



The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 78 Number 11

November 2019

Elections

It is November, 2019. We have elections for the Directorate and for the office of President.

The ballot is on Page 11.

We elect five members of the Directorate, and one President. You may vote for any or all of the candidates on the ballot. You may write in someone else as a candidate. There are only four Directorate candidates. To fill the Directorate, a fifth winner via write-in is needed.

The Official Teller is Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
12115 Missel Thrush Court, Austin, TX 78750 Please send him your ballots.

The declared candidates have written:

Anyway, I declare my candidacy, and run on the same platform as last year....Jefferson Swycaffer

John Thiel has accepted his nomination.

Laurraine Tutihasi has accepted her nomination.

Judy Carroll writes: I am running for the Directorate again this year. I will support the Club President and do my best to help members have a good experience with the club.

George Phillies — If elected, I will serve. See my letter, last issue.

Neffies

The end of the year approaches. Soon it will once again be time to nominate for Neffy Awards. You will be sent information on this. We consulted with our fine pro writers and listened carefully to members. We will add several fan categories. N3F members, but not active N3F officers, will be eligible for awards.

Bob Jennings has sent a proposal (last issue) that we should advance by using a curated list of nominees, proposed by a committee of volunteers, rather than letting everyone make nominations. We effectively did this, this year, for short stories.

For Bob Jennings's proposal, see his letter last issue, page six.

Fanzines

We changed zine mailers. It appears that a few of you have e-mailings of our ezines vanish into spam traps someplace. However, we are mailing zines regularly, most recently before this zine an issue of Tightbeam. If you receive ezines, you should have received this one. If not, check your spam filters.

A minor news note: Your Editor and Fanzine distributor is expecting eye surgery at the start of December. There may be irregularities either with the zines I edit or with our mailing schedule, lasting a few days to some weeks.

How are our nine zines doing? The National Fantasy Fan appears regularly every month, more or less at the middle



Illo
Page 10 ... Captain Gloval of Robotech. Art by Jose Sanchez



Your Volunteer Team

Directorate:

Cedar Sanderson - cedarlila@yahoo.com
 Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com
 John Thiel - kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi - lauraine@mac.com

President George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net
Treasurer David Speakman - davodd@gmail.com

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 Editor, The N3F Review of Books: George Phillies
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 Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com
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 Social Media David Speakman, George Phillies
 Video Schedule David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Welcomittee Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com
 Writers Exchange Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com

of the month. Origin is prepared by John Thiel, every month, and is mailed with TNFF. Tightbeam, our all-topics genzine, is on a regular monthly schedule, appearing near the start of the month. The N3F Review of Books attempts to stay on a monthly schedule, appearing near the end of each month. We also have bimonthly zines. Ionisphere runs interviews with famous authors and famous fen. N'APA, founded 1959, is our amateur press association, with Jefferson Swycaffer as collator. Films Fantastic's editor noted issues with his work, but the zine has appeared since. Eldritch Science has had a submission drought. Mangaverse plans for quarterly publication, but heroine editrix Jessi Silver reports family issues are currently interfering.

Treasury

\$ 2632.84 (September 11, 2019)
 + 0.00 PayPal Dues
 + 0.00 Cash Dues
 + 18.00 Check Dues
 + 0.00 Money Order Dues
 - 0.00 PayPal Fees
 - 0.00 Banking Fees
 - 18.00 October Printing Costs (CK#5022)
 - 0.00 Zine Postage Reimbursement

\$ 2632.84 (October 21, 2019)

Many New Volunteers are needed: Cosplay, Electronic Publication Support, Convention Hospitality, Outreach. Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

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Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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Club Activities

Birthday Card Bureau

Birthday cards sent: 11 cards sent

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R-Laurraine Tutihasi
laurraine@mac.com
<http://www.weasner.com/>

Be nice to Earth. It's the only planet that lets us live on it!

