

I M P U L S E

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

January / Janvier 2016 (Vol. 20, No./N° 1)

**NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, January 24****1:00PM-5:00PM****St-François Room
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: The Tuques of Hoth;
fashion a Star Wars or SF/F-themed
tuque suitable for winter conditions
and showcase it at the meeting!***PROGRAMME****1:00PM****2016 MONSFFA ELECTIONS:**Membership selects club's Executive
for the coming year (see lead item).**1:15PM****SKIFFY SPORTS:** Quidditch, The Hunger
Games, Triad, Rollerball, Jetan, Jumanji,
Zathura, and Fizzbin; we look at sports
and games in science fiction and fantasy.**2:15PM****MID-MEETING BREAK:**Fund-raising raffle; brief discussion
of club-related business.**2:45PM****BOARD OF ADVISORS****MEETING/PLANNING SESSION:**We further outline the club's 2016
activities, firming up meeting
programming.**3:15PM****STOP-MOTION FILM PROJECT:**Workshop on creating backgrounds
and static foreground elements.**Next Month's Meeting:****SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21****2016 CLUB ELECTIONS**

The first order of business as the club begins a new year is traditionally the election of MonSFFA's Executive Committee for that year. The club's 2016 elections will take place at our first meeting of this New Year, scheduled for January 24. All MonSFFA members in good standing are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president(s), and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on behalf of the membership. These executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility.

Our sitting Executive is as follows: Cathy Palmer-Lister, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

Any MonSFFA member in good standing who is responsibly and reliably able to carry out the duties of office may run for any one of the Executive posts. Candidates may nominate themselves or accept nomination from another member in good standing. Nominations are received by the chief returning officer, or CRO, usually just before the commencement of voting on Election Day.

Long-time MonSFFA member Josée Bellemare is currently our CRO.

All MonSFFA members in good standing are eligible to cast a ballot. Members are asked to be present at the designated place and time in order to exercise their right to vote. Proxy voting is not permitted, except under special circumstances and by approval of the CRO (out-of-town members unable to attend the vote, for example, may have their ballots cast by the CRO in their absence, or make their choices via e-mail or other form of communication outside of the designated voting hour).

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

The Annual Membership Fees of
the Following Club Members are...

Overdue:

BOIES, Marquise
DUROCHER, Marc
HAMMOCK, Christopher
HECHTMAN, Ken
KNAPP, Brian K.
KNAPP, Mary C.
MOIR, L. E.
NOVO, Alice

Due This Month, January:

PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

Due Next Month, February:

RUFIANGE, Yolande

Standard membership is only \$25
annually. We offer a family rate of \$40.
Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our
premium "Platinum" membership level.
Please complete the 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 patronage.

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./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____
No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

Province _____ Postal Code/Code Postal _____ E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

2016 MonSFFA Meeting Dates

The club recently submitted its requested meeting dates for the coming year and subsequently received word from the Banquets and Hospitality Manager at our Hôtel Expresso locale confirming those dates, which are as follows (all are Sundays): January 24, February 21, March 13, April 17, May 15, August 28, September 18, October 16, and November 20.

In addition, we have an outing planned for Sunday, June 12 (group movie matinée, museum visit, out-of-town field trip; tender your suggestions!), and have scheduled our annual summer barbecue for Sunday, July 17.

Our 2016 Christmas Dinner/Party will take place on Saturday evening, December 3 (or possibly December 10; we'll firm that up shortly).

Christmas Dinner and Party 2015

MonSFFen gathered again this holiday season at the downtown Irish Embassy Pub and Grill on Saturday evening, December 5, for the club's 2015 Christmas Dinner and Party.

Just shy of two dozen MonSFFolk and friends exchanged seasonal greetings, enjoyed conversation over a fine meal and later, lingered over drinks. It was nice to see again, joining his old cohorts for the club's Christmas celebration, former MonSFFA president Berny Reischl, who retired from active fandom at last year's Christmas gathering after decades of involvement in sci-fi fandom, much of that time with MonSFFA.

We were pleased to offer a thank-you gift to a lucky MonSFFAn randomly drawn among those who had renewed their memberships early during the calendar year, and by way of our "Rewards Raffle", gifted a few randomly chosen of our numerous volunteer members with a special prize in recognition of their efforts on behalf of the club throughout the year. Finally, the club's traditional holiday raffle awarded lucky winners with festively wrapped sci-fi prizes, including a Doctor Who Monopoly game, a couple DVD and Blu-Ray movie collections, books, and a few cool collectibles.

