



# MISSION CONTROL

The Newsletter of ApolloCon—By Fans, For Fans

Vol. VII, No.3

Sun., June 27, 2010

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Free!

## MASQUERADE

### Starbase Houston

#### Trivia Challenge

Mark Burkett was the Master of Ceremonies for the Starbase Houston Trivia Challenge. The questions had a strong media bent as you might expect, but were wide-ranging and hard. Not, 'never heard of it' hard, but 'gaaaahhh! Who can remember that?' hard. But the assembled fans en masse were good. A few were very good.

For each question there was a prize. All-together, the prizes were the strangest collection of odd small Science Fiction items you ever saw. A femfan in the group asked Mark where he got all the awards. Mark explained that people gave them to him; he was the science fiction guy so people gave him the oddest things.

When the smoke cleared, the winners were:

3rd Place: Jennifer Smith

2nd Place: Jessie Tatum

1st Place: Erika Frensley

The Rocket Ship Awards were given out Saturday night at the Masquerade. Mark announced that Erika was banned from the contest next year, but relented if they can get the winner from 2009.

### Auction

#### Charity too

The charity and art auction last night was well attended, with many interested buyers. A few items sold for the highest written bid from the silent auction, but on others, the bidding was spirited. Most of those were items donated to be sold for the benefit of ApolloCon's selected charity, Youth Advocates, Inc. The tickets to the Houston Symphony performance sold for more than the face value! The art from the Iron Artist competition did well, selling at more than minimum wage rates. A few other items did even better. For one of Real Musgrave's pocket dragons (an item he no longer produces) two fans countered each other to flat wallets!

#### Iron Artist

The contest pitting artist against artist in a frenzy of creativity under pressure was held for the first time at ApolloCon. And the winner was: Everybody.

No, really. Judge Rocky Kelley declared it a tie between everybody. It was an amazing coincidence. The real winners were everyone who showed up to hear Teddy Harvia and Rocky Kelley give each other a hard time. Well, all participants and Youth Advocates, as a fair number of the pieces of art created were auctioned off in the Charity Auction

While the contestants prepared, the audience was entertained by our Music Guest of Honor, Dave Weingart. He performed several filk songs, the ones he could see the the written words to against the spotlight.

Then the competition began!

First to appear—well, almost visible over heads between, as they are Kids in Tow—were Dr. Who, Jr., and Leela.

Haruhi Suzumiha, an evil minion, crossed the stage uttering alternate threats and apologies

Sookie Stackhouse was next to appear.

Bruce Zuko and 'L' traded verbal barbs before mixing it up and 'L' measured his length upon the floor.

Sexy Robot, a marvel in shiny and brushed silver, struck several poses.

Naked Snake, modeling military garb, discussed communications between soldiers away and their families. She demonstrated her blogging skills, using 'Twilight' as an example. He didn't listen long before raising his sidearm and ending it.

The out-of-work Red Oni offered to 'kill and maime for sake.'

Calliope, who had come to visit a sunny place far from Hogwarts, decided that Houston needed a See **Masquerade**, page 2

### Programming Changes

#### Sunday:

No changes as of press time.

#### During the day:

Changes will be posted on the bulletin board by Registration.

### Mission Control

#### Earlier Issues

If you haven't gotten all issues of Mission Control as they were released on paper, go to our website. Each issue is there, under the Newsletter Group, as a pdf file.

### Hours

Art Show . . . . . 10:00 A.M. – NOON

Dealers Room . . . 10:00 A.M. – 2:15 P.M.

ConSuite . . . . . 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

## Starbase Houston Activity

Sunday activities for Starbase Houston, we will be meeting at noon in Room 217. Our meeting is open to all.

Patti Prevett  
President, Starbase Houston

## Parties

Saturday night's Room Parties were a great success, spreading into the 7th floor hall from both sides.

ConJour 2011, ConDFW, FenCon, and Reconstrucion (NASFIC) all hosted parties publicizing their upcoming conventions, selling advance memberships.

Texas in 2013 was seeking supporters in its bid to hold the 2013 WorldCon in San Antonio, Texas.