—Lauren Birch

Book Review Bureau

In collaboration with the Pro Bureau and the Writer's Exchange Bureau, we are publishing a new zine, The N3F Review of Books. Our objective is to see that every writer gets a substantial review of his or her book, something that gives the writer recognition and publicity. The N3F Review is currently published monthly, close to the end of the month.

Conventions

The Unconventional Convention Calendar
Compiled by Heath Row

The following conventions will occur between January-March 2020. Convention runners and fans should send event listings to Heath Row at kalel@well.com for consideration. Please contact event organizers before making travel plans.

Anime-Zap!
Jan. 3-5, 2020, East Peoria, Illinois
Anime
<https://animezapcon.com/>

Walker Stalker Con
Jan. 4-5, Nashville, Tennessee
The Walking Dead
<https://walkerstalkercon.com/>
(Be sure to confirm)

AniMore
Jan. 10-12, 2020, Baltimore
Anime and cosplay
<https://animorecon.com/>

Console Room
Jan. 17-19, 2020, Bloomington, Minnesota

Doctor Who
<http://console-room.com/>

Arisia
Jan. 17-20, 2020, Boston
Science fiction and fantasy
<https://www.arisia.org/>

Chattacon
Jan. 24-26, 2020, Chattanooga, Tennessee
Science fiction
<https://chattacon.org/>

Pow!Con
Jan. 25-26, 2020, New York
Comic books, media, and video games
<https://www.powcomiccon.com/>

Mouse-Con Bakersfield
Jan. 26, 2020, Bakersfield, California
Disneyana
<http://www.mouse-con.com/bakohome.shtml>

Kanpai!Con
Feb. 7-9, Omaha, Nebraska
Anime and manga
<http://kanpaicon.com/>

Star City Anime
Feb. 7-9, 2020, Roanoke, Virginia
Anime
<https://starcityanime.com/>

Life, the Universe, and Everything
Feb. 13-15, 2020, Provo, Utah
Science fiction and fantasy
<http://ltue.net/>

AnachroCon
Feb. 14-16, 2020, Atlanta
Historical reenactment, steampunk, and costuming
<http://www.anachrocon.org/>

Boskone 57
Feb. 14-16, 2020, Boston
Science fiction
<https://www.boskone.org/>

Gallifrey One
Feb. 14-16, 2020, Los Angeles
Doctor Who
<http://www.gallifreyone.com/>
(Sold out)

Katsucon

Feb. 14-16, 2020, National Harbor, Maryland
 Anime and manga
<https://www.katsucon.org/>

Anthro New England

Feb. 20-23, 2020, Boston
 Furrries
<https://www.anthronewengland.com/>

Total Confusion

Feb. 20-23, 2020, Marlborough, Massachusetts
 Games
<http://www.totalcon.com/>

Farpoint 27

Feb. 21-23, 2020, Hunt Valley, Maryland
 Science fiction, fantasy, and horror
<http://www.farpointcon.com/>

Walker Stalker Con

Feb. 22-23, 2020, London
 The Walking Dead
<https://walkerstalkercon.com/>
 (Be sure to confirm)

GalaxyCon

Feb. 28 to March 1, 2020, Richmond, Virginia
 Comic books
<https://galaxycon.com/richmond/>

MarsCon

Feb. 28 to March 1, 2020, Bloomington, Minnesota
 Science fiction
<http://marscon.org/>

WhimsyCon

Feb. 28 to March 1, 2020, Aurora, Colorado
 Steampunk and costuming
<https://www.whimsycon.org/>

Star Trek: The Cruise IV

March 1-8, 2020, Miami
 Star Trek
<https://www.startrekthecruise.com/>

Comic Con Liverpool

March 6-8, 2020, Liverpool, England
 Comic books
<https://www.comicconventionliverpool.co.uk/>

My-Con

March 7, 2020, Orlando, Florida
 Anime, cosplay, and comic books

<https://mystic-con.com/>

Corflu 37

March 13-15, 2020, College Station, Texas
 Science fiction fanzines
<http://www.corflu.org/>

