

Glasgow Fan meeting – second Thursday of the month

## The Resurgence of Trout

### Venus on the Half-Shell

AT LAST!  
KILGORE TROUT'S  
epic science fiction saga

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## Satellite 1



## Manifesto and One-Day Plan

6<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
Campanile Hotel, Glasgow, UK

## An Address from the General Secretary...

Comrades – welcome to Satellite 1!

Fifty years ago, the launch of *Sputnik 1* (i.e. “Satellite 1”) inaugurated the Space Age. Most of us here today were born after that event and grew up taking human space flight, unmanned satellites and space probes as a simple fact of life. It is hard for us to imagine how outlandish all this was to almost everyone in 1957, when even the Astronomer Royal declared the notion of human space flight to be “utter bilge” ... only six months before *Sputnik 1* was launched.



Many of us, though, will recall the heady days of the 1960s. We thought the coming decades would see large space stations built and manned missions sent to (at least) Mars. It hasn't exactly worked out like that, has it?

At Satellite 1, we can ruminate on the past fifty years in space and in science fiction, speculate on what the next fifty might bring – and have the usual fun and games (and beer) of a con.

We have great pleasure in welcoming Ken MacLeod, one of the major figures in British SF today, as our Guest of Honour. Unfortunately, our other planned guest, Sydney Jordan, cannot be with us today as a result of poor health and family circumstances. We would like to extend the best wishes of the convention to him at this time.

Have fun at the con, and do feel free to buy any tired-looking members of the Politburo (as we have called the Committee) you might see a drink...

DC



## Convention Rules

### Autographs

Please be considerate of both guests and other members and limit the number of items you bring for signature to no more than five.

### Behaviour

We want everyone to enjoy the Con...so please be considerate of other members. Anyone behaving in a disruptive manner will be asked to leave.

### Children

Although Satellite 1 is mainly aimed at adults, children are welcome. However, no crèche facilities are provided by the Con. Children are the responsibility of their parent or guardian at all times.

### Security

Please display your badge. Only Con members and hotel staff should be in the programme area, but please be aware that it is a public space and look after your valuables.

### Flyers and posters

You are welcome to leave flyers for your convention or SF group around the Con, but not in other parts of the hotel. Similarly, please restrict posters to the Con area and use only white tac (no blu tac, sellotape or pins).

### Weapons

Please ensure that any weapons worn as part of a costume are obviously replicas or toys. Otherwise they will be confiscated for the duration of the convention



## Sputnik Facts

Sputnik 1 was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, former Soviet Union, at 19:12 UTC on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1957

It was 58 cm in diameter, had four, 2.7 m-long antennae, and weighed a staggering 84 kg



Sputnik literally means “travelling companion” in Russian (a satellite in the astronomical sense).

The Satellite carried out measurements of the density of the upper layers of the atmosphere and the propagation of radiowaves in the ionosphere, and transmitted data back to Earth for three weeks before its on-board batteries died.

It remained in orbit for 92 days and circled the Earth 1400 times.

Sputnik 2 was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1957 and carried the first living passenger – Laika – into space (but sadly not back to Earth: she died a few hours after launch from heat exhaustion and stress).



The first space vehicle to safely return its passengers – two dogs, two rats, 40 mice, and a variety of plants – to Earth was Sputnik 5, launched in August 1960.

## Guest of Honour – Ken MacLeod

Born in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Ken MacLeod studied zoology at Glasgow University before moving to London to undertake a Masters degree (by research) at Brunel in the field of biomechanics. He then worked as a computer analyst/programmer before becoming a full-time writer.



Photograph courtesy of Michael MacLeod

Ken MacLeod is one of a group of UK writers specialising in “hard SF”. A particular feature of his work is the combination of the exploration of space with the exploration of socio-political ideas. His strong background in science is evident in his creation of believable alien races and future technologies.

His work has attracted a BSFA Best Novel Award (*The Sky Road*, 1999) and two Prometheus Awards (*The Star Fraction*, 1996, and *The Stone Canal*, 1998). He has also received several nominations for Arthur C Clarke, Hugo and Nebula Awards.

