

I M P U L S E

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

October / Octobre 2015 (Vol. 19, No./N° 9)

**NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, October 18****11:00AM-5:00PM****St-François Room****Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: Halloween is almost upon us; dress up for the meeting as your favourite ghoul or goblin!***PROGRAMME****11:00PM** (early-bird programming)**SUNDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE—****HALLOWEEN EDITION:** In honour of the upcoming All Hallows' Eve, we offer early-birds a selection of classic gothic and sci-fi/horror films from which to choose.**1:00PM****PERRY RHODAN CONQUERS SCI-FI:**

Primer on the most successful sci-fi book series ever, at some 2800 installments to date! This long-running, influential German space opera follows the exploits of titular astronaut Major Perry Rhodan.

2:00PM**MID-MEETING BREAK:** raffle**2:30PM****50 AND FAB!** We pulled some strings in order to be able to celebrate the 50th anniversary of British sci-fi/adventure series Thunderbirds!**3:30PM****GROUP PROJECT:** We continue work on our more-challenging-than-anticipated stop-motion short film production.**NEXT MONTH'S MEETING:****Sunday, November 22**► *Crazy Spaceship Designs*► *Sports in SF***SEPTEMBER MEETING
WELCOMES GUEST
SPEAKERS**

MonSFFA's September meeting welcomed guest speakers David Shuman and Bill Strople, both of the local branch of the Royal Canadian Astronomical Society, for a talk on telescopes.

David showcased and set up outside on our hotel's front porch his Coronado telescope, specially designed for viewing the sun. Numerous MonSFFen availed themselves of the opportunity to safely gaze at Sol, an uncommon experience, to be sure!

Bill, a collector of vintage telescopes, brought in and set up a number of examples, outlining the technical details of each and in the process giving the group a primer on types of telescopes—Schmidt-Cassegrain (SCT), Newtonian—pointing out the pros and cons of each. One of his pieces was a beautiful, impressively large refractor dating back to the 1950s. He also displayed a sample Dobsonian-mounted reflector not yet on the market, which he had obtained from the manufacturer.

Our own Lindsay Brown, Mark Burakoff, and Wayne Glover brought in their telescopes, as well, and Mark gave a brief "Introduction to Amateur Astronomy" discourse, recommending one's kit include binoculars and star charts. Club president and long-time astronomy buff Cathy Palmer-Lister chimed in, too, offering her savvy on the hobby.

Post-meeting, much of the group convened for supper at a nearby eatery, and afterwards returned to the hotel to observe the moon through Lindsay's telescope.

The closing hour or so of the meeting was devoted to our more-challenging-than-anticipated short stop-motion film project,

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MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES
ARE DUE**

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

Overdue:BENNETT, Paul
BOOM, Hendrik
BRAITHWAITE, Erin
BRAITHWAITE, Keith
BRAITHWAITE, Scott
DESPLAND, Alexis
DUROCHER, Dominique
HAMMOCK, Christopher
HECHTMAN, Ken
MOIR, L. E.
NOVO, Alice**Due This Month, October:**

PELLEY, Lynda

Due Next Month, November:KNAPP, Brian K.
KNAPP, Mary C.
JANSSEN, Steven

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:

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which had gotten off to a halting start the previous meeting. We have since collected ourselves and are now carefully proceeding one step at a time, as opposed to the do-the-whole-thing-in-a-single-afternoon approach we initially decided upon, which was, in retrospect, somewhat unrealistic.

On this afternoon, we focused on character design, with folk assigned to come up with a sketch for each of the dinosaurs featured in our story.

The early-morning session was devoted to a screening, critique, and discussion of the themes explored in the mid-'70s sci-fi film *Logan's Run*. Judging by the production design, music, and hedonistic vibe, the film was most definitely a product of the 1970s, several folk commented. Older members of the club who remembered seeing the movie when they were younger—that is, under the 30-year-old maximum lifespan enforced in the film's dystopian future—came away after this viewing with a decidedly different perspective than that of their younger selves! Several people noted a religious/spiritual angle they had not formerly perceived, specifically the human trait of concocting, or believing in, a rewarding afterlife—"Renewal" in the movie—in order to be able to face one's own mortality.

We offer a nod of thanks to our guest speakers, David Shuman and Bill Strople, as well as to those MonSFFen who contributed to the afternoon's programming. Thanks, also, to all who helped plan and run this meeting.

Briefly

► MonSFFA VP Keith Braithwaite found himself north of the city, in the Laurentians, on September 27, night of the Blood Moon! Clear skies augured well for an unobstructed viewing of this lunar eclipse, and inspired by the astronomy panel at the club's September meeting the previous weekend, Keith had packed his camera and tripod with the intention of photographing the celestial event. Visitors to the club's Web site will have seen a sampling of the images he snapped, one of which is reproduced here. The pictures were achieved without any special equipment; Keith used his ordinary telephoto lens to capture the moment. Cool stuff!

► We neglected to mention, in our coverage last issue of August's MonSFFA meeting, that the early-morning session was devoted to another edition of Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée. End-of-the-World movies were featured on this occasion, offering folks a choice of either *When Worlds*



Moments before the totality of the recent lunar eclipse, a pale orange-burgundy hue is cast across the lunar disc. This image is one of many snapped of the so-called "Blood Moon" event by club VP Keith Braithwaite. We thought it appropriately in theme for this issue of Impulse, published in this, the Halloween month!

Collide (1951), *Day the World Ended* (1955), *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* (1961), *Day of the Triffids* (1962), or *Crack in the World* (1965). The group picked the British-produced *Day of the Triffids* and found it to be competently made if not particularly outstanding. This is a post-apocalyptic survival story and involves the global spread of a form of carnivorous alien plant-life in the wake of a strange meteor shower that has rendered all but a few people suddenly blind. There are two unconnected narratives running throughout the film but, oddly, at no point do the two storylines converge, as one might expect. A few of us found this peculiar, as if two separate movies were unspooling within one.

► X-Files alumnus Frank Spotnitz is show-runner on an adaptation of Philip K. Dick's classic *The Man in the High Castle*, in which the Allies lost World War II, and Germany and Japan occupy the US. The buzz on this one is exceptionally good! Streams on Amazon November 20, but not, it seems, in Canada. *Curses!*

Please Note: Needed for October Meeting

MonSFFen are asked to bring in a pair of scissors to this weekend's club meeting (October 18), these being required to work on pre-production for our ongoing stop-motion film production.

But no running with said scissors!

We request that anyone having a pliers-type hole-punch bring it in, as well.

Also, those individuals who took on character-design assignments last meeting are asked to bring in their completed sketches.

Finally, unrelated to our animation project but tied, rather, to our two scheduled panels, we invite club members to bring in any Perry Rhodan or Thunderbirds items they may hold in their collections (books, comics, models, toys, etc.) for the display table. We appreciate such participation and thank MonSFFen in advance for taking part.

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

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