Costume-Con 38

March 13-16, 2020, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
 Costuming, cosplay, LARP, and reenacting
<http://costumecon38.org/en/home/>

An Evening of Aliens

March 14, 2020, Knoxville, Tennessee
 UFOs
<https://www.aliexpo.com/schedule>

41st International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts

March 18-21, 2020, Orlando, Florida
 Fantastic arts
<https://www.fantastic-arts.org/>

Fantastika

March 20-22, 2020, Nacka, Sweden
 Science fiction and fantasy
<https://fantastika2020.com/>

Fan Expo Dallas

March 27-29, 2020, Dallas
 Science fiction, comic books, horror, and anime
<https://www.fanexpodallas.com/en/home.html>

Correspondence Bureau

Welcome to the Correspondence Bureau! So far, we have two members who are interested in correspondence.

1. Jeffery Redmond - Choice #2
2. John Thiel - Choice #2

If you would like to correspond with Jeffery or John you need to do the following:

1. Choose Jeffery or John
2. Choose Choice #2
3. Send an email with your name, the name of the person you have chosen and your email address to:
[Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@g.mail.com](mailto:JudyCarrollAutumnSeas8012@g.mail.com)

You will receive an email with the email address of the person you have chosen to correspond with and he will receive an email with your name and email address.

As much as we love science fiction, fantasy and horror sometimes we just want to talk about our other interests,

or get to know someone living in another state or country, or find someone who likes to joke as much as we do.

By joining the Correspondence Bureau you will be able to talk about your love of fishing, sports, reading, cooking, running, movies. The list goes on - it's endless. Or perhaps you would like to talk with someone whose interests are unknown to you and discover this person and their interests with each conversation.

How to join:

You have two choices for seeking a pairing:

Choice #1 - You want to be paired with someone of like interest. Send an email to the bureau head with your name and a list of your interests. When someone with similar interest requests a pairing, both of you will be notified and given the email of the other member. Contact the other member and the rest is up to you.

Choice #2 - You want to be paired with the next person whose interests are unknown. Send an email to the bureau head telling of your choice. Include your name and email address. You will be paired with the next person with unknown interests and both of you will be notified and given the email address of the other member. The rest is up to you.

Whichever way you choose will be an adventure.

Policy

The Correspondence Bureau is open to all members of the club who have an email address whether they are paying or non-paying members. Members seeking to correspond through the Correspondence Bureau will be asked for permission to publish their name in the Monthly article. If they do not wish to have their name published, only their Choice #1 or #2 will be published. No email addresses will be published in the monthly article nor given to another member without that member's permission. If you wish to join the Correspondence Bureau or you have any questions Contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

Games Bureau

Compass Games has once again delayed the release of Stellar Horizon, from late 2019 to late 2020. The game has gone through a radical redesign. The counters used for play now look very different. Also, the solitaire

scenarios have been deleted from the revised rulebook, but company literature still calls the game solitaire friendly. Stellar Horizon simulates the future exploration and colonization of the solar system. Players can now pick any one of seven factions to play. Each faction has special abilities. This game was originally scheduled for release in the spring of 2017, but developmental problems kept pushing back the release date.
...Wesley Kawato

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

The aims and objectives of the Bureau are being defined and the methods we might use to achieve these are being considered. The December Ionisphere will contain material regarding this. The bulletin sent to the staff of the bureau is being incorporated into Ionisphere, where members can see our intercommunicative business as well. This is all being done to consolidate what we have done thus far and make our operations more official-seeming and formal than they have been.

IONISPHERE is the Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau's official fanzine and is devoted to activities which bring fans together and to increasing good communications among fans. We search out and list available fan activities and look for a more organized fandom and more potentialities for fan activity. The zine presents interviews with fans, writers, editors, artists and others of interest.
—John Thiel

History and Research Bureau

We are presently researching research opportunities and finding good resources for research. All written material pertaining to history is presented. In our latest issue we have a study of an influential historical figure who has affected the fandom of the latter half of the last century.

