

WSFA JOURNAL

MARCH-APRIL 2014

First Friday March 7, 2014

Charity Helton, Bill Lawhorn, Brian Lewis, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Candy Madigan, John Madigan, Sarah Mitchell, Barry Newton, Judy Newton, Shirl Phelps, Jimmy Rodgers, Mark Roth, Steve Smith, Mike Taylor, Jensen Toperzer, Elizabeth Twitchell, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap

3/7/14 Prez Barry presiding. Sam L taking notes. Called this sucker to order at 21:22 hours. And we have order, sort of. Sam L. read minutes. Capclave starts on the 10th. Mark says celebrates Lief Erickson day the day before Columbus day. Officers have nothing to report. Trustees have most of the slate, a few slots open. See Bob or Brian. Only have until first meeting in April to complete the slate. You want a position, you talk to me. Bill said Cathy in process of putting Journal together. Entertivity Northern Virginia YA tomorrow. Rock and Roll festival. BSFS short fiction on the 22nd. WSFA Press not here. Some trades left. Twitters, Dodos don't like the cold. 189 people on Meetup said Elizabeth and she switched the meetings. Barry said it would be interesting to see how many on Meetup have never been here. Elizabeth said half if not more. A lot of people may not be interested in coming to a business meeting said Mark, PSFS solved this by having programming starting at 9. Jimmy asked about putting the podcast discussion on Meetup. Capclave past is past. Capclave present said 128 people at registrations so a third of the way. We need to get numbers up a bit. Contact with guests on travel stuff. We'll cut them a check. Nothing new to report. Elizabeth agreed to do at con registration. Need more people so don't feel chained. Shouldn't have that kind of madness as last year. Capclave future said putting committee together, see me or I'll draft you. Talk SF will discuss Hugo nominees. Literary awards, not here. Sarah said put out news about award increasing. WSFAns can go to WSFAsmallpress.org to see the rules. WSFAns can submit one short story or novelette published by a small press.

No old business. New business: Debate over forging checks (on attendance sheet). We wouldn't do that, Ivy Yap. Candles are burning to offset the dogs' business.

Announcements. Awesomecon will have Billie Piper in two weeks. Judy has quilt raffle tickets. Jimmy Rogers is doing a podcast discussion this Monday. Elizabeth giving away the Moon (DVD). Smithsonian lectures on science after Skylab on Thursdays. Candy going to Sugarloaf craft festival in Philadelphia.

Meeting unanimously adjourned 21:50.

Third Friday March 21, 2014

Meeting called to order by Sam S. at 9:15pm.

Secretary reported that the Jan/Feb journal had been sent to the web masters and that the next one would be the March/April edition.

Webmasters noted that Facebook group now has 267 members.

Small Press Award stated that there were 28 submissions that had been processed and were up on the committee website to be read and that a reminder press release would go out.

Webmaster noted that there was a blog on the WSFA website and that all WSFA officers could post on it.

WSFA Press noted that the Valentine book is on track.

Capclave present membership is currently around 131.

Capclave future - Alastair Reynolds and Gordon Van Gelder are the GOHs. Will be Columbus Day weekend at our current hotel.

Entertivities: BSFS has a panel event about the state of short fiction at 8pm at the clubhouse. WSFA will have a dinner Friday night at the hotel at Balticon.

Committee to actually discuss science fiction will be discussing things we want to nominate for the Hugo Awards.

Trustees slate for the May WSFA Officers election:

President – Bob Macintosh

Vice President – George Shaner

Treasurer - Sam Scheiner

Secretary – Cathy Green

Trustees – Mike Walsh, Barry Newton, Brian Lewis

Capclave 2016 Chair – Paul Haggerty

WSFA Small Press Award Committee – Cathy Green, Sarah Mitchell

Old business - none

New business - none.

People here for their first meeting - none; people here for their second meeting - Vicki de Santo, Monica.

Announcements: secretary and hosts made their standard announcements.

Mike W. is selling paperbacks at \$1 each and 3/\$2.

Lee Strong reported that the Museum of Science Fiction was raising money and will be conducting a survey on "what is SF" and that the museum is negotiating with the ERB estate and Disney to have the life-size Tars Tarkas statue displayed. Baen turned down his Burroughs novel, but he is in discussion with the ER estate for a proposed 12 new Burroughs books.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44pm.

