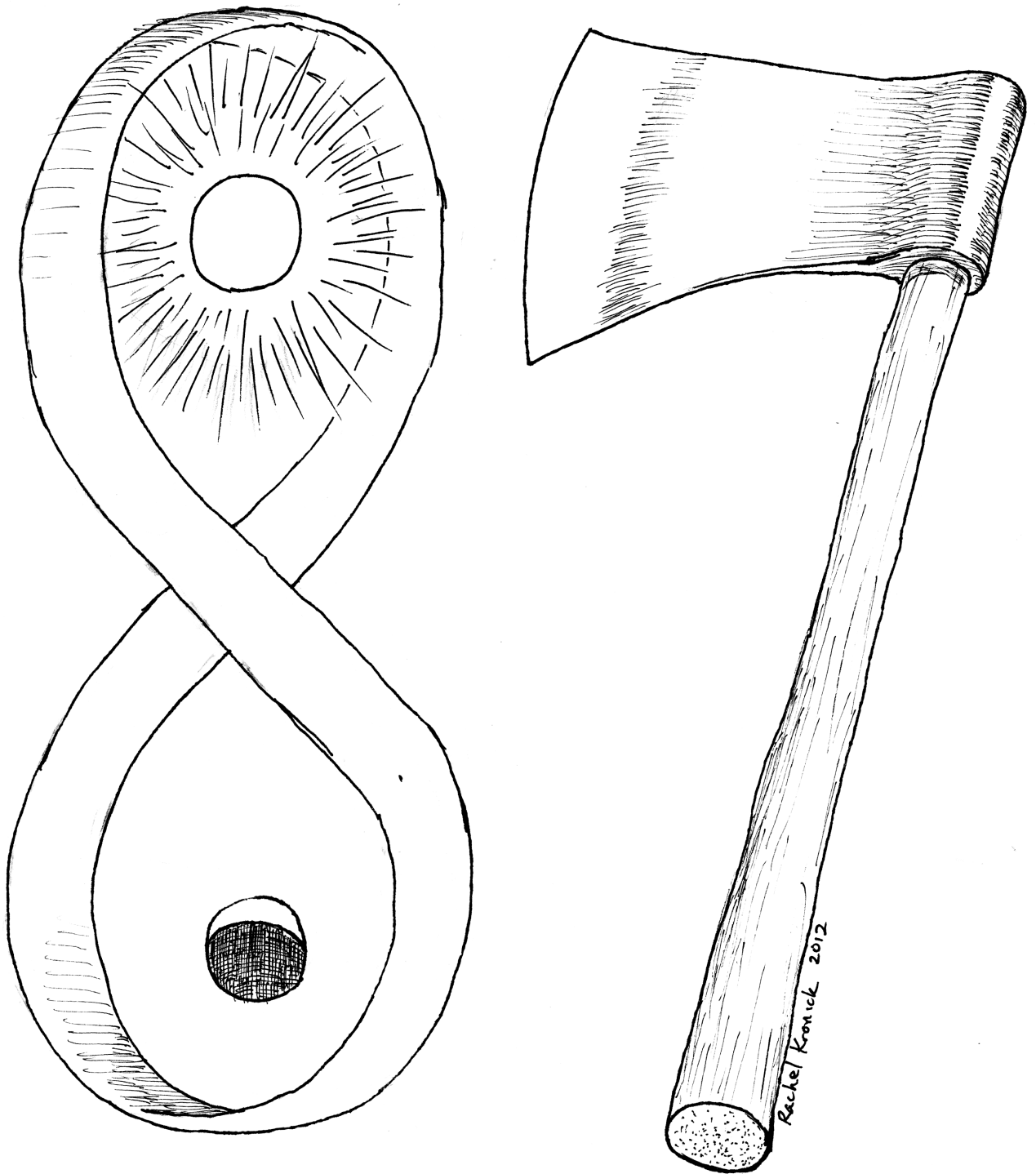


RUNE



AND MINNEAPOLIS IN 2073 PROGRESS REPORT 5

October 2012

Matthew and Kelly Strait, editors
Published by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society

You Are Getting This Because:

- ☐ You are a pre-supporting member of Minneapolis in 2073
- ☐ You are a Minn-stf member and listed in the directory
- ☐ You are a member of Minicon 47 or 48
- ☐ You are a member of Conjecture 2 or 3
- ☐ You get the Einblatt
- ☐ You are a club we've heard of
- ☐ Editorial whim/you contributed to this issue
- ☐ You picked this copy up at a con or similar

Since it's been 10 years since the last issue, we had no pre-existing RUNE mailing list and are casting a wide net. However, you will only get the next issue of RUNE if you:

- Are a member of Minneapolis in 2073 and the next RUNE is also a Minneapolis in 2073 Progress Report like this one (probable).
- Send us a letter of comment, fanzine in trade, or any amount of money (cash or check made out to "Minnesota Science Fiction Society"; suggested amount: \$2.07).
- Write to request receiving the next issue on paper if you got this one by email, or vice versa, or to request a large print edition.
- Are a voting member of Minnstf. (You attended 7 or more Min-stf meetings prior to the last voting meeting.)

For RUNE and Minneapolis in 2073:
RUNE / Minneapolis in 2073
c/o Matthew and Kelly Strait
1228 E 54th St #1E
Chicago IL 60615
mpls2073@mnstf.org, rune@mnstf.org
mpls2073.livejournal.com, mnstf.org/Rune

For general Minn-stf correspondence:
MNSTF
PO Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55408
info@mnstf.org
mnstf.org

Address (e)mail to Minicon or Conjecture as directed by each convention's materials.

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Rune?

What’s Rune, you ask? Well, it’s the Minn-stf fanzine/clubzine. If you haven’t heard of it, even if you are an active Minn-stf member, it’s understandable; there hasn’t been an issue since 2002, and the one before that was in 1995.

Back in the days when it functioned as the Mnstf newsletter (and, indeed, the first 6 issues were called “The Minnesota Science Fiction Newsletter” before it switched to the name “Rune” for issue #7), it came out on a rapid-fire schedule, but that role has long since been supplanted by the Einblatt (mnstf.org/einblatt).

The fact that RENE ground to a halt just as the web was taking off is presumably not a coincidence, although your humble editor must point out that he hadn’t even heard of Minnstf at that time, being but a lad, and living in a different state to boot. In any case, I think we’re now used to the Internet, and rather than being mesmerized by it (remember when people, in all seriousness, talked about the Internet like it was a place you went, in fact, like it was a lawless country founded on a new plane of reality? Yikes!), we can calmly decide what we do and don’t want to use it for based on its strengths and weaknesses.

That’s why this issue is primarily a print publication and also available on the web as a PDF. We could have made RENE a blog, but that’s not the feeling we’re going for. There’s already a MNstf LiveJournal and a Minnstf Facebook page and a MinnStF Twitter account. Our RUNES are intended to be a counterpoint (not competition!) to that sort of thing. We hope you enjoy them.

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Minn-stf events

We hold bimonthly parties, usually at members’ houses. They are called “meetings”, but don’t let that fool you. Here’s the schedule of a typical “meeting”. 2pm: scheduled start. 4pm: first person arrives and the party begins. 5:00–5:03pm: business meeting (a few announcements, such as the location of the next party). 5:04pm–late: party.

To find the next meeting, look at the front page of our website, mnstf.org, or the Einblatt, mnstf.org/einblatt, for up-to-date information. You can subscribe to get the Einblatt monthly by e-mail, or, for \$10/year, on paper.

We have four confirmed upcoming conventions:

- October 19–21 is **Conjecture 3** (mnstf.org/conjecture3). Conjecture is a small science fiction and fantasy convention geared towards relaxation. There will be food, music, gaming, and even some programming. See the ad/registration form in this issue for more.
- Easter weekend 2013, March 29–31, is **Minicon 48** (mnstf.org/minicon48). Minicon is a general-purpose science fiction and fantasy convention and our biggest event of the year. See the ad/registration form in this issue.
- Minicon 49: Easter weekend 2014.
- Minicon 50: Easter weekend 2015.

Art Credits

Cover: Rachel Kronick
Page 13: Steve Stiles
Pages 16 and 41 (lower left): Ken Fletcher
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Page 37: Kevin Austin
Page 40: Larry Tisch
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Pages 47 and 51: Brad Foster
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Page 52: Laramie Sasseville

Remembering Jim Young

Jim (James Maxwell) Young, one of Minn-stf's "floundering fathers", passed away this June.

His involvement with the Minneapolis science fiction community goes back to 1966 when he was still a high school student. A number of SF enthusiasts were meeting at the Technology Magazine office on the University of Minnesota campus. After several informal meetings, this group named itself the Minnesota Scientifiction Society or MN-STF for short. Frank Stodolka was elected its first president and Jim vice president.

Within a short time, Jim had the idea of hosting a Worldcon in Minneapolis and the (original, serious) MPLS in '73 bid was born. Minneapolis did not host the Worldcon that year (Toronto did) but a fannish legend was born and continues to this day, thanks to Jim.

To prepare Minneapolis fans for running a Worldcon, Jim took a lead role in founding a local convention, Minicon. The first one was held at Coffman Union on the campus of the University of Minnesota and was a one day event (Jan 6, 1968, 12:30–5:00pm, memberships were 50¢). Between 35 and 60 people attended (memories vary).

Jim was an accomplished fan writer and artist. He made the leap from fan to pro when he wrote his first SF novel, *The Face of the Deep* (Pocket 1979). He published a second novel, *Armed Memory* (Tor 1995) as well as a number of shorter works.

Jim was a career diplomat with the State Department Foreign Service. He retired early in the 2000's and embarked on a second career of writing and acting in Hollywood films.

Here follows a compilation of memories from those who knew him.

From Greg Ketter

Jim always seemed to be smiling and it always made me smile right back. Right now, I'm smiling through my tears remembering a few things about Jim.

He loved to sing silly songs he would make up on the spot:

Don't ever be a dodo
For if you are a dodo
It shows that you've read Golgol
And Golgol's just so-so.

One of my favorites was when we were having a Korean meal about 30 years ago:

You don't eat Korean, Korean eats back
And no one can live through Korean attack
Oh can you imagine a worse thing to do
Than eating Korean while they're eating you.

Once, while having breakfast after an all-nighter at Minicon, Jim was pontificating about something or other when he displayed the lack of sleep we all felt. I watched,



Jim at Minicon 40 (2005), photo by DD-B.

bleary-eyed, as the server delivered a tiny orange juice which Jim picked up and emptied into his coffee, thinking it was cream. It immediately curdled the coffee. But Jim drank it anyway claiming it was how they drank it on Venus. We were all so punch-drunk it seemed like the funniest thing ever. But I still remember it more than 30 years gone.

From Jude-Marie “Kelly” Green

Hi there. I was Jim’s girlfriend here in L.A. (though if you know L.A., you know that Jim lived in Fullerton and I live in Santa Ana, both cities in Orange County. But in our hearts, this is L.A.) I have a lot of stories about Jim. This is one I want to share today.

On our first date, we went to the movies to see “Across The Universe.” This was at the Edwards Regal Cinema at the Long Beach Towne Center. Jim and I saw a lot of movies together, there and at other theaters. We’d share a small unbuttered popcorn, put our heads together, and talk all the way through the movie. Yes, we were that couple. I apologize.

After the movie we went to the nearby El Torito’s (Mexican restaurant chain) for dinner. We talked. A lot. Jim talked about loving the Beatles, loving music, being a keyboardist in a rock band, being in the foreign service. I was comfortable conversing with Jim. The man was fascinating (as you all know) and loved conversation.

We talked and ate until the restaurant closed. That also became a habit. During the meal I discovered his tattoo.

Some of you know about the tattoo, some don’t. It was on his upper right arm. His teeshirts covered it normally but it could be visible if he moved his arm. It was red. A big red Celtic square knot, outlined in black. He briefly explained it was something he got after his divorce. I googled this later on. Celtic square knots are for protection. Everyone needs protection.

Our relationship waxed and waned but mostly was good. And far too short. I held his hand when he died, I washed his face and kissed him. This was June 12. On July 20, I got a copy of his tattoo. This is only my second tattoo (the first is a Clarion West emblem I got as part of CW2010.) I went to a tattoo shop in Orange, California, a place Jim and I stopped by occasionally to look at the great surfboard art and talk with the tattoo artists. I gave them a photo of Jim’s tattoo. The artist, Rob, asked me about the story, and I told him what happened to Jim. He gave me a lovely tattoo, on my upper right arm, a Celtic square knot in light blue, outlined in black.

It doesn’t make me feel more connected to Jim. I’m not sure I could feel more connected. But it’s a good remembrance of him.

I have a lot of stories about Jim. Thank you for letting me share this one.

From Robin Walton

Many of you may know Jim Young the writer. But did you know that Jim was also an actor? A few years ago I was in the west coast premier of a new play, *Shakespeare, Incorporated* by Don Fried. The premise is that a group of people worked to together to write the plays, lead by Christopher Marlowe. The theater needed an actor with an impeccable Scottish accent. Two minutes after hearing Jim read for the role, they cast him! Jim practically stole the show with his



Jim in *Shakespeare, Incorporated*. Photo by Kelly Green

over the top performance. You may also see Jim in a new movie (available online) *Nazis at the Center of the Earth* in an over the top performance as Hitler. He once again steals the show. Jim Young is missed.

From Michael Swanwick

Republished from his June 13 blog post, ©2012 Michael Swanwick.

A good friend died yesterday. I can't say that I knew Jim Young as well as I would have liked. We ran across each other only once or twice or thrice a year. But I enjoyed the hell out our time together when we did.

All careers in science fiction are strange careers. But Jim's was stranger than most. He came into SF from the State Department, where he was in the diplomatic corps. His proudest brag was that, in a classified paper, he had been the only one to call the collapse of the Soviet

Union. His highest post was being responsible for three "sandboxes in North Africa," as he called them. His remit, he told me, was to keep the sandboxes' inhabitants from killing each other for no reason at all.

When George W. Bush came into office, Jim quit the corps. "I can't work under Condoleezza Rice," he said, and I doubt that the rest of that administration would have made him happy either. At that time, he was writing well-received science fiction stories, and two novels, *The Face of the Deep*, which I never saw (it was published long before I met him) and *Armed Memory*.

I liked the stories and *Armed Memory* quite a lot. It was one of the first post-cyberpunk novels to successfully move beyond cyberpunk. In it, people could be genetically modified to make themselves half-human and half-shark (or combinations of other animals) in a future so desperate that doing so seems like a good idea. Here's what *Publishers Weekly* had to say about it:

Young's writing creates a strong sense of excitement, his future world is familiar enough to be appealing (and distorted enough to be hip) and the mysteries he explores are intense and compelling.

Armed Memory was an extremely promising beginning. If Jim had stuck with SF and put his all into it, he might well have been as good as any of my peers — and my peers include James Patrick Kelly, William Gibson, Nancy Kress, Kim Stanley Robinson, and brand-new Grand Master Connie Willis.

He didn't, however. Just as he was starting to get somewhere as a writer, Jim decided the time had come to follow his dreams... and went off to Hollywood to act. He didn't give up entirely on his fiction — I'm told that there are two more novels in the pipeline — but it was throttled way back. His best energies were focused on becoming a star.

Spoiler Alert: Jim didn't become a star. And now he's dead, struck down by brain cancer. An ironic end for a man who was so effortlessly smart.

But death comes like the finger of God to draw a line below your life and tot up the sums. All the zeroes fall off. And when the end result is looked at, Jim chose wisely. He could have settled for a good-enough life in the State Department or a distinguished-enough career in science fiction. Instead, he followed his dreams. In this, I believe, he was wise.



Jim, right, at Minicon 3, 1970. Photo by Fred A Levy Haskell

Vaya con Dios, amigo. May what you find exceed your dreams.

From Nate Bucklin: Jim Young — yes, I remember!

There has been too much of this. There have been far too many of these. Goddess, please make it stop. But for now, I will write down as many memories as I can. I'm not at all clear on some of the chronology, so this will be a little fuzzy around the edges, but please bear with me.

I came out to the Twin Cities from Vashon Island, Washington, where I had gone to high school. The specific draw for me was Macalester College, but I knew there were science fiction fans here. My major science fiction fan activity at that time was an amateur press association called APA45 (an apa limited to people born on or after January 1, 1945). Sometime around the time that I moved, the official-business mimeographed "zine" in APA45 mentioned that on the waiting list was one Jim Young, at 1948 Ulysses St. NE, Minneapolis, Minnesota. I had never heard of Jim and wondered if he and I would ever meet.

It turned out that I did not have long to wait. The "let's welcome Nate to the Twin Cities" party at 1 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon had gone quite well, we met again two weeks later, and at this point it was pretty obvious that we had a science fiction club. I believe it was the third time we got together (though it might have been the fourth) that we moved around the corner from the Minnesota Technolog office to a nearby auditorium. Not knowing what big things lay in store, I was nonetheless pleased when an energetic fellow teenager approached me, stuck out his hand, and said, "How do you do, Nate; my name is Jim Young." I liked him instantly, and by the end of the meeting (which was called to order by Frank Stodolka, an influential early fan) it had become quite obvious that he and I would be friends.

Yet another early fan in the community, one Fred Haskell (who is [a] now Fred Levy Haskell, and [b] still my friend), has insisted that the early, not-yet-named club meetings, should not be discussed as they are irrelevant to Minn-stf history. I disagree as strongly as possible, yet on the other hand, an excellent case could be made that two significant events leading the club into its current configuration were [a] Frank Stodolka calling this meeting to order, and [b] Jim Young showing up at all. Maybe some of you remember your high-school years and some of the people who were influential in club politics. There might have been one studious student, maybe somebody who got straight A's and was ultimately voted Most Likely to Succeed, who became president of the student body – and another one who was always there, always smiling, a big bundle of energy, who always seemed to be at the nucleus of the parties and whom everybody wanted as a friend, maybe a basketball player or a cheerleader, who got voted Best School Spirit. The "studious student" was Frank (though Frank definitely had a silly streak – but that is neither here nor there). The "Best School Spirit" was Jim. He always seemed both to be having fun and to be accomplishing something. People liked him; people wanted to be around him. He was focusing hard on his high school activities, but he had time to get to the meetings of the club that had been named Minn-stf and to make many of us (and keep us) as his friends. For the first eight or nine months (at a guess) Minn-stf did not have a newsletter (nor, in 1966–67, obviously a web site), so Jim took control of making sure people were phoned with the location of the next Minn-stf meeting, and when he called me, we always made time to talk socially.

I want to mention a bit about Jim's father, Max Young (a caterer). I was just past my 17th birthday when I arrived at Macalester, and a long way from home. At least five people in my parents' age group had decided that I had the vibe of a runaway child or perhaps a "throwaway" child. Max was one of these grownups. I do not remember the exact piece of advice he had given me over the phone at one point (I had called to talk to Jim) but he said, "That's father to son, now." I was deeply touched, and during this all-too-short phase, it seemed as though Jim and I really were brothers for real. I had known Jim and Max for about a year when I had heard that Max was in the hospital. Jim

called me at my college apartment to say that his father had died, and then broke down crying helplessly. I have rarely felt so helpless, all the more so because it was someone with whom I, too, had felt a connection, even though nowhere near as strong and for only a year. Also, many of you will remember how much I envy people who love(d) their fathers. But then, of course, there is the serious, serious down side when the father in question dies. I was at the funeral (where the minister gave the worst eulogy/sermon I have ever heard) and then over at the house on NE Ulysses afterwards, with many of Jim's other friends, trying to comfort him as best we could. But Jim got through it, and I like to think that the other friends and I did at least a little bit.

I have mentioned APA45. Jim soon became a member, and did a dittoed fanzine called *I Ripped My Clever Plastic Disguise*. He did his own artwork (and he was quite good), using many colored ditto masters and exploring what could be done with layout. The zine was called "IRMCEPID" in casual conversation and was eventually renamed *Dimension*. A 15-year-old fanzine editor/writer probably won't make tremendous waves in fan circles, but APA45 was all teenagers, and Jim was liked and respected in our circle. He also edited a genzine (general interest and general circulation fanzine) called *Infinite Hooplas* (often just called *Hoop*). I don't know how well "Hoop" was received among adult fans, but suspect it was viewed positively, for the art and the layout if for little else. Jim's zines *looked* good, and 40-odd years later, I still suspect that at least some people also admired the content.

Something I wanted to say, that nonetheless there are some contradictory factors for, is: "Jim never did anything halfway. He threw himself into everything he did." This was true only to a point, as there were some things he abandoned halfway. I think this might have put him in the position of someone who joined some athlete friends for a 5-mile run, and, though well ahead of the rest of the pack at the 4-mile mark, stopped running to spend an hour walking along a nearby nature trail. But he was always doing something. Along with "IRMCEPID," "Hoop," and his active participation in early Minn-stf, he had started a novel entitled *I Do It All With Mirrors*. This eventually was given the slightly more serious name of *The Mirror of Kaexiol*. I don't think this was ever finished. And there was one issue of *Hoop* that got abandoned halfway through. I told Jim I wanted to come over and help him with typing some ditto masters and even help crank the ditto machine in the name of getting it done. He encouraged me to come over and we worked long and hard that night, but the zine was never completed, and *Hoop* was no more, having been abandoned halfway through the 4th or 5th issue. I don't know what happened with the "mirror" novel. I think it's pretty common for teenage novelists to reach the point where they realize (we realize?) that they are turning out teenage work and maybe they/we need to take a break until we've matured a little bit. Certainly, when Jim's first novel (*The Face of the Deep*) was published, it was a far more mature and professional work than *Mirror* had been — but you can't fault him for trying in the early days, and there is something very good in writing hundreds of pages just for practice.

Many of you know that Jim and I were both musicians. Jim was already a very professional-sounding piano player when I met him, and we frequently would leave



Jim at Minicon 42 (2007), photo by Dave Romm.

that day's Minn-stf meeting and go over to a rehearsal studio on the University of Minnesota campus, where he would play piano, I would play nothing at all, and we would sing to our hearts' content. Jim was one of a very few otherwise professional pianists or guitarists I have known, who simply did not sing harmonies. (Note: I was never at a rehearsal of the band he eventually formed, "Little Wing," and don't know what he did in practice or on stage.) So we just sang together on the melody, and had fun. (I could have sung harmonies, but didn't.) One favorite song was "Mr. Dieingly Sad" by the Critters. Mike Wood (another Minnesota fan, deceased in 1983) was also fond of the song, and the fact that he, Jim, and I all liked it seemed like part of a good reason for Mike to move here from Michigan. Jim also called my attention to a song by the Monkees called "She Hangs Out" — "How old did you tell me your sister was? (Sister was, sister was.)" His comment was, "Hard rock isn't dead!" (Note that I did not consider Jim to be a hard rock pianist, but he didn't need to be.) At one point some s-f fans got their hands on a copy of an old silent movie — I think this was *Metropolis* — and a theater in which to show it. Jim was asked to play piano throughout the whole thing, and — though I was not there — I was told he had done a remarkable job. Many years later, I read an article in a local newspaper on the field of "cocktail piano" music. Based on the fact that I knew one of the pianists in question, and knew he was very competent, I still feel that Jim could have worked in the same specialized niche and earned a name for himself. But — except for a year or so with Little Wing — Jim had better things to do.

I want to mention a couple of small negative things here, just for completeness. (Note that Jim may very well have never had an enemy, and I am saying *small* negative things.) In 1984 or so, I wanted to start on a tape of my original music. This tape was finally released as *The First Overnight Guest*. The only pianists I wanted to work with were Jim Young and David Emerson. I was astonished to find out that Jim simply couldn't grasp why I wanted him to follow the chord progression(s) and could not for the life of him figure out why I wouldn't want him to play a D chord when everybody else was playing an A. Rather than argue, I called David, who played electric keyboards on six songs, and played two conventional piano parts myself. This may have been a downturn in Jim's and my friendship, but — although I am clueless as to the timeline here — Jim developed a strong desire in working for the foreign service, and before long, was in Botswana, working for our government. We did not trade letters during this time, as it seemed that Jim had gone someplace I couldn't follow; but every time I saw him after that, for all that he could talk enthusiastically about foreign service stuff that I knew nothing about, his friendship and mine was still alive and strong.

It surprises me now that I know so little about Jim's love life, and it would not be my place to discuss the details if I knew them. Jim was quite close to Astrid Anderson, Poul Anderson's daughter, but I never knew if this was an unrequited love, a deep friendship (and note that these two are not incompatible), or something closer and more workable.



Jim at Midamericon, 1976. Photo by DD-B.

Given that frequently in this subculture, people have talked to me in far more detail than I wanted to know, I think Jim's discretion gives him considerable credit. (Have I made myself look like a total turkey by mentioning Astrid? Perhaps, but the details I would have never have discussed are the ones I don't know; I think this is about right.) I do know that when I was courting the woman who became my first wife, Caryl, things had gotten quite intense between her and me, and she went out with a close male platonic friend to talk about things and try to sort out her own feelings. The close friend in question was Jim, and their conversation got quite intense. Caryl had a strong interest in "true confession" magazines and had fantasized about writing for them. A few days later she gave me the headline, though this, too, was fantastical: "I gave myself to another man — the night I became engaged!!!" (This hadn't even come close to happening.)

Music again. Jim's interest in attending Minn-stf had flagged before "Minn-stf music" had really taken off. Since Jim did not sing harmonies, he wound up singing enthusiastically (at one party) in a way that almost verged on shouting, and a couple of people (notably Reen Brust, also no longer with us, and somebody else I miss) were annoyed. Jim got annoyed right back. I don't know how things would have shaken down if Jim had been making his home in Minnesota at that point. I did give him five or six guitar lessons and he became a guitarist as well as a piano player, and he did play some of his originals on guitar at one local convention; it felt rather like one apple playing songs at a convention of oranges, but his musicianship was quite apparent. Even so, I miss living in the alternate reality in which Jim brought an electric keyboard to a Minnesota convention at least once, and his strengths could have merged with the strengths of those around him, and a wonderful jam session could have taken place.

I was thrilled when Jim went back to writing science fiction, and keeping us notified by posting on Facebook. One of the things I am saddest about (in addition to the big sadness of knowing that Jim stopped his singing in the middle of his song) is that we will never know what amazing novels and stories would have been written by Jim between his 62nd and perhaps his 80th birthdays. This was too soon. He was too young. Goddess, please make this all stop.

And all the rest of you, please take care of yourselves. I don't want to be in this position again any time soon. Love to all —

Nate



Photo by DD-B from Minicon 8. Front: Gordy Dickson, Ben Bova. Back: Ann Passovoy, Bob Passovoy, Richard Tatge, Louie Spooner, Jim Young.

PROGRESS ON THE MINNEAPOLIS IN 2073 WORLDCON BID

When we began our bid in 2009, we had 61 years of bidding ahead of us. 5% done already? How time flies.

Since Progress Report 4 this February, we have held bid parties at Capricon, Oddcon, Diversicon and Worldcon. We also had a presence at Convergence. Overall, we've gained 108 new pre-supporting members.

At Capricon (Chicago, IL), we threw a Thursday night party. Foreshadowing a similar arrangement later on (see below), the room was provided by Michael Lee and it hosted a Convergence party later in the weekend.

At Oddcon (Madison, WI), we brought and put out every possible Minnstf-related flyer-like object we could think of, not out of a sense of perversity, but just because that's what we do. That included flyers for Minicon, Conjecture, the July picnic, some Einblatts and Minneapolis in 2073 forms. We also put out old Minicon publications to give away, as is our wont. All of this prompted the comment from some late-night fans, "you guys really like paper". Hmmm... yes, I suppose we do. Probably we need to start bringing some little flyer racks to parties if we are going to go to such excesses, though. Filled the little coffee table right up as it was. We had grand plans to write up a full party report, but as it is, my notes simply say that we started filling the hot tub at 6:00pm on Saturday.

For Diversicon (Saint Paul, MN), we ran a Saturday-only party. It's a small con, but had a correspondingly small number of parties (1), so ours was very well attended. Most people at Diversicon who might pre-support have done so already, but we did manage to pick up three new members anyhow.

Our big new thing is that we ran a

bid party at Worldcon this year! It was part of the 4-night Minnesota fandom party room, a.k.a. Minnesota Magpies. ("MAGPIE" is for "Minnesota Association of Gamers and Partiers" or something like that. Not a perfect name, but we needed something quickly for the hotel to refer to us by, and so Joel invented it and it stuck.) This party room had a different group running the party each night. We took Thursday night for Minnstf/Minicon/Minneapolis in 2073. The following nights were run by the Seamstress Guild, the Geek Partnership Society, and finally Convergence.



Throwing a party in a big suite is certainly a different experience from running a little party in a sleeping room, and not something we had prior experience with. Thankfully, we had a small army of dedicated volunteers that made it all run smoothly. (Well, ok, mostly smoothly with some frantic flailing around during setup as we tried to figure out what we are doing. But none of the flailing was due to volunteer shortage.)

At the Chicon party, we set up an honest-to-goodness bid table. As hoped, this encouraged more people than usual to join at the *blogger* level, since it's at the expected \$20 price for Worldcon pre-supports, even though we call our \$2 level *standard*. Thanks in part to this, not only was the party lots of fun, but we didn't lose our shirts throwing it, either.

Finances

So far in 2012, we have taken for pre-supporting memberships \$486.61+ $\frac{1}{13}$, \$0.39 Canadian, 8.02 Israeli Shekels, 2 pfennigs (0.02 Deutsche Marks) and a button. Other income has been \$165.46 in donations and \$52.50 for extra ribbons.

We've spent \$499.82 on parties, \$88.72 on printing and mailing (mostly Progress Report 4; I'm not counting the cost of this Progress Report yet), and \$30 on an ad that appears in the Lone Star Con 3 Progress Report 2.

Call for Hugo nomination nominations

Once again, we're planning to compile and publish a list of suggestions for Hugo nominations in our next progress report. So send us your picks, and we'll share them with the world.

For those not in the know, the Hugo awards are awarded solely on the basis of fan votes, first to nominate works to appear on the ballot, then to choose between those finalists. To be eligible to nominate, you must be a member of the upcoming or just-past Worldcon. To vote on the winners, you must be a member of the upcoming Worldcon. The cheapest way to become eligible is therefore to get a supporting membership to LoneStar-Con 3, which'll run you \$60. See lonestar-con3.org.

Despite being the most well-recognized SF award in the world, and the voting being open to anyone who chooses to buy a membership, it is easier to influence the results of the Hugo elections than you might think. Only about 1000 people cast nominating ballots, and out of those, most award categories only get nominations from about half that. (Best Novel is the exception, of course.) Further, because of the large number of works nominated in each category, the bar for making the final ballot is surprisingly low in most categories.

To illustrate, last year we suggested *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* and *The Drink Tank's Hugo Acceptance Speech* for Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form. The latter made the ballot with 38 votes, whereas the former got 35 votes, *one* vote short of tying one of the ubiquitous Dr. Who episodes and also making the ballot. We also suggested *The Unwritten: Volume 4*, which made the Best Graphic Story ballot with 28 votes.

Immediate Plans

We hope to repeat our party alliance with Convergence again either at the upcoming Windycon or Capricon, and now instead of just sharing a room, we're all set up to brand our meta-group as Minnesota Magpies. Ooooooh. (That'll confuse 'em good.)

Hope to see you there, in Minneapolis, or in Texas next year!

NEW MEMBERS

Bloggers

Deanna Lepsch
Jay Dealebeim

Jon S Olsen
Mary O'Connor

Raymond C Cyrus

Standard pre-supporters

$\frac{1}{2}$ r Arthur George Eele-Cruttenden
Alan Sponem
Alastair Mayer
Alicia LaMunion
Alissa McKersie
Andy Murphy
Ann Roubik
Bhim Nimgade
Bill Rowe

Carl Hawkins
Carol Doms
Christian Merse
Cindy Dye
David A Gaeddent
David Clark
David McDonald
David Singer
Dayon Stormhawk

Dennis
Diane Goldman
Eleanor Strait
Emily Fleming
G.T. Banks
Gary Zelmanovics
Henry Morris
James Bacon:
James Dobbs

James Wegsleid
Janet E. Lewis
Jeffrey Olhoefv
Joe Lima
John Phillips
Joseph Shaul
Kevin Birmingham
Larry Niven
Lisa Deutsch Harrigan
Lisa Leisure
Lizzit Lizzitzov

Margiene Bahm
Mathew G Sugden
Megan Dobbs
Michael Lee
Mike Gardiner
Mike Schoenberg
Moshe Yudkowsky
Paul Kretkowski
Phil Bryant (Skraeling)
Philip Kotula
Rich Riley

Robert Lent
Ronald Oakes
Sally Woehrle
Sarah Lender
Sharon Sbarsky
Tamara Griesel
The Boughers
Todd (Water Rat!) Voros
Valerie Roberts

Dodos

Aaron Davies
Alec Phillips
Andrew Cloyne
Bayan Bates
Caroline Masal
Cenk Gokce
Don Mull
Doug Thorpe
Elizabeth C Boss
Erika Deckter
España Sheriff
Hope Kiefer
Inanna Arthen
Jack Grasso
Jamie Lipman

Jerry Corwin
Jim Nichols
John Coxon
Judi Collazo
Kairi Benton
Kevin Price
Kim Kofmel
Kristy
Laura Dombrowski
Laura Majerus
Lauren Morthup
Lisa Cohen
Marilyn Hedtke
Martha Knowles
Mary Dumas

Matt Blackman
Matthew E Bennardo
Mike Yang
Nancy Hansen
Nicole Marker
Perrienne Lurie
Rebecca
Robert Wagner
Salt, William J
Shane McCook
Shannon Ryon
Tommy Ryan
Valli Hoski
Warren Buff
Winnie Eichinger



MINICON 48

March 29-31, 2013

Author Guest of Honor: Julie Czerneda

Fan Guest of Honor: Richard Tatge

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Bloomington MN, just south of Minneapolis.

Reservations: 952-835-7800 or mnstf.org/minicon48/hotel

Postmarked by March 5, 2013:

- ☐ Adult \$40 ☐ Student (13-20) \$20
☐ Kid (6-12) \$10 ☐ Child (0-5) free
☐ Supporting \$15 (attend for an additional \$40)
☐ Can you help us with \$10 additional donation?

Rates at the door

\$60 full adult membership; \$45 if arriving on Saturday; \$20
Sunday. \$25 full student, \$15 kid, \$0 child. Friday-only: \$30

Make checks to: Minicon 48, PO Box 8297, Lake Street
Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408-0297 or register at
mnstf.org/minicon48

Please contact me, because I want to:

- ☐ Volunteer ☐ Be on programming/share ideas
☐ Throw a party ☐ Know about kids' programming

First Name Middle Last

☐ Do not list me as a member on the Minicon website

Badge Name (if left blank, we will use your full name)

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City State Postal Code

Country (if not USA) Phone Number

Email Address

Birthdate*: **Year**/month Sex* When was your 1st Minicon?*

* Optional: For demographics and kids programming.

☞ Take our reg survey: mnstf.org/minicon48/regsurvey.php



(Wolf 359)

RPGs Don't Die

by Rachel Kronick

I wish people would stop referring to RPG lines as “dead”.* RPGs don't die; they just stop being supported. If an RPG has never been played by anyone, but someone, somewhere is enjoying it somehow — either by dreaming of playing it, or occasionally taking it down off a shelf and paging through it, or generating characters in it just for fun, or even just putting it on a shelf and enjoying it as part of their collection — then that game is still alive. The only way for a game to be truly “dead” is for every copy to cease existing and every memory of it to be wiped. Since that doesn't happen, RPGs don't die.