ORIGIN is a fanzine seeking out the origins of science fiction and of fandom, and from there we follow its development. We present access to information in science fiction and fan history. It is the official publication of the History and Research Bureau. Articles relevant to these are published in Origin.
—John Thiel

N'APA

N'APA, the apa-format genzine for members and non-members and fans of all varieties, is in a position to welcome new members. Around since just about forever, N'APA has a long history with the N3F. If you'd enjoy a friendly bimonthly natter -- easier than creating a blog! -

- think about joining N'APA. The November 15th issue goes to press instanter!

Pro Bureau

The Pro Bureau was created to support members and others who are actively creating scientific material. We therefore launched The N3F Review of Books, dedicated to presenting extended reviews of SF books, books of stfnal literary criticism, but including Prose Bono, a zine dedicated to improving writing and creation in all of its aspects. Reviews from all of you are more than welcome. Send to George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Recruiting Bureau

We are presenting advertising wherever we go.—John Thiel

Welcomittee

The purpose of the Welcomittee is to welcome new members to the club. A letter is sent, by email or postal mail, to new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. Those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer. I am unaware of any new members to welcome this month.

Anyone willing to help welcome new members to this wonderful club will be greatly appreciated. If interested, please contact
Judy Carroll at AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

Writer's Exchange Bureau

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

If you are a new writer, a professional writer, or someone who dreams of being a writer - this is the place for you. If you love reading unpublished work and find it exciting to do so, this place is also for you.

This month we have writing quotes from Ray Bradbury. Another of my favorite writers..

“Don't think. Thinking is the enemy of creativity. It's self-conscious, and anything self-conscious is lousy. You can't try to do things. You simply must do things.

“If we listened to our intellect, we'd never have a love affair. We'd never have a friendship. We'd never go into business, because we'd be cynical. Well, that's nonsense.

“You've got to jump off cliffs all the time and build your wings on the way down.

“Love is the answer to everything. It's the only reason to do anything. If you don't write stories you love, you'll never make it. If you don't write stories that other people love, you'll never make it.

“Stuff your eyes with wonder, live as if you'd drop dead in ten seconds. See the world. It's more fantastic than any dream made or paid for in factories.

“There's no one way to be creative. Any old way will work. You must stay drunk on writing so reality cannot destroy you.”

The Writers Exchange is for anyone interested in writing. If you have a story you would like read and commented on, or if you just want the excitement of reading unpublished work, then the Writers Exchange is here for you. Published or unpublished - all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both. If interested, please contact: Judy Carroll. AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

Letters of Comment

Editor:

Tell me, do you or any of the other N3F regulars have any background in writing about schools and 'scenes' of poetry? You see, a circle of us formal haiku poets are looking for someone to write a provocative article about us....

...Rob Watkins [Editor: Rob Watkins is the author of View from the Cellar, as reviewed in the last N3F Review of Books. He is also an accomplished serious poet.]

Hey everybody -

Even though this already on the Corflu 37 website - which can be accessed by going to the Corflu 37 Facebook page, efanzines.com has a link to it as well, and the main Corflu website at corflu.org,

I am attaching Corflu 37 Progress Report #2 (early September), which has everything you need to know for registration and hotel reservations, even explains a means to get to College Station.

Believe it or not, there is an airport here - maintained by Texas A&M University - called Easterwood Airport, and the Hilton Hotel runs a complimentary shuttle bus to and from Easterwood for folks staying there for the convention. Not only that, if you fly into either Houston (Bush International Airport, not Hobby Airport) or Austin, the College Station based groundshuttle.com will take you to College Station. Go to their website for details. If enough

fans are arriving at approximately the same time to either Bush International Airport in Houston or Austin's airport, let me know and I can contact Ground Shuttle and set up a chartered Ground Shuttle directly to the Hilton from either airport.

