

BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#509

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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or Apartment 601, Manhattan Tower, 6611 Cooney Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V6Y 4C5 (*new address*).

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This and Next Month in BCSFA

Friday 23 October:	Submission deadline for November <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 25 October at 7 PM:	October BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. Note: Moved from usual date to one week later.
Friday 30 October:	November <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Sunday 15 November at 7 PM:	November BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s.
Friday 20 November:	Submission deadline for December <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 27 November:	December <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: TBD

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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_scifi_assc/). 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.*]

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Saturday 26 September 2015



Heya BCSFans! Coming to you from Room 124 at the Sheraton where VCON 40 is happening as we speak. (Or rather, as I type.)

I have not been to any panels yet, but that's par for the course for Friday at conventions. Even when the convention is only six blocks from where you live. And especially when you have class until 4 PM! So today is more or less a wash.

Tomorrow, though, is another day.

Re: Dave Haren and cocaine:

It is interesting that you happen to mention the effects of cocaine, because I was just learning about those in Psych class today. What cocaine does is it blocks the re-uptake of various neurotransmitters which in turn blocks the signal that tells your brain that there is enough of those neurotransmitters in the brain, and it can stop releasing them now.

So your brain dumps all of its dopamine, serotonin, and norepinephrine into you bloodstream, making you feel good about yourself (dopamine), euphoric (serotonin), and fearless (norepinephrine).

[*Nora Pinephrine would also be a parody good name for a screenwriter.*]

But when the party is over, that is it. You are now *out* of all those chemicals, and now you hate yourself, the world is pain, and you are scared of everything.

I can relate.

[*Ditto.*]

Re: John Purcell and point of view:

I wholeheartedly agree that to be unable to see from another's point of view is terrible. To me, that sounds like a hellish prison indeed. I am greedy for perspective myself. I want to see things from as many points of view as possible. How else do you get the full three dimensional picture?

But don't be too downhearted about modern politics. Remember that conservatism never wins. It never has won and it never will. Social progress happens despite them and all they can do is slow it down and pose for pictures that will mark them as the villains of history books yet to come.

Right now, a generation's worth of conservatism is dying, and as with people, the closer they get to death, the uglier and nastier the symptoms.

But they too shall pass. Conservatism as we know it is a dead man walking. Soon it will fall, and never rise again.

Lloyd Penney
1706-24 Eva Road,
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9C 2B2

Sunday 4 October 2015

Dear BCSFans:

I've fallen behind. I have issues 507 and 508 of *BCSFazine* to respond to. I've been busy with a big convention here, the Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition in Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, but I gather you've been busy with a big convention yourself, VCON 40. Congratulations to all on 40 years of VCON, finishing up this very day, and we wish we could have been there. In the meantime, here's some comments on these two issues.



507...Perry Rhodan is definitely a European SF phenomenon. I used to find Rhodan novels about five for a dollar at the World's Biggest Bookstore in downtown Toronto, but that was about 20 years ago. I remember the Dutch Worldcon, 25 years ago, and parallel to the Worldcon was the Perry Rhodan Worldcon, and young men in suits and briefcases would arrive to deliver scholarly treatises on PR and his adventures, which made the rest of us in t-shirts and jeans look a little childish.

Yup, I got a job. Big whoop, other than getting those great paycheques that make all the nonsense kinda worthwhile. Help me, 6/49, you're my only hope. Looks like the Hugofuss is largely past, but I hear a rumble or two that more and more sounds like holding their breath until they turn blue, and then we'll be sorry. Or not. I wasn't in Spokane, and I have no intentions of going to Kansas City, but it will still be interesting to see if the Puppies create an even bigger mess in 2016. Now that we're aware of them, fandom will be ready, I hope.

Yvonne and I attended the Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition, as said above, and we had ourselves a very fun time. Everything was well-organized, chairman Susan Spencer thought of everything, and because we bought the big, expensive Patron membership, we were treated like King and Queen, and were chauffeured to all off-site events, and one event brought us back to the fort in a calèche. Great fun all the way around, the costumes were simply amazing, and we already know the dates for next year, and we plan to be there; in what capacity, we're not sure yet.

You ask about Topic A. From Arnie Katz's *Fanstuff 27*, here's what he's got to say about it...

"6. Topic A General Description: In an abrupt reversal of fortune, Fanzine Fandom went from a publishing boom to a two-front Fan War.

