



Media Contacts: Arlene Satin (323) 485-1559 (cell) or e-mail: ajspress@sbcglobal.net
Adam Wills (818) 324-8133 (cell) or e-mail: adamjwills@yahoo.com

A Brief History of LASFS



On Oct. 27, 1934, seven Los Angeles fans agreed to form a Science Fiction League chapter. Called The Los Angeles Science Fiction League, it was the fourth such club formed in the United States when it was granted charter from Wonder Stories less than one month later. The L.A. chapter met irregularly during its first year. When Forrest J Ackerman joined in 1936, he helped organized biweekly Thursday meetings, which eventually settled into a weekly schedule by 1939.

Ackerman became the central focus in a club that included young members like Ray Bradbury, Ray Harryhausen, Walter Daugherty, T. Bruce Yerke and Paul Freehafer. The club evolved into a lively social group, which received visits from Robert A. Heinlein, Jack Williamson and Henry Kuttner, among others.

The Science Fiction League fell apart in the late 1930s, and Ackerman declared independence on March 27, 1940, reorganizing the club as the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS). Ackerman remained active for the next two decades, participating regularly until the mid-1960s. Local writers who became regular participants included A. E. van Vogt, Ross Rocklynne, L. Ron Hubbard, Fritz Leiber, Larry Niven, Dr. Jerry Pournelle, John DeChancie, Alan Dean Foster, Stephen Goldin, David Gerrold, Steven Barnes, John Dalmás, William Rotsler, and George Barr.

LASFS purchased its first property in 1973, and later relocated to its current North Hollywood location in 1977. Around this time, LASFS organized its first conventions, which became known as LosCon. In 1982, LASFS members incorporated a separate California nonprofit organization, the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests, Inc., to sponsor and organize Worldcons, Westercons and similar major events within the science fiction community that are not a part of the LASFS.

The LASFS library now contains more than 10,000 volumes and many of the club's members have organized sub-groups that meet at LASFS' Freehafer Hall on weekends and have established other Los Angeles-area conventions, like Gallifrey One and the new Anime L.A. LASFS members continue to meet on Thursday nights, and the clubhouse is open every Friday night for more socializing and open gaming. In addition, on the Second Sunday of each month the LASFS hosts an open house. Its Web site is www.lasfs.org.