I hope to see many of you there,

John Purcell
3744 Marielene Circle College Station, TX

[Editor's Note: Corflu is a small, annual convention of science fiction fanzine fans. Other conventions with a strong fanzine aspect are held across the US, Australia, and the UK, but Corflu is now the only one which keeps fanzines as its primary focus. The convention gives awards to honor quality in fanzine production.]

Editor:

Thanks, and thanks, and thanks again! That was really a fantastic article [Ed: Copy of old N3F Gamesman article that I sent him.] The most interesting part was the statement that the Games Bureau was started with the express purpose of playing and furthering Jetan. This leads me to the questions: Exactly when was the GB founded? And by whom? Do any early documents (predating The Gamesman), such as letters, protocols or charter, exist for the GB?

And what about this George Fergus person? Is anything further known about him? He seems pretty sharp, knowing his Jetan way better than most later writers on the subject. I googled a bit, and he seems to have been pretty active in the various N3F fanzines back in the 60s, but the only further clue I found is that he lived in Chicago.

What about the early Gamesletters? I realize there was probably nothing substantial in there, but I am grasping for straws. What year was the first Gamesletter? Who was the editor? Don Miller from the start? Maybe other names are mentioned, such as GB board members or heads or whatnot? Or clues about the formation of the jetan division?

Fredrik Ekman [who may be contacted via your editor.]

Dear Neffers:

Once again, I am behind, but I will try my best to launch ahead. I have two issues of The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 78, Nos. 9 and 10. Comments will follow.

September... It does become award season, and I believe there are fans who would like to be considered for these awards. Fan Hugos go to newer folks, and other

fan awards don't go to fans any more. It would feel great to be eligible and considered.

And it is election season, too. Good luck to all who choose to take part as candidates, and to all who choose to vote. Your participation is vital.

The letter column... I see mentions of Amazing Stories. I am pleased to say that I have worked on the previous four issues, and an upcoming book by Allen Steele, and I have also done some work on an anthology for horror author Nancy Kilpatrick, all in the position of editor/proofreader. I am hopeful that this might turn into a new career for me, not bad at my age, so my fingers are crossed. Good letters in the local from Heath Row... he knows the club far better than I do, but good to see the local busy.

October... I can see how Steve Davidson's idea would help both the magazine and the club, but some people do not like the idea of sharing the membership list, and I can see that, too. I hope all are able to come to an agreement that is suitable for all.

I have added Heath Row to our local convention list so that he can add our local conventions to the list he compiles for this zine. Soon, you will be able to see what conventions are available in southern Ontario, and into Quebec, plus some in Michigan and New York that I list.

Time to go... not much of a letter, I admit, but I am trying my best to keep up, and once I do that, I might be able to provide meatier correspondence. In the meantime, many thanks for these two zines, and I will hope for another very soon.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Dear Neffers,

We go back in time today for a much delayed letter of comment on The National Fantasy Fan volume 77, Number 1 from January 2018. Having worked with Mr. Swycaffer in the past on the short story contest, I am delighted that the 2017 competition attracted nineteen entries. That is wonderful progress. Have you considered publicizing the contest winners in a chapbook for the membership and others? I for one would buy this.

It's good to know Eldritch Science publishes poetry as well as fiction. I'll have to read a few issues, but I might have some material worth submitting.

The recipes in this issue are tantalizing. Last night my fifteen-year-old son made dinner: savory potato and

sweet rice flour croquettes filled with cheddar and pan fried, and Caesar salad with croutons. It was his first time cooking for us, and it was excellent — he even went off recipe and decided to go savory rather than sweet.

Readers interested in Don Wilcox might be interested in Wildside Press's two collections: the "Best of Don Wilcox" volumes I and II. The first volume collects "The Whispering Gorilla", five stories, and a novel, along with an introduction by Mike Ashley.