When people refer to a game as “dead”, I think they're using that as shorthand for “no longer being actively supported by the creators, and so no longer putting out new supplements for me to use in my campaign or read”. If so, I think it's a very wrong-headed idea for several reasons. One, your campaign doesn't have to be supported by the publishers to continue. You can create material yourself. (A lot of people seem to have forgotten this.) Two, you can re-read things already published and have new ideas about them; the publishers aren't the only source of new ideas about a game. Three, it seems to be an excuse for dumping on games that aren't the New Hotness, which is a bad trend in all kinds of ways (it shortens people's patience for enjoying older games, it's a cheap way to seem cool by dumping on other people's fun, and it discriminates against gamers who are poor and can't keep buying new stuff all the time, for starters). Four, using this kind of shorthand is really damaging to the success of games, the motivation of authors and, well, the hobby as a whole; if someone keeps referring to something you poured your energies into (whether as an author, player, GM, reader or whatever else) as “dead”, it's going to sap your interest in pursuing that game in some amount. So, I think, referring to RPGs as “dead” when you really mean “no longer being actively supported by the creators” is a really damaging choice of phrase.

So, hey, if you've referred to a game as “dead” in the past, please rethink that phrasing.

Worldbuilding ain't bad

by Rachel Kronick

Every time I've been to WisCon, I think, I've been to the “Let's Build a World” panel. In it, the panel and the audience build a very well-functioning and detailed world from first principles, all within an hour. (Those first principles may be things like “Must have cephalopods”, “cats as money” or “floating islands”.) It's always very entertaining, seeing where all the different requirements and assumptions lead. It's especially fun when everyone in the room realizes that we've created a pretty dang well-rounded world, complete with mysteries, schisms, happy coincidences and bizarre yet believable ways of being. But almost every time, towards the end, someone will say, “Now we need some characters and a plot.” For me, that almost ruins it.

There's an attitude that worldbuilding is only a worthwhile goal if it serves plot. I have heard this argument, or variants on it, so many times that I can't even pin down all the examples. At this past Convergence, a panelist in the “Maps & Literature” panel said, “Don't waste brain space on things that you don't need for the plot”, for example. At this past Minicon, I was on the “Building a World with History” panel and some of my fellow panelists gave the warning not to descend too far into worldbuilding at the expense of plot, which caused me to give a mini-version of this rant. A search for “too much worldbuilding” will turn up dozens of examples, most stating that there is such a thing as too much.

The argument seems to go that the only purpose of worldbuilding must be to serve plot (whether prose fiction, RPG adventures, or whatever). Any part of worldbuilding that doesn't directly contribute to plot is wasted effort, and we can't have any wasted effort. Anything that is fun in and of itself, without producing real work, is frivolous. As before, I find this argument

*A recent example: <http://forum.rpg.net/showthread.php?587203-Artesia-Dead/page3>

to be based in Lutheran ideas of work and biases against fun.

Now, I'll admit that there is such a thing as too much worldbuilding. If you have a novel due to the publisher in two days and you're still working out religious conflicts that occurred 300 years before your novel is set, that's probably a time when worldbuilding should stop. If you're in the middle of an adventure, you probably shouldn't be detailing architectural styles for a country the PCs have never been near. There certainly are times and places for worldbuilding, and when you're on a schedule, it's something that has to be balanced against the other demands on your time. Like anything, there can be too much of a good thing with worldbuilding.

But too many people take the argument to the extreme, making the argument that a world cannot be enjoyable by itself, sans plot. People in the "Let's Build a World" panels at WisCon, for example, who seemed to indicate that if there's no plot, all the worldbuilding has been pointless time-wasting. This, in a panel explicitly about worldbuilding, and equally explicitly not requiring any particular plot to come out of it. The panels were supposed to be about the pure pleasure of worldbuilding, with no intention of making something that would even last beyond the panel, yet people still felt the need to assert the primacy of plot.

In case it's not obvious, I believe that worldbuilding in itself is worthy. If you enjoy worldbuilding, and there are no requirements that your worldbuilding serve plot any time soon, why not just enjoy it? There are, in fact, plenty of examples of very successful pure worldbuilding out there: Karen Wynn Fonstad's books, *SimCity*, the *Encyclopedia of Dune*, the *Dictionary of Imaginary Places*, the *Terran Trade Authority* books, etc. Heck, most RPG setting materials count as pure exposition without plot, and as I said before, I find reading setting materials to be fun in itself. These materials sell well in part because people enjoy pure worldbuilding without plot. (The hard part is admitting that we enjoy it, and accepting that that's okay.)

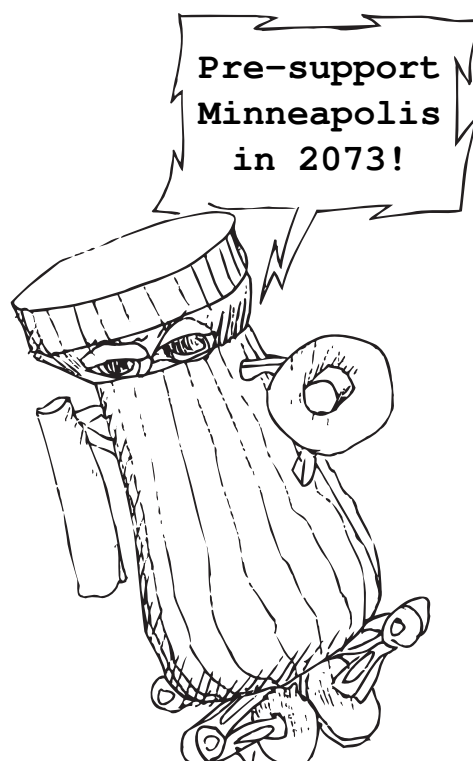
And there's no reason a created world has to be for the consumption of others.

It's perfectly fine to create a world that resides on your computer, or in piles of notebooks, or whatever, and never gets viewed by another person. If it's fun for you, why not do it? As long as you aren't sinking so much time and money into it that it's hurting your life, there's nothing wrong with it. Heck, if building a world just takes a bunch of notebooks and a library card, it can be one of the cheapest and most stimulating hobbies around!

If the goal of your worldbuilding is to make money, of course, then that's different. If you need to come up with a publishable picture book, wiki, RPG manual or whatever, then it needs to be comprehensible and presentable. And if it serves a particular plot (novel, narrative computer game, etc.), then yes, it needs to bend to those needs. And if it's background to an RPG, then it needs to take a form that your players can make sense of.

How well you present it is an important factor here. Too many GMs subject their players to vast tracts of boring prose; and page after page of exposition, while the protagonist is hanging from a cliff, can ruin any novel. There are good ways of presenting worldbuilding, and there are bad ways, that is certainly true. And your audience will come to it with their own prejudices.

Hopefully, though, those prejudices won't include the belief that worldbuilding in itself is a bad thing. On the contrary, worldbuilding is fun, and worth doing.



Minn-stf Board Minutes

Here are all of the minutes that we could find since Rune #86 (March 2002). Obviously, some are missing. Probably the board met more than once in 2006, for instance. We’ve used the date of Rune #86 as a starting point even though no minutes are published in that issue, since if we went back to going back to Rune #85 (March 1995), it would entail printing *another* 7 years of minutes. I think you can see at a glance at the next few pages that 10 years is quite enough. In any case, you can (as of this writing) see all of the known minutes on the web at mnstf.org/records.

13 March 2002

Location: Scott Raun’s

In Attendance: Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Larry Sanderson, Laura Jean Fish, Sharon Kahn

Minicon: Books need to be closed on Minicon 36 ASAP. This means the \$1000 for program book income must be reconciled. Larry will look into collecting information about who needs to be billed.

OTML: Rachael Lininger has volunteered to work on creating a design for the OTML (One True Mailing List). The board votes to approve her creating a design for a relational database that will include:

- The Minicon mailing list
- Einblatt
- Artshow
- Dealers
- TOTU
- Rune

The Board briefly discussed what it would need to be able to do for the club: Multiple designated persons should be able to update information, as well as retrieve information. A major advantage will be that address changes will go to one place. Dean will inform Rachael that, yes, we would like for her to work on this.

Hotel Minicon 38 update: Ben Yalow will help go through the contract and offer advice. Contract to be signed ASAP.

Miscellany: Einblatt editor Scott Raun requests postage check for Einblatt. He estimates it’s about \$187 for about 5 rolls of stamps; he will email Larry to remind him. Larry Sanderson informs the board that as treasurer he has ordered more regular checks.

8 May 2002

Location: Scott Raun’s

In Attendance: Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Larry Sanderson, Laura Jean Fish, Sharon Kahn

Memorials: The funeral for Carol Stodolka (wife of founding member Frank Stodolka) will be Saturday. Mnstf will send flowers or memorial for \$50. Larry Sanderson will place the order.

Taxes: Larry is still working on the club’s taxes.

Miscellany: Scott Raun announced that any information we wish to have printed in the Einblatt should be sent to him ASAP.

Minicon Report: Fan Guest of Honor for Minicon 38 will be Sue Mason. She is a member of the Plokta Cabal, publishers of the fanzine PLOKTA, which (as the Board understands things) translates to Press Lots Of Keys To Abort, Journal of Superfluous Technology.

Still working on getting the hotel contract signed.

Minicon 36 account closed; \$8000 profit goes to the Mnstf account and \$5000 to Minicon seed money.

12 June 2002

Location: Scott Raun’s

In Attendance: Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Larry Sanderson, Laura Jean Fish, Sharon Kahn, Rachael Lininger

Agenda:

- Room Party Money allocated to Minicon chairs
- Fall Con
- TOTU Finances
- OTML = One True Mailing List

Fall Con: The board discussed paying and attracting more attention to Fall Con by offering a link on Mnstf’s website. The board also discussed whether we want to consider Fall Con as an official club function. After discussion the board decided that, yes, it can be considered an official function of the club so long as it has a separate bank account for financing, as this is necessary for tax purposes. Sharon Kahn will inform Rick of this and either one of them will set up the account.

OTML: Rachael Lininger, who attended the meeting, asked the board what they want in the OTML:

It needs to be able to handle:

- Minicon
- Directories
- Einblatt
- Breakouts for Art Show and Hucksters
- Fall Con
- Rune
- TOTU
- It should be able to keep track of who has been to Minicon/Fall Con as well as badge names.
- Maximized and minimized mailings.
- Specify 1 mailing to a household or more.
- Have members request a flag for personal information with “Do Not Give Out My Address.”
- Allow for remote updating by authenticated persons only.

- Shouldn’t overwrite old addresses, but should add on.
 - Have backwards compatibility.
 - Printing labels appropriate for Post Office.
 - Bar Codes would be nice (implementation detail).
- Next Rachael asked why the previous one didn’t work. Members of the board pointed out that its inability to be shared out was a major issue for two reasons.

1. The updates and data entry became too much for one person to handle with the growing number of persons on the list.
2. There was a failure of persons in charge to follow through with updates.

The Board provided Rachael with a list of persons that currently have individual mailing lists whom she can contact and work with to develop a new relational database.

- Fall Con = Rick Gellman
- Directory & Einblatt = Scott Raun
- Minicon = Fred Levy Haskell
- Rune = Jeff Schalles
- TOTU = Eric Heideman

For Rune and TOTU, the board pointed out that it would like to be able to identify who receives mailed copies and who the subscribers are.

Other specifications for the OTML:

- It should be able to support European alphabets, and Unicode support would be nice.
- It should support normal ASCII.
- People should be able to submit address changes.
- There should be a pipeline to vet information from Minicon online registrations.

TOTU Finances: The Board discussed the need to examine finances and will ask Eric Heideman to attend the next board meeting. The board will look at:

- What we have spent.
- What we can afford to spend on the next edition.
- Where the money we allocate goes.

Larry Sanderson, treasurer, will send the board members copies of previous account information.

The board will request that Eric submit current account information to the board 1 week before the next meeting.

The board agreed that these finances should be looked at in a yearly manner and that year should follow Minicon to Minicon for accounting purposes. In addition, the board will determine what if any commitments have been made for future issues before considering any changes.

The board would also like a list of outstanding full subscriptions.

The board would like to see more detail oriented accounting in the future for TOTU and will clearly define what details are important upon review.

Garage Sale: The board also briefly discussed the planned garage sale fundraiser. Laura Jean Fish has volunteered to host and help organize the event. Larry Sanderson and Sharon Kahn have also said they’d help. We are currently waiting to hear back from Karen Cooper who is helping coordinate the space and date for the sale.

Anyone donating stuff is eligible for receipts for tax deductions. These receipts will need to be written out in an itemized format by donors and board member Laura Jean Fish will sign them when they drop off their stuff.

Summer Picnic: Last, Laura Jean Fish and Larry Sanderson proposed to host and organize a summer picnic for Mnstf/Minicon in August 2002. The board agreed this is a good idea and requests that an estimated cost be sent to them for review.

21 May 2003

Persons present: [Board] Scott Raun, Larry Sanderson, Kevin Austin, Dean Gahlon; [Recording Secretary] Polly Peterson; Joyce Scrivner

Joyce Scrivner: Damon Warriren is supposed to publish the Fanthology but he is going back to Australia. She wants to publish the Fanthology here are would like to use the copy printer. She would pay the MNSTF rates and any profit would go to DUFF or TAFF. She will supply her own paper. It would be published in the Fall (September at the earliest). The board is in agreement to doing this. Dean believes that the rates for using the copy printer were changed and he will send the email to the board. Dean and Scott believe that the Board decided to lower the rates because of a reduction in base costs. The rate structure should be put somewhere accessible. Larry suggests that the rates be looked at yearly.

Fallcon Finances: Larry provided a Fallcon banking summary based on Sharon Kahn’s accounting. Kevin

got an email from Rick when he was the webmaster in which he had some information about a donation to the Dixon Fund that Rich had made without the authorization of the Board. He also put hotel deposits down for the next Fallcon. Kevin wondered if the board had approved the expenses. Dean and Scott discussed whether or not he had the authorization to make the deposit on the hotel and he had not gotten any authorization for the donation. It was thought that Sharon discussed it with him telling him he should discuss it with the board. It is not a bad place to put the money, but he needs to get permission to spend if it is a MNSTF convention. Joyce wondered if Rick had a different understanding of what having MNSTF sponsor the convention meant. Laura Jean believes that they discussed that issue with him when he came to the board. If MN-stf is sponsoring it, the board should see the contract before he signs it. Dean has some concerns about having Rich run a MNSTF convention. There are concerns about food hygiene and safety as a liability issue. The board needs to decide what they want to say to Rick. Larry believes that Rick is looking for someone to take over Fallcon. The MisFits are having another fallcon, OmegaCon. It is unlikely that we want to have three fallcons. Board decided to ask Rick to talk to them before he runs another Fallcon sponsored by MNSTF. Kevin will talk to Rick and tell him if he is wanting to have MNSTF sponsor it, he needs to come to a board meeting. Larry did say that he opened a MNSTF account for FallCon so that it was coming out of a separate account. Fallcon had a profit of \$635.44 of which the board believes that \$150 went to the Dixon fund and \$300 belongs to MNSTF as seed money.

MNSTF budget: Larry is projecting that we will have an \$8,000 loss for 2003 projecting from last year’s figures. Minicon 37 will have a slight profit over the seed money. We will get some money out of our investments and we have \$6,000 in saving. Minicon as it currently is constituted will not cover our expenses. The garage sale made \$600 last year. Scott suggests paying for Einblatt by subscription perhaps turning \$750 of expenses into a nominal revenue source by charging \$10 per year. Joyce wondered whether or not that included institutions. We would push the electronic version, but ask for the subscription for paper copies. If the membership has objections, the board will ask them what alternatives they have to offer. The \$750 does not include the cost of sending out the Directory so the \$10 helps to cover that expense. The directory does not get mailed out to people unless they have a subscription and the members need to catch up with the directory publisher to get their copy. The board decided to go ahead and impliment the change. Dean believes that the electronic version should be einblatt or keinblatt. Scott will take this suggestion under advisement. Scott will send out the June Einblatt with an announcement that we will be going to the subscription in July. There will not be any significant difference between the published and electronic versions except that occasionally late breaking events or details about events are added on the web after the published version goes out.

Minicon Software: Minicon needs to buy a copy of Acrobat or its clone to create .pdf files. It is too difficult to depend on volunteers for their legal copies. There is no shareware version that will work for getting .pdfs out of the various applications we use. Larry believes that we will need to get a club copy of Filemaker pro for \$220. The board’s general view on software is that if the person already owns it or buys it for their own personal use, we are please to have them donate the use of it for Minicon/MNSTF. However, the board does not expect them to have to pay for a club copy themselves. Mincon 39 will have to run on Filemaker Pro, and the concom cannot find the previous licensed copy. The money will need to come out of MNSTF since the committee doesn’t have access to the M39 account yet and they need to get the database going. Polly suggested looking into a software donation. Time is a factor. Dean suggests we start the process of looking for a donation and then go out and buy it if the process seems to be too slow. Filemaker Pro ships with both the Mac and PC versions. Larry thinks that it is possible that if we knew that the copy was registered we might be able to get an upgrade or a legal copy of it. Larry is going to look into it.

Kevin would like to talk about VPDP duties at the next meeting.

MNSTF Picnic: Last year we spent \$250 for drinks and munchies and \$50 for the park. The plan is to do it August 16th at Minnehaha Waban Picnic Area if we can get it. Dean suggests that we have more precise directions published. Joyce wondered if we would want to be somewhere where people could swim, but the board was not clear that there is a lot of interest in swimming. The board approved \$250.

MNSTF con Parties: Geri is planning on hosting a party at Torcon. The total on parties at cons in 2002 for 6 events was \$1954 for local and regional conventions and \$1200 for the worldcon parties. Payback is slow and painful on these parties. Not having parties is sending a politically negative message especially to other local conventions. The Worldcon parties draw the Rasif/smot types. We gain good will at the local con parties. We don't know that this generates more memberships at Minicon. Laura Jean feels that we need to decide when we stop doing this. The next convention is Convergence and there have been interest in hosting a party there. The board will throw \$197.30 for Convergence if someone comes forward to host.

Joyce asked whether or not Minicon would be interested in bidding to host the Tiptree Award.

Minicon 38 (brief) Report: Scott believes that it will bring in about \$4,000. We missed paying for the storage locker and David was not able to get in. We have been paying annually for 12 months and getting the 13th month free. The moving target to pay is part of the confusion since they do not send a bill for the annual fee.

New Bank Account for Minicon? Minicon accounts are currently at Franklin Bank, and we are spending about \$60 in bank fees per year for mere existence. Irene is researching where we can get a free or lower fee account. The board authorized her to go ahead and open an account if she finds one with better terms.

Minicon, Paypal and Chapbooks: This worked well this year and Larry would like to set it up and continue it all year. He would like to sell the leftover chap books and to keep the Steve McDonald songbook in print, making a little money off of it. Scott wants to makes sure that a volunteer is identified to make sure that it gets to production. Larry suggests that we draft the Minicon publications department to do this. Paypal has transaction charges (around 3%), but people really liked it and we took in something like \$1200 in registrations. The electronic registration saves work too. There are no fixed charges for paypal. The board says yes to continuing to use Paypal.

Hotel for M40: Mincon will have to find a new hotel because the hotel is booked for the next five years to Eckankar. Susan is trying to convince us that we need to move to another weekend, but the board would take a lot of convincing to move Mincon off of Easter Weekend.

Additional business: None.

Next meeting is June 18th. Polly and Laura Jean requested to start the meeting earlier. We will meet at 7 pm. Scott will eat even as we meet.

18 June 2003

People Present: Kevin Austin, Scott Raun, Dean Gahlon, Larry Sanderson, Laura Jean Fish, Joe Agee, David Schroth, Polly Peterson

Regarding last month's minutes and the Tiptree Award, the board would need more information about what is involved in making a Tiptree bid before they would consider trying to host the Tiptree Award ceremony.

Old Business

Relaxacon: Kevin has nothing to report.

Rates for copy printer: Dean sent an email to Jeff to ask him what the cost for supplies for the copy printer and when he gets the information, Dean will plug them into the approximate formula so that the board can see if they need to change the rates. David requested that a copy get sent to Minicon publications when it is decided and let Joyce and other interested parties know. It will be posted on the web and on the printer documentation. This also serves to let fans know that it is available.

Feedback on Einblatt: A couple of fans have noticed. Scott is looking into an Einblatt announce feasibility where an automated message could be sent when a change is made in the Einblatt file. He will report when he knows something.

Taxes: Larry has not been able to do them since he has not yet gotten the books from Minicon. We may have to ask for an extension. They are due May 15, but we have an extension for three months. Often the accountant is not as available in the summer.

VPDP: Kevin took the job but is not clear what is desired of the position. He understands that the job is to maintain the OTML, which does not exist as one list right now. The Minicon database, the Einblatt list and the Directory are currently separate. There are also the Minicon Dealer's room list (may be in the Minicon database) and the Minicon Art show list. We want the lists merged and the problem in the past was importing the Minicon data into the OTML. It would be nice to have it be the active Minicon registration database. If it were accessible over the web, it could be farmed out to registration volunteers. There are a variety of reports needed by Minicon departments and Einblatt, Rune and Directory subsets. The database will have to live somewhere. Scott says that DDB tested the MN-stf.org server using perl script as the front end of the database which Scott infers means that he would be willing to host the database, although the conversation took place four or five years ago.

Guests and Board Meeting etiquette: All MN-stf members should be encouraged to come and listen, but the board needs to get through the agenda and then allow them to comment at the end. The board will put guests at the front of the agenda and make sure to communicate when that agenda item is done.

Garage Sale: tables are there (Polly's) and Irene is at this very moment putting stuff together to bring over to Laura Jean's. Laura Jean has been emailing people

who seem to be morning people to help with setup.

Revival of the MN-stf Events list was suggested in reaction to the current amount of activity on Natter and the number of people who have unsubscribed because of it. Twelve people have unsubscribed in the last four months since the last "who we are" list was published. The problem with Events was that it was an announce-only list, but people kept having discussion on it and there was a lot of cross posting to Natter so that all but the five people who were not on both lists got postings twice. The idea would be to have all events go through David as the moderator. Scott suggested and the board decided to table to issue for a month to see what happens in the intervening time. Dean suggested that if they decided that they needed to set it up sooner than that, it would not be that hard to do.

Guns:

MN-Stf meetings: Larry asked Jonathan to the meeting to help discuss this issue. Larry has also been talking to Kay and our insurance agent. There was a concern about Doug Wickstrom's comment about loaded unsecured guns at people's house. Parents who have reacted to this do not find this to be covered under the definition of "not childproofed." Laura Jean proposes that people who host who have guns in their homes certify to the president of MN-stf that they have secured any guns and that any guns carried in by other people would have to be secured on the individual at all times (not in bags or purses.) It was Jonathan's opinion that MN-stf would not successfully be sued if we had such a rule in place. The final arbiter is likely to be the insurance company. It is not a statement about whether or not people have guns in their house or whether or not guests have guns. Laura Jean will work on the wording and will send it out to the board for discussion and final approval. Dean thinks that it would be a good idea to have a discussion of what we all mean by "not childproofed." The board is not planning on using the term as a code for guns. There are a lot of other hazards for children. Laura Jean will write up a definition of "childproofed." Most hosts don't have their homes childproofed and even parents with kids only proof them against Meeting hosts have the right make the determination of whether or not to allow guns in their homes and may post "no guns" if they choose to. The reality is that the short hand for a request for visitors not to bring guns into people's homes will be posted in Einblatt as "No guns."

Minicon: We will be at the Millennium Hotel for this Minicon. The hotel is posted "no guns" and so will not allow guns at Minicon. The Minicon weapons policy has been "no actual guns" for a long time. The statute does not deal with meetings but buildings. The costs would be incurred by the hotel, not the meeting. The landlord tenant laws in general don't apply to hotels. People at the meeting have been told that other local conventions (specifically Convergence and Diversicon) are not planning on changing their weapons policies to allow guns. Dean asked about what about someone who comes with a specific situation that might constitute an exception. The hotel rules would preclude their having a gun in the hotel and the board feels that it is difficult to "prove" that such an individual's safety outweighs the safety of everyone else. Ln Jonathan's opinion, if MN-stf gets sued for something, having a policy that is not enforced is worse than having no policy at all. There was concern about people who have in the past and could in the future bring guns to Minicon and not be asked to follow the stated policy. (Polly's computer died at this point.)

16 July 2003

People attending: Laura Jean, Scott, Larry, Kevin, Dean, Polly

So far we have only 5 subscriptions to paper Einblatt. Scott is simply printing these using his printer, so the copy printer usage will be substantially less than in the past.

Board wants to raise the issue of fundraising at the next few Mn-Stf meetings and on Natter. Minicon 37 made very little money and it is a race between getting to the point where Minicon again raises substantial funds and we run out of our reserves. Larry would want to have computer files available to give details. People don't generally ask for details. People can come to Larry's house if they wish to look at the books

The question is, how much are we spending in a year and how much do we have in savings? Larry feels that we will spend \$6000-8,000 this year. The board is considering whether or not they need to reduce the meeting stipends and encourage people coming to the meetings to revive the tradition of bringing something to share at the meetings. The stipend was intended to be for beverages and munchies. Meeting sizes are way down from a few years ago (Scott says '92 or '93 was the meltdown.) We are having less difficulty finding hosts, which was part of the impetus for paying stipends.

The Board wants to kill the hotline. They will put on a message asking for feedback from people as to whether or not they are using it. Scott will contact Mia to get such a message added to the hotline.

Other events we pay for are the Pool Party, New Year's Eve party and the summer picnic. Laura Jean suggests making any changes to stipends as of Jan 1 so that people who have already agreed to host will not feel like we have reneged on an agreement.

Events: Karen is willing to become the moderator again and David Schroth would be willing to help if needed. We will ask Karen if she would like his help. Dean will talk to Karen.

Kevin has not yet had time to work on the Fallcon issues.

We could try a bake sale.

Minutes taken by Polly Jo Peterson

20 Aug 2003

Present: Dean, Larry, Laura Jean, Scott, Kevin, David Schroth

Web page: Has anyone talked to Peter about taking on the Website? The Board will talk to Peter about doing it. Scott will talk to him. Dean wrote and sent a letter to Laurel Krahn thanking her for her past work.

Gun Statement: After discussion that happened online, the board unanimously supported the following statement (reproduced below). Kevin will post it to Natter. Scott will put it in the next Einblatt, the Mn-Stf webmaster will link to it and Joe will be asked to announce it at the next few meetings.

- Whether guns are allowed in the home where a Minnstf meeting is held is up to the host(s) of the meeting. In cases where there are changing hosts over the course of the meeting, one policy will be agreed on beforehand for the entire meeting.
- Whether guns are allowed at a particular meeting will be published in advance. Listings in the usual published sources (website, Einblatt and Hotline) will say "No guns" if guns are not allowed and likely say nothing if guns are allowed — all of this based on the information provided to the editors and webmasters.
- The Board requests that guns — when permitted at Minnstf functions — should be either under the control of the gun's owner or in a secured, locked area inaccessible to unauthorized persons.

The hotline has not been updated since July 31. Scott will resend his request to have them post some message to find out whether or not the hotline is being used. The message should be out there for two months before cutting it. Per last month's minutes, January 1st seems a good time to make the change.

Mr. President: The board feels that the president has absolute authority on picking meeting sites and the board will back his decisions. Larry will inform him of his exalted power.

Kevin has not talked to Rick Gellman about the Fallcon yet. He was requested to please do so. Dean feels that it should not be a MN-Stf event. The board needs to deal with the checking account if it is not a MN-Stf event.

Taxes: Larry asked the accountant about the \$25,000 threshold for whether or not we have to file taxes and she said that there is no such threshold. Charmain has not yet given him the information he needs to fill out the form. The co-chairs will get the paperwork from her and get it entered so that it can be passed on to the accountant to fill out the forms.

Events List: David says it is moving apace and they have been doing a lot of testing to make sure that it does what they want it to do. Karen wants to makes some changes in the documentation but it is not likely to happen before she gets back from vacation. It should be up by the next board meeting. It could conceivably up by next Saturday.

Cost cutting measures:

The suggestion was to cut the stipend to \$25-\$30.

The Minicon locker was discussed as to whether or not we could get rid of it. One option is to see if Greg Ketter would do a deal with Minicon to lend his art show panels. If we got rid of the locker, then the board would have to resurrect the quartermaster position to keep track of the organization's stuff. Related to this is the fact that Kay Drache would like to get the Mn-Stf Archives out of her house. If we got rid of the art show panels (and kept the storage locker), we could put the archives in the storage locker.

Right now the board is giving \$197.30 for parties at other conventions. Traditionally they have done parties at the three local conventions, Worldcon and a few others. The board suggested to do 2 local ones at \$100 each and then \$400 for out of town conventions besides the world con. In addition the board does the Pool party, the New Year's Party and the picnic. The Pool party should get room cost plus \$150 pending finding out what the costs were this year.

The picnic costs to reserve the space and some supplies. The board agreed that at a minimum the reservation charge plus standard stipend should be covered. Polly will look into Boom Island. The board will pay \$100. It would need to be coordinated in advance so that people would bring things to make it a complete picnic.

Cut New year's stipend to \$150. (starting next year). World Con: limit stipend to \$1000. The board would consider larger stipends in special circumstances on a case by case basis. Pending more study of actual figure from the past.

Fundraising Ideas:

- Silent Auction at Minicon
- Movie Night: Would need to have someone who had a relationship with a theater and wanted to take on the project. People who come to mind are Joe, Elizabeth, and Sybil. We are not sure that we have [end of sentence missing?]
- Bake Sale: The board discussed maybe having one the first week of November. There was some concern about whether or not we would be stepping on the Tiptree Award by having a bake sale, their traditional fundraiser. Polly (who attends Wiscon and has some feel for the Mother Board, who are the creators of the Tiptree.) feels that since the Tiptree bake sales generally happen at conventions, they

will not be too upset about MN-Stf borrowing the concept. The board discussed that usually a bake sale has a captive audience and that the closest we come to that is some place like Dreamhaven or Uncle Hugo's. Questions that came up included:

1. Can we talk either of them into hosting?
 2. Can we get MN-Stfers to donate baked goods? How many do we need?
 3. Is it legal to have a public bake sale (see Potluck law.)
- Put a kitty out at MN-stf meetings and convention parties
 - Reduce the meeting stipend to \$25–\$30 instead of \$50 making it clear to hosts not to feel that they need to spend more than that amount.
 - Make more chapbooks; perhaps the Lady Poetesses, something from Lois McMaster Bujold or Eleanor Arnason.

Steve McDonald would like to continue with the chapbook for a year but would like to get copies for the wholesale cost \$7.50 rather than the \$9 that we were charging him before. (my notes are not clear to me. Here is what I wrote: wholesale \$9 rather than \$7.50. Larry will get back to them. Existing stock for \$12. cost was about 10cents per sheet or \$4 per book.) Someone needs to ask the web master (Peter) to market the McDonald book on the websites.

The next meeting is Sept 17 at 7 pm.

17 Sept 2003

Present: Larry, Scott, Laura Jean, Dean, Peter Hentges, Polly, Kevin, Joe Agee.

The pre-meeting began with a tour of Scott and Irene's back yard to admire their elderly box elder tree because of which they will go broke getting it pulled out, but he and Irene have other lovely trees and bushes to replace it.

Web site: Peter is willing to take it on but wants to know what the Board expects of him. They wish him to update it regularly, clean out any deadwood, and set up an email message link that will be sent to both web master and Einblatt editor. They would also like a Paypal page for donations and to sell merchandise.

Einblatt email (not counting a lot of spam) is 50% meeting and event announcements and 50% changes of address and publishing news etc. The board wants to let people know that messages to Einblatt will go to the web master as well. Peter asked if there is any information that will serve an audience that is not now being served and the board responded that they would like to keep current information available for our members and be findable for people looking for fannish groups. The board wants quality hits, not quantity hits. One possible opportunity is that the MN-Stf web site could potentially join a fannish webring.

Other web site issues:

- MN-Stf owns a copy of Dreamweaver (at least two versions old), but it is for Windows and Peter is a Mac guy (for the most part).
- There is a form to submit an event for Einblatt, but Scott has gotten only one posting via this form this year.

This will likely be a few hours per month to maintain the web page. If Peter feels like digging in and redesigning the site, the board would not say no to him. Dean will still put the board minutes up. (Polly will send him the last couple of months in the body of an email.)

Peter is agreeable to becoming the web master. Dean will get in touch with DDB to give Peter access.

Joe came to argue that MN-Stf meetings are where we build community and that having the stipend reduced so that hosts will not be able to have enough meal opportunities to stay at the meeting. Joe would like to add an auction to Minicon as a fund-raiser and then keep the stipend at \$50. He will have Carol announce (at the next meeting) that we need to increase revenues and to have people donate either food or money to make the meetings nice.

(At this point the Board indulged in a tangent to discuss a possible LOTR marathon the eve of the release of the Return of the King.)

Hotline: Larry suggests that since Glenn and Mia have resigned from editing the Hotline, we kill it. Other members of the board would like to at least try metering it to see how much it is being used. Kevin is willing to be the lame duck editor for the next few months but if it does not get killed, he does not want to continue in that capacity. The hotline is Ubikky (Philip K Dick novel). Laura Jean says if the metering does not get set up by September 30, KILL IT! (The board digressed to the history of Arthur Leo Wu. Junk mail proclaiming "Wus since the Civil War" is Dean's favorite piece of Wu history.) Larry will call the phone company and change it to metered for two months. Dean thinks that after a month that we will know that they should kill it and then announce that you are going to kill it in a month. THEN KILL IT. Kevin is hearing the answering machine more than 5 times a month but the board does not know how many of them are telemarketing calls. The board decided on a cutoff of (! I didn't type it in.)

Pool Party: Last year's room rental was about \$200. The budget for food was decided last month as \$200. Whoever chooses to be the (principle) host will need to decide on the gun policy for the whole event since the Radisson does not have a policy prohibiting guns, so MN-Stf's gun policy rules.

Fundraising:

Steve McDonald: we have an agreement with him to sell his chapbook through 2004 but he would like to raise the cove price to \$15 to make change making easier.

Greg's offer: Dreamhaven would like to subsidize the dead tree edition of Einblatt in return for advertising space. He would give us about \$100 per month. Scott (as editor) says it is fine with him depending on how much space Greg is talking about. The subsidy would cover the cost of a one sheet Einblatt for 200 people but not the extra cost for an annual directory including increased costs in postage and that it is sent to 400 people. If the board decides to do this, they would offer to refund the subscriptions of the people who paid for paper editions. Scott will have information regarding the incremental cost of sending out the directory next meeting. The board is interested in finding out the specifics of Greg's proposal and thought that if they accepted the proposal they would give it to him for a year and then, if someone else was interested, the board will renegotiate with Greg and the other party(s) what to do. Scott, wearing two hats (but not simultaneously) will talk to Greg.

Taxes: Charmaine is out of town and no one has been able to get the Minicon records from her. The Franklin Bank is also difficult to get stuff out of. The board will apply for another extension to file tax forms. Laura Jean's attempts to get the documentation from Charmaine have not succeeded so far. They are on vacation. Laura Jean will continue to try to contact her when they get back from vacation.

Brochure: The board has discussed this in the past and so Larry brought it up again. They would like someone to write text for an updated flyer to put in libraries and other places. Dean suggests they announce that they would like such a volunteer. At the next MN-Stf Meeting Carol will announce it and that we are looking for help to manufacture chapbooks. Laura Jean will let her know all of the things that need to be announced and implemented including a donation kitty.

