

# LibertyCon 23



July 9-11, 2010

Chattanooga, TN

# *LibertyCon Rules*

**ATTENDEES 17 YEARS OLD AND UNDER:** All convention attendees who are 17 years of age or younger must be accompanied by a LEGAL GUARDIAN. A Legal Guardian is a person 21 years of age or older who will take financial and legal responsibility for the minor and will sign for each minor person for which he/she is responsible. A parent or Legal Guardian must accompany children under 7 years of age at all times.

**BADGES:** Badges must be worn in plain sight above the waist at all times.

**BATHING:** Remember, **"If in doubt, take a bath!"** Your fellow attendees will appreciate your courteous actions.

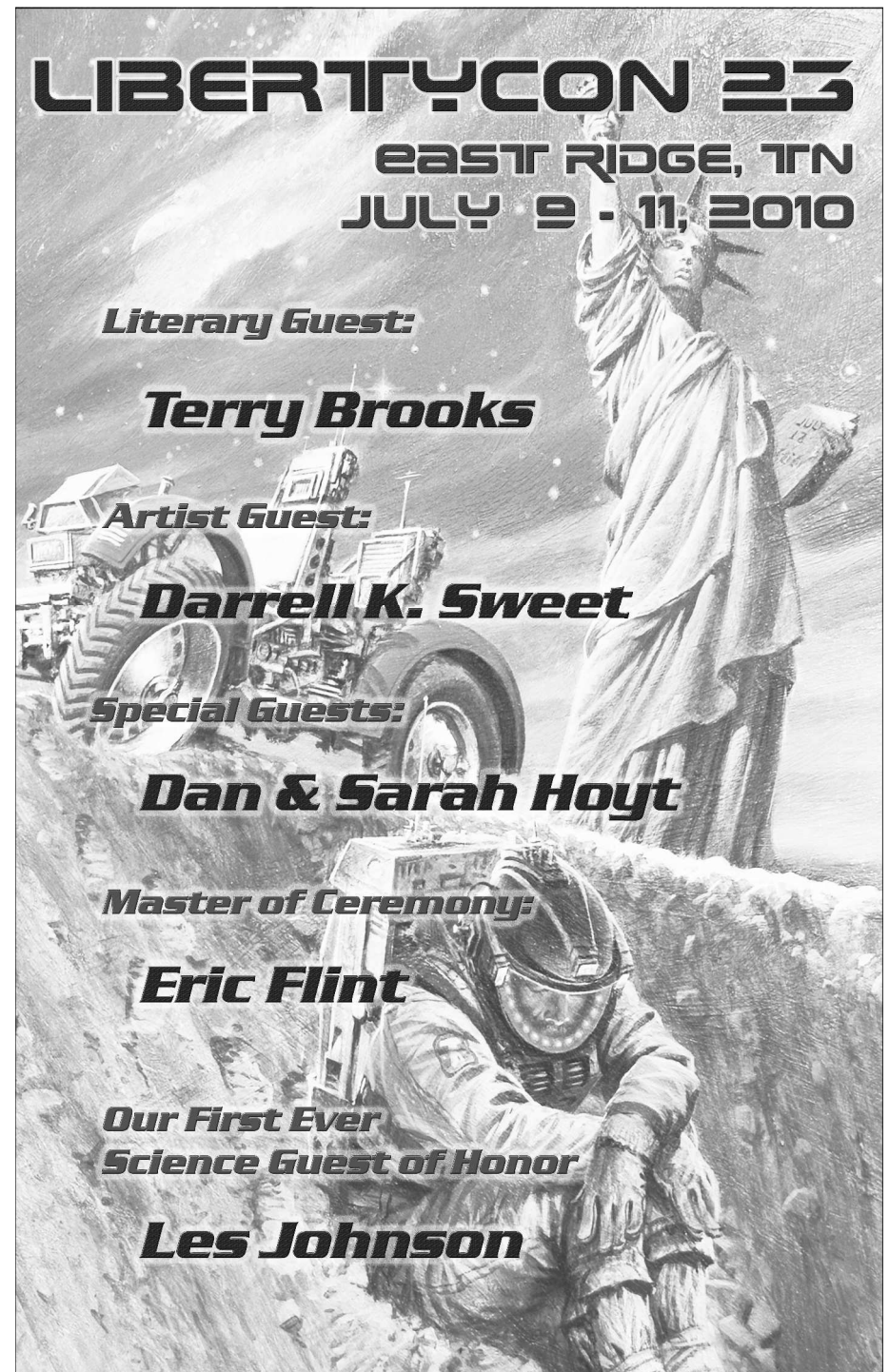
**DRINKING AGE:** To get a drinking badge you must produce a VALID military ID or Drivers License with your picture on it to prove that you are at least 21 years of age. Minors caught drinking at LibertyCon will be hung, drawn, quartered, and thrown out of the convention. Also, **WE WILL CONTACT YOUR PARENTS AND YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO FUTURE LIBERTYCONS!**

**EJECTION FROM THE CONVENTION:** If you are ejected from LibertyCon because of violation of the convention rules or Tennessee State Law, your attendance fees will not be refunded.

**LOST BADGE POLICY:** If you lose your badge at the convention, you will have to purchase another one at the full admission price of \$50. We are sorry to take this rough stance, but incidents with people (Not Fans) purchasing a replacement badge to give/sell to a friend at a reduced price only increases the cost of the convention for real fans and this is the only way we can curb it.

**SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS:** If you have a medical condition, please ask the registration staff for a sticker for the back of your badge. This sticker should contain the nature of your medical condition and any special steps to be taken in an emergency, including the name and phone number of the person to contact should the need arise.

**WEAPONS POLICY:** All weapons and models of weapons must be "Peace Bonded" by one of our security staff before they may be worn with your costume or normal wearing apparel. This weapons policy will be strictly enforced.



## *Welcome to LibertyCon 23*

It's that time of the year again! Welcome to LibertyCon 23! This year we have a stellar lineup of guests for your pleasure and enjoyment that I am sure you will appreciate.

Our Literary Guest of Honor this year is Terry Brooks. Mr. Brooks first came to my attention when I read "The Sword of Shannara" and I have been a fan of his work ever since. When Mr. Brooks' name was first brought up, I didn't think we had much of a chance to get him because of our small size. But then fate intervened in the person of last year's LGOH, Dr. Ben Bova. When I was driving Ben to the airport with his grandson, Ben told me that he had a great time at LC22. Then he asked me who we were having as our LGOH for LC23. I said we were trying to get Terry Brooks but that I didn't hold out too much hope. Ben let out a great big laugh and said, "Maybe I can help you there. After all, Terry Brooks is one of my best friends." And the rest is history my friends.

Last year, our advertised Artist Guest of Honor, Darryl K. Sweet, was unable to attend because of a death in the family. A long time friend and prominent Southern Artist, Beth Willinger, stepped in and took over the duties of AGOH at the last moment and did a bang up job! But we were all sad that Mr. Darryl couldn't make it because he is one of our favorite artists. So, I took a chance and asked if he was willing to consider coming back in 2010 for LibertyCon 23. To our delight, Mr. Darryl said yes! So, I am proud to say that our Artist Guest of Honor is one of the greatest artists in Science Fiction and Fantasy Art, Darryl K. Sweet. Darryl is famous for providing the covers of the fantasy epic sagas "The Wheel of Time" series by Robert Jordan, Piers Anthony's "Xanth" series and Stephen R. Donaldson's "Chronicles of Thomas Covenant the Unbeliever" series, just to name a few of his works. Darryl lives in Cody, Wyoming and is accompanied this year by his son, Darryl S. Sweet, who is a prominent Western artist. With the two Sweet boys, this year programming is bound to be confusing and fun!"

The position of Special Guest at LibertyCon is a very important

position and it is our way of saying thank you to the special pros who have gone out of their way to support us. It is also our informal way of adopting special people into the LibertyCon Family. Our Special Guests at LibertyCon this year are Sarah and Dan Hoyt. I first met the Hoyt's when they came to LibertyCon a few years ago. Over the years I have come to realize that they are our kind of people, a little crazy, but nice. Last year I got to know their two boys a bit better and I can tell you that they are chips off the old block. A little crazy, but nice kids.

