Kick Off Your Holidays with The SOBs on December 8

Our combined December Meeting & Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification is Saturday, December 8 at the home of SOB Members Margie & Hank Deck in Spanaway. The fun begins at 1:00 p.m.

For newer Members, Will Crakes was a Seattle bookseller and a Sherlockian of some renown. He was a much-beloved Member of The Sound of the Baskervilles, often hosting either our Master’s Dinner or our annual Holiday Jollification. He loved good food and drink, good cigars, Holmes & Watson, and his fellow SOBs. His death was a major loss to our Club, thus our memorializing of him through our Jollification.

Decks are serving brunch and are counting on us to bring the sweets—so there will be a cookie exchange!! Bring yourself, a friend and a dozen cookies, and that’s it!! They will provide everything else! And, be prepared for a game or quiz on BLUE!

If you need a ride, be sure to call an SOB who lives nearby!

Directions to Decks’ 1806—177th Street Court East, Spanaway:
From I-5 in Tacoma, take Exit 127 eastbound on Hwy WA-512 toward Puyallup. Exit off Hwy 512 onto Hwy WA-7 / Pacific Ave / Parkland / Spanaway. Turn right onto Hwy 7/ Pacific Ave; go south for 4 miles to 176th Street. Turn left onto 176th Street; go east for 1.4 miles to 22nd Avenue. Turn right onto 22nd Avenue; go south just 0.1 mile. Turn right into Parkland Court. Stop at the 1st gate call box; input #8080; the 2nd gate ahead will open. Go through the 2nd gate; turn left, then turn right onto 177th Street Court East. Decks’ is the last house on the left. If further is needed, please call Margie & Hank at (253) 875-5956.

Focus on Our 11 Newest SOB Members

Since our last issue of Ineffable Twaddle, we’ve added eleven (!!!) new SOB Members! That’s a total of 22 new Members for the year 2012—not including new babies and grandbabies!!

We hope they’ll all be at our Master’s Dinner on January 5, when they’ll each receive their SOB Membership Certificate!!

Here’s a bit of info about each of our newest Members:

☆ Marcia Marcy joined in October. She lives in Tacoma and, as it turns out, PFL David knew her Mom growing up. We met Marcia and her Sis Maureen at the Sherlock Seattle Convention in November! We saw her again at the Sherlock Seattle Convention in November and are counting on us to bring the sweets—so there will be a cookie exchange!! Bring yourself, a friend and a dozen cookies, and that’s it!! They will provide everything else! And, be prepared for a game or quiz on BLUE!

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☆ Kashena Jade Konecki also attended our October Meeting. She works at Seattle Children’s Hospital. And, we saw her again at the Sherlock Seattle Convention when she competed on the Trivia Contest!!

☆ Vivika Sundqvist is a local gal who attended the Sherlock Seattle Convention in November and seemed really excited to join The SOBs!

☆ Joanne Spink was a deerstalker-wearing attendee at the Sherlock Seattle! She lives in Edmonds.

☆ Erynn Laurie is a published author whom we also met at the Sherlock Seattle Convention.

☆ Janet & Kent Gray live in Marysville and were enthusiastic attendees at the Sherlock Seattle Convention.

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**December Meeting Combined with Annual Jollification**

The December 16 Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will be combined with our Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification on Saturday, December 8! See all the details on Page 1.

That means our next event after that will be The Master’s Dinner, 2013 on January 5!! Get the details you need from the enclosed flyer!! And, please be sure to RSVP by Friday, December 21!!

Good food and fun are scheduled for both events!! So please attend both!!

**Focus on New Members**

- **Eli Edwards** and her husband also attended the Sherlock Seattle Convention. She’s a law librarian at a Seattle firm.
- **Britnee Blake** is another Edmonds lady we met at the Sherlock Seattle Convention. We think she’s a writer too, based on her e-mail “handle”.
- **Sheldon Gloger** lives in Portland and wasn’t able to connect with a Club down there! He and PFL David had been talking by phone since the summer, and Sheldon joined in November.

**Welcome to All Our Newest SOBs!!!**

We hope you’ll all get great value from your SOB Membership and that we’ll see you all soon!

And, when you next see one of these new Members, please be sure to make them feel welcome!

**The Return of the Speckled Band**

Those who read SOB Charlie Cook’s article in our 2010 Beaten’s Christmas Annual—“The Sherlockian Pastiches of Edward D. Hoch”—will agree that Charlie is very much a fan of Hoch’s short stories. The Beaten’s article gave Charlie’s capsule summary of a dozen Hoch stories. Here is Charlie’s full review of one of those stories, which appeared in The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Eds. Greenberg, Waugh & Lellenberg). (See April 2011; December 2011; and February 2012 issues of Ineffable Twaddle for previous reviews!)

Five months after the affair at Stoke Moran, Holmes and Watson receive a visitor named Henry Dade at Baker Street. Holmes does his magic and notes that Dade has given up his life as a gypsy and become a blacksmith.

Dade confirms Holmes’ deductions and that he was the person that Grimesby Roylott hurled over a parapet into a stream several months ago. He informs them that Helen Stoner is well but intends to sell Stoke Moran and the gypsies will be forced to move on. His brother Ramon has bought all of Roylott’s animals, including the mate of the infamous swamp adder. Ramon is upset with Henry who has married a local girl, Sarah Tinsdale, half his age, and has left the gypsy camp to become a blacksmith. Henry claims that Ramon has threatened the girl with the snake.

