

# The WSFA Journal

March/April  
2019

Edited by Sam Lubell

## John Carter (of Mars) Lives!

Prez Bob said, "Let's have a meeting. It's 9:15 on March the First. 2019 is really moving." Sam L read minutes from last meeting. Sam S said they discovered a unit far far out. Bob said talked to Joe Siclari who said he had *WSFA Journals* we don't have on the website. He does Fanac stuff. He offered to scan them for our website.

Treasurer Sam said: \$\$ does not include the WFC stuff. Year over year \$\$\$

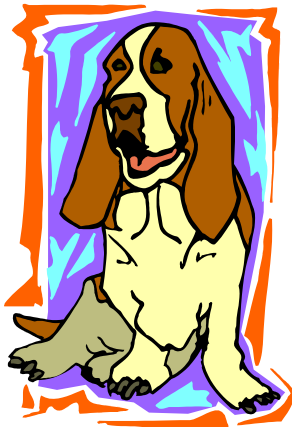
Capclave present. Bill said, Reg is ###, picked up ##, typical for the year. On the piano are rack cards and bookmarks to distribute. I need to talk to Kim and Sam and Cathy. Things are progressing. Will accelerate soon. We have Balticon coming soon which is a big convention to pick up members.



WFC. Bill has nine bags. For sale. Wine bottle capacity. Reconciliation of WFC budget has not been done. If checks are not cashed by April meeting we should cancel and call it a donation.

Capclave 2020. Bill has paper with names of guests of Honor. Based on vote and list. WSFA club guest is Peter Beagle. Our first WSFA small press winner. For Bill's guest, he thought out of the box. WFC award winning editor Troy Wiggins from Fiyah magazine.

Feast or Famine. Other invites have gone out. Ken Liu has agreed to come back. Michael Dirda will put it on his calendar. Jeff Ford will come back. Carrie Vaughn and Cat Valente did agree. Sarah Beth Durst and Tim Powers. Unfortunately Holly Black cannot make it. Passed names to Paul and Gayle for website and artist for Rack Cards to think about going big. Date waiting for the contract to be signed but should be settled before this year's Capclave. More to come.



Cathy said, for publicity end of things, we do have a table for Heliosphere April 5 – 7. Can be joint with DC 2021. The convention pulls from New England as well as from South of NY. Charlie Jan Anders, Tom Smith. Let Cathy know if you will be attending.

Trustees: None.

Talk SF: Gave schedule.

Social media. Dodos have been dropping hints about guests. Dodos did dance of joy and then have to eat pie.

Submit nominations to WSFA small press award, if six people nominate Rodger will bake. Cathy said probably on track for 140 stories. People have about a month to nominate. The Hugo deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup>.

WSFA Press – No book this year said Sam. Cathy said sold almost all the books they had at Boskone. One couple did a deal for one copy of everything on the table. Went through all the Valente books (she was there with her baby). There were a lot of sales. We did very well at Boskone. One membership.

Intertivities: Kim said NASA is giving weather reports from Mars. Fencing Federation of France has recognized lightsaber combat as official. There was a convention of Mermaids in Virginia. Sarah Pinsker book launch.

Cathy will email Steve Stiles.

No old business

New business. Fifth Friday this month. No volunteers for a party.

Announcements: Sam S reminded people to pay dues.

Mark said they have found subsurface water channels on Mars. Yes, canals on Mars. John Carter lives.

Elizabeth brought cupcakes; one has a secret doll for Marti Gras.

Cathy said the NK Jemisin event at P&P is cancelled.

Mike Walsh said Feb 26 Janet Asimov (Jepson) died.

Attendance: Ken Byrer, Apurva Desai, Cathy Green, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Eugenia Martin, Sarah Mitchell, Kathi Overton, Aaron & Angela Pound, Mark Roth, Judy & Sam Scheiner, George Shaner, Elizabeth Twitchell, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, and Madeleine Yeh.

