



MISSION CONTROL

FINAL

The Newsletter of ApolloCon—By Fans for Fans

Vol. VI, No. 5 (there is no #3

Sun. Night, June 28, 2009

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Free!

MORE WINNERS

Aaron Allston

ApolloCon has agreed to pass this request from friends of Aaron Allston along to ApolloCon members for action, should they desire, later:

Austin TX — A fundraiser and auction to benefit the Aaron Alston Donation Fund will be held on Sunday, July 19, from 1 to 5 P.M. at Arbor A in San Gabriel Park, 445 E. Morrow, Georgetown, Texas. The Aaron Allston Donation Fund is a medical fund established by his friends to help Mr. Allston, an internationally known

science fiction writer and author of several Star Wars novels, with large medical expenses recently incurred as a result of emergency bypass surgery. Mr . Allston is a long-time resident of Central Texas. The event sponsor is the Fandom Association of Central Texas (FACT, <http://www.fact.org>), a Texas-based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the promotion of literacy through the appreciation of speculative fiction. FACT is seeking donations of food and other items

See **Allston** below and to the right:

Movie Challenge

ApolloCon's Iron Director challenge was met again! It was conquered by George and Helen Davies with 'Frog Kong,' a monster movie about a frog in a nuclear-irradiated pool. George and Helen have now won two times in a row!

Trek Trivia

On Friday, Starbase Houston's Trivia Challenge was won by John Zifay. Jim Wright, who won last year, came in second. Third place went to young contestant George Davis.

Games

The Gaming Room racked up a number of winners:

Karen Ticket to Ride
Elizabeth Eich . . . Shadows over Camelot
Laurin "Bluebonnet" Young . . . Illuminati
GURPS: Valesco
Adam Newberry Settlers of Cwtan
Space Hulk

Lora "Just Call Me Captain"
Firefly Table Top

Gary Easter Battlestar Galactica
Alan DaVinci's Challenge
Cory "Valux" Brookshaw Samurai
Brandon Super Munchkin
Tom Lego Frag!
Emily Givvs Lego Frag!
Amy Munchkin Quest

A pair of symphony tickets (see this morning's Mission Control) was awarded to one of the game winners: Bluebonnet won the draw!

Allston (continued)

from local businesses for the event. We anticipate attendance of approximately 100+ people, and are actively promoting to the media. To discuss making a contribution, please contact Wendy Snyder, FACT Events Manager, at scial@fact.org or phone Elizabeth Burton, FACT board secretary, at 512-402-5998.

Programming Changes

Rest of the Con:

No more changes at all! We're all through.

Next Year:

Come back then and see!

Interview: Al Jackson, Fan Guest of Honor

Mission Control: Thank you for coming to ApolloCon. How often do you attend conventions?

Al Jackson: Used to just go to AggieCon and ArmadilloCon.

ArmadilloCon is, as far as I know, the only 'literary-con' left in Texas. (Even tho' they do have some media stuff and gaming stuff these days.) I know just scads of writers in Austin, especially my old-time buddy Howard Waldrop. This year I will also be at ApolloCon and FenCon in Dallas. I did go the WorldCon in San Antonio in '97 but that is the last one. First WorldCon I went to was in Pittsburgh in 1960, just by myself. Later made the WorldCons in Cleveland, N.Y., L.A., D.C., St. Louis. A real highlight was the Heinlein Kansas City WorldCon in 1977, MidAmeriCon. May make another Worldcon some day again.

MC: Why do you go to conventions?

AJ: These days, if not a guest, to see my friends, especially in Austin.

MC: What is the first science fiction you ever read?

AJ: 'Tomorrow, the Stars,' edited by Robert Heinlein which did not have a Heinlein story in it. My brother had bought it, did not care for SF, gave it to me. That would have been in 1952 when I turned 12. It was a good supplement because I had become totally enamored with von Braun's Colliers series about spaceflight, but there was only so much popular science about space flight in those days, but SF contained a lot! Funny thing is I could only find the Groff Conklin anthologies for a long time. When I discovered Heinlein's so called 'juvies' I was, like a ton of SF fans, blown away. I was an omnivorous SF reader as a teenager, reading Heinlein adult and juvie, turning to Andre Norton when there was no Heinlein. I was reading and very much enjoying H.L. Gold's GALAXY magazine; I particularly liked Pohl and Kornbluth's collaborations. In the long run, however, Ted Sturgeon, Phil Dick, Kurt Vonnegut, Ursula le Guin became my favorites. I am totally in love with the works of Cordwainer Smith!

MC: Is your favorite subgenre the one that used to be called hard science fiction? Or is that too close to work?

AJ: Well . . . of course I always loved Heinlein, Asimov and Clarke, who were pretty much 'hard' SF writers, special place in my heart for Poul Anderson, but I think the best writer of SF and speculative fiction is Ted Sturgeon . . . so what to make of that!

MC: Do you read any fantasy? Which sub-subgenre?

AJ: I loved Tolkien, and think that Poul Anderson's 'The Broken Sword' is a great overlooked work of fantasy, but in general sword and sorcery don't interest me. I do like the kind of off-the-wall fantasy that L. Sprague de Camp wrote, like 'The Incomplete Enchanter.' I don't quite know if that 'twilight zone-like' fantasy, kind of invented by John Campbell, is still being written.