouver. “Because one *Hercules* was not enough...The Gentlemen Hecklers return [...] to provide live, hilarious commentary for the best bad movies! Eric Fell, Patrick Maliha, and Shaun Stewart are Vancouver’s masters of movie riffing, making so-bad-they’re-good movies even better by talking you through them. Join us for *Hercules 2*, starring Lou Ferrigno. ‘Hercules searches for the Seven Thunderbolts of Zeus, which have been stolen by renegade gods.’ It’s ’80s cheese at its finest, made funnier by the Gentlemen Hecklers! Doors 9 PM/show 9:30 PM. \$6 advance/ \$9 door. [[Rio Theatre Tickets](#)] 19+ only with bar service. Please bring two pieces of ID. [[Gentlemen Hecklers](#)] [[Gentlemen Hecklers—Facebook](#)]”

12 June, 10 July, 14 August, 11 September, and 9 October 2014: Teen Manga Advisory Group, 4–5 PM at Harvey Southam Room, Children’s Library, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. For teens aged 13–18. “Do you love manga?...Come tell us what the library should have on our shelves and meet other manga enthusiasts!” Free. For more info phone VPL Teen Services: 604-331-3690.—[Julian Castle](#)



12 and 26 June and 10 and 24 July 2014 (*alternate Thursdays*): “Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers’ Group meets alternate Thursdays 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library (program room) or Connections lounge. Open to new members, mainly sci-fi/fantasy or what have you. Contact Allan @ (604) 946-2427 or email [lowson@dccnet.com](mailto:lowson@dccnet.com) for details.”—[Allan Lawson](#) (on [Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group](#))

12 June and 10 July 2014 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford. “Meetings held second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM from September to June (July & August have no meetings—summer break).”—[Keith Lim](#)

12 June and 10 July 2014 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*] “Second Thursday of every month. This is the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Vancouver monthly meeting and is shared with the general public at no charge. Please be advised that RASC Vancouver’s monthly lectures will be held at different locations. The location of each meeting will be posted in advance, along with details of the speaker and topic. We meet at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month, with astro-coffee, cookies, and juice served after the presentation. Please join us for interesting and informative lectures on all aspects of astronomy and space-science, along with stimulating conversations!”—[Keith Lim](#)

13 June 2014: Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Premiere of film *How to Train Your Dragon 2* (computer animation; Gerard Butler, Kristen Wiig, Jonah Hill, Cate Blanchett, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, America Ferrera, Djimon Hounsou, Craig Ferguson).

15 June 2014: **Jay Demetrick's** birthday.

15 June and 20 July 2014 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Every third Sunday of the month a swap meet will be held where gamers can sell or trade any board games they would like to get rid of. RSVP for the event and you can list what you are looking to sell, or what you would like in trade. Use the message board to propose trades or list items for sale. Board Game Warriors can be a neutral site for meeting and doing transactions during store hours.”—Keith Lim

19 June 2014: Release Party for *World War 3 Illustrated 1979–2014* Anthology, 7 PM at Bluestockings Books, New York, New York, USA. “Release party with presentations by Seth Tobocman, Peter Kuper, Nicole Shulman, Mac McGill, James Romberger, Sandy Jimenez, Eric Blitz, Andy Laties, Steve Wishnia, Breeze, On Davis and Mat Metzgar.”—Peter Kuper

20 June and 18 July 2014<sup>5</sup>: Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. Open gaming; seven to eight tables. “For Friday Night *Magic* we will be running a limited Draft FNM. Cost is three booster packs plus \$2, starting at 6:30 PM. Also feel free to come by for some casual *Magic: The Gathering* from 6–9 PM. Feel free to use the house decks if you just want to try out the game. Don’t forget to check out our Facebook page.”—Keith Lim

20 June and 18 July 2014 (*third Friday*): IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, Second Floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. “Club meetings are held on the third Friday of every month (with very few exceptions such as if the third Friday falls on Good Friday or is too close to Christmas—check schedule). Doors open at 7 PM. Meetings officially run from 7:30–9:30 PM.”—Keith Lim

21 June 2014: Worldwide Party.—Dale Speirs

21 June 2014: Eighth Annual Free RPG Day. A worldwide event to go to participating shops to play new games and get free stuff. “Established in 2007, Free RPG Day works with participating hobby game retailers and RPG publishers to bring new and exclusive RPG quickstart rules and adventure modules into the hands of gamers. Consumers *worldwide* will be able to grab brand new material for a variety of RPGs—no overstock, retail-priced or dead product here. The goal of Free RPG Day is to inspire gamers to play a new RPG, which will in turn, create sales through local

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5 Every Friday night, according to Board Game Warriors.

game stores. Use the [retailer locator](#) to find a participating store near you!” Only BC shop in FRD shop locator (checked 27 April) is Drexoll Games, 103–2880 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver. Imperial Hobbies in Richmond said they are participating.—[Julian Castle](#)

21 June 2014: [Royal Canadian Legion Cloverdale Branch #6 Open House](#), 10 AM [?]-4 PM at 17567 57 Avenue, Cloverdale. “Come and check us out!