Brian Lewis' Recommended Basic Computer Use as of March 22, 2014

For each computer and Router (especially the wireless ones), Purchase: a. Anti-Virus Software

b. Firewall Software

c. Backup Software and Drive These should all be password protected and kept up to date

You will also need assorted cables, paper, blank disks, thumb drives, and other assorted supplies.

Having extra ink/toner, paper, battery backup and other supplies on-hand for when rushing to finish that paper, at 3:00 AM, on the weekend before it's due, is a good way to prevent Murphy from ruining your final course grade(s).

Avoid posting e-mails, photos, and videos, that you would be embarrassed to show your mother, or grandmother. This sort of stuff does NOT go away and will come back to haunt you at some future time. (NOT if, but definitely will.)

Be wary of 'free' downloads, file sharing sites, and unsecured WiFi Hot Spots. They MAY be fine, but also may contain malware designed to trap the unwary. All of these can offer a 'back door' into anything connected to them.

All Computers should be secured with passwords, as should printers with wireless (WiFi or Bluetooth) capability, and routers (again, especially wireless ones). When possible, use Ethernet, or other physical connection methods, as these automatically limit the possible ways that some can do anything to your equipment.

Physical locations can also make a difference here. Lock the Dorm Room Door when you leave it! Where computers are located at home, when they can be accessed, and how they are monitored is a discussion between parent and child that I will not comment on as I don't personally know either side of this discussion, except to say that the rules must be consistent with the rules any siblings (older OR younger) have, and if there is more than one household involved, be it a custody issue, or Grandparents, not only the rules need to be consistent but the equipment should be as well. This will help keep trouble from coming in through the internet.

Backup all computers regularly, and test the backup periodically. Keep the backup separate from the computer when not in use. It's useless if it doesn't work, or gets stolen with the computer. A good Backup Software Package is fully compatible with your computer's Operating System (Windows/Mac/Linux/Whatever), operates at a reasonably high speed (you can always get faster ones, but cost becomes a factor here), and does the backing up on a regular schedule and in the background. You should set the schedule based on how much you are willing to re-enter after a hard drive failure, or other data loss.

Consider a Cloud Backup Service. These can run from well under \$100 per year to thousands of dollars per year for you depending on how many machines you are backing up, the method, the style of backup, the speed it is done with, and all of those things in reverse (restoration of your files). Some of these services will also keep two, or more, computers' files synchronized.

In the past, I kept a separate external drive, for each computer, plus one for all of my data files, so I can synchronize the data files, between multiple computers.

I also keep ALL Software Install/Disks and a record of their registration codes. Depending on the method of Backup, and hence Restoration, It may take me several nights to totally wipe, and restore a computer, but with this information, I can do it if I have to.

Brian Lewis' Recommended Basic Computer Buying Process as of March 22, 2014

1.I) Will it only be used in a single location? a. If yes, buy a desktop

b. If no, buy a laptop¹

2.II) Internet Connection Type²

a. If you are buying a desktop, it'll be whatever you have at that location b. If you are buying a laptop:

i. Also purchase a Portable Hotspot if: 1. You may want to change cell carriers or if you want to be able to change connection type (ergo: 3G to 4G, etc.) on the fly 2. You want to use a single internet connection for multiple devices (Smartphones, GPS, Computer, etc.) simultaneously

ii. Otherwise 1. Buy a netbook^{***3} if you have a cell carrier, and coverage type, you don't anticipate changing for years

2. If you are not worried about your internet connections, any laptop will probably have WiFi built in.

3.III) Software Compatibility

1.Do you need to run software that is specific to one Operating System (Mac/PC/Linux/Whatever)?

i. If yes, buy a computer with that Operating System ii. If no, then buy whatever you feel comfortable with because the major software makers have versions that run in each major Operating System

2.Do you need to be running "CPU Intensive" software, such as imaging (Photoshop, etc.)

or multi-user gaming software, on a regular basis, or in a “Real Time Response Required” mode? i. If so, consider adding memory and/or getting a Multi-Core Processor CPU Chip

ii. If not, buy off the shelf

4.IV) Monitor/Screen Size (All are measured diagonally)

a. For a desktop, unless you are editing graphics (or **need** to really enlarge your images), 20” to 22” will probably do b. For a laptop, it depends on how you plan to use it:

i. If on ‘airline tray type’ tables, regularly, get a screen size of 13” (or less) ii. If on desk type surfaces, consider a 15” screen. They weigh a bit more, but the extra screen area makes it a lot easier on your eyes.

iii. Only buy a screen bigger than 15” if you really need the visibility of such a screen size. They not only weigh quite a bit more, but are also very costly.