A nod of thanks is directed at the club's president and vice-president, Cathy Palmer-Lister and Keith Braithwaite, for organizing this event.

A good time was had by all!

November MonSFFA Meeting

The club's last meeting of 2015 featured a visually capacious exploration of wild, wacky flying machines, both real and imagined, and odd, inelegant, crazy-cool spaceship designs in sci-fi film and television. Sylvain St-Pierre and Keith Braithwaite teamed up on this presentation, which began with Sylvain's retrospective of some of early sci-fi's wondrously envisioned flying machines and interplanetary vehicles, elaborate Victorian designs

lifted skyward purely by the power of imagination. Sylvain covered the history of balloons and airships, real and fictional, and showcased, as well, real aircraft blueprints from the late-19th and early-20th centuries, and the various ungainly prototypes built by their designers. Vintage film footage showed the inevitable and total failure of these cumbersome shaking, flapping, and uncontrollable machines as they nosedived unceremoniously from hillsides, rooftops, and launch platforms, dashing in an instant their inventors' dreams of flight.

But of course, a few of them did, in fact, take off, like Gustave Whitehead's No. 21 Monoplane and the Wright brothers' Flyer, the former's claim of a first manned, powered, and sustained flight disputed, the latter's triumph generally accepted as ushering in a new age of flight.

Keith, for his part, screened still images and video clips of some of the unorthodox, bizarre, and just plain weird spaceships created for sci-fi film and television, like Barbarella's pink-hued Alpha 7, exhibiting a shag carpet-lined interior, Nell of Roger Corman's Battle Beyond the Stars, sporting a rather buxom hull sculpted by a young James Cameron, and the "biomechanical" derelict craft featured in Alien and created by surrealist painter/sculptor H. R. Giger.

Television's Babylon 5 and the rebooted Battlestar Galactica both employed organic shapes and textures in the designs of their many spaceships, no doubt inspired by the natural world. The Minibari warcruiser, for example, resembles an angelfish while the Shadow ships incorporate a mix of spider, crab, and sea urchin features. The design of the titular Lexx spaceship, meanwhile, echoes a dragonfly and includes hull details that resemble female genitalia, in keeping with the tone of this Canadian/German/British co-production.

Star Wars boasts a number of spacecraft approximating everyday items, like the medical frigate first seen in The Empire Strikes Back, which looks a little like an outboard boat motor. Boba Fett's unconventional Slave 1 was initially inspired by a radar dish, apparently, and came to resemble the lamp housing of the streetlights outside the ILM studios.

Some spaceship designs embellished with great flourish familiar moulds, as did the shiny, silver, multi-finned rocket Cosmostrator, of First Spaceship on Venus. Others were simply clumsy and unimaginative, like the "solarscopes" of the unrealized UK SF series Solarnauts.

The latter part of the meeting was dedicated to 2016 programme planning, and to further pre-production work on our ongoing stop-motion film project. Unfortunately, a planned installment of our popular Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée scheduled for the meeting's morning slot had to be cancelled as Matinée host Keith Braithwaite was delayed in his arrival.

Thanks to our panelists this day, and to all the usual suspects.

Briefly:

- A handful of MonSFFen plan to attend the OVMF (Orchestre à vents de musiques de films) Doctor Who concert on January 30 in the northeast end of the city; locale: 1750 rue Sauriol Est, Salle Marguerite-Bourgeoys. Tickets are still available and can be purchased online: www.ovmf.qc.ca
- MonSFFA would like to borrow from any club members, past or present, copies of Warp's fifth and sixth issues. Published in 1989, these two issues would be designated 3.3 (March) and 3.4 (April), respectively. If you possess either or both, we would greatly appreciate your loan of them in order that we might scan them into our digital archive. Contact club president Cathy Palmer-Lister at: president@monsffa.ca
- Rock icon David Bowie, whose songs evocative of sci-fi include Space Oddity, Starman, 1984, and Saviour Machine, often employed SF imagery in his lyrics and stage shows. His famous Ziggy Stardust persona was a rock and roll spaceman! Bowie starred as an alien in the 1976 SF film The Man Who Fell to Earth, appeared, also, in the 1983 vampire movie The Hunger, and as Jareth, the Goblin King, in 1986's Labyrinth. Bowie died of liver cancer on January 10, two days after his 69th birthday and the release of his final album, Blackstar. He was truly one of rock's greatest. Visible near Mars, a constellation of seven stars in the shape of his signature Aladdin Sane lightning-bolt glam make-up has been named in his honour.

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Cathy Palmer-Lister. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Cathy Palmer-Lister. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6