

The WSFA Journal Jan/Feb 2019



Is this an alien roc? Or an Australian?

Read Carolyn's trip report to find out!

No, Paul is the Walrus, Not the Eggman

Review of Noumenon Infinity by Marina J. Lostetter

I Do Nothing Every Day

Carolyn's Trip to Australia -- February 2019: Part I

I'll Take Your Money For Anything, I Was Furloughed

Has WSFA Turned Invisible?

No, Paul is the Walrus, Not the Eggman



The 1/4/19 meeting began with “This is first Friday meeting of 2019,” said Prez Bob to the club’s cheers. Happy new year one and all. Started at 9:15. Cathy said no one emailed asking to be in the holiday list. 3 people said they emailed. Bob thanked everyone for their work in 2018 and happy new year in 2019.

Sam S. said that dues are payable. Please after the meeting, 20 bucks. As of Jan 1, \$\$\$ a few days later a big XX paid from WSFA Press. This does not include XX from World Fantasy, still finishing the books. Year over year is XXX but due to last year’s XXXI bill not paid until Feb. We’re doing okay.

Capclave 2018. Cathy said, “Only thing I have to do is the autopsy, will find out a good weekend to go over what worked and what didn’t.” Bill for Capclave Present said, first things. Assuming get confirmation from Judy, will meet 7 PM here before first Friday. Yes talking about all sorts of things about Capclave, all volunteers please come so we can make progress and keep up on things. Sam S. said registrations trickling in at right pace. Bill said there is a table at Illogicon in NC, no expecting to sell memberships but remind people that we are there. Don’t know if Rob has done area cons since Ravencon a decade ago. Cathy has a series of conventions where we will be having tables/ad swaps. She has business cards we will use until get bookmarks. We will be picking up the pace in the New Year. Take cards, give them out. Talk up Capclave. Capclave 2020, I have a feeler out for guests. There will be progress once we know final funds.

For WFC, Bill said, I believe the big news, huge news, the last of the trophies arrived. Jane Yolen posted video on her Facebook page of her unpacking the award. We distributed the pins. We’ve done due diligence. Still have some centerpieces left. Come March, since I haven’t gotten the last bags from Marv. There should be about 10 bags left for \$5 donations. And there are some souvenir books. Cathy suggested Sam L take one for WSFA archives. We should have final tally soon. Sam S. said Ann is still digging out receipts.

Committee to discuss SF gave its schedule. Small Press Award: Cathy said we have a meeting. I will do a press release and send it out. I sent the date changes Jan 7 – April 7 to Paul. That’s where things area. We need to talk to people in the industry to see if we need to tweak the requirements. Rodger said WSFA members have the privilege to nominate stories, a privilege seldom exercised. So I am passing a recipe for cookies I will bake if enough people nominate. Kathi asked about a list of what publications are eligible. Cathy said we have a message spreadsheet that lists publishers, magazines, and media outlets where send press releases. Rodger said we can clean it up but don’t want to overwhelm. Cathy said if it is online and not Tor.com or a corporation that’s not a tiny llc it is probably eligible. If doing preorders by Kickstarter. Sam S. said if you are unsure, email the committee. Kim said, Daily SF lists where their authors also publish and there were XX sources. Cathy said every year we have a few new publishers. Rodger said, nominating a story is a good way for publishers that do not know about the small press award to find out about it, doubling your effort. Six people nominating, I will bring cookies and this is a rolling so each time six people nominate I will bake. Email admin@wsfasmallpressaward.org



Small Press – Gayle said paid the last bills, the printer took of \$\$\$ for XXX the two dates. We have mailed out all the preorders. That does not mean people cannot continue to order. And we will start contacting book sellers. Gayle said, there were overruns. Four in boxes are missing sign in sheet. Author

had to pay import fees for the sign in sheets and is now having to pay tariffs on her contributor copies, so I am sending a note explaining that these are free complimentary copies. Paul So far sold less than XX because they missed our two big selling events. Webpage, if you want content, email Gayle and Paul. Suggested we post Committee to Discuss SF list. So far our security is working.

Sarah said Dodos had a new year party, no hangover. Offered to post about small press award dates. Resolutions to read more and go to Capclave, which everyone should adopt.

Constitution Committee – Need to meet.



Shirts – Need to contact Steve about doing art for a shirt. Bill said committee exploring the possibility of doing multi-year Capclave shirt. If get interest from Steve in doing art for it, will pay him through general treasury. Did a resolution to pay Steve and then we will have to figure out how many shirts. Let's get the artwork in hand first.

