



# ASFACTS 2016

APRIL "HEY, IT'S DRY - CAN WE HAVE SOME WATER, PLEASE" ISSUE

## 2015 NEBULA FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America released the final ballot for the 2015 Nebula Awards on February 21. The 2016 SFWA Nebula Conference will take place at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago the weekend of May 12-15. The banquet and awards ceremony will take place the evening of May 14, reports Locus Online.

**Novel:** *Ancillary Mercy* by Ann Leckie, *Barsk: The Elephants' Graveyard* by Lawrence M. Schoen, *The Fifth Season* by N. K. Jemisin, *The Grace of Kings* by Ken Liu, *Raising Caine* by Charles E. Gannon, *Updraft* by Fran Wilde, and *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik.

**Novella:** *Binti* by Nnedi Okorafor, "The Bone Swans of Amandale" by C. S. E. Cooney, "The New Mother" by Eugene Fischer, "The Pauper Prince and the Eucalyptus Jinn" by Usman T. Malik, "Waters of Versaille" by Kelly Robson, and *Wings of Sorrow and Bone* by Beth Cato.

**Novelette:** "And You Shall Know Her by the Trail of Dead" by Brooke Bolander, "The Deepwater Bride" by Tamsyn Muir, "Grandmother-nai-Laylit's Cloth of Winds" by Rose Lemberg, "The Ladies' Aquatic Gardening Society" by Henry Lien, "Our Lady of the Open Road" by Sarah Pinsker, and "Rattlesnakes and Men" by Michael Bishop.

**Short Story:** "Cat Pictures Please" by Naomi Kritzer, "Damage" by David D. Levine, "Hungry Daughters of Starving Mothers" by Alyssa Wong, "Madeleine" by Amal El-Mohtar, "Today I Am Paul" by Martin L. Shoemaker, and "When Your Child Strays from God" by Sam J. Miller.

**Andre Norton Finalists:** *Archivist Wasp* by Nicole Kornher-Stace, *Bone Gap* by Laura Ruby, *Court of Fives* by Kate Elliott, *Cuckoo Song* by Frances Hardinge, *Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson, *Seriously Wicked* by Tina Connolly, *Shadowshaper* by Daniel José Older, *Updraft* by Fran Wilde, and *Zeroboxer* by Fonda Lee.

**Ray Bradbury Finalists:** *Ex Machina*, *Inside Out*, *Jessica Jones: AKA Smile*, *Mad Max: Fury Road*, *The Martian*, and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

Many of this year's Nebula nominees are first-time

Nebula finalists. Only three have previously won Nebulas: Michael Bishop has won twice before with 16 prior nominations; Ann Leckie has won once before with two prior nominations; and Ken Liu has won once before with eight prior nominations. No other finalists this year are previous winners. Of them, N.K. Jemisin has the most prior nominations, four, while Lawrence M. Schoen has three.

## CHERRYH NAMED SFWA GRAND MASTER

The Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) named C.J. Cherryh the 32nd recipient of the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award in mid-February, reports Locus Online. SFWA president Cat Rambo said Cherryh, Bubonicon 12's Guest of Honor, "is a master of long-running series involving worlds and characters that the reader can visit and revisit with a true sense of wonder each and every time."

The award, given for "lifetime achievement in science fiction and/or fantasy," will be presented at the SFWA Nebula Conference held May 12-15, 2016 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago IL.

## PRATCHETT RECEIVES SOLSTICE AWARD

The Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) announced in mid-March that the late Sir Terry Pratchett will receive the 2016 Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award, reports Locus Online.

## UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Devin O'Leary of the *Weekly Alibi* presents his 4TH SCI-FI TRAILER PARK with a look at forthcoming genre movies. We're a week late!
- **May 13:** Benjamin Radford talks on *Bad Clowns!*
- **June 10:** Our own Grant Kuck talks about "Moon Rocks and Moonstones."
- **July 8:** Summer Film - something fun & light. Plus the summer issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline July 3).
- **August 12:** Bubonicon 48 preview & something fun (possibly an author visit).
- **August 19:** Bubonicon 48 Gofer Meeting.
- **September 16:** Bubonicon 48 & Kansas City Worldcon reports. Meeting is a week late.