Now there is something new at LibertyCon this year. Because of the influence of one particular person over the years, LibertyCon has become known as a SciFiCon that contains a killer science track of programming. Because the science track has assumed such a major place at LibertyCon, we felt it was high time that we added another position to our featured guest lineup. So I am proud to announce that LibertyCon's first Science Guest of Honor is none other than Mr. Les Johnson. In Les's real life, he is the Deputy Manager of the NASA MSFC Advanced Concepts Office at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. But to us, he is our "Resident Rocket Sceintist". Yes, I know "Sceintist" is misspelled, which is a story in itself. One story I think that I will let Les tell you himself.

Our Master of Ceremonies is none other than Eric Flint. "Our Man Flint" is an old and valued friend and it is our great fortune to have him as our MC again this year. But I want you all to know, that it's not all "Wine and Roses" in my relationship with Eric. It's more like "Whine and Roses". He keeps putting me in books and takes great fun in finding interesting ways to kill me off. Oh well, I have hopes that his lovely wife Lu will help curb this homicidal streak in his writing. ;^0

This year's LibertyCon is dedicated to the memory of two wonderful friends of many years who have passed away, Sharon and Bryan Webb. Sharon passed away on April 29th of this year. Bryan passed away exactly 6 years before on the same day. Sharon and Bryan were instrumental in the early years to mold LibertyCon to stay true to the values of old fashioned Southern

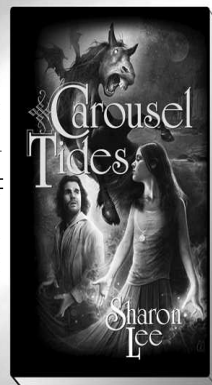
Conventions. I will miss Sharon's gentle and stubborn ways and Bryan's advice and laughter for the remainder of my days. This is LibertyCon's pale attempt to honor these wonderful people.

We have a great convention planned for all of you this year. And as usual, we have an embarrassment of riches when it comes to the number of professional writers, artists and scientists attending the convention. I want to thank them all for their input into what I know will be a wonderful convention this year. For a complete list of the professionals attending LibertyCon 23, please see the special page toward the back of this program book.

Before I let you go, let me tell you about the most important part of our convention. OUR STAFF! Without them, there would be no LibertyCon. Every member of the staff from the Chairman on down to the newest member pay the same membership as you do. These wonderful people have volunteered their time, their effort and their energy to bring you one of the best cons in the south. Please take a few minutes to see what they are doing and thank them. As I said many times before, without these wonderful people, there would not be a LibertyCon. They are all the best and are simply the best there is!

**"PARTY ON DUDES!"**

**-Uncle Timmy**



978-1-4391-3395-8 \* 416pp \* \$14.00/18.99

"Lee and Miller's novels are full of action, exotic characters, plenty of plot, and even a touch of romance. The world building is outstanding." -Booklist

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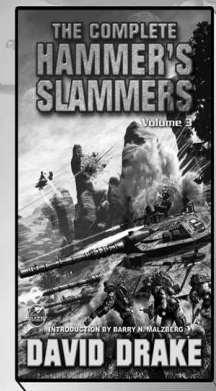
Kate Archer returns to her roots in small-town seaside resort Maine to discover if she has what it takes to become the new Mistress of the Six Worlds. Because if she doesn't, the Carousel will surely master her! A gripping contemporary fantasy from master storyteller Sharon Lee, award-winning co-creator of the Liaden Universe®.

**NOVEMBER 2010**

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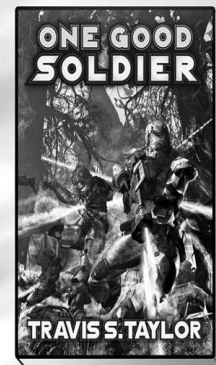
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-Publishers Weekly on Travis S. Taylor's  
*The Quantum Connection*

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"Their high-crowned cowboy hats were pulled down low over their eyes and bandannas covered their faces. It was difficult getting used to his scout-master father as a field commander." -from *Written in Time*

**Arm Up for Time Travel!**

"Nevada 1903," says the old press clipping. And that tough settler family in the grainy photo is you and your loved ones. If Jack Naile is about to be thrown into a wild and rugged past, he's going to make sure he arrives well-armed! "The Survivalist" series creators Jerry and Sharon Ahern deliver a tale of pioneer grit and experience-tested tactics that will serve a family well—whatever the time-line.



## Remembering Bryan & Sharon Webb

by

Wendy and Jerri Webb

Sharon and Bryan Webb have been a part of the SF community since 1979. Chattacon was their first convention where they were welcomed with open arms and celebrity status befitting royalty by Tim Bolgeo. The wearing of Spock ears, scant costumes, and a host of dragons sitting on shoulders brought smiles, but it was the fans, artists, and writers that provided an instant extended family. We'd like to share a few things you might know about our parents, like the fact they met at a Jazz club since she was a singer and he was a sax player.

While Daddy was an art auctioneer at many conventions, did you know he was a race car driver with the Sports Car Club of America? When he stopped racing formula cars he became an award winning race steward and writer of motor sports articles. This background led him to believe that public streets were akin to Daytona or Road Atlanta, and that were no limits to the number of kids he could take to school crammed into a Porsche convertible.

Our mother was a notable writer in SF, and even had a sign on her office that said "esseffery." But many don't know that she had a tendency to set restaurant menus on fire, had an aversion to humidity lest her hair turned to a Roseanne Rosannadanna coif, and had some of her favorite books chewed by her miniature long-haired dachshund, Jaqq, while her other dog, Peanut, became a world class couch potato. Since humidity is the bane of outdoor life, she chose to stay virtually hermetically sealed indoors and as a result produced fiction, award-winning fractal art, one-of-a-kind jewelry, and collected paper dolls, odd musical instruments, and paranormal objects.

Our lives are not the same without them. But like you, we have memories that will sustain us through pain and loss. So take a moment and raise a glass to two people who will be missed, but have made us better by knowing them.

## People you might bump into at LC23...

**Terry Brooks**  
Literary Guest of Honor

**Eric Flint**  
Master of Ceremonies

Mark Berry

Ben Bova

David L. Burkhead

Stephen E. Cobb

Larry Correia

Sara Harvey

**Dan Hoyt**  
Co-Special Guest

**Sarah A. Hoyt**  
Co-Special Guest

Stephanie Osborn

John Ringo

Travis Taylor (Author/Scientist)

Patrick Vanner

Michael Z. Williamson

**Darrell K. Sweet**  
Artist Guest of Honor

C. Bangs

Michael Bielaczyc

Paul Bielaczyc

Darrell R. Sweet

James Ward

Beth Willinger

**Les Johnson**  
Science Guest of Honor

Liz Holland

Robert Kennedy

Greg Matloff

Dr. Diane Mucci

Ken Roy

Darrell 'Dr.' Osborn (Magician)

Tom Smith (Filker)

Toni Weisskopf (Editor)

B. J. Willinger (Filker)

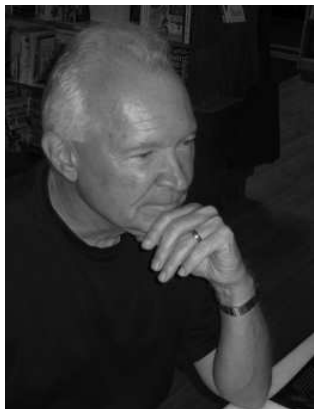
Authors

Artists

Scientists

# Terry Brooks

## Literary Guest of Honor



To know Terry Brooks is to love him. I know this is true, because before I met Terry I didn't like him at all.

Here's why: It was 1976, and Del Rey Books had just bought to the paperback rights to my novel *MILLENNIUM*. I was overjoyed, because I knew that Judy Lynn Del Rey was the most dynamic editor in the science fiction genre and she

would make *MILLENNIUM* a big success.

But when I hurried to New York to discuss her marketing plans for my masterwork, all she could talk about was this fantasy novel she and husband Lester had just bought: *SWORD OF SHANNARA* by an unknown named Terry Brooks.