Cloverdale Branch No. 6 celebrates Legion Week. Authentic military equipment display. Come witness the amazing car crushing event! Schedule: pancake breakfast \$2 9–11 AM. VIP official opening from 11:30 AM–12 PM. Lunch—

hot dog and a pop \$1. Lunch—hamburger and a pop \$2. 50/50 draw proceeds will go to the Surrey Food Bank. Displays: *Laudies Auxilliary*. CMEC. Membership. PoCo Military International Movie Services Weapons Display. Publicity. WWII Artifacts. Legion Partner Benefit Table. Western Command. Legion Track and Field. Cadet Corps. Various private collectors.”

21 June and 19 July 2014 (*third Saturday*): [Vancouver Comic Jam](#), 8–9 PM at the [Wallflower Modern Diner](#), 2404 Main Street, Vancouver. “The Vancouver Comic Jam is generally held the third Saturday of the month. In cases of long weekends or other conflicting dates, the jam may move to the second or third Saturday. For up to date information, [join the VCJ Facebook group](#) or [follow us on Twitter](#). *Who can come?*: Anyone who is of legal drinking age is invited. *How much?*: No admission fee. There is a \$5 minimum purchase per person required by the Wallflower. They provide their full menu to order from and alcohol galore: beer, wine, highballs and shots. *There will be a gratuity of 18–20% added to all bills because we are a large group*. Bring your own pencils/pens. Paper is provided. If you’re drawing with markers that bleed through paper, be sure to either bring a drawing surface or place extra sheets of paper under the paper you’re drawing on.”—[Keith Lim](#)

23 June 2014: **Amos Iu**’s birthday.

25 June 2014: **Ed Beauregard**’s birthday.

25 June 2014: Publication of [The Massive Volume 3: Longship TPB](#), written by Brian Wood. Comic book about Earth after environmental crash with a small group of environmentalists searching for their sister ship. (Publisher and VPL have it listed as science fiction.)—[Julian Castle](#)

26 June 2014: **Todd Bussey**’s birthday.

27 June 2014: Premiere of film *Transformers: Age of Extinction* (SF/action; Mark Wahlberg, Stanley Tucci, Kelsey Grammer, Peter Cullen).

27–29 June 2014: Northwest Fanfest (combination of three cons: Cos & Effect, Anime Evolution, Vancouver Gaming Expo) at University of British Columbia [*no address on flyer*]. “17,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of gaming. Massive 200-person LAN area: *League of Legends*, *DOTA 2*, *Starcraft 2*, [*and*] *Nidhogg* tournaments. *Dance Dance Revolution*—free play. Analog gaming: scheduled tabletop RPG gaming and freeplay, CCG tournaments (*Magic*, *Pokemon*, and more), Friday Night *Magic*, mahjong, board games, [*and*] demos. Next-gen and retro console systems: *Super Smash Bros.*, *Super Street Fighter IV AE*, *Ultimate Marvel vs. Capcom 3*, [*and*] *Tetris* tournaments. Special programming: performance by ‘Missingno’ (jazz-style renditions of video-game music), ‘There Is No Easy Mode’ (video-game trivia with ‘WC Geeks vs. Nerds’), [*and*] ‘Minus World Improv’ (video-game-inspired comedy show with ‘The Fictionals’). We’re more than just gaming! Check out: the walkoff, costume contest, lolita fashion show, dances, special guests (*Sailor Moon* voice actors, Kieran Strange, and more), panels and workshops, vendors and artists, *Reboot 20<sup>th</sup>* anniversary party, [*and*] AMV contest! Back for 2014! The Gauntlet: Vancouver’s multi-genre gaming tournament, featuring *Cards Against Humanity* qualifier round, three competitive rounds, each a different genre of gaming, [*and*] a secret final round on the main stage. Get your passes online at [northwestfanfest.com](http://northwestfanfest.com)[.] Prereg before May 16<sup>th</sup> to save 20% on a three-day pass. [*Also: First Annual Vanpla Mecha Model Competition.*]

