

# *Minicon 49 Pirates & Airships\**



\*Airships not included

*April 17½–20, 2014  
Progress Report 2*

# Welcome!

Minicon is Minneapolis's premier Easter-weekend fan-run science fiction convention with a name between 6 and 8 letters long! We hope you'll join us this year. You'll be in the company of about 500 other fans of not only science fiction, but fantasy, horror, anime, gaming, music, and many other pursuits. Our theme this year is Pirates and Airships.\*

Minicon features panel discussions, readings, signings, costuming, films, gaming, an art show, a dealers' room, kids' programming, a teen lounge and teen programming, a science room, music, a consuite and bar, room parties, our Medallion Hunt, and various other special events. For all that, most people say they don't come for what we have scheduled, but because they want to hang out with others like them in a place that feels like home.

This year Minicon will be April 17½–20, half a day longer than usual (read on for what exactly that means), in part as preparation for a 4-day Minicon 50 in 2015, but also we would just like to start the party a bit earlier. Oh, also, for those who like things to be numerically tidy, this will bring the total count of days of Minicon up to an integer, 145, since Minicon 1 was half a day. (Whew, glad we've got *that* taken care of finally.)



This is Minicon 49 Progress Report 2, a RUNE PRESS publication. Except as specified below, text is ©2014 the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Janny Wurts GoH bio is ©Janny Wurts. Don Maitz GoH bio is ©Don Maitz. Art is © the following artists: Cover: Don Maitz. Blimp on back cover: Rachel Kronick. Page 4: an unknown Moneyducker. Page 5: Emily Stewart. Page 6: Matthew Strait, derived from a photograph by cliff1066 on Flickr. Pages 9, 13: Thorin Tatge. Pages 11, 16: Ctein. Pages 14, 15, 19: Rachel Kronick. Page 18: Kelly Strait. Come try Moneyduck at Minicon!

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\*But only one at a time.

## *Author Guest of Honor: Catherynne M Valente*

Catherynne (Cat) M. Valente is probably best known for *The Orphan's Tales*<sup>\*</sup>, *Palimpsest*<sup>†</sup>, *Deathless*<sup>‡</sup>, and *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*<sup>¶</sup>. Winner of the James Tiptree Jr. Award, Lambda Award, Mythopoeic Award for Adults, Andre Norton Award for YA, Locus Award, Rhysling Award, Hugo Fancast Award for the Squeecast Podcast, and nominee in too many categories to enumerate in a blurb, she is well known in many media. Her dark fantasy novels are wonderfully thorny and, as Seanan McGuire said, the language is chewy.

In addition to writing fiction and poetry, she blogs, tweets, and recently took time for a reddit AMA. Beyond literary pursuits, she also sails, cooks, knits, plays RPGs, and plays the accordion (“poorly” in her words). If Cat could have a fantastical creature as a pet, she would have a Wyverary. “For it deserves remarking that if one is to obtain a monstrous companion, a Wyvern — or a Wyverary — is really a top-notch choice.”

“Fade to White,” a Hugo-nominated free novelette, in both text and audio format, is available at [clarkesworldmagazine.com/valente\\_08\\_12](http://clarkesworldmagazine.com/valente_08_12).

## *Artist Guest of Honor: Don Maitz*

Over a thirty year career, Don Maitz has produced imaginative paintings that have amazed a worldwide audience. The iconic pirate character he created for Captain Morgan Spiced Rum is his most widely recognized work.

Most Maitz paintings present a story to viewers, who respond to the enticement and allure of the image. Use of design and color shape a mood, enhanced by details which combine to entertain the viewer, and engage them with the visual experience. Most works are painted with oil colors, in the painting techniques used by the old masters. Sometimes, experimentation and innovation give rise to unique applications of traditional media.

Past clients have included the National Geographic Society, Bantam Doubleday Dell, Random House Publishers, Harper Collins Publishers, Watson Guptill, Warner Books, Sony Online Entertainment, Penguin USA, Joseph Seagrams and Sons, TV Guide, Paramount Pictures, and Warner Brothers pictures. Maitz has twice won science fiction's Hugo award for best artist, a special Hugo for best artwork. He has received a Howard award, ten Chesley awards from his peers in the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (ASFA), an Inkpot award, a Silver Medal and

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\*[orphanstales.com](http://orphanstales.com)

†[catherynnemvalente.com/novels/palimpsest](http://catherynnemvalente.com/novels/palimpsest)