Old business – T-shirts. Pounds are here, but the child cannot make a contract.

New business – Sam S said when WSFA small press award, when originally conceived, we did it for a small press, because the small presses were frozen out of the major awards. Recognize stories not given awards. But now, when Suzanne Palmer's story wins the Hugo and small press.... I propose a committee to look at the award guidelines, to recognize literature not being recognized.

Mark - I think the small press committee could do that. Bob, said this is up to the committee.

Cathy – That's why we want to do a survey of the small press industry. It would be problematic to say if you are popular F- you.

Sam S. If you are popular, you have a large number of readers.

Cathy – We go by subscribers, not readers. If you go by Kickstarter and Patron, we check, most online sites have just 500 or so.

Sam S. – Not Clarkesworld

Cathy-We do check the numbers.

Gayle - They may seem big, but not making a lot of money

Cathy – 1,000 to 2,000. Well below the limit.

Sam S. – They maybe we should rethink the limit If you are popular you are being recognized. The original purpose was to recognize works not being recognized.

Kathi – If part of the purpose is to recognize those not recognized, that's useful, but don't want to be the award solely for the obscure.

Gayle – They are blind read without the publisher or author, so every story no matter how small the source, every story has a chance and only picking the good ones. So maybe the good ones bubble up to the top.

Bob – Now getting an abundance of stories. When we started things like Clarkesworld was just getting started. Community now sees more to finding good stories than Asimov's, Analog and F&SF.

Courtnei – A lot of discussion depends on state of the art, we need to ask the questions to a wide swarth of people in the industry.

Cross talk.

Kim – What Sam S is saying is what we discussed on Saturday.

Bob – Since committee talking about it we should let them do it, maybe add Sam S. to the discussion.

Cathy – Let's hear from people in the industry.

Sam S. That's fine.





Bob asked about a book for 2019. Gayle said, we're in the process of deciding. Kim found popup dealer's room at Tyson corner. Talked to them about Capclave dealers' room.

Pounds are settled in their new home.

Kathi Arlington Planetarium which is still open. A NASA contractor will be there on Friday. Sat 7:30 show Explorers.

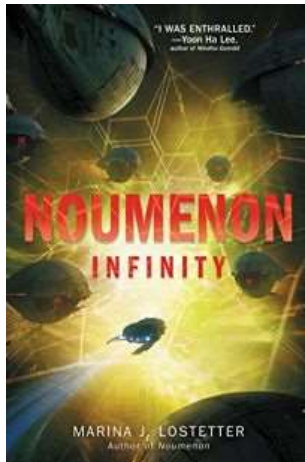
Paul is selling eggs.

Adjourned 10:02 at what passes for unanimously.

Attendance: Courtni Y Buleson, Rodger Burns, Apurva Desai, Rick Ellrod, Paul Haggerty, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, David Keener, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Sarah Mitchell, Michael Nelson, Kathi Overton, Sam Pierce, Aaron, Angela, and Sophia Pound, Mark Roth, Sam Scheiner, George Shaner, Gayle Surette, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, and Madeleine Yeh.

Review of *Noumenon Infinity* by Marina J. Lostetter

Reviewed by Sam Lubell



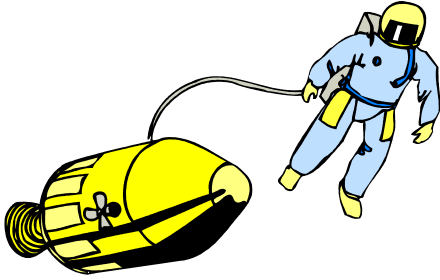
Noumenon Infinity is the follow-up to [Noumenon](#). This is high idea complex far-future science fiction that requires careful reading.

The original book followed the adventures of Convoy Seven, which had the mission of visiting a star to determine the cause of its variable output. In that book, the convoy launches in 2125, arrives at its destination in 3075 and returns to Earth over a thousand years later. As a result, the book is structured as a series of linked short stories with different characters. *Noumenon Infinity* continues that episodic structure with the further adventures of Convoy Seven. However, this book also tells a continuous story with Convey 12, which suffers an accident sending them into the far future.