28 June 2014: **Toren Atkinson**’s birthday.

28 June and 26 July 2014 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come by anytime on Saturday from noon until midnight and play any of the many open games there are here at the store. The event is perfect for any of those more epic games we have at the store that you’ve been wanting to try or for any you might own but can rarely find the time/space/players to accommodate. Besides a couple of local coffee joints, there are a bevy of nearby eating establishments, and we will probably order some supper at around 6 PM. Hope to see you there.—Kirby & Critty”—Keith Lim



28 June 2014: All Star Wrestling Pro Wrestling, 7 PM at the Fridge Fraser-view Church, 11295 Mellis Drive, Richmond. “Featuring former WWE star Gangrel! \$18 front row; \$15 general. Doors 7 PM; show 7:30 PM. Meet the

wrestlers after the show!—Pioneers Pub, 10111 Number Three Road, Richmond. For more info visit <http://allstar-wrestling.com/> or call 604-710-0872.”

28–29 June 2014: Seattle Retro Gaming Expo at Washington State Convention Centre, 800 Convention Place, Seattle, Washington.—Julian Castle

28–29 June 2014: Wet Coast Grand Tournament 2014 at Executive Hotel, 4201 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby. “Large miniatures tournaments in the lower mainland. Warhammer, Warhammer 40,000, Warmahordes, Flames of War, ITC, Star Wars X-Wing, Malifaux, Netrunner. More info at <http://www.wetcoastgt.com/>.”

29 June 2014: **Leonard Wong**’s birthday.

30 June 2014: Meteor Day.

## July 2014

1 July 2014: Steveston Salmon Festival & Canada Day Parade, 7 AM at Steveston, Richmond. “VCON brings military might to Steveston! Join the ranks of our costumed parade entry! Military-themed science fiction and fantasy costumes are encouraged, but anything geeky will be accepted as long as it’s family-friendly. All ages are welcome. If you are willing but don’t own a costume, you can still help. Wear a VCON t-shirt and hand out flyers. (If you need a shirt, we have some.) *Timeline*: • 7–8 AM: All floats and all walking entries wishing to be judged must be in the marshaling line-up. (Entries arriving after 8 AM *will not* be judged.) • 8–10 AM: Judging takes place. Personnel need to be with their entry for judging purposes. • 9 AM: All other vehicle entries and all remaining entries must be in the marshaling area by 9 AM. Any entries arriving after 9 AM may be refused admission to the parade. • 10 AM: First entry in the parade starts moving. • 12 PM (approximately): Last entry in the parade reaches the end of the parade route.”—VCON

2 July 2014: **Arnie Katz**’s birthday. World UFO Day.

3 July 2014: Drop-In Drawing for Adults, 6–9 PM at Richmond Art Gallery, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond. “This event is free. Draw inspiration from original works of art! This program is a social time for adults to experiment and create artworks in the Gallery. Some instructions are provided, and you are welcome to draw, collage, and sketch whatever you like. All artistic skill levels are welcome! Some materials are provided, but feel free to bring your own collage and drawing materials. Drop-in for a quick sketch, or stay for the whole 3 hours. For ages 16+. For more information: phone 604-247-8313, fax 604-247-8368, e-mail: [galler@richmond.ca](mailto:galler@richmond.ca).”

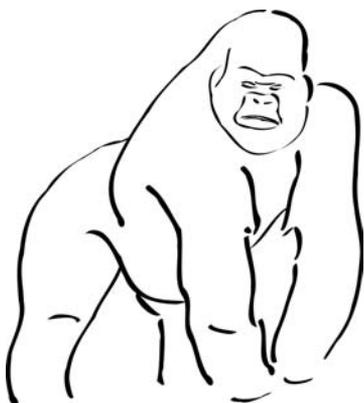
4 July 2014: Premiere of films *Deliver Us from Evil* (horror; Eric Bana, Olivia Munn, Joel McHale), *Earth to Echo* (SF; Mary Pat Gleason), and *Life Itself* (documentary/biography of Roger Ebert; Martin Scorsese, Werner Herzog, Roger Ebert).

