

BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#494

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July 2014



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at 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

Friday 18 July:	Submission deadline for August <i>BCSFazine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 20 July at 7 PM:	July BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 25 July:	August <i>BCSFazine</i> production (theoretically).
Sunday 17 August at 7 PM:	August BCSFA meeting.
Friday 22 August:	Submission deadline for September <i>BCSFazine</i> (ideally).
Friday 29 August:	September <i>BCSFazine</i> production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster [Garth Spencer](#)). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Assoc. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcscifi_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.*]

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Saturday 5 July 2014



Dear BCSFans:

I am trying my best to get caught up with the unending flow of fanzines that come my way. And, you're next! I have here *BCSFazine* 493, and I will see what I can cook up on a Saturday night.

The local first...Not going to Detcon 1, the Detroit NASFiC, just down Highway 401 from us. And, not going to Spokane for the 2015 Worldcon. Yes, we are working now. I start my sixth week at Transcontinental Media, and Yvonne starts her fourth week at Crown

Wallpaper, both on Monday. However, we had to borrow from our investments and our savings to get by, so now, it is time to pay them back, and we don't expect to have everything repaid for another year or so. Except for the Montréal bid, which doesn't look like it has any traction, we really aren't interested in any other Worldcon bids.

[*I'm glad you've both found work and are rebuilding your savings. ☺*]

We don't have any upcoming shows to take a table at for our steampunk wares, so we're taking the time to come up with new product lines, and see what we can produce for it. I'll take the jewelry tools, Yvonne will take the sewing machine, and we will see what we can come up with.

I will show how dated I am and say that the fiddler who had an extremely popular music variety show on the CBC was not Don Messner, but Don Messer. His *Jubilees*¹ kept the CBC's ratings up with old-fashioned fiddle music, old songs and good singing. I think both Anne Murray and Gordon Lightfoot were quite young when they guested on that show. And, poor Magnus Pyke, one of the most honoured scholars on British television...being on Thomas Dolby's music video ruined his career, and made his look mad, every so often barking, "Science!"

[*Thank you for the correct spelling of Messer's name. Once I searched for that, I was able to find a lot more. Judging by Pyke's Wikipedia entry, his career was safe. He just had to learn to deal with people shouting "Science!" at him wherever he went. I wonder if James Burke ever saw Dolby's video and thought "There but for the grace of God go I!"*]

1 1957.

I think this may be it. It's getting dark, and there are big but nebulous plans for tomorrow. Perhaps I can get this to you, and once you've got the next issue ready, you could send that to me? Well, that's how it usually works anyway. Thanks a lot, Felicity, and see you next time.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Saturday 5 July 2014

Hi Felicity,

This will be another random ramble through recent epical materials.

First, knee joint pain. I take chondritin and glucosamine. Usually they are sold together. Seems to rebuild the joints and that does away with a lot of problems.

This month's anime enthusiasm is *Bamboo Blade*. Teeny anime fangirl conquers the oddities with her shinai. Mostly emo girly stuff but no supernatural elements.

One Piece is building towards an awesome brawl as everybody converges towards the central factory under the arena. Episode 650+.

Snipped at random:

(Losing the Chance for Peace One Fuckup at a Time Dept.):

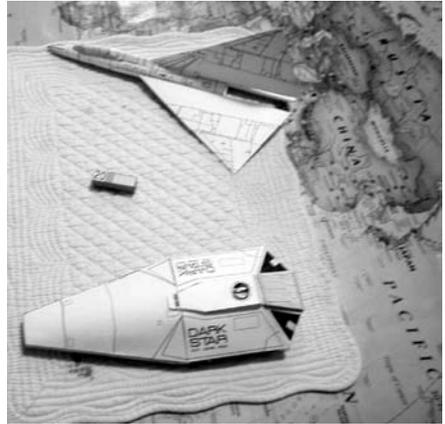
“As someone who spent six years enlisted (deployed '03-'04) and the last four on the other side, I argued with my instructors at BOLC² that COIN³ operations are a joke and have never and will never work anywhere. They said that there had been four, say again, four cases of successful COIN operations in recorded history, so it wasn't just a pipe dream.

“My reply was that some people win the lottery and some are struck by lightning, so those things are not just a pipe dream either. This was met with the typical, ‘This is the what the book says and you will learn it and agree with it.’ ”⁴

(Spreading Darkness at the Speed of Light Dept.):

Mississippi Tea Party Leader Found Dead.⁵

Mexican Chopper Fires on U.S. Border Agents.⁶



2 Basic Officer Leaders Course.

3 Counter-insurgency.

4 ([Link](#).)

5 Mark Mayfield, vice chairman of Mississippi Tea Party, commits suicide after being caught conspiring to take photographs of Republican Senator Thad Cochran's ill wife. ([First useful link in Google search](#).)

[I like Katie Pavlich's suggestion that to show the sincerity of their apology, the Mexican government should release Marine Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi, who was jailed after mistakenly crossing the border into Mexico, and turned himself in.]