The book opens with Reggie Straifer's Intelligent Personal Assistant, an AI device called C, uploaded to Convey Seven to become its Inter Convoy Computer (ICC), which plays a major role in both books. Seven years later, Dr. Kaufman, the scientist who discovered subdimensional travel (used by the space convoys) tells Vanhi Kapoor, a former student of his, that Convoy 12, one of the planned convey missions, is based on faked science and so there is an opportunity for her to take it over for her experiments on a faster subdimensional drive. She later finds out that the science behind its original mission was correct, but Kaufman had bribed people to change the data to give Vanhi this opportunity. She reluctantly goes along with the mission and becomes the senior scientist of the expedition. An accident throws the convoy far into the future and causes Vanhi to become unstuck in time, randomly fading out for days from the point of view of others, although her reappearance is instantaneous to her. And then they discover what they think are live aliens.

In the far future, Convey Seven has returned to Earth and then relaunched itself as Noumenon Infinitum with a mission to return to the variable star and complete construction of the alien megastructure. On this mission, they have to deal with a disagreement over their mission that threatens to split the convoy into Noumenons Infinitum and Ultra. One of the engineers starts seeing and hearing the voices of his long-dead predecessors causing his sister and even the ICC to think him crazy or hallucinating. And they have to cope with a star-killer device.

Naturally, the reader assumes these two strands will merge. However, it takes nearly the whole book, with many further adventures, before they do.



The result is a story even longer and more complicated than the original **Noumenon** with chapter headers not only giving the Common Era year, reaching 8406 AD, but the years since relaunch (or days since the accident), and occasionally a third date referring to a previous incident. Characterization is stronger than in the original novel since the Convey 12 sections are a continuous narrative. And much of the struggles of Jamal the 18th are internal. But the characterization is still relatively weak, and even the author manipulating the plot to build a romantic relationship for Vanhi does

not make it believable.

Readers who liked **Noumenon** will enjoy **Noumenon Infinity** which in many ways is a more unified novel. It would be possible to read **Noumenon Infinity** without reading the earlier book, although readers would be confused at the start so this is not recommended. There is no summary of the original book.

Readers who enjoy wide scope science fiction and venturing into the unknown will find much in this book to their taste. Others may want more action or interesting characters. I recommend starting with the first book and treating it as a story collection, stopping at the end of a section if you do not like it.

I Do Nothing Every Day

The WSFA 1-18-19 meeting began when President Bob banged the gavel, “Attention, this is the second WSFA meeting in 2019. Welcome to 2019.” Sec Sam L. summed up the minutes.

Bill for Capclave present: We are having a meeting before first Friday 7 PM. For those already volunteers, you should have received notification of Capclave google group for announcements. New addition to staff, Dave Keener will be workshop coordinator so we have someone focused on that so Sam L. does not have to split himself. Nothing else for this year. At Illogicon last week, no memberships sold but Cathy sold three books. Nothing new on Capclave 2020 except waiting for final tally for WFC. Still a couple people who have not turned in their receipts. They have been notified. All the trophies and pins have been shipped. Last trophy arrived. After a while she realized a pin was there too. Also sent books. Eventual surplus we’re not sure where it is at, but our XX% share should be somewhere in the realm of \$XX. That money is exclusively for Capclave 2020. It does not go into the general fund but allocated to subsidize 2020. Bob said since we are trying to get more guests to come.



Trustees: Barry said, not yet but we’re getting there. A couple of people here who have never held a WSFA office, they should think about it. Greg said wants to see how things are run, first.

Small Press Award, So far we have XX stories said Carolyn. Sent XX to Paul. Kim said he got an email saying some were up. Paul sent around passwords. This year we sent the notice a few days earlier, but we have about the same number of stories. A third are people sending them themselves. About half male. Vampires, witches, lesbians, dogs (woof, woof), no cats, no dragons, no weres anythings, no zombines (Mike said, that bites). Initial boatload calmed down. About the same pace as last year so hopefully won’t have more than 136 stories. Already have one nomination from WSFA. Only had two last year. Rodger said will bake if there are six.

Talk SF gave schedule.

T-shirt committee – Cathy is at Arisia so don't know if she has talked to Steve about shirts.



Intertivities: Kim said today is Pooh Day, the birthday of A A Milne who said, people said nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day. Barry said after the meeting, we use his tablet to hear about Trump. Questions of where the Diet Crystal Pepsi is.

No old business.

New business: quiet.

No one new:

Announcements: Carolyn has a book to give away.

Steve: Universe is run by collaboration of Harpo Marx and Philip K Dick. Copies of Furiously Happy by Jenny Lawson. Had a few copies printed one page of Game of Thrones added. On her blog, the bloggiest.com has her reading excerpts from this collaboration.