4–6 July 2014: Third Everfree Northwest, A Convention for Fans of My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic, at Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center, 17620 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington. Rooms: \$129 USD/night (double-bed or king-size). Reserve room via website link or phone 206-244-4800 & use group code “PONY14.” Vendor registration closed. Attendee registration: \$50. “Foal” (under 13 years) registration free, but must be accompanied by an adult (18 years+) parent or guardian who has purchased a membership and made contact info available to convention.—Julian Castle

5 July 2014: Rattled on Ruskin, 4 PM–late at 39 Ruskin Avenue, Toronto. “Along with sun, warmth, no snow and...construction. Shake off the dust, and come make a joyful noise of your own! Please join us for the ‘Rattled on Ruskin’ Neighbourhood Party!”—Adam Charlesworth

6 July 2014: Vancouver Comicon, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue), Vancouver. “Special guests: Adrian Alphona (*Ms. Marvel, Runaways*), Scott Chantler (*Two Generals, Northwest Passage*), J. Torres (*True Patriot, Teen Titans Go!*), Jason Copland (*POP, Robocop, Kill All Monsters*) and others! Comics for Classrooms: donate a new or gently-used school-appropriate graphic novel for free admission to this show. Books collected will be donated to Vancouver schools. (Sorry, no manga can be accepted.) Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/vancomicon>. For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomicon.com/>. Admission: \$4. Kids under 14: free. Dealer tables: \$65/centre; \$75/wall. 604-322-6412.”

8 July 2014: **Aaron Harrison**’s birthday. Video Games Day.



11 July 2014: Premiere of film *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* (SF; Gary Oldman, Keri Russell, Judy Greer, Andy Serkis, Kirk Acevedo).

11–13 July 2014: Second Annual GaymerX (formerly GaymerCon) in San Francisco, California. Gaming convention with LGBTQ focus. Bosses of Honor include Fred Rosser (wrestling name Darren Young), the first WWE performer to come out as gay while active in WWE.—Julian Castle

12 July 2014: The Summer Festival, 2 PM–late at SFU Burnaby, Convocation Mall [no address given on poster or website]. “Presented by SFU Anime. All day matsuri-style fun. Artists’ alley and vendors, cosplay and yukata show, food and snack vendors, play carnival games, smash a watermelon, win great prizes. Free admission.”

13 July 2014: Embrace Your Geekness Day.

16 July 2014: **Dennis Kristos**'s birthday.

18 July 2014: Premiere of films *Planes: Fire & Rescue* (computer animation; Ed Harris, Dane Cook, Stacy Keach, Wes Studi, Jerry Stiller, John Michael Higgins, Fred Willard, Anne Meara, Erik Estrada, Dale Dye), *Jupiter Ascending* (SF; Channing Tatum, Mila Kunis, Sean Bean, Terry Gilliam), *The Purge: Anarchy* (horror), *I Origins* (SF), and *Moon Indigo* (fantasy).

18–20 July 2014: HårnCon 2014 at Coast Vancouver Airport Hotel, Board & Marine Rooms, 1041 Southwest Marine Drive (at Oak Street), Vancouver. Celebrating 30 years of HårnWorld RPG. Columbia Games, publisher of HårnWorld, in attendance. E-mail: [hårncon2014@shaw.ca](mailto:hårncon2014@shaw.ca). Tickets: \$40 pre-registration via [webpage](#) or \$50 at door.—[Julian Castle](#)

20 July 2014: **Julie McGalliard**'s birthday.

22 July 2014: **Evahn Thorsen**'s birthday.

22 July and 7 August 2014: The Library at the End of the Universe. Teen reading club—online chat with SF authors at [teenrc.ca](http://teenrc.ca) that can be read by going to VPL event or just going to website. July 22 chat with Marissa Meyer: 11 AM–1 PM at Renfrew Meeting Room, VPL—Renfrew Branch, 2969 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver. August 7 chat with Cristin Terrill: 1–2:30 PM at TSN Meeting Room, Terry Salman Branch, 4575 Clancy Loranger Way, Vancouver. Free. Registration required (RSVP [teens@vpl.ca](mailto:teens@vpl.ca)) if going to either VPL event. For more info phone VPL Teen Services: 604-331-3690.—[Julian Castle](#)

23 July 2014: **Spencer Wilson**'s birthday.

23 July 2014: Movies at the Library (Cambie), 7–8:30 PM at Dance Room (CAB), Richmond Public Library—Cambie Branch, Unit 150–11590 Cambie Road, Richmond. “Relax and meet new friends while enjoying a movie at the library! All ages welcome.”

25 July 2014: **Graeme Cameron**'s birthday. Premiere of films *Hercules* (fantasy; Dwayne Johnson, John Hurt, Ian McShane, Joseph Fiennes, Rufus Sewell) and *Lucy* (SF; Scarlett Johansson, Morgan Freeman).

26 July 2014: Digital Carnival, 6:30–11:30 PM at Minoru Plaza, 7700 Minoru Gate. “Part multimedia light show and part outdoor concert, Digital Carnival showcases the coolest artistic talents in the local music and media art scene. Dance away the night under a canopy of light. Don't forget to come up to the Rooftop Beer Garden for a drink and a chat! Website: <http://ykfestival.ca/event/theatre-under-the-sky/>. Inquiries: [inquiry@ykfestival.ca](mailto:inquiry@ykfestival.ca).”