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**Club Officers:** Jessica Coyle & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Geneva Schult, Moderator. Julie Heffernan, Alternator. **Bubonicon Chairs:** Craig Chrissinger & Caci Cooper (505) 559-0931. www.bubonicon.com

The Solstice award, created in 2008 and given at the discretion of the SFWA president with the majority approval of the Board of Directors, is for individuals, living or dead, who have had “a significant impact on the science fiction or fantasy landscape, and is particularly intended for those who have consistently made a major, positive difference within the speculative fiction field.” Previous winners include Octavia E. Butler, Alice B. Sheldon (AKA James Tiptree, Jr.), Tom Doherty, Carl Sagan, Stanley Schmidt, Michael Whelan, Kate Wilhelm, Terri Windling, Donald A. Wollheim, and John Clute.

Pratchett will be honored at the 2016 Nebula Awards Weekend, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Awards, to be held May 12-15 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago IL.

## ERNEST REAVES PASSES AWAY

Word has reached us that long-time ASFS member Ernie Reaves died March 19 of complications from pneumonia. He was 70 years old.

Before he retired in 2011, Reaves worked at CNM. In addition to science fiction, his hobbies included astronomy. His wife said a star party with a telescope and his UFO posters on display was held to mark his passing.

## ASTEROID McDEVITT NAMED

The International Astronomical Union has approved a proposal to name an asteroid after SF writer Jack McDevitt, reported Locus Online mid-March. The asteroid, now known as “Jackmcdevitt,” is designated 328305, and was discovered in 2006 by astronomer Lawrence Wasserman at Kitt Peak observatory in Arizona.

## BOOK GROUP STILL READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, April 18, in the side room of Pacific Paradise, northeast corner of San Pedro & Candelaria NE, to discuss *Finn Fancy Necromancy* by Randy Henderson. The group then focuses on *The Forever War* by Joe Haldeman on Monday, May 16.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the third Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on selected novels at Page One Books in the Mountain Run Shopping Center. Info: Leah at [skycaptain1883@yahoo.com](mailto:skycaptain1883@yahoo.com) or Craig at 266-8905.

## GRRM JOINS KING ON ABQ STAGE

Longtime Albuquerque indie bookstore, Bookworks, has announced that George RR Martin, *Game of Thrones* creator, will join horror master Stephen King on stage for a conversation at the Kiva Auditorium in the Albuquerque

Convention Center on 7:00 pm Thursday, June 16.

Bookworks previously announced that Stephen King would be stopping in Albuquerque for a talk, one of twelve stops on a national tour promoting his new novel, *End of Watch*, the third novel in the Bill Hodges trilogy. But what was already an unbelievable event opportunity has become even more notable, with a special guest Martin as part of the billing.

“We were talking one day at the store about the event, daydreaming about how we would ever be able to score an event more epic than Stephen King,” recalls Bookworks event director Amanda Sutton. “But what if we got George RR Martin to interview Stephen King.” Martin has been a friend of indie booksellers in NM and has taken part in several events with the store, including a sold-out in-conversation event with Diana Gabaldon in 2013. Martin also frequently hosts renowned authors at his Jean Cocteau Cinema in Santa Fe.

During a conference call with King’s assistant and publicist at Scribner, the Bookworks team mentioned the idea to have the two authors appear together.

The pieces fell into place when Martin contacted his agent, who also is Stephen King’s agent, expressing interest in hosting King at the Cocteau. No new events were able to be added to the tour, but Martin was invited and graciously agreed to join the bill for the Albuquerque event. Martin will be in conversation with Stephen King’s son, author Joe Hill, May 23 at the Cocteau upon release of *The Fireman*.

Martin and King will sign books prior to the event. Every attendee will receive an *End of Watch* hardcover with ticket purchase, with 400 pre-signed copies to be distributed at random. The Bill Hodges trilogy began with *Mr. Mercedes*, followed by *Finders Keepers*.

“We are thrilled to host Stephen King. I love his storytelling. He is a master of his craft. This is part of what we love doing for Albuquerque,” says Wyatt Wegrzyn, co-owner of Bookworks.

Tickets for Stephen King in Conversation with George RR Martin are available online at [bkwrks.com/stephen-king](http://bkwrks.com/stephen-king), by phone at 505-344-8139, or in person at Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande Blvd NW in Albuquerque.