Kim said Arlington Central Library will do a panel on writing YA science fiction.

Sam L. said Kennedy Center is showing Force Awakens with live symphony.

Balticon will have Greg Benford.

Sam L said people in WSFA can nominate for BSFS' Compton Crook Award.

Meeting to adjourn at 9:44.

Attendance: Carolyn Frank, Kimberly Hargan, Beth Jones, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Candy Madigan, Walter Miles, Sarah Mitchell, Sander Olson, Steve Smith, Michael Walsh, Eva Whitley, Ivy Yap, and Grig Larson.

Carolyn's Trip to Australia -- February 2019: Part I

By Carolyn Frank

Overview

My trip to Australia started with my flight into Brisbane (center of eastern coast). After 2 days of visiting the city and the Australia Zoo, I flew to Cairns (further north on eastern coast). I did not stay in Cairns but rode in a minibus north another hour to the very small seaside town of Port Douglas. I spent the next 3 days in Port Douglas, touring the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Wilderness.

From Cairns I flew south to Adelaide (on the southern coast). I spent one day in Adelaide and 2 days on Kangaroo Island. From Adelaide I flew to Melbourne (on southern coast across from Tasmania). I spent 3 days in Melbourne, seeing the city, attending the Penguin Parade, and touring Yarra Valley vineyards. From Melbourne I flew to Sydney (on the eastern coast, north of Canberra, the capital). I spent 3 days in Sydney, taking walking tours of the city, touring the Sydney Opera House, riding the ferries around Sydney Harbor including out to Manly Beach, and touring the Blue Mountains. Then I flew home.



I was in 3 different time zones. Brisbane and Port Douglas are in the state of Queensland at UTC +10; meaning if it is 8 PM today here, it is 11 AM tomorrow there. Adelaide and Kangaroo Island are in the state of Victoria at UTC +10:30 (a half hour off); meaning if it is 8 PM today here, it is 11:30 AM tomorrow there. Melbourne and Sydney are in the state of New South Wales at UTC +11; meaning if it is 8 PM today here, it is 12 noon tomorrow there. I did keep changing my watch and alarm clock; I just reset the date/time on my cameras once as I did not plan to take any photos late at night anyway.

Sunday February 10 Leaving Home

To start back at the beginning, it was 20 degrees here when I walked out the door Sunday morning at 7:30 AM. I wore a long sleeve blouse topped with my gray fleece zip sweater, topped by my packable down jacket, topped by my packable rain jacket. With gloves and scarf wrapped around my head, the only part that hurt with cold were my thumbs.



Metro worked, at least the parts I needed of the Red and Yellow lines, so no issues getting to National airport. TSA Pre check helped me keep on track timewise, and my flight made it to JFK with no noticeable issues. I had to ride a bus to get from terminal 3 to terminal 2, but JFK did NOT make me go through TSA again. On the flight to Los Angeles I watched the RBG documentary and Crazy Rich Asians.

The flight to Brisbane left nearly an hour late and never made up the time. I, however, mostly just slept. I did wake every two hours or so and take the No Jet Lag - and it worked great for me. The Ear Planes also worked well, as I never lost my hearing after any one of the 3 flights.

If they had dinner on the plane, I have no clue because I fell asleep (10 PM PST is 1AM EST, but we did not depart LA until nearly 11 PM). Breakfast was a ham and cheese omelet, a hash brown patty, 3 small cooked mushrooms and a slice of broiled tomato, and a portion of strawberry yogurt.

Although I flew out of DCA early Sunday morning, February 10th, my 14-hour flight from Los Angeles to Brisbane crossed the international date line, so February 11th never happened for me.

Tuesday February 12 Brisbane

After changing clothes at the airport restroom, I found the airport transfer and was taken to the hotel, Novotel Brisbane. Happily enough, they even had a room ready at 9 AM, so I could take my stuff up to the 8th floor where I have a nothing view and dump it. The first place I went was to a Telstra (the major Australian mobile phone provider) store in the Queen Street pedestrian-only shopping mall/street and purchased a SIM card for my travel smartphone for \$30 AUS. The SIM card is good for 28 days and comes with 10 GB of data. The number is +61 473 183 879.



