

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

April / Avril 2010 (Vol. 14, No./Nº 3)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, April 18

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

BLOGS: A look at some of the more interesting examples currently online.

2:00PM

OPEN DISCUSSION: Before the mid-meeting break, we experiment with the idea of open, free-form debate; members may bring up and expound upon any SF/F-related matter in a 30-minute unstructured discussion that we expect will meander over many topics.

3:00PM

RADIO FEN FROM THE MOON,

RECORDING SESSION: We take a half-hour to further unfinished work on our old-fashioned radio play project.

3:30PM

SCI-FI SOCIAL NETWORKING:

Enjoying the Genre and communicating with fellow SF/F fans using Facebook, Twitter, and other online tools.

Next Meeting: May 16

- Scale Modelling
- Sci-Fi Fair/Bake Sale (Fund-Raiser)

June Meeting Cancelled; Scheduled Programming Shifted

We have decided to scrub the June 13 meeting to avoid conflicting with the returning Montreal Grand Prix auto race that weekend. This cancellation will have the added benefit of saving the club some money, which won't hurt in that cash flow is rather tight at the moment.

In place of the meeting, we are planning some kind of outside-of-meeting activity yet to be determined, perhaps a group movie outing or bowling junket. Stay tuned for more information.

The June meeting was to have featured a look at scale model-making, exploring the hobby by means of a workshop on building traditional plastic kits as well as the construction of paper models. Our Sci-Fi Fair fund-raiser was also slated for this meeting, along with an accompanying bake sale. As we do not wish to scrap these events, we have opted to shift them ahead one month.

Thus, our May 16 meeting will now feature the model-building workshop and our Sci-Fi Fair/bake sale fund-raiser. Details of the fair and bake sale will be worked out at our upcoming April 18 meeting then posted on the MonSFFA Web site and published in the May issue of this news bulletin.

But by moving our June programming ahead a month, we must necessarily bump the originally scheduled May 16 *Timeline* video shoot to another date, yet to be determined.

So, to recap, the June 13 meeting is cancelled. June's originally scheduled programming—the workshop on scale model-building and our Sci-Fi Fair/bake sale fund-raiser—move to our May 16 meeting. The *Timeline* video shoot originally scheduled for the May meeting is bumped to another date yet to be determined.

Here's what the revised schedule looks like; please update your calendars accordingly:

May 16 MonSFFA Meeting

1. Paper or Plastic?: We look at trends in traditional plastic scale model-making and demonstrate

**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*:

BOOM, Hendrik
KRIMP, Nick
McCULLOGH, Brian
McCULLOGH, Megan
McCULLOGH, Philip
WALLING, René

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

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

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

BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
RINZ, Joshua
SICHEL, Danny
WHITELAW, Maureen

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.

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Tel. / Tél.: () _____ () _____

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techniques in both plastic and paper modelling. Members are encouraged to bring in models they are currently working on to benefit from tips to be offered by the club's master modellers.

2. Sci-Fi Fair: A fund-raiser with an emphasis on *fun* in which members try their hand at a variety of challenging SF/F-themed carnival midway-like games; premium prizes will be awarded the highest point-getters. A bake sale is planned in conjunction with the fair. Bring a friend!

June 13

Group Outing: To be determined; watch this space.

Outside-of-Meeting Fund-Raising Suggestions

Among the ideas offered at a brainstorming session held during the March club meeting were several interesting proposals.

A casino night of some kind was floated, perhaps in association with ConCept's planned fund-raising efforts. Or, a MonSFFA-staffed carnival midway, similar to the club's Sci-Fi Fair might be set up in the dealers' room at ConCept in October. MonSFFA would pocket the proceeds, minus a cut for ConCept.

A summer garage sale was suggested, to be held either at a willing MonSFFA's residence or as part of a church or community-sponsored rummage sale. We would feature not only genre items but all manner of second-hand stuff. Items would be catalogued and priced in advance. A staff of club members would see to the transportation of the stock to the designated location and run the sale throughout the day. All monies raised would go to the club, minus, perhaps, a modest percentage paid to those who donated stock of a certain value.