‡[amazon.com/Deathless-Catherynne-M-Valente/dp/0765326302](http://amazon.com/Deathless-Catherynne-M-Valente/dp/0765326302)

¶[amazon.com/Girl-Circumnavigated-Fairyland-Ship-Making/dp/0312649614](http://amazon.com/Girl-Circumnavigated-Fairyland-Ship-Making/dp/0312649614)

certificates of merit from New York City's Society of Illustrators. Paintings have been exhibited at NASA's 25 Anniversary Show, in Cleveland OH, the Park Avenue Atrium, the Hayden Planetarium and the Society of Illustrators in New York City, NY, the New Britain Museum of American Art, CT, the Delaware Art Museum, DE, the Canton Art Museum, OH, the Florida International Museum and the South Florida Museum, FL.

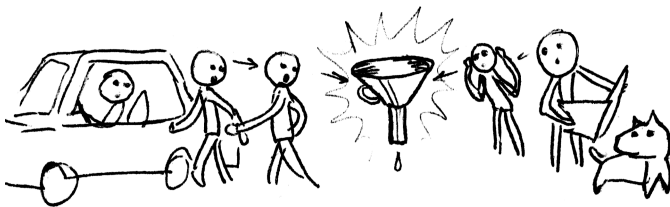
For more on Don, see [paravia.com/DonMaitz](http://paravia.com/DonMaitz)

## *Author and Artist Guest of Honor: Janny Wurts*

Janny Wurts is the author of *Initiate's Trial* and *To Ride Hell's Chasm* and thirteen other novels, a short story collection, as well as the internationally best selling Empire trilogy, co-authored with Raymond E. Feist. Her most recent title in the *Wars of Light and Shadow* series, *Initiate's Trial*, culminates more than twenty years of carefully evolved ideas. The cover images on the books, both in the US and abroad, are her own paintings, depicting her vision of characters and setting.

Through her combined talents as a writer/illustrator, Janny has immersed herself in a lifelong ambition: to create a seamless interface between words and pictures that will lead reader and viewer into the imagination. Her lavish use of language invites the mind into a crafted realm of experience, with characters and events woven into a complex tapestry, and drawn with an intensity to inspire active fuel for thought. Her research includes a range of direct experience, lending her fantasy a gritty realism, and her scenes involving magic crafted with intricate continuity. A self-taught painter, she draws directly from the imagination, creating scenes in a representational style that blurs the edges between dream and reality. She makes few preliminary sketches, but envisions her characters and the scenes that contain them, then executes the final directly from the initial pencil drawing.

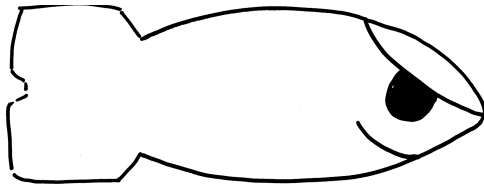
For more on Janny, see [paravia.com/JannyWurts](http://paravia.com/JannyWurts)



## Schedule Overview

We are planning a full 3½-day weekend of events, and the adjacent days also have many Minicon-related activities. “3½ days” means that we will officially open the convention Thursday evening, and many departments will be open then. Programming and the art/science/dealers room still only run Fri/Sat/Sun, but both start earlier on Friday than in past years. Opening Ceremonies are still on Friday.

- Wednesday, April 16: Work party at Jonathan Adam & Carol Kennedy’s house, 3328 Colfax Ave S, Mpls, starting at 6pm. Open to anyone willing to help out.
- Thursday, April 17: Move-in (see *Volunteering* on page 15). Registration open 7–10pm (for both preregistered and at-the-door members). Consuite and bar open at 8pm provided we get enough volunteers to complete move in. Each stays open until we fall down. Rumpus Room opens at 6pm and Cinema Obscura shows a film at 8pm. There will be open gaming and open music. The first Pirates and Airships\* appear.
- Friday, April 18: Registration open 10am–10pm. Programming runs 2:30pm–11pm. Consuite opens at noon and stays open continuously through Closing Ceremonies on Sunday. Bar open 5pm–late. The art/dealers/science room is open 1–7pm. Opening Ceremonies are at 7pm. Gaming, music and parties continue into the night.
- Saturday, April 19: Registration 9:30am–8pm. Programming 10am–11pm. Consuite open all day. Bar open 5pm–late. The art/science/dealers room is open 10am–6pm. Gaming, music and parties continue into the night.
- Sunday, April 20: Registration 9:30am–4pm. Programming 10am–5pm. The art/science/dealers room is open 11am–4pm. We move most of the con out after Closing Ceremonies, 4–5pm, then have the Dead Dog Party in the Minicon Bar.
- Monday, April 21: Final move-out in the morning. Dessicated Dodo Party at Scott and Irene Raun’s, 3928 11th Ave S, Mpls, at 7pm.
- Saturday, April 26: Post-mortem meeting & Devonian Ductina Party at Joel Phillips’, 6323 Excelsior Blvd, St Louis Park, starting at 4pm.