I was hurt. I was miffed. I was damned sore. And while *MILLENNIUM* did very well, both critically and in sales, *SWORD OF SHANNARA* became a best-seller and established Terry Brooks as a major writer in the field of fantasy.

So I didn't like Terry Brooks. It was pure jealousy, but there you are. Or rather, there I was. I didn't like him, that is, until I met him. That happened in 1986, at Coast Con, a science fiction convention in Biloxi, Mississippi (of all places).

It was impossible to dislike Terry. He was charming, intelligent, witty and altogether a great guy. And he still is. He's elfin in appearance, but he has the personal magnetism of a true wizard.

More than that, Terry is a fine writer. He is serious about his craft, a steady worker who has turned out a continuous stream of wonderful books. I'm not a great fan of fantasy, but Terry's novels

# SHANNARA

Del Rey salutes  
Literary Guest of Honor

# TERRY BROOKS

——  
“The most important fantasy writer  
since J.R.R. Tolkien.”

—*Rocky Mountain News*



Shannara.com • TerryBrooks.net



are both exciting and thought-provoking. His characters are real, and that's because he draws them out of his own deeply-felt experiences.

My personal favorite among his thirty-some books is *MAGIC KINGDOM FOR SALE - SOLD!* But pick up any Terry Brooks book and you're in for a great read.

Terry and I have appeared together at a few writing workshops, and what Terry has to say about the craft of writing is well worth heeding. He can help you write better. Listen and learn.

Terry is especially concerned about helping young writers to get started, and he has devoted a considerable amount of his time and effort to this cause.

Of course, we don't agree about everything. Terry is a firm believer in the need to outline a story in detail. I find outlining too confining for me. We've had some very lively discussions about this.

I am fortunate to have Terry and his lovely wife Judine as friends. I don't see them often enough, but then if we did see each other more often we probably would have too much fun having fun and our writing would suffer.

Well...maybe not. He's a true professional; he'd get the job done. In any event, it's a privilege to know Terry, as you will find out at this convention. He's a good friend, a wonderful storyteller, a great conversationalist, and – above all – a serious, hard-working, and extremely successful writer.

**Ben Bova**

*(Ben Bova was Literary Guest of Honor at last year's LibertyCon 22. Some of his less well known accomplishments include winning 6 Hugos, serving as past SFWA president and former editor of Analog. We are incredibly happy to have Dr. Bova return to LibertyCon this year.)*



# Chattacon XXXVI

January 21st-23rd, 2011

## **Featured Guests Include:**

- Guest of Honor: K. K. Rusch**
- Guest of Honor : Chelsea Quinn Yarbro**
- Artist GOH: Ruth Thompson**
- Special Guest: Bill and Brenda Sutton**
- Toastmaster: Toni Weisskopf**

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# ***Darrell K. Sweet***

## ***Artist Guest of Honor***



### ***Darrell K. Sweet: Where's the Hugo?***

20 years ago, when I first moved to New York, I signed a two-year contract with Del Rey books. The late and legendary editor Judy Lyn Del Rey knew how much I admired Darrell Sweet's work, who was also under contract to Del Rey. She arranged for me to visit with

Darrell at his home in Princeton, New Jersey. Darrell and his wonderful wife Janet were marvelous hosts. We spent the day looking at piles of paintings, discussing his technique, and talking about art and our influences. Artists as a whole are gracious people, but in his generosity, Darrell went way beyond what any young artist could have hoped for. I remember he actually demonstrated some of his more unusual techniques on the spot. A less secure artist would never have revealed his secrets to a young, ambitious artist. Darrell had no such compunctions. Art, for him, was a vocation and a passion to share. I went home that day inspired and in awe of the artist and his talent. I also was impressed by the man and his integrity. Twenty years later I still feel the same way.

I believe Darrell ranks among the greatest artists to ever have worked in the science fiction/fantasy cover business. He is an artist's artist: unquestionably one of the most technically accomplished illustrators working today. Darrell doesn't do a lot of conventions, but whenever he does, most of the other artists gravitate to his paintings to study the dazzling paint application (I know this because I am always in the group!). Darrell has a classic technique: with a loose, almost soupy underpainting, allowing for happy accidents to get textures going; and then a crisp layer of lights on top to pull out the details. One of the most baffling elements of his technique is that he creates texture in a white

gesso ground on the board using a coarse brush before he starts painting. The reason his work is so rich in texture is that these pre-applied swirls and roughness are exactly where he needs them. Few artists paint natural features as well as Darrell - rocks, trees, flowers, even the texture of a roadway or fresh snow icing a forest - all done with an economy of brushwork and a directness that characterizes the work of a master.

Darrell's work falls into two distinct periods in terms of brightness of his palette, both worth studying. In the 1970's, his painting used mostly earth colors. In the following decades, his palette progressively took huge leaps in color saturation. As a general rule, artists tend to work with bright colors early in their careers, and as they get age, darken their palettes (just look at Rembrandt, for instance). Darrell did the opposite, getting wilder and more experimental as he grew older. An example of his subtle work is the cover for 'Caviar' by Theodore Sturgeon, one of the first paintings that made me notice Darrell. With its subdued interplay of warm and cool, and a sly, dead on portrait of Lester Del Rey, the cover is so laid back you would think it the work of an older artist. Actually, it is one of Darrell's earliest SF covers. A decade later, his palette exploded with color and he was producing covers such as 'The Demons at the Rainbow Bridge' by Jack L. Chalker. This is an incredible cover, showing such daring color usage, you would mistake it for the work of a fearless young artist breaking new artistic ground.

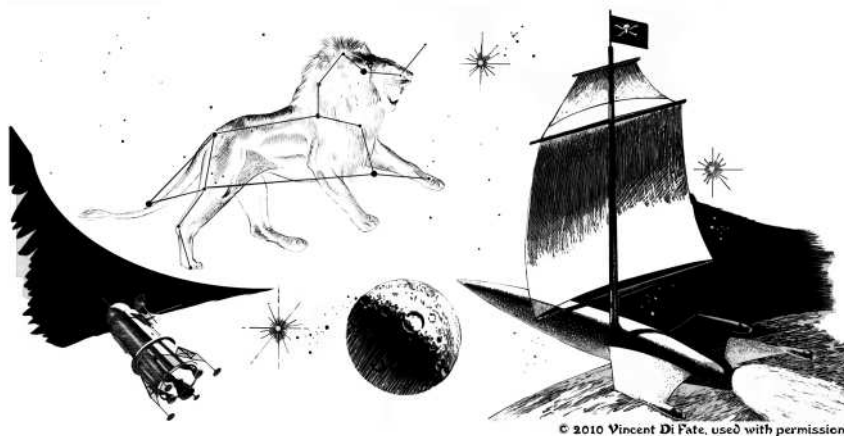
I want to mention another recent cover of Darrell's: 'Winter's Heart', the ninth book in the 'Wheel of Time' series by the late Robert Jordan. Flip over the book to the cover and you'll see a piece of technical painting of which few artists are capable. The back illustration depicts a horde of 500 people emerging from a snow covered forest on horseback, with rim light bouncing off their shoulders. It is an unbelievable artistic feat, and it isn't even on the front cover!

One final item - a complaint! Why has Darrell never won the Hugo for Best Artist? Believe it or not, he has not even won a Chesley award. Over the years, the SF community has fallen into the habit of awarding the art Hugo to the same group of artists. While the winners are incredible talents in their own right, this narrow slate



# Con†Stellation XXIX: Leo

**17-19 September 2010**



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Guest of Honor  
**Wen Spencer**

Artist Guest of Honor  
**Vincent Di Fate**

Master of Ceremonies  
**Steve Jackson**

Fan Guest of Honor  
**Warren Buff**

### **Also Expected to Attend:**

Lou Anders, Chris Berman, Allan Gilbreath, Les Johnson, Darrell Osborn, Stephanie Osborn, Kimberly Richardson, Steve White... and Special Musical Guests  
— The Cemetery Surfers

Membership Rate  
\$35 through Sunday 6 June 2010  
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of candidates means that masters like Darrell, to whom we all owe a debt of appreciation, gets overlooked. Therefore, I would like to make a suggestion: If everyone attending LibertyCon this year put Darrell at the top of their next Hugo ballot (as I will be doing), and reminded their friends of Darrell's large and distinguished body of work, this long-standing oversight could be rectified. As you are marking your Hugo ballot, reflect upon Darrell's decades of work: the Piers Anthony 'Xanth' series, the William Forstchen covers, the masterful 'Wheel of Time' series, the 'Discworld' covers, the cover for Roger Zelazny's 'Roadmarks', Poul Anderson's 'Three Hearts and Three Lions' - the list is so long, I could use up all of my allotted space here just listing favorites. Let's honor Darrell for a long career of exceptional work. It's high time he finally got the Hugo.