Thanks to Geri Sullivan for the donation from the Why Fans Shouldn't Time Travel Worldcon, which came about because she left the room. The donation was \$186.63.

Fundraising ideas:

- Get donations from authors of their books
- Have a MN-Stf Sale day at bookstore and have some percentage of the sales go to MNstf.
- Booksale (like the garage sale)
- MN-stf t-shirts
- Benefit Concert (Nate or Decadent Dave perhaps)
- Ask Neil Gaiman do a benefit of some sort.
- Have a frame or link to MN-Stf Live Journal (easy multiple point way to update the web site) as a means to promote the organization
- Bake Sale (early December)

Promotion ideas: Get authors to go into the schools in a long-term effort to grow the club. (Polly will remind Eric to respond to Laura Jean.) Scott says to talk to Denny, who lets Scott know about all of the MN connections in the publication world.

The board will announce these ideas and have people contact them if they are interested in helping make any of them happen.

Torcon Dead dog party came in under the budget, but Larry does not have the final figures given the necessary exchange of currency. Several people suggested Mpls in '73 make it a tradition to run this party.

Next meeting is October 15 at 7 p.m. Scott will update the time on Einblatt.

15 Oct 2003

People present: Laura Jean Fish, Kevin Austin, Scott Raun, Larry Sanderson, Dean Gahlon, Polly Peterson

Hotline: In order to meter it, they need approval from Arthur Leo Wu. Larry believes that Kevin will need to call them from the hotline phone. Kevin says that there have been only two messages; both people say they call a couple of times per month. Kevin has the message requesting that anyone using the hotline call and leave a message. This message has been on there since September 20. The previous message also had the information, but was a very long message, so maybe was not heard as easily. It was also announced on Natter and at MN-Stf meetings. Kevin will call the phone company and tell them that Arthur Leo Wu moved without leaving a forwarding address. There was a discussion of having a missing persons ad in the Minicon program book. Scott sent Peter a message to let him know that the hotline was cut. The money will be reallocated to meet MN-stf's financial needs.

There is a CD due and will be re invested the same way unless we change it. The other big CD comes due in 6 months if the club needed access to funds.

Scott has not heard back from Greg on the issue of subsidizing the hardcopy Einblatt.

Relaxacon: The bylaws specify how a committee is to approach the board to run a convention, but the board has not been following them regarding the Relaxacon. Kevin sent Rick an email about this procedure. Most of the con committee members thought that was not an issue to sever the connection. Kevin will follow up with Rick after the convention this weekend to get the issues clarified including getting back MN-Stf's \$300 seed money.

Taxes: The board has finally gotten ahold of the documentation to do the taxes, but it has not been entered yet. Laura will be entering the data so that the taxes can be finished.

Web site: Board members have not had a chance to look at Peter's design modifications. If Peter wants to put the prototypes up for public comment without previous board approval, the board has no problem with his doing so. He should put a statement soliciting comments on the web site.

Laura and Dean will look at the meeting schedules and sign-in sheets to determine when the election needs to be in the next month or so.

Polly again promised to send text copies of the minutes to Dean for posting to the web page.

Other items:

Next meeting will move to fourth Wednesdays to accommodate a conflict with Polly's schedule at 7pm. (Thank you!) That is the day before Thanksgiving.

Scott will figure out the incremental cost of mailing the directory in the next two weeks so that the board can make a decision about mailing a revision in December. He will send the information out by email for board discussion.

None of the Franklin accounts have been killed. If the money is transferred from the savings account to the checking account, the savings account can be killed. Scott has access only to the savings account and Laura Jean may be a signer for the checking account although she did not become a co-head of Minicon until half way through the year. The Board of Directors could send a directive to the bank to close it if there are no signers available to do so.

25 Feb 2004

Meeting started somewhere around 1926. Since the Recording Secretary wasn't going to be at the meeting, and the Corresponding Secretary was just sitting there, the Corresponding Secretary [David W. Schroth] was volunteered to take the minutes.

All five board members (Larry Sanderson, Scott Raun, Dean Gahlon, Kevin Austin, and Laura Jean Fish) were present.

1. Taxes are not done yet. Some progress has been made. The Minicon 37 numbers are about as done as they're going to get.
2. Bank account not done, need to hook up with Richard Tatge.
3. Still need to pull together a sales page for chapbooks on the web site. There were some questions about sales tax.
4. No volunteers for Speaker To Insurance. The problem was left for the next board to deal with.
5. No volunteers to host the archives. The problem was left for the next board to deal with.
6. Confusion reimbursement: Larry spent ~\$378. The board agreed to reimburse \$340.30. Marscon: the board decided to allocate \$197.30 for the Marscon party. Laura Jean to email Magenta ASAP.
7. Pool Party. Only date Radisson has available is March 13. Cost not yet known. Sharon Kahn was called to see if she could/would host the voting meeting at the pool party (rather than at Dream-park). The answer was negative. Board to solicit host(s) for the pool party. Dean will put up an electronic form of the ballot as soon as the location of the voting meeting is known.
8. Minicon 40 Bid Processing. Larry and Laura Jean created a proposal which was distributed to the board. The Sheraton will be available Easter week-end. Larry and Laura Jean are inclined to go with the Millennium the weekend after Easter. No other proposals were received. Kevin said "Go for it." Dean said "Go for it." Larry and Laura Jean were adamant that they would not run Minicon 41.
9. The Franklin Bank accounts are still open. Scott needs to close them soon.
10. Next board meeting is March 13 at 1900.

5 Apr 2004

Present: Scott Raun, Dean Gahlon, Joe Agee, Lisa Freitag, Sharon Kahn, Greg Ketter, William Ketter

The board discussed Betsy Lundsten's bid for Minicon 40 in 2010. The Board agreed that they think we should have Minicon 40 in 2005, so will not be accepting her bid.

Greg Ketter gave his proposal to move a week after Easter in 2005 with Terry Prachett as Guest of Honor and Jim Young as Fan guest. Greg thinks we should commit to Easter for the next year to keep our lock on that time and prevent other local conventions from moving into the traditional Minicon time. Laura Jean and Larry found that we would not get as good a deal if we move off of Easter. They were still negotiating for a hotel. Scott is mad at the Millenium right now anyway. Greg is putting on another convention (Fid-dler's Green) and may have more leverage with them. Greg is willing to put a little effort into getting another hotel if needed. It all depends on the deal they can give us. Greg understands MN-Stf's restraints and can work within the budget. Greg would be willing to split the cost of the plane ticket so that he can have Terry at the store. Jim, as one of the founders of MN-Stf, is a good choice for the 40th Minicon and may be a draw for some of the older fans. The board also talked about being as inclusive as possible. Greg has talked to Neil about working with him and Greg is interested in Neil's idea about a film program. A lot of people have offered to help both from in town and outside; people who would come back on board to work with Greg. Greg says that they will need a party budget for conventions. They do not necessarily need to go to the Worldcon. Greg would sell memberships actively at these parties. Greg would like to see the pre-registration rate stay the same, but drop the at-the-door to \$50. He would still be in favor of one day rates, but don't advertise them until after the last pre-registration date has passed. Saturday would be a little more than Friday or Sunday.

Scott feels that Minicon should have \$5000 seed money and make \$4500 beyond that to give back to the club. Anything beyond that would be greatly appreci-

ated. Sharon would like to see less spent on the World-con party. MnStf has a tentative commitment to do the dead dog party at the con in Boston. Sharon thinks we should only do a WorldCon party if it is the dead dog party (which is relatively inexpensive because the space is provided and all the other parties at worldcon donate their left over supplies meaning that Minicon would have to buy only a few things to fill in the gaps) and it needs to sell enough memberships to at least break even. It was suggested that there be a party czar to encourage other fan groups to have room parties. They could also sponsor some of the suites that we have as part of the consuite. Greg wants to be out actively getting new members. We should look to get college SF clubs involved. Joe mentioned that they should look at an auction for MN-Stf as is happening this year. Sharon is ready to award them the Ducky box.

Greg is concerned about being responsible for closing ceremonies at M39, and there is some history of the next con being a presence at closing ceremonies. Greg will talk to Dave Romm about doing something for the closing ceremonies.

Neil Belski arrived. He knows that his personality rubs some people the wrong way, but he feels that he has some interesting ideas to present. There have been few constants over the last several years. Minicon did not have to get this much smaller. He thinks that Easter is important because it is a point of consistency so does not want to give it up. He has done some exploration of hotels away from downtown. He was approached by the Holiday Inn who has a 24 hour shuttle to and from the Mall-o and the Airport. They would not charge for function space if we had 200 room nights. Marscon was there with a 700 person convention. They want another SF convention to book with them.

Neil would like to get bang for the buck without putting much buck in it. This would be putting back some stuff like a video program (but he has some concern on how to do it legally). He would like to get film schools to enter a film contest for a membership plus \$10 and try to get prizes donated or traded from local studios for free ads in the program book. It would be for SF, fantasy and horror and children's films. Neil would donate the use of his surround sound projector to save money. Lisa had a concern about having too many categories so that there were not enough films in each category.

He has emailed Chris Moore about the hypothetical guest invitation and was accepted in 15 minutes. Moore writes humorous stuff. As a person who might bring in new people he would invite George Chesborough. His stuff transcends mystery and would get new people in. Chris Moore also goes beyond SF. Neil says that he is close to a break out as a big writer. Neil admits he has been negative about Minicon in the past, but it should rise Phoenix-like and go back to being something bold and innovative. He thinks that a convention is the best toy that exists (paraphrasing Orson Wells). He has been talking to Margie and Ben Lessinger, Rick Gellman, and other people who have walked away in the past. He believes it could make good seed money for the next convention. Regarding enough restaurants, the con committee needs to do the work of getting together a restaurant guide and with the shuttle and light rail they have a lot of choices.

Lisa asked about whether Neil has the contacts with the film schools. Neil has a list and says that the small fee would ensure that we don't get just any dreadful film. Polly says that there is an independent film organization that has an email list where we could put out a request for proposals.

Neil also proposes that we heal rifts by having Don Bailey as fan guest of honor. He worked very hard for Minicon before he went away and it would be nice to invite him back.

Sharon suggests a combined convention. Neil is concerned that it would grow too much from having Prachett as the guest. There are a lot of people who have problems with Easter weekend. Chris Moore lives in Hawaii so would be expensive to bring the same year (but would not require Business class). Rates at Holiday Inn would be \$93. Neil looked at a couple of others (Four Points out by Hwy 280) but public transport is harder there. If we get more out of town people, then airport transportation is important.

They would be willing to give us a multiyear contract. The Board was clear that they did not want to give anyone a multiyear contract until we have tried out their space at least one year.

The board sent the two bidders away to consult.

Lisa asked did the con need a table for Chap book and t-shirt sales and the board did not know. If Terry would want to do a chap book they would certainly like to accommodate him, but the board does not feel that Minicon needs to do it.

The board will not micromanage the convention committee.

The board would like to have Greg chair the convention and have Neil work with him especially on the film contest. They endorse the principles they both had of reaching out to past members of Minicon and MN-stf.

Other meeting business:

The board will meet first Mondays and start at 7:30 pm. Polly would like to be really efficient so that she can leave by 9 pm. The next meeting will be May 3.

Scott will track people down at Minicon to get the account transferred to the new board. He suggests that we go away from requiring two signatures since the bank does not check whether or not there are two signatures. Scott proposes that we require only one signature. Currently the signers are Laura Jean, Richard, Larry and Kevin. The board suggests that it go to Irene (treasurer), Kevin (president), Dean (board member) and Richard

(easy to find).

Lisa is email impaired so wants to be sure that people realize that she needs to at a minimum get a call regarding any discussion that is important. Polly brought up again the issue of pornographic spam from the board bounce. Scott will talk to DDB about what options there are to filter it.

Someone needs to talk to David Schroth about being corresponding secretary. Sharon will talk to him.

Archives: Still need to get the stuff out of Kay's house. Marian Turner will have them but she needs to do some construction before she could take them. Sharon tried calling them about this. They may be able to move them in while we have the truck for schlepping stuff for Minicon.

Lisa said that Greg was concerned about people wanting 24 hour access to them but Scott and Dean assured her that this was in no way necessary.

So far there is no knowledge of a (Monday) dessicated dead dog party. Dean will be willing to host it if you don't give it a cutesy name.

20 Mar 2005

Present: Kevin Austin, Dean Gahlon, Carol Kennedy, Scott Raun

Agenda:

President: We are waiting for an answer from Peter Hentges, and will give him a deadline. (Addendum: Peter Hentges accepted the office of president.)

Recording Secretary: The board members will rotate the task among those of them who are willing. This means we don't need to synchronize an additional person's schedule with the board members'.

Meetings: Our first choice is the first Tuesday. We will try meeting at Carol's house, and see whether those with animal allergies have trouble there. (Addendum: Lisa Freitag prefers to meet on Thursday; the regular meeting time will be the first Thursday, 7:30 p.m.)

VPDP: Those board members who are technically savvy will meet with Seth Breidbart, then report back to the full board.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Kennedy

14 Apr 2005

Home of Carol Kennedy

Present: Kevin Austin, Lisa Freitag, Dean Gahlon, Carol Kennedy; Laurel Krahn

Gordon R. Dickson fund: We will wait to find out how much profit Minicon made before deciding on a Minn-Stf donation. We will check into the amounts of scholarships that are generally given.

2006 Minn-Stf Fallcon: Kevin Austin and Laurel Krahn would like to run one. At the moment, all they are asking for is permission for Minn-Stf sponsorship. Rick Gellman says that 2005 will be his last fallcon. Tentative date: Oct. 21–22, 2006. Tentative name: Convivial. Board approved.

Meetings: Laurel reports that she and Peter have started to mention in meeting announcements that contributions of refreshments are welcome at meetings. The meeting stipend that Minn-Stf gives hosts covers just some basic supplies. Many hosts provide more on their own, but this is not a requirement for hosting. Peter and Laurel are trying to organize a "kit" of items that travel from one meeting to the next: e.g., a sign for the door, blank badges. They are also collecting historical data for the Web site.

Locations: We need to think of locations for both Minicon and Minn-Stf meetings. Having an occasional meeting at a more public place rather than in a private home might draw some new people who aren't comfortable going to a private home for their first meeting.

Events: We will try to have more Minn-Stf events in addition to the regular meetings. All ideas are welcome.

Bookmarks: This would be a convenient handout with information about Minn-Stf.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Kennedy

Cinco de Mayo 2005

In attendance: Dean Gahlon, Carol Kennedy, Kevin Austin, Scott Raun, Lisa Freitag

Scott Raun took minutes.

We approved the minutes for the past two meetings.

Taxes: Irene needs to be contacting the accountant. I need to close out M38 & M39 — my fellow board members are encouraged to encourage me if I do not have some report by Memorial Day weekend.

Some group of Board members need to talk to Seth Breidbart about VP/DP.

Carol Kennedy will talk to Kay Drache about speaker to insurance.

Anyone done anything about a sign for the door for Minn-Stf Meetings. Kevin will ask Laurel about it. Ditto bookmarks, etc.

Greg wants to do an event with Harlan Ellison before Minicon next year. Harlan usually gets a speaker's fee, he would like to make some money for the trip to Minneapolis. Minn-Stf would be helping host the event, pre-paying the theatre rental and being reimbursed, Harlan gets the rest of it. None of us had significant objections.

7 July 2005

In Attendance: Dean Gahlon, Kevin Austin, Carol Kennedy, Scott Raun. Minutes by Scott Raun

Mia's Request re: Natter moderation: initially passed to Dean, upon discussion Carol will write a letter & pass around. Geri's checks: deposit slip filled out, will

deposit Mon or Fri. Minicon Finances: 2003, 2004, not great, making progress. 2005: rumor has it making a profit. Taxes: bug Irene. VPDP: Kevin will arrange meeting with Seth and Kevin/Dean/Scott. Bookmarks: Laurel will e-mail artwork to anyone interested. Alternative is business cards from Vista Print. Carol will lay out business card/bookmark, get DD-B to set up info@mnstf.org pointing to Corresponding Secretary (currently Carol). Meeting Kit: no progress. Everyone with a to-do will try to accomplish by 1st Thursday in August. Skip August Board Meeting. Next Board Meeting 8 September.

6 Oct 2005

Present: Kevin G. Austin, Lisa Freitag, Dean Gahlon, Carol Kennedy, Scott Raun

OLD BUSINESS

Taxes: The MnStf copy of Quicken has been found and the Treasurer has loaded the data files.

Scott will bug Irene (Treasurer) twice a week to get in contact with our accountant so the taxes can be filed.

Minicon Finances: Books are closed on Minicon 40 (2005) and the Chairman is ready to mail a check to the MnStf PO Box for the amount of the profit. The Correspondence Secretary will then deliver it to the Treasurer who will then determine where it needs to be deposited.

The profit amount for Minicon 38 has been deposited with MnStf, but the amounts that the accountant will need to file the taxes have not yet been entered into Quicken.

The books have not yet been closed on Minicon 39 (2004) and the amounts have not yet been entered into Quicken.

Irene will bug Scott twice a week to finish out the Minicon data entry.

Letter to Mia: Carol presented copies of the letter she intends to send to Mia about the complaint Mia had relating to the natter email list. The board approved the letter.

Geri's Checks: Have been deposited.

Bookmarks: Carol has requested graphics from Laurel, but she did it when Laurel was in the middle of planning her wedding. Kevin will ask Laurel again to get copies of the graphics to Carol.

Meeting Kit: Nothing has been done on this. Kevin will bug Laurel about it again.

Speaker to Insurance: Carol had written a note to herself about this, but the note was too terse so she couldn't remember what it was that she was supposed to do. Carol has been reminded and will get in contact with Kay Drache to see if she wants to continue with being Speaker to Insurance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Duckie Box: The location of the large duckie box has been determined!

Minicon 42: Greg does not want to chair Minicon 42 but is willing to mentor someone during this year to prepare them to take over next year. We should solicit *now* for someone to run Minicon 42. Carol will post announcements to natter, Events and Live Journal and an announcement will be put in the next Einblatt.

Next Board Meeting: November 10th, shifted due to World Fantasy Con

3 Dec 2005

Present: Kevin G. Austin, Lisa Freitag, Dean Gahlon, Carol Kennedy, Scott Raun, Laurel Krahn

OLD BUSINESS:

Taxes: Not yet done. Scott will bug Irene more.

Minicon Finances: Not finished. Irene will bug Scott more.

Bookmark graphics: Laurel will get graphics to Carol this week.

Meeting kit: Laurel and Peter are emailing each other about this.

Speaker to Insurance: Carol talked to Kay and she said yes she would be Speaker to Insurance. We need to shop for new insurance and Carol will ask Kay to do this. Lisa will talk to her agent about possibly covering us.

Minicon 42: Carol will let it be known in various electronic forums that we're looking for a chair for Minicon 42.

NEW BUSINESS:

Convivial: Needs a bank account. Laurel and Kevin will call Irene and schedule a time to start a new account.

VPDP/OTML: No progress reported. Dean will nudge Seth to find out if he's made any progress.

Pool Party: Greg will talk to the Sheraton about having a pool party. Carol and Laurel might host.

PO Box: Has just been paid for.

Next Board Meeting: January 5, 2006 (Lisa's Birthday)

9 Feb 2006

Home of Carol Kennedy

Present: Board members Kevin Austin, Dean Gahlon, Carol Kennedy, Scott Raun; Mark Richards

Mark Richards presented his proposal for chairing Minicon 42 in 2007. He has a proposed budget and enough people to form a working concom. The board has accepted his proposal.

Regarding Minicon finances: The thing about 39 is, it isn't done yet. The thing about 40 is, it isn't done yet. The thing about 41 is, it hasn't happened yet.

The accountant says that under a certain gross income, we don't have to file a return. We need to look at gross income for the past several years.

Electronic membership directory: In the past there have been some complaints about the existence of an

electronic directory. But there are members who prefer the electronic version to the paper version. Much discussion about various options for controlling who has the electronic directory.

Scott will generate labels from the current directory and the Einblatt mailing list. Carol will design a form to send; only those who respond will be in the new directory. People can be listed in only the paper directory or in both paper and electronic.

We still need to talk to Seth (Dean to do).
We still need to talk to Kay (Carol to do).
The next board meeting will be March 2 at Carol's.

16 Mar 2007

Location: Dream Park (Sharon's house). Attending: Dean Gahlon, Sharon Kahn, Laurel Krahn, Rachel Kronick. Phoning in: Lisa Freitag. Minutes by: Sharon Kahn.

AGENDA: This was the first meeting of the new board, elected on March 10, 2007. All members are the same as the previous board except that Carol Kennedy (who chose not to run for reelection) has been replaced by Sharon.

- The Storage Locker Crisis
- Insurance
- Appointing new Officers of the Club
- Minicon 43
- Misc discussion

OLD BUSINESS:
The Storage Locker crisis. This was pretty well wrapped up before Sharon came on the scene, to her great relief, so this bit of business was basically a recap. It seems that the facility that hosts the venerable Minicon Storage Locker changed management sometime during the past year and there was some confusion over whether Minnstf ever got billed (we had been paying yearly).

In any case, we fell into arrears, the landlords changed the locks and were preparing to auction off the contents of the locker to pay our bill when the situation came to our attention. Frankly, your humble scribe has a hard time imagining that the contents of the locker would bring enough at auction to pay for the expense of running the auction, but it would inconvenience us mightily to lose all those coffee makers, styrofoam cups, and bottles of grenadine. In any case, with the timely help of Bill Christ and the efforts of the previous board, the locker was paid off and Carol Kennedy has volunteered to be the contact. Bill has provided a new combination lock for the locker itself.

INSURANCE: Lisa is taking on the role of Speaker to Insurance. Since she couldn't be present at the meeting, we didn't spend a lot of time on this topic. Insurance bill is due April 7.

NEW BUSINESS: Officers of the Club: Positions Filled

- Treasurer and Correspondence Secretary: Carol Kennedy
- Membership Secretary: Laura Krentz
- Recording Secretary: Sharon Kahn/Kevin Austin
- Secretary of Internet Affairs: Laurel Krahn

Other positions are still under discussion. We must have a new president by Minicon. Other positions, such as VPDP, are not as urgent.

Minicon 43: The Board was delighted to receive a written bid from Keith Malgren and Matt Strait to chair Minicon 43 (2008). This bid was unanimously approved.

Misc Discussion: Where will we meet and when? The consensus was to meet one Friday a month at Dream Park at 7:30, subject to scheduling issues. The next meeting will be Friday, April 27, at 7:30. Note that we have no plans to meet again before Minicon 42 unless an urgent need arises.

How will we communicate? There was some discussion of the Board-Chat list vs. the Board mailbounce and a little brainstorming on other creative uses of the Internet. We agreed to post Board minutes to Minnstf-events.

Minnstf voting membership. Lisa had raised the issue of possibly broadening the definition of the 7 meetings that must be attended to qualify for voting membership. Since she wasn't present, the topic was mostly deferred. It was suggested that some of the people working on Minicon may not realize that open Minicon meetings count toward voting membership. We need to make sure that next year's chairs are aware of this and that they let their concom know.

27 Apr 2007

Location: Dream Park (Sharon's house) Attending: Dean Gahlon, Sharon Kahn, Laurel Krahn, Rachel Kronick, Lisa Freitag, Kevin Austin Minutes by: Sharon Kahn

- AGENDA:
- Insurance
 - Appointing new Officers of the Club
 - Minicon 43
 - Misc discussion

OLD BUSINESS Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting. Minutes had actually been approved earlier via email, but our fledgling process hadn't quite closed the loop necessary to getting the minutes published. We officially approved the minutes, and decided to try the following process for next time: Sharon will send out draft minutes to the Board Mailing List shortly after each meeting. Every Board member must respond with either corrections/amendments or a "looks fine to me." If there are corrections, Sharon will make them and send the draft out again. At this point, it would be nice if everybody responded again, but probably all we really need is an ok from whoever suggested the

amendment. At this point, Kevin will publish the minutes to the Minnstf members at large. Minutes will be posted to the Minn-Stf website in the records section, and email with the URL to the minutes will be posted to one or both of the Minnstf mailing lists.

INSURANCE: Lisa has paid the insurance company, Sunrise Park Insurance, \$696. She will keep the insurance policy at her house, and will submit some kind of proof of payment to Carol for reimbursement. The Board has approved the reimbursement.

NEW BUSINESS: Officers of the Club: After some discussion, it was determined that the only other position we need to fill at this point is Vice President. That position is still under discussion. If somebody volunteers to do something about the Minnstf/Minicon mailing lists/database we can always appoint a VPDP (Vice President of Data Processing).

Minicon 43: It was noted as a point of information that the Minicon 43 Exec has already scheduled a meeting for April 28, 2007, that will serve as both the post-mortem for Minicon 42 and kickoff meeting for Minicon 43.

Treasury Business:

1. The Board approved the following club expenses, and directs the Treasurer to write checks accordingly:
 - A contribution of \$50 to the Muscular Dystrophy Association in memorial for long-time Minnstf member Doug Friauf. The check should be sent directly to the MDA.
 - A contribution of \$100 to the Gordon Dickson Scholarship Fund: Contact info can be found at sfan.org/gdmf
 - Reimbursement to Lisa Freitag for insurance payment. Lisa will contact Carol and provide proof of payment.

2. The Board wonders if a set of official signers has been established for the new Minnstf bank account. We can provide suggestions for signers if necessary.

Next Meeting: Date tentatively set for Friday, June 1, subject to confirmation from the members that have to check their appointment books. Later note: June 1 didn't work out; we are trying to reschedule. Tentative Agenda: Review of Minnstf financial status, discussion of Minnstf archives and Minicon storage locker.

13 July 2007

Location: Dream Park (Sharon's house, out back on the patio) Attending: Dean Gahlon, Sharon Kahn, Rachel Kronick, Lisa Freitag, Matt Strait (Minicon 43 co-chair). Minutes by: Sharon Kahn.

- AGENDA:
- Appointing new Officers of the Club
 - Minnstf and Minicon bank accounts

OLD BUSINESS: Officers of the Club: All we really need at this point is a VP, but we never finalized this discussion. We still don't have a VP.

MINICON 43 — Bank Accounts

The problem to be addressed: despite heroic efforts to do so, the current Minicon chairs have been unable to get access to the Minicon 43 bank account. Matt Strait attended the meeting to discuss this.

Background: Minicon maintains two parallel bank accounts, one for even years and one for odd years. This is because it takes so long to close out the accounts for one year that the account cannot be transitioned directly to the following year. Even with the one-year gap, the transition is logistically complicated. Banks tend to be confused by the concept of constantly changing signatories and keep changing their requirements. We as a club also have a little trouble just getting the right subset of people together to transition the paperwork. Apparently nobody has ever written down the process.

Matt joined the Board for a discussion of how to expedite the process. We made several phone calls, and hopefully set things in motion on several fronts.

LATER NOTE: everybody followed up on their assigned tasks, the account was transitioned successfully, and the outstanding checks for Minicon 43 memberships were deposited. Details in the next minutes.

Next Meeting: Date tentatively set for Friday, August 17, subject to later confirmation by email.

LATER NOTE: this date didn't work out. Despite some desultory discussion about the date among various Board members, a firm date was never confirmed via email (currently our only procedure for establishing a meeting date). We finally managed to get together in September. Continued on next rock.

Tentative Agenda: Review of Minnstf financial status, discussion of Minnstf archives and Minicon storage locker. Officers of the Club.

28 Sept 2007

Location: Dream Park (Sharon's house, out back on the patio). Attending: Dean Gahlon, Sharon Kahn, Rachel Kronick, Lisa Freitag. Attending by phone: Carol Kennedy, Seth Breidbart. Minutes by: Sharon Kahn — written up October 26, 2007 from notes taken at meeting.

- AGENDA:
- Minnstf checking and savings: lots of issues
 - Minnstf Board Wiki: a modest proposal
- OLD BUSINESS: Minnstf Bank Accounts. Background: Minnstf currently has two bank accounts at U.S. Bank, one checking and one savings. Here's the problems we're having:
- The bank no longer sends out paper statements for these accounts because a previous treasurer asked them to switch to online statements only. Nobody knows the PIN for the online accounts or even the account numbers.

- The current Minnstf Treasurer (Carol Kennedy) is not on the list of Official Signers, and the bank will not give us a clear and consistent answer on what we have to do to add a signer.
- We are actually kind of fed up with this bank and are considering switching the accounts to Highland Bank (where the Minicon accounts reside). However, until we can find out how much money is in the account, we can't write a check to start a new bank account.
- We only have 4 checks left. So we have to get this done ASAP and start over with new checks at a new bank or order more checks for this account. Solution: One of the current Official Signers needs to write a letter to the bank asking them to resume paper statements. The Official Signers are: Kevin Austin, Richard Tatge, Dean Gahlon and Irene Raun. Kevin has volunteered to write the letter to the bank. Once we get a statement we will decide what to do next.

- NEW BUSINESS: More financial issues:
- Carol has been paying the monthly bill for the storage locker on her credit card. Once we get the bank accounts straightened out and some new checks she can pay herself back.
 - The accounts for Minicon 42 have not been closed yet. Mark Richards is working on it.
 - In addition to the 4 bank accounts, Minnstf has some CDs in an American Express account. We are not sure if Carol has the information for this account or not.
 - Scott Raun renewed our non-profit status for 2007 with the State of Minnesota on September 19, 2007. Lisa Freitag will file a copy of the form with the insurance papers.

A modest proposal: We seem to have an awfully hard time, as a club, remembering what we are doing. This is particularly disturbing when we lose track of important financial matters (as discussed above). We need some mechanism for documenting our important club data as well as general procedures, such as how the rotating Minicon accounts work. Rachel suggests a Board Wiki on the Minnstf website, with access restricted to board members and officers or the club. Someone commented that there is already an open Wiki on the website, but for the purposes we are talking about we would need something more secure.

Brainstorming followed. Some of the information we would like to track: banks and account numbers, storage locker information (including name of company, locker combination, payment procedures), insurance information, a calendar of recurring payments that need to be made and paperwork that needs to be filed.

Next Meeting: We set up a tentative date of October 26 for the next meeting, but since I didn't get around to sending out minutes in a timely fashion, this wasn't communicated to anyone that wasn't there.

26 Oct 2007

Location: Dream Park. Attending: Dean Gahlon, Sharon Kahn, Rachel Kronick, Lisa Freitag. Attending by phone: Carol Kennedy. Minutes by: Sharon Kahn.

- AGENDA:
- Talk to Treasurer (Carol) and get status on Minnstf accounts
 - Next year's Convivial Bid
 - Club Officers
 - New procedure for scheduling Board Meetings
 - Minnstf Board Wiki: continue the discussion
 - Approve last month's minutes

OLD BUSINESS:
Status on Minnstf Bank Accounts: We called Carol for an update. Kevin has sent the letter to U.S. Bank requesting the resumption of paper statements. No statements have appeared yet, but Carol thinks it hasn't been long enough to assume the worst. Carol still isn't an Official Signer, but isn't too concerned about that since it's not hard to get hold of a signer when she needs one. The biggest problem is that we are essentially out of checks and people need to be paid for things. After some discussion, we decided to just order new checks for U.S. Bank and try to get the other issues worked out with them. If we're still unhappy in a few months we can continue with the plan to establish new accounts at Highland.

There was some discussion of how much seed money is supposed to be left in the Minicon bank accounts for the next convention, and it became clear that nobody really knew what the policy is. Board tabled the matter for now, but agreed to discuss it later as part of writing up the procedure on the Minicon Rotating Dual Bank Accounts (which is one of the first procedures we need to write up for the proposed Board-Wiki page).

Minicon Money: Carol still doesn't know the balance in the bank account, but has established from Irene's records that the profit from Minicon 41 has been deposited. It was about \$8,000. Mark should be finishing up the accounts for Minicon 42, and writing Minnstf a check for the profits. Carol reminded to him last weekend at Convivial, and would like the Board to do the same. We gave Mark a call, and he promised to accelerate the process of finishing the books. He estimates that there will be a profit of \$4,000 to \$5,000. We're not sure if that includes the seed money that he left in the even-year account or not.

Next Year's Convivial Bid: Laurel has expressed an interest in running Convivial (a small fall convention) again next year, and has asked the Board for approval. The Board is friendly toward the idea, but would like a little more financial information on this year's con and a budget for next year. Did Convivial 2 break even? Are there outstanding expenses that have not been covered yet? Traditionally, the Minnstf fall convention has not

been expected to be a money raiser, but should aim to break even.

Club Officers: Looking through the year’s minutes, the Board realizes that it never officially announced a slate of club officers, although we actually did name some. In the spirit of better late than never, here they are. We never did settle on a Vice President. Lydy has been doing such a flawless job as Pres that the need for a VP hasn’t seemed urgent. We really should do something about it, though. We decided to ask Lydy for suggestions.

- President for Life: Lydia Nickerson
- Treasurer and Correspondence Secretary: Carol Kennedy
- Membership Secretary: Laura Krentz
- Recording Secretary: Sharon Kahn (who takes the minutes) and Kevin Austin (who publishes them)
- Secretary for Internet Affairs: Laurel Krahn
- Webmaster: Kevin Austin and Laurel Krahn
- Einblatt Editor and Speaker to the State of Minnesota: Scott Raun
- Speaker to Insurance: Lisa Freitag
- Executive Vice President: Steve Brust

Minnstf Wiki: More discussion of the Board Wiki idea. Ideally, we would like two Wikis: an open one and a private one for more sensitive information. Or perhaps one Wiki with restricted access on certain pages. Rachel knows how to set up privileges on a single Wiki per website, but is unsure how to create two Wikis on the same site with different privileges. She also suggested that we come up with a procedure to back up the Wiki database on a regular basis: perhaps once a month to DVD. Dean volunteered to talk with Laurel about Wiki options.

NEW BUSINESS:

Club Correspondence: Dean reports that Minnstf has received a communication from the Association of Portuguese Exorcists inviting us to join their organization. We are unsure what to make of this. Dean does own a Portuguese dictionary, but that hardly seems like sufficient qualification. Except to Rachel, who thinks it is more than enough.

Approve Last Month’s Minutes: Ye old Recording Secretary had fallen a bit behind. The last Minutes sent out for review were for the July meeting. The July minutes were reviewed and accepted with some minor rewording. Then we all reviewed my written notes from the September meeting and collectively filled in a few gaps. I have sent both sets of minutes out to the Board mailing list for final review. And I’m doing these minutes right after the meeting while events are fresh in my mind. Improved procedure for scheduling Board meetings Rachel suggested the following. Even if everybody doesn’t have their calendars with, we come up with a date for the next meeting and post it to the board-chat mailing list before we adjourn. If the date needs to be adjusted later, we can handle it in email. Everybody is asked to respond (yes, no or maybe) to proposed meeting times.

Next Meeting: Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Friday, November 30, at 7pm. The location will be the usual, Dream Park (Sharon’s house). Proposed agenda:

- How much seed money should be left in the Minicon bank accounts when they transition to the next concom?
- We still need a VP!

15 Dec 2007

Note: the scheduled Nov 30 meeting didn’t happen, so the last meeting before this one was Oct 26.

Location: Scott and Irene’s house. Attending Board Members: Dean Gahlon, Sharon Kahn, Rachel Kronick, Lisa Freitag. Also Attending: Carol Kennedy, Matt and Kelly Strait, Irene and Scott Raun. Minutes by: Sharon Kahn.