"It began with Richard Bergeron telling correspondents that TAFF Administrator Avedon Carol had not tried to manipulate the voting in favor of Rob Hansen. Bergeron's fan friends hastened to assure him that such was not the case. To their horror, the more they tried to calm the situation, the more vehement Bergeron became. When it erupted into the fanzines, the fighting got pretty vicious. Most active fans

felt Bergeron had misunderstood and over-reacted, but he had some energetic supporters within Fanzine Fandom, too. The other part of the Fan War pitted a coalition of Midwest fans against primarily East and West Coast fanzine fans. The former felt they didn't get sufficient respect from the latter and decided to show their power. The Midwest fans started a write-in TAFF campaign for Martha Beck, a much-liked and respected regular at Midwestcon. The Issue(s): Personal conflict supplied most of the heat in the Bergeron War. The 'issue' wasn't a philosophical debate, but a firefight that hinged on credibility, individual perceptions and sanity. Richard Bergeron and his small band of tenacious allies sincerely believed that they were defending the purity of TAFF. Their more numerous, and equally tenacious, foes wanted to defend their friends from what they felt were unfair, even ridiculous accusations, debunk an ever-expanding conspiracy theory and restore peace in Fanzine Fandom. The TAFF War concerned the criteria for a good TAFF representative. Most fanzine fans felt that the delegate should be somewhat known in the host country and be likely to write a trip report. Midwest fans asserted that sending a delegate that the fans in the host country would enjoy should be the main yardstick. Outcome: Richard Bergeron was adamant about his claims and fans on the other side remained steadfast in the denial [of Bergeron's] allegations and defense of friends whom they felt had suffered unfair attacks. No one budged. The feud ground on through most of the 1980s. The TAFF Administrator received a pile of ballots for Martha Beck. It was announced that all those write-in ballots arrived the day after the deadline and didn't count.

“After-effect(s): The Bergeron War could not reach a conclusion, because neither side had any hope of convincing the other. The net result was a lot of burn out in fanzine fandom. Publishing dipped as fans simply got tired of the negativity and pointless back-and-forth. Martha Beck didn't win TAFF, but the fans who supported her made their point. TAFF has expanded well beyond Fanzine Fandom.”

I have to send some comments to Michael Enright on *Rewind* on the CBC... their special on Stan Rogers was just that, very special, and a wonder memory to bring back.

508...Old fart here, too. I can rant all I like, and I dare our near-fascist government to do something about it. That election campaign has been far too long, but I think we all know what needs to be done, and I hope we will do it. We plan to take advantage of the advance polls, so we will probably vote on October 10th, get it done, and see what happens the evening of the 19th.



Were the Faned Awards handed out at VCON? Haven't heard anything yet, and fingers are crossed. Also, the Auroras are coming up, and we are hoping for some good results. In the long run, I am glad the awards are still happening, and I gather the design for the awards this year is brand new. I am hoping that SFContario will soon have the information for buying a Sunday-only membership, and a brunch ticket off their website. And, bringing Ditto

back is a great idea, as part of VCON 41. Wish I could, but there's a lot of geography in the way.

[The Faned Awards were indeed handed out at VCON, and I won one this year! I almost missed them because I was volunteering at the Turkey Readings and the two panels overlapped. I had to miss the Elron Awards!]

Time to wrap. There's a ton of other fanzines I have to handle, so I'd best get to them. Keep bringing them out! Thanks!

[Thank you!]

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Wednesday 7 October 2015



Hi Felicity,

I've been holding off a bit to let you recover from VCON before I bore you again. I found some Aubrey Beardsley pics. He has always seemed surreal to me without a clear indication as to why. I think the effects are mental on the viewer. Looking into a world that you've never seen but feel it may exist next to the ordinary life of folk.

[I'm still not totally recovered from VCON. It's a good thing you're not boring! ☺]

I'm also sending you a picture from the Paris fashion runway of an Owen show. Apparently this is what the well dressed are supposed to look like this fashion season.

The government here is suffering from *Awk!!* and *Pshaw!!* as the Russians have started to hammer ISIS and all of the other dissidents out of existence. Another major disaster that can't be explained away is the attack on the hospital in Afghanistan. The development of an interconnected world has put a crimp into committing warcrimes with impunity. Now they get reported immediately and there is no safe distance in time to spin them away with propaganda. The TPP documents are starting to escape from the secret deal. None of the material looks good yet. A substantial part of it was soundly rejected when it was labelled ACTA.

EU members may see a better data retention and control policy since an EU court closed one of the loopholes US corporations use to collect and store people's private data in US jurisdictions. Fining the corporations enough to end EU austerity might send the right message to the over eager who have been busy collecting everything.

[Elegant solution!]

Cory Doctorow, famous Canadian science fiction writer, is back with the EFF, sure to stir some feathers in the cyberspace wars over DRM, copyright, and other nefarious activities of the special interest groups. Charlie Stross has a guest blogger and a new thread about Tanks and Swords. Usually the comments are worth going through. Sometimes you even learn something.