**David Mattingly**

*(David Mattingly was Artist Guest of Honor at both LibertyCon 13 and 21. He has painted over 1,000 science fiction/ fantasy book covers, including David Weber's 'Honor Harrington' series, K.A. Applegate's 'Animorphs' series, and the re-packaging of David Drake and S.M. Stirling's 'The General' series. Always look for Orson the cat hidden in his covers)*



# Les Johnson

## Science Guest of Honor

I first met Les in 1999. For almost two decades, I had been researching the solar photon sail as a means of projecting robotic payloads and eventual world ships on millennial journeys to nearby stars. As well as a host of scientific papers, this work has resulted in my first book, *The Starflight Handbook*, participation many international conferences and a guest professorship in Siena, Italy. But the world's space agencies, including NASA, seemed to be very unimpressed with the idea that interstellar travel is actually not infeasible.



In early 1999, I received an e-mail from Bob Forward, a famous science visionary and science-fiction author. Bob told me about a new NASA initiative called The Interstellar Propulsion Technology program that was underway at NASA Marshall in Huntsville. He urged me to apply for the position of Faculty Fellow and spend some time in the southland. As a life-long Yankee, I was not very enthusiastic initially. But happily, I applied, was accepted, traveled south and met Les. This began a long collaboration that has resulted in a patent, three books and several co-authored papers. Through Les' urging, I also became a LibertyCon regular.

When you meet Les, the first impression is that he is tall and slender. One can't help but wonder how he keeps so slender since he has a good appetite. But as you get to know him better, you recognize his boundless energy. Les is a natural manager—he is able to subjectively measure and balance the talents of his team members and project these onto the project's mission statement or roadmap.

He is a visionary and political realist at the same time. Les works at the edge of known technologies—on projects such as tethers, sails, and ion drives. He performs non-technical outreach to audience as diverse as the science-fiction community and school groups. I won't repeat the words he has used to describe some powerful Washington senators and Congress people of both political parties he has bunked heads with to maintain funding, but they were colorful and accurate.

Before meeting Les, I did not believe that our space agency still had room for energetic and vocal visionaries. With his training in physics (Bachelors degree from Transylvania College and Master's degree from Vanderbilt University), his ability as a public speaker and media-friendly is a good spokesperson for humanity's future in space.

Also, he was one of the first NASA insiders I know of to recognize the significance of collaboration in space between NASA and commercial interests. I wish him all the best in his science-fiction writing efforts. And I hope he continues to press for space exploration, settlement, solar power satellites and other technologies that can promise to bring the benefits of human expansion into the solar system (and ultimately beyond) down to Earth.

Finally, Les has a great sense of humor. A few years ago, I presented a co-authored paper with Roman Kezerashvili on the best candidate metal solar-sail materials for interstellar travel. Beryllium, a highly toxic metal, won hands down. In the audience, Les groaned. In a perfect imitation of Indiana Jones in the snake pit, he said "Beryllium, why did it have to be beryllium?"

**Greg Matloff**

*(In addition to being a frequent guest at LibertyCon, Dr. Greg Matloff is an Asst. Professor of Physics, has consulted for NASA, and has even appeared before Congress to discuss Solar Sail technology. He has co-authored a number of items with Les over the years, and as far as we know hasn't dropped him into an actual snake pit... yet.)*

# Dan Hoyt

## LibertyCon 23 Co-Special Guest



Daniel M. Hoyt is a professional computer programmer and the husband of Sarah Hoyt. But he is also an accomplished author, and a less-evil-than-average editor, so he is certainly notable in his own right. While not as active as his wife as an author, he does write several hundred thousand lines of code each year, demonstrating that he is highly prolific in his chosen field.

Daniel enjoys riding in convertibles. He enjoys it so much that he drives a 25-year-old Mustang currently held together mostly by the power of prayer, which offers both affordability and speed competitive with a modern sports car, but without the pesky modern safety equipment of one. If you think his wife hasn't expressed concern over this, we have a master bathroom on the USS Enterprise that we'd like to sell you. Fortunately, Dan grew up in Ohio, where the state legislature would probably pass laws making Kelvin the official measurement of temperature, if they weren't snowed in. Because of this, he has forgotten more about driving in adverse weather conditions than even most Colorado residents know (And this is a state where it is not uncommon to get rain, sun, snow, hail, and wind all in the same afternoon. If Colorado's weather were a person, they'd be locked in a cell babbling about green ducks).

Daniel is an amateur musician, though he never hesitates to point out that he knows a heck of a lot more about music than his sons. He had piano lessons as a child, and when pressed, can still play a few classical and ragtime pieces from memory, depending on how much he's been practicing lately. Not content to simply listen to nostalgic songs from his youth, he is very active in seeking out and keeping tabs on new and upcoming bands. To that end, he often finds out about an exciting new band well before his sons, which leads to some interesting role reversed conversations worthy of cartoons. We attribute this to the fact that he grew up in the state that later went on to be the home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. We're not sure what it is about Ohio that makes people good at keeping tabs on music, but suspect that the cold climate keeps new bands fresh longer. In fact, Parka-wearing record executives probably make their way to Connecticut every year

to look for new bands (you can tell which ones are hot because they've melted a hole in the ice), and load them on the dogsled outside before they can run away.

When not working, writing, or composing, Dan is likely to be found playing with one of his many distributions of Linux. In addition to the free OS itself, he is always on the lookout for any new free software that might further enhance the Linux experience. Unfortunately, the creators of Ubuntu, his current distribution of choice, included a game that involves guiding a penguin down a bobsled course that has been inexplicably dotted with herring. If this sounds incredibly lame, just keep in mind that every person who has ever played it would probably agree wholeheartedly, and it would have no correlation whatsoever to the number of hours of their life they wasted playing it. The current theory is that there's some kind of evil spell on the software.

Despite this, he is an avid Linux proponent both as a user and a programmer. He has even briefly considered the possibility that it may even be a good replacement OS for others around the house, especially since it's free. His family has gently pointed out to him, however, that while the best things in life may be free, the free things in life are not necessarily the best.

# ConCarolinas

## June 3 - 5

### 2011

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# ***Sarah A. Hoyt***

## ***LibertyCon 23 Co-Special Guest***



Sarah A. Hoyt is American, never mind where she was born. You can't hold a shipping error in the incarnation department against a person. Anyone could end up in Portugal by accident. Clearly they were over-worked that week, anyway, because they didn't even manage to package her with the right accent. Somewhere in Russia, some poor person is speaking in a Portuguese accent and doesn't know why.

Sarah is an author who lives in Colorado. Periodically, she throws increasingly heavy books the length of her office and the hallway, usually culminating in a 30 pound, 2000 page dictionary which she gets remarkably good distance with, considering she throws underhand. Her teenaged sons wish to make clear that this bizarre behavior has nothing whatsoever to do with their actions. We believe that she is secretly training for professional shot-put, and wish her the best of luck at it. If she keeps at it, in ten years she might even be able to aim.

She has four cats, all of whom have the relative destructive capacity of wild hippopotamuses. Despite this, for reasons known only to her and her psychiatrist, she buys little blown-glass ball trophies for each book she sells, and then puts these delicate trophies on top of her desk. This angers the Ultra-short haired cat, Miranda, who long ago declared war on all graven images that are not of her. She doesn't know what animal is round and semi-transparent, but she knows it's not her. Because of this, you can often hear Sarah down the hall desperately catching said delicate baubles before they hit the floor as Miranda prances about atop her desk.