### Fall Revolution Series

*The Star Fraction*, 1995  
*The Stone Canal*, 1996  
*The Cassini Division*, 1997  
*The Sky Road*, 1999

### Engines of Light Series

*Cosmonaut Keep*, 2000  
*Dark Light*, 2001  
*Engine City*, 2002

### Other Novels

*The Human Front*, 2001  
*Newton's Wake*, 2004  
*Learning the World*, 2005  
*The Execution Channel*, 2007

## Information

Bar opening hours:	11:00 am – 12:00 midnight
Food:	Hot and cold snacks will be available from the Con Bar from 12:00 noon – 21:30. The Bistro Restaurant on the ground floor is also open from 12:00 – 21:30
Car parking:	Members can park all day for free. Ask at Reception for the car park exit code
Trains:	Last trains from Exhibition Centre 23:23 to Glasgow Central (Eastbound) 23:41 to Partick (Westbound)

### Visit the Kourou Room for

Bookstall, run by 'At the Sign of the Dragon'  
Book signing by Ken MacLeod  
Exhibition of art and photos of Glasgow fans through the Ages

### Glasgow Science Centre (GSC)

Satellite 1 has taken out Community Membership of GSC, which allows all Convention members discounted entry. This is valid until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008. To take advantage of special rates, you need to show your Convention badge and quote community membership number 014737 when purchasing tickets at the ticket desk.

### Satellite 1 T-shirts

Convention t-shirts can be ordered from the Registration Desk.  
Price £17 (+ p&p if required)

### 19:15 The Best Yet Pan-Galactic Symposium

Duncan Lunan introduces readings and music to celebrate the Sputnik Anniversary. Featuring Michael Cobley, Hal Duncan, Gary Gibson, Danny Thomson, Neil Williamson, and Jasper the Dog Star (in memory of Laika)!

### 20:45 Dead Laika Party and Pub Quiz

In further tribute to our dearly-departed, celestial canine comrade, the convention will conclude with the imbibing of fermented alcoholic beverages and the opportunity to participate in healthy competitive mental activity (at least for all those with neurons not already destroyed by the aforementioned alcoholic beverages!).



### The Politburo

Chair	DC
Vice Chair / Treasurer	Jamie Scott
Membership / Website	Mad Elf
Programme / Guest Liaison	Christine Davidson
Hotel Liaison / Scribe	Michael Davidson



**15:00 Confounding Tales presents... What is it like to be a Saladtite?**  
Munchkin, of ConFounding Tales! infamy, wants to beat those pesky Ruskies and get a Briton into orbit. Come along and help, especially if you have knobbly knees.

Warning - will contain Goonery.

**16:00 Huygens and Me - the Engineer's Perspective**

Comrade Phil worked on the Huygens parachute system from just after contract award until hardware delivery. He will give a thoroughly unofficial talk on what it's like to deal with the unglamorous side of space exploration.

**16:00 The Search for Space**

Comrade Ed will deliver an illustrated talk on 20<sup>th</sup> century comics. Defying the evil known as "Microsoft" (surely a capitalist invention?) he will use only a powerful, antique, slide projector, fabricated entirely from redundant tanks and laser targeting system. Will his eyebrows survive?

**17:00 "Finding Uranus" or "Pin the Satellite on the Planet"**

Comrade Mad Elf (Glorious God-Tsar of the Solar System) and his beautiful assistant Komosol Danae (Space Tsarina Extraordinaire) reprise their fiendishly game of knowledge, skill and shouting....this time in 3D! If you know the difference between Mars Express and Pizza Express, this is for you.

**17:00 Science fiction Glasguensis**

Glasgow has long been a focus for SF fandom, from *Faircon* and *Albacon* to *Intersection* and *Interaction*, and from the original *Friends of Kilgore Trout* to the recent *Resurgence of Trout*. We take a nostalgic look at Glasgow fandom through the years...and ask what the future holds. Is there still a place for "traditional" cons, or are media events and more fun-orientated conventions (such as *Confounding Tales*) the future?

**18:00 The next 50 years in Space**

Our panel look in their crystal balls and attempt to predict where Mankind might be in 50 years time. Will be "out there" mining the asteroids or still on Planet Earth fighting over resources such as water and oil?

