

# PARADOX

READ. IMAGINE. THINK.

March, April & May 2004

## DemiCon XV

### DemiCon-A-Fanalistic-XV-Fun-Alicious

DemiCon XV is one month away and we are busy getting ready for a great convention. We have a jam-packed fun-filled Saturday night planned, beginning with the Art Auction which will start at 6:30 p.m. Next will be the Masquerade beginning at 7:30 p.m. with plenty of seating. Following that will be a Music concert at 9:30 p.m. featuring Folk Underground, Lojo Russo and Adam Stemple, as well as a Flash Girls reunion where Emma Bull, our Author GOH, re-unites with her old music partner Lorraine Garland. And then, because you're not tired of being entertained, we have TICC after Dark III coming your way at 12:30 a.m. the *Moulin Smooth*.

We have many other fun events planned including a writer's workshop with Rob Chilson, life-sized Kill Dr. Lucky game, Dance Dance Revolution Tournament, boffo and other sword handling exhibitions, Anime Cel painting, a 24-hour Anime show room, Improv, Gaming event of "The End of the World of Darkness" taking place with all White Wolf titles, and Filk, Folk and Drum jams. Old favorites are also included such as TICC after opening ceremonies, Midnight Movies with Bo3b, Win, lose or Draw and author readings and signings. To see the latest and hopefully pretty jelled schedule, go to our website at [www.demicon.org](http://www.demicon.org). Also for those with palm pilots there will be the capability to download the schedule.

Come to DemiCon XV. It'll be DemiCon-A-Fanalistic-XV-Fun-Alicious. Be certain to meet each of our guests:

- ◆ Authors Emma Bull and Will Shetterly, famous for their "Bordertown Series."
- ◆ Artist Alan Gutierrez whose art ranges from fantasy to science fiction to Anime, and boy is his stuff good!
- ◆ Fan GOH is our beloved friend Rusty Hevelin. At DemiCon 1 he was slated to be our first Fan GOH, but instead became our ToastMaster, where he has been through DemiCons 2 thru 14. In this anniversary year we wish to honor him as our fan GOH. In whatever capacity he joins us, he is always our very special Guest.
- ◆ ToastMaster is another good friend in Tadao Tomomatsu, who is famous for just being a great and lovable guy. Okay, he does do TV shows and lots of other fun stuff too.

We also have a list of guests that keep on growing at the website. Take a peek. This will be an amazing DemiCon.

Check out our website at [www.demicon.org](http://www.demicon.org) for further information or you may contact us at [info@demicon.org](mailto:info@demicon.org) if you have questions. Come and have a great time with the two babes and the Klingon and all you wacky friends at this anniversary year!

Tammy Mohning, Sheril Harper &  
Greg Abba

### Who is that DMSFS Member?

It's time for another rousing game of who is that DMSFS Member? (Applause) Now ladies and gentlemen, you are waiting with anticipation. Let me draw the name out the hat. Abracadabra, sis-boom-ba, as I put my hand into the hat and draw.... Mike Anderson! (Applause) Let's hear it for Mike!

*DMSFS Member:* Mike Anderson  
*Age:* 43

*Currently:* Civil Engineer

*Turn ons:* Warm Fall evenings and the smell of burning leaves.

*Turn offs:* Bars full of smoke

*Fave Food:* Ribeye steak

*Fave Construction Material:* Lincoln logs

*Fave Tool:* Hammer

*Zodiac sign:* Aries

*Shoe size:* 11

*TV Shows:* X Files, Lost in Space

*Music:* Rock, Bluegrass, Classical

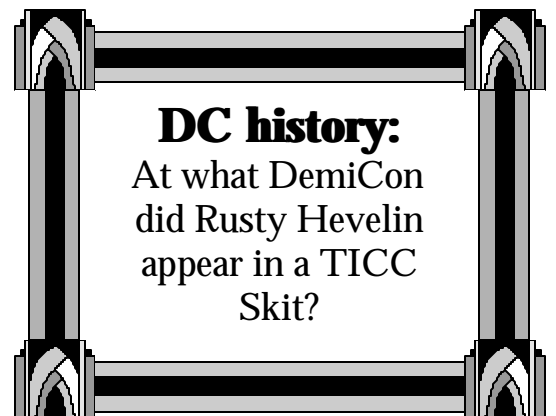
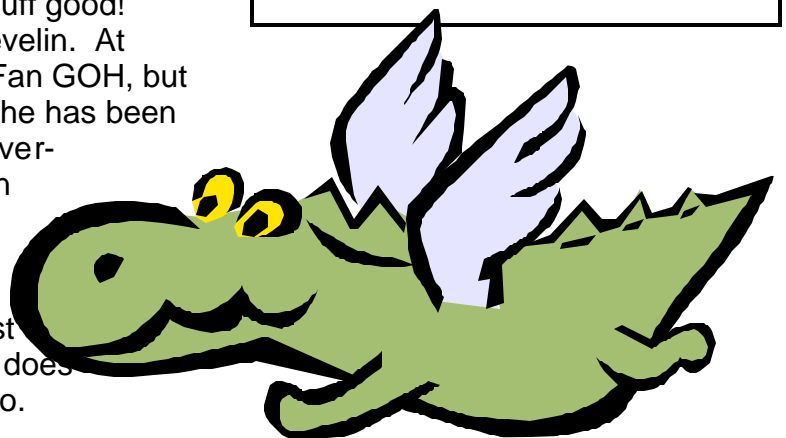
*Politics:* Very wary of