But it isn't all work. On the rare occasions she's relaxing, she likes to visit Greek diners and museums, especially Pete's Kitchen, in Denver (as a restaurant, not a museum, although we haven't actually tried ordering a dinosaur there, and so technically have no proof

it would not work). She also enjoys the aquarium, where she feeds anchovies to Cow Rays. While said Rays are not literate, per se, the overwhelming evidence is that they are still fans because of the anchovies, which just goes to show that a good promotional giveaway can transcend even the species barrier.

Sarah has always had a very good rapport with other species, although this is not always true of nonexistent species. Some have said, for example, that she clearly gets along with dragons, since none have flamed the house yet. In fact, this is not the case at all. The Dragons are just snubbing us, because Sarah was cloistered in her room writing a novel the last time they were having a barbecue (which is, of course, the favorite party of dragons.). If the dragons came within five miles of our house anymore, they might very well flame it, but they wouldn't give us the satisfaction.

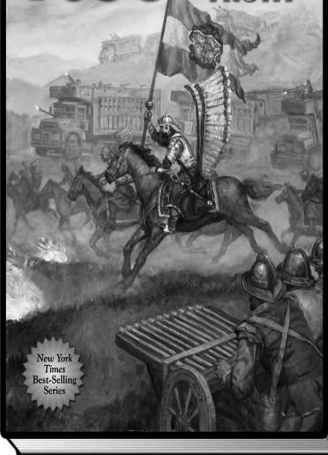
This is OK, because while we can't get that authentic "burning village" taste in our home cooking, Sarah can fake it quite well. True, purists will say "It takes a village to raise a child, but it takes a dragon to raze a village", and they're right as far as that goes, but they haven't seen what Sarah can do with spices. If you're dying for that taste of roasted thatch, give her five minutes in the herb isle and a moment to consider the flavor. She'll get it right by dinner time and still write fifty pages on her novel.

Because of this, calories are easy to come by, so athletic competition is critical. Sarah enjoys mini-golf, and in fact is a regular contender in the Hoyt Open, a mini-golf tournament that occurs approximately twice a random period of time. To add to the competitiveness, all people taking part use real golf putters, and she has gone on to win two tournaments using a particular club that she has now staked dibs on. It is our considered opinion that, should mini-golf ever become an Olympic sport, she'll be ready.

Well, if she isn't too busy with shot-put, anyway.

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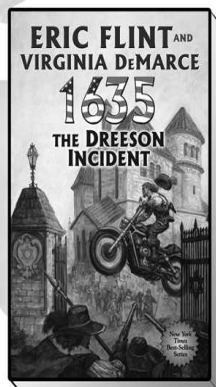


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## Eric Flint

### Master of Ceremony



Eric Flint (born California, USA, 1947) is an American science fiction and fantasy author and editor. Some of his main works are alternate history science fiction, but he also writes humorous fantasy adventures.

Eric Flint has a Master's Degree in history specializing in West African history. He left his doctoral program over political issues and supported himself from that time until age 50 as a laborer, machinist and labor organizer. A long-time leftist political activist, Flint worked as a member of the Socialist Workers Party. After winning the 1993 Writers of the Future contest, he published his first novel in 1997 and moved to full time writing in 1999. Additionally, he has been editing the works of several classic SF authors, and repackaging their short stories into collections and fix-up novels. Although some of his edits have engendered some controversy, the resulting story collections have been commercially successful and have succeeded in returning out-of-print authors to print.

As of 2004 he lives with his wife Lucille (also an ex-labor organizer) in East Chicago, Indiana.

Eric Flint is noted as the editor of the Baen Free Library which was an experiment in electronic publishing (e-books in multiple unencrypted formats) where Flint and Jim Baen convinced authors to post entirely unprotected free copies of various works for download over the internet. Begun as an experiment to see if this increased the sales of their paper or (for-pay) electronic editions, Baen First Librarian, Flint published semi-periodically during its first two years a series of essays - part blog and part letters to the editor tracking the experiment and championing the practice.

## Keep an eye out for these guys too!

Here are some of the other pros scheduled to attend LibertyCon 23 as of printing, though this list is subject to change without notice.

### C Bangs

C Bangs is an accomplished artist who has works in museums across the world and has worked extensively with NASA to visualize scientific concepts. She has a talent for bridging the gap between visual art and cutting edge science. You have to admit, it isn't every day you see an artist write about her work like this: "My work investigates frontier science combined with symbolist figurative painting. I've included quantum equations by Dr. Evan Harris Walker as sacred writing. These equations function as design elements and refer to the interconnectivity of everything and the relationship of time to space."


### Mark Berry

Mark F. Berry grew up watching Ray Harryhausen dinosaurs and other fantastic '50's monsters on the afternoon movie, and the Universal horrors of the '30's on Saturday nights, so it's not surprising that he became a writer on the subject of classic genre films. His magnum opus is undoubtedly *The Dinosaur Filmography*, the 500-page definitive history of "dino-cinema," now available in an affordable (yet completely unabridged!) softcover edition.

In the magazine world, Mark has followed up his book with a prolific flow of articles and interviews featured in such periodicals as the award-winning *Video Watchdog*, as well as *Filmfax*, *Monsters from the Vault*, *HorrorShow*, *Prehistoric Times*, *Horror Biz*, and *CreatureScape*. His magazine work has been honored with three consecutive Rondo Award nominations, most recently for his remarkable *Video Watchdog* interview with 99-year-old Harry Redmond -- the last surviving member of the original King Kong special effects team!

### Michael & Paul Bielaczyc

If you have seen people walking around conventions wearing horns, elf ears, fangs or any other amount of costume prosthetics that look darned realistic then there's a good chance that they came

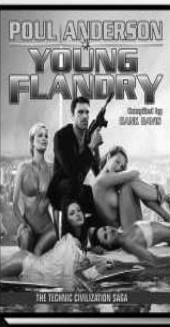


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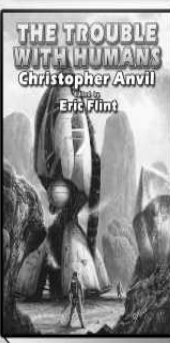


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Hard-SF master and legendary *Analog* regular Christopher Anvil delivers mind-bending ideas and black humor in a sparkling reflection on the one species that always finds a way to fight back—those troublesome humans!

**JANUARY 2010** [www.baen.com](http://www.baen.com)  
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from Michael & Paul Bielaczyc's Aridani Studios. The Bielaczyc brothers are not only phenomenal costumers however, but each is an accomplished artist in their own right (with Paul having won a Chesley Award in 2006). They have each been producing art since childhood, and selling it since their teenage years. Take a minute to check out their artwork and I guarantee you'll be impressed. If you want to tell them so it should be easy to find them... if you see Link standing with a guy in an ornate full leather outfit, you've probably found the right pair.

### **Ben Bova**

Dr. Ben Bova is a giant in the Science Fiction field. With a career that spans more than four decades and having written more than 120 books covering both fiction and non-fiction, Dr. Bova has been involved with the Space Age since the beginning. We won't try to list all of his varied awards, but they include six Hugo Awards, the John W. Campbell Memorial Award, an Arthur C. Clarke Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, the Robert A. Heinlein Award, and the Isaac Asimov Memorial Award. He is a past president of the Science Fiction Writer of America, President Emeritus of the National Space Society, and frequent lecturer and media commentator. Oh yeah, and he has also taught at Harvard and the Hayden Planetarium in New York. And if all of this is making you worried about approaching Dr. Bova, don't. One thing we can say about him is that he's not only one of the true giants in the field, but he's also one heck of a nice guy.

### **David L. Burkhead**

David L. Burkhead's most recent story, "Her World Exploded," was published in the April 2005 issue of Analog Science Fiction & Fact. In addition to his science fiction and fantasy writing, he is a scientist working in Atomic Force Microscopy and has a webcomic, Cold Servings.

### **Stephen Euin Cobb**

Stephen Euin Cobb is an author, futurist and host of the award-winning podcast "The Future And You". He is also an essayist, artist, game designer and transhumanist. *Bones Burnt Black* (2004) is Stephen's most widely read novel, and has been serialized as an audio book within episodes of his podcast. His essays (in print and in his show) generally deal with the future or with science.