Dad in Boy's Hot SUV Death Barred from Funeral.⁷

Golden Gate Bridge to Get Suicide Barrier.⁸

[This reminds me of the Foxconn suicides from a few years ago.]

Man Declared Insane for Being an Atheist?⁹

<http://www.metal-express.net/general-articles/sci-fi-wargamers>



(Nyaah, so there!!)

Instead of looking down on gamers everyone should thank them for bringing wonder into the world.

[Thanks, gamers!]

End random snippets.

It turns out you're now on the watch list, if you weren't before. Various blogs have been IDed as Terrorists (and you can even buy the T-shirts). The Linux

magazine being called extremists is a bit much.¹⁰ Most Unix wizard types are odd, but if you read the man pages for 3000 built-in tools you'll probably wind up somewhat odd yourself. The Linux distribution fits nicely on 65 CDs making it a bit less challenging. I can hardly wait to see what the spooks make of Corflu and the "ilk."

So here's a challenge: make a positive sentence using *government* and the concept *sanity* without calling on the Sleeper in Ry'leh.

[*"Jon Stewart believes that government can make a positive difference in people's lives and once hosted a Rally to Restore Sanity"?*]

If you want a bit of violence in SF fiction, check out Williamson at Baen Free Library. Highly entertaining as long as you're not overly squeamish about sex and violence. [*Jack or Michael?*]

Barring some anomaly the long slog up Omaha Beach playtest of Decision Games comp game *D-Day Omaha Beach* is over now. It's going to be interesting to see if the system gets applied further. There are quite a few Pacific battles in addition to more D-Day landings that can be modelled by this. Purpose designed solitaire hexmap comp games should have a willing audience.

Victory Point Games has a new 4X¹¹ out.

6 Mexican military helicopter crosses into Arizona during drug interdiction, fires on US Border Patrol agents in their vehicle. ([Link](#).)

7 Justin Ross Harris left his one-year-old son Cooper in a steaming-hot car for seven hours. Cooper died of hyperthermia. Harris has been charged with murder based on some of his actions the day of the death as well as his Internet searches. ([First useful link in Google search](#).)

8 ([First useful link in Google search](#).)

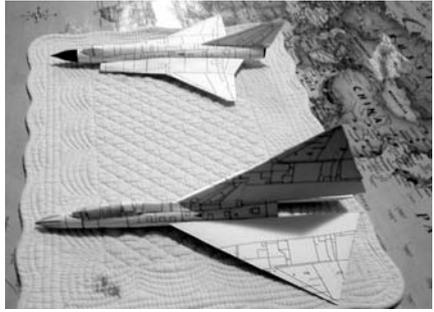
9 Nigerian man committed to mental hospital after declaring himself an atheist. ([First useful link in Google search](#).)

10 Segment of National Security Agency search code calls *Linux Journal* "an extremist forum." ([First useful link in Google search](#).)

11 "[Explore, expand, exploit, exterminate.](#)"

Symetra is on Kickstarter.¹² Designer is from Austin, Texas but it's done in BC. Sort of a big hex tarot card set used for building influence and power. Is quite complex but interesting.

I've been reading about the medieval Inquisition. Also just found a book about the WW 1 after-invasion of Northern Russia by Canada, USA, [and] British Empire troops against the Bolsheviki, one of the latest from project Gutenberg.



It turns out Leland R. Erickson, the Finn who used to run Federation Armory selling miniatures, is now at Metal Express where they do *Silent Death* stuff.

Pictures this time are spacecraft and a couple of concept cars.

Warm regards,
Dave

The pictures are paper models. The starfighter started out as two paper Drakens. The original smaller one started out as an F92 in 1/72nd scale. The *Darkstar* and Bomb #20 are dear to the hearts of the *Alien* movie series fans.

Michael Bertrand
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Tuesday 3 June 2013



Hey there BCSFans! Hot enough for ya? The weather is hotter than ever this July, and all us pasty skinned Left Coast types become big fans of fans in order to evade the wrath of the Sky God.

Myself, I have had some drama in my life. I applied for a writing program at VFS and didn't get in. My long lost sister Catherine came to visit for the weekend and we went to the Vancouver Aquarium. They have penguins now.

Re: Lloyd Penney and current SF:

I have never tried to keep up with current anything. Any time I have been current on anything, it has been entirely by accident. I don't have any biases for or against what is new and hip. Sturgeons's Law is absolute: at all times, most of what comes out is crap. It's true now and it was true in the past and it will be true in the future.

So I figure that the best policy is to look for the best of each era, and thus create a personal reserve of good art that far exceeds what one could derive from merely staying current.

And yeah, Lloyd. I miss Spider Robinson too. :-)

Well that's it from me this month. See you again next month, folks!

12 ([Link](#).)