## DOZOIS WINS SKYLARK AWARD

Gardner Dozois is the recipient of the 2016 Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction (a.k.a. the Skylark Award), presented by the New England Science Fiction Association announced at Boskone 53, held at the Westin Boston Waterfront, February 19-21, 2016, reported Locus Online.

The Skylark is given to “some person, who, in the opinion of the membership, has contributed significantly to science fiction, both through work in the field and by exemplifying the personal qualities which made the late ‘Doc’ Smith well-loved by those who knew him.”

## **APEX TAKES PKD AWARD**

The 2016 Philip K. Dick Award winner has been announced: *Apex* by Ramez Naam, reported Locus Online in late March. Special Citation went to *Archangel* by Marguerite Reed.

The award is presented annually to a distinguished work of science fiction originally published in paperback form in the United States. The winner and special citation were announced Friday, March 25, at Norwescon 39 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport, SeaTac, Washington. For more, see [www.philipkdickaward.org](http://www.philipkdickaward.org).

## **FELICIA DAY VISITS UNM APRIL 29; TO CONVERSE WITH CHRISSINGER**

Actress, comedian and author Felicia Day will be discussing her memoir, *You're Never Weird on the Internet (Almost)*, 7:00 pm Friday, April 29, in Woodward Hall at the University of NM. Bookworks and the UNM Creative Writing are partnering on the event as Day tours for the trade paperback release of her book.

Day will be in conversation with Craig Chrissinger of the ABQ SF Society. Chrissinger has been writing about TV, film and books since 1989 in publications such as *Starlog*, *Fangoria*, *Comics Scene* and the *Albuquerque Journal*.

Priority seating and a place in the signing line requires purchase from Bookworks. Customers can order a hardcover, paperback, or audio and receive a ticket to the event. The paperback ticket link is at [bkwrks.com/felicia-day-ticket](http://bkwrks.com/felicia-day-ticket). Will call and doors opens at 6:00 pm. Ticket holders can pick up tickets and books at will call the night of the event or in advance at Bookworks. Paperback books will be available at the store after the book's April 19 release date.

An instant *New York Times* bestseller, *You're Never Weird on the Internet (Almost)* is a funny and inspirational memoir about Day's upbringing in the South, her rise to internet stardom, and embracing her weirdness.

Day has appeared in many mainstream TV shows and films, including a two-season arc on the SyFy series *Eureka*, the CW show *Supernatural*, the hit web series she created, *The Guild*, and as co-star in Joss Whedon's Emmy Award-winning Internet musical, *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*. In 2012, she launched a YouTube channel called Geek & Sundry that has more than 1.3 million subscribers and more than 200 million views. She has more than 2.3 million Twitter followers, and is the founder of Vaginal Fantasy, a romance and fantasy book club with more than 13,000 members on GoodReads.

For more information on Felicia Day's appearance, visit [www.bkwrks.com/felicia-day](http://www.bkwrks.com/felicia-day), where the ticket link for the event can be found, by phone at 505-344-8139, or in person at Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande Blvd NW.

## **DRAGONCON ANNOUNCES DRAGON AWARDS**

DragonCon, the "largest multi-media, popular culture convention focusing on science fiction & fantasy, gaming, comics, literature, art, music, and film" has announced the creation of the Dragon Awards, reported Locus Online in early April.

Described as a "fans-focused" process, voting is open to "all of the fans of all forms of science fiction."

Nominations will be accepted from "early April until July 25," with a final ballot to be announced August 2, 2016. For eligibility, "the book, comic, game, movie, or, at least, one episode of any series has to have been released Between April 1, 2015, and the close of nominations, July 25, 2016."

The Dragon Awards categories for 2016 are: Best SF novel, Best fantasy novel (including paranormal), Best YA/middle grade novel, Best military science fiction or fantasy novel, Best alternate history novel, Best apocalyptic novel, Best horror novel, Best comic book, Best graphic novel, Best episode in a continuing science fiction or fantasy series, TV or internet, Best science fiction or fantasy movie, Best science fiction or fantasy PC/console game, Best science fiction or fantasy mobile game, Best science fiction or fantasy board game, and Best science fiction or fantasy miniatures/collectable card/role-playing game. More info: [www.dragoncon.org](http://www.dragoncon.org).

