



MISSION CONTROL

The Newsletter of ApolloCon—By Fans, For Fans

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Sat., June 26, 2010

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Free!

MUSICIANS HEARD

Party, Party, Party!

Saturday night offers a great choice of parties to attend, found all over the 7th floor. They include:

FenCon Texas in 2013
ConDFW ConJour

And maybe more! Dropping in on these is a great way to find out about fannish activities all around!

Publishing's Future

Bill Crider, O.M. Gray, Lee Thomas, Kerry Tolan, and Mel White discussed the changes that epubbing will have on books. Of course, they were not in agreement! Some felt that writers will have to tell faster stories; some thought that the structure of the sentences will have to change, becoming shorter. They even disagreed on the length of time it would take, a year or two or 40 years! Publisher pressure will be the factor with most effect.

We'll all have to wait and see!

Quelle Fromage

Cheese, glorious cheese. Guest Cathey Osborne is leading ApolloCon's first ever cheese tasting. Move beyond processed cheese – type foods and into the luscious, tasty, and fragrant world of cheese. Tasting is at 1:00 p.m. in Room 318. Advanced signup required (Room 116, Con Ops). At this point, get on the waiting list!

Programming Changes

Saturday:

No changes as of press time.

During the day:

Changes will be posted on the bulletin board by Registration.

Friday's Games

Henchmen Inc.! had a successful set of games Friday evening. We taught many people Heroclix and introduced them to Cthulu's manu incarnations with Steve Jackson games. Folks had fun playing D&D in the boardroom. We also helped fight cn funk by handing out he ever-popular Gamer soap. Don't know what we're talking about? Stop by the gaming table and find out. Whee!

Artists Reception

by Clif Davis

If the point of an Artists Reception is to receive artists, then it's certainly fair to say that artists were indeed received. As well, we received plenty of good food, and excellent conversation. Among other conversations, I had a wonderful chat, the best in years, with Mel White, an artist I've enjoyed for a long time and only get to talk to at the odd con.

There was a chocolate fountain with lots of goodies to dip. It says something about the food that was present that I never reached the chocolate fountain. Of course Patty Prevett's Lemon Drop Blossoms to-die-for that keep getting better every year were almost an explanation in themselves. But not quite.

There was also some kind of drink, I never was sure exactly what it was, except that it was good. It had a taste vaguely related to orange and it was fizzy. I had seconds. And then thirds. And then fourths.

Artists give the second best hugs available, just barely beat out by librarians. You should have been there.

Help the Newsletter

If you see something funny or profound, go to ConOps and give Mission Control a NewsBit!

Friday's Concert

by Clif Davis

As I entered, Rob Balder was on stage giving a rousing conclusion to "Living in a Techno-Babble World." I didn't know who it was; the only person I recognized on stage was Catherine Asaro. But in the gap between songs and sound checks I conducted a whispered consultation and learned that I had just listened to Rob, that the man with the guitar was music GoH David Weingart and that Don Wolcott was the man playing the backing on the electronic box of many instruments.

'He's asking, "Who the hell is that?" isn't he?' David Weingart asked from the stage.

I waved.

David launched into 'You are Haunting Me,' with a style that would have made Elvis Presley proud, particularly the haunting "Ooooooowww" chorus.

Catherine Asaro was up next, singing a song as a rock star of the future, a character from her books. She sang 'You're a Diamond Star.' As you listened to her sing, half way through, as you watched her sing and smile, as the lights sparkled on her hair band, as you watch her move, you suddenly realize it's true, that Catherine really does have the presence to have been a rock star. It was Rob Balder's turn and he started talking about his history of going to cons and learning about the

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Hours

Art Show 10:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.
Dealers Room . . . 10:00 A.M. – 6:15 P.M.
ConSuite 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 A.M.

Art GoH

Take a good look at the artwork of our Artist Guest of Honor, Keith Thompson. You'll find a lot of fascinating creatures, a parade of the undead, and robots that defy description. Come by the exhibition space in the Art Show on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and you'll get the chance to see Keith create an original robot, from concept to finished automaton.

Concert (cont'd.)

different subsets of people you meet there. This was the lead-in to his rendition of the current number three requested Dr. Demento song, 'Gamer Funk.'

David Weingart returned with a song he claimed was stolen from another filker. This time instead of channeling the King, he was channeling a balladeer, singing a cold but spirited song about the 'Circle of Seasons.' This was followed by Catherine Asaro with a very sultry version of 'Summer Time' she performed recently at NASA's Goddard Center.