27 July 2014: Kelowna Collectibles Show, 11 AM–5 PM at Sandman Hotel & Suites Kelowna, 2130 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna. “Event phone number: (604) 521-6304.

For over twenty years, Fun Promotions has been hosting events in Greater Vancouver. Don't miss our Third Annual Kelowna Collectibles Show, Sunday July 27 at the Sandman Hotel. It is an affordable and fun day for the entire family. You will also be able to find quality dealer from across Canada with rare toys, current & vintage comics, die-cast models, art, jewelry, movies, current and retro video games, CDs, DVDs, and all kinds of collectibles! Tickets: \$3. Children 12 & under free. Free parking. Free comic book to the first 100 guests! For more info, please visit <http://www.fun-promo.com/>.”—Verne Siebert

28 July 2014: **Robin Bougie**'s birthday.

31 July 2014: **Felicity Walker**'s birthday.

## News-Like Matter

### Notes from May 2014 BCSFA Meeting

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

Someone brought up scientists in communist countries. Graeme relayed Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's story that intellectuals in his gulag were asked to evaluate scientific ideas and, because they resented unjust imprisonment, would recommend the crank theories and bad inventions that would never work, and not recommend the good ones. Some prisoners would leave secret messages to loved ones on outgoing lumber, hoping that somehow



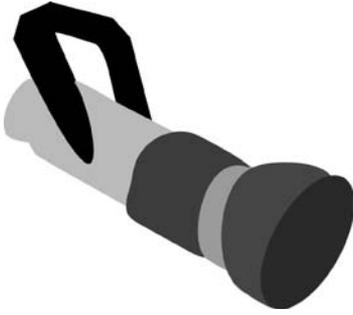
*And my mental image of  
Solzhenitsyn comes from this.*

they would find their way to someone who would see them and pass them on. One guy who escaped set himself up successfully in private life in Siberia, but was caught when he played an accordion on TV. Fru said “Yet another life ruined by accordion.” What I knew about gulags I learned from reading Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1962).<sup>6</sup>

Stew said something about lotteries, “*The Little Red Hen* all over again,” taxable winnings, and the inheritance tax. Graeme said, “You could take the Chinese warlord approach. Go to a village and say ‘We’re collecting all taxes now.’ ‘But we’ve already paid another warlord.’ ‘Fine. We’re collecting next year’s taxes now.’ Warlords were not popular.” By the sad standards of the modern world, though, they were rich and therefore right.

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6 And that one Bud Light commercial.



Graeme said that the last emperor of China was overthrown, ostensibly because China wanted to be a republic, but also a warlord was behind it who wanted to be emperor. Oddly, he was a Christian, and forcibly baptised crowds of people with a firehose. Fru (quoting Michael Richards) said, “You get to drink from the firehose!”

Someone (Graeme? Fru?) said “Monotheism.” Someone (Kathleen? Graeme? Fru?) said monarchs are not restrained by Christianity. They become Christian because they think, “All these people are converting to Christianity and getting power and being insane. I’d better get some of that so they can’t be insane to *me*.” I said “Insane Crown Posse.”

Stew said that pineapples come from Hawaii, and that the expression “Pineapple Express” is meteorological slang meaning a warm front from Hawaii. Graeme added that coffee came from Africa.<sup>7</sup> I asked where sugar (standard table sugar, not honey) originally came from. No one knew.<sup>8</sup>

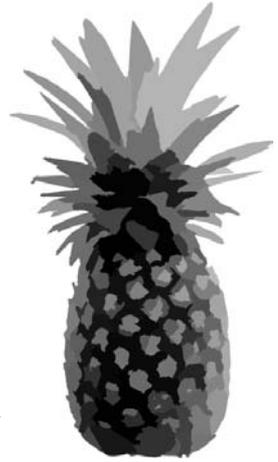
Graeme mentioned seeing unsanitary fast food cooks—using bare hands to press meat onto a grill; spitting onto the grill to see if it was hot.

I finally remembered to bring the astronomy book, *The Sun’s Family* by James Muirden (1962), from “The Young Scientist Series.” Someone (Joe?) noticed with amusement that the cover showed the *two* rings of Saturn. Graeme accepted the book and thought he might get an article out of it. (See [the Amazing Stories website](#) for Graeme’s articles.)