## Carolyn's Trip to Australia -- February 2019

### Part II 2/16-2/19

By Carolyn Frank

#### **Saturday February 16 tour to Cape Tribulation and the Daintree Wilderness**

This tour is a small bus tour heading north from Port Douglas. I was in the next to last set of folks to be picked up. With all 22 of us on board, our driver/tour guide parked the bus and gave us a brief summary of the day. He then asked if anyone wanted to ride in the passenger seat beside him. When no one volunteered, I did, and got to ride shotgun all day.

The positive side included getting to talk with our very informative guide when he was not speaking over headphones to the group and the marvelous panoramic view from the front of a 30-person minibus. The other side was that the seat was close to 5 feet off the ground. Luckily there was a small step and a major hand rail on the left side, which is clearly my stronger side, for pulling myself up.

We headed off to the Daintree River, which is supposedly filled with crocodiles. When we got to the visitors' center, they served us Daintree tea, coffee, and some biscuits (cookies) for morning tea. We walked down to the river launch and, very carefully avoided stepping in the water, got on our flat bottom boat.

When we crossed the river, the guide/boat captain spotted a crocodile way up on a sand bank beneath some brush. It was nearly impossible to see -- and then we never saw another one! Several boats were on the river and they kept radioing to each other

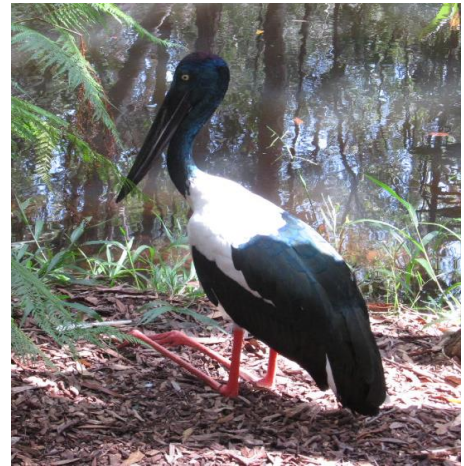


that they could not find a single croc. The issue was that the area had a one-in-a-hundred years flood 3 weeks ago at the end of January, and the flood had brought down mangrove trees along the banks where the crocs like to hang out. So as far as I could tell, the crocs were off somewhere sulking.

But it was lovely, slowly drifting down the huge river (probably 250+ feet across where we were) and seeing the mangroves. No birds either; apparently the area had a heat wave, over 100 degrees in November, and most birds decided to head towards Sydney until the end of summer when the weather stays a bit cooler. Today's temps were in the high 90s with a light breeze.

The Daintree Wilderness is the oldest tropical rain forest in the world; it dates back at least 10 million years. It looks just like the rain forests in Costa Rica and Belize, but it has cassowaries (at least lots of signs saying to look out for them, but our guide says only about 65 are known to live in the area) and lots of really nasty plants that shoot toxins and hooks at passing animals.

Our guide stopped the bus at a fruit stand out in the middle of nowhere and encouraged folks to buy mangosteens and rambutans (lychee nuts with coats of red wavy tendrils). As they only came in several kilo bags, I begged one of each from folks who had bought them. Our guide showed us how to eat them, which was quite messy, and suggested we wait to eat ours after we got off the bus tour.



We stopped at several look outs over the Coral Sea (which I now understand to be the chunk of the Pacific Ocean between Australia and Vanuatu) and the rain forest. Then we headed to lunch at a place that Richard Attenborough had stayed when he did a TV special on the Wilderness several years ago. The food was quality; I had a huge piece of barramundi fish with a mixed green salad and a veggie risotto.

Then we headed further north to Cape Tribulation. This is where Captain Cook came ashore after ramming a big hole in his ship on the Barrier Reef. Since his ship was the first European ship to find the east side of Australia (apparently the Dutch had sailed along the west side of the continent a decade or so earlier), they knew they needed to fix the ship themselves as no one was going to be coming along to rescue them.