AGENDA:

- Talk to Treasurer (Carol) and get status on Minnstf accounts
- Determine whether accounts from Minicon 38 and 39 were ever closed, money transferred
- Determine status of Minnstf taxes
- Pool party
- Schedule voting meetings
- Minnstf Board Wiki: continue the discussion
- What to do with unwanted stuff in Minicon Storage Locker

OLD BUSINESS:

Status on Minnstf Bank Accounts: Carol Kennedy (Treasurer); Kevin sent a letter to U.S. Bank in October requesting the resumption of paper statements. STILL no statements. Carol does have checks now. Lisa, who also banks at a USBank branch, offered to try to get the bank to send us statements when she goes to the bank tomorrow.

Minicon Money: Carol reports that Mark Richards, chair of last year’s Minicon 42, gave her a check for \$3,000 at the last Minnstf meeting. Presumably this is all or part of the profit from Minicon 42, but they didn’t have time to discuss it in detail. We need to find out whether the books are now closed on Minicon 42, whether there is any money left in that account, how much money we took in and how much profit we made. We’d also like a final registration number. This discussion reminded us that we never got the above information from Greg re Minicon 41, although we did get a fat profit check from him. Irene, who was treasurer in 2002, confirms that Larry and Laura Jean did indeed turn over all the money left in their Minicon accounts at Franklin Bank to the Minnstf treasury. Furthermore, at least two of the three bank accounts at Franklin Bank were closed, and if the third one is still

open it doesn’t have any money in it. There was some discussion over whether there is any need for Minicon seed money. Matt, who is currently co-chairing Minicon, said there is no need. In that case, there is no pressing reason to keep perpetual Minicon accounts. This requires changing signers every couple of years, which always confuses the bank. It was suggested that Minicon chairs should just open an account for their cons and close the account when they close the books. No decision was actually reached on this topic.

Minnstf taxes: Irene believes that the last time Minnstf filed taxes was after Minicon 39, which would have been about 2004, when Larry was both Treasurer and Minicon chair. This is much better than it sounds, however. It turns out, according to Irene and Scott, that the IRS does not require us to file taxes unless we both owe money (we never do, being a non-profit), AND have a gross income in excess of \$25,000. Typically, that number would be reached for a convention of 500–600. So it is likely that we have not hit that limit in the last 5 years.

Random Financial Facts:

- Current Minnstf checking account is at US Bank in St. Paul.
- Current Minicon bank accounts are at Highland bank. The only one we really need is the checking account. We also have a savings account that was only there for use with Paypal, but we now have Paypal associated with the checking account.
- We are not particularly happy with either bank.
- The Minnstf account is/was Judy Gallas.

Minnstf Wiki: No progress has been made. Rachel reminded us that Laurel and Kevin have already set up a Minnstf wiki at wiki.mnstf.org and are waiting for somebody to actually use it for something before they do any more with it (like setting up private areas). Rachel and Sharon got all fired up and vowed to open accounts on the Wiki immediately and try posting something. One suggestion was to start with a list of recent Minicon numbers, dates and chairs so we wouldn’t have to keep counting backwards on our fingers every time we have a Board meeting. Sharon wishes to note that she came home that very day and created herself an account on the Wiki. It’s easy, folks! Just follow the bouncing ball.

NEW BUSINESS:

Schedule Nomination and Voting Meetings for Board Elections

- Jan 19: 1st nomination meeting (Marian Turner’s house)
- Feb 9: 2nd nomination meeting (location TBD)
- Feb 23: Voting meeting (tentatively at Dream Park)
- Mar 22: Minicon [provided as a reference point — Board elections must precede Minicon]

New Year’s Eve Party: Sharon and Richard will take this one, at Dream Park.

Pool Party: Traditionally this is a special Minnstf meeting held in a poolside suite at the hotel formerly known as The Radisson South (now some kind of Sheraton). Keith, as hotel liaison for Minicon 43, is pursuing this with the hotel. The new management is no longer willing to comp us the room for this extravaganza, but they admit that business is slow on winter weekends and they have offered us \$100 off the usual room rate of \$289. The Board confirmed that we are willing to pay for the room, but encourages Keith to try for an even better deal.

Minicon Storage Locker: Matt suggests getting rid of the following rather bulky items, none of which have been used for quite a while:

- 1 40-cup coffee maker
- 7 HEPA air-cleaners
- 1 folding wheelchair
- 3 rather large, rather old cash registers

After some discussion, it was decided to keep one cash register, the coffee maker, and however many air cleaners Lydy thinks she needs for Fourth Street Fantasy (we’re guessing 2–4). Fourth Street is not a sponsored Minnstf event, but we will lend the air cleaners to them.

Next Meeting: Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Jan 19, 2008, 1pm, at the site of the Minnstf meeting (believed to be Marian Turner’s house). We have to confirm with Marian that it is okay for us to show up early.

23 Feb 2008

Matt Strait and Keith Malgren confirmed as Minicon 44 chairs. Carol will continue as treasurer and PO box checker. Scott will continue to do the Einblatt. Lydy will continue to be president. We have no vice president as yet. Laura will continue as membership secretary. Kim Huett will continue as botanist. Steven Brust will continue as executive vice president. We have no vice president of data procesing as yet.

15 March 2008

Linda Lounsbury is vice president.

Discussed vice president of data processing; no decision made.

Sharon Kahn will be recording secretary.

Jeff Schalles will continue as Rune editor.

Laurel will continue as webmaster. She is considering moving our hosting to something in mnstf’s name rather than having us continue to use her account. This will increase our cost from free to around \$20/month. The board felt this was reasonable.

We will owe ~\$650 to insurance. Lisa is on it. She will continue being Speaker to Insurance.

We think we have something like \$30k in staggered certificates of deposit, but there is great uncertainty in exact amount, location, and where the statements are going. Carol doesn’t remember getting statements about CDs. Irene should have contact info for AmEx where the CDs are believed to be. Dean, Scott and Kevin are pursuing.

Kevin will let Carol know that we’d like her to file our ePostcard with the IRS. [This has been done.]

Matt is authorized to have a PO box key so he can act as a backup to Carol for Minicon stuff. The board, however, wants to know a price before approving a purchase. [Carol later appeared with two keys, one of which she had recently found, so Matt took one. Carol guessed that the price for a replacement key would be ~\$5.]

The board approved Laurel to run Convivial 3 this fall.

The board approved Bill’s proposed picnic spot. Cost is ~\$100.

The board requested that the Minicon 44 chairs set up the pool party while negotiating next year’s Minicon contract. We should let the hotel set the date for when they aren’t doing anything else and can cut us a deal. Minicon chairs are authorized to spend \$200 on the room; ask the board first if the amount is larger. Try to avoid Supercon (Jan 23–25; NOT on Superbowl weekend), but not at all costs.

Progress is being made on the minnstf directory.

Kevin made MnStf flyers. We like them. Minor suggestions were made.

Kevin made Minn-Stf business cards. We like them. Minor suggestions were made.

We will try to actually use <info at mnstf dot org>, which currently points at Carol, but is as yet unadvertised.

Kevin will discuss Gordon Dickson donations to Carol. We meant to donate last spring, but it’s unclear whether it ever happened.

The board will ruminate on how much Minicon 44 should try to make. The club needs \$3–5k profit from Minicon to break even. However, it may be worth it to take a loss (i.e. a smaller Minicon profit) in order to drive up future Minicon membership.

The next board meeting is at 2:30 pm on April 19th at Carol Kennedy’s (during her MNstf meeting).

19 Apr 2008

Kevin went to US Bank. Our statements will now go to our PO box. We got copies of the last 6 months of statements. We currently have \$3000+ in checking.

We now know for sure that we have CDs at Ameriprise Financial (formerly known as American Express). Irene continues to pursue this. [After the meeting Irene made progress: Our statements will now be going to the right place and we have a contact name (Charles Polksnik), phone number, and “group number” and we know the amounts in our accounts.]

Matt reports that Minicon 43 roughly broke even and that the books are not yet closed. We started with \$1309 in the bank from Minicon 41, then \$1000 was deposited, but Matt’s not sure what that was, then later we got \$2000 in seed money from mnstf. We’re not counting the \$2000 as a credit when we say “broke even”; not sure about that \$1000. Seth and Keith are working on the books and Matt hopes to give a final report with everything ironed out next month.

The storage locker guys have been screwing us around. Let’s look around for another place. Our requirements are that it be as climate controlled as this one (probably doesn’t freeze and probably stays below 100F), that it be accessible by bus and that it preferably be between where most of us live and the Sheraton. Currently we are paying \$156/month, including tax.

Kevin reports that data entry is finished on the paper copy of the mnstf directory. Carol will show it around at meetings since the data is now three years old. An electronic directory will be generated soon.

Carol knows about the IRS e-postcard that we’re supposed to file.

Lisa reports that insurance has been paid. We need to learn what this covers and if we really need it. It used to be the case that the Minicon hotel required proof of insurance, but they didn’t ask this year. Lisa will bring the policy to the next meeting for us to read.

The copy printer will probably continue to have space at Dreamhaven.

Doug Friauf’s memorial website has been paid for by some unknowwn entity, so we don’t have to worry about it.

We’d like our Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN, often called an EIN for Employer Identification Number) so that, for instance, the Minicon bank account doesn’t have to be in one of our personal social security numbers. (At TCF, this means that they will fund debt from Minicon using a personal checking account opened with the same number. Bad!) Carol says that we do have one, and she could recall a few digits, but didn’t know where to find the rest. Matt said he’d look into trying to get this information out of the IRS. [After the meeting, Keith, without prompting — except he’s the person with his social security number on the Minicon 44 account right now — procured a new TIN/EIN for Minicon. It is not clear whether there is any possibility of a conflict between this number and other numbers that we have had, but he suspects that this situation comes up a lot and should be not a big deal. He will communicate the number to us in a secure fashion (not e-mail) soon.]

Set the next board meeting to be 3pm on May 17 at David and Erin’s mnstf meeting.

17 May 2008

Location: Home of David Wilford/Erin McKee Board members Attending: Matt Strait, Scott Raun, Dean Gahlon, Kevin Austin Board members not present: Lisa Freitag Others attending: Sharon Kahn (recording secretary)

- AGENDA
- Minnstf accounts, Minicon 43, Minnstf taxes, Insurance, copy printer, pool party, storage locker
 - Short answers:
 - Insurance: tabled because Lisa is not present
 - Pool Party: tabled because Keith is not present (“answer hazy, try again later”)
 - Mnstf taxes: all we have to do this year is file a very short form confirming that we exist and that we took in less than \$25,000 gross income in the past year. We think that Carol Kennedy (treasurer) has filed this form.
 - Minnstf domain is about to expire (July 31, 2008). Dean will check with DDB.
 - Copy printer: DreamHaven expects to have enough room to continue to house the copy printer after they move to a new storefront this summer. However, Jeff Schalles is getting tired of maintaining the thing and is looking for somebody else to take over this task. It is still having a printing problem (dark smudge down the middle of the second side). We presumably have a service contract, but not a 24x7 one. Somebody needs to call the service during office hours and nobody thinks it’s their job to do so. Jason Burnett has reportedly shown interest in learning to maintain the thing, but we’re not sure of details.

Minnstf long term investments: We have located the Ameriprise rep in charge of the Minnstf accounts, Charles Pokladnik, and have figured out why nobody has seen a statement from this account in so long. The statements were going to the OLD Minnstf PO Box, which has been closed. We consolidated the Minnstf and Minicon PO boxes to a single one and never notified Ameriprise. Ameriprise has now been notified and is supposed to be sending statements to the correct PO box.

Minicon 43 books: The total registration was 430, warm bodies 390. The number of unclaimed memberships (40) was about 4 times higher than usual, probably because of bad weather. We didn’t have the detailed info at this meeting, but Matt reports that Minicon 43 seems to have lost about \$1,000. It would have been even worse if Keith hadn’t managed to talk the hotel management into forgiving a shortfall in our room block which really did seem to be caused by the snowstorm. We would have made our block easily if it hadn’t been for the high number of no-shows.

Storage Locker: Consensus: we hate the new management of our storage locker facility, but it’s not in crisis at the moment and nobody has the energy to look for a better option. They are now insisting that we pay month to month instead of yearly, but can’t seem to send us a monthly invoice. This is particularly annoying when they raise their rates and don’t tell us, then complain that we are in arrears. In other news, Matt has continued to work on cleaning the unused detritus out of the locker. He has gotten rid of the old rickety folding wheelchair, one of the three cash registers and one air filter.

- Agenda for next time:
- Insurance: need Lisa
 - Pool Party: need Keith
 - Finances: need Carol. Has tax form been filed? Do we need to cash in a CD to cover club operating expenses for the next year? Have checks been written to the Gordon Dickson Memorial Scholarship Fund and to the MD Association (in memoriam for Doug Friauf)? Are Ameriprise statements arriving now? Bank statements?
 - Copy printer: still needs maintenance. And who is Jason? Is somebody going to contact him?
 - Minnstf domain name: did the registration get renewed? If not, when does it expire?

Next Meeting: will be June 28, at 3pm at the Minnstf meeting at Marian Turner’s home.

28 June 2008

Location: Home of Marian Turner, right before the Minnstf meeting. Board members Attending: Matt Strait, Scott Raun, Dean Gahlon, Kevin Austin. Board members not present: Lisa Freitag. Others attending: Sharon Kahn (recording secretary), Sybil Smith for part of meeting.

- AGENDA:
- Minnstf domains, Minicon 43
 - Short answers
 - Scott will take care of renewing the domains.
 - Minicon 43 books will be closed when a couple of final details are taken care of.

Matt and Keith have done an analysis on why we lost money (about \$1,000) and have a plan to correct the shortfall next year.

Minnstf and Minicon domains, website: The two web domains that the club is actively using are about to expire.

- minicon.org, expires July 13th
- mnstf.org, expires July 31st

Much discussion over how long to renew these domains for. The longest allowable registration is 10 years. Advantage: we don’t have to remember to renew every year, less risk of domain squatter grabbing the domain. Disadvantage: if we don’t have to do it every year we might forget how and when to do it. Compromise: renew both domains for two years. Board agreed to continue using gandi.com as registrar. Charge is

very low: about \$12/year. Scott took the action to renew both domains.

We also have at least one alternate version of our main domain (mnstf.net, currently registered to Laurel Krahn, our webmaster). There was discussion about whether we should grab any of the other alternate forms such as mnstf.biz. Board agreed to keep mnstf.net and to transfer it from Laurel’s name to the Minnstf name.

Laurel would like to establish an official Minnstf account at Dreamhost, where mnstf.org is being hosted. Currently the Minnstf site is on Laurel’s account. The Board voted to authorize Laurel to do this. I don’t know if anybody remembered to tell her or not.

Minicon 43 books

Matt brought a pie chart showing breakdown of Minicon expenses and discussed areas where we could plan reductions in expenses next year. The largest piece of the pie (\$7K, 35–40%) is “con suite expenses.” While we have no plans to reduce the amount spent on refreshments, we can get significant reduction in this area by renting less hotel space. We don’t really need the end rooms, and could clear out of Room 215 on Sunday evening. We can also look for reductions in the area of Pubs (\$3.6K) and in the film room (public domain movies only).

Minicon books can be closed once we get the reimbursement from Shauna for an unused airfare and get the \$50 from Worldcon for a program book ad.

Agenda for next time:

- Insurance: need Lisa
- Pool Party: need Keith
- Finances: need Carol. Has tax form been filed? Do we need to cash in a CD to cover club operating expenses for the next year? Have checks been written to the Gordon Dickson Memorial Scholarship Fund and to the MD Association (in memoriam for Doug Friauf)? Are Ameriprise statements arriving now? Bank statements?
- Copy printer: still needs maintenance.

Next meeting will be July 19, at 2pm at the Minnstf meeting/picnic at Minnehaha Falls.

19 July 2008

“This is a board meeting, not a sing-along.” — Kevin Austin, Board Member

Location: Minnstf Meeting/Picnic, Minnehaha Falls Park, Picnic Area #2. Board members Attending: Matt Strait, Scott Raun, Dean Gahlon, Kevin Austin, Lisa Freitag. Others attending: Sharon Kahn (recording secretary), Carol Kennedy (by phone), Mark Richards.

Short subjects and follow-ups from last month:

- Board approved the minutes from last month.
- Scott has renewed the Minnstf domains with Gandi.com for 2 years @\$15/year. Kevin informed Laurel that she could open a new account with Dreamhost for Mnstf (she’s been using her own account to host the Minnstf websites). Laurel reports that we can get the new account for free because we are a non-profit, but she needs a copy of the IRS determination letter to prove our status as a 501(c)3.
- Scott filed our Minnesota Corporate Status Form, establishing our credentials as a non-profit for another year. It should be noted that the state sends the form directly to Scott, not to Minnstf, because they refuse to send it to a P.O. Box.
- Pool party: Matt has emailed Keith a list of possible dates but has not heard back from him. Will see him tonight and remind him.

Finances. Carol called in to the meeting and answered our questions:

- Has tax form been filed? yes
- Have checks been written to the Gordy Dickson Fund and to the MDS? yes
- When was the last time we made a payment for maintenance contract on the copy printer? 2006. Which means we no longer have a maintenance contract.
- Do we need to cash in a CD to cover club operating expenses for the next year? No, if we can get at the money in existing accounts (details below).
- Are Ameriprise statements arriving now? Yes. We have about \$35k at Ameriprise, \$5600 of it in cash.
- Bank statements from our active checking account at U.S. Bank? No, despite their assurance to Kevin that we would start getting statements at the Minnstf PO Box in May, Kevin will contact them again.
- Other bank accounts: although we have been unable to get US Bank to send us statements for the account we most care about, they continue to send us statements for two other Minnstf accounts that we had more or less forgotten about. There is a checking account with about \$300 in it and a savings account with \$2,200! We need to consolidate all the accounts into one. Carol has the account numbers, so she can try to withdraw the money. Nobody knows who the official signers might be for those accounts, but maybe the bank doesn’t know either and won’t question it.

Minicon books:

- Minicon 42. We are still waiting for Mark Richards to close the books on Minicon 42, whereupon he can turn over the \$2,515.85 in the Highland Bank account to Minicon to use for upcoming expenses. He promised to get right on it.
- Minicon 43. Still waiting for resolution of the final 2 items to close the books. There was no profit from this Minicon, although there is some seed money left in the account to use for the next Minicon.

- Minicon 44. Matt intends to open a savings account at ING Direct so we can earn interest. He promises to close the account immediately after Minicon 44.

Minnstf Insurance Policy: Lisa brought the insurance folder for review by the Board. We have a basic liability policy with Capital Indemnity Insurance, costing us between \$600 and \$700 per year. It is a little unclear what it covers, but it explicitly does NOT cover food poisoning, viral or bacterial outbreaks (such as the one that hit Wiscon this year), equipment of any kind, injury to volunteers or dealers, or meetings in private houses. We were unable to come up with a scenario for an occurrence that the insurance would actually cover. Since our hotels apparently do not require us to carry insurance, the Board decided to let the policy lapse contingent on Matt reading the policy and agreeing that it looked useless. We are paid up until April 7, 2009, which is the Tuesday before the next Minicon starts. Well, at least we’ll be covered for the Fallcon and the Pool Party.

Next Meeting: September 20, at 2pm at the Minnstf meeting.

20 Sept 2008

Licensing of Minicon Program Books and Other Publications:

Matt proposed putting old Minicon program books up on the web with some sort of permissible license so that people could share them freely.

However, we probably only have a compilation or 1st printing copyright on submissions from people outside MNstf and we’d need to check with the contributors to do this. Most of these people are probably fairly easy to contact. We agreed that unattributed material could safely be assumed to be ours.

In the future, we should plan on having program books online from the start and make this clear to people submitting material in advance.

For a free license, we can use Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial- No Derivative Works or something similar. This should be acceptable to most contributors. (Main concerns are art from the GoH and short stories.)

For past program books, much of the art is from Kathy Grantham, Ken Fletcher, Laramie Sasseville, Giovanna Fregni. It’s likely that none of these people would have a problem with their program book art work being on the web and sharable, but we need to ask.

If these concerns are met, the board agreed that such licensing would be acceptable.

MinnSTF Bank Accounts: Kevin talked to the bank again. This time (the second time in person), they promise, no really, to send statements to the proper address. Carol has confirmed that she has gotten a statement.

We have three accounts at US Bank that we want to consolidate — two with small balances and one main one — but the employee at the bank was nervous about letting Kevin do this. They want everyone who is a signer to go in and reauthorizes on the same day at the same branch, but not necessarily at the same time. Perhaps Kevin will go back and ask someone else at the bank, hoping for a different answer. Authorized signers ought to be able to close accounts, but this employee didn’t like how we were authorized.

We still have two Minicon accounts at Highland. We believe these are the Minicon 40 accounts. One is a savings account with \$50 that’s losing \$3/month to fees and the other is a “small business banking” checking account with \$792. Both are addressed to “Minicon 2005” with statements going to the old Dreamhaven address forwarded to the new Dreamhaven. Scott will talk to Irene about these. Likely between Irene and Seth they can be closed.

The Minicon 42 account was officially closed as of the minnstf meeting two weeks ago. We got \$2300 from it. The Minicon 41 account was used for Minicon 43 and was closed months ago.

To add to confusion, the Convivial account is also at Highland Bank and is called “Minicon”.

The Minicon 44 checking account is at TCF with a savings account at ING.

No other Minicon accounts are known. Money from Minicons before 40 is assumed to either be returned or lost forever.

Insurance: We still only have the odd numbered pages of our policy from 2006. Lisa will call Sunrise Park and see if we can get the even numbered pages. Lisa will also see if she has policies from 2007 or 2008. Matt gave Lisa back all the paperwork he was holding. We are likely not going to renew for 2009–2010, since we can’t find anything that’s covered that might actually happen to us.

Copy Printer: The printer currently puts blotches on what it prints. Scott will call the maintenance people next week. Jeff is not interested in having anything to do with it. Currently the printer is at the new Dreamhaven in the garage. This is not temperature controlled and Lisa doesn’t know whether it can be moved to the basement. This is not an immediate concern. The garage shares a long wall with the store and it won’t be cold for months. Dreamhaven may not be a good place to keep it in the future. Revisit this issue.

Greg may not want to continue his sponsorship of the paper Einblatt. Currently he covers postage, ~\$75/month, and the club pays for the paper, labels and ink. Dreamhaven employees have done the folding and labeling, but now there are no Dreamhaven employees. Kevin has the Minn-stf trifolder. If Scott gets this, he and Irene can probably handle the labor. He needs to get money from Minn-stf from Carol for the

stamps.

Can Minnstf afford this? The total would be ~\$900/year for our 180 subscribers. The general feeling was “that sounds bad”. If Minicon starts making money hand over foot, it’d be ok, but that’s not currently the situation. Are there other commercial sponsors we could approach? The alternative is to charge subscribers \$10/year. (Another alternative is to ask people to voluntarily drop off the list to save us money, but Scott says that we did that before and 80% stayed on.)

We solicited opinions from the club at the business meeting. No one was opposed to charging \$10/year to paper subscribers. There was concern that a few people might really not be able to get it online and also not be able to afford the \$10. It was suggested that we simply subsidize these people. There was some concern about this as well (who counts as poor/disabled enough to receive our charity?), but probably we could just quietly deal with it.

Minnstf will cover the October Einblatt and we will revisit this at the next board meeting.

Storage Locker: Matt, as he said before, is unlikely to spend any time researching other storage lockers due to lack of sufficient motivation. Other board members expressed concern about the jerkiness of our current locker managers, but none were willing to put time into the problem. Rachel has an old quote from last time this came up. She’ll send it to Matt. We currently pay something like \$1500–\$1800/year.

Convivial: We have enough registrations to hold the convention. Currently there are 35. Last year had 50 total and broke even, which is the goal. Should be fine. The room block is full. They’re looking into expanding it.

Laurel says: While I had a blast co-chairing Convivials 1 & 2 with Kevin and I’m hoping things go well this year (which I’m chairing myself), I’m not sure how much longer I’ll want to do this or be up to doing it. She’s looking for volunteers to run the Falcon for 2010 or to co-chair or be chair-in-training for 2010.

Pool Party: Situation is unchanged. It’s still on Feb 14. So far no one had volunteered to host. We solicited for volunteers at the business meeting and got no takers.

Directory: Dean will ping Carol. Still awaiting a sample copy for viewing at MN-Stf meetings.

MnStf Fliers, Business Cards, etc.: Business cards have been dropped at Uncle Hugo’s. Had a stack at the old Dreamhaven. Kevin will take some to the new Dreamhaven. New business cards have been printed. No meeting kit yet.

MNSTF Writing Contest: We’d like to see MNSTF sponsor some sort of thing besides parties and conventions. How about a writing contest, says Matt? However, he does not want to run it. This could be associated with Minicon, insofar as the prize could include a membership and/or getting your story published in the program book, but should primarily be a MNSTF thing. We’d need to contact libraries, schools, etc to get the word out. We’d need judges and rules and so forth. Oddcon did a “flash fiction” contest: 500 word limit. There were youth and adult categories and the winners were read at the masquerade. We probably could not afford a substantial cash prize unless we had an entry fee. However, this is outreach/community service; we’re not trying to make a profit and could even take a small loss (under \$100). Lisa may be able to devote time to this. Ask her in two weeks. We solicited for volunteers at the business meeting. Dave Romm and Carol volunteered to at least consider it. Scheming was observed later on. A concern was aired that the market may be saturated with writing contests. Ours should therefore try to be distinctive somehow in order to be viable. Some sort of interesting constraint on the form or content is one way to do this.

Minn-Stf Meeting Locations: Not counting conventions, we currently have two meetings per year that aren’t at houses: the pool party and the picnic. Houses are intimidating for potential new members. Could we have a few more meetings elsewhere, perhaps at a library, coffee house or park building? The question is whether very many people would come to a meeting cold regardless of where it was. Most people (we think) come because of friends of theirs, Minicon, or meeting members on the Internet. If we held an event such as a reading, signing or panel discussion, that would actually draw people. Another idea is to hold the picnic earlier so that it is not so far from Minicon, where we advertise it. Currently it’s been in July or August mostly (we think) because those are the only available times by the time we make the reservation. Let’s see if we can get a time in May this year (~6 weeks after Minicon). Matt will talk to Bill, who is presumably organizing it again for 2009.

Next Board Meeting: At Convivial, Saturday October 18. Sometime after noon. Dean will schedule it and let us know.

18 Oct 2008

The Minicon 43 checking account has been closed. We should check with Carol to make sure that she got the balance.

The Minicon 41 checking account is still there. Irene will work on it.

Our insurance company said it would send our policy, then didn’t. We will cancel the policy after Convivial.

The copy printer is jury rigged right now. We will pay \$140 for the guy who diagnosed it. We’re getting a quote for the real repair. NB: the copy printer is a multi-thousand dollar machine. Should we keep the copypainter in good repair for Minicon? The Bozo Bus? the program book? It is possibly much cheaper than

how we currently do the program book. Matt will run the numbers.

Einblatt: We will send the directory out (if ready) with the November issue and a notice that it’s switching to \$10/year for the paper version. The Dec issue will be the last free issue. Scott will handle payments.

Next meeting: tentatively set for Dec 20 MNstf meeting.

20 Dec 2008

Attending board members: Dean, Kevin, Matt. Attending other: Kelly, Laura intermittently.

Kevin reports that Lisa talked to insurance about canceling our policy early. We’re now close enough to the end of the term that the cancellation fee is more than the remaining value, so cancelling isn’t helpful.

We discussed the copypainter. Matt reports that he discussed it with Keith and Seven. We still can’t say whether Minicon is interested in using it for the program book. The two remaining questions are (1) what would a laser printer that could adequately replace the copypainter cost? (2) Who is really doing publications this year and what do they think? Seven, as of mid-December, wanted to think about whether she was really up for it. We postponed a decision until after New Year’s. If she declines the position, Keith will take over, so there is no crisis.

Kevin reports that the Convivial hotel has still not said if they will try to charge us for the broken couch and, if so, how much. They claim that they are still evaluating it or something. Convivial has not yet decided what hotel to use for next year.

17 Jan 2009

In attendance: Lisa, Matt, Kevin, Scott, Dean.

Pool Party: Seven and Linda are running the Pool Party. How much should we allocate, given that the room is free? We decided on \$200. Linda arrived towards the end of the meeting and indicated that this was fine as long as she wasn’t supposed to fit alcohol in that budget. We agreed.

Bank Accounts: The “Minicon 2005” account at High-land is closed. Lisa brought the final statement (which says “final statement”).

Copypainter: Minicon has still (still) not yet decided whether it wants to use the copypainter for the program book. Scott is hereby reminded that by the next meeting he is to find out what the minimum usage requirements of the copypainter are.

Convivial/Falcon: The hotel is still saying that they have not decided whether to charge us for the broken couch. What the heck? It was 3 months ago and it’s a couch. We continue to lean farther away from using this hotel again. Laurel still says that she’s running Convivial 4, but perhaps she is not totally sure. Perhaps if she decides against it we will ask Beth, who more or less agreed to do it at Convivial 3.

Minicon Publications on the Web: Matt reported on his progress at clarifying copyright/licensing status of old Minicon program books. He notes that “many” people have to be contacted. So far, no one who has responded has not been ok with putting their work on the web. Most have either granted us full rights or rights to publish under Creative Commons. A few people have said that web publishing is ok, but that they’d have to consider what sharing they’d be ok with.

Einblatt: Scott reports that there are currently 3 paying paper Einblatt subscribers. Some more paper copies continue to go out to other fan groups and another stack goes to local bookstores. The total monthly print run is currently 40.

Next board meeting 2pm, Feb 28, at the Minn-Stf Meeting at Dean & Laura’s

28 Feb 2009

Attending: Scott, Dean, Matt, Kevin.

Minicon:

Matt reports that Keith may or may not want to chair Minicon 45. Keith would like to know if anyone else is interested. The board does not know of anyone who is. [At the MNstf business meeting following, no one expressed interest. Joel Phillips said that he would co-chair with Keith if this seemed to others to be a good idea. Since this meeting, Keith has decided that he is happy to chair.]

“Minicon” Assumed Name: Scott reports that Minicon’s certificate of assumed name got sent in. It is good through 2019. The MN secretary of state mails notices like this to Scott, because he is listed as the MNstf contact. (The SoS doesn’t like to mail to PO boxes.)

Copypainter: Scott reports that the copypainter’s minimum usage is not specced by the manufacturer. However, schools that use this model generally run one blank master through at the beginning of summer break and this works out ok. So 100 sheets of something followed by a blank master 4 times a year would probably keep it from clogging up. This could be the MNstf directory, for instance, or a mix of directories and Minicon PRs. Matt said that he thinks that Mnstf should be sure to keep up some sort of a printer, since trying to do Minicon PRs at Kinko’s has not been going well, and it removes excuses to have (collation) parties. We discussed buying a laser printer. Scott has a lead on perhaps getting one for free from a guy in GT. It is not known if would meet our needs. Karen Cooper was reported to have floated the idea of sharing the copypainter with Heart of the Beast.

Next board meeting will be March 21st at the MnStf meeting at Dreampark after the board elections in order to select club officers for the coming year.

21 Mar 2009

In attendance: Dean Gahlon, Betsy Lundsten, Scott Raun, Matt Strait, Seven.

MnStf Officers:

- MnStf needs a new president before Minicon.
- The board will first ask Lydy if she would like to continue in this position, then seek out other candidates if necessary.
- There are no proposals for VP at this time.
- The board will ask Carol if she would like to continue as treasurer.
- Recording Secretary: Kelly Strait.
- Membership Secretary: Laura Krentz
- Einblatt Editor: Scott Raun
- Archivist: Matt Strait

Accessible House: The board approved Carol to take donations for Accessible House at Minicon.

LCD Projector:

- The board tentatively approves the purchase of a 2nd projector for Minicon use, depending on price.
- The cost of rental needs to also be investigated before purchase is finalized.

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 18, noon, at Strait residence.

18 Apr 2009

In attendance: Dean Gahlon, Betsy Lundsten, Scott Raun, Matt Strait, Kelly Strait.

Preliminary M44 Financial Report:

- The Sheraton has forgiven the function space cost, so M44 is in the black
- The lower room block cut-off was hit, so the hotel is not owed any revenue
- So far, the hotel has not charged us for 215, 218, 219
- There was a budget for the consuite/bar, which seems to have been ignored; this issue has been addressed, and Andra will keep closer tabs for M45.

M45 Cochairs:

- The board would like to see someone a little more connected to MnStf also involved with running M45.
- Matt will approach Kevin Austin re: his interest in this position.

MnStf Vice President:

- Rachel Kronick is nominated. There is unanimous consent.

MnStf Meetings/Events:

- Rachel K and Greg Larson are both interested in putting together events that “start” MnStf meetings – speakers at U, discussions, readings, film, etc. Neither are deterred by probable total lack of budget.
- There is general agreement that this is a good idea, but no budget. Matt will give them the go-ahead.
- MnStf Bank Accounts & Other Financial Concerns:
- MnStf has ~\$30,000 in Ameriprise accounts
- Some (up to half) of this should be made available to MnStf in a more flexible account.
- This could be done either by closing one of the accounts, or taking ~half out of each when they each next come due. when is this?
- The challenge in this is that the accounts have to be associated with a name, not a position (e.g. MnStf treasurer).
- The board would like an accurate treasurer’s report from Carol and an updated detailed MnStf budget for 2008 (a complete list of expenditures from 2008, not what we thought we would spend or what we might spend in 2009).

MnStf Storage Locker

- The storage locker measures: 140” (deep) x 110” (100” wide in the front, 120” wide in the back) x 113” (tall).
- Criteria for moving storage locker: not smaller than current, not more expensive, and “not less convenient”.
- *Right now, it is reasonably close to most MnStf members, close to DreamHaven, and close to a truck rental place.
- We would not want it to be significantly south of the hotel if we’re going to continue to use DreamHaven to store the art show panels.
- Define hotel as southwest corner of “convenience” zone; downtown/river as northeast bound. We should be a little flexible on these boundaries if it saves us a bunch of money.
- We need to be able to access from indoors – for Minicon, there is no wiggle room for waiting for better weather.
- It would be really good if we got a place that actually sends out bills — ask “how do you handle billing?”.
- Is climate-controlled storage required? We should keep the requirement that the locker not go below freezing.
- Betsy suggests Liza Furr (relatively new-ish to MnStf & Minicon) as someone to whom we could hand such a project who would likely be enthusiastic about completing it – Betsy will contact her about this.

ByLaws:

- Matt sent out an e-mail pre-Minicon about the changes made in the MnStf bylaws for how one becomes a voting member, noting that the way we actually do it is NOT in the official document. Matt will bring wording, etc, to next meeting to finalize.
- We may need to clarify how the meeting is counted if there is Minicon meeting from 2–4 and a MnStf meeting immediately following. Suggested wording: “You can only get 1 meeting credit per calendar day”.

Convivial 4:

- Laurel Krahn is ratified as Convivial 4 chair.

Minicon 45:

- Keith Malgren is ratified as Minicon 45 chair.

Printer donated by Visi:

- HP LaserJet 5SI
 - We need to replace a ∼\$200 piece.
 - Scott will house the printer, as he will use it to print the Einblatt and occasional directory, etc.
- Next Meeting:
- May 16th at Dean’s at 2pm.

16 May 2009

In attendance: Kevin Austin, Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Betsy Lundsten, Kelly Strait, Matt Strait, Seven, Dorf.