We Also Heard From: Garth Spencer, Ken Wong, Jason Burnett, Leonard Wong, Brad Foster, Julian Castle, Kathleen Moore, Brent Francis, Cathy Palmer-Lister, Nalini Haynes, Taral Wayne, Robert J. Sawyer, Rick Hoggarth, John Bartley, Clint Budd, Eileen Kernaghan, Jim McPherson, William Graham, Michael Citrak, Steve Forty, Duncan McGregor, Joseph Bardsley, Spider Robinson, Graeme Cameron, Lisa Smedman, Fran Skene, Steve Green, Linda Earl, Keith Lim, Stewart Smyth, Line Noise, Don DeBrandt, Irma Arkus, Rick Sutcliffe, Howard Cherniak, Maureen Juffs, Doug Finnerty.

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 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

Spring–15 September 2015: Call for submissions for Vancouver’s eleventh annual Hot One Inch Action, a one-night show of art on one-inch pin-back buttons. Art deadline

Monday 15 September at noon. “Only one submission per artist each year...It’s free to submit your artwork!...artists selected to be in a show will receive 20 free copies of their button!” Submit via email *or* “by [snail] mail for scanning. E-mail us for mailing or delivery instructions...Please keep your art smaller than letter-sized (8.5×11) so it fits on the scanner.” More info at [guidelines webpage](#). (I wrote “Vancouver’s eleventh” because HotOneInchAction has done shows in other cities.)—[Julian Castle](#)

July 2014

July is Zine Month!

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](#)

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 July and 5, 12, 19, 26 August 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](#)

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 July and 5, 12, 19, 26 August 2014 (*Tuesdays*): [Vancouver Hack Space Open House](#), 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st 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](#)

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 July and 5, 12, 19, 26 August 2014 (*Tuesdays*): Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!, 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. “The Fictionals are serving up kickass comedy every Tuesday night at Café Deux Soleils! Everything onstage is made up based on your suggestions, so come down and help us create a hilarious show ‘guaranteed to tickle your funny bone’ (*The Georgia Straight*). Short form classics, long form insanity, special themes and special guests. Remember: only the laughs are real. Home of Vancouver Improv Fight Club! Tickets: \$7 at the door. Doors @ 7:30 PM. Show @ 8 PM. More info at <http://thefictionals.com/>. Twitter: [@TheFictionals](#). Instagram: [@thefictionals](#).”—The Fictionals Comedy Co.

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

2, 16, and 30 July and 13 and 27 August 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

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 July and 6, 13, 20, and 27 August 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 41st 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

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.”

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 July and 7, 14, 21, and 28 August 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](#)

4 July 2014: [Aphelion](#). 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](#)

4, 11, 18, and 25 July and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 August 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](#)."

4, 11, 18, and 25 July and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 August 2014 (*Fridays*): [Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games](#), 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th 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](#)

5 July 2014: [Geeky/Alternative/Pinup Group Garage Sale Extravaganza!](#), 12–5 PM at 4990 Grafton Street, Burnaby. "I have collected a lot of random stuff during the past two years that I need to get rid of, so I thought I would have a group garage sale! I also know that a bunch of other people need to sell some old stuff as well, so *everyone* can come set up and sell stuff! It will [*be*] a garage sale that caters to the geeky and alternative community! There will be collectibles, latex, corsets, pinup dresses, fandom-based clothing, toys, cosplays, and more! Spots are first come first serve, and a suggested donation of \$5 for using the space is appreciated, but not required. Vendors are also welcome to join in on the fun! I will have some drinks and snacks available for purchase as well (gluten free options as well!) It's also a wonderful excuse to socialize with friends and possibly meet new ones! Location is [...] a 15-minute walk/6-minute bus ride on the 110 from Metrotown Skytrain Station, so it's easy to get to."—[Madeline Masquerade](#)

5, 12, 19, and 26 July and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 August 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

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: *Talking Dead* preview special of *Walking Dead* season five on AMC.—Julian Castle

6 July 2014: Vancouver Comicon, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (and 15th 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.vancouvercomiccon.com/>. Admission: \$4. Kids under 14: free. Dealer tables: \$65/centre; \$75/wall. 604-322-6412.”

6 July 2014: Cosplay Exchange Vancouver Garage Sale!, 10 AM–5 PM at 1571 Rupert Street, North Vancouver. “Hey guys! We thought it would be a fun idea to have one big garage sale where *everyone* can bring anything they want to sell! [...] It’s free to bring your own blanket or table to sell whatever you want—but we also have limited table space on a first-come first-served basis, for \$5 per person. Let’s make this an awesome summer event! ☺”—Mimi McBlizzy

6, 13, 20, and 27 July and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 August 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

7, 14, 21, and 28 July and 4, 11, 18, and 25 August 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

7, 14, 21, and 28 July and 4, 11, 18, and 25 August 2014 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st 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

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

8 July and 12 August 2014 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby. “BC’s original 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.”