*Best Skill:* Concentration

*Fave Author:* Larry Niven

*Fave Director:* J.M Strazynski

*Motto/Quote:* I used to run with wolves, now I nap with cats!



### DC history:

At what DemiCon did Rusty Hevelin appear in a TICC Skit?

## Letter from E

Yep, I am late with the Paradox. I know there are 24 hours a day but they just don't seem like enough.

It seems that this year is going to have an equal and great profoundness to us like last year. In only three months so many major changes for all of us. The loss of another fellow fan, Dee Willis, has hit us hard as other losses personally for many of us. Life changes that have thrown many of us into fear, pain and a tail spin. It will also be the first DemiCon without Paul.

Even though these changes are painful and a part of life, I don't see them as total destruction of who we are as individuals and as a group. Yes, we have to change and so many of us fight change. Deny it, yell and scream. The fear of the unknown becomes our own ball and chain. At times we are stuck to the ground while the winds whip us back and forth. We fight the change instead of going "ti chi" with it, or in other terms, you accept the energy, bend, move, return and fit the change to yourself. The problem with this is this changes you and you will be a different person. The fear of not knowing if we will like the person on the other side is what holds us back. We do the "what if" game complain and stagnate. The DMSFS family does not allow us to do this. We become stronger as our foundations are rocked. One thing constant in life is change. I don't see change as an enemy nor weakness but a way to grow and strengthening of who we are. If we don't, we stagnate and die. I know that we are all growing in ways we never wanted to but we are doing it anyway, with a style that is truly our own.

As we move forward this year I have a few wishes, I hope all hear it.

1. Laugh and smile more.
2. Treasure those around you more.
3. Don't take friends or yourself for granted.
4. Understand insecurities that people have and support them, not destroy them.
5. Grab life, don't let it go by.
6. Take healthy risks, don't self sabotage yourself.
7. Enjoy life. The trials and joys. They are gifts.
8. Respect yourself and others.
9. Dance. It makes you truly free.
10. Most of all, have fun.

So at DemiCon, come and join us! Say hi to an old friend, make a new friend, remember with love and wonderful memories those that are gone, dance on a table or maybe on the floor (insurance) and laugh. We will be waiting for you.

Love, Live and Laughter,  
Mandi Arthur

## Valentine's Day with DMSFS!

What a great day we had. From life size Kill Dr. Lucky to cooking in the kitchen. Everyone had a great time. Here are a few pictures of the day. Enjoy.



Thank you to all who helped bake the wonderful breads and muffins for the Demi-Con Consuite. It will make this years Consuite even better. The aromas that were coming from the

kitchen were just yummy. Come and join us at DemiCon or our next DMSFS vacation day!

## E-books: Where's the Social Upheaval?

I was going through my stack of "books to read eventually" and came across Cyberbooks by Ben Bova. Published in 1989, this book was about the chaos and controversy caused by the invention of cyberbooks. Books could be downloaded directly to consumer's cyberbook reading devices, without the need for paper, ink, and most importantly, without book publishers themselves.

Well, cyberbooks (called e-books today) have come to pass. Why wasn't there the hubbub Bova's book predicted? Perhaps because e-books have been very slow to catch on that the potentially affected industries (especially timber and paper) don't perceive e-books as a threat to their profits.

While I have downloaded some e-books to my Palm pda and it is handy to fire up the handheld and read a few chapters of an e-book while waiting in a checkout line, I still prefer to read from a paper book when I want to relax. Curling up in a recliner in front of a fireplace with a glass of wine and reading an e-book from a handheld device just doesn't "work" for me. Maybe others like me are just "old fashioned" enough not to totally abandon paper books in favor of electronic books. Besides, I like the challenge of trying to find room for all our paper books! "A cluttered library is a happy library!"