5.V) Printer Type a. All ink jet printers do color. A portable one side printing one can be had for under \$300, under \$200 for a less portable two-sided printing one, or under \$100 for a very basic one. b. Laser Printers start under \$200 (black and white with one sided printing only) or \$500 (color and two sided printing) and go up from there, but are significantly more expensive to operate. Really the only reasons

to buy one are if you need one for business, or are spending hundreds of dollars, in any several given months, at your local print shop in order for them to laser print your stuff.

6.VI) Backup Methods (Requires appropriate software which may be a part of the Operating System Software) a. External Hard Drive

i. One per computer ii. Each Drives needs to be AT Least twice the storage capacity of the Internal Hard Drive, but 3-4 times that capacity is better. More than that is a waste.

b. On-Line Service i. Generally priced per computer

ii. Pricing also depends on the style/type of backup and if the files are being synchronized between your various computers. c. Restoring your data

i. Test this ii. Should be included, as an option, in your backup software, not as an ‘add-on’ or extra cost ‘option’.

7.VII) Support (Mom sand Pop type places have a very limited number of locations, and may not offer as much support as a major chain, but sometimes their folks have greater expertise.)

a. Apple

i. Apple Store (Genius Bar)

ii. Best Buy (Geek Squad)

iii. Micro Center

iv. Other Stores (including Mom and Pop type places)

b. PC (Depends on the Manufacturer)

I. Best Buy (Geek Squad)

II. Micro Center

III. Other Stores (including Mom and Pop type places)

Notes: 1 Laptop battery life is usually less than they are rated. Have/get an alternative supply of power if you buy one and need to use it for extended periods.

2 You should always 'secure' your connection by using a good firewall program **and** a good antivirus program (both kept up to date), and password protecting the connection itself.

3 A Netbook has a broadband 'card' built into its motherboard. This can be convenient, as it's less to carry, but the 'card' is preset to a particular cell carrier and can't be changed if you want to change cell carriers. Each cell carrier has independent broadband cards, that usually connect to a USB Port, and Portable Hot Spots that use a WiFi Connection. Different rate plans apply for each device type. Usually, netbooks don't have built-in CD, or DVD, Drives, thus installing any software will require a compatible external drive of some sort (unless you directly download it from the internet). They also may not have Ethernet, or other physical network, connections.

Announcements:

If you want your announcement to resemble what you actually said as opposed to what the secretary heard, email it to editor@wsfa.org because secretary is too hard to spell. Host announcement – reminder of where the bathroom, recycling and trash bins and drinks coolers are located.

Lee Strong announced that: The Museum of Science Fiction (MOSF) is on track to open its starter museum in 2015. One of the MOSF's first projects will be a survey "What is 'science fiction'?" This project was originally suggested by Brian Lewis during the First Friday in January WSFA meeting. The MOSF, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. (ERB) and the Walt Disney organization are currently negotiating making the Museum the permanent home for a life sized, 15 foot tall statue of a Green Martian named Tars Tarkas. Tars is currently on tour advertising Disney products.

Baen Books declined to publish Lee Strong's first novel "A Soldier of Poloda." Executive editor Toni Weiskopf stated that she could not get into the story.

ERB and Lee Strong are negotiating a proposal for Lee to write as many as 12 new books set in the prehistory of the Burroughs universe. The proposed series would answer questions left unanswered by Burroughs' canonical works such as why Mars and Venus are habitable, and why Martian races and creatures have multiple limbs and lay eggs rather than giving live birth.

First Friday April 4, 2014

Attendance: Cathy Green, Bob MacIntosh, Barry Newton, Sam Lubell, Bill Lawhorn, Sarah Mitchell, Erica Ginter, Michael Walsh, Brian Lewis, Joe Gillan, Mark Roth, Michael Ikeda, Karen North, Shirl Phelps, Medeleine Yeh, Ivy, Yap, Paul Haggerty, Judy Newton, Mike Taylor, Elizabeth Twitchell, Eva Whitley, Steve Stiles, Walter Miles, HananMiles, Zarah Miles

Meeting called to order at 21:13.

No President, VP or Treasurer reports.

Trustees slate for the May WSFA Officers election:

President – Bob Macintosh

Vice President – George Shaner

Treasurer - Sam Scheiner
Secretary – Cathy Green
Trustees – Mike Walsh, Barry Newton, Brian Lewis
Capclave 2016 Chair – Paul Haggerty
WSFA Small Press Award Committee – Cathy Green, Sarah Mitchell

Entertivities warned people to stay for the full credits of Captain America Winter Soldier

Meetup has added a person, twitter feed is doing well. WSFA Press is doing well.