8 July and 12 August 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

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

10 and 24 July and 14 and 28 August 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 for details.”—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

10 July and 14 August 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

10 July and 14 August 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

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 LBGTQ 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.”

12–14 July 2014: Jodorowsky’s *Dune* at the Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver. “USA, 2013. Director: Frank Pavich. 88 minutes. DCP. In 1975, riding high on his cult hits *El Topo* and *The Holy Mountain*, Alejandro Jodorowsky optioned Frank Herbert’s sci-fi novel *Dune* and set out to blow even more minds. Orson Welles, Mick Jagger, and Salvador Dalí were cast as actors. Artists HR Giger and Jean (“Moebius”) Giraud were hired to design.” “Saturday 12 July 2014—4:30 PM. Sunday 13 July 2014—6:30 PM. Monday 14 July 2014—9:00 PM.” [Trailer on YouTube.]—Julian Castle

12 July–2 August 2014: Chris Woods’ *Star Wars*-Inspired ‘*Sandstorm*’ Exhibition at Gallery Jones, 1725 West 3rd Avenue, Vancouver. “My [...] *Star Wars*-inspired series of paintings *Sandstorm* is set to debut [...] There is no opening reception. *Sandstorm* Artist’s Statement: *Sandstorm* is a radical new direction in my ongoing look at popular culture and its meaning within modern society. [...] In an effort to explore new facets of pop-culture, I have appropriated imagery and themes from filmmaker George Lucas’ original *Star Wars* trilogy, released between 1977 and 1983. This series consists of fourteen large scale, oil paintings on canvas. With *Sandstorm* I intend to re-examine the story of the *Star Wars* saga from the distorted vantage point of the primary antagonist Darth Vader. By recasting the main characters of Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Princess Leia Organa as villains in Darth Vader’s mind I hope to demonstrate how the actions of individuals and organizations who lack empathy can lead to war, genocide and near societal collapse. [...] By assuming the perspective of Darth Vader I hope to

examine how self-deception becomes a malignancy to the individual so virulent that it not only consumes its perceived ‘enemies’ but eventually itself. [...] I feel that Darth Vader’s final realization of the gravity of his crimes shortly before his own death urges us to realize that redemption and understanding are still possible even when faced with the darkest workings of the human mind. The paintings in *Sandstorm* are drawn mostly on scenes not seen in the original *Star Wars* films. By utilizing ‘deleted scenes’ found on Blu-Ray home video releases of the *Star Wars* trilogy, I hope to portray an alternate timeline that depicts the thoughts, nightmares, and waking visions that Darth Vader might have endured in his darkest moments. These images will illustrate what instills fear in Vader’s mind and will allow us a window on what motivates him in his ceaseless drive to defeat the Rebellion and its leaders. By examining the mind of this widely known fictional villain I hope to shed some light on the nature of evil that lies in wait in the real minds of our leaders and those who genuinely consider themselves our ‘lords and masters.’ [...] I feel that the ‘comic book’ sensibilities displayed by the *Star Wars* trilogy disguise very fertile ground for the exploration of the human condition and how good can slowly and stealthily evolve into evil in the human heart. I see Darth Vader as a most tragic and human figure that has many parallels throughout history and the history of art. [...]”—Chris Woods

13 July 2014: Embrace Your Geekness Day.

13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, and 31 July and 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, and 22 August 2014 (odd days in July, even days in August): *Shrek the Musical* at Malkin Bowl in Stanley Park, Vancouver. Tickets: \$20–\$35 preview night (13 July) or Super Monday (4 August); otherwise \$30–\$45. Tickets & info: 604-696-4295 or at Theatre Under the Stars website.—Julian Castle

13 July 2014: Series premiere of *The Strain* (vampire horror TV series), 7–8:30 PM on FX (may be channel 156 for you). Created by Guillermo del Toro (*Hellboy* movies, etc). Wikipedia. FX.—Julian Castle

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. Tickets: \$40 pre-registration via webpage or \$50 at door.—Julian Castle

18 July and 15 August 2014¹³ (*third Friday*): 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

18 July and 15 August 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

19 July 2014: Fourth MiniComi, 10 AM–5 PM at 1 Athletes Way, Vancouver. An “artists’ market inspired by those in Japan.” Items for sale may include self-published comics, doujinshi (fan comics), prints, pins, plushies, and more. Cosplay is most welcomed. Admission is *free*. Twitter.—Julian Castle

19 July–16 August 2014: Munsch-ercise at Chemainus Theatre Festival, 9737 Chemainus Road, Chemainus. A play for kids, based on Paper Bag Princess (a dragon and princess tale) and other stories by Robert Munsch. Tuesdays–Thursdays 11 AM. Fridays 2 PM. Saturdays 11 AM. Theatre box office: 250-246-9820 or 1-800-565-7738 Monday–Saturday 9:30 AM–5 PM and four hours before every performance (except stat holidays).—Julian Castle

