

# 81 The National Years Fantasy Fan



Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication  
Volume 81 Number 5

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars  
May 2022

## An Unpleasant Issue Must Be Faced

A person (name omitted here) posted a notice, pretending to be from one of our activist members, on the N3F group on Facebook. The notice claimed that the activist member in question was quitting the N3F. The claim was false.

The person who posted the false claim unfriended the N3F activist in question, and quit our Facebook group, so no response could be given. This false notice was unacceptable behavior. It should not be repeated.

## Round Robins Rise Again

I am pleased to announce that a member has contacted me with information about a Round Robin that is still in existence - Worldwide Folklore #2. This RR has only three members.

Members of other active round robins are asked to contact me, so that I can open up the RR to more members.

If you are interested in joining, please contact me at the address below. Also if you want to start a new RR, please contact me.

Contact: Judy Carroll  
971 East 120 South  
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

OR

Email : blueshadows2012@gmail.com



First, three administrative issues. With considerable thanks to Nic Farey for prompting me to think about the issue, we are adding a new category: Best Other Fan Activity, given for activities other than being the best writer, artist, editor, or fanzine. I expect this award will be given only on occasion.

Second, Bob Jennings made the excellent point that anthologies are not the same as novels, and proposed that they be given a separate category. Mindful that there seems to be limited interest among Neffers in single shorter works, the category is now anthologies and shorter works. We have a nominee.

Third, and most important: These awards were first given in 1941 at the Denvention. Lifting not quite verbatim from the Denvention Con report: "

*Walter J. Daugherty awarded medals to the following people: 4e for best fan and being of most service to fandom; Roy Hunt for best fan artist; Higgins for the best and most consistent fan mag; Damon Knight for being the top humorist, and Julie Unger for putting out the best news-weekly.*

From Bonfire (first name of this zine) 1.3, December 1941:

Continued on Page 2, Top Right



We are getting a lot of letters of comment. Keep it up!  
However, as TNFF is space limited, long letters or parts thereof will be passed over to The N3F FanActivity Gazette,.



**Directors:**

Heath Row kalel@well.com (Chair)  
 Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com  
 John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com

**Officers**

**President** George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
**Treasurer** Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com

**Editors**

Editors, TNFF: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com . Artists: Jose A. Sanchez, Angela K. Walker, Alan White, Nathan Warner  
 N'APA: Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com  
 Tightbeam: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net, Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Ionisphere: John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 Eldritch Science: George Phillies  
 Mangaverse: Patrick Ijima-Washburn patokon.com@gmail.com  
 Nameless News: a cast of writers  
 Films Fantastic: Justin E. A. Busch jeab@musician.org  
 Origin: John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 The N3F Review of Books: George Phillies  
 Fanactivity Gazette: The illustrious contributors  
 Keeper of the Passwords: Jessi Silver belindabird@gmail.com  
 Keeper of the URLs: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Hosts of the Web Site: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net;  
 Melody Friedenthal

**Bureau Heads**

Anime: Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com  
 Artists Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com  
 Birthday Cards: Denise Fisk greenrose205@gmail.com  
 Book Review Bureau G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Comics: Stephanie Souders hobsonphile@gmail.com  
 Convention Calendar: Mindy Hunt  
 Club Directory Heath Row kalel@well.com  
 Correspondence Bureau Judy Carroll  
 BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Election Teller Jon Swartz. jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau John Thiel  
 kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 FanZine Review Editor Justin Busch jeab@musician.org  
 Film Bureau — Justin E. A. Busch jeab@musician.org  
 Forwarder Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com  
 Franking Service George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Games Bureau Wesley Kawato  
 Gourmet Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com  
 Historian Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 History and Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net; Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Kaymar Award Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Information Technology George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Continued Next Column, Middle

*The matter of Annual Awards . Unanimous agreement, but the details are still being worked out, and will be presented to the Board very shortly . This is a continuation of the awards made personally by Walt Daugherty at the Denvention.*

These became the Laureate Awards. **Shall we revive the original name?** The current nominees are:

