

IMPULSE

MonSFFA • A MonSFF

NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE MONTREAL
SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

LE BULLETIN
D'INFORMATION
DE L'ASSOCIATION
MONTRÉLAISE DE
SCIENCE-FICTION ET
DE FANTASTIQUE

March / Mars 2010 (Vol. 14, No./Nº 2)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, March 28

11:00AM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

11:00AM

**BRAINSTORMING SESSION, OUTSIDE-
OF-MEETING FUNDRAISERS:** We'll
take an hour to consider means of
raising funds for the club outside of
our meetings. Fresh and innovative
ideas required; thinking caps on!

1:00PM

RADIO FEN FROM THE MOON (PART 2):

We continue with our in-meeting
group project, the production of an
old-fashioned sci-fi radio play. This
afternoon, step two: the performance
and recording of the play. With the
script that came out of our February
meeting in hand, we'll cast roles and
the actors will rehearse and perform
the piece, which will be recorded and
later augmented with the addition of
sound effects and music. A CD of the
final radio play will be produced.

Next Month's MonSFFA Meeting:

APRIL 18

Sci-Fi Blogs, Social Networking
for SF/F Fans, and *more*

January Meeting Sees MonSFFA's First Emperor Crowned

MonSFFA has it's first "emperor"! Berny Reischl, the club's long-time president, had announced last year that he would not run for the leadership post come 2010. But he appears to have had a change of heart, perhaps triggered by the "heart attack" he suffered as he made his farewell remarks at the top of MonSFFA's January meeting in advance of the election of a new Executive Committee. Collapsing to the floor, he was fortunate to benefit from the presence of a quick-thinking, short-skirted nurse who happened to be nearby and managed to revive our chief with a sagacious jolt to the nads. In light of his miraculous revival, he was ceremonially dubbed "Reischl the First, MonSFFA's Emperor for Life" by a knight of the First Fannish Order, conveniently on hand and decked out for enthronement duties.

For so many years, MonSFFen having jokingly spoken of elevating Berny to a lifetime position as club boss, given that he has already served in that capacity for eight years, twice the time of any of his predecessors. Be careful what you wish for, the new emperor stated with an impish grin, reminding his fellow MonSFFen of the old adage.

And so does Emperor Reischl I take the reins of the club, joined by VPs Keith Braithwaite and Lindsay Brown, and long-serving Treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre, all enthusiastically returned to office for another year by the membership. Stating, tongue firmly in cheek, that he'll be around forever, or until someone else steps up to take the job, which ever comes first, Berny was applauded for his many years of service to MonSFFA, and for his decision to stay on as president at a moment in the club's history when viable candidates were, uncharacteristically, absent the scene.

Long live the Emperor!

MonSFFen will note that *Warp 73* celebrates Emperor Reischl's ascent to the throne with a special, not-at-all-gaudily-designed dedicatory cover.

DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR BELOW? WATCH THIS SPACE TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE.

The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are *overdue*:

BLOOM, Hendrik
KRIMP, Nick
McCULLOGH, Brian
McCULLOGH, Megan
McCULLOGH, Philip
WADSWORTH, Beulah

**Annual membership
fees are due this month,
March, from the following
club members:**

**HAMMOCK, Christopher
SIMARD, Phil
WALLING, René**

Annual membership fees will become due next month, April, from the following club members :

DODDS, Georges
LOMBART, Marc
NADEAU, Marc
NOVO, Fernando
SYSAVANE, Khoba

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. The annual fee for a standard membership is \$25. Fill out the application form, below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to MonSFFA), and mail to:

**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6**

Thank you for your membership renewal.

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Address / Adresse: _____

No. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP.

CITY /VILLE PROVINCE POSTAL CODE /CODE POSTAL

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

Tel./Tél.: () ()
HOME/MAISON WORK/TRAVAIL

E-mail/Courriel: _____

Interests/Intérêts: _____

Meeting Format

MonSFFA is experimenting a little with meeting formats in 2010. The club has several one-topic meetings planned this year, as well as a few programmed with more than the two presentations/panels to which members are accustomed. The thinking is this:

On the one hand, we want to allow all the time necessary to fully explore a particularly hot topic or carry out an interesting group project. Devoting an entire meeting to a given undertaking allows us as much time as is needed to finish, rather than having to cut it short and leave things incomplete because we've got another programming item scheduled that afternoon.

On the other mitt, we hope to keep most presentations/panels to an hour or less apiece, which will allow three and perhaps four program items per meeting, some 30-50 percent more than that which has been our standard for many years. MonSFFen will benefit from more content and variety, and, we hope as a result, meeting attendance will get a boost. The more we offer, the more members will be motivated to attend our monthly gatherings. And the added bonus, here, is of discouraging talks running too long or meandering too afar the topic and sometimes losing the attention of the audience. Remember the old show business axiom: always leave 'em wanting more.