As he was not impressed by either the natives or the potential for farming, after he returned to England two years later (1772), the English pretty much ignored Australia until we Americans rebelled and refused to allow England to ship any more convicts to us. Then the English started shipping convicts to what is now Sydney, and Australia got started.

We turned south again and visited the Mossman Gorge visitors' center, where we were served afternoon tea; this came with warm Aussie scones served with clotted cream (which I ignored) and some marvelous strawberry jam. Afterwards a native Aborigine gave us a very brief intro to his language and to some of the rain forest fruits and leaves that they use. As we mangled the words, he kept insisting that the only word we could say was "kookaburra".



We walked around the Mossman Gorge, which centers on the Mossman River. This river was emerald green, which our guide

explained was the result of blue river water flowing over bright yellow sand -- so we see green. The walk was at the top of the rain forest height and included a suspension bridge. Again, not many birds but a schefflera plant about 20 times the size of the one in the pot in my kitchen and another schefflera that grows as epiphyte.

Then we headed back, having learned a great deal of Australian history and botany. Since we were back by 5 PM and I was not hungry, I did a walk around of the Port Douglas headland. I found one lookout platform, but the path onwards was washed out. I walked the back roads to the other side of the headland (a total of maybe 5 long blocks) and found Sunset Park. I watched some girls playing cricket and waited for the sun set (around 6:50 PM). The sun set into a cloud bank above a set of hills, so it was nothing much.



As I walked back through town along the main street, the huge trees were filled with extremely loud birds. After research I found that lorikeets, Martells starlings and fruit bats all congregate in these trees every day from about an hour before to an hour after sunset. And they were louder than the amplified guitar duo playing in a bar nearby. As I was not especially hungry, I made my dinner of the mangosteen, rambutan and the passion fruit that I had bought earlier.

### **Sunday February 17 tour of the Low Isles**

Today's tour on a catamaran to the Low Isles was fabulous. The weather cooperated with temps only going into the high 80s and sunny. The catamaran held 20 adult passengers and 2 kids (6 months and 4 years), with a captain and crew of 2. We motored out to the Low Isles, two islands that are part of the Inner Reef. Low Island, the one we visited, has a lighthouse, complete with osprey nest on the top, housing for light house keepers (who are long retired as the light is now fully automated), restrooms

with composting toilets, and 8 wood beach umbrellas with benches. That's it, no electricity, no water (the light house keepers had rain barrels}.

The catamaran tied up to a buoy which had a glass bottom boat/tender attached. We all moved into the tender which brought us to the white sandy beach. On the catamaran they provided a full body suit to anyone who was going in the water, as jellyfish were known to be around. They also provided fins, masks and snorkels. So as soon as we dumped our stuff under the beach umbrellas, we headed out snorkeling from the beach. Since they also provided swim noodles and the water was dead calm, it was easy to play follow the leader. Category one cyclone Oma was apparently doing its thing somewhere out in the Pacific, but it was headed towards Queensland southern beaches (Port Douglas is considered part of the northern beaches) much later in the week and had no impact on us.



I saw and attempted to photograph 4 sea turtles, many different types of fish (actually the same types of fish I had seen out at the Outer Reef), and different types of coral. The coral here was just as bleached as the coral at the Outer Reef. Comments from one of the crew later included the sobering thought that if the water temperature keeps rising at the current rate, the Reef will be dead in ten to twenty years. After the snorkeling trip, I changed my clothes as only advanced snorkelers were going out again after lunch. We had a short tour of the structures on the island and then

everyone piled back on the tender and we returned to the catamaran.

There we enjoyed a buffet featuring tiger prawns (of course with heads, tails and shells still attached). Also, roast beef, ham, chicken to be made into sandwiches, and some veggie pasta; all of which I ignored. They also provided a mixed green salad with lots of cucumbers, so that was the rest of my lunch.