19 July and 16 August 2014 (*third Saturday*): Vancouver Comic Jam, 8 PM–late (sometimes ends when Wallflower closes at 1 AM) at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2420 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 fourth 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

20 July 2014: **Julie McGilliard**’s birthday.

20 July 2014 (encores on 23rd and 31st): Monty Python Live (Mostly) broadcast live to cinemas around the world. Participating theatres in BC: Burnaby (20th and 23rd),

13 Every Friday night, according to Board Game Warriors.

Campbell River, Coquitlam (all three dates), Courtney, Kamloops (20th and 23rd), Kelowna, Langford (20th and 23rd), Langley (all three dates), Nanaimo (20th & 23rd), North Vancouver (20th and 23rd), Penticton, Prince George (20th and 23rd), Richmond (all three dates), two in Vancouver (Scotiabank Theatre on 20th and 23rd; Cineplex International Village on 31st), Vernon (20th & 23rd) and two in Victoria (Odeon Victoria on all three dates; Silver City Tillicum on 23rd). Tickets: adult \$19.95; child \$12.95; senior \$17.95.—[Julian Castle](#)

20 July and 17 August 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](#)

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](#) 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 22nd 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](#)) 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 and 30 August 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](#)

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.”

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

27 July 2014: Rainbow’s End: Queer Geek Pride Party 2014, 5 PM at EXP Restaurant + Bar, 309 West Pender Street, Vancouver. Party will probably end around 8 PM. Join the BC Superfriends (“queer geeks and their allies in Greater Vancouver”) for an evening of queer geek fun. Gaming, trivia contest & theme drinks. “54 people are going” (Facebook number on 6 July). Everyone welcome regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. EXP writes “all ages are allowed, but we only serve alcohol with two pieces of governmentt ID.” Tickets are \$5. Come in cosplay & get in for *free!* Asked when party expected to end & answer was “last year we ended the party at around 8 PM.”—Julian Castle

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

30 July 2014: Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Cineplex website malfunctioning, but presumably the five BC cinemas that show MostWanted films will participate (Colossus Langley, Galaxy Cinemas Nanaimo, Silver City in Richmond, Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver and Silver City Victoria). Tickets: \$6 including tax.—Julian Castle

31 July 2014: **Felicity Walker** and **Michael Barrick**’s birthdays.

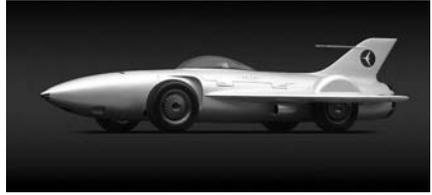
August 2014

1 August 2014: Premiere of film *Guardians of the Galaxy* (comics/superhero; Zoe Saldana, Bradley Cooper, Vin Diesel, Josh Brolin, Dave Bautista, Djimon Hounsou, Benicio Del Toro, John C. Reilly, Glenn Close, Michael Rooker, Peter Serafinowicz, Gregg Henry, Lloyd Kaufman).

5 August 2014: **Scott Tycholaz** and **Élizabeth Vonarburg**’s birthdays.

6 August 2014: **Christina Carr's** birthday.

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



7 August 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 three hours. For ages 16+. For more information: phone 604-247-8313, fax 604-247-8368, e-mail galler@richmond.ca.”

7–11 August 2014: *Je T'aime, Je T'aime* (sci-fi; 1968, 91 minutes), at the Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver. 7, 9, and 11 August at 8:20 PM. 8 and 10 August at 6:30 PM. “By French master Alain Resnais...who died earlier this year. We're pleased to present this...film in a beautiful new 35 mm print! After an unsuccessful suicide attempt, a man is persuaded by two scientists to participate in a time-travel experiment. When something goes awry, he finds himself lost within the structure of time itself.”—[Julian Castle](#)

8 August 2014: Premiere of film *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (comics/superhero/unnecessary remake; Will Arnett, William Fichtner, Johnny Knoxville, Whoopi Goldberg, Tony Shalhoub, Danny Woodburn).

9 August 2014: Book Lovers' Day.

9 August 2014: [Sin City Presents Cyber Sex—A Naughty Neon Sci-Fi Fetish Ball](#), 9 PM–2 AM at Club 23, 23 West Cordova Street, Vancouver. “You read that right! Sin City presents its first ever sexy sci-fi themed naughty neon party. While the theme is highly encouraged for as many attendees as possible, *all* outfits of *any* sexy/kinky/pervy fetish kind are always welcome and totally appropriate! More details TBA shortly—make sure and RSVP and stay in the loop because this party is going to BLOW. YOUR. MIND.”—[Isaac Terpstra](#)

11–15 August: [Writing and Book Camp—A Program for Teens](#) at VPL. Ages 11–16. For more info, [check website](#) or contact the Book Camp Coordinator at 604-331-4093 or e-mail bookcamp@vpl.ca. “When: Monday 11 August to Friday 15 August 2014 (Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–3 PM, Friday: 9 AM–6:30 PM. Cost: \$275.00.” One of the 2014 Workshop Leaders is “*Jonathan Dalton* is the writer and artist of two graphic novels so far: *A Mad Tea-Party*, a young adult sci-fi story...”