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## **Larry Correia**

Larry Correia lives in Utah and is in his own words “Male, 33. Very large. Very bald”. He lists his ‘Occupation’ as “Writer. Merchant of Death (retired). Firearms Instructor. Accountant.” Somehow, I think he’ll fit in just fine at LibertyCon. He has written *Monster Hunter International* for Baen Books, with *Monster Hunter Vendetta* coming out later this year. Next year will see the release of his third *Monster Hunter* book (*Monster Hunter Alpha*) and *The Grimnoir Chronicles: Hard Magic*.

## **Mark Fults**

Mark Fults is a native Chattanooga known for years as an artist, but who has recently added ‘Psychic’ and ‘Author’ to his list of credentials with the publishing of his book ‘Chattanooga Chills’.

## **Sara M. Harvey**

Sara M. Harvey hails from Nashville, TN these days, but she’s lived in California, New York, and many places in between. Her debut novel, *A Year and a Day*, is considered by many to be her “love letter to New York City.” She also has short fiction published with Circle Dark Publishing and has a horror novella, *The Convent of the Pure*, due out in spring 2009 with Apex Books. Sara has a master’s degree in costume history and teaches fashion design at the Inter-

national Academy of Design and Technology. She shares her life with her fiancé and fellow author, Matt, and their two dramatic dogs, Guinevere and Eowyn.

## **Liz Holland**

Liz Holland is a technology expert who builds datacenters, does infrastructure, and is currently involved in building the greenest data center in the world. You may have heard of her current employer considering that it is the telecommunications giant, *Yahoo!*

## **Robert Kennedy**

Robert G. Kennedy III, PE is president of the Ultimax Group Inc., a corporation distributed across 11 time zones from Moscow to L.A. He speaks enough languages to start bar fights in all of them. Robotics engineer, amateur historian, and jack of all trades, he spent 1994 working for the House Science Committee’s Subcommittee on Space as ASME’s Congressional Fellow. On the Sputnik anniversary in October 1997, he managed to make the Russian evening news. Robert resides in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, with his wife Barbara, numerous cats, the occasional horse, and a yard full of trees and Detroit iron. He has been a registered professional engineer in California and Tennessee since 1990. For the past few years, he has been consulting on green energy for Tetra Tech.

## **Greg Matloff**

Dr. Greg Matloff, FBIS, is a leading expert in possibilities for interstellar propulsion and is a tenured astronomy professor with the physics department of New York City College of Technology, CUNY, a consultant with NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, a Hayden Associate of the American Museum of Natural History and a Corresponding Member of the International Academy of Astronautics. He has authored and co-authored quite a number of astronomy and interstellar travel. His papers on interstellar travel, the search for extraterrestrial artifacts, and methods of protecting Earth from asteroid impacts have been published in *JBIS*, *Acta Astronautica*, *Spaceflight*, *Journal of Astronautical Sciences*, and *Mercury*. His popular articles have appeared in many publications, including *Analog*. In 1998, he won a \$5000 prize in the international essay contest on ETI sponsored by the National Institute for Discovery Science.

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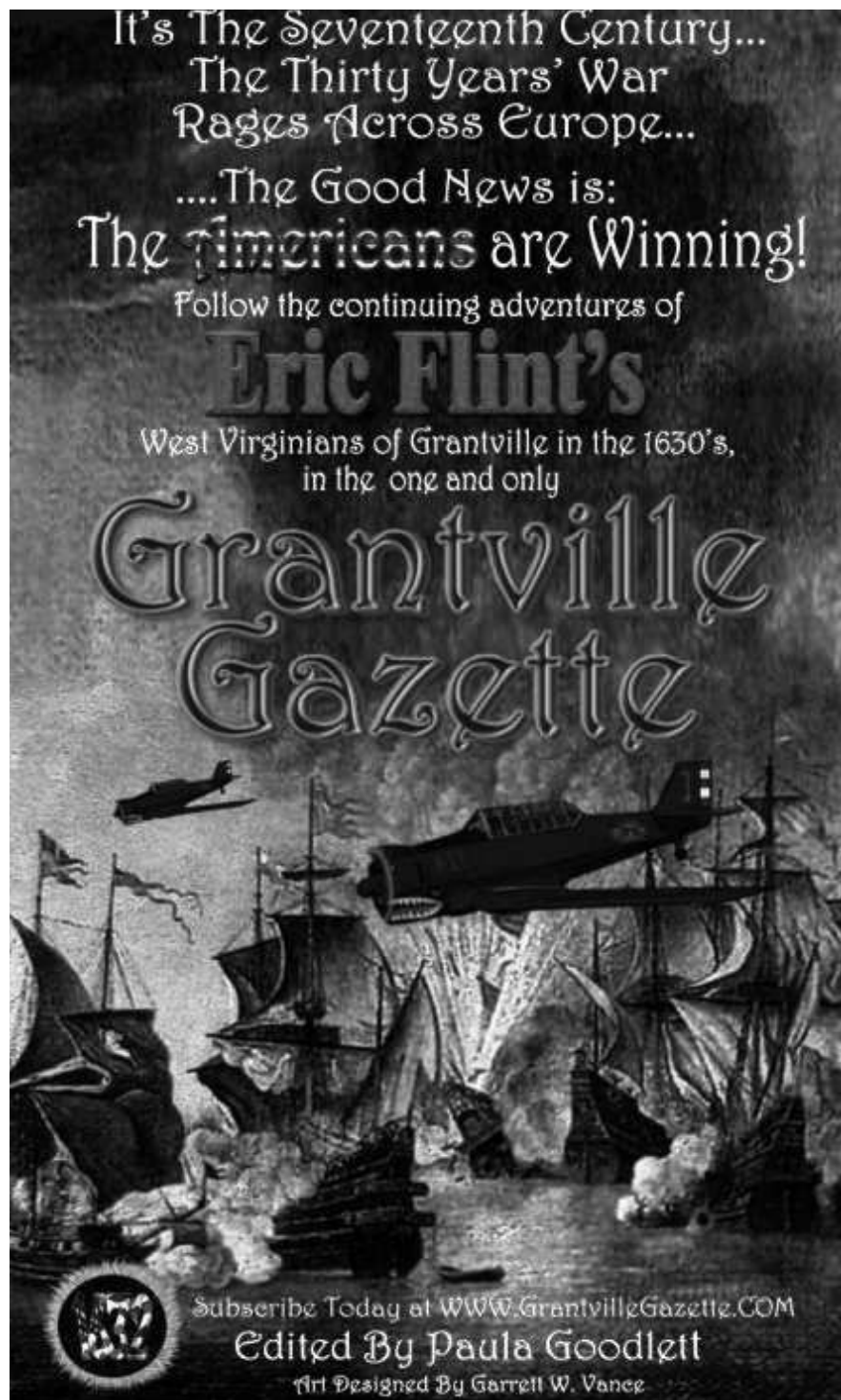
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### ***Dr. Diane “DeeDee” Mucci***

Dr. Diane Mucci earned her Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry, and Microbiology in 1995, and followed that up with a stint at the Center of Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) for 3 years. That work consisted of developing transposable elements to target genes in specific chromosomal regions in the hopes of forwarding the promise of gene therapy. Concurrently she began adjunct teaching at several colleges in Northern Virginia and Washington DC. While teaching, she began helping to create and implement a web resource called Genetics Home Reference, which helps the ‘translate’ information from the Human Genome Project into something more easily read and understood. She is currently a full time biology professor and biotechnology program head at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), the largest educational institution in Virginia and the second-largest community college in the United States.

### ***Stephanie Osborn***

Stephanie Osborn is a former payload flight controller, a veteran of over twenty years of working in the civilian space program, as well as various military space defense programs. She has worked on numerous Space Shuttle flights and the International Space Station, and counts the training of astronauts on her resumé. Of those astronauts she trained, one was Kalpana Chawla, a member of the crew lost in the Columbia disaster. She holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in four sciences: Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics, and she is “fluent” in several more, including Geology and Anatomy. She obtained her various degrees from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Stephanie is currently retired from space work. She now happily “passes it forward,” tutoring math and science to students in the Huntsville area, elementary through college, while writing science fiction mysteries based on her knowledge, experience, and travels.