There are several stories worth recommending from recent issues of *Interzone* and *Galaxy's Edge*. In *Interzone* 282, July-August 2019, I recommend N. A. Sulway's "The Frog Prince, or, Iron Henry", Timothy Mudie's "The Princess of Solomon Pond Mall", and Erica L. Satifka's "Can You Tell Me How to Get to Apocalypse?". Each of the three is good in a different way. The Sulway story is Grimm's-like fable of sorts by way of Rudy Archer — an interesting twist on the transition from frog to prince, from man to woman. The Mudie story took me back to *Firestarter* by way of the *Twilight Zone* episode "It's a Good Life". It's a saddening story that doesn't end entirely clearly, which lends itself to the open-ended nature of the piece. But it is the Satifka story that surprised me. Reanimated children on a television program meant to ease the anxieties of humanity in its final days. Quite a concept, and extremely well done. Any avid *Interzone* readers in the club?

And *Galaxy's Edge* #39 (July 2 019) is also worth reading. Sean Proctor's "Unicorns On All Street, Fairies In The Coffee Shop" is a whimsical bit of urban fantasy. Joe Haldeman's "Civil Disobedience", reprinted from *Future Washington*, is politically pointed in a gentle way. Kristine Kathryn Rusch's "Little (Green) Women" is a fun first-person young adult take on first contact. Nancy Kress's "Always True To Thee, In My Fashion" first appeared in *Asimov's* (January 1997). I would read more set in this world in a hot minute. Austin Habershaw's "What The Plague Did To Us" is a brief what-if upending on the zombie trope. And Kevin J. Anderson's "Twenty Thousand Years Under the Sea" reprinted from *The Madness Of Cthulhu* is an amazingly fun mashup of Jules Verne and H.P. Lovecraft, shades of Alan Moore.

I've been getting *Galaxy's Edge* for a while now, but this is the first full issue I've really spent time with. I didn't know so much of it was reprinted, or that so many of the authors are known entities. I'll have to check other recent issues to see if that's consistent.

There's plenty more to read in the issue — Mike Resnick's editorial, Gregory Benford's column, Robert Sawyer's column— though a glance at that suggests it might irritate me. In there is a continuation of a biography of Gordon Van Gelder.

A different beast than *Interzone* — more American, less stylized, more from entities — at least in this issue. I'll also have to spend more time with *Zone*... always good to see David Langford in print.

So... I started off looking backward at *The Fan*, and hopefully encouraging you to look forward to some recent SF magazines. The Satifka and Kress stories are must-reads, so look for them.

Heath Row

Folks!

In our last issue, Bob Jennings proposed curating the Neffy Awards, so that a panel of volunteers would choose possible winners, and the membership would vote between a small number of choices presented to them by this curation panel. I did not see any response yet to this proposal, but perhaps people prefer the ability to make their own nominations.

George Phillies

SerCon

Other Patriotic Comic Book Clubs in the 1940s by Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D. N3F Historian

There were many patriotic comic book clubs that comic book readers could join. I have covered the most popular ones in previous articles in *The National Fantasy Fan*. In addition to the ones already covered, however, there were still others. Many of them featured heroes who closely resembled Captain America and/or *The Shield*, whose clubs have already been described.

Captain Battle's Boys' Brigade

Captain Battle's Boys' Brigade was advertised in *Silver Streak Comics* and *Captain Battle Comics*, both published by New Friday/Gleason. The Brigade was organized under the name of the superhero Captain Battle, who starred in these comics. Members received a mem-

bership card and an official Captain Battle badge. Hale Battle, the Captain's young sidekick, told the prospective member in ads for the club that he was the first to join, and that the membership card is not valid unless countersigned!

Injured during the first World War, Jonathan Battle used his jet pack, called a luceflyer, and a series of futuristic inventions to fight the Axis during World War II. He was assisted in his efforts by his young sidekick – not his son -- whom he had saved from a demon foe. Later, his actual son, Captain Battle, Jr., made his appearance in his own comic book. Both Captain Battle and Captain Battle, Jr. were drawn by artist Don Rico, who later was the artist on Daredevil, Gleason's most popular and long-lasting hero.