Best Novel or Anthology (over 100,000 words)  
 Spectrum (Julie E Czerneda)  
 Seize What's Held Dear (Karl Gallagher)  
 Governor (David Weber/Richard Fox)  
 Child of Destiny (Christopher Nuttall)  
 Behold, Humanity! May We Come In? (Ralts Bloodthorne)

**Your Volunteer Team**

Lord High Proofreader Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Lady High Proofreader Jean Lamb  
 Membership Recruitment Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com  
 Neffy Awards Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Outreach Bureau: Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com  
 Pro Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Round Robins: Judy Carroll - BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Short Story Contest J. Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com  
 Social Media: George Phillies  
 Video Bureau: Cathode Ray the anonymous  
 Welcomittee: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Writers Exchange: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Denise Fisk

**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 Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

**The National Fantasy Fan** (originally Bonfire), Vol. LXXXI Number 5, May 2022, ISSN 2169-3595. Published monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

**COPYRIGHT NOTICE:** All material in this issue, unless expressly noted otherwise, is contributed for one-time use only in this publication in its various print and electronic forms including fair use in electronic archival libraries. All other copyrights are retained by the contributor. Other use of any portion of this publication in any medium requires the express permission of the current (at time reproduction is to be made) President and Directorate of N3F and the original copyright holder.

Best Shorter Work or Collection Thereof (under 100,000 words)  
Fantastic Schools (Lamplighter/Nuttall)

Best Fan Writer  
Cheryl Cline  
Andy Hooper  
Ulrika O'Brien

Best Fan Artist  
Larry Etn  
Brad Foster  
Ulrika O'Brien  
Jose Sanchez  
Alan White

Best Fan Editor  
William Breiding  
Nic Farey  
Fred Lerner

Best Non-N3F Fan Publication  
Beam  
Fadeaway  
Littlebrook  
Lofgeornost  
Opuntio  
Portable Storage  
The Zine Dump  
This Here

Best N3F Fanzine  
Eldritch Science  
Films Fantastic  
The National Fantasy Fan  
Tightbeam

Best Other Fannish Activity

Best Live-Action Television Show, Film, or Video  
Supergirl  
Stargirl  
The Expanse

Best Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel  
Telepaths  
Monstress  
Lady Mechanika  
Jinnie Hex

Best Anime: Komi Can't Communicate

Best Book Editor: Toni Weisskopf

Best Pro Artist, cover or otherwise  
Brad Fraunfelder

Best Literary-Critical or Historical Work  
2021 First Fandom Annual (Coker & Swartz)  
Game Wizards (Jon Peterson)

## Presidential Notes

I have asked the Directorate to amend the Bylaws on membership. The Revision is not a change...it simply corresponds to current practice.

1. Membership dues are payable annually. Members who provide their email addresses receive an electronic copy of each club publication that is published electronically. The classes of dues-paying members are:

A. Regular Member: Individual memberships are \$18 per year, and include receiving one print copy of any club publication produced in printed form.

B. Electronic Member: Dues are \$6 per year. Member receives electronic copies of all newsletters published electronically. This membership does not include print copies of club publications.

C. Joint/Household Member: Dues are \$4 per year per for any person residing at the same household address as a Regular, Life, Founding or Electronic Member. This membership does not include print copies of club publications.

D. Life Member: Dues are \$0 per year.

E. Founding Member: Our Founders, as listed in the June 1942 membership list of the official organ, are Founding Members. Dues are \$0 per year.

2. The number of Life members, other than Founding Members, as created by Directorate vote, may not exceed 5 memberships or 1 percent of the total

membership of the N3F, whichever number is greater. This rule shall not operate to reduce the number of existing Life memberships at any time.

2. Associate Member: An Associate Member pays no dues. Associate Members are sent club publications electronically, may participate in other club activities if there is space, but may not vote, make nominations or hold club elective or appointive office.

## The Directors' View By Heath Row

Members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation's Directorate, which I currently chair, have addressed a number of important and interesting topics since we introduced this monthly column late last year.