### ***Darrell “Dr.” Osborn***

Dr. Osborn (and his loyal minions in the Mystical Order of Bob) are well on their way to world domination through a combination of magic, comedy, and balloon animals. Never turn your back on a ‘Twistologist.’ You have been warned.

## John Ringo

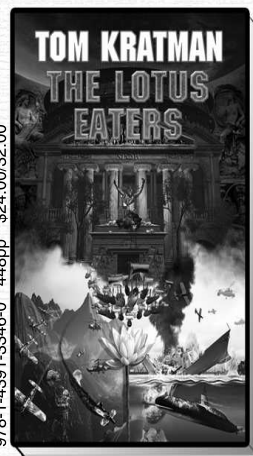
John Ringo is a New York Times bestselling author of science fiction and thriller novels with over one million novels in print. John Ringo had visited 23 countries and attended 14 schools by the time he graduated high school. This left him with a wonderful appreciation of the oneness of humanity and a permanent aversion to foreign food. The author chose to study marine biology and really liked it. Unfortunately the pay is for beans, so he turned to database management where the pay was much better. His highest hopes were to someday upgrade to SQL Server at which point, he thought, his life would be complete. But then Fate took a hand: John became a professional science fiction writer and since his publisher assured him that all science fiction authors became immensely successful, he was given the standard “rich and famous” contract. Somewhat confused by the fine print, he nonetheless signed in blood.

## Ken Roy

Ken Roy is an engineer who lives and works amid the relics of the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge. He has published speculation pieces in Jerry Pournelle’s *There will be War* Anthology, the *United States Naval Institute Proceedings*, and the *Journal of the British Interplanetary Society*. Topics covered include flying aircraft carriers, space based kinetic energy weapons, and terraforming. He has recently completed a 230 hour yoga teacher training program with the Asheville Yoga Center.

## Tom Smith

A legend in the Filk community, Tom Smith not only has the moniker of “The World’s Fastest Filker” but also has the accolades to go along with it. He has been nominated for a Pegasus Award 34 times since 1998, and managed to bribe... I mean walk away with 14 wins in quite a number of categories including ‘Best Filk Song’, ‘Best Writer/composer’ and even ‘Best Performer’. Tom was even inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame in 2005. In describing his music he writes, “Think Weird Al Yankovic with a much bigger book collection, or Jonathan Coulton with different (and a lot more) jokes, or George Carlin with several more songs about Cthulhu.” (I personally think that upcoming projects like “Herbert West: The Musical” should tell you everything you need to know)



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—Publishers Weekly on the prequel, *Carnifex*

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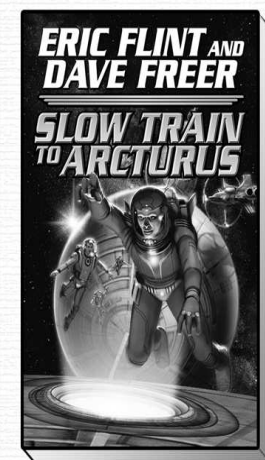
[I]ts fast-paced and pulpy premise make for an engaging...adventure.” —Publishers Weekly

### Star Train!

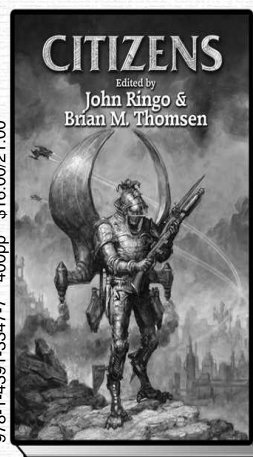
O! ye civilized of Earth: send forth your outcasts, your primitive throwbacks, your religious fundamentalists! Pack them into sealed habitats on a generation ship to interstellar nowhere! If you're an alien explorer stranded on that vessel your only chance of survival lies in seeking out the true pioneers in a sea of nutcases.

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## **Darrell R. Sweet**

Don't let the name fool you... Darrell R. Sweet is the son of renowned artist, Darrell K. Sweet, and an accomplished artist in his own right. Though he started his art career in painting like his father he has since moved on and now works in bronze, with an emphasis on wildlife and western themess. As he says once he discovered the world of sculpture, he never looked back.

## **Travis Taylor**

Travis Shane Taylor is a born and bred southerner and resides just outside Huntsville, Alabama. He has a Doctorate in Optical Science and Engineering, a Master's degree in Physics, a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering, all from the University of Alabama in Huntsville; a Master's degree in Astronomy from the Univ. of Western Sydney, and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Auburn University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Alabama.

Dr. Taylor has worked on various programs for the Department of Defense and NASA for the past sixteen years. He is currently working on several advanced propulsion concepts, very large space telescopes, space based beamed energy systems, future combat technologies and systems, and next generation space launch concepts. He is also involved with multiple MASINT, SIGINT, IMINT, and HUMINT concept studies.

Oh yeah, and he also writes Science Fiction.

## **Patrick Vanner**

Patrick A. Vanner was born into a Marine family, and, after attending Penn State University, majoring in aerospace and electrical engineering, he enlisted in the Marine Corps like his parents before him. After a successful military tour, he earned a degree in network administration and began a career in telecommunications and information technology. He divides his time between working, reading, writing, gaming and spending an exorbitant amount of money on anime, giving truth to the saying, "Anime, it's more addictive than crack." Patrick currently lives with the love of his life, Heather, and four insane cats that make their lives interesting in every sense of the ancient Chinese curse.

## **James Ward**

James Ward is an excellent Chattanooga based artist who is well known not for putting paint on canvas, but more for putting paint on anything else that's not bolted down. You can find his artwork on everything from feathers to floppy disks, and lately he has branched out with the creation of costuming accessories. James is also an accomplished puppeteer, and gives performances during the convention to entertain our young (or young at heart) attendees.

## **Toni Weisskopf**

Toni Weisskopf is a science fiction editor and the publisher of Baen Books. Ms. Weisskopf is an alumna of Oberlin College, from which she graduated in 1987. She was immediately employed by Baen Books, where she served as executive editor up until the death of founder Jim Baen in 2006, at which point she took over as publisher. She has edited a number of their anthologies under the name T.K.F. Weisskopf, and she won the Phoenix Award in 1994 for excellence in Science Fiction.

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The illustration shows a woman in a grey witch costume with a pointed hat and a star on the side. She is holding a rectangular sign that reads "First in Flight NC 4-6 2011" at the top, "STELLARCON 35" in large bold letters in the middle, and "NORTH CAROLINA" at the bottom. The sign has a small "NC" logo in the top right corner. The woman is wearing a grey dress and high heels, and is pointing towards the sign with her right hand.

## **Michael Z. Williamson**

“Mad Mike” Williamson is an American by way of a stint in Canada after emigrating from his native England. In an apparent effort to see even more of the world, he joined the USAF at eighteen and has over the years seen more than his fair share of our little blue marble. When he’s not busy slaving away on his next book for Baen, Michael will turn up at various conventions as a vendor of swords, knives, and various other “Sharp Pointy Things”. (Not our phrase, we swear... after all, he’s the guy that runs [www.sharppointythings.com](http://www.sharppointythings.com)!)

## **B. J. Willinger**

B. J. Willinger is a southern renaissance man considering that he is a master costumer, popular filk artist, renowned toastmaster and storyteller.

## **Beth Willinger**

Beth Willinger is one of the South’s most prominent artists in all types of mediums, as well as prominent dog breeder and much feared poker player.

**Travel by ‘Gate or travel by TARDIS.  
However you roll, get to...**  
**TIMEGATE**  
**Bringing the worlds of *Stargate* and *Doctor Who* (plus a  
bit of everything else!) to Atlanta. GA May 27-29, 2011!**



**Andrew Cartmel**  
*Doctor Who* Author,  
Script Editor  
**Melissa Scott**  
*Stargate: Atlantis* Author  
Plus many others!