[As in Tanks Versus Swords?¹ Lately I've been feeling nostalgic for BattleTech again, especially the first novel from 1986 and the comics and animated series from 1994.]

The Israeli ezine has an interesting series about AI running.² Graeme did a review of an earlier issue at *Amazing*.³ Garth is apparently compiling a *How to Be Human for Dummies* book.⁴ I say good luck with that. Most people have at least one mad scheme that will not work but the entertainment value should not be overlooked in your mad rush to personal perfection.

Some wag has claimed that their AI passes a testing at a four year old child level. The paper is supposed to be on arXiv (Cornell University science paper repository).⁵ I haven't grabbed a copy yet but am looking forward to what they have to say. It seems to be a hot topic these days with people from all over the spectrum weighing in.

“Ancaeus—August 22, 2015 at 5:22 AM—There are a number of counter-examples; engineered and natural systems with a high degree of complexity that are inherently stable and fault-tolerant, nonetheless. 1. Subsumption architecture is a method of controlling robots, invented by Rodney Brooks in the 1980s. This scheme is modeled on the way the nervous systems of animals work. In particular, the parts of the robot exist in a hierarchy of subsystems, e.g., foot, leg, torso, etc. Each of these subsystems is autonomously controlled. Each of the subsystems can override the autonomous control of its constituent subsystems. So, the leg controller can directly control the leg muscle, and can override the foot subsystem. This method of control was remarkably successful at producing walking robots which were not sensitive to unevenness of the surface. In other words, they were not brittle in the sense of Dr. Cook. Of course, subsumption architecture is not a panacea. But it is a demonstrated way to produce very complex engineered systems consisting of many interacting parts that are very stable.”

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/nunavut-suicide-1.3245844>

[When people are depressed, they may not be able to ask for help.]

There's a reason this is policy but most don't want to hear it. I would like to explain something which isn't readily apparent. The Indigenes are a repository of things that could come in very handy if civilization has a major catastrophe. Most city folk (last number I heard was 90% of the human race) haven't a clue about how to make do without their supporting infrastructure. Once you lose the repository of that knowledge you are back to recreating that database the hard way. Deciding that no one cares about some dirty aboriginal is called racial suicide for your own ethnic



1 <http://www.antipope.org/charlie/blog-static/2015/09/tanks-why-tank-stories-make-gr.html>

2 <http://www.efanzines.com/CyberCozen/>

3 <http://amazingstoriesmag.com/2015/01/clubhouse-fanzine-reviews-born-feud/>

4 <http://www.efanzines.com/RSNG/>

5 <http://arxiv.org/> [The “x” is for “chi.”—Felicity]

group. It falls in the same category as burning down the library because the information isn't currently useful.

<http://blog.imaginaryfoundation.com/2015/09/17/amazing-timelapse-of-the-solar-system-to-scale/>

Perspective is everything in education.

“The bacteria, named Bacillus F, is amazing because it has remained alive in the permafrost for millions of years. Scientists have tested it on mice and human blood cells, but this wasn't enough for Mr. Brouchkov, who decided to inject himself with it.”⁶

“Mr. Brouchkov said that they are still experimenting on the bacteria. He elaborated: ‘We have to work out how this bacteria prevents ageing. I think that is the way this science should develop. What is keeping that mechanism alive? And how can we use it for our own benefits?’ The bacteria may also hold the key to fertility—it allows older female mice to reproduce after they've stopped being able to, and heals plants.”

[I'd like to stop aging. It's been all downhill for the last 25 years.]

<http://www.instructables.com/id/How-To-Type-and-Talk-With-a-German-Accent/?ALLSTEPS>

“Currently, only the US military is fielding (testing?) a battlefield internet; putting the equivalent of a smart phone in every soldier's hand (or wrist).”



What could possibly go wrong with this wonderful idea? If you think the collateral damage video was embarrassing to US forces, wait until the average troop gets a smartphone to post selfies with (remember Abu Ghraib). With a suitable hack you could discard your SLAR (Side Look Aperture Radar) and pinpoint every soldier with GPS accuracy. If I was still in the location data would show me under the latrine for years due to accidental droppage of the phoneage.

<http://evworld.com/news.cfm?newsid=28964>

Cessna 172. I didn't know these were so popular in the gasoline engine version. Putting an electric engine in one seems like a good idea from the noise that the engines make.

[I used to enjoy flying them in Flight Simulator.]