After lunch, the advanced snorkelers snorkeled off the boat and 8 of us went for a tour in the glass bottom boat. However, the neatest sight was looking out over the water to see a green sea turtle swimming along the surface about ten feet from our boat. We saw more of the reef fish and corals, and a huge giant clam -- at least 6 feet wide.

After we returned, the crew had beer and wine available, along with some brownies and little cake squares for dessert. I enjoyed a Great Northern lager, a mild Aussie beer. A while later the crew came around with sliced watermelon, cantaloupe, pineapple and honeydew. Then the crew put up the two sails and we sailed away. This was obviously the captain's favorite part of the trip; he said we were going at around 5 knots. But after 20 minutes or so, he put the engine back on so we could get back to port by 4 pm.

Although this group had insisted on picking us up on a minibus to bring us to the wharf, the minibus was not yet there when we returned, so several of us just walked the 4 or 5 blocks back to our hotels. Then I turned right around and headed to the ATM and the Coles supermarket. My scratchy throat of Friday turned into a full-fledged cold, so I went to buy a nasal inhaler for the flight tomorrow and some eucalyptus (feeling very koala-like now) cough drops. Also figuring that I had already met my quota



for alcohol and fish for the day, and was not very hungry, I bought myself a ready-made edamame salad for dinner.

I came back, started a load of laundry and organizing myself for packing up. As I sat to eat my dinner salad, the power died. As those of us in residence wandered down to the front desk to find out what happened, the owner said that all power for the town comes from Cairns and severe electrical storms were happening there. Apparently, this happens often enough; he said the power would be back on in a half hour or so. And it was.

### **Monday February 18 travel to Adelaide**

I woke before the 5 am alarm, coughing, but the rest of the day was much better. I finished off the last of the raspberries, passion fruit yogurt and white peach. I was fully packed and out the door waiting for the transfer van by 7:05 AM, and it showed on time at 7:15. The driver picked up several more passengers in Port Douglas and then headed down the road to the Cairns airport.

The distance is only about 40 miles, but for the first 20 miles the road parallels the coast and goes up and down and around. Of course, the driver also pulled off into several small beach towns along the way to pick up more passengers. And then we met the Cairns rush hour. By 8:45 we could see the airport tower and the general aviation buildings, but we crawled along at 5 kph (which is twice as slow as 5 mph). Eventually we got to airport and the driver dropped a few of us at the domestic terminal.

I managed to locate the correct line for check in even though I already printed my boarding pass and got my bag checked through. Then I waited through Australian security, you can keep your shoes on and just walk through an old fashion security machine. Being early this time, I enjoyed wandering through the gift shops, you can buy a stuffed wombat or platypus, crocodile belts, skins and heads, and scarves made with Aboriginal patterns.

No one called the flight for boarding, you were expected to be watching the display departure boards to get the correct gate and time. I had to put both my carry-on and my purse on the scale to ensure that the combined weight was less than 7 kilos. Although the airport person did not inform me of the precise value, it was sufficiently less that she put an orange tag on them to say I was OK. I had measured them with my travel scale, and it said the carry-on was 10 pounds and the purse around 4 (1 kilo according to Google is 15.4 pounds).



The Jetstar flight not only did not start boarding on time, it also had to wait in a queue to take off. So we were late leaving and our 2 hour 54 minute flight got in at 2:20 PM Adelaide time (which is half an hour off from Cairns or Brisbane time). On the Jetstar (which is even more skinflint than Southwest), you apparently had to pay for even water. But the stewardess coming through, looked at me and said "Carolyn, you have a \$15. credit. Look at the menu in the seat pocket and tell me what you would like." So, I did and ended up with a chicken pasta salad with precisely 2 spinach leaves, a slice of banana bread and a half size bottle of water.