Capclave 2014 reports that both Holly Black and Paolo Bacigalupi are eligible for awards at Detcon 1. Also, Bill announced that he was ordering Capclave shirts for committee members and that everyone else who wanted to could get theirs for \$25.

Capclave 2015 will be Columbus Day weekend and feature GOHs Alastair Reynolds and Gordon Van Gelder

The Committee to Actually Discuss Science Fiction will be discussing Galaxy's Edge Magazine.

Old business: none.

New business: WSFA Press is planning 25% off of back stock for the 25th anniversary. There were no people attending for their first, second or third meetings.

Announcements:

If you want your announcement to resemble what you actually said as opposed to what the secretary heard, email it to editor@wsfa.org because secretary is too hard to spell. Host announcement included the usual about money on the floor, money in the door, not feeding the dogs chocolate, watching out for free range bunnies and the location of the bathrooms.

Shirl made an announcement about a local for teen to promote science having their maker fair in Greenbelt. Elizabeth Twitchell mentioned the countdown to Yuri's night (April 12) in Anacostia with SF burlesque and the BSFS meeting on Saturday was also mentioned. Mike Walsh was selling books for \$1 each or 3 for \$2. Karen North is looking for a roommate for Balticon. Sam Lubell has a room at Ravencon is anyone is looking to share.

Meeting adjourned at 21:43.

Brian Lewis's review of If/Then

At least, I think it was in out of town tryouts when I saw it here, in DC, in the fall. It's called "If/Then" and stars Idina Menzel. Amongst other things, she was the voice that did most of the e singing in Disney's "Frozen". She gave her usual excellent performance, but some of the others definitely weren't 100% with their parts yet. At the time I saw, I put that down to the script not being 100% finalized and the changes not being fully internalized yet.

The story is set in contemporary Manhattan and examines several times in a young career lady's life from the point of view of If this one little thing was changed then this is a possible outcome. It shows the possibilities of 'taking a right turn, instead of a left turn' without being about regrets or hind sight. Instead, you

see a number of 'resets' and things travel onward as if the previous play out of events never happened. It opened on 03/30/2014 at the Richard Rodgers Theater on West 46th Street in Manhattan.

Third Friday April 18, 2014

Attendance: Cathy Green, Paul Haggerty, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Barry Newton, Judy Newton, Meridel Newton, Kathi Overton, Judy Scheiner, Sam Scheiner, Ivy Yap, Gayle Surette, Elizabeth Twitchell, Michael Walsh, Michael Nelson, Keegan Cassidy, Adrienne Ertman, David Keener, Ginny McNitt, Frances Holland

Meeting called to order at 21:14

Minutes of the last meeting were read.

Treasurer reported that we have money.

Trustees slate for WSFA Officers for May election:

President – Bob Macintosh

Vice President – George Shaner

Treasurer - Sam Scheiner

Secretary – Cathy Green

Trustees – Mike Walsh, Barry Newton, Brian Lewis

Capclave 2016 Chair – Paul Haggerty

WSFA Small Press Award Committee – Cathy Green, Sarah Mitchell

Twitter feed is going strong, meet-up added one new person that morning.

Capclave 2014 discussed shirts and plans for Ravencon.

Capclave 2015 will be at our current hotel and Alastair Reynolds and Gordon Van Gelder will be the GOHs.

Committee to Actually Discuss SF will be discussing the current issue of Fantasy and Science Fiction
WSFA Small Press Award committee currently has 43 stories to read with 36 more on the way from the administrator. 81 submissions for the year so far that actually qualified.

Old business – none

New business – there's a 5th friday in May. The secretary reminded Sam L. that they will both be at their 25th college reunion and that therefore Sam L. should not volunteer to host.

In May first friday will be in MD and third friday will be in VA. This should be the case in June as well. In July first friday is on the 4th, and Kathi Overton gave her permission for WSFA to have a small meeting at the Fabulous Bungalow 4th of July bbq.

Announcements – secretary and host made the usual announcement. Mike Walsh mentioned Hugo finalists will be announced this weekend. Madeleine Yeh discussed her martial arts club's successful demonstrations at the Cherry Blossom festival. Next weekend is the US Science and Engineering festival, SFWA and the Arlington Planetarium will both be there. Awesomecon is this weekend.

Meeting adjourned at 21:51.