John Thiel remarked on the need for directors to be more active and visible in their elected positions. I walked through the wide range of clubzines the N3F offers—and ways members can become more actively involved within their pages. Judy Carroll considered how the club's (and members') activity levels wax and wane over time. Jefferson Swycaffer highlighted the correspondence aspect of the N3F. Kevin Trainor discussed issues related to membership and recruitment. And John explored the relationship between the Directorate and our many bureaus.

This month, I'd like to begin exploring the role the N3F—and we as members—can play in broader fandom. As indicated on the cover of this clubzine, the N3F's history dates back 81 years. Our foundation grew out of a Damon Knight article titled “Unite—or Fie!” published in Art Widner's *Fanfare* (October 1940). Knight called for a new, general fan organization in the wake of New Fandom, a short-lived club active between 1938-1940. Members of the Stranger Club in Boston—and others—formed the N3F as a response to that call to action.

In the first issue of *Bonfire* (June 1941), the precursor to *The Fan*, Widner indicated two foundational purposes for the N3F. “I think organization

in itself to be a laudable purpose. Fans are noted as persons who ‘do’ things,” he wrote. “[H]uman beings who are organized are more able to ‘get things done’ than those who are not... [T]here will be plenty of interesting ideas brought forth (the execution of which the NFFF can facilitate considerably) once fans are brought more closely together... .” Furthermore, he adds a second purpose: “Another ‘noble’ purpose ... is: ‘Eliminate and prevent confusion and misunderstanding in fandom.’”

In Widner's writing that issue, I actually discern *three* calls to action: Connect with other fans, help fans accomplish their goals (or collaborate with other fans), and clarify fandom. While the third item poses some challenge to me conceptually—it is one to return to—I think the first two are extremely intriguing. And they lead me to ask myself the question: Why am *I* here? Another way to pose and consider the question is: What do I want to *do*? I am hopeful that a brief exploration of my own personal reasons and motivations for involvement in the N3F might inspire you to ask yourself the questions and give them some thought.

I joined the N3F in 2008 or 2009 after learning about it from Michael Landis while researching amateur press associations for a directory project. By that time, Landis hadn't been a member of the N3F for five years or so, but he'd been involved in N'APA at least between 1996-2002. I reached out to him because of a mention of the apa on a “gag site” online. The first issue of *The Fan* that I received was the June/September 2008 edition, Vol. 8 #2-3. And I joined the email list we used at the time—receiving a welcome from Sarah Harder (Hi, Sarah!)—in April 2009.

While my initial motivations for joining the N3F are lost in the mists of memory and time, I remember being excited that the club's history dated back to the 1940s. The N3F has a straight line to history. I also remember being impressed by some of the august names listed among its founding members: Forrest J Ackerman, Ray Bradbury, Damon Knight, and Donald A. Wollheim. And while I'd read and enjoyed science fiction and fantasy (and comic books!) since learning to read, my knowledge of fandom was limited to writing letters of comment to comic books—including such luminaries as John Byrne, Diana



Schutz, and Jim Valentino—and punk rock fanzines. There was no sf club where I lived (of which I was aware), I'd never been to a convention (eschewing even GenCon as a child because I found it intimidating), and I knew nothing about fandom per se even though I'd shopped at several sf bookstores. I really miss Stars Our Destination in Chicago and Pandemonium Books & Games in Cambridge, Mass. But I loved science fiction and fantasy books and movies; comic books, minicomics, and mail art; music fanzines and tape trading (my first exposure to correspondence culture); and fansubbed anime—and my interest in grassroots media led to a fascination with apae.

So I joined the N3F. Having been a member now for at least 13 years, even though I can't pinpoint exactly why I joined—or what I was looking for—I can tell you what I've found, and what has happened.