I spent the day touring Brisbane, including a movie theater from the 1920s, their City Hall, and a former windmill. With the extreme heat (mid 90s) I kept ducking into air-conditioned places to catch my breath. Finally, I decided to ride the free ferry up and down the Brisbane river. About the same time, it started

to rain lightly. But the boat showed up and I rode it as far as it would go and back again, looking at the sights on the sides of the river. In an hour it had stopped raining and was just humid. For dinner I feasted on barramundi and bugs. Barramundi is an Australian white fish similar to grouper and Moreton Bay bugs are half size lobsters. And a local Moo Chu pilsner beer.



Brisbane is hot, 95 degrees hot, which is even a bit up there for them. My room here at the Novatel Brisbane does have AC, but it only will power on when I am in the room. It is now 9:06 PM, I have been back in the room for an hour and a half and it has gotten the room down to 70, or 21 Celsius as they say here.

Wednesday Feb 13 Brisbane and the Australia Zoo

Another day in the 90s, but I am not complaining. Although I set the hotel room thermostat to 18 (roughly 66) it never made it the room less than 69 or so. I fell asleep easily enough at 10 pm but I awoke at 3 am and never really got back to sleep. I got up at 5:30 AM and did the laundry that I never got around to doing the evening before. I managed to rig my portal plastic wash line up in the place of the hotel provided line, which was located nearly 6 feet above the tub.

This is Australia which is rather British, so instead of coffee service in the room, I got a hot pot suitable only for tea and a choice among Lady Grey, Darjeeling and Chamomile Tea. That plus a package of nuts became breakfast, as I had to be ready to catch my tour by 8 am.



One small bus brought us to the Brisbane Transit Center and a somewhat larger one took a group of 20 or so to the Australian Zoo. The Zoo is located about an hour's drive north of Brisbane, but we ran into the morning rush hour jams trying to leave the city. For a place with only 1.2 million people they do know how to do traffic jams. Of course, they are British style jams, as these folk also drive on the left.

The Australian Zoo featured a number of keeper talks and shows, and I managed to view the small-clawed otter talk, the koala bear talk (with follow up chance to pet a very soft koala), the raptor bird talk featuring an Aussie eagle, an Aussie owl, and a kookaburra, and of course the main show featuring flying macaws, dingoes and crocodiles --- this is the home base of Crocodile Dundee, Steve Irwin. My personal high point of the day was hand feeding kangaroos, both the gray and the red ones.

I also walked around much of the zoo visiting wombats, black necked aka Jabiru storks (similar to the ones we did not see in Belize, but I did see in Costa Rica) and lots of crocodiles and birds. Unfortunately, the Tasmanian Devils made themselves invisible, as did many of the other Australian animals. But they had koalas in several different places including a koala walk, where each "tree" (a set of 3-inch diameter bark covered poles with two containers of eucalyptus branches attached to the bottom) had a sign stating if a koala was resident.

I got myself a pulled pork with pear salad for lunch, which I ate while watching the crocodile show. They had numerous water foundations around the park, and I kept refilling my mini-water bottles. According to the folks at the gift shops, the only places with AC, the temperature was 38 (roughly 100) with humidity to match. Most of the group had had it by 3:30 and congregated in the bus; I was the last to

arrive at 3:38 (the official pick up time was between 3:40 and 3:50). I spent some of the time on the trip back confirming my airport transfers for tomorrow, and some time napping.

For dinner, I headed back to the Queen Street shopping mall and ate at the Pig N Whistle, a British pub located in the middle of the pedestrian street. I dined on a platter of Moreton Bay bugs, 6 king prawns (served with both head and tails on), and 3 pieces of very tender calamari in a light garlic tomato sauce, with broccolini on the side. I washed it all down with a large (8 ounce) glass of Hunter Valley Riesling. Being so much closer to the equator, the sun went down around 7 pm and the temperature did start to fade. On my way back, I stopped at a Coles grocery store and bought myself 2 white peaches for breakfast tomorrow, some Lamingtons (sort of small cake cookies) and some kangaroo jerky to try.

Thursday February 14 Brisbane to Port Douglas



I started the day in Brisbane where it was a relatively cool 81 degrees at 9 AM. Since the pickup for my transfer to the airport was not scheduled until 11:30, I decided to find a post office. On the way as directed by the front desk, I found a third different route to the center mall area. This route involved underpasses, each of which was painted in a different mural style.

Of course, the post office has moved, but after asking three different building guards, I finally found its new digs. The city post office looked more like a FedEx store here. With some more time available I found the original city treasury building, a gorgeously ornate Empire style edifice, which has now been transformed into a casino. They kept as much of the original ornate doors, ceilings and floors as they could. And since it was a casino, I could wander everywhere -- just could not take any photos.

