

Mission Control

The Official Unofficial Newsletter of



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by Fans for Fans

Free!
It's All Russ's Fault

P.N. Elrod Also Loves Her Dogs

Although Pat N. Elrod is our editor GOH she does a lot besides award-winning editing. And besides eating chocolate (rumored to be an incurable obsession – don't ask). She started out as a professional writer of gaming modules and from there moved to writing novels. She is known for the urban fantasy and now steampunk genres, but she has written mystery, romance, paranormal, historical, and even comedic fantasy novels, being published in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Japanese, and Romanian. Her first major series began with a detective investigating his own death. From there it got even more interesting, culminating in her winning the RT Booklovers Pioneer Award for her work in vampire fiction. Her next book is *On Her Majesty's Psychic Service: The Hanged Man*, the first novel in a new steampunk series coming from Tor Books in 2015.

She has co-edited with Martin H. Greenberg, Nigel Bennett, and Roxanne L. Conrad. On her own stick, she's edited *My Big Fat Supernatural Wedding*, which won the Pearl Award for best paranormal anthology, and its followup *My Big Fat Supernatural Honeymoon*, which won honorable mention for the same award. Other noteworthy anthologies she's edited include *Dark and Stormy Knights*, *Hex Symbols*, and the award winning *Strange Brew*. She's also started her own publishing company, Vampwriter Books, publisher of the *P.N. Elrod Lunch Time Reading Omnibus*.

When Pat gets tired of editing, she switches to her day job, ~~chocolate abuse~~ freelance editing. That's right, you can hire her for the same level of professional editing received by the top authors in the paranormal and urban fantasy genres. Talk to her about it.

Her dogs are named Sasha and Megan.

"P.N. Elrod is a vivid, exciting, crazed tornado of a woman who writes as ferociously as she lives." - Rachel Caine

"Just hand over the chocolate and nobody gets hurt." - P. N. Elrod

Grid Errata

If you look at the programming grid, you'll notice that David Gerrold is frequently signing and chatting at his table in the dealers room (probably one of the most accessible guests we've ever had). However, it's come to our attention that we have him scheduled for autographing even after the dealers room has closed. David has churlishly refused to stay behind closed doors in the room by himself to man his table.

Although the grid correctly shows that the Tatting workshop is taking place in room 317 Saturday at 5PM it may leave the impression that it has something to do with tattooing rather than handmade lace. It does not, according to Deborah Kent, even though the workshop concerns needle tatting rather than shuttle tatting. "Sign up in Con Ops is required," said Deborah. "There will be no discussion of the history and artistic theory of tatting. The session will be strictly practical."

In various places Russ Ault has been described as the con chair. We are informed that this is incorrect. He is in fact the Conch Air. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Mysterious ApolloCon Chocolate Heist

"We have no clue who could have carried out this mass chocolate theft," said Officer O'Toole of the Houston Greater Metropolitan Crime Unit. Police are baffled by a daring chocolate theft at ApolloCon carried out by an unidentified red headed woman. She just moved too fast to identify," said witness Darth Ault, no relation to ApolloCon chair Russ Ault.

"Armed anthropomorphic warriors have been hired to guard the ApolloCon con suite, source of the remaining chocolate stores," Darth said. "So if all your chocolate has disappeared consult your con suite hosts for your emergency source."

"My chocolate, my precious chocolate," Iker sobbed, rocking back in forth in time to "I am no Hero" by Mandopony. "My chocolate!"

ARGH Sponsors Ice Cream Social

The non-genre-specific organization ARGH (the Alternate Realities Group Houston) is personally inviting you to stop by the con suite 1PM Saturday and ingest vastly tasty calories in the form of ice cream. "We have chocolate and caramel toppings," said Jonathan Guthrie, ARGH's big Kahuna. There will also be a mystery flavor," he said. "It's a mystery because I don't what it is yet."

"And yes, we have a nefarious purpose," said Jonathan Guthrie. We are hoping to sign people up as associates of ARGH. We do something crazy every couple of months. In the past ARGH has celebrated the birthday of Jules Verne and run a bardic circle with jokes substituting for music."

Cat in the Fold

Artist Cat Osborne is a cat of many shades. She has been with Apollocon since our first year when she was the Artist GoH. She's worked and sold art in the Art Show, been on panels, and supplied art for the program book. You'll find her at the con shooting everyone and anyone with her trusty camera, and working behind the scenes as a volunteer.