The driver from the transfer service had my name in large black letters on an iPad (apparently the way it is done nowadays) so I located him easily, found my bag and we took off with me the only passenger in his Town Car equivalent. He had some time available and so decided to give me a tour of the city as we drove to the hotel. Given my stay in Adelaide is to be

less than 24 hours, that was fine by me. Eventually we got to the Ibis Hotel on Grennell and I checked in, but their wi-fi was down.

I dumped my stuff and took off on a walk to see if I could find a seafood restaurant that was highly recommended and to see the nearby pedestrian shopping mall. I located the restaurant and then located the 1885-built shopping arcade leading into the pedestrian mall. While walking the pedestrian mall, I located a Coles supermarket and purchased a banana and a white peach for tomorrow's breakfast.

I enjoyed my dinner at Louca's Seafood Restaurant. The King George Whiting fillet (charcoal grilled) reminded me of a flavorful rainbow trout. The Snapper fillet (also a local fish) was as moist and flaky as any white fish that I've ever had. The Adelaide Hills rose was just dry enough to make a flavorful accompaniment to the fish.

The wi-fi in the hotel was not available at check in, not available after my walk, and still not available after dinner. The front desk person's response, as I had inquired each time I walked past, was that they had suffered such a hard server crash, that they were awaiting the delivery of a replacement overnight.

When I was wandering the pedestrian mall, I stopped to chat with the guy at the Fringe Adelaide booth. Their Festival had just started, and it was huge (they have been having a Fringe Festival annually since 1960). I would have gone to a show except that I needed to get up at 4 AM to catch the bus to Kangaroo Island. They did have a free sound and light show near the river after sunset, around 8:30 PM here.

So around 8:15, I headed off, only to find the formerly bustling pedestrian mall completely quiet and empty. Even the city's main street had maybe two people per block. Very few cars either, so it felt quite spooky. I walked 5 or so blocks to the Torrens River, took a few photos, and decided I did not feel comfortable with no one about, so walked back to the hotel. With not much else to do, I went to bed.

### Ken Liu's WSFA Small Press Award Story Sold to Netflix

Alright, said Prez Bob. He banged the gavel. Third Friday in March (3-15-19) 9:15. Long and short of the last meeting. Sam L read summary of minutes.



Bill said books still not closed for WF because one person has not cashed her check. Cathy Bill Sarah and Sam L had dinner to put together list of people to invite. Still need to discuss racks and rooms because we probably had too many last time so will look at fixing it this time. Website for 2020 doesn't have location until we have contract. Moving along. Nothing new on members. He will not be at meetings next month due to conventions. Will email Bob.

Capclave 2020. Bill said, Peter Beagle and Troy Wiggins as guests. Peter is a first Small Press winner. Troy is editor of *Fiyah*, an African American literary magazine. On the website confirms from Howard Waldrop, Sarah Beth Durst. And today Alyssa Wong told me she can come back, and during dinner I got a note saying Connie Willis is interested, but hasn't given full response. List is looking solid. We're progressing. Hopefully the guests will give us a bump in attendance. Walsh said this is a guest list most cons would be happy with just one. Cathy said about two-thirds of our members come for a specific guest. Bill said, it will be madhouse in some respect. We need people to gather and care for specific authors. Logistics of getting people from the airport. We may need to pick up multiple people at one time. We're looking pretty good. Mike said opportunity for people to purchase WSFA Press books and get them signed.

Small Press Award. Carolyn said sent 150 stories to Paul to put up. This is high. Last year at this time it was 76. I still have another 5 more. So far 47 sent by people themselves. 3 from WSFA members. We have not heard from Neil Clarke, from Beyond Ceaseless Skies, from the Australians. Last year in April I got 50 stories between april 1 and 8<sup>th</sup>. Last year had 136 total. Still no cats. Three Alice in Wonderland, 3 Gilgamesh bar. Not as many new kickstarters. Cathy said more kickstarters are failing. Deadline is April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Intertivities – Sarah said the Ken Liu story that won small press award has been sold to Netflix anthology show Love, Death, and Robots. Sam L should send reminders email.