For more information on any of these cons and organizations, visit their websites (Google is a wonderful help in finding them).

The surprise party wasn't a party, per se, but a miniature con itself, Corner Con. Held in two room of the hotel, it featured an Author GoH (Rosemary), a Science Guest of Honor (Paul), an Art Show, a Dealer's Room, a Masquerade, and a Con Suite.

Tiny, but choice!

## Another Kind of Art

by Clif Davis

There is fine art. There is illustration. But there is another kind of art, a technical kind of art. One of Saturday's panels illustrated that.

Fan GoH Pat Virzi gave a crash presentation on the art of graphic design. 'The purpose of graphic design,' she said, 'is to first grab the eye and then grab the mind behind the eye.' She explained how visual cues help us process the visual barrage that threatens to overwhelm us, by using pattern, contrast, color, and texture. At the end, we may not have wound up with an improved ability at graphic design, but we certainly wound up with a much greater appreciation of graphic design.

## Masquerade (cont'd.)

present. She introduced the Snow Queen to provide it.

Goku crawled on stage, nearly inert from hunger; he was revived with cookies provided from the audience and departed in search of more.

Then came the wait while the judges decided!

The **Auction** having run out of time before all items had been sold, a poster-size, framed, and autographed copy of the Program Book was held up—and the bidding was very spirited! Bids came from all over the room; the auctioneer's countdown was twice interrupted by surprise bidders upping the offer. The item eventually sold for four times its initial price!

The results of the Trivia contest were announced (see **Trivia** elsewhere in this issue).

### The Judges' Decisions

A Special Certificate of Participation Award was earned by Sue and Rupa Domnitz for their portrayal of Dr. Who, Jr., and Leele. Sadly, their bedtimes overtook events; they picked up their certificates this morning.

**Workmanship Awards** were decided during close-up judging for construction and workmanship:

Novice Construction: Adena Gilland and Megan Martin (Haruhi Suzumiha).

Technical Assembly: Raven (Sexy Robot).

Drafting and Build: Rodger Standridge (Out-of-Work Red Oni).

Overall Workmanship: Sandy Hutchins; Accessories: Dolores Greenbaum (Calliope and the Snow Queen).

→ Goto next column—

A note to those interested in **Open Source Hardware** that missed the panel or just wanted more information. David Brummel has promised to make the the web pages that were given as locations for further learning available somewhere on the ApolloCon website. So remember, watch the web.

**Masquerade** (cont'd from previous column)

**Presentation Awards** were decided on, well, presentation of the character:

The Most Maimerable Award: Roger Standridge (Out-of-Work Red Oni).

Most Likely to be Ordered as an Appetizer: Kat Jones (Sookie Stackhouse).

Best Evil Minion: Megan Martin (Haruhi Suzumiha).

Best Use of Galactic Overlord: Connell and Isaac (Bruce and 'L').

Best Master: Sandy Hutchins and Dolores Greenbaum (Calliope and the Snow Queen).

Best Journeyman: Kentn Schwenke (Naked Snake).

And the Best in Show award went to Raven for Sexy Robot. In addition to receiving a ribbon and certificate for this award, Raven also receives two tickets to the Houston Symphony.

For certificates that were not distributed during the awards presentation, the masquerade entrants can pick them up from Ops (Room 116).

## Magic Zeros

In its first year ApolloCon was a one-day con, with about the same attendance as we get for pre-registration now. Almost every year we get a little larger. We passed the 400 mark some years back. According to registration, this is unlikely to be the year we break 500 but we're close! If we can just bring in another 20 to 30 of our friends, next year could be the year.

## HSFA

Does H.S.F.A. stand for Hacky Sack Farmers of America? Just what is the strange and mysterious corporate entity that is the shadowy parent organization of ApolloCon? Is it really a branch of the Illuminati out to take over Science Fiction and Fantasy fandom? To find out the awful truth drop by the 2:00 PM annual HSFA meeting in the Seattle II room where questions will be answered and the hidden reality revealed.