**18:00 It's a far, far better ending than I have ever known...**

(with apologies to Charles Dickens) The panel looks at endings in media SF. Which series and movies delivered a truly stunning finale...and which ended with more of a whimper than a bang?

## Satellite 1 Programme

**11:00 50 years of Space Exploration**

Comrade Robert will recount the glorious achievements made by the Soviet Union, together with the contributions of less socially enlightened nations, over the past 50 years. His talk will span Sputnik 1, Yuri Gagarin, Vostok and Mercury, the Gemini Missions, the race to the moon, the Space Shuttle, Mir and International Space Station.

**11:00 Chaos Satellite Building**

Construct your satellite from an assortment of junk under the watchful eye of Comrade Launch Controller Dalg. Much silliness, arguing and sticking of fingers together! A prize will be awarded for the best satellite.

**12:00 Children from the Sky**

Comrade Duncan discusses the strange case of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Green Children of Woolpit. He will summarise the evidence for the existence of these children and offer speculations about their origins, which, if true, suggest that the *X-Files* was set in entirely the wrong century!

**12:00 It's only the end of the world again**

From oil crisis to nuclear winter to SARS. Over the past 50 years, mankind has always seemed to be on the edge of some global catastrophe. Is climate change any different...and is getting into space the solution?

**13:00 The Gate of Heaven – Space without Rockets!**

American companies are planning to build the first space elevator by 2030. Comrade Andy will describe the technology behind space elevators and explain how their combination with rockets taxis and orbiting space hotels could bring space tourism to the masses.

**13:00 Well...it's certainly not how we imagined it (or is it)?**

How well did SF of the 1950's predict the modern world...and how well do we think current SF will stand up in 50 years time? The panel consider books, and other SF, from each era.

**14:00 Ken MacLeod**

**15:00 The next 50 years in SF**

What does the next half-century hold for science fiction? Does the increasing rate of technological change make it impossible to write accurately about the near future? And how will SF be published? Are printed books dead? Will everyone be published on the internet? Will media SF become a total immersion, holosuite-style activity?

Start Time	Baikonur (Main)	Canaveral (Alternative)	Kourou
10:30	Opening Ceremony <i>Committee and Guest of Honour</i>		
11:00	Fifty years of Space Exploration <i>Robert Law</i>	Chaos Satellite Building <i>Dalg</i>	Room opens
12:00	Children from the Sky <i>Duncan Lunan</i>	It's only the end of the world again... <i>Ken MacLeod, Christine Davidson, Michael Davidson, Helenex</i>	
13:00	The Gate of Heaven – Space without Rockets! <i>Andy Nimmo</i>	Well...it's certainly not how we imagined it (or is it?) <i>Simon Bradshaw, David Dryden, Mad Elf, Mark Meenan</i>	
14:00	Guest of Honour talk <i>Ken MacLeod</i>		
15:00	The next 50 years in Science Fiction <i>Ken MacLeod, Bridget Bradshaw, Mike Gallagher, Madrony</i>	Confounding Tales presents... What is it like to be a Saladtite? <i>Munchkin</i>	

Start Time	Baikonur (Main)	Canaveral (Alternative)	Kourou
16:00	Huygens and Me <i>Phil Wellings</i>	The Search for Space <i>Ed Buckley</i>	
17:00	Finding Uranus... <i>Mad Elf</i>	Science Fiction Glasguensis <i>Cuddles, DC, Munchkin, Ian Sorensen</i>	Ken MacLeod signing
18:00	The next 50 years in Space <i>Ken MacLeod, Simon Bradshaw, Andy Nimmo, Steve Cooper</i>	It's a far, far better ending.... <i>Tlanti, Dyllanne, Jean Thompson, Michael Davidson</i>	Room closes
19:00	Closing Ceremony <i>Committee and Guest of Honour</i>		
19:15	The Best Yet Pan Galactic Symposium		
20:45	Dead Laika Party and Pub Quiz		

Programme items will usually run from 5-past the hour until 5-to, to allow time for comfort breaks and set-up