And then came the low point of the day. I had completely packed before I left on my walk, so I came back around 10:30, with plenty of time to check out by 11, and wait for the airport transfer to pick me up at 11:35. Everything worked as planned except the getting picked up.

At noon I called the transfer office, and after waiting on hold, I was finally told that they contacted the driver and although he was complaining about the high level of traffic, he would be there in 7 minutes. The 7 minutes was curious, but he did show up within the next 10 or so minutes. The problem from my perspective is that my flight was due to leave at 1:25 PM and it was already 12:15. The driver then proceeded to pick up someone else before finally heading to the airport. He did head out of the normal departure lanes and brought us in front of Qantas, and then Virgin Australia. He went to drive on until I yelled. He unloaded my suitcase and I ran to the Virgin Australia counter. I informed the line monitor of my issue, and he finally found me a clerk to check me in. The problem was that it turned 1 PM as I stood in front of the clerk and he said that the flight baggage had closed. He called and they agreed to accept my checked bag. He said to get to the gate ASAP.



Of course, I had to go through security first. The scanner did not like my bag, security asked if I had a tablet, which I did, so they scanned that separately and the bag again. Then they had me, the tablet, my purse, and the bag wanded for explosives. I was about ready to explode but security eventually let me go.

And of course, gate 44 was at the far end of a long concourse. Boarding was already underway, but I was not at the tail end of the queue. Once safely on board, the woman sitting next to me explained that something had delayed boarding for everyone. Since I physically did not set foot into the plane until 1:20, I was thankful for whatever had delayed them. After all that, the flight was an uneventful 2 hours along Australia's coast. I had been unaware of all the sandy beaches and off-shore small islands all along the way.

The transfer from the Cairns Airport to Port Douglas went much better. Although we were slated to leave at 4:30 PM, since everyone scheduled for the trip was on board, we left at 4:10. This was good because although Port Douglas is only 57 kilometers from Cairns, much of the trip was along a highly scenic 2-lane road that curved around and went up and down as we edged along the ocean.

The driver got me to the Meridian Short Stay hotel here in Port Douglas about 5:40 PM, which was before the office closed at 6. Except no one was around the office. However, the driver figured out how to find the room key and showed me directions to the room. While I stood dithering, the owner showed up and checked me in. He even brought me up to the room and explained how things work.



He told me of a seafood restaurant down the block, and after dumping my stuff, I took off. 2 Fish, the restaurant, said they were completely booked as it is Valentine's Day. But they took pity on me especially after I promised I would be gone by dinner time -- 7:30/8 around here. I had the most impressive dinner -- a whole baby barramundi fish (at least a foot from nose to tail -- both of which were still attached), coated in panko, and served standing upright (using its fins as stabilizers) atop a very light slightly tart berry glaze. After I took a photo of it, the couple sitting at the next table were so impressed by it, that they offered to take photos of me with my (Valentine) fish! The fish was served with a cone of jasmine rice and a "salad" of coleslaw veggies and shredded cabbage with a mild vinaigrette. The local brewery, Hemingway's, provided a very drinkable pilsner.

After dinner I walked the entire main street, all 4 blocks of it, looking for the Coles supermarket in the dark (the sun had set at 6:50 PM). I found the Target and reasoned the supermarket should be nearby, and it was. I bought breakfast makings for the next 4 mornings here -- passion fruit flavored yogurt, local raspberries, local white peaches, fresh lychee nuts and a passion fruit, because I am interested in trying a fresh one. At 9:40 PM, it is still 76 degrees, down from the 98 at the high point.

Friday February 15 Trip to Great Barrier Reef

A truly marvelous day: gorgeous tropical weather with temperatures in the high 80s with a warm breeze under a bright blue sky. For breakfast, I sat out on my front balcony amid the tropical plants and enjoyed

a cup of peppermint tea with passion fruit yogurt, fresh raspberries, three lychee nuts, and a white peach.

A 10-minute walk brought me to the Marina, where I boarded a ship with more than 400 other folks. It took an hour and a half to journey out to the edge of the Great Barrier Reef where they had a platform with places for snorkeling, for underwater viewing, for boarding a semi-submersible glass sided boat (all of which I did) and for scuba diving and helicopter riding (neither of which appealed). In two half-hour glass sided boat tours I only saw one sea turtle, but lots of reef fish and coral. And while snorkeling I took lots of underwater photos - quality quite unknown.