12 August 2014: **Lynda Ciaschini**'s birthday.

13 August 2014: **Alex Curylo**'s birthday.

15 August 2014: Premiere of films *The Giver* (drama/SF; Alexander Skarsgård, Meryl Streep, Katie Holmes, Jeff Bridges, Taylor Swift), *As Above, So Below* (horror), and *Life After Beth* (comedy/fantasy/horror; Alia Shawkat, John C. Reilly, Molly Shannon, Paul Reiser).

15–17 August 2014: BC Renaissance Festival at Albion Fairgrounds, 23448 105 Avenue, Maple Ridge. “We have had to change our dates and location in order to continue. Please be aware of these changes and add this invite to as many places as you can. The BC Renfest returns for its eighth year in a new home and a new date. Please see the webpage: <http://www.bcrenfest.com/> for up-to-date information. [...] We have also entered into a supportive relationship with the local food bank. Bring a non perishable food item and get \$2 off either your entry or a BCRF merchandise or BCRF game tokens. Joust: Right now we have an American team able to do these new dates so now it is simply up to the insurance company and whether or not we can afford it. Check the page for those updates as well. If you would like to be a sponsor (or know a company that can) please see: <http://www.bcrenfest.com/home/join-us/sponsorship/>. [...] Because of the change in dates we have lost volunteers, command team, stage performers, cast, and villagers. We will be able to go ahead with or without those folks but we'd prefer with and we know many of you out there couldn't do the original dates but may be able to do these new dates. Please contact us right away if you are able to join in or help out. Please note that the Command Team has decreased and one of the jobs that is now open is volunteer coordinator and entertainment coordinator so replies will come as fast as the two producers can get them to you. Thank you. info@bcrenfest.com”—Christina Carr/Martin Hunger

15–17 August 2014: Customer Appreciation Sale at Imperial Hobbies.

16 August 2014: **Thomas Phinney**'s birthday.

17 August 2014: National Black Cat Awareness Day.

17 August 2014: Vancouver Comic Show, 11 AM–5 PM at Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. Anime, gaming, and toys. Special guests: Ed Brisson, John Gallagher, Diana Greenhalgh, Simon Roy, Joan Thornborough Steacy, and Ken Steacy. \$10 gift cards for use at show handed out every hour at door. Cosplay encouraged. Food concession at show. 8×3-foot dealer tables: \$60 centre or \$75 wall. General admission: \$5. Kids under 13: *free*. Contact info: 855-881-9991.—Julian Castle

20 August 2014: Richmond Writes Out Loud Open Mic Night, 7–8:30 PM at Village Books & Coffee House, Suite 130, 12031 First Avenue, Steveston, Richmond. “Open events for creative writers in Richmond.”

22 August 2014: Premiere of film *Sin City: A Dame to Kill For* (comics; Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Jessica Alba, Bruce Willis, Rosario Dawson, Josh Brolin, Mickey Rourke, Christopher Meloni, Christopher Lloyd, Ray Liotta, Dennis Haysbert, Lady Gaga, Jeremy Piven, Stacey Keach, Powers Boothe).

22–24 August 2014: BronyCan 2014 at Executive Airport Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre, 7311 Westminster Highway, Richmond. Registration. Events: charity auction, cosplay contest and photoshoot, children’s events, Equestria Reads (fanfic), collectible card game tournament, ice cream social, VIP dinner, *Legends of Equestria* (with panelists Blue Ink, Liska, and Celebrate). Guests: show staff—“Big” Jim Miller, Jason Thiessen, Daniel Ingram, Steffan Andrews, Stephanie Mahoney, Christopher Leinonen, Rebecca Dart, Nicole Gauss; comic book guests—Georgia Ball, Amy Mebberson.

24 August 2014: **Karen New** and **Joseph Smalec**’s birthdays.

24 August and 23 November 2014: Victoria Comic Book Expo, 11 AM–4 PM at Comfort Inn & Conference Centre, 3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria. Dealers: \$35 per 8-foot table (doors open at 9 AM for setup). Free admission. For more info contact Glen at 250-361-6227 or gjcomics@shaw.ca.—Julian Castle

26 August 2014: **Sarah Stierch**’s birthday.

29 August 2014: Premiere of films *Jessabelle* (horror) and *The Congress* (SF/loose adaptation of *The Futurological Congress* by Stanisław Lem; Robin Wright, Harvey Keitel, Jon Hamm, Paul Giamatti, Kevin Thompson).

30 August 2014: Frankenstein Day (Mary Shelley’s birthday).

News-Like Matter

Notes from June 2014 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (chairman/archivist), Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, Stewart Smyth, and Sidney Trim.