<https://archive.org/details/AfroRock>

1—Egwu Aja—Ofo the Black Company

2—Eti Ufok—The Ceejibs

3—Be Kind, Be Foolish, Be Happy—Chuck Barrister & The Voices of Darkness

4—Farewell to Ibusa—Afro Funk

5—Bullwalk—The Comrades

6—Active Action—The Action 13

7—Deiyo Deiyo—The Hykkers

6 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/11901105/Russian-scientist-says-he-is-stronger-and-healthier-after-injecting-himself-with-eternal-life-bacteria.html>

- 8—Whizzy Llabo—Ofege
- 9—Nwantinti/Die Die—The Ify Jerry Krusade
- 10—Money That’s What I Want—The Lawrence

Amavi Group

- 11—Oli Nkwu—Cicada
- 12—Blacky Joe—PRO (People Rock Outfit)
- 13—All Night Long—Bongos Ikwue
- 14—Soundway—Wrinkars Experience
- 15—Isi Agboncha—The Semi Colon
- 16—Ohomi—Sonny Okosuns & Paperback Un-

limited

- 17—Rough Rider—The Hygrades
- 18—Gbe Mi Lo—Ofege
- 19—Don’t Take Me for a Ride—The Founders 15
- 20—Ugbo Ndoma—Tony Grey & The Magnifi-

cent Zeinians

- 21—Somebody’s Gotta Lose or Win—The Hygrades
- 22—Gbomei Adesai—The Psychedelic Aliens
- 23—Kpokposikposi—The Actions
- 24—Okponmo Ni Tsitsi Emo Le—The Psychedelic Aliens
- 25—Onye Ije—The Strangers
- 26—Gbe Keke Wo Taoc—The Psychedelic Aliens
- 27—Afro Funk—Afro Funk
- 28—Ikoko—Eppio Fanio
- 29—Chokoi Et Oreje—Chokoi Et Oreje
- 30—Akwa Kayi Ji Bia Nuwa—The Identicals
- 31—The Same Man—Reme Izabo’s Music Research
- 32—Life’s Gone Down Low—The Lijadu Sisters

I tossed in the playlist so you can avoid Zappology if you choose.

<http://thedevelopspanties.com/archives/10808>

[Some of us have lived as both!]

<http://www.fnordu.com/>

[This led me to Mozart Was a Red, which I enjoyed.]

<http://crookedtimber.org/2015/09/24/conspiracy-theory/>

<http://climatechanged.co.uk/205-litre-orgotron-orgonite-chem-cannon/>

There’s nothing like plans for an Orgone Cannon to eliminate chemtrails that bring back memories of Wilhelm Reich. He was almost as unpopular with authority as the Marquis de Sade.

That ends the random link scrounging for this issue.

I am working on a few models so expect some pictures once the work and procrastination period ends.

Warm regards,

Dave



Wow! My morning fingers are not quite awake yet—need another cuppa, it seems—since they almost renumbered the subject line as issue #4507. That would be a few decades—or centuries—down the line. Well, fans do time-bind. Hmm. Now I'm wondering about fanzines of the future and what they'd be like, if they're even around at all. Hmm. Sounds like a fanzine article to me.

I never got into the Perry Rhodan books that Dave Haren mentions in his LOC. Oh, I remember seeing them on the bookshelves back in the day (early 1970s) when they first were being published in America, and considered getting one or two, maybe three, to see what they were like. What stopped me was the number on the cover: 78, 115, and so on, ad infinitum. In fact, according to Wikipedia the series was published in the German pulp-book format known as *heftroman*, and that the series was “initially conceived for thirty volumes (but) it endured and passed 2800 installments in April 2015.” Thank Ghu the completist collector in me was fortunately kept in check. Still, I wonder how many German kids have kept their copies; it began in 1961, predating the BBC's television *Doctor Who* series, which spawned a lengthy string of book versions. Here in North America there is nothing approaching such a long-lived science fiction book series, although Tom Swift and then Tom Swift, Jr. (even recent incarnations of Tom Swift III, Tom Swift IV, and Tom Swift, Young Inventor) has been appearing on and off since 1910. I still have some Tom Swift, Jr. books, and a Rick Brandt Science Adventure book (*The Egyptian Cat*) in my possession. My research shows that the last Tom Swift, Young Inventor title was published in 2007. Juvenile science fiction stories were—still are—a great introduction to this genre.

Holy Hannah, I didn't mean to write that much. Blame Dave Haren for this.



Lloyd Penney's comments about the Sad Puppies being the most recent fannish Holy War we have lived through via social media makes me think about what could come along next. However, I must stop myself because the coffee cup is empty. Refilling that is waaay more important than worrying about the Pound Puppies and fannish feuds. Be back in a nonce.