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\*Void where prohibited.

# Hotel

Minicon 49 will happen at the same hotel as last year, the “DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington – Minneapolis South.” This hotel was previously known as the Sheraton, and before that, the Radisson. Warning: the hotel across the street, which was formerly a Sofitel, is now a Sheraton, so careful!

Room rate for traditional or cabana rooms is **\$92 if booked by March 15** and \$99 thereafter. Suites are \$139. To book your room, go to [mnstf.org/minicon49/hotel](http://mnstf.org/minicon49/hotel), or call the DoubleTree at 800 222-8733. If calling, use the group name “Minicon” and group code “MCD”.

**Note for cabanas and suites:** When you reserve your room, you will only be able to reserve a standard room. If you would like a cabana or a suite, possibly for a **room party**, you will need to first reserve a standard room and then contact Matt Weiser at [hotel@minicon49.mnstf.org](mailto:hotel@minicon49.mnstf.org) with your confirmation number and desired room type. He will take care of all such requests.

Getting a room is the best way to experience Minicon! Filling our room block is how we pay the hotel for function space. If we fill enough, the space is free, which allows us to maintain our low registration rates.

## Location

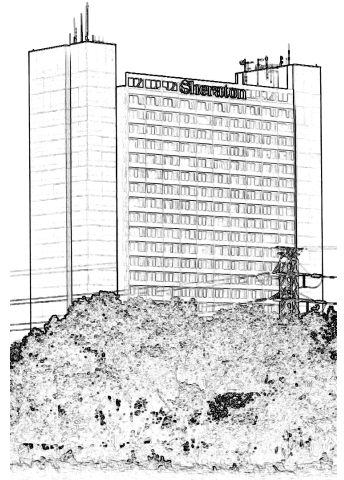
It’s at **7800 Normandale Boulevard, Bloomington, MN, 55439**. This is near the northwest intersection of Highways 100 and I-494, nine miles due east of MSP International Airport. The hotel is the tallest building in the immediate area and can be easily reached via a frontage road that runs north/south, on the west side of Highway 100.

## Driving Directions

*From Duluth and the North:* Take I-35 South to I-35W to Highway 62 West. Take Highway 100 South to Industrial Boulevard. The hotel is on your right.

*From Des Moines and the South:* Take I-35 North to I-35W to I-494 West, and then to Highway 100 North. Take the first exit at Industrial Blvd, go west to Normandale Blvd and turn south. The hotel is on your right.

*From Eau Claire and the East:* Take I-94 West to I-494 West and exit at Highway 100 North. Take the first exit at Industrial Boulevard, go west to Normandale Blvd,



turn south. The hotel is on your right.

*From St. Cloud and the West:* Take I-94 East to I-494 South, to Highway 100 North. Take the first exit at Industrial Blvd, go west to Normandale Blvd, turn south. The hotel is on your right.

*From the MSP Airport:* Take I-494 West and merge onto Highway 100 North. Take the first exit, which will be Industrial Blvd. From there, turn left onto Normandale Blvd. The hotel is on the right.

### *Busing*

The best options are the 6K and 540. A few other buses go nearby, but not at generally useful times. The Southdale Transit Center, 3 miles northeast of the hotel, is much better served by buses, for what that's worth.

The 6K has one run on Saturday, and arrives near the DoubleTree by 6:51am; and one run on Sunday, arriving near the DoubleTree by 6:49am. Return trips eastbound are 7:00am on Saturday and 7:04am on Sunday.

The 540 arrives on Saturday at 78th Street & Picture Drive from 7:28am to 10:54pm. On Sunday, it arrives at 78th Street & Picture Drive from 8:28am to 9:24pm. Return trips eastbound on Saturday are between from 7:31am to 9:31pm, and from 7:31am to 8:31pm on Sunday.

See metrotransit.org for more details and to confirm the above times.