## **ASH VS. EVIL DEAD SEASON 2 TEASED**

by Trent Moore, [Blastr.com](http://Blastr.com), 04/06/2016

The first season of *Ash vs. Evil Dead* was a (very) bloody good time, but what is the creative team cooking up for the next Deadite battle royale?

Executive producer Craig DiGregorio chatted with *Collider* about the upcoming second season and what the narrative focus will be once the show returns in September on Starz. According to DiGregorio, the first season was all about catching up with Ash, following the 20+ year gap at the end of *Army of Darkness*.

As for Season 2, DiGregorio noted that they'll be digging deeper into Ash's life before all this insanity – telling the story of the man he was supposed to be before hell (literally) derailed his path. It's an interesting angle, and considering the first season ended with the gang headed for Jacksonville, it'll be interesting to see where the story picks up.

Here's an excerpt from DiGregorio's comments: "To me, Season 1 was two things – learning what had happened with this character that you hadn't seen for 30 years, from the time between the cabin and the present day, and also realizing that he is not too isolated to make a relationship with Pablo and Kelly. So, Season 1 was about learning about him in the interim 30 years. Season 2 focuses on Ash going home and going back to his

hometown. In that respect, you're learning about another side, which you haven't seen. In this season, I think you're going to learn more about what his life was like before he went to the cabin. What was his life like? Who were the people that he hung out with in high school? Maybe we'll see members of his family. Lee Majors is playing his dad on the show. I've seen dailies of Lee, and he's so good. He's the type of person where we wrote the part with a specific voice in mind, and he came in and just nailed it and did better. So, our plan for Season 2 is finding out more about Ash and his distinct past, before he read the book. Who was he and what was he really running away from? The Delta will also be a big character, this season.

"There are certain big fan questions that I get asked, that I think we will have at least looked into doing," he continued. "I won't say that we are or aren't doing something, but there are a lot of questions I get, and if you were to list out the five biggest questions, there are a couple that we definitely have looked into a lot. It feels like, for the first season, although we definitely imprinted a lot on what those 30 years were, when you picked Ash up at the beginning of the pilot, you could see what he was. There was only so much we could do to expand out who he was. But for this season, in particular, we're really defining what this guy was. Sam [Raimi] and I and Bruce [Campbell] are really defining who this guy was and we're building out the mythology of his life. To take one of your favorite childhood heroes, in quotes and with a question mark, and really flesh him out a bunch and see who he was is really cool."

*Ash vs. Evil Dead* returns to Starz in September.

## **ROGUE ONE TRAILER PREMIERES, STAR WARS QUESTIONS RAISED**

By Simon Reynolds & Hugh Armitage, Digital Spy, 04/07/2016

*Star Wars: The Force Awakens* has well and truly whetted the world's appetite for Jedis and X-Wings – and we have so many questions about the untitled Episode 8. But while we wait for that, Disney and Lucasfilm will be taking us on a trip into the past for *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, the first in a series of (potentially unlimited) spinoffs exploring the character back stories, history and furthest reaches of the galaxy far, far away.

With the delay of *Star Wars* Episode 8 from May to December 2017, we'll no doubt be very happy to have a *Rogue One*-shaped snack later this year to keep us going in the meantime.

*Rogue One* will be released on December 16 in the UK and US (that's a Friday, FYI), with France, Italy and the Netherlands getting it first on December 14.

The lid was lifted on *Rogue One* at Disney D23 Expo with a first picture of the cast. Oscar-nominated *The Theory of Everything* star Felicity Jones will lead the cast of

the film, playing a troubled young tearaway called Jyn Erso who is recruited as part of the team tasked with retrieving the Death Star plans.

Riz Ahmed (*Nightcrawler*), Diego Luna (*Elysium*), Jiang Wen (*Let the Bullets Fly*) and Donnie Yen will be part of her crack squad, while Ben Mendelsohn, Forest Whitaker and Mads Mikkelsen will also be showing up. And *Firefly*'s Alan Tudyk is apparently playing a turn-coat Imperial droid. Genevieve O'Reilly is reprising the role of Mon Mothma from *Revenge of the Sith*.