Okay, I'm back. Flipping through the pages in #507 reveals that I am out of topics, except to note that there are a number of “Bob” pictures herein. I have not seen those in many a year. Any reason for their inclusion I missed reading?

[On page 2 Dave Haren mentioned Reverend Ivan Stang and the Church of the SubGenius.]

But I think I shall stop here, there, or everywhere. Many thanks for sending the issue.

All the best,
John Purcell

We Also Heard From: Steve Green, Spider Robinson, Garth Spencer.

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

Recurring

1 October and 5 November 2015 (*first Thursday*): Drop-In Drawing for Adults: Pick Up a Pencil, 6–9 PM at Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond.

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 October and 5, 12, 19, and 26 November 2015 (*Thursdays*): Thursday Hobby Build Nights, 6–9 PM at Ages Three and Up Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby.—A3U Gundam

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 October and 6, 13, 20, and 27 November 2015 (*Fridays*): Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond.

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 October and 6, 13, 20, and 27 November 2015 (*Fridays*): Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 October and 6, 13, 20, and 27 November 2015 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 October and 7, 14, 21, and 28 November 2015 (*Saturdays*): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 October and 7, 14, 21, and 28 November 2015 (*Saturdays*): Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—Greg Cairns

4, 11, 18, and 25 October and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 November 2015 (*Sundays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

5, 12, 19, and 26 October and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 November 2015 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

5, 12, 19, and 26 October and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 November 2015 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

6, 13, 20, and 27 October and 3, 10, 17, and 24 November 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

6, 13, 20, and 27 October and 3, 10, 17, and 24 November 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

6, 13, 20, and 27 October and 3, 10, 17, and 24 November 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!, 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.—The Fictionals Comedy Co.

7, 14, 21, and 28 October and 4, 11, 18, and 25 November 2015 (*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.—Keith Lim/Julian Castle

8 and 22 October and 5 and 19 November 2015 (*alternate Thursdays*): Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers' Group, 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library, 6100 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, in Program Room or Connections Lounge.—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

8 October and 12 November 2015 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*]—Keith Lim

8 October and 12 November 2015 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim

10 October and 14 November 2015 (*second Saturday*): Teen Manga and Anime Group (former name Teen Manga Advisory Group), 3:30–5:30 PM at Harvey Southam Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. Free.—Julian Castle

13 October and 10 November 2015 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.

13 October and 10 November 2015 (*second Tuesday*): Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch, 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—large private room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver.—Keith Lim

14 and 28 October and 11 and 25 November 2015 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

16 October and 20 November 2015 (*third Friday*): IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, second floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

17 October and 21 November 2015 (*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.—Keith Lim

18 October and 15 November 2015 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

31 October and 28 November 2015 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

October 2015

October is Computer Learning Month, National Depression Education and Awareness Month, Photographer Appreciation Month, National Reading Group Month, and International Starman Month.

1 October 2015: **Dave Strutt**’s birthday. World Vegetarian Day.

2 October 2015: National Custodial Worker Day and Name Your Car Day. Premiere of film *The Martian* (SF; Matt Damon, Kristen Wiig, Sean Bean, Jeff Daniels, Chiwetel Ejiofor).

2 October 2015: Magic: The Gathering: Battle for Zendikar Launch Day, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond.

2–4 October 2015: **VCON 40** at Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, 7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond. “Guests of Honour: **Joe Haldeman**—Author GOH (*The Forever War*, *The Accidental Time Machine*), **Ed Greenwood**—Game Design GOH (The Forgotten Realms campaign setting and novels), **Rick Sternbach**—Artist GOH (illustrator—*Star Trek* & others), **Eric Choi**—Editor GOH (*The Dragon and the*



Stars, Carbide Tipped Pens), **Steve Forty**—Fan GOH, **Spider Robinson**—Master of Ceremonies (*Callahan's/Lady Sally* series, *Stardance* trilogy). Theme: **Time Travel**. Come join us for three days of fannish fun and multi-track programming including: art show & auction • vendors' hall • author readings • 24-hour games rooms • multi-author book launch • writers' workshops • demos • Academie Duello • artists' alley • Frankenstuffies • fan groups • costume contest • panels • hospitality suite • dance • Elrons • Turkey Readings • workshops.”