A themed dance, TransWarp-like mini-con, SF/F play or improv event, bake sale, craft sale, service auction, "slave" auction, and car wash were also proffered via the club's suggestion box.

The production for sale of a children's sci-fi colouring book and of SF/F-themed greeting cards were also among the notions put forth.

The pros and cons of all of these will have to be weighed and logistics considered,

of course, but we see potential, here. We will certainly discuss these ideas further with the goal of arriving at a workable plan of action as soon as possible.

March MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA devoted much of its March 28 meeting to the production of the old-fashioned radio play the group had written the previous month. Six loosely connected segments had been scripted and a makeshift recording studio was set up to capture the performance of these. But meeting attendance was a little lighter than had been expected and we found ourselves short of actors, particularly for the female roles. Thus were some of the actors on hand obliged to voice two or three characters.

Berny Reischl handled the tasks of recording engineer and after a few tests of his software and microphone, production began. Each segment was directed by the writer of that segment, who provided the actors with guidance as to the delivery of their lines. The actors had fun developing voices to suit their characters. After a brief rehearsal, each cast member committed his or her lines to "tape." The process went quite smoothly, often with but a few takes necessary. A bit of on-the-fly rewriting got around any minor script errors discovered as recording proceeded.

By afternoon's close, about half the project remained, regrettably, incomplete. We plan to finish the job over the next few MonSFFA meetings. The simplicity of the recording rig, fortunately, allows for a quick set-up and short sessions. And, we hope to have a few more actors present in the weeks to come to fill some of those uncast roles.

The editor will later, in post-production, assemble all of these snippets of dialogue in accordance with the script, then add sound effects and music.

The meeting also included a brief brainstorming session on outside-of-meeting fund-raising ideas (see previous item).

MonSFFA thanks our recording engineer, actors, and everyone else who took part in our March club meeting.

January MonSFFA Meeting

We're somewhat behind on reviewing the club's first meeting of the year, which

took place on January 17th. The meeting opened with MonSFFA's traditional election of a new Executive for the coming year, but this time with rather a twist. Tongue in cheek, MonSFFA crowned its first emperor, as covered in detail last issue. And then it was on to the afternoon's programme.

Joe Aspler led off, offering a brief primer on the famous Bulwer-Lytton writing contest, named for Victorian author Edward George Bulwer-Lytton and sponsored annually by the English Department of California's San José State University. Bulwer-Lytton, a contemporary of Charles Dickens, is remembered for his singularly appalling prose, including the definitive run-on sentence that opened one of his novels and began "It was a dark and stormy night".

The idea of the contest is to pen the opening sentence of a really badly written novel. Florid language is encouraged in an effort to come up with a prime example of the exceedingly awful. Joe read aloud a few award-winning entries from years past, including a couple of his own, before challenging the group to compose their own potential submissions to the 2010 competition. After about an hour of scribbling, a good number of the MonSFFen present had honed their wretched writing to perfection and club fanzine editor Cathy Palmer-Lister collected the results for publication in *Warp* 73.

Following the mid-meeting break, MonSFFA's freshly minted 2010 Executive—Berny Reischl, president/Emperor; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer—convened a Board of Advisors (BoA) session to finish working out the details of meeting programming for the coming year. All present participated, offering suggestions and volunteering to host panels or help with projects. By day's end, the club had finalized the coming year's worth of meeting programming and other activities. (Note: as always, meeting programming and other planned activities are subject to change.)

We thank Joe Aspler for his presentation on the Bulwer-Lytton contest, as well as those MonSFFen who participated in our BoA. A nod is given, also, to those folk who stocked our snack table, and to those who helped with meeting set-up and clean-up.

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":
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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

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www.MonSFFA.com