**[www.timegatecon.org](http://www.timegatecon.org)**



## **Atlanta Radio Theatre Company**

ARTC performs live audio drama at a wide variety of events, often with a very specific focus on Science Fiction, Horror or Fantasy. They have been performing roughly 24 years, and have performed at such notable venues as DragonCon, Mythic Journeys, Stone Mountain, and the World Fantasy Convention.

Some of their more noteworthy adaptations include several works by masters such as H. P. Lovecraft, H. G. Wells, Robert A. Heinlein, James P. Hogan, and Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman.

Over the years, various members of ARTC have participated in or taught classes for various workshops, including the MidWest Radio Theatre Workshop and its successor organization National Audio Theater Festivals, The Himan Brown Workshop at the University of Georgia, and in Macon and Cartersville, Georgia. Their writers continue to teach radio drama writing at science fiction conventions around the country.

Here at LibertyCon we are excited that ARTC will not be doing one presentation, but instead will be performing three of them. These include:

### **H. Beam Piper’s ‘Time and Time Again’**

*(Adapted for audio by Ron N. Butler)*

Major Allan Hartley lies in the snow, dying of burns and radiation poisoning. A victim of the nuclear bomb that destroyed Buffalo, New York in the early days of the Third World War. He drifts into darkness. When he awakens he is in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, 1945. In his childhood home. In his bedroom. In his thirteen-year-old body. He must struggle to retain his sanity as he learns that you can live your life – Time and Time Again.

### **Brad Linaweaver’s ‘The Competitor’**

A major breakthrough in psychiatric treatment -- and a man with a very crowded head.

### **Henry Lee Forrest’s ‘Brice and Big Mouth’**

*(Updated by Naaman Taylor)*

It followed me home...can I keep it?



# DEALER'S ALLEY

<u>Room</u>	<u>Dealer</u>	<u>Supplies &amp; Goods for Sale</u>
200	Klon Newell	Collectible Books
201	Karen Boyd	Comics & Collectibles
202	Frank Dietz	Used Paperbacks
203	Larry Smith	New Books
204	B. & A. Garrett	Crystal Creations
205	Fritz & Fiends	Wood'N'Things
206	Paula Handley	Clothing & Accessories
207	Jack & Holly Gonzales	Collectible Books
208	Donna Rankin	HC SF, Pulps & Ref. Books
209	Friends of the Library	Ex-Library Books
210	Ali Scanland	Handicraft Items
211	Michael Z. Williamson	Sharp Pointy Things



March 25 ~ 27, 2011 ~ Memphis, TN

<u>Artist Guest of Honor</u>	<u>Editor Guest of Honor</u>	<u>Costuming Guest of Honor</u>	<u>Toastmaster</u>
<i>Nene Thomas</i> Multi-award winning fantasy artist	<i>Jackie Gamber</i> Editor-in-Chief, Meadowhawk Press	<i>Keldar</i> Costumer Extraordinaire	<i>James P Hogan</i> Author and All-Around Swell Guy

More guests to be announced soon! Visit

<http://www.midsouthcon.org>

to register online and stay updated on the latest happenings. You can also find us on Facebook—  
just search for MidSouthCon!

MidSouthCon is a regional Science Fiction, Fantasy, Science, Comics, Costuming, Anime and Gaming Convention with over 1200 attendees and 100+ authors, publishers, scholars, artists and other guests. There will be over 150 hours of programming on multiple tracks, and over 200 gaming events!

We hope you have a great time here at LibertyCon 23,  
but don't forget about next year!

Sure it's only Friday of this year's Con, but that just  
means it's time to start planning to attend:

## LIBERTYCON 24

JULY 15-17, 2011

LITERARY GUEST

WE DON'T KNOW,

ARTIST GUEST

BUT WE THINK TIMMY DOES!

SCIENCE GUEST

HE KEEPS DOING THIS TO US.

SPECIAL GUEST

SOMEONE GET IT OUT OF HIM!

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

(AND THEN TELL THE REST OF US!)

You can visit [www.libertycon.org](http://www.libertycon.org), e-mail [registration@libertycon.org](mailto:registration@libertycon.org),  
or heck since you're here just track down Brandy and ask her!

# LIBERTYCON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Chairman</b>	Timmy Bolgeo	<b>Hospitality</b>	Michael Ankenbrandt
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Melvin Baumgardner		

*The LibertyCon Board of Directors would like to thank the*

## LIBERTYCON 23 STAFF

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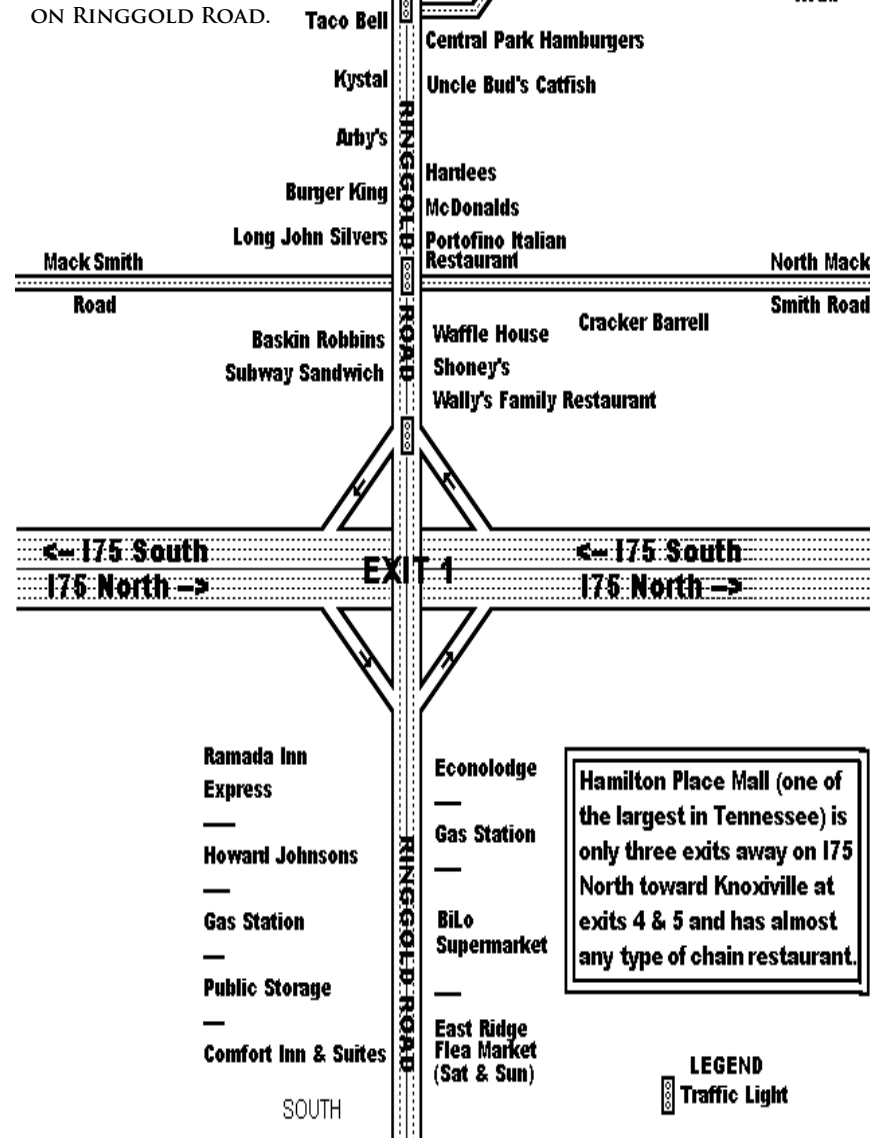
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Christina Padavana



## EAST RIDGE, TN FINE DINING MAP

ARMANDO'S HAMBURGERS,  
RYAN'S, KFC, SONIC,  
CHECKERS, WENDY'S,  
JENKINS BUFFET &  
OTHERS FURTHER NORTH  
ON RINGGOLD ROAD.



Hamilton Place Mall (one of the largest in Tennessee) is only three exits away on I-75 North toward Knoxville at exits 4 & 5 and has almost any type of chain restaurant.



*Comfort Inn and Suites  
Function Space*