2–4 October 2015: HP Lovecraft Film Festival [*at Hollywood Theater (no address given on website)*], Portland, Oregon.—*Ansible* via Garth Spencer

3 October 2015: Techies Day and Virus Appreciation Day.

3 October 2015: Halloween/Horror Pop Culture Collectibles Fair, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver.—Verne Siebert

3 October 2015: Caustic Soda Live Podcast with Jeffrey Combs, 7–8 PM at HP Lovecraft Film Festival, EOD Center, [*1820 Northeast 40th Avenue*], Portland, Oregon.—Toren Atkinson

3–4 October 2015: SpoCon, Spokane, Washington. [*No address given on website.*] —Chris Sturges via Garth Spencer

4 October 2015: **Barbara Scutt**'s birthday. National Golf Day.

4 October 2015: *The Talking Dead* special for end of season 1 of *Fear the Walking Dead*.—Julian Castle

5 October 2015: **Jim Naguib**'s birthday. World Teachers' Day.

6 October 2015: **Arthur Hlavaty**'s birthday. Mad Hatter Day (“¹⁰/₆”).

7 October 2015: **Howard Chaykin**'s birthday.

9 October 2015: Curious Events Day. Premiere of films *Pan* (fantasy; Hugh Jackman) and *Steve Jobs* (biography; Michael Fassbender, Kate Winslet, Seth Rogen, Jeff Daniels).

9 October 2015: Graphic Thrills 2 Launch Party, 8 PM at The Goods Screening & Apparel, 335 East Broadway, Vancouver.—Robin Bougie

9–11 October 2015: Tactical Solutions: A Miniature Gaming Convention [*at Center Place, 2426 North Discovery Place*], Spokane Valley, Washington.—Garth Spencer

10 October 2015: IPMS Vancouver 45th Annual Fall Model Show & Swap Meet, 9 AM–4:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.

10 October 2015: Vanpla at IPMS Vancouver Fall Show, 9 AM–4:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.

10 October 2015: HeroClix Unrestricted: SHIELD vs. The World, 12:30–5:30 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond.

10–11 October 2015: GeekGirlCon [*at the Conference Center, 800 Convention Place, Seattle Washington*].—Garth Spencer

11 October 2015: **Ivy Blais**'s birthday. Take Your Teddy Bear to Work Day.

11 October 2015: Season 6 premiere of *The Walking Dead*.—Julian Castle

15 October 2015: **Dusk McRate** and **Verne Siebert**'s birthdays.

15–18 October 2015: Vancouver Halloween Parade & Expo [*no exact address given on website*].—Garth Spencer

16 October 2015: **Duncan McGregor**'s birthday. Premiere of films *Goosebumps* (horror/comedy; Jack Black, RL Stine) and *Crimson Peak* (horror; Bruce Gray).

16 October 2015: The Rocky Horror Picture Show, 11:59 PM–3 AM at the Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway, Vancouver.

16–18 October 2015: FallCon [*at Commonwealth Centre, #1177–3961 52nd Avenue Northeast*], Calgary, Alberta.—*Ansible* via Garth Spencer

17 October 2015: Warmachine: Devastation Book Release Event, 10:30 AM–5 PM at Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond. “35 Pts per game. 45 minute death clock. Entry fee \$5.00. Contact: Chris.”

17–18 October 2015: Portland Retro Gaming Expo [*at Oregon Convention Center, 777 Northeast Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard, Portland, Oregon*].—Garth Spencer

19 October 2015: **Gareth von Kallenbach** and **Cathy Palmer-Lister**'s birthdays.

20 October 2015: **Richard Walters**'s birthday.

20–25 October 2015: Vancouver Writers' Fest, Granville Island.—Vancouver Sun

21 October 2015: **Christopher Garcia**'s birthday. *Back to the Future* Day.

21 October 2015: Richmond BC Writers' Club Open Mic, 7–8:30 PM at Richmond Public Library, Ironwood Branch, Unit 8200, 11688 Steveston Highway, Richmond. “This is a free event, [*usually*] happening every third Wednesday of the month, where writers and poets share their creative writings and thoughts out loud. Come

with a friend and bring your creative work(s) to get some feedback from our published authors/audience. Everyone is welcome! Twitter: [@RichmondWriters](#). Facebook: [Richmond BC Writers Club](#). E-mail: richmondbcwritersclub@gmail.com.”

23 October 2015: Premiere of films *Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension* (horror), *Jem and the Holograms* (unnecessary remake; Molly Ringwald, Juliette Lewis, Samantha Newark), and *The Last Witch Hunter* (fantasy; Vin Diesel, Elijah Wood, Michael Caine).