Stew was dressed (in my opinion) like veteran wrestling announcer Mike Tenay when he does an interview.

We discussed public transit.

Graeme asked if anyone else had been to the Jimi Hendrix shrine at Union Street & Main Street. He said it was smaller than this room. He went in once, asking “What’s this about?” There was a guy making an aircraft engine noise with an amplified guitar. He said “I’m not



the owner—Vince is.” Vince was a guy who, as a kid, had listened to Hendrix on the one hour per week of rock on Italy’s state-run radio. Vince later bought the property where the shrine now is and was going to tear it down until he found out the only original piece of it left—the kitchen—was part of Hendrix’s grandmother Nora’s restaurant. Nora was Canadian, as most of Hendrix’s family was/is, but Hendrix’s father married an American woman, so Jimi was born in Seattle. Black entertainers came up to Vancouver and while they were not barred from patronising white establishments, they were sometimes made to feel uncomfortable. When that happened they knew to go to Nora’s for soul food. Jimi spent much of his youth living with Nora, and often waited on tables to earn his keep. To a degree, Jimi Hendrix grew up in this neighbourhood.

Stew said something about Red Robinson, Nat King Cole, Satchmo and standing with luggage outside the Hotel Georgia in front of a “No Coloureds” sign. Graeme said before WW I a popular song sung in Vancouver bars was about keeping Canada white and pure, i.e. “free” of non-whites. Stew mentioned the apocryphal verse in the anthem “God Save the Queen” that says “the rebellious Scots to crush.” Graeme asked if Scotland has had its referendum on independence yet. Would they still use the pound, have representation in the Bank of England, and receive aid? It reminded Sid of Quebec.



Graeme said that Brazil does not get any money from FIFA—the rules say that FIFA is not taxable—and that FIFA forced Brazil to sell beer at the soccer games even though there was a law against because it fuels riots. I asked why Brazil would want to have the World Cup in that case. Graeme figured prestige, kickbacks from the beer company and other sponsors, but mainly, government money spent on facility construction mostly disappearing into pockets of organized crime and politicians, as happened with the Montreal Olympic stadium years ago.

Ray’s birthday dinner will be Sunday 22 June 2014 at ABC Country Restaurant in Richmond. Ray’s birthday is also Kathleen’s birthday but she has no plans.

Sid said that TOR (The Onion Router) randomizes the path for your data and encrypts it for you. The NSA hates it, and rumour has it that if you download the TOR files you automatically go on a watchlist.

Graeme said that CSFFA had its annual general meeting at a gaming store in Calgary. Why not at the Convention (VCON)? Because the federal government changed the rules for non-profits—you must have your AGM within six months of the end of your fiscal year. You also can’t promote yourself or solicit new members—that is now considered spam—unless you have previously received permission from the recipients to do so. Graeme will be asking for explicit permission to send *Auroran Lights* to its readers. The rumour is that this new law is to target the environmental groups that are a pain in the ass to the Harper government. Kathleen said, “Or organizations that might be tempted to switch to e-mail because of the postal rate increase.”

Kathleen added that almost all the money Mothers Against Drunk Driving raises has to be spent on more fundraising. The group wrestled with this concept for a while.

Ray said that as of 1 July 2014 the Conservatives can do whatever they want with the CBC. They won’t fire the current president because he has a contract until 2016, and it would be expensive to buy him out. The CBC has lost hockey and will have to get rid of *Murdoch Mysteries* and *Republic of Doyle* in the next few years, even though they’re ratings getters, because of the cost of making them. CBC is pinning its hopes

on “Trudeau 2.0” to set things right after the next election. This reminded me of *Just for Laughs*’ Kevin & James on their search for the average CBC viewer. When they finally found him (played by Dan Redican), it turned out the average CBC viewer didn’t watch the CBC.



Angry rabbits.

Our paper cups looked like rabbits.

Graeme saw a cover of *Xtra West* with Godzilla and King Kong affectionately holding hands, so he clipped it and saved it for the BCSFA archives. This reminded me of Shyaporn Theeraskulit comparing the sizes of Godzilla and King Kong in “Up from the Depths” and saying “No way.”

Graeme said that there was a Babylonian or Assyrian king who was so interested in the past that he did archaeological digs, found tombs, opened and brought out artifacts, and started a museum with inscriptions on display. Some of what we have now, such as the Code of Hammurabi, comes from this collection, which was dug up in the late 19th century.

Regarding the CBC’s need for good, affordable content, I said it would be nice if BC’s local wrestling promotion, All Star Wrestling, could work out a deal to be televised on the CBC. Stew replied that we did have local wrestling televised from the 1950s to 1980s. Our NWA franchise had a live event Monday night at the PNE Gardens, then taped material Tuesday at the BCTV studios on Lougheed Highway in Burnaby—and the whole package aired Saturday afternoons. Gene Kiniski had the heavyweight title until 1967, then Dory Funk. André the Giant made an appearance here on his way up.