### *Hotel Shuttle*

The hotel runs a shuttle from/to the airport and the Mall of America. It runs about once an hour during the day and evening. Please call the hotel for the schedule.

### *Save the Future! Or possibly a bit of gas money.*

If you are commuting to Minicon this year, please consider participating in our car-pooling effort.

If you need a ride, are driving and can take riders, or would like to car pool, please send your name, locale and contact info to [rideshare@minicon49.mnssf.org](mailto:rideshare@minicon49.mnssf.org) and we will match you with others from your area.

### *Con Layout*

We are planning on using mostly the same arrangement as last year. Film will move from being isolated way off in the north tower to being isolated at the back of the secret hallway behind the programming rooms in the south tower (there will be signs). Gaming, which had been there, will be back in the "garden court", a.k.a. across the fence from the pool. The teen lounge, formerly between the consuite and bar, will instead be in a first floor cabana room (next to the parties).

# Programming

Interested in being on programming? We've received many exciting ideas for panels and demonstrations. Their titles are below. See [tinyurl.com/btbcsj9](http://tinyurl.com/btbcsj9)\* for full descriptions. Interested in seeing some of them at Minicon? Great, but none of these can happen unless you volunteer to make them happen. Sign up by emailing [programming@minicon49.mnsthf.org](mailto:programming@minicon49.mnsthf.org). Note that all program participants must be registered for the convention.

Please let us know if you have restrictions such as “nothing before noon” or “I do not want to be the moderator”. If you would like to give a reading (or do a signing) at Minicon, please contact us at [readings@minicon49.mnsthf.org](mailto:readings@minicon49.mnsthf.org).

Programming hours will be Friday: 2:30pm–11pm, Saturday: 10am–11pm, Sunday: 10am–5pm.

## Arts & Crafts:

- Basics of Live Model Drawing
- Book Mutilation as Transformative Work
- Crafting in Spaaaaace
- Fiction Cover Design
- Knitting as a Post-Apocalyptic Survival Skill
- Lies, Liars and Photography
- Puppet Sprint – Create
- Time, Technology and Art

## Fan/Zeitgeist

- All About Coffee
- Art and Mental Health
- Fandom or Fandoms?
- For the Sake of Art
- History of Piracy
- Is There a Better Way to Teach History?
- Patent Trolls and Copyright Trolls
- So You're Being Invaded by Space Aliens
- The Ethics of Choice

- The Fallacies of the Fannish Fallacies
- Would You Rather?

## Gaming

- Escape and Evasion in RPGs
- Healthy Online Gaming – Just One More Turn
- Mathematics and Gaming

## Literary

- Atheist Writing Panel
- Beer in Books (a.k.a. “Novel Beer”)
- Dr. Seuss Made Me a Fan
- Fantastic YA
- Hands-On Research
- Local References in Urban Fantasy
- Maenads, Oracles, and Other Madwomen of Myth & Folklore
- Navigating the world of small press publishing
- Page 117
- Plausible Impossible Physics
- Rock & Roll in Speculative Fiction – It's Hip to be Square

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\*Or [docs.google.com/spreadsheets/pub?key=0AnhDL2cahB3ndDNzeU1mbnh0X3g5TURxS0g3dzJ4c0E](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/pub?key=0AnhDL2cahB3ndDNzeU1mbnh0X3g5TURxS0g3dzJ4c0E)



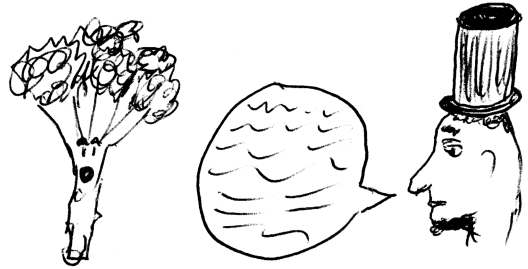
- Romance is Not Porn: Relationships in SF&F
- Terra Incognita: The Role of Maps in SF&F Literature
- The Seventh Son of a Seventh Son (and Minicon 49)
- The Year in SF
- What the Heck is the Deal with Speculative Poetry?
- Why Fairy Tales are for Adults (again)
- Women in YA
- Younger than YA

## Media

- Sherlock, the Series

## Cinema Obscura

To tie in with the “Pirates and Airships\*” theme, Cinema Obscura will screen the Australian short film, *Aurora*, and episodes of the Missouri-based webseries *Dirigible Days*. Episodes of the political SF webseries, *Pioneer One*, are also planned. In addition, Minicon has received permission to screen *The Ackermonster Chronicles!*, a documentary on SF legend, Forry Ackerman. Anime will return. And something new for this year... fan films! So far, we are planning on screening shorts influenced by the Harry Potter novels, the Harry Dresden novels, the Skyrim video game, and DC Comics characters Supergirl and Batman, among others. Cinema Obscura is planned to be open from Thursday evening to early Sunday afternoon.