The Reef apparently had major bleaching seasons in 2016 and 2017, so it looked rather like the reef near Cancun when I snorkeled there 20 years ago, not at all like the photos one sees. Yes, clumps of green and blue corals could be seen, but none of the red or yellow varieties. And quite visible sets of bleached white corals. On the positive side, lots of sergeant major fish, just like in the Caribbean, but also Nemo (clown) fish, parrotfish, and varieties of wrasse (one at least 4-foot-long) and drum. Also, large families of small bright blue fish.

I had just emerged from a glass sided boat ride to find the lunch buffet. I ignored 90% of the offerings and loaded up on peel-your-own prawns, and a fresh greens salad, followed up some fresh watermelon and pineapple. Among the 15+ crew, the 3 with "Marine Biologist" listed on the backs of their shirts proved fascinating to converse with. They answered all sorts of questions from climate change to why cyclones and volcanos are not part of Australia's weather/geology, although monsoons are.

We arrived back at the marina by 4:30, and then all the folks who stayed in Cairns got to get on their buses for another hour and a half ride back to their hotels. By choosing to stay in Port Douglas, I am at the point from which all tours in the area take off -- something that now I am profoundly grateful for. I much prefer getting ready to be picked up at 8:30 or 9 AM, rather than at 7 or 7:30.

I wandered back through the town, which I'd only seen in the dark yesterday. I got to view the jewelry store that showcases Australia's primary claim to jewel fame, opals. I found some additional restaurant options for seafood dinners and a pharmacy which sold me some sore throat lozenges which one could never purchase in the US; these include an anesthetic for the back of the throat as well as an antibiotic. I hope they forestall me getting another cold....

For dinner I ate at On the Inlet. They featured mud crabs, which although I wanted, I could not order, as these guys are twice the size of Dungeness crabs -- and I was not about to try eating 2 pounds of crab at one sitting. Instead I selected the 500 grams (which is still 1.1 pounds) of coral trout, a white meat reef fish. They cooked it in the crispy whole fashion, which again gave me a 12-inch fish (including both nose and tail) standing up on a plate. This came with a Thai caramel (lighted spiced pineapple) sauce and a salad of Asian slaw. It was all quite messy and quite delicious.

I came back to my apartment with the washer/dryer for the section of living units outside my door. I dumped all my pants plus everything else I have worn for the past two days in and got them washed and dried. After all the 90-degree weather and associated sweating, it will be lovely to have everything clean after being on the road for the past 4 days.

I'll Take Your Money For Anything, I Was Furloughed

The WSFA 2-1-19 began with President Bob banging the gavel. "Alright people, it's time to start." Calls to adjourn were ignored by the chair. This is the first Friday meeting in February. We started at 9:15. Sam L read the minutes from last meeting. Sam S gave the account \$XXX , year over year is \$XXX XX than last year. This does not include the World Fantasy numbers. Pay your dues. Can take cash, check, or credit card. Bill asked, no bitcoin?



Bill for Capclave 2019. We had our meeting, which most of you were at. Things are on track. (But does the track lead anywhere asked Madeleine). Shahid made offer to do the program book, we will push to have the program book ready. He is one of the publishers of Rob Sawyer so very excited. Things are on track. There was a discussion afterward on space use. We will be doing programming culling very soon and add ons. We have contacted the Guests of Honor; Martha has her plane tickets, waiting to hear from Rob about his travel plans but that is progressing. Going fairly well. Registrations are XX, a little ahead of pace. Get your Capclave memberships. <I'll take your money for anything, I was furloughed, said Sam S.> We have tables coming up at Farpoint, Boskone, Mysticon, I believe (said Cathy) at RegenWho at the BSFS table, Awesomecon, Ravencon, Balticon. If people going to Heliosphere, we have space available shared with DC2021. Cathy has flyers and business cards. Sherrin has a different design for rack cards and business cards. People should take them to libraries, gaming stores, other cons or anywhere. Help Capclave.

Bill for WFC . Sam S. said, it appears that the surplus is almost exactly \$XX. I won't know until all the checks clear. It's what's left at the bank account that counts. WSFA's share is about \$XX. Bill said you need to keep this aside for 2020.

Bill said there are a few invites outstanding and then we will get guests. I talked to Collette about alterations to the 19 account to get Foyer space for the Writer's reception so we have space for more tables. At that time will decide on a weekend for 2020. May depend if our guest has a preference. We have money to make Capclave 2020 extra special.