1. I've met a ton of people, through the N3F, fanzines, apae, cons, and local roleplaying gaming groups, and eventually through LASFS, which I now consider my home club.
2. I've been exposed to and explored ideas and topics that I might not have encountered or engaged with otherwise.
3. I've read a bunch of great sf, fantasy, and horror books, fanzines, and apazines—and watched slightly fewer movies and television shows. (I'm more of a literary fan than a media fan).
4. I've created apazines galore—at one time, too many, leading to a decade-plus gaffiation from such participation—and edited *The Fan* for more than three years. I also participated in N'APA for about two years and was embarrassingly infrequently active in the round robins. All of that—I hope—helped other readers and members learn about and explore a wide range of authors, artists, stories, books, fanzines, movies, TV shows, and other outputs related to and people involved in sf, fantasy, horror, and fandom. I've also exchanged letters with some pretty fascinating people. In fact, I've written more words through letterhacking and apahacking than I dare count.
5. I've developed directories of apae, local sf clubs, and conventions, which helped other people connect and communicate locally as well as internationally. I've shared news and information from other organi-

zations—such as the British Fantasy Society and the Science Fiction Association of Bergen County in New Jersey—with members of the N3F, cross-pollinating between different groups.

6. I've donated materials to two libraries' special collections to help preserve our history and enable others to learn more about what was going on and who was involved.

7. I've written and published poetry, some of it science fiction, and I just recently returned to a rejected short story to workshop it with the N3F Writer's Exchange. If the stars align, I'll enter it in the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest this winter.

I've served as a member of the Directorate, as well as its chair, to help run the club on behalf of other members: you.

Perhaps none of that would have happened were it not for the N3F. And all of it comes down to the other members. *You* are why I am here. For the past 13 years, I have delighted in your weird and wonderful personalities and senses of humor, your startling and thought-provoking ideas, your wide variety of life experiences, and your opinions and recommendations. So far, however, I've been focusing on what I want to do as a member. Now it's time to help you accomplish what you want to.

So: Why are *you* here? What do *you* want to do?

Give those questions some thought, answer them in some way through participation in club activities (or by emailing me at [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com)), and perhaps I, the Directorate, and other Neffers can help you accomplish your goals as a fan. I think Widner would welcome that.

## Bureau Reports

### Advertising

We have available the N3F Seal(s) and several advertising fliers in jpeg and PDF formats. If you would like to advertise the N3F on the internet, via social media or some other path, and these might be helpful, please contact me at [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net) and I will send you the files.

### Birthday Cards

Two cards were sent for  
May 2022.

### Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

Our interviews are getting to be with people closer to us. George Phillies rounded up a lot of people for interviews, and we have three in the upcoming June issue, including a present N3F member who is a writer. We're trying to make Ionisphere somewhat more entertaining with short fiction and poetry, and are trying to get those we interview more interested in the fanzine and the bureau it represents. We're studying the matter of communications lately, and other problems which beset the relations of fans and pros. We also are looking to have convention reports in IO for the information these provide about inter-communicating.—John Thiel

### Welcommittee

We have three new members to welcome to the N3F; Lisbet Rasmussen, A. Servello, and Michael McCormick. We hope you have a pleasant and memorable experience.

Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. If you have questions about the N3F or are interested in helping with the Welcommittee please contact Judy Carroll at [blueShadows2012@gmail.com](mailto:blueShadows2012@gmail.com) or 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

### History and Research Bureau

Our purpose is to acquaint members with science fiction and fandom past and present, and get a really good understanding of what is involved. We try to make it clearer than it may have been what fandom is and present the significance science fiction has.—John Thiel

### Writers Exchange

This month, I would like to explain how I have set up the reading of the short stories sent to the Writers Exchange. I like to have 2 people reading the same story. The writer gets more input, from two different viewpoints.

Jefferson sees detail and functionality; such as how the interior of the star ship would be set up depending on the physical abilities of the resident aliens. He points out things that do not make sense even for a science fiction story. Denise picks up on small

things that might easily go unnoticed. She asks why something happened, and for explanations on the character's attitude and actions. She asks questions that make the writer rethink parts of the story offering a deeper understanding of the characters.

I read for the visions and feelings they bring to the reader. I am very visual and find it disappointing when a writer doesn't "paint the picture." If a writer says we are on the bridge of a star ship and no other information is given - no mention of the crew or anything else. I have to rely on movies or books that have shown me a similar scene. I find that distracting, because I will see Captain Kirk or Han Solo instead of the character the writer is talking about.