And time had passed and con-duty called me away, but as I was leaving all too soon, Rob Balder was center stage with the parody, 'She's Always a Goth Chick to me.'

Starbase Houston Lunch

Starbase Houston is hosting a lunch in the Con Suite. Come up to the Con Suite at noon on Saturday. Meet the Starbase Houston officers and partake of some delicious goodies.

Then later in the afternoon, come put your Sci Fi knowledge to the test for fun and prizes with our Trivia Challenge! Three 'lucky' contestants will have a chance to win glorious prizes! Check your schedules for the time and location.

We have candy!

Iron Artist

ApolloCon is proud to present our first ApolloCon Iron Artist Competition. Artists will be given a non-traditional set of supplies and a theme, and will then have less than an hour to create a piece of art. You may even have a chance to bid on some of these masterpieces in our Charity Auction.

So please come out and cheer them on. Only one will be left standing at the end, as ApolloCon's first Iron Artist.

Interview: Dave Weingart, Music Guest of Honor

Mission Control: What was your introduction to filk?

Dave Weingart: Wow, that goes back a long way. I was already primed to like it; my Mom had some Allan Sherman albums that I loved as a kid, and I used to listen to the Dr. Demento show late at night. But my first exposure to more fannish stuff was in an issue of The Dragon that I borrowed from a member of my gaming group back in . . . oh . . . it must have been 1979. The year after, as a college freshman, I was exposed to Filthy Pierre's Microfilk when a member of the Stony Brook Science Fiction Forum brought a copy back from Noreascon II and we spent hours singing from it. I was hooked and I've committed filk at every convention I've been at ever since.

MC: Do you get tunes stuck in your head, waiting for you to give them words?

DW: Doesn't everyone? That or words waiting for a tune? My real problem is that I often can't play the tunes that get stuck in my head!

MC: What kind of music do you like to listen to? Classic, hip-hop, something between?

DW: Different kinds, depending on what I'm doing. I listen to a lot of what's loosely termed "girlmusic"—the artists who toured with Lilith Fair. I listen to a lot of classic rock and a lot of indie rock. When I'm at work programming, I tend to like light electronica like Lola Dutronic. For evenings out in the garden with a glass of wine, you can't beat Edith Piaf.

I think my current favorite band is Metric. I just saw them in New York a few weeks ago.

MC: Thank you.

DW: You're very welcome!

Dance Tonight

Once again, the ApolloCon Dance makes its triumphant return to the Main Ballroom on Saturday night! Come on down and move the night away to your favorite tunes (even ones you didn't know were your favorites yet), and mingle with your friends (even ones you didn't know were your friends yet)! We have once again secured the incomparable DJ Hawz to weave his musical spell, so you're sure to be in for a good time. He's set up for requests, so don't be shy - if you want to hear something, ask!

Specifics and minutiae: the dance starts at roughly 10:00 P.M. and will go to about 1:00. Feel free to bring any glowey things you might have, but please be mindful of the fact that your fellow dancers may not be as appreciative of a glow stick to the face as you might think. Poor behavior will NOT be tolerated, and you may lose your con membership over it, so think twice before starting that impromptu mosh pit in the middle of the room.

We're looking forward to seeing you, so come on down and dance till the wee hours!

Hall Costumes that Caught Our Fancy

We wanted to honor exceptional hall costumers, those free spirits that spend the time and trouble to make our fantasies come alive for the rest of us.

Ozzy Skinner was spotted Friday wearing an unusual pirate' outfit. It's something of a cross between cavalier and musketeer—pirates stole from everybody. Now he'll don the guise of a Victorian Vampire, so look him up in the dealer's room.

Jesse Briceno was his orangeness, Naruto Uzumaki, the unlikely Ninja hero that since 1999 has defined Manga. Jesse is acting as the Assistant Costume Director at the Masquerade. His Saturday hall costume will be a Mighty Morphing Power Ranger.

O. M. Grey and Ethan Rose were costumed a couple with a distinctive flair—Alice-In-Wonderland-Victorian. Both writers, O.M. Grey is also a dealer for Blue Moose Press; Ethan Rose will be switching to a Flight Suite costume so catch her Saturday panels.

Video's future

How exciting is it that the new 3D film tech is ushering in a new era/generation of SF films? Manical lanets, powerful sorcerors, even dragonriders can be filmed and stories told as never before in live action. This is awesome!