Trustees, there will be an election said Rodger, talk to trustees. Trustees will assemble a slate of not Bill and not Cathy.

Small Press. There will be XX stories up said Paul. Cathy said half author submitted, a little ahead of where we were. No trends so far according to Carolyn. Read the stories now said Paul. Rodger said bribe if get six people nominating stories. If 12, will bake twice. "I will bake six times for the general membership."

WSFA Press. Gayle said we do have the Alette de Bodard. We sent the preordered copies. Trying to send the author copies through customs. Skipping a book this year, hopefully will do



something special in 2020. Will be up on website and Amazon. Make great gifts for Valentine's Day. Paul said She's French, so is Valentine's Day, do I need to connect the dots?

Website: Status quo. Let them know of anything to put up on the website.

Social media. Dodos are hiding from the cold. Huddling under blankets. Need to start making donuts said Sarah. Bill said people are posting to the Facebook page.

T-shirts. Cathy is charged with talking shirts to Steve. Bob reminded her that she has money.

Talk SF. Hugo nominations.

Entertivities. Kim said Wheel of Time is in production for Amazon Bill said, Sahid announced a new Heinlein novel 666, a different ending to the *Number of the Beast*. Alternate alternate history. Gayle said funny commercials for Lexus with Harrison Ford. Paul, Space X is assembling their test Starship that looks like a Buck Rodger spaceship. Expect to have a prototype to reach orbit next year.

No old business.

New business. Bill was interrupted by Sam S who said, you're not allowed, you used up all of yours. Discussion of possible third Friday locations if needed.

Announcements: Leo from Chile. A Worldcon in 2021 in DC sounds great. Running Chile sf group, wants to come and help. I finally become a doctor who specializes in dermatology. Become a published author in Amazing Stories in Spanish.

Mark announced song circle at 7:30. Bill said BLS were employed all month. Fed workers were counted as employed, but may need to correct for contractors who had no one answering the phone.

Paul, Michael Walsh always has books, similarly I have eggs. See him after the meeting.

Judy said Arlington Library hosting a Lit Up Ball in March. Semiannual book sale in April. Courtni said Marlon James on Feb 6th, fantasy novel set in Nigeria. NK Jemsin and Due at Folgers in Feb 12. Charlie Jane Anders Feb 16. Leckie and Jemsin on March 4. Sam S said Jemsin has an op-ed in the Post yesterday.



Meeting adjourned 9:52, cool. Love it.

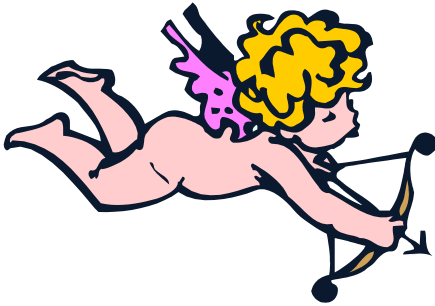
Attendance: Courtni Y. Burleson, Rodger Burns, Apurva Desai, Cathy Green, Paul Haggerty, Kimberly Hargan, David Keener, Judy Kindell, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Michel Nelson, Sam Pierce, Mark Roth, Judy and Sam Scheiner, Gayle Surrette, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, and Madeleine Yeh.

Has WSFA Turned Invisible?

The WSFA 2-15-19 had a small attendance. Alright, let's get on with it said VP George, called to order at 9:23. Nothing from treasurer.

Sam L. read minutes. George did not see Capclave Present, Future, treasurer, or book people. For the Small Press Committee, Rodger said stories coming in, no update since last minute. Nominations open to club. Rodger will bake cookies if six people nominate. admin@wsfasmallpressaward.org.

Trustees. Rodger said election in May. Assembling a slate. Bill and Cathy are not on it. If interested in running for a position, see Rodger. George offered to chair Capclave 2021.



Kim said Farpoint was fun. Got support for Worldcon. Sold one Aliette de Bodard book. People took info but no one signed up for Capclave. Talked it up. People interested in writing.

No old business.

New business. Kim said made contact with a podcast person, might be interested in doing podcast from Capclave. Will talk to Bill. Kim offered to take charge of this.

Talk SF announced what issues of sf magazines would be discussed at future meetings.

Announcements: The Opportunity Rover died. It lasted far longer than its specs.

Meeting unanimously adjourned 9:39.

Attendance: Rodger Burns, Kimberly Hargan, David Holden, Beth Jones, Sam Lubell, Candy Madigan, Walter Miles, George Shaner, and Mike Taylor