If you have a story you would like read, please contact me, and I will check with our readers to see who is available. I will contact you with the name and email address of your reader. Please do not contact a reader unless I have assigned that reader to you.

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. Published or unpublished - all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both.

If interested, please contact: Judy Carroll.  
[BlueShadows2012@gmail.com](mailto:BlueShadows2012@gmail.com) OR if you prefer postal mail,  
Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

### Correspondence Bureau

Want to make new friends? What to discuss the latest book by your favorite author? What to debate the merits of soft science fiction vs hard science fiction? Then you have come to the right place.

If you want to join you need to do the following:

1. Send me your name and either email address OR postal address,
2. If you wish to correspond with a member already listed with the Correspondence Bureau include their name.
3. If you have a postal address and wish to correspond with someone listed "by email" let me know and I will contact them. I will let you know their reply.

Depending on your preference you will receive an email or postal mail with the contact information of the person or persons you wish to contact, and they will receive your contact information. Members interested in corresponding are

Jeffrey Redmond - by email

John Thiel - by email

Judy Carroll - by email or postal mail.

William Mayo - by email

Send email requests to : Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com; send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

### Games Bureau

A Review from Kevin Kawato:

Modern Naval Battles is a card-driven game. Players have a choice of nine navies, each represented by a deck of ship cards. Each player picks 25 victory points worth of ship cards and arranges them in 1-3 battle lines. They player also draws nine action cards from the action deck; these are used to make attacks.

To use a card, a ship must have the weapon listed on the card (gun, missile, cruise missile, torpedo). Range (the number of battle lines, including friendly as well as enemy lines) also needs to be taken into consideration. Different weapons have different ranges.

A hit scores a number of hit points on the target; ships sink when the number of hits matches the ship's hull factor. Players get points for sinking enemy ships, especially large ones.

Action cards can also be used on defense. Groups of action cards can be used to bring in reinforcements. Some ships can attack without requiring an action card; aircraft carriers have an intrinsic air strike ability. At the end of each turn, players draw their deck back up to seven cards.

The game is fun, even though the 2008 ship cards may be outdated.

## Member of the Month

This is the first installment in a periodic series of features showcasing interesting people from among the members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. We offer this profile as a way to help connect members. Feel free to reach out to other members, even if just to say hello—individually or within the pages of *The Fan*.

Scott Duncan

Athens, Alabama

<https://www.facebook.com/spduncan>

A lifelong fan, Scott was first introduced to science fiction when he was about 9 or 10 years old. Initially, he was drawn to books and stories by Jules Verne and H.G. Wells, then to sf movies in the 1950s and, later, television programs such as *Alcoa Presents: One Step Beyond*.

Given that background, he's grown to appreciate sf and horror equally over the years. Scott says he likes classic sf in particular, as well as various kinds of horror fiction—specifically Lovecraftian horror. His favorite authors include Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, Stephen King, H.P. Lovecraft, and H.G. Wells. Scott's personal library features a sizable number of sf and horror anthologies, as well as books by his favorites.

On screen, Scott enjoys movies such as 1951's *The Thing from Another World*, which was based on John W. Campbell, Jr.'s short story "Who Goes There?" And while he used to watch a lot of related television—*The Outer Limits*, *Stargate SG-1*, the original *Star Trek*, and *The Twilight Zone*—he doesn't currently follow any recent shows but instead dips into his DVD collection.

Scott is relatively new to fandom, participating for only the last few years. And he joined because he was friends with the N3F's president, George Phil- lies. "I knew George from my boardgaming days many decades ago and saw that he was involved in the National Fantasy Fan Foundation, so I joined," he said.

Additionally, Scott co-founded the International Federation of Wargaming with Gary Gygax and Bill

Speer in 1967. “I played Dungeons & Dragons in its first form at Gary’s home back in 1972,” he said.

During the day, Scott works as lead coach and trainer for Agile Software Qualities. “I’ve been doing forms of software development training for several decades, but totally online since COVID-19 struck,” he said.