I said that at the apartment we are now up to “Attack of the Cybermen” (1985) in our *Doctor Who* (1963–1989) viewing. Ray recommended a fan film about Peter Davison, Colin Baker, and someone else trying to get into the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary special (2013).

Graeme read some choice excerpts from the Young Scientist book. Life on Mars! Plants, green in the Martian springtime. Mercury tidally locked (as predicted by the group at a previous meeting). Fru said that he believed that in childhood because he got a lot of science knowledge from Ray Bradbury.

Speaking of Bradbury, Ray said that somewhere at a train show was a model “Superchief” with a train car with a little typewriter and copy of *Moby Dick*. This was in reference to the time that Bradbury had been hired to write the adaptation screenplay for the movie *Moby Dick* (1956) and had locked himself in a train car (and then later a ship cabin) and wrote for the whole journey. He got there and



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7 No “Coffee Express” from Africa, though.

8 Asia.—Future Felicity

handed it to the director, who said “That’s no good. Rewrite!” So Bradbury went to the pub.

Stew described early 3D movies. “Pure Dr. Tongue,” he said, hands moving in and out. During one of many viewings of Ray Harryhausen’s *First Men in the Moon* (1964) he noticed that the spacesuits had no gloves. Graeme said that, surprisingly, that was not a mistake but a deliberate homage to Victorian SF.

Graeme said that Susan Wood initiated programming “A Room of Our Own” about feminism at VCON in the 1970s and there was opposition because it was “not SF-related and many guys didn’t see the point.”

Stew brought up jokes you have to be old enough and Canadian to get. “How do you drive a Newfie crazy? Nail his feet to the floor and put on a Don Messner album.” We didn’t get it. We were Canadian but not familiar with Don Messner or his connection to Newfoundland.<sup>9</sup>

Joe said that one of the schools where he works is putting on the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. In the original movie starring Julie Andrews (1967), there’s a subplot involving white slavery in the Chinese laundry district, which is probably not going to be in the school version. This reminded us of plays we were in at school. Stew was in *Flower Drum Song* (1958). He had to dye his hair black. Graeme was in *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* (1930) and played the villain. He got a huge gasp from the audience on his entrance, which he was not expecting, so much so that he checked his fly. I was in what I thought was a scene from *Airport* (1970) but which Stew informed me was *Flight into Danger* (1956), which he said all Canadian schoolchildren have been assigned. My one line was “I had the fish” to which the star replied “We don’t need to worry about you then.” This got a laugh, which was weird and made me worry that the audience didn’t like me.



*Sadly, I did not get to speak jive.*

I asked if there was kosher pizza. It was hard to believe there could be, but there’s a children’s entertainer called Uncle Moishy who has a song about pizza that takes place in a kosher pizza restaurant. Someone (Graeme?) said that as long as the meat and cheese weren’t both on the pizza at the same time it was probably OK. This reminded Stew of *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes* (1978), which Graeme said was not as funny as most cult films because it was intentional camp. Stew said that *Shock Treatment* (1981) was a failed attempt to make an intentional cult hit—you can’t make an *intentional* cult hit. I said that also, it lacked the warmth of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975). Joe said that Tim Curry may have been more important a factor than previously thought. Other problems: it was not a true sequel that connected to the previous story in any way, and it did not have acceptance as a theme.

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9 Even Google has just barely any trace of his existence. Apparently he had a radio show and his band was called “The Islanders.”—Future Felicity

Ray announced that next year's Norwescon GOH will be George RR Martin. I joked, "So everyone can yell 'Write! Hurry up!' at him." Fru added, "Or 'How dare you kill so-and-so!'" Then Fru imagined a *Misery* (1987) scenario.

Joe found an article (with accompanying photo) of Ken Watanabe in the current issue of *The Georgia Straight*. He's in the new *Godzilla* (2014) remake, and we'd been wondering what he looked like and where we knew him from. At first Fru misremembered him as *Gedde* Watanabe of *UHF* (1989) and I misremembered him as Ken Takakura of *Black Rain* (1989). *Ken Watanabe* was in *Inception* (2010) and *Batman Begins* (2005).



"I keep telling you, I'm not Dom DeLuise! Now let me go!"