- ByLaws:
- Matt has revised the wording of the by-laws to insert language re: concom meetings counting toward voting status, and clarifying how “dual” meetings are counted, as per suggestion last time.
 - The new wording is unanimously ratified.
 - To address the requirement for publication of new by-laws, a copy will be inserted into the sign-in book for the next four (4) meetings and announced at business meetings.
 - Scott may also include a note in Einblatt in the form “see enclosed or www.mnstf.org/...”, so as to only send print to membership that receive paper copy.
 - Dean proposes changes to 2nd and 3rd paragraphs on membership secretary duties: Strike requirement in 2nd paragraph for biannual directory or possibly restate, as membership secretary is not the one who has been doing this recently — “the membership secretary or delegate”. Change 3rd paragraph to say “membership secretary shall perform other duties as deemed necessary by the board of directors” (or something to that effect – delete from first shall to second shall).
 - These will be up for discussion after ratifying the new version presented today.
 - Dean proposes adding a provision for virtual meetings of the board. Does it count if someone is on the phone? on-line chat? Should the type(s) of business conducted in these non face-to-face meetings be limited?

Articles of Incorporation:

- Matt has made changes — this is the 3rd amended version
- (Article 4 & 9) MN statute 317 is obsolete — this is now 317a
- Modifications included revision history — Dean would modify to say “was also ratified by the then current board of directors”.
- The board did not ratify at this meeting, as requires “registered address”, and it is perhaps unclear what the official address for the articles of incorporation is (though the best guess is Scott’s house, as the state will not mail to PO box).
- It is not clear what the legal requirements are if they are amended – does MnStf have to submit them to the state, does it cost money, etc?

Gordon Dickson Memorial Scholarship Fund:

- Exclusively for Clarion West; \$1000 partial scholarship
- Clarion West decides who gets it based on need & “awesomeness”.
- MnStf has made a \$100 donation in the past. Kevin would like to see this done again.
- Motion is approved with no objections.
- Kevin will complete the form and give to Carol to send along with check.

Checking Accounts:

- Kevin, Dean, Irene, and Richard Tatge are the signers on the accounts
- Carol, the treasurer, is NOT a signer. The board would like to add Carol as a signer.
- The last time this was attempted, the bank said that all the signers must be present in person simultaneously with picture IDs.
- Is it possible to get the checks to require a 2nd signer only for big amounts?

Rune:

- Kevin would like to take over the editorship of Rune.
- Jeff Schalles is currently the editor – Kevin doesn’t want to take over if he (Jeff) has plans to get one out sometime soon.
- The last time Jeff was asked, he was willing to continue but more than willing to hand it over to someone else.
- Scott will talk to Jeff and see if he is okay with giving this to Kevin.
- Motion to confirm Kevin as next editor is approved with no objections.

Printer donated by Visi:

- The printer is at Betsy’s house.
- The understanding is that the fuser may need to be replaced; according to eBay, it’s \$30.
- There is one strip (?) where the toner is not staying.
- Seven and Dorf will go to Betsy’s to do a little check-up.
- The board approves up to \$200 for parts and repair before further action is required.

IRS Letter of Determination:

- It might be in the archives, but it’s actual existence has not been confirmed.
- Scott will attempt to get letter (maybe not actual letter of determination, but equivalent notice from IRS re: our non-profit status) for free Dreamhost account.
- Matt will not, at this time, make an attempt to find original in archives unless he happens to be there for other purposes.

Minicon Copyright:

- We have permission from all but Jeanne Gommoll, who we will ask at WisCon, for the art in the Mini-

con 14 program book.

MnStf “Outreach Coordinator”:

- It is pointed out that MnStf is “accepting but not welcoming”.
- Seven is willing to be a person that identifies newbies and makes sure that they are greeted, included, etc.
- The board will approve this as a new officer position pending a written description of the duties from Seven sent to the board for discussion.

Officers:

- On the MnStf webpage, there is a list of officers.
- Is there agreement on who belongs in each listed position? Has this information been delivered to the webmaster? Are there offices listed that, honestly, don’t really exist anymore?
- Seven & Dorf are approved to create a list of requirements for the mailing list and associated database.
- Kelly will type up the list from two meetings ago & send out to board list to confirm.

Next Meeting:

- Saturday, June 6 at MnStf meeting at Sean’s at 2pm.

6 June 2009

In attendance: Shaun Kelly, Matt Strait, Kelly Strait, Betsy Lundsten, Scott Raun, Irene Raun, Dean Gahlon, Laura Krentz.

MnStf Bank Accounts, Etc:

- Betsy will talk to Carol about scheduling an update.
- Outstanding issues: Minicon 42 closure check, liquidity, and 2008 budget summary.
- Based on 2008 budget, the board may discuss changing the MnStf meeting host reimbursement amount.
- M45 should be given a target profit (initial guess \$2000-\$3000).

IRS Letter of Determination:

- Scott has the address to send letter to get a new copy/replacement
- He will have this done no later than Friday after 4th St.

Minicon 44 update:

- M44 made a profit (∼\$1600?)
- The only outstanding transactions are reimbursement to Karen Cooper and the reimbursement from Coke.

Articles of Incorporation:

- Matt will look into what is required by state if we change them officially

By-Laws:

- What needs to be done re: publishing the minutes?
- The BOARD members will each agree to look at the by-laws and discuss via chat list about what to do with thus far unpublished minutes.

Meeting Credits:

- The most recent change ratified 3 concoms & 4 “regular” meetings.
- Previously, we had been implementing 4 concom & 3 “regular”
- It is moved to change it back officially.
- The board will wait to make this change back until “all” other changes are settled, so as to publish just one new version.
- Dean would like to see board chat on this in the interim, to have changes settled for paper copy next time.
- Traditionally, work-party-like gatherings have been counted as Minicon meetings, and those in attendance could get Minicon credit for working.
- The board would like to see more avenues to allow more people to get more involved with the club. So far discussed have only been alternate avenues for gaining voting status, as it is the only “hook” we have. Are there other possibilities?
- MnStf could host a party in the (Minicon) consuite for a couple hours to increase visibility.

Storage Locker:

- Liza is working on looking into storage locker locations/prices.
- It would be nice to have proposal to discuss at next board meeting.

Next Board Meeting:

- Saturday, July 25th, at Strait residence, at 2pm.

4 July 2009

In attendance: Matt Strait, Betsy Lundsten, Dean Gahlon, Seven.

Four board members found themselves together at the Minicon party at CONvergence and decided to have a meeting. Scott Raun, the last board member, later retroactively waived his right to notice of this meeting (bylaws III.4.d), thereby making it official.

- We made Joe Pregracke an honorary member until such time as he manages to attend a meeting and become a participating member (that’s the technical term: bylaws I.2.c).
- Betsy suggested that the board suggest to the Minicon 45 Chairs Or Executive Committee Or Whatever They Are Calling Themselves These Days that they offer The Current (the radio station) a comped membership so they can come and see what SF fans are like instead of denigrating us on the air (which they apparently did on the morning show recently). We agreed to make this suggestion.

25 July 2009

In attendance: Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Kelly Strait, Matt Strait, Seven, Dorf.

Prior Meetings:

- Minutes from last two meetings ratified after discussion on board chat list.

Minicon 44:

- The official profit is \$2063.27 (after hotel forgiveness of room block).
 - A check for this amount has been mailed to Carol, but not yet cashed.
- Minicon 45:
- There is a new plan for the room block for this year, with prices of rooms being based on the date of booking (rather than there being a date when the room block “closes”).
 - Scott proposes \$4000 as a target profit for M45, based on ∼\$4000 of MnStf expenditures for the year (∼\$2000 for meetings, ∼\$2000 for storage locker), though we would like to confirm those numbers with Carol first.
 - Is this a reasonable goal? Matt will contact the M45 heads to discuss. If they feel this is not achievable, we should have a discussion about what is likely possible.

Convivial:

- We need to get confirmation on this, but it is our understanding that Laurel’s concern about running the fall con is that we have only been breaking even because she and Kevin have been eating the deficit.
- With the current (relatively) low profits from Minicon & no membership dues or other source of income, the club cannot really afford to run a fall con that loses money.
- Scott will discuss these points with Kevin and determine what the status of Convivial planning is for this year.
- If Laurel & Kevin would prefer not to be involved this year, we would still need someone(s) to step up to cover hotel, treasurer, publications/advertising; programming (Dean & Laura), consuite (Matt & Kelly), and pre-registration (Scott) are already covered.

Articles of Incorporation:

- The articles of incorporation will NOT be modified, due to the fact that we would have to pay the state of Minnesota to do so and it’s not that important.

Printer:

- Seven and Dorf have an appointment to evaluate the need for maintenance.
- Scott will talk to Carol regarding the directory and the next possible printing thereof (as the most imminent possible need for the printer).

Minicon T-Shirts:

- There are three boxes and three bins of t-shirts, currently all in Matt and Kelly’s apartment.
- Matt will consult with Marian regarding the day-care’s need for excess t-shirts for craft projects, etc.
- Could these possibly be used for crafty programming at Convivial, children’s craft programming at Minicon?

IRS Letter of Determination:

- Scott has sent the request for this letter.
- New applications of a type similar to our request usually take no more than 7 weeks; Scott will contact them again if we have not received something in 6–8 weeks.

Bank Accounts:

- So far as we know, no further motion has been made.
- The board would still like to see Carol added as a signer.

Proposals for edits to By-Laws:

- I.2.b: what does it mean to “request membership”? Topic tabled until next board meeting.
- II.3: update wording to include electronic communication: “notice via e-mail or paper mail”
- II.6.d: change the wording back to 4 concom, 3 MnStf meetings required for voting membership
- III.1: strike last statement
- III.4.f: remove “day to day recess”
- IV.4.c: change wording to allow “person designated by the Board” to assemble and distribute directory, remove requirement for secretary to bring bulletin board to meetings
- IV.5: enforce this to match practice to wording
- VI.4, VI.5: regarding the Board’s ability to censure the concom - completely rewrite this section? Topic tabled until next board meeting.
- VII.2: regarding the bulk mail permit: are parts (b) and (c) necessary?
- Matt will type up changes for approval at the next board meeting.

MnStf Officers:

- It is part of the board’s responsibility to notice when individuals are exhibiting signs of burn-out.
- Does Carol really still want to be the treasurer? Would she be happy to have someone else to do this?
- Once we have received the IRS letter and can apply for the non-profit account with Dreamhost, would Laurel appreciate having webmaster taken off her hands?

Next Meeting:

- August 15th, 2 pm, at Shaun’s (MnStf meeting)

15 Aug 2009

In attendance: Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Kelly Strait, Matt Strait, Betsy Lundsten, Laura Krenz, Shaun Kelly, Liz Fish, Peer Dudda.

Minneapolis in 2073:

- From pre-supports at WorldCon, we have grossed \$59.90 USD & \$101.22 CAN: approximately \$156.77 USD
- We’ve had \$111.36 in expenses so far (ribbons), so net \$84.48
- 111 members (not counting the Strait family)

Storage Locker:

- Liza continues to investigate options for the storage locker.
 - We hope to have a report by the September board meeting
- MnStf Printer:
- The printer is still at Betsy’s house. No further progress has been made.

- Convivial:
- Laurel has officially announced Convivial 4.
 - The current registration is \$40, \$50 at the door. So far as anyone knows, there is not yet a printable registration form — it would be good to have these for meetings, etc.
 - Positions as listed for possible recruitment during the last meeting are essentially filled.
 - We hope to give the convention \$0 and expect to receive \$0 — what is the cost of the hotel (so we know what the minimum financial commitment is)?
- Bank Accounts:
- Scott has asked Carol about the directory, no movement on money.
 - Matt will speak with Carol about the possibility of a report from the treasurer at one of the next two MnStf meetings.

- Minicon 45:
- Matt contacted Keith re: profit target previously discussed.
 - Keith believes that \$4000 will be a challenge, so we have asked for details and a counter-proposal.
 - Matt will contact Keith again to let him know we would like these numbers by the 9/19 board meeting.
 - Matt will go back through the Minicon 44 numbers and make a pie chart for departments, with a particular emphasis on how much publications have cost (and thus, how much we might save by using the new printer).

- Minicon 46:
- We would like to start hearing proposals for Minicon 46, with the hope to have a confirmed chair/exec by New Year’s, so they can start looking for GOHs and have confirmed by M45.
 - We will put an announcement in the Einblatt, mention at business meetings.

- By-Laws:
- Matt brought an updated version to the meetings, including all changes agreed upon last time (e-mail notification, clarification of number of concom vs. general meetings needed for voting membership, delete number of directors, delete day-to-day adjourning, delete bulletin board, include designee for directory).
 - Regarding censure of the chair/exec: this should require more than a simple majority; we propose 2/3 of total board or a unanimous vote among remaining members if the chair or members of the exec is also a board member.
 - Move to delete section VI.4 completely.
 - Section I.2.b - change “period of 12 months preceding an election” to the period of time between annual meetings - including this year’s voting meeting for next year’s voting status.
 - Section III.1 - add language re: election of board members.
 - Section I.2.b - regarding “requesting membership” - add language (replace?) re: notification of potential to qualify
- IRS Letter:
- Scott expects to have this by the next board meeting. It should be confirmed that this has been received.
- Next Meeting: September 19th, 2 pm, at Betsy’s (MnStf meeting)

19 Sept 2009

In attendance: Scott Raun, Irene Raun, Betsy Lundsten, Matt Strait, Kelly Strait.

- Storage Locker:
- The board received a report from Liza via e-mail. Based on the options she presented, the board has selected the All-American Self-Storage in St Paul.
 - We need to set a date for the move. Saturdays in Oct that are not MnStf meetings initially seem like the best bet. Matt will coordinate with Minicon folks to find a date for the move.
 - Keith’s opinion (via Matt) is that, whatever we do, Joel needs to be involved, since bar & consuite are the majority of stuff.
 - To do: sign a new lease — Scott volunteers Dean & Irene to get a check from Carol, sign it, and initiate the new lease.
 - To do: cancel the old storage locker — Scott proposes that we move everything out, then tell them that, after the end of that month, we will not be renting from them anymore (we’re currently on month-to-month)
 - To do: get information to Carol about new locker.

- Archives:
- Matt has found “the box in the basement” in the storage locker — he will move to the contents to the MnStf archives after scanning appropriate contents.
 - The new filing cabinet has been moved in to Marian’s basement with the rest of the archives.
 - The Board approves the purchase of previous Minicon masquerade videos — Matt will ask Carol to mail him a check & have the original tapes & DVD copies sent to Matt.
 - The Board moves that an official duty of the archivist is to maintain the Minicon webpages and archives of old Minicon materials on the web, so the archivist needs access to edit the MnStf webpage.
 - It would be nice if there was an official policy for Minicon to put materials into the archives.
- Non-profit:

- Scott received a response to our request for a determination letter. The IRS does not have any record of us being any sort of non-profit.
- The Board moves to refile — Scott & Irene will start on the paperwork to do this.
- The Board will move to file for sales tax exemption after reconfirming non-profit status.

- Website:
- MnStf’s website is on Laurel Krahn’s account (as it has been for a while).
 - In the absence of the IRS determination letter, the Board moves for MnStf to pay for its own account for now, and we’ll deal with non-profit later.
 - Scott will notify Laurel & Kevin to let her know that we’ve done this and MnStf will reimburse for account purchase.

- Printer:
- The printer still resides at Betsy’s house and still has not been evaluated in re: need for parts, service, etc.
 - The printer can split into two parts and thus should fit in a normal car, so it may move to Scott’s before its evaluation.

- Einblatt:
- We had discussed putting in meeting host thank-yous, but this hasn’t happened so far — Scott had forgotten and is now reminded.

- Minicon 46:
- Keith has submitted a statement in essence stating that he, Joel, and Kevin, in some permutation, are likely to chair next year.
 - In light of this, the Board will not advertise further for other bids, though will be willing to entertain ones that came to us. Come January, the Board will ask the trio for a commitment and details.
 - In light of the financial situation detailed below, the board asks the Minicon 46 chairs to get bids from other hotels to see if we can get the same amount of function space for a smaller room block and/or a shallower penalty schedule.
 - The Board strongly requests an investigation of alternatives to the Sheraton, but at the very least, the above bid(s) will give us a feeling for our situation and possible leverage with the Sheraton.

- Minicon 45:
- Keith’s report on M45 was presented to the board by Matt.
 - Keith believes that \$4000 is more than can be made by a Minicon right now at the Sheraton.
 - Based on his spreadsheet, the most realistic guess is that the convention will lose \$3000, assuming the same number of room nights as last year, but with contractual penalties actually applied.
 - The primary financial problem is that everything hinges on the number of room nights and missing the room block by even a fairly small amount costs us more money than we could possibly save elsewhere in a reasonable way.
 - Keith’s report shows how \$1000 can be saved over last year and further discussion with Matt has covered additional cost-saving mechanisms (at least another \$1000).

- Budget from Carol:
- Carol sent the board the check request form and a breakdown of expenses for 2008.
 - She reports that we have \$4982.66 in checking.
 - The breakdown of expenses for 2008 follows:

- Meeting stipends
 - Regular 21x\$50 1050.00
 - New Year’s 100.00
 - Picnic 200.00
- Total 1350.00
- Storage (currently \$179.00/mo.) 1837.00
- PO box (this year \$176.00) 169.00
- New Checks 76.98
- Insurance 650.00
- Donation mem. D. Friauf 50.00
- Einblatt paper 21.94
- Copier repair 140.00
- Mailings:
 - Directory mailing 223.62
 - Ballot mailing 5.80
 - Einblatt (see Note below)
- Not an actual “expense” in that it gets repaid: Minicon seed money 2000.00

Note: Checks for Einblatt mailings were irregular, so I’m not sure if each check represented several months, or what. Maybe Scott has an accurate figure? In any case, now the few people get the dead-tree version, this figure will be different for this year and very different in future.

- Directory:
- Scott continues to poke Carol about publishing the MNstf directory.

- Bylaws:
- With only three Board members present, no movement was made to pass any amendments at this meeting
 - Those present would like to see the complete details of the MnStf Board voting system included in the by-laws. Discussion of the voting method itself tabled until the next meeting.
 - There has been discussion of changing the pronoun usage in the by-laws. Betsy has volunteered to replace all instances of he/him/his with they/them/their and repair grammar as necessary.

Next meeting: Saturday at Convivial?

5 Dec 2009

In attendance: Scott Raun, Kevin Austin, Joel Phillips, Matt Strait, Kelly Strait, Irene Raun, Dean Gahlon (hosts: DDB, Lydy Nickerson, Pamela Dean)

M46: Keith has expressed that he is almost certainly not interested in chairing — however, he would still be willing to do hotel liaison. Joel is willing but very much wants a co-chair. Kevin is (reluctantly) willing — he feels that he has not contributed much or well thus far this year (Joel feels that Kevin would do well in a pair rather than a triplet). The Board approves Joel & Kevin as M46 chairs. GOH: Joel has some individuals in mind.

5-year plan:

Two major concerns — financial and fragility of experience in departments.

Financials: Minicon needs to make \$3500 profit to fully support MnStf for a year with our current expenses. The two major expenses are the locker (which is basically Minicon’s) and the meetings — right now, hosts get \$50 per party, which is not really enough, and the board would like to see the stipend increase.

Minicon expenses: food & drink; pubs; hotel; GOH; external parties; misc. Food & drink is something we should not skimp on; we are currently working on reducing pubs costs; GOH — at this point, Minicon can really only afford two guests, but there will be a lot of pressure to get filk/music/fan/science guests. But the biggest problem is hotel.

Went over the desire to get longer term committments from department heads.

Mpls2073: 156 members after WindyCon; attempt to cash \$2.073 check failed (banker thought they would either cash for \$2.07 or would bounce and thus we’d incur a \$19 fee, and that he couldn’t predict which would happen with confidence after it was out of his control) — check in physical treasury; treasury contains \$200.64, french franc, small rock, coupons of \$0.003 value, ghosts of two chocolate fifty-cent pieces, tuppence, and the aforementioned check. Next purchase of 500 ribbons will exhaust most of fungible treasury, but given the speed at which we gained members, this should be recoverable reasonably quickly. We are also starting to look into t-shirt possibilities (note: Ctein has promised art).

Treasurer: Carol has agreed that she would continue to do a mediocre job if that’s what we need. We’re still looking for candidates to replace her — Matt has proposed Andra, as M44 & M45 treasurer; Joel will ask about her intent for treasurer for M46. Eric has not actually said “no” yet — at last check, he was still thinking about it, and wanted to talk to someone(s) who had done it pseudo-recently. Dean would prefer an individual who regularly attends MnStf meetings (that is to say, who feels some tie to the club). Whenever this person is assigned, we really should get that person as a signer on the account.

Next Meeting: we should schedule this in a way that Carol will attend. We would like her to bring the most recent statement from each place where we store money. Matt will contact Carol re: date — he will start with proposing the 1/16/10 MnStf meeting, the noon on any other Sat (Scott would prefer not the 4th Sat, not available on Sun) — we could even go to her place if that would work best for her, Scott will host if she doesn’t want to.

501(c)3: Scott & Irene are still working on paperwork to reinstate status.

16 Jan 2010

In attendance: David Wilford, Erin McKee, Scott & Irene Raun, Seven, Dean Gahlon, Laura Krentz, Matt & Kelly Strait, Matt Eppelheimer, Betsy Lundsten

Report from Treasurer: We only know of two non-Minicon bank accounts (MnStf account at USBank, Convivial account at Highland, which has statements mailed to Irene & Kevin).

\$4058 in US Bank

\$584 in Highland (some amount of this may be due Kevin & Laurel if they want it) — the money and/or the account should be turned over to this year’s Falcon runners, and it’s been extremely difficult to change signers with Highland, so we may want to close this account & hand money over.

\$35,831 in AmeriPrise Financial — in 3 accounts: RVS Cash Management Fund Class A (w/ check writing): \$5772. Flexible Savings Certificate: \$11,970. Stock Market Certificate: \$18,049.

Scott suspects that we do not currently have physical checks for the RVS account, unless Carol has a check book for it. Matt will take the paperwork home & make copies.

Pool Party Budget: Linda L, Seven, and Dorf are “hosting” the pool party. Carol’s budget says we have been budgeting \$100 for pool party, but Matt remembers that we gave \$150 for consumables last year & that we discussed more. The Board agrees on \$200 for this year. A starting time needs to be determined.

MnStf Printer: \$95 + tax for refurbished fuser for printer; Seven has purchased it & will hand it over to Scott. Scott will install.

Non-Profit Status: No movement since last discussion. Website: Matt spoke with Kevin 1/15/10 — he says that Laurel does not want to be webmaster anymore. If Dorf is willing to be the webmaster, he should make a new account w/ Dreamhost from scratch, and hopefully Dreamhost will allow us to move all our stuff between billing accounts w/o losing mailing list archives and otherwise having to set everything up again. If not possible, Kevin will handle sending archive files to Dorf once set up.

Officers: The board should start/continue a search for a president & a treasurer for next year.

Archives: Matt has scanned quite a few old program books and posted these on the web. These files are also being burned to CD to go in the physical archives. Per-

sons possibly owning a copy of the Mnicon 7 program book need to be identified & contacted.

Newcomer-Greeter Position: At previous discussion, had been talked about as official MnStf officer, but Seven now proposes that this just be unofficial. She intends to make her contact information available on our various sites & she will meet people before meetings if they are nervous about showing up cold.

Minicon 5-Year Plan: Still needs official approval by Dean & Seven. Matt has added suggested language from Betsy. Dean & Seven agree that there is consensus on this document now. Matt will take this version & post it in a non-editable form on the web (although obviously the department positions should stay open for Joel & Kevin to update as appropriate) and place a hard copy in the archives.

Next meeting (Last for this board): To meet with Carol in re: budget — Fri 1/22 at (Carol's or Dreampark) at 7:00 / Fri 1/29 same time same place / Sat 1/30 ??

30 Jan 2010

In attendance: Seven Anderson, Dean Gahlon, Carol Kennedy, Betsy Lundsten, Matt Strait, Scott Raun, David Waldorf (who took minutes)

MNSTF Accounting:

- We now know, to the penny, how much money MNSTF has in its accounts.
- Carol advised that the board could know this information at any time with just a phone call or email.
- Matt indicated that one of the Ameriprise accounts has check-writing privileges, but as this was a surprise he wonders how it is we've been getting money out of it.
- Carol indicated that she knows nothing about the check-writing capabilities.
- Carol said that she can get the name of the Account Representative.
- Scott mentioned that Irene is on the Ameriprise account and would be willing to help straighten everything out.
- Also, Greg Larsen is an account rep at Ameriprise and we might be able to get the account transferred to him.
- Matt was wondering how we're managing to keep a positive balance in our checking account when Minicon has been losing money or breaking even.
- Carol indicated that the positive balance is a result of the merging of accounts.
- Carol is still content being Treasurer.
- Dorf paid for the new MNSTF Dreamhost account and is not interested in being reimbursed the \$10 it cost him.
- Seven suggested an email account for the Treasurer, and the switch to paperless statements.
- Matt & the rest of the board strongly prefer to not switch to paperless statements.
- What about online banking, should the board have access to that for our accounts? Consensus was no, because this conflicts with the principle of requiring two signers for checks; these systems would allow any one person full control. If there were read-only online banking, that would work, but we doubt this is available.
- Carol is willing to scan all the statements each month and make them available to the board by way of the website. She will email them to Dorf who will put them up on the site.

Convivial/Falcon Account:

- Matt wonders if the remainder of the Convivial account should go to Kevin & Laurel Krahn.
- Carol believes that the account was started with money from MNSTF
- Scott recommended that a check should be written for the remainder of the account, and then the account should be closed. If Kevin and Laurel later ask for money, we can still give it to them. General agreement.
- MNSTF requires the falcon chairs to return any profits to the club, but indicated that they recommend that the con keep the registration cost low enough so they break even.
- Matt thinks that the Falcon Chairs for falcon 2010 should open an account and the Convivial account should be closed.
- Scott thinks that a bank that has account types for condo associations would be a good option for that.
- Carol is fine with this, so long as the con chairs are also fine with it.
- Matt thinks that it should be possible, if necessary, to give seed money to the fall con. But it should be done only if the Hotel needs money up front. Also, if the convention is given seed money, that should come back to MNSTF.
- POLICY ITEM: Matt asked if the board will vote on allowing the falcon chairs to set up and handle their own banking without the requirement to report the arrangements to the Minn-stf Treasurer. The board unanimously approved this, but only under the conditions that (1) if they receive seed money, the board will want to know the details of their banking, and (2) in any case, the board will want to see at least a simple accounting that shows how much money the con made and spent.

MNSTF Accounting:

- The board also agreed to raise the meeting stipend to \$75, effective immediately.
- The board also approved \$50 to \$100 to purchase a duplexer for the MNSTF printer, and also approved the purchase of a new toner cartridge for the printer as well. However, the board wants to charge Minicon for its printing. It was agreed that the club

charges Minicon a flat per page cost for printing. It is not terribly important that the charge exactly match what toner costs; the main idea is to make sure that Minicon does not consider printing to be free.

- MNSTF has about \$40,500 in its accounts.
- Matt states that \$20,000 is roughly the most money Minicon could lose in a year if something catastrophic were to happen. This is the hotel penalty under our current contract if we cancel the con at the last minute.
- Matt also proposes spending the other \$20,000+ over the next 10 years on worthy causes, such as keeping Minicon cheaper, the Gordon R. Dickson Fund, raising meeting stipends & other positive fannish pursuits.
- Seven recommended supporting other local fannish community stuff
- Matt suggested telling the Falcon to not aim to break even, but instead to have them aim at losing \$200.
- Dean notes that our institutional memory is bad. How will future boards remember what we're trying to do?
- Matt suggested adding a bylaw. But the board did not think this was sufficient because of the risk of the extra spending becoming habitual and going on past when it was appropriate.
- Scott asked how much we are willing to raise the profit target for Minicon 5–10 years down the road when we are done spending money.
- Scott recommended that it be a yearly decision, to prevent institutional memory.
- The board decided that a better way to word this potential bylaw is that if the balance of the club's account is comfortably above the cost of Minicon catastrophically failing, the club should aim to (usefully) spend enough that year to lower the balance by \$2000.
- Do we, as a non-profit organization, want to ask others for donations, including our members?
- Scott, on having heard that the Minicon Checking Account is linked to the Minicon PayPal account, wants it disconnected for security reasons.
- Seven proposed a quarterly report on the board's activities to the membership.
- Matt agreed with the idea, though he mentions that the board minutes are posted online.
- Scott recommended possibly CCing the announcement about the board minutes being posted to web to the general membership.
- the board agreed that a summary is better than the straight minutes.
- Seven amends her proposal to be an annual report, instead of a quarterly report.
- Matt endorsed the idea again, and, because of the nature of fandom, Seven gets to prepare it.

13 Mar 2010

The newly elected board (which is the same as the old board) meets for the first time. Seven is not present due to illness.

Matt gives the Minneapolis in 2073 report. The bid is in the black and had enough money to buy 500 ribbons while staying in the black. We have 169 members and the treasury contains \$94.81, a French franc, a small rock, coupons of cash value 0.3 cents, the ghost of two chocolate half dollars, tuppence, an uncashable check for \$2.073 and a 100 word short story printed on a business card.

Officers: After some discussion and consultations, we appoint Irene Raun as president and Hershey Lima as vice president. It is expected that Hershey will preside over 25–50% of meetings when Irene can't make it. Matt agrees to continue as archivist so long as he is able. We presume that Marian will continue housing the archives. Scott agrees to continue as Einblatt editor. We assume that Dorf continues as webmaster since he just started, but we will confirm. Scott will confirm that Carol's continuing as Treasurer and Carol+Jonathan continuing as Corresponding Secretary. [Since the meeting this has been confirmed.] Dean says that Laura will continue as Membership Secretary. No discussion of Rune Editor. [Since the meeting, Matt has asked Kevin if he would like to continue.] Kelly will continue as Recording Secretary so long as she is able. We plan to rope Dorf and/or Matt E for this as necessary.

Next meeting: 7pm March 9 at Dreampark (Richard and Sharon's, 4002 Pillsbury). Agenda to include at least: Bank statements, 501c3 status, Officer confirmations, bylaws.

9 Apr 2010

In attendance: Kelly Strait, Matthew Strait, Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Kevin Austin, Seven Anderson.

Rune: Kevin has agreed to be Rune editor.

Minneapolis in 2073: 15 memberships at Minicon; GoH Dan Dos Santos donated his EPYC art to the bid; treasury contains \$133.88, french franc, small rock, .3 cents in coupons, ghost of 2 50-cent chocolate coins, tuppence, uncashable check for \$2.073, 100-word short story on a business card, 1g silver.

Minicon: Kevin reports that we probably made money, maybe \$2000 — we (almost certainly) made the room block — we made the lower, and maybe the upper — which would mean free function space w/o favors

Finances: the board pointed Irene at Carol at the Wednesday night work party (implementation of previous decision)

Gordy Dickson Scholarship Fund: we finally handed over check from last May (first check lost in mail, 2nd

one handed over in person at Minicon this year); Kevin petitions for 2010 \$100 contribution — approved by all board present; Kevin will fill out form and get to Carol. 501(c)3 status: Scott followed up on link from Kevin (pull from e-mail); webpage claims to get list from IRS, which labels us “status 5” — not a “public charity”, but maybe just because haven't filed paperwork. Scott has paperwork to (re)file for status — he & Irene have started filling out (Form 1023), but need input:

- Form 990: are we excused from filing?
- Date Incorporated: we have this somewhere, but not in brains of board at this time
- By-laws: attach copy
- Express provision of distribution of assets upon dissolution: but may qualify for exemption (line 2c — operation of state law)
- Narrative description of activities: describe past, present, and planned activities (Minicon, fall-con, semi-monthly meetings; MnStf lecture series? Rune). Matt volunteers to write this up
- Conflict of interest policy? recommended but not required
- Goods/services/funds to individuals? yes, stipend for meetings?
- " " " to organizations? yes, describe each “program” — Gordy Dickson scholarship fund, muscular dystrophy? Members of the group may make petition to the board
- are good/services/funds limited to specific group? “yes”, in that only meeting hosts get it, but anyone can be one
- family/business relationship w/ board, yes; explain how related individuals are eligible for funds
- fundraising? yes, choose program(s) from list; is there a non-con membership paypal button? attach description of each “program”
- written/oral contract w/ org to raise funds? we think we can say “no”, since fallcon & Minicon committees are MnStf members, thus acting as members of MnStf, rather than some other organization
- fundraising for other org? no
- states & local jurisdictions in which do fundraising: MN
- accounts for contributor w/ right to advise? no
- publish/have rights in writing/art/other intellectual property? yes: if yes, explain; explain who owns copyright, if fees are charged, if so how much, blah blah blah — Matt will write this
- accept contributions of real property, closely held securities, conservation easements, intellectual property (incl copyright), works of music/art, licenses, royalties, automobiles & other vehicles, other collectibles? yes
 - if yes, describe each type, restrictions on contribution, and agreement w/ owner on contribution: Matt will write this too
- grants/loans to other org? describe how \$ further our purposes; written contracts w/ them; identify each recipient & relationship to them; describe records kept in re (treasury records & board minutes); describe selection process; describe procedure for oversight of distribution (board oversight) — for the purposes of this question, we'll limit to Gordy Dickson Scholarship Fund, educational (books for Toys for Tots?)
- grants/loans to foreign org? yes? — maybe CUFF? GUFF? name of each org, country/regions in which they operate, rel'n to group; or NO at this point, since we have no plans at this time
- close connection to any org? no
- financial data — we need Carol's input
- public charity status (vs private (operating) foundation) — based on later question, we have broad financial support, so we're public; status requested — (h) — 509(a)2 — this is how we know we're public; we would like “definitive” status; statement of revenue & expenses, list \$ from disqualified person (???), list \$ from non-disqualified >1% etc; list any unusual grants (?)
- user-fee info: avg annual gross receipts >\$10000 over 4 years, we pay \$750

Schedule E (having not filed w/in 27 months of formation): probably don't have to worry about much, because incorporated before Oct '69, but if not, don't care if 501(c)3 status is back-dated

Matt will write part 8 line 10 & 11, part 4

Next meeting: Friday May 7, 7 pm, at Dreampark

5 May 2010

7:30 pm at Scott Raun's house

Whole board (Matt Strait, Betsy Lundsten, Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Seven Anderson) in attendance, plus Dorf [David Waldorf], Rebecca Strait, Irene Raun.

Minneapolis in 2073 report. \$100 of its money is now stored in the main Minnstf bank account. This was prompted by the fact that the bid received a real cashable check and the easiest thing by far for Matt do do was to deposit it. Carol asked if she needs to track it. Matt told her no because if it ever got significant, he'd open a separate account.

Seven is taking a list of board actions from the last year to report to the membership in an Einblatt.

501c3 status: Scott received words from Matt to put on form. He thinks that they are good. No other progress. Scott does not need input from the rest of the board at this time.

Bylaws amendment regarding spending some money as long as we have more than we can realistically lose in a year in a Minicon disaster. Matt brought wording previous sent out to board e-mail list. As a change to

this, for the last sub-paragraph, the board would like: “The board of directions may, at its discretion, choose financial targets other than what the above rules would dictate.”

The board is happy with the amendment and intends to almost certainly pass it, but would like to sleep on it until the next meeting. The proposed bylaws are at: mnstf.org/records/documents/MNstf-bylaws-prop-May-2010.html

Board meeting scheduling. Next meeting probably at 7pm on June 4 at Dreampark. To be confirmed when Seven knows her schedule.

Seven asks if Minnstf is willing to co-sponsor the Minicon CONvergence party with Minicon. Matt is concerned that this is just an accounting trick since it’s all the same pot of money in the end. Seven counters that if Minnstf co-sponsored, she would be sure to push Minn-stf as well as Minicon. The rest of the board asks that at the least for this proposal the board needs to hear how much money has been authorized by Minicon and how much more is asked for Minnstf to pitch in.