While his training work hasn’t directly addressed science or space exploration, Scott has worked in standards committees and at software conventions with employees of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Scott’s other interests include books, computers and technology, DVDs and videos, history, movies, music, poetry, reading, science, short stories, space exploration, teaching and education, and writing.

A rousing Neffer hello to member Scott Duncan!

## Letter of Comment

Dear Neffers:

It’s been a busy and slightly crazy time for me, with more work, and another book to edit, so fanzines have been left to themselves. So many more have piled up in the meantime, including two issues of The National Fantasy Fan, Volume 81, Nos. 3 and 4. Time to rectify that situation.

Vol. 81, No. 3... I have had others invite me to join them on MeWe, but I have more than enough social media to keep me busy as it is. I admit to being intrigued about seeing what it is like compared to more familiar social media, but I am not intrigued enough to actually take the plunge.

Wondering if you’re really a writer (for me these days, an SF editor) might be a symptom of Impostor Syndrome. Lots of people have suffered from that this pandemic. It does take some time to build back self-esteem and confidence.

Call yourself a writer or editor, and let others stand up to deny it. If no one stands up, they must agree

with you! And, no one wants to announce they are one thing or another when it might be common knowledge that you’re a hack or braggart. Just remember, there is always something new to learn, and mastery takes many years, if you can get that far.

My letter...the second D.J. Holmes book came, and because of some level of familiarity, I got it done and back to him very quickly. With relaxed rules on the pandemic, the agency I work with (it supplies trade shows and conferences with show staff, especially in the registration area...if you worked cons for free, with this company, you can do the same things, and get paid for it) has come back to life with several good assignments, and my now-regular gig at a business magazine in Toronto’s east end all mean that my free time is limited, but at least the bank account is getting a much-needed boost. So’s my resume.

It is a shame so many members are not participating, but a look at the history of fandom and its clubs shows that it has always been so.

Usually about 10-12% of any club membership is active doing something, while the rest of the membership are happy to just belong to the club.

The old fannish term for them was the Happy Deadwood, but that really isn’t fair...those people give the club money for their membership, and clubs can’t run without at least something in the treasury. Their contribution is valuable, too.

Vol. 81, No. 4... I think the idea of commemorative stamps to mark 100 years of Amazing Stories, plus other pulp magazines, is a fine idea.

I am hopeful that the funding problems the current incarnation of Amazing is having can be cleared up soon, and that it would be around when those stamps see print.

I read this issue several times, and I think I have written what I can, so off this goes, and I say thank you! Take care all, and see you with the next issue, already in progress.

Yours,  
Lloyd Penney.



SerCon

Space Detective Comics

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Avon Comics Group (Avon Periodicals and the Hearst Magazine Corporation) published four issues of Space Detective Comics, a 10-cent, quarterly science fiction (SF) comic book. All four issues were published from July, 1951 until July, 1952. The Avon Comics Group was owned by Joseph Meyers, Maurice Diamond, and Henry Rebell, and published comic books from 1949 until 1956.

Space Detective #1

Plot: When danger threatens in the year 2255, wealthy philanthropist Rod Hathway and his beautiful secretary Dot Kenny change into the interplanetary superheroes, the costumed Avenger and Teena.

Maag, the space pirate, challenges The Avenger and Teena in a 3-part story written by Walter Gibson, best known as the author of The Shadow's pulp adventures (under the name Maxwell Grant). This comic book featured a contents page, illustrated by Wally Wood, on the inside front cover; a cover by Joe Orlando and Wally Wood; and a backup story featuring Lucky Dale, Girl Detective.



Contents: Bandits of the Starways!; Opium Smugglers of Venus; Trail to the Asteroid Hideout; text story: Something for the Kids; Lucky Dale, Girl Detective: Terror in the Night; and a humor page, Officer Skelly: No Loitering. Thirty-two pages in full color.

SPACE DETECTIVE #3



Main story by Walter Gibson. Interior art by Wally Wood, Joe Orlando, and Warren Kreamer. Cover by Orlando (inks) and Wood (pencils).