Graeme said that Robert J. Sawyer asked on Facebook "Should I see *Godzilla*?" and there were 97 replies, mostly negative. Graeme replied "I haven't seen it yet but I plan to." Graeme said that Toho execs walked out on the test screening of *Godzilla* (1998) saying "That's not our *Godzilla*," but they liked and approved of the new *Godzilla*. Fru re-mentioned

the time he saw *Godzilla* (1998) in Silicon Valley with a theatre of displeased nerds. Graeme and I both liked the French secret agent (Jean Reno). "Mayor Ebert" (Michael Lerner) is also a guilty pleasure for me. Graeme thought it may have been revenge by Dean Devlin & Roland Emmerich for previous bad reviews by Siskel & Ebert. I was *sure* that it was, but it was so thinly veiled, so *ridiculous* that it became enjoyable.<sup>10</sup> Also, I've enjoyed Michael Lerner ever since *Barton Fink* (1991).

Stew said that MeTV's "giving credit" ad is a lie. It claims that unlike other stations they show the credits the way they were, which is *partly* true. They don't squish the credits into a corner or roll them faster. However, they do truncate them so they can fit more ads in. I'd noticed the same problem.

Stew wondered when we'd see animated Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers. I said that in Ron Mann's documentary *Comic Book Confidential* (1988) there was a sort of "motion comic" showing panels from the strip while Gilbert Shelton read the speech balloons out loud.<sup>11</sup> Someone said "The same people who cancelled the *Lovecraft* movie" [*had cancelled the Freak Brothers cartoon?*]. Stew asked if anyone had seen the documentary about Robert Crumb, *Crumb* (1994). I had. Stew remembered that in the documentary Crumb said that he regrets coming up with "Keep On Truckin'." Stew said it was Crumb's equivalent of Ned Beatty getting "Squeal little piggy!" or Rob Schneider's "The Richmeister!" or John Cleese's Ministry of

<sup>10</sup> [Ebert took it in stride](#).—Future Felicity

<sup>11</sup> There's a very grainy upload of it [here](#).—Future Felicity

Silly Walks—the thing people keep doing at him when they see him in public. I added that the guy that says “*Science!*” in Thomas Dolby’s “She Blinded Me with Science” music video used to get people coming up and shouting “*Science!*” at him.<sup>12</sup> Joe said that that was science communication or Magnus Pyke, and added that people do Goat Boy impressions at Jim Breuer.

Graeme said he finally saw *The Cabin in the Woods* (2012).



Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron

Sunday 18 May 2014

### **[Lisa Smedman] Please Crowdfund New Card Game from Local Design Student**

Hi everyone,

Lisa Smedman here, longtime V-Con organizer and attendee, game designer for *Dungeons & Dragons*, *Forgotten Realms* and *Shadowrun* novelist, and (in recent years) instructor in game design at the Art Institute of Vancouver.

I wanted to let everyone know about an Indiegogo “crowdfunding” campaign that’s on right now (July 3 is the last day to contribute). It’s to raise money for a card game developed by one of my students, Charles Cue. The game is called *Sweet Sabotage*.

As I say in my video endorsement of this campaign, this is “one sweet game.” It’s easy to learn but has lots of depth to it, with lots of different gameplay strategies.

The premise is you play as a waiter or waitress in a restaurant that serves up desserts. You can seat up to two customers at your table, and have to assemble the ingredients for the desserts they’ve ordered before their “patience” runs out and they leave. Along the way you can sabotage your opponents, hence the name.

The game is being created with original art (part of the need for funds) and the art so far is gorgeous. If you’re at all an anime fan, this game is for you!

Charles needs money so he can actually produce the game. He’s living on a student budget, and so has reached out through “crowdfunding” for the money he needs to get the game printed and published. Contributors to the campaign get the game... at less than it will cost retail!

If you’re interested, you can find the campaign here:

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/sweet-sabotage-board-game>

I’ve already pledged money for three copies. That’s how much I believe in this game!

Lisa Smedman

Tuesday 3 June 2014

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12 On the other hand, I wouldn’t complain if I were Miss Sakamoto and people kept telling me I was beautiful.

## Rose of Eibon

Hi,

As many of those receiving this e-mail will be aware, I've recently joined the editorial team at the independent UK imprint Rose of Eibon. Although I'll be initially involved with our new paperback magazine *Dark Matters*, we do have a couple of projects which require your more immediate attention.

Before I forget: our kickstarter campaign has fewer than thirty hours to run. Plenty of great offers for early adopters, starting at a basic donation of UK£5.

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/rose-of-eibon-publishing-startup/x/7144178>

To begin with, we have our anthology *The Dispossessed and Other Weird Tales*. Given his pivotal role in the genesis of this new venture, it's fitting that Rose of Eibon's first major release should be an anthology co-created by and dedicated to the memory of award-winning British writer Joel Lane.