No trustees. Bob said trustees need to develop a slate. Bill said Cathy, Sam, and I need to talk about a book for 2020.



Old business: We have a fifth Friday, If anyone wants to host, now is the time to chirp. The noise is deafening, said the prez.

New business. Cathy said, Got in touch with Zenlizard. Gaithersburg book festival. May 18<sup>th</sup>. We have bookmarks. Need people to help with tabling. We did sell a bunch of books. With more people, more time to see the festival. Check the website for authors. Email [Capclave@gmail.com](mailto:Capclave@gmail.com). We have a table at heliosphere. Tabling at Balticon.

Eva is willing to host if people bring their own chair. Cathy suggested seeing if people can borrow chairs from Judy S.

Announcements: Bill said DC in 2021 was the only bid that filed. Progressing developing committee, name, and committee. Deadline was last month.

There will be a surprise guest visiting first Friday of May which may be a reading.

Sam L announced he has a new job as a government contractor.

Carolyn said, I went to Australia, did nothing science fictional, had custom tour to see animals. None of them tried to kill me. I saw over 60 kolras and pet 12 of them. Saw over 120 kangaroos and wallabies and fed about a dozen. It was a great trip and I want to go back. Cathy asked about the big spiders. Saw one on the top of her bus. Lots of wild seals and sea lions. Went to Phillip Island and saw the Penguin parade, lots of little penguins. Fat penguins that are ready to molt, keep falling over.

Mike Walsh has books.

Cathy said WSFA Press books make great gifts.

Adjourned 9:55

Attendance: Carolyn Frank, Cathy Green, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, Michael Ikeda, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Candy Madigan, Sarah Mitchell, Mike Taylor, Michael Walsh, Eva Whitley, Ivy Yap, and Robin Klipple.

### **Leaked Hugo Finalist List By Sam Lubell**

4/1/19-The Hugo Finalist List has leaked. Looks like the Irish Worldcon can't keep a secret. Here it is:



*The Ravens' Tower* by Ann Yeckie - During WWII a group of British Nazis plot the destruction of England by birdnapping the ravens of the Tower of London to activate the curse that Crown and Kingdom will fall if the ravens desert the Tower.

*The Calculating Stars* by Marty Batman Powal - In Hollywood, the devil makes a deal with aging actresses to get them leading roles in the new blockbuster movie.

*Space Opera* by Katherine M(aybe) Valentine - The entire book is written in song lyrics telling the story of Space Marine corporal Okay Jose who is lured away from his duty by space gypsy Carmen who then leaves him for alien fighter Iscampy. The music is sold separately.



*I Can Win You a Hugo, This Book is Proof* by Loki Shyster - Would-be author hires Loki Shyster to manipulate the Hugo vote to win the Hugo Award. The text contains repeated mentions of Shyster's phone number and how he promises to get authors more recognition.



*The Robots of Gotham* by Jason Todd McFaulty - Novelization of the latest Batman movie. Batman fights giant robots. "Get out of my city!"

*The Subsuming Fire* by Johns Scuzzy - As the currents in space allowing travel between the different planets of the Codependency collapse, the characters are reduced to cursing their fate, which they do extensively.

Note: *The Delirium Brief* by Harlie Boss has been ruled ineligible. Considering the whole Brexit mess, judges found the idea that Cthulhu runs the British bureaucracy to be plausible so the book may be non-fiction.

Oh, and in case you haven't figured out. April's Fool!

### Future of WSFA Slated

Minutes for WSFA First Friday Meeting, April 5, 2019 in Arlington, Virginia. Recorded by acting secretary Kim Hargan.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 pm by Bob MacIntosh.

There was no reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, as the acting secretary had none.