We're still short on info of who will be playing who, but against all odds, *Hannibal*'s Mikkelsen apparently won't be a villain, and the rumors are that Whitaker will play a "one-legged bounty hunter affiliate," whatever that's supposed to mean.

Mendelsohn is leading the rumors for the villain of the piece – possibly an Imperial honcho like Peter Cushing's Grand Moff Tarkin from the original trilogy – but that's no more than speculation at this point.

The *Star Wars* franchise's first spinoff film will be taking us back in time to a point between *Revenge of the Sith* and *A New Hope* – and judging by what we know, it will be at a point in time much closer to the latter.

The official synopsis reads as follows: "Following the foundation of the Galactic Empire, a wayward band of Rebel fighters comes together to carry out a desperate mission: to steal the plans for the Death Star before it can be used to enforce the Emperor's rule."

That would be the first Death Star, before you get all worried about Jones and company being doomed to die. The first trailer gave us some more hints about what will happen – mainly that Jyn might join the Empire, or even be a double agent all along. Color us worried.

Rogue Squadron was the group of fighter pilots of which Luke Skywalker was a member with his old pal Wedge Antilles, and though the film's name indicates some sort of link, we don't know if these Rebels spies moonlight as crack fliers or if that's even a thing.

The film has been billed as a heist flick, with rumors comparing it to *The Dirty Dozen* or *Saving Private Ryan*. Only in space.

The latest and most favorite rumor about *Rogue One* is that Darth Vader will be putting in an appearance, which would make a certain amount of sense with the film set during his reign as the Emperor's chief enforcer. What's even better is the suggestion that he will be mega brutal, with "decapitated rebels, people being dismembered by Vader throwing his sword [and] levitating bodies to make human shields."

Also, chins have been wagging that Boba Fett could be knocking around after his ship Slave 1 was spotted in a promo for *Rogue One* Lego. But, be warned, Lego has misled us before.

Gareth Edwards made his name with the ultra-low budget *Monsters* in 2010 before directing 2014's *Godzilla*, and now he's been tasked with launching the new

expanded *Star Wars* universe. It's been a sharp career trajectory, but one that Edwards seems to be taking in his stride. He's previously cited George Lucas as one of his favorite filmmakers and has stated, "Ever since I saw *Star Wars* I knew exactly what I wanted to do for the rest of my life – join the Rebel Alliance! I could not be more excited and honored to go on this mission with Lucas-film."

VFX firm ILM set up shop in London late last year with the promise of working on six new *Star Wars* films over the course of the next decade. A UK base for ILM indicates that *Star Wars* will be a strong presence in the British film industry for some time.

This is the first *Star Wars* movie without John Williams. John Williams' iconic music has provided the soundtrack to all six previous live-action *Star Wars* feature films, but *Rogue One* will be the first to break with that tradition. Alexandre Desplat, the French composer behind everything from *Grand Budapest Hotel* to *The Imitation Game* and *Argo*, will take on the daunting task of creating a new sound for *Star Wars*. Could Williams's classic theme be returning as part of the new score? We're still waiting to find out!

## BUBONICON 48 HAS UPDATES

Bubonicon 48 planning still is in the early stages with potential participants responding with programming choices and fan groups writing in to request space & time. Weekend passes are at \$38.00 through May 14, and then go to \$40. You can purchase your weekend pass at ASFS meetings with cash/check, mail your payment to "Bubonicon" with the PDF registration form to 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108, or pay online with a credit card.

The convention of "Rockets, Robots & Rayguns" takes place August 26-28 (a week after the Kansas City Worldcon) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). Single-Quad rooms are \$99 a night when reserved by August 15.

Any solo fan or fan group requests for time & space are needed *BY SUNDAY, APRIL 24*, at [bubonicon@gmail.com](mailto:bubonicon@gmail.com). We just need some basic info on what you'd like to do, the person/group requesting time at the con, and whether you need 60 or 90 minutes.

In addition to Co-Guests of Honor Rachel Caine & David Gerrold, Toastmaster Joe R. Lansdale, and Guest Artist Lee Moyer, those confirmed to participate so far include: Mario Acevedo, John Barnes, Jeremy W. Brett, Craig Butler, Peri Charlifu, Jason Heller, Betsy James, Darynda Jones, Jeffe Kennedy, Elizabeth Leggett, Jane Lindskold, Emily Mah, John Jos. Miller, Victor Milan, Laura J. Mixon, Pati Nagle, Benjamin Radford, Joan Saerberhagen, Melinda Snodgrass, Jim Sorenson, Gabi Stevens, Steve Stiles, S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers, Robert E. Vardeman, Walter Jon Williams, and Connie &

Courtney Willis. More will be added, of course.