Seven reports that a new Dreamhost account has been created.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

4 June 2010

In attendance: Matt Strait, Kelly Strait, Betsy Lundsten, Matt Eppelheimer, Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Rebecca Strait, Seven

By-Laws: Changes to by-laws (see last month’s minutes) approved by all present.

PO Box Key: Matt S currently has 2nd key (Carol has other); probably it should go to Clay Harris, as M46 pre-reg head; board approves transfer. [Since this decision, Clay has received the key.]

Minicon 45 Finances: Andra is working on getting this wrapped up, but the chairs do not have an official report yet.

Minicon 46: A 2nd bank account has been opened at TCF for use with Paypal. Matt S was under the impression that the point of this was to have a different account for 46, since he is a signer for 45, and doesn’t need to be anymore. He will advise them to close that account, and if they still want a 2nd account for Paypal, they should open yet another account. Joel has been told that Carol needs to know about this new bank account, and has passed this along to Andra.

Profit target: Should be decided — someone should communicate with Carol about this year’s expenses so as to set this. Betsy will contact Carol re: expenses; at next meeting, Board will finalize revised profit target.

Minicon party at CONvergence: Will MnStf put some money into this? There is a request for a detailed budget (or, at least, a brief description) before the Board approves expenditure. Seven is thinking about contacting the Reno Worldcon folks to see if they would like to co-host; Board believes that M46 chairs should have veto power on this.

Non-profit status: Scott is still working on this — no updates. Scott may attempt to contact IRS re: data provided to others stating we are 501(c)3, yet they say we aren’t.

Domain registration: Scott will take care of this & handle reimbursement directly.

MnStf Website: New Dreamhost account is no longer free (had 30-day free, now charged). Seven has left a message for Kevin & Laurel to talk about transferring, but has not made contact. Board requests detailed report for next meeting.

The board asked Seven for a fallcon report. There’s nothing to report. The board asks for a report at the next meeting.

Scott reports that the Mnstf printer is running fine, but will need toner soon.

Next meeting: At MnStf picnic, Sat July 17, 2pm.

17 July 2010

In attendance: Matt Strait, Kelly Strait, Betsy Lundsten, Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Seven.

Picnic budget: We allocate \$200, which is \$100 for the space and \$100 for the food (same as last few years). Betsy has e-mailed Carol letting her know.

Non-profit status: no progress.

Minicon 46 profit target: Betsy is waiting for final numbers from Carol.

Fallcon: no progress. Checks have been cashed? It will be at the Holiday Inn Select (as Convivial was) the 3rd weekend in October (15–17).

Minneapolis in 2073: 1st Progress report has been sent out at a cost of \$13. Treasury now has \$183.96 plus blah blah blah. We will have a bid party at Diversicon July 30. We will probably withdraw the \$100 currently stored in the MNstf checking account to cover expenses unless we get more tips/memberships than expected.

Ameriprise accounts: Carol and Irene still need to get in touch.

Next meeting: Aug 7 at Dean+Laura’s MNstf meeting at 7pm.

Minicon savings account at ING has been closed. It was used for Minicons 43–45. Matt has been removed as a signer from the Minicon TCF account (the first one).

7 Aug 2010

In attendance: Matthew Strait, Betsy Lundsten, Scott Raun, Dean Gahlon, Seven.

Item 1: Matt is moving out of town in about a month. He says he will stay on the board if the rest of the board wants him to, or he will resign, conversely. The remaining 80% of the board thinks it would be best not

to have to do things remotely. Matt says that, in that case, he’ll resign effective 31 Aug.

Item 2: Status of getting access to our Ameriprise money. Irene and Carol have been exchanging voice-mails. No contact has yet been made with Ameriprise. Scott believes this will happen before the end of the month.

Item 3: Status of non-profit status. Scott reports no progress. Dean notes that the IRS published a list of non-profits that were going to lose their status as a result of recent rules changes. We are not on that list. We don’t know whether that’s because we’re not affected by the rules, or simply because they don’t recognize us as being eligible in the first place.

Item 4: Status of coming up with a revised profit target for Minicon 46 in light of our bylaws amendment. Betsy reports no progress. Carol is out of town this week, so it will be a little bit before progress can be made. Matt asks what it was we told the Minicon 46 chairs in the first place. \$4000 is the consensus. Matt will confirm with the chairs that that is what they remember too.

Item 5: Minneapolis in 2073. Matt reports that a party was held at Diversicon. It was going to be Friday only, but then people threw money at us until we could afford holding it Saturday as well. Due to this, we’ve spent all of the bid’s money, leaving it with, as far as fungible resources go, —\$1.08, a gram of silver, tuppence, and a Taiwanese dollar. Matt’s pretty sure that’s overall negative by about \$0.50, but he hasn’t checked the spot price of silver. Kelly and Joe Pregracke (a.k.a. Chicago Joe) are at Nasfic now and presumably will manage to get the one new paying member required to bring us into the black.

Item 6: Fallcon status. Seven reports not much progress so far. Matt asks whether there is any way to register. Seven says not really. Matt suggests that since it’s difficult to register, it would be good if the pre-reg and the at-the-door were the same price, or very nearly. He thinks that most people will pre-reg anyway, because that’s just what you do. Seven suggests maybe not having them the same price, but having a very late deadline.

Item 7: Checking account currently has only a few hundred dollars. Where is the Minicon 45 money? Matt says that some is still stuck in PayPal until the end of the month and presumably Andra wants to pay Mnstf in a single check and not a bit at a time. This is a good motivation to get our hands on our Ameriprise money.

Item 8: Seven is thinking of making a Minnstf t-shirt which is just for MnSTF and not for Minicon or anything. She’s worried, though, that not very many people would want to buy it. Most of the board says that they’d buy one. Either way, Matt says that he thinks that with Cafe Press there’s no big setup cost to making a shirt, so it wouldn’t matter if we only made a few. But isn’t each shirt then very expensive?, someone asks. What’s “very expensive”? Matt asks. Betsy has set up a shirt store at Cafe Press with the shirts selling for \$25. But that had profit in it. She thinks that cost is about \$17. Since we wouldn’t be trying to make money, we could sell them for cost, which is less than what we sell Minicon shirts for: \$20. In the end, Seven’s not sure she’ll make a shirt except perhaps by hand for herself. In any case, the discussion comes around to whether we have a nice vector graphics version of the MNSTF logo. Scott thinks he does and will send it out to whoever wants a copy.

Next meeting: 7pm on 22 Sept at Scott’s.

22 Sept 2010

In Attendance: Dean Gahlon, Betsy Lundsten, Seven Anderson, Scott Raun.

Do we want a fifth board member? Yes. We ask Erik Forste — he accepts.

Non-Profit Status — in process.

Carol Kennedy & Irene Raun are working on getting together with Ameriprise — they got the wrong information for scheduling their first appointment. Andra St. Arnauld sent a Minicon check to her earlier this week.

We need to find a new web-master. Dorf said we should probably try to find someone else.

Matt Strait told me Richard Mueller was willing to be webmaster — richard at 3232design.com, 612-751-5003. Seven will encourage Richard to show up at Conjecture.

More advertising for Conjecture? I’ll get posts to Minn-Stf LJ, try for Minicon LJ. Seven & Betsy will talk about it at RenFest.

Scott Raun will contact Matt Strait for board-chat password, Dean will try one of the other mnstf.org list passwords, Seven will follow up with Dorf & Kevin. First to succeed will e-mail to board-chat. Eric is at arkuat at mm.st.

Next Meeting: at Conjecture, Saturday before the Nature Walk. Dean & Laura are to schedule it, and Dean will e-mail board-chat as soon as there’s a time.

16 Oct 2010

11am at Conjecture. In Attendance: Dean Gahlon, Eric Forste, Scott Raun Beth Friedman, Lisa Sanders, Pamela Dean, Magenta, Linda Lounsbury

Conjecture Cost Over-runs: Total cost about \$2000–2100, Total income about \$1600, Total memberships 44. Discussion occurred of options, Magenta agrees to do some research on other hotels. Board approves the overage for this year, also approves potential overage for next year. In other words, the Board thinks that subsidizing a fall relaxacon to the tune of \$400–500 is acceptable.

501(c)3 in process.

Discussion of new web-master — Magenta and Eric Forste tentatively volunteer.

We still need to get Eric on board-chat — I asked Kevin, he passed it along to Laurel. I’ll try to follow up with Laurel.

Next Meeting: 2pm at the Minn-Stf Meeting at Dean & Laura’s, 20 November

18 Dec 2010

@ Minn-Stf @ Irene & Scott’s

In attendance: Dean, Seven, Betsy, Scott & Erik. also Dorf, Dan Goodman, Irene

Mpls in 2073: We took memberships at Nasfic, Worldcon, Conjecture and Windycon. The major effort was at Windycon, where we threw a one-night party, made possible by Joe P upgrading to a Peep-level membership (\$207.30). It was a success, with us taking 21 new members and several upgrades. We nearly broke even, spending about \$30 more than we made. This coming weekend, Gerri Sullivan will be representing us at her “All Worldcons, All the Time Bheer Tasting” party at SFContario. This is free to us, courtesy of Renovation and Chicon 7. The treasury currently contains \$150.02, a gram of silver, a French Franc, tuppence, 0.3 cents in the cash value of coupons, an uncashable check for exactly \$2.073, a very short story printed on a business card, a small rock, the ghosts a peanut M+M and two chocolate 50 cent coins, a Taiwanese dollar, and a penny cut in thirds. This includes one check for \$20.73 taken at Windycon, which Matt will attempt to deposit in the Minnstf account. (The Minnstf account currently has no Minneapolis in 2073 money in it as we withdrew the \$100 that had been in there.) We plan to throw another party at Capricon which will hopefully also roughly break even. A second progress report is in the works, by which we mean that we’ve promised to have it out by July and a non-zero amount of progress has been made towards that goal.

Archival reimbursement approved.

Joel re: ASCAP — see Chas, have Chas get filled out paperwork to us.

Joel re: M47 — ask again next month, we’re going to request bids / statements of interest. If you find a co-chair, let us know.

Non-profit status — need to dig out data, make phone call.

Next meeting — 21 january, my house, 7:30

21 Jan 2011

In Attendance: Eric Forste, Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun 501(c)3: found paperwork w/ phone number, need to find web site, will call Monday AM

Webmaster: Eric will be Webwrangler — deal with keeping the front page up to date, getting projects going. Status of moving mnstf.org to Minn-Stf Account? Scott to send web-site historical summary, known status, goals, e-mail to board-chat for Eric.

Minicon++: Scott to tell Joel yes.

Treasury: Dean reports Minicon Masquerade Videos check, storage locker checks, etc., were processed.

Next Meeting: Pool Party right after the business meeting.

26 Mar 2011

Present: board members Kevin Austin, Eric Forste, Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, and Emily Stewart.

Officers approved:

President: Beth Friedman. Vice President: Rachel Kronick. Treasurer: Carol Kennedy. Correspondence Secretary: Carol Kennedy and Jonathan Adams. Membership Secretary: Laura Krentz. Recording Secretary: Emily Stewart. Einblatt Editor: Scott Raun.

Next board meeting Friday, April 22nd, 2011 at 11pm at Minicon. Exact location TBD.

22 Apr 2011

Minicon 47 will be chaired by Joel Phillips. Budget and directed profit are yet undetermined, but will be decided soon, based on the report from Minicon 46 and financial account status history and updates.

There was a question about the Ameriprise Accounts, which will be moved to the regular bank account. Scott reports on 4/26 — “There are two of the CD like things, they’re one-year terms with maturity dates six months apart, and auto-reroll. There is about a 30-day window to get stuff out of them.”

Minicon Treasurer: Andra is not continuing as treasurer over the next year. Before she leaves, Kevin will ask Andra about the status of accounts and what sort of issues the next treasurer should be aware of. A new treasurer is still needed. On 4/24 Keith Malgren said that he knows someone who is interested in helping out as treasurer, and that he will contact us when he knows.

MnStf Treasurer: Once Carol is feeling better, Scott will get a real treasurer’s report from her. This is expected within about two weeks (May 10).

Monday Night’s Desicated Dodo Party will be an official MnStf party and therefore get the \$75 stipend as a club event.

Scott wants email reminder to look into tax status. Emily will send. — Sent 4/26.

The MnStf Picnic budget is \$200, to be verified with Bill. Kevin will co-ordinate with Bill on the details. (Minneapolis has started charging sales tax on the site rental so fee went from \$100 to \$108. Board approved the \$8 increase in email so budget is now \$208)

Scott will look for previous board minutes from last year and send them to the board-chat group. (done and

posted)
Dean would like the list of contact information for the storage locker to match the people who really should have access to the storage locker. It is believed that only Joel, Keith and Carol should have access to storage locker. Dean will verify with storage facility.
It is unknown who currently has access to the electronic master password. Eric will change the Master Password, and then grant access to Eric, Kevin, Laurel and maybe Matt S. If there are complaints, Eric will address those as needed.
Eric will meet with Kevin and Laurel to transfer Wiki and Co-ordinate with Matt S. for Archive Backups.
There were a few Minicon items to add to the post-Mort agenda. Emily will add those (done 4/26).
Scott will email the Einblatt email list to Kevin. (done)
The next MnStf Board meeting will be on Saturday, May 21st at 2pm, location to be determined.

21 May 2011

15:00ish, at Dreampark.
OLD BUSINESS:
Past Minicon treasurer Andra predicts a profit of about \$3000, although not all expenses have been paid yet.
Possible next Minicon treasurer Peter is an actual government accountant, waiting for clearance from his HR department to become treasurer for Minicon.
Scott had earlier agreed to contact Carol to get a Minn-Stf treasurer’s report. Scott will consider this an email reminder. Scott will arrange for phone calls to be made re: 501(c)3 status.
[[2011 May 22, edited to add: Scott confirms that Carol had already been informed about the Dessicated Dodo stipend, and has now emailed her about scheduling a Treasurer’s report.]]

ACTION ITEM (already done at an earlier meeting, but reconfirmed here): summer picnic budget increased to \$208 because of increase in park site rental fee.
Dean had no new report on the storage locker. Joel P. will be organizing a storage locker party this summer; Dean will use this opportunity to find who does/should-have access to storage locker.
Eric sought advice on long non-noisy passwords vs short noisy passwords. Will set the mnstf website master password to one of the former sort and advise those with a need to know of the change (this time for real).
NEW BUSINESS:
ACTION ITEM: We’re giving \$100 to the Gordon Dickson Memorial Scholarship fund, as usual.

We need to make sure that Carol, our treasurer, is informed that the Board has declared the annual Dessicated Dodo party thrown shortly after Minicon to be an official Minn-Stf meeting.
Our last paper membership directory was published at the end of 2008. Scott has collected data on paper that requires data-entry, but would like volunteers to step up for the actual data-entry. Scott made an announcement about this at the Minn-Stf business meeting later in the evening after the Board meeting. Kevin volunteered to post recruiting data-entry volunteers to the Natter mailing and the Minn-Stf LiveJournal community.
Emily succeeded in getting her State Fair parade idea onto the agenda, and we discussed it, but we weren’t quite sure what to do about it, so Scott made an announcement at the business meeting (after the Board meeting) that Emily was interested in having us participate in the State Fair Parade, and that interested members ought to contact her.
NEXT MEETING: Saturday, June 4, at Beth Friedman’s in Richfield, at 2 pm. We chose the earlier date in case we needed to meet any deadlines for the State Fair, and also because the second meeting in June is being hosted in Wisconsin.
[[minutes taken by Eric, standing in for absent Emily]]

4 June 2011

MnStf Board Meeting at 6915 10th Ave S, Richfield, MN
Attendance: Laura Krentz, Dean Gahlon, Kevin Austin, Beth Friedman, Irene Raun, Scott Raun, Eric Forste, Emily Stewart, Aaron Vander Giessen
Meeting Dates: Emily will look into setting up a calendar with electronic reminders for dates of board meetings. The next board meeting will be 2pm at the July 16 MnStf Picnic location at Minnehaha Park.
Passwords and other electronica: Eric gave some electronic passwords to Kevin. Eric and Kevin will discuss offline if the passwords need to change. Our two domain names are taken care of and Scott will talk to Carol about reimbursement.
Treasurer’s Report: Carol Kennedy submitted a treasurer’s report that included the checking account balance as of May 31. She noted that there are three checks outstanding and also gave the account balance of \$4881.88 after those checks clear. Major periodic payments include \$131 monthly for a storage locker, \$75 to each of two monthly meeting hosts, \$88 per year for a P.O. box, and annual expenses for a New Year’s Eve party, an annual pool party, and a picnic. Carol plans to submit a full year’s itemized report sometime soon.
Storage Locker: Joel Phillips reported a mix-up regarding payment of the storage locker. Dean will look into the issue and make sure Carol Kennedy is informed about necessary reimbursement.
2012 Picnic: Bill Christ requested that the picnic be approved before December of January to make scheduling easier. A motion to approve the 2012 picnic was approved. The budget will be equal to or greater than

the 2011 picnic budget. Kevin will inform Bill. [Bill was informed at the picnic.]
Gordon Dickson Memorial Fund: Kevin will make sure that the \$100 donation that was approved at the May meeting gets to the appropriate people.
Membership Directoryish: Scott reports that so far, two volunteers have signed up for data entry to consolidate the MnStf list of contact information for people and places. Work on this project will begin soon.
State Fair: Emily reported on the application for a MnStf group in the Minnesota State Fair. There appears to be no entry fee. There is a requirement that members interested in marching in the State Fair parade get together for a photo in what they will be wearing at the parade, along with any signage that they’ll be bringing. We will take this photo sometime at Convergence in an area that is accessible to people who may not be attending Convergence. Emily will co-ordinate with the Convergence Room Party hosts to arrange.
501(c)3 status: Scott or Irene will call the IRS to work out the details of our current status on Monday or Tuesday. Follow up report — Scott reports that our status has been dropped, and we must re-apply. We are looking into finding an appropriate and affordable tax specialist.
FallCon/Conjecture: will be October 14–16 at the Crowne Plaza in Bloomington. The hotel contract is currently in hand and will be signed before July. Registration is currently available via the website. Paper forms will be printed and available as of the 4th Street Fantasy Convention. Beth said that the color of the registration page should not be grey, it has since been changed to blue.
Public Records of Minutes: There is a possibility of broken links in the current structure of minutes. Eric will make modifications to past board meeting minutes so that the links are consistent.
Copy Printer: MnStf owns a copy printer that currently lives in Scott Raun’s basement. It is a stencil mimeo steampunk printer that needs work. Scott will make it go away. In the extremely unlikely event that it is exchanged for a positive amount of money, that money will be returned to MnStf.
Laser Printer: MnStf owns a laser printer that lives at Scott Raun’s house. This printer is in working order and can be used for short runs of printing that needs doing.
Greeter / Outreach position for MnStf parties: Seven was going to head this department but hasn’t had time. Eric Forste will take over the position, with subheads as needed.
Meetings in more public spaces: There is concern that it may be intimidating to attend meetings at private homes and it was suggested that we have meetings in community centers, libraries, parks or other public meeting spaces. The September 3rd meeting will also be a Minicon Programming Department Brainstorming meeting. Emily will look into hosting this at the Waterbury or other public space and will co-ordinate with the President (Beth Friedman). Emily will also look into whether there is a rental fee for public library meeting spaces. Kevin wants birthday cake to be available at the September 3rd meeting.
U.S. Bank Bank Account: Old records indicate we had three USBank accounts, and were trying to consolidate them into one. Did this ever happen? Scott will follow up with Carol. [Scott has since followed up with Carol, we are down to one USBank account.]
Balance information should be forthcoming when we get the next full Treasurer’s Report.
Meeting Kit: There should be a meeting kit with the sign in book and sign in sheets. Beth would like a list of recommendations for food and other information to be available on the Wiki. Kevin will make it so.
Joel Rosenberg Memorial: A donation of \$100 was approved. Scott will inform Carol.

16 July 2011
Old business — Follow-up from previous meeting:

- Emily will set up an electronic calendar for board meeting email reminders.
- The storage locker payment issues are now cleared up and all reimbursements have been taken care of.
- Scott Raun and Beth Friedman are working on creating a database of MnStf members and important contacts. More volunteers may be necessary. Scott will contact the various groups appropriately as needed.
- MnStf will attempt to march as a group in the State Fair parade in 2012. For the 2012 parade, we will need to arrange for the “Minicon” banner to be readily available at the end of Minicon 47.
- Scott Raun asked Beth Friedman to report on the status of Fallcon. Beth reported that the hotel contract has been signed and online registration is available at mnstf.org/conjecture
- Eric continues to wrangle previous meeting minutes and is working on getting those minutes into a more consistent format.
- MnStf is pursuing holding some meetings in more public spaces. The board approved such a meeting on September 3rd at the Radish Tree (Radisson Sheraton DoubleTree). This will be a pool party. Kevin Austin and Laurel Krahn are in charge of the September 3rd pool party and will take care of arrangements. For other possible public meetings, the Waterbury is available for only \$4 per hour. Currently, the contact person to reserve the Waterbury is Angie Anderson — sitescheduling [at] geekpartnership [dot] org

New Business:

- Peter Kacner will be unable to act as treasurer for

Minicon 47, but he may be able to help us navigate 501(c)3 paperwork. Emily needs email address for him and she will contact him. The Board will ask Andra St Arnaud if she would be willing to serve as Minicon 47 treasurer.

- Attendees discussed feedback about the Minicon party at Convergence and also discussed the need for clearer expectations about room parties and hosting. The following tentative guidelines were agreed to:
 - Room party hosts and room party volunteers should continue to check identification for anyone who is to be served alcohol.
 - Room party hosts should feel comfortable and be willing to serve as good-will-ambassadors for Minicon and other MnStf activities.
 - A room party should be the primary responsibility of the host(s).
 - All room party heads or co-heads should have a convention membership for the convention at which the party is held.
- There will be a Diversicon party. Emily will communicate the party expectations to Matt Strait, the party head for the Diversicon party as soon as the written notes are approved.
- The next board meeting will be 2pm August 6, 2011 at the home of Dean Gahlon and Laura Krentz.

6 Aug 2011

Meeting began at approximately 2:30pm at the home of Dean Gahlon and Laura Krentz’s at 4323 France Ave in Minneapolis.
Attendance: Emily Stewart, Scott Raun, Eric Forste, Kevin Austin, Dean Gahlon, Pamela Dyer-Bennet, Irene Raun, Laura Krentz, Sarafina The Cat.
Psuedocalendar: Scott Raun and Eric Forste will take care of via Fireopal or MnStf server if such a thing is feasible.
Treasurer’s Report: Carol Kennedy is expected to submit a treasurer’s report soon.
Database: Scott Raun will continue to communicate with Beth Friedman about progress. Concern was raised about the possibility of losing the database if it is stored on a personal computer. To prevent any such problems, when the database is completed, the electronic files will be distributed to any member who would like to see the membership database, and the file will be stored at the Dreamhost account.
Pool Party: Budget is \$200, which assumes that the suite is free. The party will be handled by Kevin Austin and Laurel Krahn.
Diversicon Party Report: It was a Minneapolis in 2073 Party, planned and maintained by Matt and Kelly Strait. There was at least one “Blogger” membership. The supplies originally meant for one night lasted two nights and it was a very cost effective party.
Minicon 47 Treasurer: Emily will write to Andra St. Arnaud and CC Board to and ask if she is willing.
501(C)3 status: Raun has some paperwork started. Peter Kacner has said that he is willing to help as long as it doesn’t conflict with his work. Emily will write to Peter and Scott to get the ball rolling. A public statement about the lapsed status will be prepared for the various public forums.
CONvergence room party: The July room party at CONvergence will be a MnStf room party in the future. This room party does not typically attract many Minicon memberships, and this change will allow us to focus more attention on the summer and fall MnStf meetings and events. Issues to discuss for this in the future — Meeting dates general flyer (?), Fallcon flyer (?).
Correspondence: Minneapolis in 2073 Update - Matt Strait is currently in charge of the Minneapolis in 2073 Worldcon Bid parties. He has sent the following update:
Minneapolis in 2073 now has 356 members, 231 of whom have paid to be members (i.e. are not dodos). We’ve sent out our second progress report. 58 copies went out as postcards and the rest went via e-mail, as per whatever people said their most useful address was. The cost to print and mail was \$19.45. The treasury now contains, as far as fungible resources go, \$(253 76/325) [that’s \$253.08 plus 2/13 of a dollar or about \$253.23] and a gram of silver. All of this is held by Matt Strait and none is in the Mnstf checking account. Matt thinks that he’s said that if we hit \$500 in the treasury, we’ll deposit some into the Mnstf account. If the board would like other arrangements, they should let him know. In conjunction with Minicon 47, we’re sending out flyers to about 40 conventions over the course of the year that none of us attend. The idea here is that we send 1 ounce of flyers for each convention and share the \$0.61 postage and \$0.11 envelope. This is really cheap advertising. For the rest of the year, we plan to run parties at Diversicon and Windycon and probably to put out Progress Report 3 shortly before Windycon.
Next Meeting: The next meeting was originally scheduled for 3:33pm on September 3rd but was cancelled because of a schedule conflict. That date of the next meeting will be announced as soon as it is known.

15 Oct 2011
Meeting began at approximately 11:45am in the Programming Room at Conjecture 2, Crowne Plaza Bloomington Hotel.
Attendance: Eric Forste, Kevin Austin, Dean Gahlon, Emily Stewart, Scott Raun, Matt Strait, Linda Lounsbury.
Meeting began with a discussion of how records of

meeting minutes are spotty before 2000. Matt will try to look at paper archives of board minutes in February 2012.

- Agenda:
- Matt Strait’s copyright proposal
 - purchase of domains mnstf.com and mnstf.info
 - treasurer’s report
 - non-profit 501c3 status
 - setting up webstore on CafePress
 - transfer of Dreamhost from Laurel to Minn-StF

Board accepted Matt Strait’s copyright proposal. Matt will write up a version for public consumption which will be incorporated into the minutes for publication.

Joel Rosenberg bought mnstf.com and mnstf.info. Felicia has offered to transfer them to mnstf. Board agrees to acquire these two domain names. Scott Raun will contact Felicia and arrange for transfer. The two domain names will cost us an additional \$15/year each.

Kevin talked to Carol just before the meeting. Carol agreed to give us a line-item treasurer’s report soon.

Minicon: Joel Phillips will have the budgets for the Minicon departments by the next con-comm meeting. Andra is going to be Treasurer again but wants someone else next year!

Beth Friedman ran a loss of \$400 or \$500 on Conjecture 2. We plan to reimburse, when we get the actual amount and accounting.

Scott has found some but not all of the filled-out paperwork for non-profit status from three years ago, so we are going to start over from scratch. We need to start a fresh “application for 501c3 status”. Scott found this form by searching on the IRS site. Articles of Incorporation and by-laws need to be incorporated into the application. We need copies with actual signatures, including evidence of acceptance by the state. We plan to ask Matt, the archivist, if he knows of the location of these documents. It’s possible that there are alternative ways of proving acceptance by the state to the IRS.

Kevin has talked to Laurel and Carol about setting up CafePress stores so that profits go into the MinnStF account. Once that happens, we can set up stores. We will ask Carol for an update about the webstores when we get the treasurer’s report.

The question of transferring Dreamhost assets from Laurel’s personal account to a new Minn-StF Dreamhost account has been waiting for a resolution of the 501c3 status so we wouldn’t have to pay Dreamhost \$10 a month (they provide websites to nonprofits for free).

Scott still needs to get rid of the copy printer AKA the highly automated mimeo machine. If it doesn’t go on Craigslist, he will list it on Freecycle.

Meeting at 12:13 pm.

Next meeting 2pm November 19th at the MinnStF meeting

19 Nov 2011

Attendance. Kevin Austin, Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Eric Forste, Emily Stewart, Laura Krentz, Pamela Dean, Sarafina Cat.

We don’t have mnstf.com and mnstf.info domains yet, Scott is working on it.

501(c)3 status. Kevin will track down board minutes about former attempts and send to board. Emily will send email today to Peter, Scott and Charles.

Copy printer still exists in Scott’s basement. He will list it on Craigslist or Freecycle eventually.

MnStf directory: Scott reports that we are reasonably close to finished. Data entry for new forms that were filled out in October and at CONjecture still needs to be entered, but that will probably be the last of it or close to the last of it.

CVG 2012.room party: Board decided that the Party Partnership is worth \$50. The sleeping room will go to

whoever wants it via the concomm list.

Public meetings: Emily will ask Beth about meetings that could be in public space, possibly the Waterbury. Board nomination meeting in February or March should be in public space. First Board Nominations will be at the pool party, second is ??? Also maybe first meeting after Minicon or CONvergence could also be at Waterbury. Emily will write to Waterbury co-ordinator about July 21st.

Board Minutes Links Pages: Nothing since last discussion. Eric is on it.

Minneapolis in ’73 MnStf Cafe Press store. Laurel set up the store. Carol and Laurel need to figure out how to get money from store to MnStf.

Einblatt Printing. Someone needs to print and snail mail. Emily will attempt. Kevin will send addresses to Emily.

Board meeting email calendar. We want email reminders. Scott will make this happen on FireOpal.

ASCAP: ??? It’s probably taken care of. Scott will ask Graham and Becca.

Falcon: Do we have financial information yet? Who is running falcon 2012? Eric will ask Beth.

Ongoing Business: Kevin asked Carol about line item report. He has not heard back yet.

Minicon 48, 49, 50. Joel wants to chair until at least Minicon 50. Policy remains that each potential chair should ask to chair each year with a proposal. Requests for proposals will be solicited in December, proposals should be submitted at the January board meeting. Emily will tell Joel.

Next meeting is on December 17th at Scott’s house 2pm.

17 Dec 2011

Attendance: Emily Stewart, Kevin Austin, Eric Forste, Pamela Dean, Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Irene Raun, Josie, Precious.

Are mnstf.com and mnstf.info domains ours now? Scott reports that the domains are not yet transferred. Scott will speak to DDB about transfer.

501(c)3 status: Email has been sent, but there are some questions about which forms we need. Scott and Emily will communicate about this and report back.

Is the copyprinter gone? Not yet. Scott will list it on freecycle or Craigslist.

Minnstf directory progress: Needs more data entry. Scott will talk to Beth.

CONvergence 2012 room party: The room will be offered to a few people who are suspected of being friendly to the idea of hosting, then to the general concomm list. Emily will communicate to those people.

Meetings in public spaces: All of the spaces in the Waterbury building are available on July 21st. Rates are as follows: 106 (lobby, kitchenette), \$2 hourly; 106A (classroom sized space) at \$4 an hour; 135 (the big room), \$10 an hour. Emily will reserve 2pm–2am room 106.

Board minutes links pages: There were three inconsistent web pages that pointed to minutes. Now there are two. There was the web page that the records link on the main MnStf page pointed to, the web page that the records link on some of the other MnStf pages pointed to, and the web page that is listed in the “Einblatt!” going back as far as March 2008. Matt Strait has cleaned up some of this so that the second of those now redirects to the first but the third one is still out there.

MnStf/Mpls in 73 CafePress stores: Kevin sent an email to Laurel and Carol and he has not heard back. This is not yet resolved, but Kevin will continue to pursue the issue.

Einblatt! printing: Emily reports that last month’s issues are printed and mailed. Hopefully this will continue in a similar fashion.

board meeting email calendar: Scott and Eric are looking into creating a calendar to send updates about board meeting locations and times. A Unix calendar program might suffice.

ASCAP: Scott has not heard anything back.

Reminders about Board Approval for Expenses: Events that have happened regularly in the past should not be assumed as approved for the future. New conventions or expenses need to be approved by the MnStf Board at regular meetings in accordance with Bylaws Part III, section 5, subsections d, e, and f. A general announcement to clarify and inform people as to the need for board approval to be sent to Minicon list. Emily will write a rough draft.

MnStf line item treasurer report: Kevin has written to the MnStf Treasurer Carol Kennedy. As of the December meeting, Kevin has not yet heard back. He expects to see her in person soon, and will be able to ask her about it then.

Falcon: This item is related to “Reminders About Board Approval For Expenses.” A date for Falcon 2012 is set, but a Falcon proposal has not yet been submitted to the Board. It will be the third weekend in October. Beth still has several checks to deposit in the Falcon account. The 2011 Falcon was some unknown amount in the red. Beth is expected to send a report soon.

Minicon 48, 49, and 50: This item is related to “Reminders About Board Approval For Expenses” We have a hotel agreement with the hotel affectionately known as “Radish Tree” for Minicons 47 and 48. We have not yet heard proposals for Minicon 48. Joel would like to continue as chair through M50, and would be willing to consider co-chairs. The board will work on finding co-chairs so as to prevent burnout.

Chicon Minnesota Room Block: There will be a party hosted by several Minnesota Fan groups at the Chicago Worldcon in 2012. Joel Phillips is working on some or all of the logistics for that party. The board has the following questions: What estimated budget will be requested of MnStf for the 2012 budget How much are other orgainzations contributing Who are those other organizations? (CVG, Marscon, Diversicon, Arcana, Anime Detour..?)

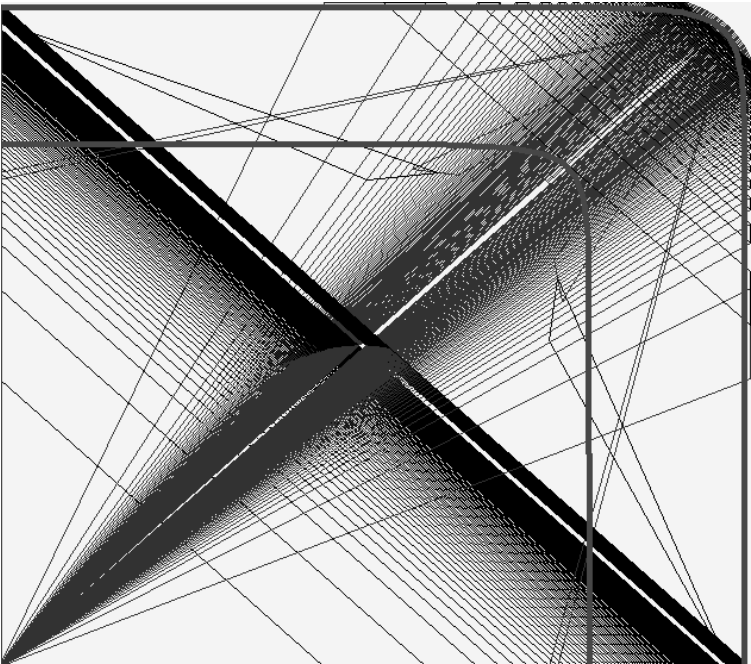
Board at MnStf dot Org. Dean will unsubscribe us to the ivouchers if such a thing is possible.

Emails for Minicon: Webmaster at mnstf dot org and Minicon both go to Eric. Eric gets the paypal receipts that should go to the Minicon Webmaster. Eric will send an email to Kevin to make it so. Andra St. Arnauld should get Tax ID number stuff, Clay Harris should get Pre-Registration stuffs.

Rune Press Publications: We would like to give away some of our old chapbooks and erratta. There is a Steve MacDonald songbook for which we have some unknown financial arrangement. The editor of the publication will probably know. Maybe Geri Sullivan (?) Who has keys to the locker? Joel knows the passcode to get into the building and the combination. Emily will try to find help to inventory, which will include a listing of Title, author, editor, approximate number of copies.