Financial report: As of April 2019 WSFA has \$\$\$ (Sam said don't spend it all in one place!) in its accounts, which is a \$\$ year-over-year increase. Approximately \$\$ is intended for CapClave 2020. There are ## memberships for CapClave 2019, which is ahead of pace (there were ## in March, which is twice the usual for that month).

Joe Scalari has started putting up old *WSFA Journals* on the fanac.org association Web site.

WSFA Small Press Award status update from Carolyn:

- ## stories have been received, processed and sent to Paul for uploading (only ## total last year).
- Of these, ## are self-nominated and ## were nominated by WSFA members.
- Both *Clarkesworld* and *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* have sent in their nominations (thank you Sarah).
- Most of the usual publications have sent in theirs, with the exception of the Australian contingent (who now often wait to the last minute).



- Only # new small press publishers this year and they mostly seem to be on-line magazines.
- Mostly fantasy with a recurring theme of growing wings; some SF including time travel.
- Last year ## stories came in on the last day; as Sunday April 7th is the last day of eligibility this year, I am sincerely hoping fewer show up last minute.

Trustees: the slate for May's election as stands –

For president: Bob MacIntosh

For vice president: George Shaner

For treasurer: Sam Scheiner

For secretary: Sam Lubell

For WSFA Small Press Award Committee members: Cathy Green and Courtni Burluson

For CapClave 2021 chair: George Shaner

Trustees will remain as they now stand.

We were reminded that nominations were open until the election meeting.

Various committee reports were not made as those responsible were attending various science fiction conventions.



Intertivities: Karen Warren will do a reading for us at the First Friday Meeting in May.

The Committee to Discuss Science Fiction will discuss the March/April *Asimov's Science Fiction*. Next Third Friday the committee will discuss the March/April *Uncanny* (available online).

New Business: There will be a Fifth Friday in May, available to WSFA as Balticon falls on the fourth Friday weekend.

No new members were in attendance.

Announcements

Secretary's announcements.

Judy Scheiner had knee replacement surgery on one knee.

The Pound family is going to see the Tolkien museum exhibit in New York City.

The Pounds are hosting an evening of board games for any interested.

A request was made for CapClave workshop track information, which is available and will be provided outside the meeting.

Motion to adjourn passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

In attendance were Bob MacIntosh, Kim Hargan, Frances Holland, Aaron Pound, Angela Pound, Sophia Pound, Rodger Burns, Elizabeth Twitchell, Apurva Desai, Sam Scheiner, Judy Scheiner, Madeleine Yeh, David Keener, N. Barry Carver, George R. Shaner.

### **Game Review: Rollers of the Realm**

By Rodger Burns

Rollers of the Realm is a 2014 game developed by Phantom Compass, a small Canadian studio, and published by Atlus. It tells a high-fantasy adventure story through the medium of pinball games (yes, pinball). While neither the story nor the gameplay is especially



remarkable or groundbreaking, it's noteworthy that Rollers of the Realm makes its two chosen genres work together as well as it does.

Rollers of the Realm's is fairly conventional and well-worn -- medieval kingdoms at war with each other, a past Golden Age now lost, an ancient evil set to reawaken, a band of misfit adventurers united by fortune on the path to heroism -- all the usual tropes. The tropes are

at least delivered competently, though, neither being too trite and cloying nor attempting any kind of 'edgy' and off-putting subversion. The standout in Rollers of the Realm are the protagonist characters -- solidly written, and portrayed through still portrait art that's more memorable and elegant than some expensive CGI attempt at an animated model. The high point here is the voice-acting team, which more than anything else brings the game's characters to life and gives them identity. The writing and voice work are at their best when the characters are bantering and playing off each other, rather than orating exposition, but that's by no means a bad thing.