What e-books have I read? I've downloaded e-books that have only been available in electronic form, such as the first Star Trek: SCE e-books. I have also been able to download and read Hugo nominated stories and books for free because an e-book seller has specials on award-nominated works. I probably would not have read these stories if they were not available electronically. There are also e-book sellers that specialize in public-domain works such as the e-book I'm reading now: The Phantom of the Opera.

Maybe the gradual adoption of e-books will spare us the trauma the music industry is having right now with digital music. I don't see paper books disappearing totally, and science fiction seems to echo that. I remember some scenes from the original Star Trek of Captain Kirk's quarters with a cluttered bookshelf or Next Generation's Captain Picard reading a paper book while relaxing in his Ready Room.

By the way, Bova's Cyberbooks is not available in electronic form. Amazon.com had paper copies for sale for under \$5.00 ("Cyberbooks is officially listed as out-of-print).

Some sources for e-books:  
[www.palmdigitalmedia.com](http://www.palmdigitalmedia.com) - e-books for purchase (a few for free).  
[www.fictionwise.com](http://www.fictionwise.com) - ebooks for purchase, has occasional award-nominated free e-book specials.  
[www.memoware.com](http://www.memoware.com) -mostly free e-books with some for purchase (mostly best sellers).

By Jon Mohning

## Congrats to Mary Wilson

Here is a blurb from her science fiction serial, Tobine Chronicles, that is on-line at [anotherchapter.com](http://anotherchapter.com).

***"The Rikan Revolution meant nothing to Tenni Urris as she pulled her husband's body from the rubble of her destroyed home. Not when the Dorrine bombing had just destroyed everything she loved. Her husband had fallen next to the crib where their three-month old child had slept and died. With her family dead, all she wanted was to get as far away from their petty war as she could and try to rebuild her life. Surely somewhere people lived without fear for their lives."***

Here's the url if you are interested, there is a fee of \$3.47/mo.  
<http://www.anotherchapter.com/StoryInfo.asp?ID=18>.

## Congrats to Rodney Ruff for being A GOH for WillyCon VI

I'd like to take the opportunity to invite all of you in fandom to join me next year, April 8-10, 2005 at Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska for WillyCon VII. WillyCon is sponsored by the Wayne State College Science Fiction and Fantasy Club, under the direction of faculty advisors Stan Gardner and Ron Vick. It features panel presentations on topics both scientific and science fictional, with the college's professors giving many of the presentations, as well as the traditional convention activities of a dealer's room, art show and auction, hospitality suite/ chocolate party, table-based role-playing games, live-action role-playing, movies/anime, and filk singing.

Next year's author guest of honor is Julie E. Czerneda, who was also author guest for WillyCon III in 2001. Check out her website at <http://www.czerneda.com/>.

The artist guest of honor is A.B. Word of Kirby, Wyoming, who specializes in, according to her website, "imaginative realism pastel paintings and pencil drawings." (Translation: I'm not that familiar with her work, but you can get familiar with it by going to her website at <http://www.absolutearts.com/portfolios/a/abword/>.)

But, the REAL reason you should attend WillyCon next year is that the fan guest of honor is none other than yours truly, Rodney Ruff, The Man of Trivia himself. WillyCon VII is your chance to spend the weekend with a man who is truly a legend in his own mind! Check the WillyCon website at [http://wildcat.wsc.edu/clubs/sfclub/text\\_site/willycon/](http://wildcat.wsc.edu/clubs/sfclub/text_site/willycon/) for more information.

As a side note, at this year's WillyCon, two of my filksongs, "I Love To Go A Star-Trekking" and "Beam The Man Down," were featured in the singalong portion of the opening ceremonies.

By Rodney Ruff

## Letter from Roger Clites

PAUL CLITES' autopsy report came to me recently. Since so many of Paul's friends attended his memorial service, I felt that I owed it to you to let you know what little was found. It was rather inconclusive.

All the report gave as unusual was "ingested salicylate." However, his stomach contained the equivalent of only one aspirin tablet so suicide was ruled out.

At the time of his memorial service some of Paul's friends suggested to me that a combination of his being in poor health and sick at the time along with the extreme heat of that period and his air conditioner not being on when he was found pointed to the possibility of heat stroke.

I guess we'll never know for sure what caused Paul's death.

I'll never forget Paul. Like several of you said, Paul was truly unique. He lived with me much of the time until he went to graduate school. Because of his breadth and depth of knowledge Paul probably taught me more than I taught him. In many ways we were on the same wave length. Almost daily I still think of something that I'd like to tell or ask Paul about.