The American Eagle Defenders

The Eagle and his companion, Buddy, the daredevil boy, were featured in Science, Weird, and The Eagle comic books, all published by Fox Publications in the early 1940s. This comic book character made his first appearance in Science Comics in 1940. He also appeared in four issues of his own comic book during 1941-1942. Members of his club, the American Eagle Defenders, received a membership card with a secret oath and a red, white, and blue membership badge depicting The Eagle – all for 10 cents plus a 3 cent stamp.

The Eagle and Buddy, when they first appeared, had costumes that were not particularly patriotic. The Eagle's second costume was primarily red and blue, and he appeared in front of the Stars and Stripes on the cover of Weird Comics #16 (July, 1941). But he did not really start draping himself in the flag until his third costume, which debuted in Weird Comics 17 (August, 1941); and this was almost certainly a reaction to the success of Captain America at Timely Comics.

U. S. Jones Cadets

U. S. Jones appeared in Wonderworld and U. S. Jones Comics. U. S. Jones was another Fox superhero who dressed in the American flag and had a club that was advertised in his comic books. Issued in 1941 to the relatively few readers signing on to become a “U. S. Jones Cadet,” members received a National Emergency Kit, a full color membership button (depicting U. S. Jones), a secret code book, and various other membership materials. Apparently, of all these items, only the button has survived to this date – and it is very expensive when sold on eBay and other sites.

The “U. S. Jones Cadets Membership Kit,” which readers could send away for, told new members that democracy must be protected at all costs, and listed ten rules to follow; these included keeping fit, conserving resources, and knowing one's neighbors, among other things, including how to organize an Air Raid Courier service.

Nothing much is known about the origin or identity of U. S. Jones; he first appeared in 1941, fighting against America's enemies and actively encouraging citizens to do likewise. He had no powers or special weapons, but he was in top physical condition. His costume, which had a stars and stripes theme, had the letters “US” on the front.

Liberty Guards

The Liberty Guards were advertised in Man of War Comics published by Centaur Publications. Man of War Comics starred Man of War, Vapo Man, the Sentinel, and the Liberty Guards. For 10 cents in coin, a new member of the Liberty Guards received a Liberty Bell badge to be worn on a shirt or blouse and a certificate. A member pledged to be a good American and “to preserve our freedom of speech, religion, and press and to help guard our liberty.”

Smokey (scientist and inventor in an army uniform), Skipper (greatest sailor on the seven seas), and Strut (youngest and most daring ace in the whole U. S.) -- three brothers trained since childhood to fight for Uncle Sam -- were the principal members of the Liberty Guards.

V-Boys Defense Corps

The V-Boys Defense Corps for Defense of Democracy was featured in another Fox Comic Book, V Comics, that starred the superhero V-Man and his aides, the V-Boys. New members of the Defense Corps became V-Boys or V-Girls.

V-Man's name, and the large letter V on his costume, came from the “V for Victory” symbolism that proliferated throughout the United States and Europe during World War II. V-Man appeared in V Comics; the title was often listed as “V...– Comics” because three dots and a dash – the Morse code signal for the letter V-- overlapped the V on the cover. V-Man also appeared in the Big Three and Blue Beetle comic books published by Fox.

The Challenger Clubs

Another example of a patriotic comic book club was the Challenger Clubs of America, which were sponsored dur-



Captain Gloval of Robotech. Art by Jose Sanchez

ing 1945-1946 by the Interfaith Council and advertised in issues of *The Challenger* comic book that was published by T. C. Publications. The avowed purpose of the clubs was to fight fascism and bigotry, and members took a pledge to do so. Only four issues of *The Challenger* were published, so clubs didn't last long.

The Great Zarro Victory Club

This patriotic club was advertised in *Great Comics* that starred the super-hero character *The Great Zarro*. For a dime the reader received a tri-colored membership pin. Members were required to aid *The Great Zarro* in his "fight for the preservation of justice and freedom in our great country" and to write him with suggestions on how he could do so.