Cat has recently unveiled yet another talent under the pseudonym Ann Cathey. Her first novel "Wolf in the Fold" published by Lone Star Bookworks was released this month in e-book format. Find it on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Smashwords, and iTunes online. <http://tinyurl.com/cat-in-fold>.

In Gaming

Our original Saturday gaming story contained details of how you could play the popular game of Red Shirts on Sunday with game's original designer, Jonathan (Skippy) Schwarz. Alas, that's not to be. Someone bought Skippy's entire stock of the game before gaming even opened. So instead you will have an opportunity to play the designer (still Skippy) of a yet unpublished game, Rocky Road Warriors. In this game anthropomorphic warriors battle over the last remaining ice cream truck on Earth.

The Firefly Larp elicited some interesting responses when players were asked to briefly describe what they would remember most about playing the game. "Conflict of Factions," said Jeffrey Chang. "The confusion after all the gun shots – in a good way," said Jesus Ulman. "Betrayal," said Kravyn. "Being knocked out and abducted," added Cameron Hogarth. "Giving an old man my pants after he soiled himself," said Jacob Miller. "Negotiating with the union boss to get the miners back to work," said a practical Sam Bashline. "Lots of dying," said a shell-shocked Keith Irish. "The shopkeeper," said Peg Pywar, "and the enthusiasm of the players."

"Winning," said Penelope McFadin with a smile.

Another notable gaming winner was James Muench who beat all comers in the games Eminent Domain, King of Tokyo and Guillotine. He might have won Cthulu Gloom but was edged out by Roscoe Gibson.

Flash – The Steampunk version of Mary Shelley's masterpiece, Frankenstein will be showing in the video room on Saturday at 4 PM.

Flash – Don't miss Artist Demo and Art Show Tour 2:30PM with Artist GOH Theresa Mather.



David Gerrold describes his tribbles and fans to Ace Reporter Joe Pumilia. The two are old friends. David was one of the first to buy Joe's stories back when Joe was writing. Photo by Cat Osborne.



It is an ApolloCon tradition that first time ApolloCon chairs are awarded a tiara. Conch Air Russ Ault wears his ApolloCon tiara proudly, secure in the knowledge that on him it looks good. Photo by Mari Ferguson.

Flash – Overnight Con Reg moves to Con Ops at 8PM Sat. night.

IS DAVID GERROLD ABUSING HIS FACEBOOK FANS?

As Reported by Joe Pumilia

Some have complained that David Gerrold is hostile to his fans on Facebook. To prove that he is not the churlish sourpuss he pretends to be, your roving reporter tracked him down at a table in the Apollocon dealer's room where he was selling tribbles. The hairy and insufferably cute round rodents were purring and vibrating with a force that rattled the table. In fact my laptop nearly slid out of my fingers.

Pumilia: Could I have some of those things to put under my mattress to simulate the Magic Fingers?

Gerrold: You don't look like you can afford them. Besides, you look like you have Klingon blood.

Pumilia: OK, in that case, what about those rumors that you are being a curmudgeon on Facebook?

Gerrold: Shut up. Quit badgering me. I don't need no stinking badgers.

Pumilia: People say you're being mean to your fans--

Gerrold: Who else will be mean to them? That's what they're there for. It's a dirty job but someone has to do it.

Pumilia: But doesn't this cut into your sales?

Gerrold: Who cares? I don't write for them, I write for me. I let them pay for the privilege of reading over my shoulder.

Pumilia: Don't they complain to you?

Gerrold: I don't know. I don't read my email. I don't listen to my voice mail. Why would I be interested in listening to someone complain? I've got much more important stuff to do.

Pumilia: Yet they still buy your books, so they must like abuse.

Gerrold: They're not buying enough of my books. I need to abuse them more.

Pumilia: Isn't there any way they can get through to you? They're just trying to show their appreciation.

Gerrold: Yeah, tell them they can contact me at davidg@bite-me.com.com.

Faster Than Light

At 2PM Saturday in the video room, John DiIorio will present the Casimir Effect – traveling faster than the speed of light (FTL). He will explain the formation of our (string) universe, followed by the FTL experiments. Lastly there will be a video interview with Dr. Einstein on the limitations of physics. Prizes awarded for audience participation.

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