23 October 2015: All Star Wrestling: Fright Night, 7:30 PM at Cloverdale Fairgrounds, 6050 176 Street, Surrey. “Tommy Dreamer vs. Azeem the Dream. Moon-dog Manson Hardcore Invitational Battle Royal, featuring Massive Damage from Monster Pro Wrestling, Bad Boy Jason Cage, Breaker Bruiser Joe, Toga Freddy, the European Assassin, Mr. India, the Great Kasaki, and the Ideal Reflection Christopher Ryseck. New ASW Trans Canada Heavyweight Champion Adam Ryder will defend his title against the winner of the Hardcore Battle Royal. Girls Gone Wrestling Title Match: Chelsea Green (Champion) vs. Sexy Samantha Slides. Former Tag Team Partners Battle: TKO Cody Smith vs. Travis Sionys. \$20 front row; \$15 general admission.”

24 October 2015: Island Classic 2015 Scale Model Contest and Exhibition, 9 AM–3:30 PM at Salvation Army Victoria Citadel, 4030 Douglas Street, Victoria.

24 October 2015: The 7th Annual Bellingham Comicon, 10 AM–5 PM at Ferndale Events Center, 5715 Barrett Road, Ferndale, Washington.

24 October 2015: Magic: The Gathering: Battle for Zendikar Game Day, 10 AM–5:30 PM at Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond. “Join us for a game day celebration with the newest *Magic: The Gathering* set. For more info please contact [Stephanie](#). Contact: [Chris](#).”



24 October 2015: Thrill the World Vancouver, 10 PM [no address given on website].—[Garth Spencer](#)

25 October 2015: Punk for a Day Day.

26 October 2015: Premiere of TV series *Supergirl*.

27 October 2015: **Peter Tupper**’s birthday.

28 October 2015: **Church Haley**’s birthday. Plush Animal Lovers’ Day.

29 October 2015: **Tamara Gerbrandt**’s birthday.

30 October 2015: Frankenstein Friday. Premiere of film *Scouts* [sic] *Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse* (horror/comedy; Patrick Schwarzenegger, Cloris Leachman, David Koechner).

30 October–1 November 2015: [Aki Con](#) [at *DoubleTree Hotel Seatac Airport, 18740 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington*].—[Garth Spencer](#)

31 October 2015: **Lucretia DeVille**'s birthday. Halloween and Increase Your Psychic Powers Day.

31 October 2015: Season two premiere of *Les Revenants*, AKA *The Returned* (supernatural) on SundanceTV after no new episodes since 2012.—[Julian Castle](#)

November 2015

3 November 2015: **Dale Speirs**' birthday.

5 November 2015: Hello Kitty's birthday. Premiere of TV series *Angel from Hell* (Jane Lynch, Kevin Pollak).

6 November 2015: **Stan Hyde**'s birthday. Premiere of films *Spectre* (James Bond; Daniel Craig, Dave Bautista, Ralph Fiennes, Christoph Waltz) and *The Peanuts Movie* (computer animation).

6–8 November 2015: Imperial Hobbies Mini Grand Opening Sale! at Imperial Hobbies, #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond, BC.

7 November 2015: **Tim Maruyama**'s birthday. Book Lovers' Day.

7 November 2015: [Pop Culture Collectibles Fair & Computer Swap Meet](#), 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver.—[Verne Siebert](#)

8 November 2015: [Vancouver Comic Con](#), 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15th Avenue), Vancouver. “Special guests: James Stokoe (*Orc Stain*, *Godzilla*), Marley Zarcone (*Effigy*), Joe Keatinge (*Shutter*, *Glory*), Ed Brisson (*Mantle*, *Cluster*, *Sheltered*), James Lloyd (*Futurama*, *Other Stuff*), Mel Levrault (Phobiasoft), Michelle Zhu, USNA. Admission: \$4; kids under 14 free.”

10 November 2015: Young Readers' Day.

12 November 2015: **Toulouse LeTrek**'s birthday.

12–15 November 2015: [BurlyCon](#) [no address given on website], Seattle, Washington.—[Garth Spencer](#)

13 November 2015: Premiere of film *Rings* (horror; Johnny Galecki).

13 November 2015: All Star Wrestling, 8 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver.

14 November 2015: Get Out of Your Basement and Build in Public, 1–4 PM at Metro-
polis Comics and Toys, 4735 Kingsway,
Burnaby. “It’s another chance to proudly put
your model building obsession on display
and take your skills out to the street—or at
least to the toy store. Monster Attack Team
members, Vanpla members, and all other in-
terested parties are invited and encouraged
to get working on a kit. (It’s never too early
to start working on next year’s IPMS
entry!) Join us!!!”—Stan Hyde



14 November 2015: NerdFest V—A Night of Epic Fantasy, 7 PM at Rickshaw,
254 East Hastings Street. Tickets: \$18.

16 November 2015: Button Day.

18 November 2015: **Ken Kato**’s birthday. Occult Day.

20 November 2015: **Bogglerat**’s birthday. Premiere of film *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part 2* (SF; Jennifer Lawrence, Elizabeth Banks, Julianne Moore, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Woody Harrelson, Stanley Tucci, Michelle Forbes, Donald Sutherland, Jeffrey Wright).