Our heroes settle into The Crown Inn and travel to the gypsy camp where Ramon shows Holmes the snake, whose venom he milks daily, and assures the detectives that he has no further interest in Henry and will no longer threaten Sarah, whom he believes has only married Henry for his gypsy gold.

Holmes and Watson later meet with Dade and his young bride at their cottage. Dade asks to be excused as he must take a daily nap because blacksmithing is strenuous work. Hmm! After conversing with Sarah for a while, informing her that Ramon is no longer a threat, which she doubts, the two start to leave. But Sarah insists that they go upstairs and say goodbye to Henry. When she goes to wake him she screams that Henry is dead and faints.

Holmes notes two puncture marks on Henry’s neck but a search of the premises fails to unearth the adder. The… **Continued on Page 3**
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

- From NEW SOB Amber Ackerson:
  ⇒ Here are the links to “behind the scenes” features that can be found on the “Sherlock” season 1 DVD (in three parts because it’s kind of lengthy): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UneqcRm33IQ (part 1); http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ooux73cxhw&feature=relmfu (part 2); http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntfJeGmaSpq&feature=relmfu (part 3).

- From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson:
  ⇒ In “The Baskerville Inheritance” by Teresa Collard (Collard, £7.99; available from www.lulu.com), we learn that Jack Stapleton did not perish in the Grimpen Mire, and that he still intends to destroy his cousin Sir Henry Baskerville. But Sherlock Holmes faces another challenge: the arrest of his brother Mycroft for treason proves to be just one move in a deadly plot to overthrow the Queen and place her grandson, the Kaiser, on the British throne. Not only must Holmes foil the now insane Stapleton, he has to defeat a still more dangerous foe: one Professor James Moriarty. The Baskerville Inheritance is a real page-turner. It grabs your interest from the first page and keeps you absorbed to the very last.

- From AudioGO rounds off its complete recording of the Sherlock Holmes Canon, with the four long stories (STUD, SIGN, HOUN, VALL), all superbly read by Derek Jacobi ($24.95 each). It’s more formal than today’s norm, but never stuffy or pretentious. Sir Derek is one of our great vocal actors. Every character is distinct, with no straining for effect, and he knows just when to let the words do the work. This complete Sherlock Holmes is a magnificent achievement, ranking with David Timson’s wonderful readings for Naxos, and it confirms my opinion that “The Hound of the Baskervilles” is the greatest of the long stories, but “The Valley of Fear” is inarguably the best.

The Return of the Speckled Band

...local policeman, Constable Richards, brings Ramon to Holmes and he swears that the snake has been locked up all day and that he had nothing to do with his brother’s death. Tears seem to suggest to Holmes that Ramon is genuinely saddened by his brother’s demise.

SPOILER ALERT: Holmes convinces Sarah to spend the night at the Crown until the police have thoroughly searched her cottage for the snake in the morning. That night, in the Dades’ bedroom, Holmes and Watson once again vigilantly await the appearance of a snake. Watson can almost hear Roylott’s whistle. Will the snake’s mate seek revenge? Maybe, maybe not!

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The Sound of the Baskervilles

By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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Member News & Updates

SOBs attending the November Meeting, presided over by PFL David Haugen, were:

Stephen Adkins       Al Nelson         Kate Nelson
Sheila Holtgrieve    Lloyd Hedberg    Lauran Stevens
Pat McIntosh         Michelle Poitevin  Ed Funk
Khayah Brookes       Terri Haugen     Joyce Funk
Brooke Perkins       Margie Deck      Hank Deck
Amber Ackerson       Kashena Konecki  Janet Gray
Jean Macdonald       Eli Edwards      Kent Gray
Jon Strandberg       James Romnes     Jim Nagle
Vivika Sundqvist     Emily Romnes     DC Smith
Bryan Romnes         Margaret Nelson

News & Notes:

• The rest of the Members got to meet for the first time some of the newest Members we’d signed up at the Sherlock Seattle con, including Vivika, Eli, and Janet & Kent! We also greeted guests Marcy F. (fresh back from a multi-month trip to Asia!) and Sam (a Seattle police officer) who’d found us on the web! Also from the Sherlock Seattle con, we again greeted organizer Mimi Noyes and frequent panelist Katie. We hope to see them all again soon!

• PFL David again reminded all that our Master’s Dinner is January 5 and he is seeking toasts from those who would like to read (or have read) a toast to anything or anyone in the Canon. (Just let him know in advance your subject, please, so there’s no duplication!)

• SOB Catherine Bancroft called on November 9 to let us know she’d just gotten out of St. Joe’s after her ulcer burst! She was 4 days in ICU plus another week—and was thrilled to be discharged!! But she also had to miss the Sherlock Seattle Convention, to which she’d bought the special $50 2-day VIP package! A “get well” card was circulated and mailed to her the next day!

• From Webmaster Stu Nelan via e-mail: “BTW, with the new marijuana law, will the SOB meetings get more exciting?? I’d heard it conflicts with Federal law, so if you do it you could still get busted!!” Well if guest Sam joins the Club, we may NOT be able to have that kind of excitement!!

• Halloween fun: Left, Sheila’s daughter-in-law Simone with twins Felix & Hazel. Center, Erika—Geoff & Cara’s granddaughter—as Holmes. Below right, the pumpkin Amber Ackerson carved.