Status of Board Meeting Minutes for meetings before 2007: Rather spotty. Nothing before 1997. Dean and Scott will look and see if they have any old copies or archives. Kevin will talk to Matt about doing something with our current records to prevent this from being another problem in future decades. Kevin will email Dean about which records are missing.

Next meeting: 2pm at January MnStf Board Meeting. Minicon Proposals will happen at the January 21st meeting if it’s at Emily’s House. If David Wilford is hosting Jan 21, then proposal meeting will be a different date that is not a MnStf meeting. This decision must be made before December 22.



Recent Minn-stf Board Minutes

And here are the minutes from the last year or so that might be of more general interest:
21 Jan 2012

Attendance Kevin Austin, Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Irene Raun, Laura Krentz, Hershey Lima, Clay Harris, Ripley the Dog.

Are mnstf.com and mnstf.info domains ours now? Mnstf.com and Mnstf.info not ours yet, there is no progress since the last meeting.

501(c)3 status: There are no new developments in the quest for 501(c)3 status. Once we get this status reassigned, then we can move our accounts to Dreamhost, and then we will no longer be reliant on personal web accounts for hosting. It was pointed out that once non-profit status is restored, a purchase order created by us could reasonably be called a C(3)PO.

Copyprinter: Copyprinter still not gone.

MnStf Directory: Scott will ask Beth about progress on MnStf Directory

CONvergence 2012 room party: Sharon Kahn and Richard Tatge have agreed to sleep in the CONvergence Party Room.

Meetings in public space: We are currently "penciled in" for a public meeting at the Waterbury in rooms 106 and 106A from 2pm on July 21 2012 to 2am on July 22 2012. The total rental fee will be \$32. Kevin will email Emily a link for the check form to be sent out. We will need to assign a host.

Board Minutes Links Pages: There were three, now there are only two. Kevin will send email to Scott to remind him to make the correction.

Board meeting email calendar: There is no progress since the last meeting.

ASCAP: Scott Raun reported that Becca Leathers reported to him that the paperwork has been turned in.

Issue of Board Approval For Expenses: Since no one remember approving the Fallcon, it is determined to be not yet approved. Beth will be asked to submit a more complete proposal (by whom?). Emily talked to Joel about the issue of the Minicon hotel contract being signed without board approval. Joel understands the issue and said that it was important to get

the hotel contract finalized before Anime Detour requested the same weekend (a much larger convention that is normally the first weekend in April).

Minicon 47: There was one proposal submitted on January 6th from Joel Phillips. It is as follows:

Hello to the Mnstf board,

I'm sending this email as an official request to continue as chair for Minicon 48, which is early next year Mar 29-31 2013. Minicon 47 seems to be rolling along well and I'm excited and energized for the convention to happen. I am enjoying this a lot and would like to continue in this role. In fact I know I've mentioned it before, I'd like to continue through 49 and then hopefully co-chair Minicon 50 with Keith Malgren. This is not an official request for 50 just a heads up. We are intending to get you a strong full plan of action for 50 and present it to you possibly next month. Keith's mother passed away last week which of course is pushing things back for us.

I'd like to add that Charlie Stross felt real bad about not being able to make it this past year and expressed a strong desire to come next year if we'd like him. I told him then, I could not confirm without clearing that I was to be chair for that year. So, regardless if you want me or someone else, we should already have a great Goh author we'll just have to confirm it with him.

I hope you'll be able to talk about it at your next meeting, and let me know soon as possible so I am able to get to work on other Goh's for that year. Thank you for your time.

Emily will write to Joel and ask that he amend his proposal to also include his expected profit, and a very general budget outline.

MnStf/Mpls 73 Cafe Press: Kevin has sent a reminder email about this to Laurel and Carol.

MnStf Line Item Treasurer's Report: Kevin reminded Carol about this immediately after the board meeting.

Board at MnStf: We are now unsubscribed.

Chicon 2012 Room Party: Emily asked Joel Phillips about how much money he would like for the Chicago 2012 room party. Joel replied to say that he doesn't expect to know for several months, but once he has word back on how much other organizations are contributing, he will let us know. He hopes to have a number for us by Minicon.

Minicon emails going to wrong address: Last month's issue of emails for Minicon being misdirected has been resolved.

Rune Press Inventory of Publications: Patricia Z. has said that she will help with this project. Emily and Patricia will do this as soon as Patricia has word on her husband's schedule conflicts.

Old Board Meeting Minutes: Lots of old board meeting minutes are up. There is a question about one potentially sensitive open meeting. Kevin will send again and other board members will reply. More minutes will be going up.

Possible Hotline Phone Number: Many months ago Keith Malgren said he has reserved google voice phone numbers that end in 1973. Should we use it? It was decided that we wouldn't use such a thing because email is more suitable and appropriate, and because a hotline might not get updated as frequently as it should. In later silly speculation, it was decided that we also shouldn't have a Minneapolis in 1973 telegraph hotline. What if we sent the Einblatt out in Morse Code? NO. The internet to telegraph gateway may exist, we don't need it, no matter how cool it may be.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be at 2pm on Saturday, February 18th at the RadiSh Tree, which will be followed by a Minicon concomm meeting at 4pm. Both of these events will be part of the annual Pool party.

Incidental: There may be a piece of string with only one end. If such is the case, we shall alert the U of M Physics dept.

18 Feb 2012

Attendance: Attendance overlaps with MnStf meeting Pool Party attendance on the same day. (See MnStf bylaws section II, 6. b)

William Shatner Event: This event would be better for GPS or Convergence Events. Emily will send to CVG Events and GPS.

Electronic Attendance for voting rights: Currently, a few people attend Minicon concom meetings by electronic means (Skype or speakerphone). The board discussed whether or not electronic attendance should count for voting rights. The current ruling is that concom meeting attendance by Skype counts toward voting rights, but MnStf meetings will not. The concom chair or his/her designated representative should decide if participation by Skype is sufficient to warrant recording attendance. So far, no one has attended a MnStf meeting by Skype, or attempted to attend a MnStf meeting by Skype, so that issue is only a hypothetical to debate. Emily dissents with decision to not count electronic attendance at MnStf meetings, and will bring it up again if it ever actually happens.

M48 Proposal: Joel and Matt's proposal for Minicon 48 is accepted with the caveat that until the MnStf Board receives a complete line item accounting of the MnStf expenses, the expected profit should be a conservative \$4000. Other concerns and questions should be brought directly to Matt and Joel.

Minicon Treasurer: Andra has talked to Beth Phillips about being the next Minicon treasurer.

MnStf Treasurer: The current MnStf treasurer would like us to find someone else. Bill Christ was asked if he would like to be MnStf Treasurer and he declined. An announcement will be made at the voting meeting to ask if anyone is interested in the position.

Meeting announcements: Concom meetings should be announced in Einblatt and on web. Emily will get such information to Scott and Eric.

Fallcon for 2012: Beth discussed the 2012 Fallcon with the board. She will make

a formal written proposal as soon as she finishes the 2011 book keeping. The total loss for 2011 is approximately \$500. Her proposal for 2012 is tentatively accepted, pending the written proposal.

Copyprinter: The copy printer is currently listed on Craigslist, and will move to freecycle if there are no takers.

501(c)3: Charles Piehl has reported to Scott that there is possibly a streamlined application process for organizations that formerly had status but have been dropped. This project is on hold until Minicon, where the then current board will discuss it with anyone interested in helping.

Next meeting: March 17th, 2012 after the new board is installed.

17 March 2012

Attendance: Hershey Lima, Scott Raun, Dean Gahlon, Beth Friedman, Emily Stewart.

There was discussion of officer selection. Because this was a closed meeting, only the names of the selectees who have agreed to take the position will be named.

Carole Vandal has accepted the position of President.

There was a nomination for a Vice President and that person was not available at the meeting. Hershey will contact that person and ask if there is interest in the Vice President Position. After the meeting, Steven Brust accepted the position of Vice President.

Carol Kennedy is willing to continue as Treasurer and Correspondence Secretary. Laura Krentz is willing to continue as Membership Secretary. Scott Raun is willing to continue as Einblatt editor.

After the meeting, it was determined by email that Matt Strait is willing to continue on as Archivist, Eric Forste is willing to continue on as Web Wrangler.

The next meeting is Saturday, April 14th at 2pm at the home of Beth Friedman — 6915 10th Ave. S., Richfield, MN.

14 Apr 2012

Held at the home of Joel and Beth Phillips at 6323 Excelsior Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Attendance: Scott Raun, Irene Raun, Beth Friedman, Emily Stewart, Hershey Lima, Dean Gahlon, Matt Strait (by

Skype), Pete Kacner, Joel Phillips, Aaron Vander Giessen.

*501(c)3: Pete Kacner has volunteered to help with re-establishing non-profit status. It appears that we have no paperwork that proves we ever had non-profit status. Beth Friedman has volunteered to find out from the IRS what information they've ever had or if they can help us provide proof of former status for re-establishment. Emily will start the process of getting together the paperwork outlined on ncstac.org/content/materials/501c3.pdf for establishing new status. Assuming that we cannot prove that we previously had non-profit status, we will apply for new status. We must first apply with the federal government, and then for tax exempt status with the State of Minnesota.

Addendum #1 to these minutes: Emily Stewart and Pete Kacner discussed potential tax savings for non-profit organizations after the meeting. The 2013 Minicon budget includes an estimated expense of \$3500 for hotel expenses. The tax rate on hotel rooms in Minnesota is 10.275%, and 6.875% of that number is sales tax. Even if we're only exempt from the 6.875 percent sales tax, that's still a significant savings of \$218.20.

Addendum #2 to these Minutes: Email sent from Beth Friedman at 5:36pm, April 14th with links to IRS information about "Reinstating exemption after revocation for non-filing" and "Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code." irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=177802,00.html and irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1023.pdf

Document Storage: Documents stored in private homes have a tendency to get lost, or the holder of those documents becomes unknown to current leadership. We need more secure document storage. Emily will look into and report back at May meeting. Included in discussion — Could we rent a file cabinet at GPS? We would have a physical address which would also help with our 501(c)3 application. That would be nifty.

Archives: Matt has found several old board minutes in the archives. He will arrange with Kevin Austin how to get them on the web.

Treasurer: Still need line item report originally due on March of 2011, and March of 2012. Beth will ask Carol for a line item report or some electronic or physical copy of the check register by the May board meeting.

Projected profit for Minicon 48: Currently, Joel and Matt are planning to have a conservative profit of \$4,000, but would like it to be lower. To give them a definitive answer we need a list of our expected expenses. We need estimated Minicon 47 numbers and MnStf Line Item report for 2011 and 2012 (see previous item).

Fallcon: Had a final loss of \$55.39. The 2012 Fallcon has been approved, with a projected loss of ~\$200.

Minneapolis in 2073 update: Bid parties exist continue to happen, as approved by the MnStf board at past meetings. The mission of Minneapolis in 2073 is to run a Worldcon bid as seriously as is reasonably expectable for a convention more than sixty years away. These parties are self-funded by pre-supporting memberships to Mpls in 2073. The treasury currently is at \$242.81. If it gets to \$500, money will be transferred to the MnStf bank account for safekeeping. The Minneapolis in 2073 bid is considered to be a subset of Minneapolis in '73. MnStf should clearly be bidding for all years ending in '73.

Rune Editorship: Kelly and Matt request that they become the Rune editors. Their request was unanimously and enthusiastically approved. Matt and Kelly will work out how to best send Rune publications to people, including whether electronically or by post mail, and which mailing lists are most relevant. The next publication may be a combination Minneapolis in 2073/Rune document. The board approved approximately \$200 in publication/ mailing costs, not to exceed \$250 unless specifically approved by the board.

Parties: There was much discussion about policy for MnStf/Minicon parties. The current budget for Minicon 48 includes \$700 in room party expenses, which is in line with several recent Minicon budgets. This budget was approved at the February 18, 2012 Board meeting. At some unknown time in the past, room parties were the exclusive purview of Mn-

Stf. There was debate as to whether there should be an official policy to make all room parties the exclusive domain of MnStf, or to continue with some MnStf room parties and some Minicon room parties. Beth raised concern that Minicon funded parties may not include enough acknowledgement about the parent organization. Joel raised concern that there should be room for parties to be planned at the last minute, and MnStf has a slow turnaround time on decision making. This issue is tabled, and will be discussed via email.

Chicago Room Party: This topic is related to the topic titled "Parties." Some time back, there was a preliminary discussion of the Worldcon room party that includes several Minnesota fan organizations. Joel has requested \$300 to help pay for the suite and for food/beverages. This issue is tabled pending discussion about the parties topic.

Cafe Press: There is a MnStf Cafe Press store. Is there anything to report from that (sales, promotion, etc...). Laurel controls. Scott will contact Kevin Austin and/or Laurel Krahn about transfer to MnStf.

Minicon policy: Matt Strait would like clarification of the purview of the Minicon Chair(s) about setting Minicon policy. He suggests the following official statement. "We annul everything previous boards have said about Minicon policy. Minicon should run itself as specified in the bylaws until or unless the board says otherwise." This item is related to the topic titled "Parties," and will be discussed via email, and then re-evaluated at the May board meeting.

Steve MacDonald Songbooks: In February of 2012, Patricia Z. and Emily did an inventory of the chapbooks and other Rune publications at the storage locker. Most of those things can be given away. As an exception, there are 63 Songbooks that had a financial arrangement with Steve MacDonald, the author. During email discussion on the topic, Dean passed along an email from Steve Macdonald, originally sent in 2006. The most relevant parts of that email are as follows:

WHERE WE ARE: *I hold the copyrights on the book; and MNSTF is currently licensed to publish and distribute*

the songbook. In lieu of cash royalties, MNSTF agreed to send me 10% of any books printed. Originally, this arrangement was only to be through 2004; but since I haven't been following due diligence either (grin), I feel that this agreement is still effectively in place.

OPTIONS:

1. MNSTF decides that there's enough profit in it to keep publishing. If so- we need to discuss royalties; and the mechanism to get them paid. We should also discuss whether there may be a perceived conflict of interest if I choose to publish overseas.

*2. MNSTF decides to halt publishing. If this be the case, we be done. *wrygrin* Tho, I'll be more than happy to do what I can to get the books offloaded from your shelves...*

Ok, that's about all I have now. Let me know what you guys want to do! Can we give them away, or send them to someone who will sell them?

smac

Dean will contact Steve MacDonald via the grapevine about what we should do with the songbooks.

Status of electronica: mnstf.com and mnstf.info domains were bought by a member some time ago with the understanding that MnStf might want them. We do want them. Those domains are not yet under the control of MnStf, but Scott Raun is working on it.

Database Directory: All of the Membership Directory data has been entered. That data needs to be formatted. Scott will do so by the May meeting.

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 19th at 2pm at 3928 11th Ave S, Mpls.

19 May 2012

Held at the home of Scott and Irene Raun at 3928 11th Ave S, Mpls, MN. Attendance: Dean Gahlon, Hershey Lima, Scott Raun, Emily Stewart, Aaron Vander Giessen, Irene Raun.

501(c)3: Geri Sullivan found a copy of the federal certificate originally declaring our 501(c)3 status and sent it to the board. Emily will rewrite bylaws for consistency, compliance with federal law and then send them to the board for approval.

The bylaws will only be corrected for typos and format and will have the same intent as before.

Subletting Space from GPS for physical address and document storage: As per last month's minutes, Emily contacted Andy Murphy with GPS about renting space to store a file cabinet. Email from Andy Murphy states:

We can certainly talk. What we could do is let you use the Waterbury address as a mailing address, and issue you a mailbox within the GPS office. We would place mail into your box as it arrives.

As far as document storage, we'd be happy to set up space for a file cabinet in 106. We'd need a lockable file cabinet, and we could put it in the public space, so that you could get into it without needing to get into the GPS office. If we get an additional key made; we could put your mail in there, and then you would have a single home for MnStf in the space.

I think we could do that for the \$10/mo you were thinking as well.

The MnStf board chose not to pursue the option at this time. Emily will contact Andy Murphy and let him know.

Document Storage: Currently, the MnStf Archives are stored in multiple locations, including at the home of Marian Turner. Our original 501(c)3 paperwork may or may not be at Marian's house. Scott reports that Marian prefers the phone and seldom responds to email. For consistency and accessibility, all of the archives will be moved to the storage locker (Emily to take care of?). *[Editor's note: there was some confusion over the word "archives". What is meant here is official documents like tax records and bank statements, not things like Minicon program books.]*

Mailing Address: We will need a physical address to refile for 501(c)3 status. We will use Scott Raun's house as the permanent address for MnStf for business purposes and tax purposes. We need a contingency plan if Scott becomes unavailable.

Web updates: Both Matt Strait as the archivist and Eric Forste as the web wrangler are willing to see that the meeting minutes get updated on the web. Eric will be primarily responsible, but minutes will

also be sent to Matt for backup and for archive purposes. On April 23, Matt Strait reported that he had converted the MnStf.org page over to be more visually consistent and that he had removed some outdated information.

Moderators for Event list: Currently, Karen Cooper is the list owner of the Events List. The moderators are Shaun Kelly, Peter Hentges, Rachael Lininger, Betsy Lundsten, and David Schroth. There was a question as to whether or not the list really needs six moderators. The event list does not get very much traffic, and is mostly comprised of repostings from other venues. We are not having trouble with the event list and don't expect problems any time soon, and a surplus of moderators does not appear to be causing any problems. We will continue with a hands-off approach.

Treasurer's Report: Still need line item report originally due on March of 2011, and March of 2012. Dean will ask Carol for the report or a copy of the check register. The most accessible account is kept at Highland Bank and requires two signatures. We also have CDs at American Express. There is a question as to who has signing authority for the American Express account. Dean will ask Carol about both of those issues.

Minicon 46 Books are closed: On March 22, 2012, Andra St. Arnauld, the Minicon 46 Treasurer reported a final profit of \$5,472.95 for that year. That same day, she sent the check to be deposited into the MnStf account.

Projected profit for Minicon 48: Currently, the Minicon chairs Joel Phillips and Matt Strait are directed to have a conservative profit of \$4,000, but would like it to be \$3200, as outlined in their proposal. We will attempt to get the line item report ready by the June meeting, but will make a decision at the June meeting whether the accounting is done or not.

Parties: The April carry-over subject of whether MnStf and Minicon should both have party budgets is still being discussed. It was agreed that we need to hear from Beth Friedman on the topic before closing the subject.

Minicon Room Party: Richard Tatge

and Sharon Kahn are sleeping in the room. Emily will take care of setting up and finding hosts. The preliminary budget is set at \$300. Emily will outline a plan of what can we do for \$300, and ask for more if it seems appropriate.

Cafe Press: Scott will contact Kevin Austin and/or Laurel Krahn about transfer to Mnstf.

Minicon policy (from April): Matt Strait as co-chair of Minicon would like a clarification of the MnStf board's oversight of Minicon. His intent is to avoid breaking rules that may or may not have been outlined by previous MnStf boards and may or may not be knowable. Dean does not believe that the board has made many decisions about Minicon policy as it is not normally our purview. The board approved the following statement: "Minicon shall run according the current by-laws. If there are any exceptions or additional requirements, the current board is responsible for bringing up and revisiting any issues about policy that may or may not already exist."

Steve MacDonald Songbooks: Dean contacted Steve MacDonald and gave him an update on our inventory. He would like to take them off our hands, or have us sell some the remaining and work out a new arrangement for how to handle the proceeds. Scott believes that we can sell a few to a local dealer, and that sale would cover the shipping cost to get the rest of the books to Steve MacDonald in Germany. Hershey will get the Table of Contents to Scott so that he can communicate with the book dealer, Bill Roeper. We would like to send them to him for the cost of shipping. Emily will find out how much it will cost to ship 25-35 pounds of books to Germany.

Status of electronica: mnstf.com and mnstf.info domains were bought by Felicia Herman some time ago with the understanding that MnStf might want them. Her email was sent August of 2011 and the domains may expire soon. We do want them. Those domains are not yet under the control of MnStf, but Scott Raun is working on it.

Database Directory: Scott expects it to be finished by May 31st.

Next Meeting: June 9th at 2pm at 3928 11th Avenue South at the home of Scott and Irene Raun.

21 June 2012

Held at the Event Horizon 1121 Jackson St NE, Minneapolis

Attendance: Emily Stewart, Dean Gahlon, Scott Raun, Hershey Lima, Matt Strait by Skype, Patricia Zetalumen, Beth Friedman by phone.

501(c)3: Emily has less free time and would like to do this with other people. Dean prefers special meeting. We will do IRS paperwork on the 19th or 25th dependant on Dean's schedule. 2:00PM.

Archives: Emily will move last of high level stuff.

Archivist's Report: Matt has several boxes of Minicon materials from Geri Sullivan which he is sifting through. He asked the board how they would like him to decide what is worth keeping. The answer: give priority to things that show decisions we made. The majority of the materials are from Minicons 32-35, with some outliers for other years.

Rune Editor's Report: Matt is working on an issue of Rune, but the arrival of the next issue is not quite imminent. He has requested content from several sources.

Diversicon party: Matt and Kelly will host in their hotel room. Emily will take care of alcohol, cheese and Chili. Matt and Kelly will take care of non-perishables.

Treasurer's Report: Carol Kennedy submitted a Treasurer's report on July 21. Dean reports that there are some omissions of small details in the check register that are apparently predictable and resolved in the report. Dean will email a summary of balance and spending. Emily

will make a short form of the report for the web.

Projected profit for Minicon 48: The Minicon chairs Joel Phillips and Matt Strait requested to have their profit target amended to \$3200. The request was approved.

Parties: The April carry-over subject of whether MnStf and Minicon should both have party budgets is still being discussed. It was agreed that we need to hear from Beth Friedman on the topic before closing the subject.

Minicon Room Party: Went fine. The party sold two Minicon memberships, four Fallcon memberships. Last year's party sold two Minicon memberships. There was speculation that snarkyness during Masquerade may have affected memberships, and also speculation that July room party may just not be good for selling Minicon memberships. How can we make this party more effective? Maybe ask people to join the mailing list for Minicon. July is good opportunity for outreach and the party could focus even more on that.

Cafe Press: Scott will contact Kevin Austin and/or Laurel Krahn about transfer to Mnstf.

Steve MacDonald Songbooks: No update as of yet. Dean is working on it.

Status of electronica: .com is missed, Scott will attempt to get .info.

Database Directory: Scott needs to format it, expects it to be done by the end of July.

Next Meeting: August 18th at 2:00PM at Scott & Irene's.

Future meeting note: If we use the Waterbury (Event Horizon) again, the directions need to be clearer. Parking is confusing.

Your 'Zine has no En&rgy. Stir up some controversy. ~ ~	Okay ... >1K!Dry?!FP&J!SEMP! FYFIF!GG&H!HRC!C&PC!Guns! ~ ~	Maybe not that much controversy. ~ ~	-----KGA
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Planning for the Final Frontier

By Ctein

A most singular event occurred last year, almost unnoticed by the science fiction and fannish community.

The US government set in motion the long and uncertain task of building a starship.

Seriously. No joke. And most of us missed it.

About two years ago DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) initiated the 100 Year Starship Study. Its purpose? To figure out what it will take for humanity to launch a starship 100 years from now. A series of preliminary, private conferences and meetings led to a public government conference last October in Orlando, Florida, free to anyone who wanted to register to attend.

About 750 people did. Among them were a bare handful of fans. There were perhaps a double handful of authors, most being invited guests who were presenting papers and discussion sessions. By and large, it slipped under our community's radar.

I attended. How could I not?! Potentially, this was history in the making. OK, a long shot. The odds that this program will successfully lead to a starship are small. But, they are nonzero, and this is the first credible effort. Maybe I just had an intellectually stimulating weekend, or, just maybe, I was there at the beginning of the most monumental undertaking humanity has ever contemplated.

Jump forward 10 months, to the present (it's mid-August, 2012 as I write this). Coming up in under a month is the 100YSS 2012 Public Symposium. What's this? Another DARPA conference? No. That's not how DARPA works. DARPA seeds development, it doesn't do it. The purpose of last year's conference was to lay down a broad intellectual framework for the endeavor and to put out a call for proposals for a private organization that would take on the task of fostering, developing, and maintaining this study and whatever tangible may come out of it. A seed grant of several hundred thousand dollars was awarded in January and what

was previously a "Study" is now an "Initiative." The objective of the Initiative in the words of its director, Dr. Mae Jemison: "The 100 Year Starship™ will make the capability of human travel beyond our solar system to another star a reality over the next 100 years."

And here is the Initiative's mission statement:

"100 Year Starship will pursue national and global initiatives, and galvanize public and private leadership and grassroots support, to assure that human travel beyond our solar system and to another star can be a reality within the next century. 100 Year Starship will unreservedly dedicate itself to identifying and pushing the radical leaps in knowledge and technology needed to achieve interstellar flight while pioneering and transforming breakthrough applications to enhance the quality of life on earth. We will actively include the broadest swath of people in understanding, shaping, and implementing our mission."

No mincing of words here. In Dr. Jemison's own words, this is "audacious."

A starship demands no less. The task is monumental almost beyond comprehension. At this time we simply do not know how to make this happen. It's not a matter of engineering. That's where the science fictional community has concentrated its speculations, and they are certainly worthy ones. We can imagine hardware that would allow a starship, if not immediately then certainly within the next 100 years. A whole panoply of concepts have been proposed: Laser or microwave driven photon sails; fusion drives, fully-controlled or semi- (think Orion); matter-antimatter annihilation, once we come up with safe and sane storage systems. None of these require major leaps in basic science, just grinding away at engineering problems. I have no doubt whatsoever that in 100 years they will be mature technologies that could drive a starship.

No, these aren't the monumental issues. Those lay in entirely different arenas, where the interstellar speculations of fans

and science fiction authors less frequently tread. As Dr. Jemison said at last year's conference (and this is from memory, so the gist will be correct but not the words), "The biggest problems in building a starship are not technological ones. Technologically, we could have had a permanent lunar base and missions to Mars in the 1980's. The reasons we did not lay not in technological problems but in human ones. Those are the *hard* problems."

For a start, a starship is fabulously expensive. Astonishingly so. A modest interstellar probe could be launched for a trillion dollars. The last dozen years' pointless wars on terrorism could pay for a couple of those. We know how to amass those kinds of sums of money and we know how to manage it and the projects it supports. But a full-fledged starship, something that carries people to another star system? Add at least two zeros to that number. Quite possibly three. Maybe even four. Those are astronomically (ahem) large sums of money. We don't have the economic mechanisms and tools in place to raise and work with that kind of money, not in a single coherent project spanning a century.

That's the bad news. The good news is, to coin a phrase, We Are Not Alone. There are thousands of people outside the science fiction community who have been interested in the problems of creating a successful interstellar mission for decades, mustering as much passion as we keepers of the flame. Economists, lawyers, and sociologists who are connected in myriad constellations of affinity and study groups that we know nothing about. I heard many of their papers at last year's conference. There are people putting as much or more thought into the human problems as we've put into the technological ones.

The other monumental issue, broadly drawn, is how do you make such a mission successful? That means dealing with a whole bunch of optimization questions we're just beginning to tackle. Are you talking about a "fast" (completed within one person's lifetime) or a "slow" mission. Logistically, the former seems more than a tad easier. We've successfully managed interplanetary missions that are approaching the half-century mark. Unfortunately,

with known technologies, the price tag for a fast ship is far beyond astronomical. You want an Avatar type starship? OK, that's probably doable. Just make out a check for a hundred quadrillion dollars.

On the face of it, slow ships would seem much more affordable. That raises a whole slew of different questions.

How do you ensure the humans arrived in one piece, not just physically, but psychologically, technologically, culturally? A lot can happen in a few hundred years. Amend that, it is guaranteed that a lot *will* happen in a few hundred years. Your mission plan better be one that takes that for granted and is a lot more concerned with ensuring there is a viable process in place than with content. We don't have a really good answer for that, yet, although many clever ideas are being explored.

The scale of slow ships also raises daunting questions. Axiomatically, these must be fully self-sustaining colonies. The skill base required to maintain a modern technological society is huge. Sociologists have written papers estimating the minimum number of people it would require to sustain current society in all its respects. There is no consensus on that minimum number. The smallest imaginable number is a few tens of thousands. The largest is several million. Fewer than that critical minimum and degradation inevitably sets in. Let's wave our arms crypto-authoritatively and pick the geometric mean. A slow interstellar mission needs to include a minimum of several hundred thousand people.

In other words, you're talking about sending the Twin Cities' populations to another star system. That's one hell of a big starship. Or a hell of a big fleet of small starships.

Popular fiction (and a certain amount of genuine if possibly paranoid speculative planning) imagine that if several hundred thousand aliens worth of starships were to appear on the edge of our solar system, it would have to signal an invasion, because there'd be no other reason for sending an armada like that. The reality is that if they're like humans that's really the minimum peaceful mission they can send.

It's not cheap.

Charlie Stross argues, forcefully and with some justification, that we shouldn't even be calling these "starships" or "interstellar missions." Ventures of the size and scope and time scale we're talking about here are entities unto themselves, they are not just way stations between hither and yon. To view them as mere transportation, as a means to any kind of an end, runs the severe risk of missing the entire point of their existence. They are floating worlds and that is their reason for being.

Last, and most definitely not least, there are the wildcards. Paraphrasing once more from last year's conference, our situation right now is much the same as the one the Wright brothers would have been in if one asked them in 1906 to lay out a plan for sending people to the moon. They could not possibly come up with the right answer. There would be no way for them to plausibly guess what directions technological and managerial tools would take and what new, important inventions would come along. We're in the same situation. Any answers we come up with now about what next century's starship will actually be like will certainly be wrong.

Everyone at the conference agrees there will be at least one and possibly several major game changers over the next century, developments that alter the course of the project so radically that they make planning any details at this point entirely pointless. One could rattle off a long list — suspended animation, AI, really cheap antimatter, uploading of human minds, large-scale quantum templates — and these are just the physically possible ones. Throw in with that the whole "New Physics" crowd, and just about anything might happen.

The thing is, with wildcards, you don't know what *will* happen. Everyone at the conference agreed there will be game changers. There was no consensus, not even a hint of one on what specifically would be the game changers; everyone had different lists of favorites. Your opinion is just as good as mine. Which means, not very much at all.

So, like the Wright brothers, we can't possibly figure out the answers. Not yet, probably not for 50 years. But, if you had asked the Wright brothers to think on the prospects for moon landing, they would have asked many of the right questions and they would've figured out many of the ways to research those questions and to figure out what other questions were.

That's where at today. We are figuring out the right questions to ask and we're figuring out how to investigate them.

It is the very first step on the road to the stars. Perhaps. One hopes.





This just says
mnstf.org/conjecture3

Conjecture 3

October 19-21, 2012

I think it's a relaxicon...



Where is it?

Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites (formerly the Holiday Inn Select))

MSP Airport - Mall of America

3 Appletree Square (I-494 & 34th Avenue South)

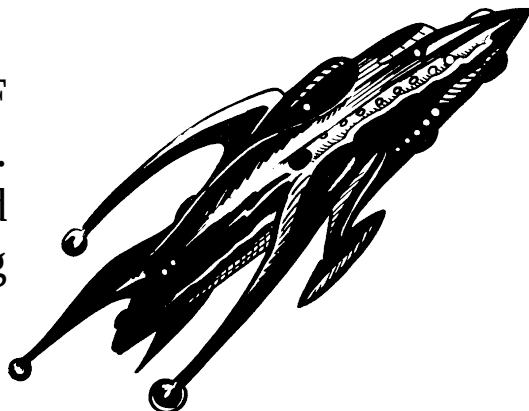
Bloomington, MN (That's just south of Minneapolis)

Rooms are \$96/night for single/double, \$116 for a suite. Call 877-810-5190 for reservations.

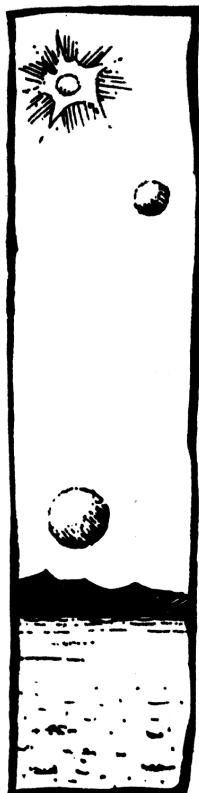
What should I expect at Conjecture?

Conjecture is a small science fiction and fantasy convention geared towards relaxation. There will be good food, music, gaming, and even some programming. Actually, we tend to have a lot of programming for a fallcon.

If you have been to recent MN-StF fallcons, you can expect more of the same. Conjecture should be a relaxing weekend filled with conversation, activity, hanging around, and general enjoyment.



How much is it?



Pre-registration is \$40. At-the-door rates will be determined later. We'll probably have one-day registrations available at the door. Send this form along with a check, or go to mnstf.org/conjecture3 and use PayPal.

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Street address: _____

Phone number: _____

Additional memberships(s) for: _____

**Mail to: Conjecture 3, PO Box 8297, Lake Street
Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408-0297**

Minicon Budget and Such

by Matt Strait, Minicon 48 vice-chair

Let's talk about Minicon registration rates and the Minicon budget. First, a warning. This is probably boring to most people; you can go ahead and skip it if you're not the policy wonk type. However, for those who want to know, this is stuff you probably won't have seen elsewhere.

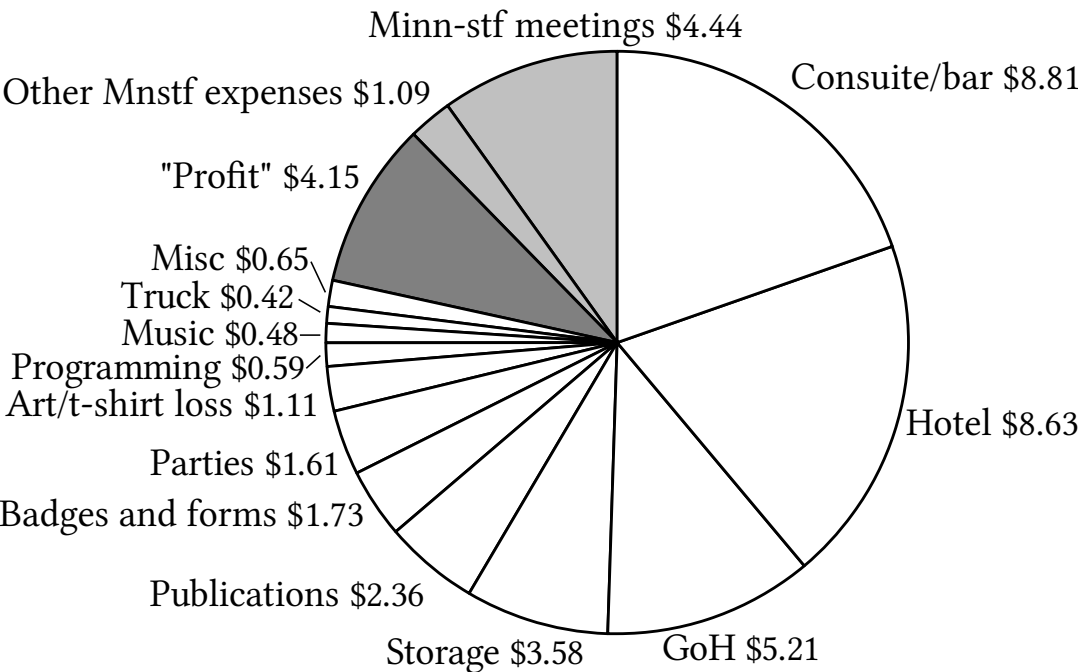
(Aside: why here, in Rune? Well, because we never seem to find the time or space for it in any Minicon publications. The progress reports are generally concerned with advertising the upcoming convention, which makes dry budgetary discussion seem out of place. The program book would be, in principle, a good spot for this sort of thing, but none of us ever have the energy left over to work on it during the lead-up to the con. We could post it on the Minicon website, but frankly, I don't think anyone really looks much past the front page, the registration page, and the hotel page. Of course, many eyes will probably glaze right over this article too, but it's somewhat harder to miss at least.)