## Music

- Music as Ritual
- Soundtracks for Books

## Next Gen

- Flash Fiction Teen Writing Spree
- Teen Genius Bar

## Science

- Ask a Scientist
- Getting Medieval (Science) on Your \*ss
- M49 at M49
- Science Slide Show

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\*Pirates may expire over 30,000 feet.

## *Consuite*

Minicon makes feeding you a priority. Where is the food? It's in Consuite. Room 216, 2nd floor cabana, it's next to the bar. While it's not 3 square meals a day, there is a constant supply of snacks & caffeine: coffee, tea, soda (pop), chips, chocolate, candy, even veggies. "Protein Events" happen at random times, though PB & J, trail-mix & hard boiled eggs are always available.

We are open at noon on Friday and we don't close until 4pm on Sunday, at which point it collapses in to the bar (room 218) for the Dead Dog Party. Additionally, in honor of our half-day, Thursday, we'll open at 8pm (assuming set-up work is done enough) and close when we're too tired, much later Thursday PM.

Are you one of those great people who like to help out at a party? Volunteer in Consuite! We have quick jobs, or a capable member could run the show for an hour or two. We'd be ever so grateful, you'd enjoy being involved. Just talk to Hershey or Ann in Consuite.

## *Room Parties*

Minicon's hospitality is legendary and we are joined again this year by many of our favorite (and most social) fan groups — Terry Pratchett's Seamstress Guild, Helsinki in 2017 and Krushenko's are just a few of the parties already signed up for Minicon 49.

If you or your organization would like to throw a party, now is the time to let us know! Please send an e-mail to [parties@minicon49.mnstf.org](mailto:parties@minicon49.mnstf.org) and let us know your details. Once more, our poolside cabana rooms — at the heart of the convention — are the same price as regular sleeping rooms so book with us now!

Speaking of cabana rooms — not planning to throw an "official" party, but still want to be close to where so much of the con is happening? We reserve a number of cabana rooms for "non-party" groups too. If you want a cabana room, please send your request to [hotel@minicon49.mnstf.org](mailto:hotel@minicon49.mnstf.org) and let us know your desires. If you've already used our weblink, or the local hotel reservation desk, to book a room please let us know your confirmation number and we can move your reservation to a cabana room.

*Note:* Booking a room and staying at the con helps us keep Minicon membership rates down and helps keep our hotel costs lower. Please do use either the weblink, or call 800 222-8733 (using group name "Minicon" and group code "MCD"), to book your room and help us ensure meeting our room block!

# Minicon Bar: The Inn of Four Ravens

The bar is the companion to the consuite and is located on the second level in a cabana, room 218, overlooking the garden court. In honor of author GoH Janny Wurts we are naming it the Inn of Four Ravens. We will open at 8pm\* on Thursday evening for the guest of honor reception, and at 5pm on Friday, Saturday & Sunday. On all four (3½?) days it will stay open into the wee hours until we fall down. Whee!

Beer & cider will be on tap in commercial varieties as well as some lovely homebrew generously donated by a few of our Minicon guests. We will have some wine for the fancy people, and of course we'll be serving blog in both regular and St. Paul flavors.

Friday evening at 6pm, it's the Design-Your-Own-Cocktail Hour courtesy of a supply of weird booze we found somewhere. Stop in before Opening Ceremonies and see what magic you can create. Saturday night at 11:59pm is the return of the SF Pub Quiz. Assemble your team and compete for dealer dollars and other fantastic prizes. Well... for prizes, anyway. And a fleeting sense of accomplishment.

And if you've hit the homebrew with a little too much enthusiasm, we'll have a Recovery Station† just outside the bar with a few helpful items to help you start your day — whether that is at 8am or 4pm. You're welcome.

We need volunteers to serve beer, fetch ice and do some light cleaning. There is a sign-up sheet at the bar, and getting your time slots in early is always appreciated. We'll also be looking for help setting up and tearing down.‡



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\*TBD - How can you even consider drinking when there are still bits of convention to be built?

†Where's your Ghod¶ now!