*The Dispossessed and Other Weird Tales* has already attracted an impressive line-up of writers and artists. They include Thomas Ligotti, Adam Nevill, Chris Amies, Conrad Williams, Gary McMahon, Jasper Bark, Joe Pulver, John McCrea, Mark Owen, Mat Joiner, Mike Chinn, Nicholas Royle, Nina Allan, Peter Crowther, Ramsey Campbell, Rosanne Rabinowitz, Simon Avery, Simon Bestwick, Stephen Jones, WH Pugmire, Dave Sutton. Joel himself will be represented twice, including the story which gave this book its title (unseen in the UK or USA since its magazine appearance in 1989).

Profits from the sale of *The Dispossessed and Other Weird Tales* will be donated to the Terence Higgins Trust, a charity close to Joel's heart.

Take care.

Steve Green

Saturday 14 June 2014

## Review: 'Aquaria,' from the Humble Indie Bundle

Michael Bertrand



Keen readers will note that I recently purchased the Humble Indie Bundle of high-quality independently produced video games, and one of those was an intriguing game called *Aquaria*.

Well I've played *Aquaria* a little bit so far, so I feel like I can give it a quick review.

The basic idea is that you are a mermaid-like creature who lives a very simple life in an underwater cave until an encounter with a mysterious stranger who gives her a disturbing vision which compels her to leave the comfort and safety of the

cave which is all she has ever known of the world and explore the larger world outside her front door.

So far, the game seems to mostly be about exploration, mystery, and intrigue, with a very lovely soundtrack and visual style that makes the game a pleasure to play. The controls are simple and easy to use, and I like the “singing” mechanic to the magic.

In *Aquaria*’s world, magic is performed by manipulating a deep force known as the Verse by singing notes in a certain order. As the game progresses, you learn spells in the form of songs. It’s a little like the Ocarina songs that you learn in some of the *Link* series of games, although IMHO, more user-friendly.

I’m enjoying the game. It’s not exactly a fast-based action-packed bloodfest, so if that’s a mandatory thing for you, you might want to give this game a miss. But I am enjoying the slow pace, the beautiful graphics, the gentle exploration and discovery of ancient mysteries, and the overall experience of the game. The plot unfolds slowly (at least so far), but I don’t mind. Playing a game with such gentle charm is a refreshing change from the usual action free-for-all model of games. It’s not boring or repetitive... the exploration and visual charm see to that...but it’s not in a heck of a hurry either.

There’s a few nits to pick. The pacing of the game is a little uneven so far. You can only save your game at specific locations, which makes for the dreaded need to do the same things over and over again in some places if you happen to get killed. No going back to a few moments before your mistake. You will have to restore from a save you may have made some time ago.

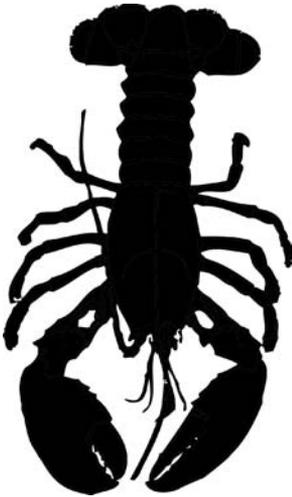
But that’s hardly unusual in video games, and over all, I’m quite enjoying the game.

Next review: *World of Goo!*

Michael Bertrand  
The Million Word Year  
Sunday 9 May 2010

## RANDOM NOSTALGIA

PHILLIP PINE  
TECHNOBOTS  
MACINTOSH IIFX  
"PRIME TIME GLICK"  
"BEVERLY HILLS TEENS"  
GODFREY HO  
MANTOUR



## Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u> .....	Cover
Clip art ( <u>Clker.com</u> ).....	Pages 1 (left), 12, 14–15, 17, 20, 24–25
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u> ).....	Pages 1 (right), 2–3, 4 (left)
Clip art [ <i>Quintet</i> (1979) trailer screenshot].....	Pages 4 (right), 5
Clip art (Pat Boyette).....	Page 6
Clip art (vectorized by <u>Clker.com</u> ).....	Page 7
Clip art (Shōhei Kohara/Floro Dery).....	Page 8
Clip art [ <i>NES Pinball</i> (1984) screenshot].....	Page 10
Clip art [ <i>SCTV</i> (1982) screenshot].....	Page 19
Clip art [ <i>Airplane</i> (1980) screenshot].....	Page 21
Clip art [ <i>Prisoners of Gravity</i> (1990) screenshot].....	Page 22 (right)
Clip art [ <i>Godzilla</i> (1998) screenshot].....	Page 22 (left)
Clip art [“She Blinded Me with Science” (1982) screenshot]....	Page 23
Clip art.....	Page 26



*Have a good summer!*