Graeme said he saw André the Giant wrestle at the Stadium—also Rowdy Roddy Piper, Haystack Calhoun (wearing *only* overalls), and Man Mountain Dean (dressed vaguely like a lumberjack). Stew said that Peter Gzowski once had Gene Kiniski and Harlan Ellison on the same couch! Ellison kept referring to Kiniski as “Kong here.”



Ray said that Ellison was a guest voice in a recent *Simpsons* episode—the one where Comic Book Guy meets a Japanese girl. Ellison is standing in line for the *Radioactive Man* reboot comic.

Stew liked the part in Ryan K. Johnson’s fan-film *Star Trek: The Pepsi Generation* (1988) where, due to a malfunctioning holodeck, the bridge looks like a late 1980s apartment. This reminded Graeme and Sid of *Star Wreck: In the Pirkinning* (2005), the *Star Trek* parody from the makers of *Iron Sky* (2012). In case you haven’t seen it, Graeme said, it’s available for download.

Stew asked, “Whatever happened to Teemu Leiisti?” No one was sure. He’s left BC. This reminded me of something Dale Speirs said about the Finnish language—Kathleen said “Suomi.” Stew said that John Dalmas speaks Finnish, and added that

some of the names in *Dune* sounded like mispronounced Finnish (House *Harkonen* vs. the Finnish surname *Härkönen*).

Graeme said that Eddie Izzard is cool. He speaks several languages and has a routine about Latin *in* Latin that nevertheless manages to convey how amusingly imprecise, confusing and wordy Latin can be compared to English. Eddie did a marathon tour of 30 dates in 30 days in 29 countries. He always tries to do his act in the local language, but doesn't know the idioms, which sometimes makes the jokes fall flat, as in one show he did in Germany. Graeme added that Izzard's acting is good, too. I said I liked him in *Mystery Men* (1999) and *Valkyrie* (2008). Graeme said he would watch for Izzard the next time he saw *Valkyrie*.

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron

Sunday 15 June 2014

Garth Spencer Starts New Facebook Group 'Heathen Geeks'

"Heathen Geeks" is my attempt to find and gather people in BC's Lower Mainland, specifically in Burnaby, who are interested in Norse heathenry and do-it-yourself religion and runes and all that there stuff. Are you interested? Do you know someone else who's interested? Please put them into contact with me!

[URL: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1513276832238825/>]

Garth Spencer

Thursday 24 July 2014

Book Review: 'A Pound of Paper'

Brent Francis

A Pound of Paper: Confessions of a Book Addict by John Baxter, St. Martin's Press, 2005.

This isn't exactly an SF book, although it's partly a personal history of Fandom. But John Baxter's wild and wooly autobiography is so full of good stuff (SF and otherwise) I simply had to pass it on.

Growing up in darkest postwar small-town Australia ("the old joke 'Let's buy them a book—no, they already have one' actually had some social basis"), young Johnny B. discovered a barn full of old pulp magazines. *Super Science Stories*, Volume 1, Number 1, had this:

"Wherever you live, you are not alone...not if you read science fiction, not if you are a fan."

And the address of a group called the Futurians in Sydney. (Compare to now, when I can e-mail my friends in Vancouver, Australia and Upper Volta in one minute flat.)

And so his mad life story starts...from Outback cinemas (the manager's comment at the premiere of *Creature from the Black Lagoon* in Junee, population 5000—"it might be nice to have one paying customer in the place"), to the Australian Futurian society ("landlords sending anonymous letters claiming the SF magazines...)

were communist propaganda”) to writing for *Squire*, the Oz rip-off of *Playboy* (“you might have a future in this business once you grow out of the science fiction crap”), and eventually professional bookselling, collecting of rare first editions, and entering the midnight world of Runners—book buyers who started work at 4 AM, when the Goodwill vans arrived, always wore second-hand clothing as a matter of pride and were—*are*—arguably more alien than most of the critters in spcaea opera.

As I say, the book isn’t totally SF, it’s mostly rare books, publishing and weirdos. But I find it irresistible, and (as you can see) compulsively quotable. My wife had to tell me to stop reading it to her.

And one more thing—he’s a master of the lost art of literary insult (not abuse—insult—the cutting phrase that shows a mastery of withering contempt):

—On James Blish—“An HG Wellsian visionary reborn as a modern Peter the Hermit on speed.”

—On publisher’s attitudes—“Don’t even suggest it’s Science Fiction.” “It’s just a label.” “So is leprosy.”

—On American book reviewers—“The stock phrase ‘I haven’t had a chance to finish your book’ means they haven’t read it or, probably, seen a copy. Possibly they may not know how to read.”

I’m biased—I love this thing. But give *Pound of Paper* a try—you may give up your Kindle yet!



Brent Francis
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Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (<u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 1, 19, 22
<u>Dave Haren</u> (photos).....	Pages 2–4
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