Space Detective #2

Plot: When the Earth is threatened, Hathway and his secretary change into the space-roving superheroes, The Avenger and Teena. While pursuing the space slave-ring of the Gargoyle, The Avenger and Teena encounter the beautiful, be-winged Bat Women of Mercury and other menaces in a 3-part story.

In the backup story, the Shadow Squad is a special unit of the NYPD investigating future crimes in the far-off year 2000.

The comic book also featured a contents page illustrated by Wally Wood on the inside front cover. The book's cover was by artists Joe Orlando and Wally Wood. A backup story featured the Shadow Squad.

Contents: Batwomen of Mercury!; The Metal Murderers of Mars!; Slave-Ship of Saturn; Tales from the Shadow Squad: The Case of the Sub-Sea Bandits. Thirty-two pages in full color.

Interior art by Wally Wood, Joe Orlando, and Henry C. Kiefer. Cover art by Orlando and Wood.

Space Detective #3

Plot: Hathway and Dot change into The Avenger and Teena; and Teena does a fire dance. Then Teena's space-pearls draw the attention of The Chameleon and his accomplices, a Mole Woman and a Neptunian pearl



diver.

In the backup story, robot workers revolt against a mining colony and the tyrant who runs it.

Contents: Pearl Ship of Death; Sea Nymphs of Neptune!; Mole Woman of Jupiter; text story: Say "Hello" For Me!; Revolt of the Robots! Thirty-two pages in full color.

Tex Blaisdell did the art for Pearl Ship of Death and Mole Woman of Jupiter.

Cover by Everett Raymond Kinstler.

### Space Detective #4

Plot: Hathaway and Dot change into The Avenger and Teena. They then battle the Wasp Women on Jupiter's moon Ganymede; Skull-men from space seize the luxury space liner Star Queen; and The Beast-Man seizes control of the Flame Women, who live on a planet named Vulcan.

Interior art by Gene Fawcette and Gerald McCann. Cover art by Gene Fawcette. This issue also featured a contents page illustrated by Fawcette on the inside front cover.

Contents: Space Ship of the Dead; Attack of the Wasp Woman; Flame Women of Vulcan; text story: Space Thief; text story: Welcome Home; and Cargo from Mars. Thirty-two pages in full color.

### Principal Avon Artists and Writers

Philip Eustice Blaisdell (1920 – 1999), better known as Tex Blaisdell, was a comic strip and comic book artist/writer/editor. He worked on 22 syndicated features, including Little Orphan Annie, which he drew for five years. In addition to Avon, he worked for Centaur, DC, Marvel, Novelty, and Ziff-Davis.

Gene Fawcette (1920 – 1988) was a comic book artist who worked for the Eisner/Iger Studio in the early 1940s. His early work included covers, support art, and model pages for Fiction House. Then, in the second half of the 1940s and in the

1950s, he worked on several features for Better Publications. At Avon Comics, he worked on western, horror, and SF stories and covers.

Walter Gibson (1897 – 1985) was an author and professional magician, best known for his work on the pulp character The Shadow, under his pen-name of Maxwell Grant. He also wrote for several comic book publishers, including Avon, DC, Marvel, and St. John.

Carmine Michael Infantino (1925 – 2013) was a comic book, artist, writer, editor, and publisher, primarily for Avon, St. John, and DC Comics in the 1950s – 1960s. In the 1940s he worked for several other comic book publishers, including Fawcett, Hillman, and Marvel.

Henry C. Kiefer (1890 – 1957) was a comic book artist best remembered for his contributions to the long-running comic book series Classics Illustrated. In addition, he drew features for just about every publisher of his era.

Everett Raymond (Ray) Kinstler (1926 – 2019) was an artist, whose official portraits included Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan. He was also a pulp and comic book artist, whose work appeared mainly in the 1940s and 1950s. In addition to Avon, he worked for DC, Fawcett, Marvel, and MLJ.

Joseph (Joe) Kubert (1926 – 2012) was a Polish-born American comic book artist, teacher, and founder of The Kubert School. He worked for a number of comic book publishers, but is best known for his work on DC Comics' Hawkman and Sgt. Rock.