Since the official date of his death was July 3, which will fall on Saturday of a holiday weekend this year, I suspect that some of you may gather for one reason or another. If you do, please take a minute or two to remember Paul one last time.

If anyone wants to get in touch with me, my e-mail address is [rclites@juno.com](mailto:rclites@juno.com).

Roger Clites, Paul's father

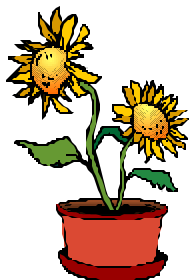
## DMSFS Does Return of the King

This last year the DMSFS helped with entertainment while 800 Lord of the Rings fans waited four hours for the show to start at midnight. Here are some of the costumes for that night.



## Sympathy

We, at Des Moines Science Fiction Society, would like to express our sympathy to  
to  
Marshal Willis and his family in the loss of his wife, Dee.



# Calendars and Milestones



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 2004				1	2 Meeting	3
					Odyssey Con	
4	5	6 	7	8	9 Meeting	10
					MiniCon, MN	
					To Be Continued, IL	
11	12	13	14	15 	16 Meeting	17
18	19	20 	21	22	23 Meeting	24
					ValleyCon, MN	
25	26	27	28	29 DemiCon Set up TICC D.R.	30	1
					DemiCon 15	

## Birthdays

Scott Arnburg  
March 7

Jeannette Roth  
March 11

Megan Totusek  
March 16

Michael Anderson  
April 6

Jaime Adams  
April 15

Megan Harper  
April 20

Danielle Roth  
April 23

Kelly Boomgard-  
Douglas  
April 24

Marshall Willis  
May 2

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 2004					30	1
					DemiCon 15	
2 	3	4	5	6	7 	8
DemiCon						
9 	10 	11	12	13	14 Meeting	15 
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 
					KeyCon, MB	
23	24 	25	26	27 	28 Meeting	29
					ConQuest	
30 	31 					

Matthew  
Tschampl  
May 7

Mark Hagerman  
May 9

Kaaren Spiesz  
May 10

Eric Oppen  
May 22

John Roach  
May 27

Gene Miller &  
Gregg Parmentier  
May 30

## Anniversaries

Mark Hagerman  
& Ann Totusek  
March 4, 1999

Bill & Melissa  
Gerber  
March 24, 1993

Alois & Wendy  
Tschampl  
April 24, 1998

David Winterton &  
Becky Kinnamon  
April 30, 1989

Gregg & Myrna  
Parmentier  
May 15, 1999

Don Prust & Kelly  
O'Donoghue  
May 24, 1998

Ted Poovey &  
Darice Schirber-  
Poovey  
May 31, 1997

## DMSFS Family News

- ◆ Rainbow of the Desert Belly Dancing Concert April 3 will have Rachelle Hrubetz and Mandi Arthur performing that night.
- ◆ Congratulations to Mary Wilson on the release of her novel, "Tangled Lives."
- ◆ Congrats to Sallie Abba for getting one of her fashion designs in the Costume Con 22 Fashion Portfolio.
- ◆ Congrats to Mike & Candy Anderson on their new babies. Them four legged ones sure are purty.
- ◆ DMSFS will again be participating in the Iowa State Fair hosting a two food competitions this year.



DMSFS meetings are held at West Des Moines Community Center 217 5th St. There is parking and a covered entrance at the rear of the building off of 4th St.

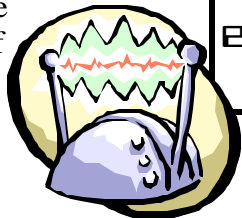


**The Des Moines Science Fiction Society, Ltd.**  
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**Des Moines, IA. 50323**

# How to Reach Us:

If you need to contact the Des Moines Science Fiction Society for any reason, including subscription to this newsletter and submission of newsletter articles or information, you may do so via any of the following methods:

DMSFS meets at the **West Des Moines Community Center 217 5th St.** There is parking and a covered entrance at the rear of the building off of 4th St. Please join us in our new venue for club meetings.



<b>By US Mail:</b>	The Des Moines Science Fiction Society, Ltd. P.O. Box 7572 Des Moines, IA. 50323
<b>By E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:paradoxwrangler@dmsfs.org">paradoxwrangler@dmsfs.org</a> (Subject: For Paradox)
<b>By Website</b>	<a href="http://www.dmsfs.org">www.dmsfs.org</a> <a href="http://www.demicon.org">www.demicon.org</a>
<b>By Phone</b>	(515) 830-1305 (Voice mail checked weekly)