The comic book was only published for three issues in the early 1940s, so the character and the club were both short-lived. *The Great Zarro* possessed the ability to fly and was garbed in a predominately red and white costume. No really blue color was in sight, although he wore boots that were close to blue in color.

The Blue Beetle

Speaking of blue, it is surprising to me that *The Blue Beetle*, Fox's most popular character, didn't have his own club. He was featured in several Fox comic books, lasted as a comic book character for many years with several different companies, and even had a newspaper strip (drawn by Jack Kirby) and his own radio program in the 1940s. Often, his radio program was prominently advertised in the Fox comic books. Actor Frank Lovejoy did the voice of the *Blue Beetle*. A boy sidekick, *Sparky*, was introduced in *Blue Beetle* #14. But I can find no evidence that *The Blue Beetle* ever had a comic book club of his own.

Superpatriot Heroes Without Clubs

There were other super-patriot comic book characters who did not have clubs, but who nevertheless draped themselves in the American flag or significant elements of the flag. The men and boys included Uncle Sam, Captain Victory, Major Victory, Major Liberty, Mr. Liberty, the Victory Boys, the Conqueror, Captain Fight, Captain Freedom, Captain Terror, Captain Commando, Captain Flag, the Flag, the Flag-Man and Rusty, the Skyman, the Defender, Stormy Foster, Yankee Doodle Jones, Yankee Eagle, the Star-Spangled Kid and Stripesy, Red Blazer and Sparky, Airmale and Stampy, Super-American, Captain Courageous, Phantom Eagle, the American Eagle, the Patriot, Yank and Doodle, the Rainbow, the Spirit of '76, Yankee Boy, Yankee Doodle Jones and Dandy, the Lone Warrior and Dicky, American Crusader, Captain Fearless, Flag-Man, Minute-Man, the Liberator, Rusty Ryan, the Stars and Stripes, the Rangers of Freedom, Great Defender, Fighting American and Speedboy, Mr. Liberty, the Wizard and Roy the Superboy, Wonder Boy, and Mr. America.

Their female counterparts included Miss Victory, Miss Liberty, Pat Patriot (who had a shield similar to Captain America's original shield), Yankee Girl, Liberty Belle, USA – The Spirit of Old Glory, Miss America, Madame Strange, and Merry – Girl of a 1,000 Gimmicks.

There were probably other comic book characters, men and women, adults and children, who wore some part of the flag on their costumes during World War II.

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Note: In addition to the sources listed above, several Internet comic book sites were consulted.

Election Ballot 2019

Vote for up to five candidates for the Directorate and up to one candidate for N3F President. You may write in names of candidates who are not on the ballot. You may write in up to five names for the Directorate and up to one name for President. To vote for a candidate, circle his or her name. To be elected, a person must be a dues-paying or life member of the N3F.

Under our Bylaws, you must sign your ballot. The list of names of voters will appear in the next issue of The National Fantasy Fan. Mail your ballot to the Official Teller, Jon Swartz, jon_swartz@hotmail.com, 12115 Missel Thrush Court, Austin, TX 78750. You may also vote electronically, by sending Jon a ballot with your votes indicated.

Candidates for the Directorate

Judy Carroll

Jefferson Swycaffer

John Thiel

R-Laurraine Tutihasi

Space for write-ins:

Candidate for President

George Phillies

Space for write-in:

Your Signature:

Ballots must be received by December 20 to be counted.



Elections - Neffies - Fanzines - Treasury

Club Activities

Birthday Card Bureau—Book Review Bureau—Conventions
Correspondence Bureau - Games Bureau—Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau
History and Research Bureau - N'APA - Pro Bureau
Welcommittee - Writer's Exchange Bureau

Letters of Comment

Rob Watkins, John Purcell, Fredrik Ekman
Lloyd Penney, Heath Row, George Phillis

Sercon

Other Patriotic Comic Book Clubs in the 1940s

Election Ballot

N3F TNFF
c/o George Phillis
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609