Gerald McCann (1916 – 1995) drew and inked comic books published by Avon, Hillman, St. John, Ziff-Davis, Charlton Comics, DC Comics, Dell, American Comics, and Gilberton's Classics Illustrated Comics, for which he also painted several covers.

Joseph (Joe) Orlando (1927 – 1998) was an illustrator, writer, editor and cartoonist during a lengthy career spanning six decades. He was the associate publisher of MAD and also the vice president of DC Comics, where he edited numerous titles and ran DC's Special Projects department.

Bob Powell (1916 – 1967) was a comic book artist known for his work during the 1930s - 1940s, including the Jumbo Comics feature strip “Sheena, Queen of the Jungle.” He received a belated credit in 1999 for co-writing the debut of the popular comic character “Blackhawk.” Born Stanley Robert Pawlowski, he legally changed his name to S. Robert Powell in 1943.

Wallace Allan (Wally) Wood (1927 – 1981) was a comic book writer, artist and independent publisher, widely known for his work on EC comic book titles such as *Weird Science*, *Weird Fantasy*, and *MAD Magazine*, from its inception in 1952 until 1964. At DC Comics, he worked on many titles, including *Strange Adventures*.

### Additional Comments

All issues of *Space Detective* starred the costumed *Space Detective Rod Hathway* and his secretary/girlfriend/partner *Teena (Dot Kenny)*. Hathway was also known as *The Avenger*.

There have been several reprints of *Space Detective Comics*, including an I. W. reprint series in 1958.

Avon entered the comic book market in February, 1945, with *Molly O’Day*, an adventure comic book starring a female “super sleuth.”

### Some Conclusions

*Space Detective* isn’t remembered by many SF fans today, even the most ardent ones. It was fairly popular in it’s day, however, as were other SF comic books published by Avon.

Avon was known for its string of one-shot and short-lived series of SF comics, including *Attack on Planet Mars*, *Flying Saucers*, *Out of This World*, *Strange Worlds*, *Robotmen of the Lost Planet*, *Rocket to the Moon*, and *An Earth Man on Venus* (reprinted as *Strange Planets #11* by *Super Comics* in 1972).

There was also an Avon funny animal SF comic book, *Space Mouse*.

Most of these comic books were known for their artwork by the popular SF artists of the time (e. g., *Wally Wood*, *Joe Kubert*, and *Carmine Infantino*).

### Sources

Bails, Jerry G. *Collector’s Guide: The First Heroic Age*, 1969.

Bails, Jerry G. & Hames Ware (eds). *Who’s Who of American Comic Books*, 4 Volumes, 1973 – 1976.

Benton, Mike. *The Comic Book in America*, 1989.

Duin, Steve & Mike Richardson. *Comics Between the Panels*, 1998.

Goulart, Ron. *The Comic Book Reader’s Companion*, 1993.

Goulart, Ron. *Great History of Comic Books*, 1986.

Keltner, Howard. *Howard Keltner’s Index to Golden Age Comic Books*, 1976.

Overstreet, Robert. *The Comic Book Price Guide*, 1971 – 2021.

Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted, including Wikipedia and Fancyclopedia 3.

### Treasury

Paypal balance \$1024.66

In: \$18.00 (less fees) for membership upgrades

NSB balance: \$1436.33

In: \$22.00 for membership fees; Out: \$274 to reimburse George for printing & mailing expense

2 life members + 20 electronic + 20 regular + 3 household members = 45 voting members

7 archive members + 238 public members = 245 non-voting members

Welcome to Amanda and Alan Servello!  
Thanks to Daniel Rego for upgrading!



An Unpleasant Issue Must Be Faced — Round Robins Rise Again

Neffy Nominees

Presidential Notes — The Directors' View

Bureau Reports

Advertising — Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau — Welcommittee  
History and Research Bureau — Writers Exchange — Correspondence Bureau  
Games Bureau

Member of the Month -- Scott Duncan

Letter of Comment -- Lloyd Penney.

SerCon -- Space Detective Comics

Treasury

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