Green Slime Mistress Jessica Coyle is taking nominations for "wretched things that should be recognized" and preparing to entertain the masses Saturday night of the con.

The con will benefit the Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University and the Roadrunner Food Bank through the Friday night auction and a portion of con proceeds.

No Dealer Spaces remain - all 30 spaces have been sold! To be put on a waiting list, email Dan Cooper at [dealers@bubonicon.com](mailto:dealers@bubonicon.com). Meanwhile, the Art Show will have rules & forms posted in June. Stay tuned.

As always, volunteers are appreciated! "Gofers," as con volunteers are known, receive movie promotional swag and other prizes, and are invited to a pizza party after Bubonicon 48 ends (usually late September).

More general information is available from 559-0931 (Google voice), 266-8905 (Craig), the UPS Store box 500-208, email to [bubonicon@gmail.com](mailto:bubonicon@gmail.com) or at [bubonicon.com](http://bubonicon.com).

## BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

*The Road to Hell: Hell's Gate Book 3* by David Weber and Joelle Presby, 2016 Baen, hc \$28.00, 720 pages.

Review by Kevin Hewett

*The Road to Hell* is the third installment in the Hell's Gate Series. The previous books were *Hell's Gate* and *Hell Hath No Fury*, both by David Weber and Linda Evans. The series follows the conflict that arises between two empires, each of which spans multiple universes, when first contact occurs. In this book, the two warring sides begin to understand that the laws of the multiverse are not immutable and unchanging as one travels from one universe to another. These subtle changes in the laws mean that the magic of the Arcana and the psionics of Sharona both become weaker the farther the members of each empire travel from their home universes. This fact is obviously a set-up for future volumes in the series.

This book picks up after the climax of book two where the dragon-borne assault troops of Arcana had finally been stopped after they had conquered five universes. The desperate battle which stopped the assault had unfortunately resulted in the death of the crown prince of Sharona, throwing into political turmoil the uneasy alliance which fought that battle. This book covers the inevitable political intrigue as the new Crown Princess assumes her duties while the battle to recover from the early setbacks is fought by the armies of the Sharona Empire.

The book has little or no recap of the previous action; one is assumed to have read the previous books. Thus *The Road to Hell* is only recommended for those who have read the previous two books in the series. If one has not read (or does not intend to read) the previous volumes, then this is not a book for them.

## ASFS MEETING REPORTS —

### AUGUST 2015: B'CON PREVIEW & SNODGRASS

Thirty-three people were on hand for the Bubonicon 47 preview and a visit from Santa Fe author Melinda Snodgrass. First, con chairs Craig Chrissinger and Caci Cooper presented the program schedule and showed off t-shirts with artwork from Ruth Sanderson.

Snodgrass said that *The Edge of Dawn*, released August 4, ties up the trilogy “pretty well, but I did leave myself an opening for more stories. I know the very last scene, and I hope to get to it.”

She is doing a five-book space opera series for Titan Books, *The Imperials*. “It started as a story but I had trouble finishing it,” she said. “It wasn’t working. George RR Martin expressed interest doing it as a shared-world series, but we couldn’t sell it without his name on it - and he didn’t want to be in the spotlight. I wanted to do it as a series of novels because I love the universe and a character that George created. I delivered the first book, *The High Ground*, at the beginning of May. Two stories in *The Imperials* universe have appeared in the anthologies *Dangerous Women* and *Songs of Love and Death*. Eventually, I have to weave those stories and events into the novels.”

Snodgrass said she doesn’t go into much detail of *The Imperials*’ technology. “There is faster-than-light speed and I don’t explain it,” she said. “I didn’t want to have technobabble like on *Star Trek*. I did re-use fold technology from my TV pilot. So, they just go into the fold, and that’s it.”

If she had an unlimited budget, she said she probably would like to *The Imperials* as a TV series, and that she needs to write a spec script for that possibility.