The typical Minicon fan pre-registers at the last minute and therefore pays

whatever the highest pre-reg rate is. Recently this has been \$45. It's lower this year for Minicon 48; more on that later. When you mix in people paying earlier rates, those who pay more at the door, the cheaper day memberships, student memberships, supporting members that may or may not have converted to attending, and some population of comped former guests of honor, it turns out that the average amount paid, as of last year, was \$38.33. Adding in some other sources of income, primarily what we charge dealers for their tables, we had a total revenue of \$44.85 per member.

Where does that go? See the handy-dandy pie chart below, which gives the actual numbers for Minicon 47.* White pie wedges are expenses that are entirely due to Minicon itself. The light grey wedges are Minn-stf expenses funded by Minicon, and the dark grey wedge is what's left over. As you can see, just about half is accounted for by three categories: consuite/bar, hotel, and guest of honor expenses.

Minicon 47 expenses per member



The "hotel" category is a little funny. Part of it goes to pay for the rooms the consuite and bar are in (the "consuite/bar" wedge only includes food and drink). An-

other part goes to pay for GoH sleeping rooms (the "GoH" wedge includes only airfare and the food per diem we give guests). The minority goes to pay

*Note to sticklers: The Minicon 47 books aren't actually closed yet, so there are some minor fudges in here. Nothing of substance is going to change, though.

for things like microphones for the programming rooms. (Provided we make our room block — which we did —, we don't pay anything for the programming rooms themselves.) Here's why I didn't split out the consuite/bar and GoH portions and put them with their respective wedges. The hotel is willing to keep us because we generate a certain amount of income for them. If we tried to substantially reduce expenses by taking fewer/cheaper rooms for consuite/bar/GoH, the hotel would likely charge us more somewhere to make up for it, or we'd end up with a less favorable contract the next year. Of course, small changes would be possibly without pushback, but overall, I consider the \$8.63 in the hotel wedge to be a reasonable accounting of what it costs to be in this hotel at all, and not something that can be blamed on particular departments.

In descending order of cost, the next categories of money spent are: our storage locker that holds all our supplies from one year to the next, publications (primarily the cost of mailing Progress Report 2 and printing the program book), badges, and room parties at other cons advertising Minicon. The wedge after that is "art/t-shirt loss" because we took an overall loss on the art show and selling Minicon t-shirts last year. Theoretically, this could be in the income column, but there's no way the amount of income would be significant compared to registration or even dealer tables. (Another very small source of income is ads in the program book.) Finally comes the cost of our sound equipment for concerts, the cost of the moving truck, and 65 cents/member of miscellaneous expenses.

To explain the two light gray wedges, one must understand that Minicon is a fundraiser for Minn-stf. In fact, it is *the* fundraiser for Minn-stf, and provides the overwhelmingly vast majority of Minn-stf's income. (Minn-stf usually runs a smaller convention in the fall — Conjecture 3 this year — which does not attempt to make money.) Minn-stf runs bi-monthly "meetings" (parties) and pays the hosts a stipend to cover part of the food

and drink. This is the majority of the club's expenses. The rest covers having a PO box, a domain name, making some donations to fannish charities, and various miscellany. Naturally, Minicon benefits from having the PO box and domain name, so there's some ambiguity in how I have labeled them non-Minicon expenses. For that matter, we technically consider the storage locker to be a Minn-stf expense, but for the discussion of why Minicon costs what Minicon costs, it seems better to put it in the Minicon column.

Finally, we have the dark gray "profit" wedge, which is really what I want to talk about. We made \$4.15 per member over the sum of what it takes to run Minicon and the non-Minicon portion of Minn-stf for a year. I put "profit" in scare-quotes because we are a non-profit organization and should not be making a profit. So what this indicates to me is that we are charging something like \$4 too much per member for Minicon. In fact, it's more than that. There's a Minn-stf bylaw that says that if the club is sitting on substantial savings (it is), then its conventions should try to make \$1000 less per year than necessary to sustain those savings.[†] In other words, we are supposed to make good use of our savings by charging less or spending more. Due to this, we are charging something rather like \$6 more per head than we should be, or doing \$6 of cool things more than we are, or some combination of the two.

When we were setting the rates for Minicon 48, we knew that we had an excess of money and wanted to lower membership rates, but didn't yet know exactly how big the excess was due to some financial information being unavailable. Uniformly lowering all the rates by \$5 didn't seem safe, for instance, so to be conservative, we did the following:

(1) collapsed our 2-deadline pre-reg structure with \$40 and \$45 rates to a 1-deadline structure at \$40. Since few people took advantage of the early pre-reg rate before, this drops the pre-reg for most people by \$5. We left the at-previous-Minicon rate alone at \$35. I've felt for a while that a 2-deadline structure was too complicated

[†]I should probably disclose that I wrote this bylaw.

for modern Minicons, and this was a nice excuse to get rid of it.

(2) Dropped the student rate from \$30 pre-reg/\$32 at-the-door to \$20/\$25. (By “student”, we mean anyone of ages 13–20.) We’re trying hard to attract younger members. At the moment, we only get about 25 student members, so it barely matters to our bottom line what we charge. This is the lowest we felt we could go without looking silly. It’s also, I think, a sustainable rate that we can afford if our student population blossoms. (And since we’re not an anime con, I don’t foresee any risk of getting so many young people that it’s a problem.)

(3) Dropped the kid (6–12) rate from \$20/\$20 to \$10/\$15. I’m hoping this will make it easier for families to attend and make it more clear that we expect and welcome kids. It also puts a differential between pre-reg and at-the-door, so will hopefully encourage pre-registering kids. Currently, most pay at the door. As with the student rate, we have few enough kids that this makes hardly any difference to our bottom line.

We estimate that these rate drops will spend a little over \$2 of our \$6 excess, assuming that exactly no one is enticed to come who wouldn’t have before due to the lower rates. We’ve spent another \$2 on throwing a big party at Chicon 7, a once-in-a-decade opportunity that we are happy to have money to take advantage of. This leaves us with another just-about-\$2/member to spend over what we have been spending, or, if we can’t think of anything to spend it on, we can drop the at-the-door rates somewhat, although we want to be careful about this so as not to discourage pre-registration.

Now, when I bring up the subject of membership rates, someone invariably says something like, “It doesn’t matter if it’s \$40 or \$45. No one will change their mind because it’s \$5 cheaper. People just pay whatever the rate is if they want to come. You’re just throwing money away by lowering the rate.” And they’re right about perhaps 90% of our members. But there *are* some people who really want to come for whom \$5 is a big deal. And there are some people who are not fully convinced about coming for whom a lower

rate makes an emotional difference in their decision, whether or not \$5 matters to them in a real financial sense. In order to bring these people in, I am willing to forego the extra income from the first 90% as long as I don’t feel it is hurting the quality of our con.

However, wouldn’t it be nice if we could get more money from the 90% who don’t care what the rate is, without driving away the other 10%? There are a variety of ways one might try to accomplish this. Our attempt this year is the mildest possible method. We’ve put a box on the registration form encouraging an additional \$10 donation from anyone who can afford it and would like to make the con better and cheaper by paying \$50 even though the official rate is \$40. It will be very interesting to see how many people take us up on this.

More statistics now: Most of our costs don’t increase if we add members. The marginal cost of adding one member is only \$13 (consuite/bar, publications, and badges). If we grew *much* larger, we would require more room in the hotel and that would cost more, but we are not near that point. So Minicon gets rapidly cheaper as more people come. If we grew from last year’s 462 to 500, we’d be \$3 cheaper each.

Another analysis: Suppose we wanted to run Minicon as leanly as possible while still resembling what we think of as an SF con. Drop the consuite and bar (and therefore the storage locker), get only local GoH and don’t pay a per diem, don’t use proceeds to fund a club, and skimp a bit on things like badges and publications, but still pay the hotel the full amount that they would like. The cost/member drops to about \$15. I am *not* suggesting that we do this, but do find it interesting that at \$15 we could, in the same hotel, run all the same programming, have an art show, dealers room, science room, etc. We could even have the same rooms for socialization space as we have for our consuite and bar; we just couldn’t stock them. There is a lot of elasticity in con budgets, which leads me to wonder why nearly all cons fall in the \$35–\$50 range these days. I hope to expand on these thoughts in a future article.

Aussiecon 4 (2010)

by Jeanne Mealy

THE TRIP: Glad I went, can't wait to go back. Oh, you want more? I had a good time. Lots of challenges: security lines (I was pulled aside twice for random explosives checks!), logistics (meeting with friends didn't happen easily), the earthquake in Christchurch just days before we got there...

There were less-pleasant matters at home: an older cat with health problems. a dripping kitchen faucet, a nearly-blocked tub drain, the shock of seeing most of the trees removed on our block to prevent the spread of the ash borer, concern that street work might interrupt water and gas service (I filled a number of jugs with water for toilet use and drinking), and not hearing from one of the housesitters and the friend who was giving us a ride to the airport! Didn't need all that stress. I find packing hard enough. The faucet and drain were fixed and we did finally hear from the housesitter and the friend about the ride, whew.

August 28: We left here on an early afternoon flight to L.A., then spent a few hours with two fun folks John met on the Japan Worldcon trip. Rayne and Jacky took us to the famous Venice Beach where we walked by shops and on the beautiful beach. Then it was time to go. The Qantas plane was BIG, an Airbus 380, and fancy. It typically seats 525 people. I could choose from TV, movies, games, news, and music for the screen on the back of the seat ahead of me. Not a lot of leg room. The flight to Sydney was about 15 hours. I rested, walked around, and watched TV (Mr. Bean, "Get Smart!"), and enjoyed "Nanny McPhee: The Big Bang." I also read *Fried Green Tomatoes* at the Whistlestop Cafe (fun and vivid) and a collection of Ray Bradbury stories. John had gotten us some noise-canceling headphones which helped block out some of the plane noise. I'd heard this helps reduce fatigue and I'd say it's true.

August 30 (into the future!): We arrived in Sydney, eventually found our luggage (except for one piece of John's), and caught a small flight to the Ayers Rock air-

port. I saw Uluru (Ayers Rock) and the Olgas and a lot of red sand. Mars? We got settled into our room at the Outback Pioneer Resort, then walked to a nearby shopping area to get food, souvenirs, and a jacket for John. His jacket was in the suitcase that had been misdirected and he needed one for the sunrise tour the next day. We ate in the room, went out to look at the stars (WOW!), and went to bed early.

August 31: We were up at 4:30 a.m. (!!) to catch a bus to the sunrise tour of Uluru. It was impressive to see the light coming up and the huge dark hulk changing to its familiar red hue. After that, we traveled a short distance to see the Olgas, an array of large, red rounded rocks. We walked up a very rocky gorge and looked at the large rocks that had fallen. The driver also took us to a different spot for a long-range view.

We returned to the resort and had a few hours before the next tour. John's luggage had arrived and was fine. We took a shuttle to the shopping area to get a few things, then went back to our resort. I think it's called the Outback because it's some distance from the other, pricier resorts. We got lunch from a small deli and relaxed next to the swimming pool. John's Outback Burger was quite large: hamburger, fried egg, pineapple, beet slice, fried onions, tomato, lettuce, ham, and cheese. He liked it. After lunch we went back to do more shopping, then walked back through a brushy area to get pictures from a small hill with a good view of Uluru. Russ the Traveling Teddy posed for a photo, too. It's his third trip Down Under.

Our afternoon bus tour left at 2:15. The first stop was a cultural center/art museum/gift shop near Uluru with a lot of colorful murals and various exhibits. No photos were allowed. It was interesting to see the art and hear recordings of people talking about their heritage. The bus driver/guide showed us art in nearby caves and a water hole. It was startling to be so close to such LARGE rocks that are part of Uluru. In another area, we saw people walking up and down Uluru. I thought they'd be hanging onto ropes, but they weren't. The ones near the top looked like tiny ants. Then we went off to the sun-

set viewing spot, joining many other tour buses. Each bus had its own table of snacks and drinks. Ours had cheese and crackers, fruit, wine, and orange juice. The driver offered small camp chairs, too. It was a festive atmosphere with people wandering around chatting and looking at Uluru as the light gradually faded. Lots of cameras. The last color looked like Dutch cocoa to me.

Back at the resort we had supper with Twin Cities fans Greg Ketter, Lisa Freitag, and their son William. It was fun to compare notes about our adventures. We went a short distance from the resort to look at the stars, but car lights kept bothering us. Greg and Lisa offered their rental car, so we all piled in and went off for a better view. Ooooh! The stars and planets were amazingly bright. When we got back, John rescued Lisa from a photo/computer problem, then came back to pack. We were quite tired by then.

WORLDCON TRIP: MELBOURNE

September 1: John and I caught an early flight from Uluru to Alice Springs, then another small flight to Melbourne. The Super Shuttle took forever to get to our hotel and we missed the con pre-reg. Grrrr. We had a very strange room at the Pensione. It was divided into two rooms with a partial wall between them and a fair amount of floor space. Tall windows looked out to the city; I could see trams and trains going by. Not a lot of noise. The bathroom was tiny, maybe three feet deep by ten feet long, and what looked like a toy sink and no shower curtain. The room had two end tables, no chest of drawers, NO CHAIRS — just two hassocks. We had a closet with shelves and an area in which to hang things. A small desk with a mini refrigerator underneath was handy as prices were about twice what we pay here for food and drinks. We got groceries down the street. A nice flat-screen TV was mounted on the wall. The second bed was right across from the bathroom, so we were glad that we didn't have another person in the room as planned.

We unpacked, dozed a bit, then took the slow elevator (it sounded steam powered) and went off to the casino complex

nearby to check messages from home. It was a mistake to try to get by with messages on John's cell phone and calling cards, we later decided. Things weren't going great with our cat Callie, but the housesitters were getting by. I wasn't able to reach my mom or my sister to say hi. Frustrating.

September 2–6: Aussiecon 4 was held in the convention center a few blocks from our hotel, across the Yarra River bridge. A huge casino complex with restaurants, food courts, casino rooms, and more was across the street from the large convention center. John and I got up early most mornings and had busy days all through this trip. For a night owl, he did well. We did a lot of walking. I was glad that the weather was comfortable enough for a light jacket. Just a little rain. I saw a double rainbow one afternoon!

Highlights: programming (couldn't always understand the accents), seeing friends and meeting people from ANZ-APA for the first time, and sightseeing. I was too tired or busy to go to parties in a hotel near the convention center. // Norma Hemming's play, "The Matriarchy of Renok," was fun and fairly well attended. // I was on two panels: one about offbeat TV shows and the other about apas. The large rooms were full each time! I felt a little nervous about that, but I did have fun. I lost a beautiful ad for "The Middleman" TV show that I forgot to remove from the front of the table after the panel. I'm sure someone assumed no one wanted it. // There are eight dark granite pillars about 55 yards apart along the walkway between the river and the casino. They are nearly 33 feet high and remind me of the "2001" monolith. Water runs down them in the daytime. On the hour from dusk to midnight or 1:00, there's a breathtaking computerized show of large, loud, and hot gas-powered flames and fireballs. The fireballs are 10 to 23 feet in diameter and the flames are 20 or 30 feet high.

EUREKA! John, our friend Teri Sears, and I went up to the 88th floor Eureka Sky-deck near our hotel one morning. There was some haze (smog?) outside and too many schoolkids inside. Even so, the view was breathtaking. // Other sightseeing:

John and I went by tram to Acland Street to check out the fun shops and bakeries. Friends from Sydney joined us on a trip to the Queen Victoria Market. In both cases, I could have used several more hours. Teri Sears and I joined Alan Stewart for dinner at an Indian place. It was a challenge catching a tram: they were packed because of a sporting event. We first went to Alan's house to see the Art Deco design in the dining room ceiling. The design was beautiful, dinner was good, and we got back without problems.

Two group pictures were taken of ANZAPA folks, one at the convention center and one at the Sunday night room party. John (Stanley) was the mighty juggler of cameras. I brought cards for two members who weren't able to make it to the con, Dan McCarthy and Lucy Schmeidler, and got many people to sign them. I created s'mores at the party, which aren't done in Australia (no graham crackers). // We heard that Christchurch had a 7.1 earthquake on September 4, the worst in 80 years, just a few days before we planned to go there. The TV news kept showing horrendous damage and warning about aftershocks. John and I struggled to get in touch with our tour companies, the hotel, and Dan McCarthy in between convention and non-con activities. The hotel was OK, but we weren't sure if Dan could make it. // I was heartbroken when former apa friends drove two hours from their home in the country and misunderstood where to meet us. We had no cell phone and they hadn't given us their number. By the time John got their e-mail with the phone number, they were halfway home.

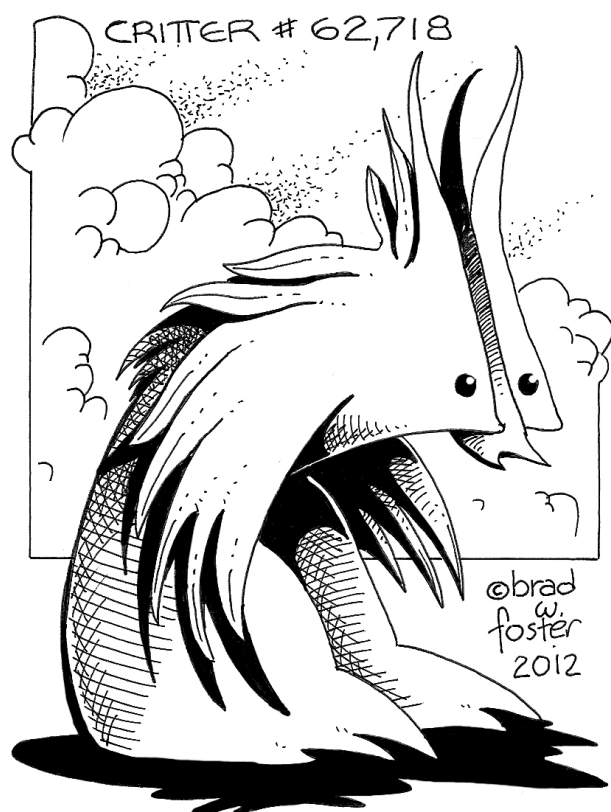
On Monday, Marc and Cath Ortlieb gave us a ride to our hotel near the airport. The car was so filled with luggage, we needed help getting out. It was hard to say goodbye... The desk clerk upgraded us to a spa room. It was a huge room. Thought I was in heaven after the tiny room downtown. I could have fit three of those bathrooms into this spacious one that had a shower stall, a vanity, and a toilet. We had a busy night getting dinner, doing laundry, and packing for airline restrictions. In the security area at the airport the next day, a Qantas employee

in a bright-orange jacket and a bow-tie t-shirt used a portable sound system as he roamed around talking about security details, air travel, and making jokes (bad and good). He also handed out quart-size bags for packing liquids. He was hilarious. I've never seen anyone do this before. After some scrambling around, we got to the plane. As we knew no free food was given on this flight, I'd made peanut butter sandwiches. Smart! Not smart: accidentally packing them. We made do with some snacks, including chicken-flavored potato chips. I'd never had those before.

Update: The plane we took to Australia is the same type (A380) that had an engine disintegrate after take-off from Singapore on November 4. They landed all right. I'm so glad that didn't happen to us. We have enough challenging travel stories.

I will miss seeing friends I rarely see in person (and especially the ones I didn't GET to see), the flame show at the Crown Casino, the chicken-flavored potato chips, and the "ding-ding" of the trams outside our hotel room window.

Next time: Shaky Times in New Zealand!



Red Shirts

By Matt Strait

We all know that if you're on Star Trek, and you wear red, and you beam down to the planet, you get killed. Is this common knowledge really true, or is it like "Beam me up, Scotty" (a line which is uttered fewer than one time in three seasons)? As a related question, what fraction of the Enterprise crew gets killed during the series?

I decided to find out by watching all the episodes and making a tally. (Sure, I probably could have read through plot synopses or maybe even found someone else's tally on the Internet, but that wouldn't have been any fun.)

I failed to make a tally of red shirts that go down to a planet and *survive*, but suffice it to say that at least a few do. For instance, two go down in "Miri" and do just fine. Anyway, here are the totals:

Season:	one	two	three
Red	5	15	6
Blue	3	2	1
Yellow	5	1	0
Brown/gold	1	0	0
White	1	0	0
Offscreen	9	1+?	3
Total	24	19+?	10

This does not count 3 red shirts and 2 brown/gold shirts killed on the Mirror Enterprise. "Offscreen" means that we never see the people who die and doesn't count deaths of people offscreen whose shirt color we know. The season two offscreen count is complicated by "The Doomsday Machine", in which "severe casualties" re-

sult from an inner hull rupture. One imagines that includes some deaths. (Most of the offscreen deaths are from Spock saying "9 dead" as they leave the galaxy in "Where No Man Has Gone Before" (episode 2); way to skew the statistics, there.) Another breakdown:

	Planet	Ship
Red	16	10
Blue	5	1
Yellow	4	2
Brown/gold	1	0
White	1	0
Offscreen	0	13+?
Total	27	26+?

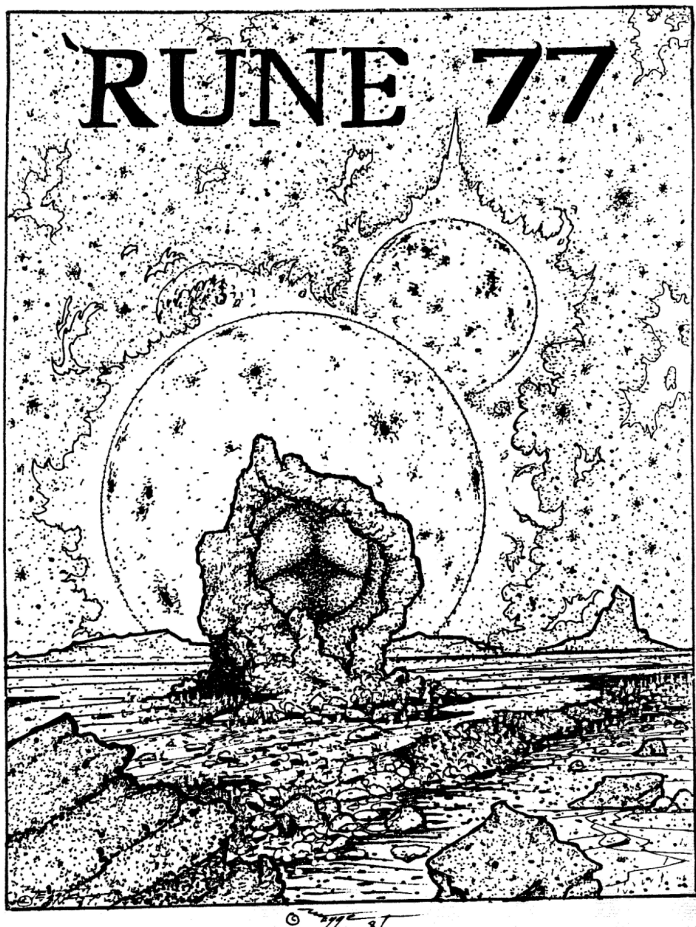
I'm counting transporter deaths (2 red shirts in "And the Children Shall Lead" and one yellow shirt in "Catspaw") as being on the ship. And I'm putting Crewman Joe's death in "The Naked Time" down as "planet" because it was the planet that killed him, even though he died on the ship (and I'm counting him as a red shirt even though he wore a special suit thing that happened to be red and not a standard security/engineering uniform).

The total number of deaths of non-Mirror Enterprise crew is 53 plus however many were killed by the Doomsday Machine. I was surprised how small this number turned out to be.

Bottom line: Yes, red shirts die more than anyone else. More than all other colors combined if you ignore those deaths that only occur in dialog, and nearly so even if you count those.



Letters of Comment



Aug 11, 2012

O, there I was, in a little place called Minicon, in a little called... well, I've forgotten, but I am sure it had a name, and I was handed a copy of Rune 77 as long as I promised to write a letter of comment, which I am now doing in a little place called my apartment (El Corazon de Mundial) in a little room called Living.

Let's begin, shall we?

First off, David Egge provides a cover that I would give my left just about anything to be able to run for The Drink Tank or Claims Department or any zine I edit! It's gorgeous, it's space-y, it's got that Dune-esque feeling of "I don't like the look of the mouth of that thingy" going on in the middle. It's wonderful. In fact, the end piece is just as awesome. In fact, all the art is awesome. More on that later.

This zine was published when I was 14. I can say that for certain because it mentions the Twins winning the World Series. On the day they won it, my friends and I were gathered at Bullwinkles, the local Chuck E. Cheez rip-off based on the characters of Rocky 'n Bullwinkle in Santa Clara, watching the game and enjoying my birthday party. I was a big Twins supporter, always hoping that Kent Hrbek would finally buy a vowel. The next year,

I got to root for the As, then the Giants in the World Series in 1989. They lost, but it was to the As, so it was OK. I wouldn't get my Giants in another series until I was in my late 20s (they lost) and they wouldn't win one until I was in my mid-30s. Such is the way of baseball.

I don't believe in copyright. Nothing I create is copyrighted. I just can't stand the concept, though I appreciate it far more than the Open Source Movement. Maybe that's why I so enjoy Pinterest.

Jeanne Mealey writes a lovely piece, and oddly it mentions Rocky 'n Bullwinkle. Weird coincidences.

By the way, in case you couldn't tell, I'm now writing this from a Denny's. Evelyn is drawing. I might send one of her pieces your way if she polishes it a bit.

And then there's that awesome piece of art by Dennis Wolf. It's the most awesome Tuxedo Robot I've ever seen. I mean seriously, that's the most awesome Robot, coupled with it being in a tuxedo. I love Robots. I guess I should have prefaced this posirant with that statement. I can not be fair and balanced about robots, but COME ON! That is the best Robot in history! I have supreme jealousy about the art in this issue.

I loved Beauty & The Beast. I had no idea that GRRM was a consultant on the series. I'll have to chat him up about it when we're GoHs at CONQuesT. I haven't read any of Game of Thrones (or whatever the series is called!) so I was stretching to think of things to talk to him about! I loved the effects, some of Ric Baker's most sensitive work. He's usually better at coming up with extreme work, but here, he gave Vincent a charm and grace in the make-up effects.

You know, I'd heard about blog all my fannish life, and yet, I've never had any. I might have to make some...

Those Harvia cartoons with the Nate Bucklin song are awesome! I don't see enough Teddy stuff in zines these days. I really love his stuff. The songs a bunch of fun too!

Shockwave sounds like the kind of program I'd have been in love with. I re-

member a local station had a SciFi reading series and no matter where I was, I'd listen to it. In fact, I made us come home from a Yosemite vacation early once just so I wouldn't miss it. There aren't many Podcasts that I have that same fondness for, but when I find one that makes me check their site every day for a new one, I feel awesome.

Not a lot of Fanzine reviewing going on these days. Maybe that's good for me! I don't have to take the slings nor the arrows! This was a good time for zones [zines? -ed.]. File 770 was around, as was Mimosa, Texas SF Inquirer, YHOS, all of them were there and they're all among my favorites of all times.

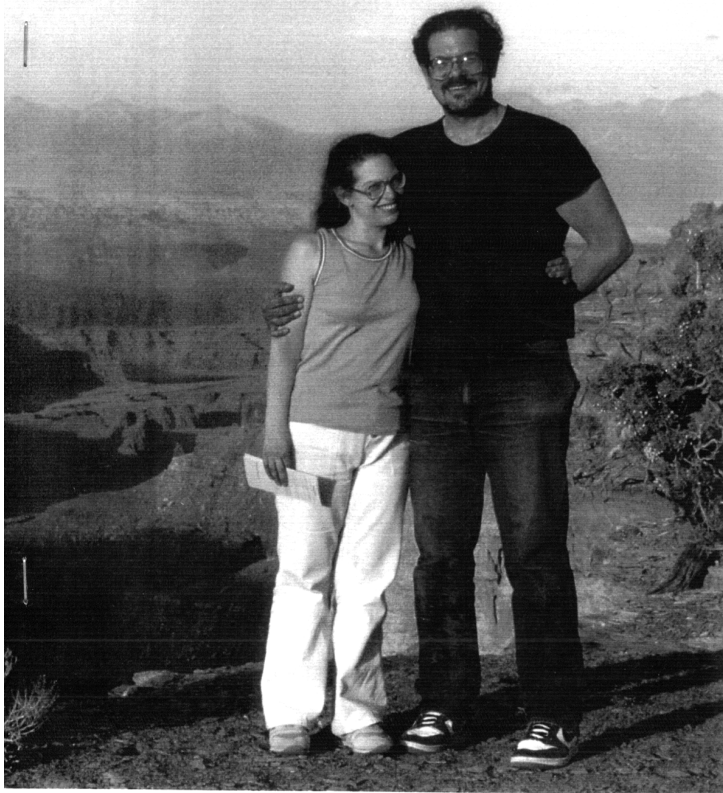
Good stuff! I can't believe it's been more than 25 years since Star Trek: The Next Generation started. I grow old, I grow old...

Well, that's issue 77. Now on to issue 78!

Thanks

Chris Garcia

Rune 86
March 2002



Dear Jeff:

June 14, 2002

Many, many thanks for issue 86 (or 86, v2) [*Prior to the Rune 86 shown above, there was a different Rune 86 that never saw the light of day due to unrecoverable*

trouble in the late production stage. We hope to offer this "Rune 86, v1" on the web eventually. -ed.] of Rune, and thank you for producing it. It's been a long time, and it's great to see its return. I just wish it had another reason for being published, the death of a good friend to Minneapolis fandom, Scott Imes. I never met Scott, but knew his name from overhearing it here and there. Our numbers continue to dwindle so quickly. I hope all you friends of Scott told him how you felt about him; otherwise, he'll never see this tribute issue. (I get the feeling you all did.) Now to look within the pages of an old friend long absent...

Wonderful covers, and most photos by Scott himself. He looks like he was very positive in his outlook, and a lot of fun. I guess the snarky BOFs live forever, and the good people only have a limited time on this earth. Life is unfair, but it shouldn't be that unfair.

It's been seven years since the last Rune, so said Geri Sullivan in an e-mail. I remember many MinnSTF members having some involvement with Toronto fandom, often in TAPA, the local apa Mike Wallis OE'd, folks like Gerri Balter and Herman Schouten, plus Ken Fletcher. (I know there's more, but it's been a long time; Gerri, Herman and Ken are the first who come readily to mind. Later on I see mention of the late Lee Pelton. Lee was in TAPA, too.) I think most of us know that a clubzine can be a uniting factor for the membership, and for those whom you share it with. I hope a new Rune can be a reuniting factor for the club.

I feel like a guilty voyeur as I look over the messages from the club natter list. There's a lot of love there, and a lot of regret that Scott is gone. Who is looking after Uncle Hugo's now? It's only a few weeks to Convergence...I expect it will be a very happy, sad and wistful convention. Scott's shoes, I imagine are not to be filled, but I hope for the enjoyment of fannish life for Minneapolis fandom, his example can be followed, and some of that golden age can be reclaimed.

And now, for the local, and some old locs. Andrea McKeon illustrates why I don't really like trilogies. I have several

incomplete series of books sitting on my To Be Read shelf, and I'm getting to the point that instead of searching for Book 2 of the trilogy, I'll trade in Books 1 and 3 for a single, complete novel. Less aggravation, more story. My own loc... I don't even recall writing that first paragraph. I don't think that's part of my loc. Or, time is playing with my mind, I'm not sure. I still tell that Bjo Trimble story, though. I haven't seen the Trimbles in a long time.

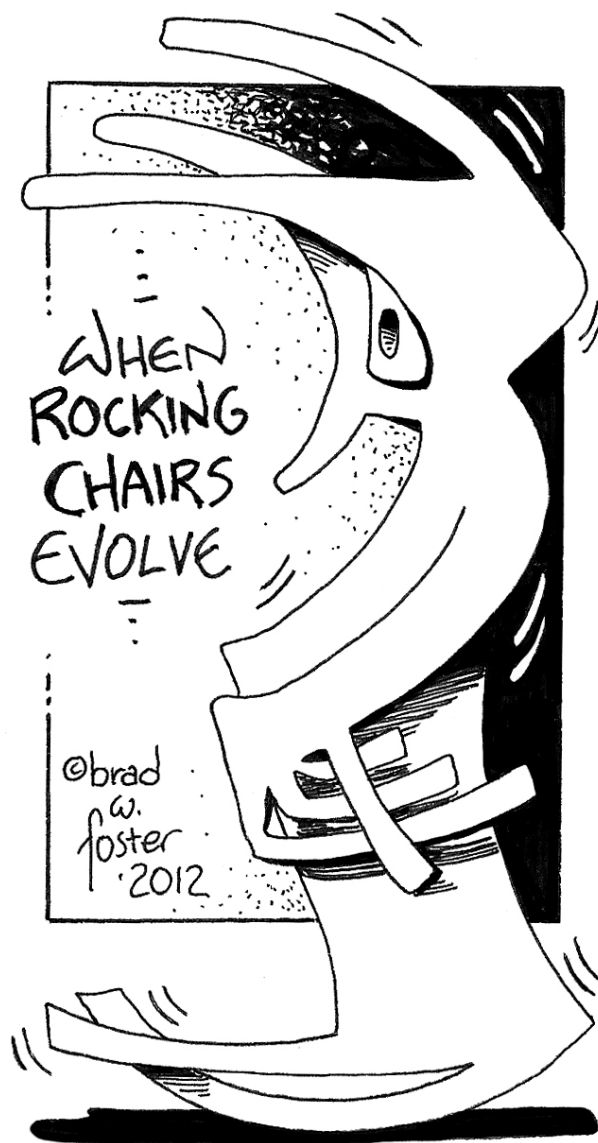
Cy Chauvin isn't so far away from the border that he isn't aware of Can\$/US\$ exchange rates. Today, a new paperback can cost anywhere between Can\$9 and 12, which usually means I can tell you where most of the used book stores are in Toronto and area. (Hardcovers can be upwards of Can\$45–50.) I'd have to dig up the last issue of Rune to see how Cy might have gotten the impression that I was at Discon II in 1974, but I wasn't there. My awareness of fandom didn't come about until about 1975, and I didn't encounter fandom and join a club until late 1977. Do the math... 25 years of fannish follies for me at the end of this year, and 20+ of those years in fanzine fandom, usually in the local. I had letters and articles in my club's zine in the late 70s, but started getting and responding to fanzines much more familiar to most of us in the early 80s.

Of those 25 years in fandom, the last 20 were also involved in convention fandom, so I certainly understand the enthusiasm behind Jeanne Mealy's article. Yvonne and I were on the Ad Astra committee for each of those 20 years, as well as on other local conventions in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Rochester. However, any of us get involved in any interest in fandom based on how much we get out of it, especially fun. Some very negative experiences over the past year have led us to decide to retire

from convention management, with perhaps one or two exceptions. However, we always get involved in other things, including agenting for the LA in 2006 Worldcon bid, so the main thing is never to be idle or bored.

I have finished, and it's been a pleasure to see into Mpls. fandom again. I hope there will be a Rune 87, and more if local fans are accepting, and willing to contribute, and that issue is produced, I hope you'll send me an issue of that. That's an old habit, I'd like to get into again. See you then.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney



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