The Executive will observe response to these new formats and determine if they are more to the liking of our membership. If so, we'll adopt them as much as possible in future.

Suggestion Box

Among the proposals put forth at the club's January 17 BoA meeting was the introduction of a suggestion box as a handy depot for the ideas and comments of MonSFFA's membership. As member input can sometimes become lost, regrettably, amid the hubbub of the often time-limited general discussion at club meetings, we expect that having folk put their thoughts in writing—anonously, if they prefer—will insure that everyone's remarks reach the Executive and are addressed. The suggestion box will be in place at each meeting in order that MonSFFen may deposit opinion on recent meeting programming; proposals for

changes to, or additional programming, as well as ideas for special projects, events, fund-raisers and such; or comment on any aspect of the club's operations.

Calendar Will Promote Club

As a means of promoting the club, we want to put together a calendar showcasing the finest examples of our members' creative talents. This idea was originally put forth by long-time MonSFFan Josée Bellemare. We have in mind a 2011 calendar, to be made available for sale later this year, thus serving, too, as a fund-raising vehicle. Artwork, costumes and props, and scale models produced by our members will be scanned or photographed during a session scheduled as part of our planned fancraft workshops in August.

Should this calendar project prove successful, we envision carrying it forward in subsequent years.

February MonSFFA Meeting

Having opted to postpone the originally scheduled one-hour brainstorming session on outside-of-meeting fund-raising ideas, the February 21 club meeting was thus entirely devoted to the scripting of an old-fashioned radio play. About 20 folk were present.

First, Keith Braithwaite laid out two possible approaches. One: collectively, the group could consider sci-fi story ideas suggested by individuals, then having selected a favourite, bash out an outline and by afternoon's end, produce a finished script. Or two: select a number of suggestions then break into small working groups to come up with a series of short snippets—a scene or two, just a brief part of a larger piece, or perhaps an advertisement for some imaginary product. The concept, here, was of someone flipping through channels, sampling what's on the air as they search for something to listen to.

The room opted for the second approach as this allowed for the suggestions of not just one but several participants to be employed.

The next step was to generate ideas and pitch these to the room. Folk were supplied with pen and paper and given about 45 minutes to scribble down in brief as many

ideas as they could muster. Some 25-odd were handed in to Keith at the conclusion of the allotted time period. He went through the submissions, reading aloud the titles and calling upon the persons who'd come up with each to pitch their skit to the room. There were UFO pieces, superhero scenarios, talk shows, dramatic scenes, parodies, and more. The group narrowed their favourites down to about 15 but were unable to decide on which four or five would make the final cut. It was ultimately decided to offer it all to chance; the ideas to be scripted were selected by random draw.

These were: Danny Sichel's untitled phone-in advice show for B-list superheroes with essentially useless super powers; "Interludes", Sean Peatman's series of unrelated newscasts and advertising fragments edited together for comedic effect; "Guess What's Coming to Dinner", the opening acts of a Roswell story by Marc Durocher; "MooseMan Revisited", Christopher Hammock's interview program on which is lambasted a proposed American remake of the very Canadian *MooseMan* movie; and Keith Braithwaite's "A Planet to Plunder", in which an evil alien overlord robs Earth of all of its shaving devices in order to set up one groaner of a pun.

Following the mid-meeting break, MonSFFen got back to work on their radio play. The author of each of the selected pieces was joined by a few fellow club members to form a writing group. Under the encouragement of club VP Lindsay Brown, these groups spent the rest of the afternoon penning their segments. There remained some writing to be completed as the meeting neared an end. This was to be done within a week and the final drafts e-mailed to club president Berny Reischl, who would print out several copies of each for the March meeting, at which time the radio play is to be cast, performed, and recorded.

The meeting wrapped up with a brief primer and planner regarding the recording of our radio play.

MonSFFA thanks everyone who took part in this, our February club meeting. There was considerable enthusiasm expressed for future such old-fashioned radio projects and we think it's fair to say that the group quite enjoyed the creative challenge.

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite on behalf of MonSFFA. An e-version is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following methods:

- In person at a MonSFFA meeting
- Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse":
MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

- E-mail: bigewok@total.net
- Voice mail: 450-692-8831

Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

Impulse est préparé une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est aussi disponible en version électronique sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit:

- En personne à une réunion du club
- Courriel: bigewok@total.net

Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet:

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www.MonSFFA.com