Asked about why she’d prefer a TV series, Snodgrass explained, “I’ve done several scripts for movies, but I prefer TV. TV is a writer’s medium, and it’s much more immediate. For movies, I did a *Star Blazers* script, two *Wild Cards* scripts, and I worked on *A Princess of Mars*.”

She finished by talking about films she’s enjoyed and those she did not. “It may be heresy, but I liked *Tomorrowland* with its message of hope. It does take too long to get to George Clooney. Two movies with Tom Cruise - *Edge of Tomorrow* and *Oblivion* - turned out to be great. *Inside Out* was good, but over-hyped. The first *Star Trek* reboot had an old-school *Trek* feel. It looked good, but you could tell the script wasn’t ready when shooting began. The second *Trek* film (with Chris Pine) infuriated me. It was so bad, and I ranted at the screen. That thing was a mess.”

### SEPTEMBER: B'CON 47 & WORLDCON REPORTS

Just 29 people came to hear how Bubonicon 47 did, about the Spokane Worldcon with its Hugo controversy, and the excitement of Dragoncon.

B47 chairs Craig Chrissinger and Caci Cooper said that Perry Rodent’s con had 935 people, did well overall, and that \$6,000 was being given to charity.

Elizabeth Leggett, who won a Fan Artist Hugo, said airport security was a little nervous about her award. “It’s

eight pounds and shaped like a rocket,” she said. “At the Hugo Losers Party, winners had to wear a conehead for Hugo nominees to write on and also Groucho Marx glasses. And I was happy to be invited to George RR Martin’s party, too.”

She said she was scheduled a lot on programming. “On Thursday, I was on an illustration techniques panel and ‘What the Bleep is Fan Art?’, which I loved. The day after the Hugo Awards, I had a kaffeeklatsch for Hugo nominees at 10 am, so I wore pajamas and big glasses to that.”

Leggett reported the Art Show was small but had gorgeous pieces - and that the great lighting gave ambience.

A large fire burned in Washington state during Worldcon, and it was a factor she said. “On the way in, airplanes had to go around fire zones. It was kind of scary at times. It smelled like we were inside a brisket. I felt bad for anyone with asthma or lung issues.”

Finally, Mandy Pietruszewski talked about her 2015 Dragoncon experience, her eighth time to the Atlanta con. “There were some mini-disasters,” she reported. “The vendors room was moved again, which actually helped. The *Sleepy Hollow* panel was odd - the main person was 30 minutes late and others didn’t show up. I went to one of Jim Butcher’s signings and the line had been cut off. So people gave their books to folks already in line. I met TV’s *Green Arrow* and got a signed photo. I did cosplay as two different versions of Hawkeye, from comics and from steampunk.

“The con was crazy crowded, but volunteers really worked hard to control the crowds,” Pietruszewski continued. “There were at least 60,000 people, if not more. I usually do mostly the comic track, but this year was different. I bounced between a lot of stuff. I went to the female writers panel, the *Wheel of Time* panel, and a *Warehouse 13* panel. Some Muppets were on display in the Art Show, and Carroll Spinney was at the con. I already have my hotel reservation for next year. It was fun. Yay! I like Dragoncon.”

### EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

• **THE HUGO AWARDS** look to be a bit better this year. The Sad Puppies made some recommendations, but not really a slate. For that matter, George RR Martin made some suggestions. Hugo voting rules will be addressed in Worldcon business meetings in Kansas City this year. Let’s see if something reasonable can be ironed out. Or will people throw out the baby with the bath water?

• **WE’RE BACK FROM THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** in Portales, which took place April 7-9. It was a good time with Victor Milan as Special Guest and Connie Willis as Toastmaster. A bit smaller this year, but still full of the usual chatting & eating. Bubonicon and Albuquerque were well represented between concom members and professional writers. Golden Library is about to undergo major renovations, so the Lectureship will be interesting the next two years while the building is unavailable. I need to write my article on the Lectureship for *Locus Magazine* this weekend at the latest for their May issue.

• **I’M A TAD NERVOUS** but excited about sharing a stage with Felicia Day April 29. Believe me, I am already thinking of questions. She’s a really nice person, so it should be fine. Please come.

• **THANKS TO KEVIN** for his contribution. Submissions are welcome. Please. Really, I’m not kidding. See you in July. —Craig