20–22 November 2015: OryCon 37 at Waterfront Portland Marriott Hotel,
[1401 Southwest Naito Parkway], Portland, Oregon.—Garth Spencer

24 November 2015: **Spider Robinson**’s birthday. Evolution Day.

27 November 2015: Black Friday and Buy Nothing Day. Premiere of films *The Good Dinosaur* (computer animation; Jeffrey Wright, Steve Zahn, Anna Paquin, Sam Elliott, Frances McDormand, Alan Tudyk) and *Victor Frankenstein* (horror/SF; Daniel Radcliffe, Charles Dance).

27 November 2015: All Star Wrestling November Nightmare, 7:30 PM at Cloverdale Fairgrounds, 6050 176 Street, Surrey.

28 November 2015: Red Planet Day.



News-Like Matter

Notes from September 2015 BCSFA Meeting

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

The meeting was well-attended and there were a lot of good conversations at once, so I was only able to record occasional quotes.

Ray: “It’s not pivoting.”

Graeme: “And then you open the door and you’re in a Tim Horton’s.”



Graeme: “I remember making a large sphinx and then destroying it with artillery shells which were bricks.”⁷

Fruvous: “He was probably thinking, ‘Now I’ll have to take a boat to school!’ ”

Ray: “The British store Sherlock’s in Surrey is getting all the pins with all the eras’ logos of *Doctor Who*.”

Me and Fruvous: “Schram!”

Also: various people talked about dinosaurs versus the richer oxygen period versus giant insects and spiders; about seams in which a June bug in orange plastic was sold as a prehistoric insect in amber, and gypsum (which is appropriately light) was sold as moon rock; and about politics—Bernie Sanders is great, and surprisingly Marion Barry doesn’t feel sorry for Rob Ford.

Felicity Walker

Sunday 20 September 2015

Updates from Graeme: Ditto and VCON 41

As I am (probably, sort of) chair for the Ditto fanzine convention in 2017 (20–60 attendees perhaps) I thought I’d go in for a bit of a practice run. At the closing ceremonies of VCON 40 it was announced I am Chair of next year’s VCON 41 (600–700 attendees). Fun bit of a challenge that.

I did chair VCON 25 in 2000. It went well, I thought. Won my first Aurora because of it (though it may have been a bribe to make me go away).

At any rate, hotel, Guests of Honour, and concom to find. Figure I’d devote the upcoming long weekend to the task, and the following year or so writing a fanzine article about what a wonderful job I did at VCON 41, to be published the day after the dead dog party. It’s all about getting one’s priorities straight.

⁷ An epic reply to its riddle!

Besides, I hear chairing a committee of fans is inevitably similar to herding cats. I figure this is where my increasingly frequent bouts of senile agitation will come in mighty handy.

Am recruiting eager volunteers for the concom now. I'll be offering the usual perks fan-run convention concom normally acquire: fame, renown, trophies, adulat-ory press reviews, groupies, CEO job offers, book publishing offers, top-ranking talk show appearances, the cover of *People* magazine (or *The National Inquirer*), an Aurora award, one or two Hugo awards, and the Nobel Peace Prize. Sound tempting?

Glad to say some of my long-term local fan buddies have already offered them-selves to me (it's not what you think). Looking for more brave souls.

Cheers all!

R. Graeme Cameron

Facebook: Society for the Perpetuation of Fannish Fandom

Monday 5 October 2015

As many of you know, I am Chair of VCON 41 which will be held September 30 to October 2 in 2016.

Here is the confirmed Guest of Honour lineup so far:

Robert J. Sawyer—Author GOH.

Jamie Anderson (son of Gerry Anderson)—Supermarionation GOH.

Eric Chu (*Battlestar Galactica*)—Film Design GOH.

Karl Johanson (editor, *Neo-Opis Magazine*)—Editor GOH.

Stan G. Hyde—Godzilla-Fan GOH.

Spider Robinson—Master of Ceremonies.

Artist GOH—TBA, possibly very soon.

And maybe more to come. Hotel TBA (still negotiating).

Theme this year: Muppets, Puppets, & Marionettes.

Secondary theme: Small Press Cabal: Celebrating Canada's Renaissance of Small Press Publishers & Magazines.

Website being revamped. Should be possible to purchase memberships soonest.

R. Graeme Cameron

Facebook: Society for the Perpetuation of Fannish Fandom

Monday 9 November 2015

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