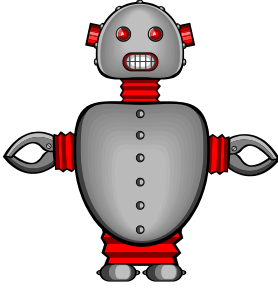
The pinball gameplay of Rollers of the Realm matches the storytelling -- solidly competent in all respects, without risking spectacular failure by trying anything too weird or experimental. What is noteworthy is how gameplay elements tie into and support the characters and story, making both more meaningful. The protagonists, for instance, are each represented by a different pinball, each with its own abilities and characteristics -- the Thief's ball, for instance, is small and lightweight, good for precision shots but potentially harder to keep in play, while the Knight's ball is large and packs a lot of inertia, slow to change course either through the player's actions or through collision with obstacles. Table designs likewise match to different world locations, with not just visual elements but obstacles and level goals dictated by the setting and progress of the story. Additionally, the game cleverly ties its loss conditions to actual story hazard -- anytime there isn't a threat in play, gutter balls become free replays, with no chance of a game over.



Rollers of the Realm may be of interest to pinball aficionados looking for a dose of plot and story to weave into their gameplay, as well as to fans of fantasy interested in how stories express themselves in unusual mediums. A full playthrough likely takes between 3 to 5 hours to complete. Rollers of the Realm is available for digital download for Windows, Mac and Linux PCs, PS4 and the PSVita handheld, at a retail price of \$9.99. Video of a streamed playthrough is available at <https://youtu.be/J-v9miXuxJI>.

### All-Time High for the Small Press Award

Minutes for WSFA Third Friday Meeting, April 19, 2019 in Greenbelt, Maryland. Recorded by acting secretary Kim Hargan



The meeting was called to order at 9:15 pm by Bob MacIntosh. The minutes of the First Friday meeting were read by the acting secretary.

Bob MacIntosh noted that at the next First Friday meeting (in May), we will have a guest giving a reading (Karen Warren) and then hold the election meeting, so the business meeting itself should be brief (as a general heads-up).

The WSFA Small Press Awards nominating period for 2019 has closed – we received ### stories, an all-time high. There were ## stories nominated by WSFA members, so Rodger will be baking. In spite of the current Internet problems which affect our Web sites, Committee members have all ### stories off-line from the Web sites and were able to put them all in a Google Drive folder for Committee access and reading independent of the Web site issues.

Trustees: The slate still stands as read in the minutes of the previous meeting. You can still nominate yourself up to the elections themselves.

Committee representatives were not present (other cons and holidays), so there were no other committee reports.

The Committee to Discuss Science Fiction was prepared to discuss the March-April issue of *Uncanny*, and will discuss the March-April issue of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* after the First Friday meeting in May (following the reading and the election meeting) and the May edition of *Clarkesworld* after the Third Friday meeting.

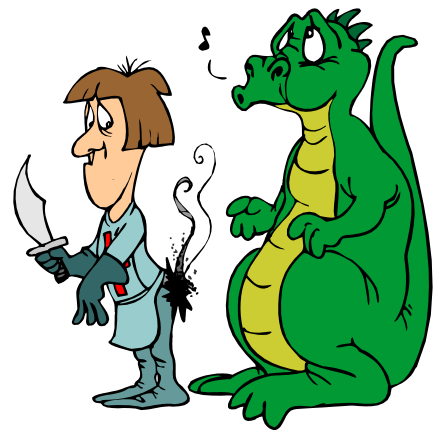
No intertivities were brought up.

Old business: as mentioned in the minutes, there will be a Fifth Friday in May. Eva Whitley volunteered to hold this one as well.

New members: Jon Clark introduced himself. His parents brought him to WSFA many times when he was an elementary schooler, and now he has moved back into the area. Jon told us some of his family news, particularly regarding his younger sisters.

Announcements:

The secretary's announcements  
Mike Walsh has a box of books.



The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

In attendance were Bob MacIntosh, Kim Hargan, Michael Walsh, Michael Ikeda, Kevin Foster, Rodger Burns, Eva Whitley, Steve Smith, Mike Taylor, and Jon Clark.