‡How can you even consider drinking when there's a whole convention to dismantle?

¶Or Ghoddess

# Art Show

The Minicon 49 art show is a non-juried show open to all artists who'd like to submit artwork in a science fiction and/or fantasy theme. Regardless of what media you work in — traditional, digital, fiber, sculpture, etc. — you are welcome. Art *may* relate to our theme of Pirates and Airships\*, but certainly does not have to. Most art is for sale, although some may be just for show. Art can be bid upon or, if the artists chooses, be immediately purchased at a set price.

- Thursday setup: 3–8pm, for artists and setup volunteers only. Artists may hang their art 5–10pm.
- Friday: 1–7pm. Artists may continue to hang until 7pm. Artist reception at 6pm. No direct sales until Saturday, only bidding.
- Saturday: 10am–6pm. Silent auction ends at 6pm. Pieces with 3 bids go to voice auction show at 6pm. Direct sales continue through Sunday.
- Sunday: 10am–4pm. Artists may begin to pick up unsold art at 10am. Direct sales end at 4pm.

Volunteers are needed for set-up, tear down, and lunch breaks. Besides the art show proper, we are thinking about again having art-based activities and programming in the art show area, but we haven't yet finalized these plans. If you have ideas or want to run such a thing, please contact the art show head at [artshow@minicon49.mnsthf.org](mailto:artshow@minicon49.mnsthf.org).

## Calling All Young Artists!

All artists under the age of 18 can hang their art for **free** at the Minicon art show (no hanging fees). Please limit the number of pieces you submit to 5 per person due to limited hanging space. All other art show rules apply.

## Further details for artists

Please see the complete rules at [mnsthf.org/minicon49/artshow](http://mnsthf.org/minicon49/artshow). Below is a summary. Note that the rules have been revised since last year. Please contact Alec Phillips, art show head, at [artshow@minicon49.mnsthf.org](mailto:artshow@minicon49.mnsthf.org) with questions.

- Artists who actively help set up the art show on Thursday may reserve their first choice of hanging space. Hanging space for artists not helping with set up on Thursday cannot be reserved and is first come–first served on Thursday and Friday after setup is complete.
- 8×10 ft pegboard panels and 3×12 ft tables will be provided for art presentation. Pegboard hooks and clips will be provided free of charge. Ver-

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\*Yo ho ho and a bottle of hydrogen

tical panel space will be lit with incandescent bulbs. You may use your own hanging hardware and lighting if you choose.

- No artist registration or pre-registration is required.
- Art that is not for sale may be entered.
- Walk-in artists are accepted and encouraged.
- There is a \$0.50 per piece hanging fee for each piece of art entered in the Art Show. Minicon collects a 10% commission on all artwork sold through the Art Show and Print Shop.
- There will be a Print Shop for prints and reproductions. No more than 5 copies of any one work of art may

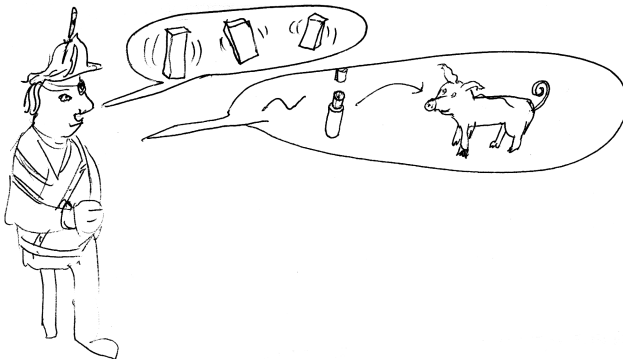
be submitted, please. Single reproductions or prints may be entered or displayed in the art show. Multiple reproductions or prints should be presented in the Print Shop.

- Security will be provided by Minicon staff while the Art Show is open, and will be secured in a locked hall by hotel staff at night.
- Minicon and its staff will not be responsible for theft or accidental damage to artwork or artist's property.
- Artists with many pieces are encouraged to download control sheets and bid sheets from [mnstf.org/minicon49](http://mnstf.org/minicon49) and arrive with them printed and filled out. This will make your set up much quicker!

## Dealers

Minicon will once again have a dealer's room, and it will again share the large ballroom with the art show and science room, along with some central tables for socializing. The dealers room hours are Friday 1-7pm, Saturday 10am-6pm and Sunday 11am-4pm.

There is still room available for dealers. If interested, send your street address and phone number to [request@minicon49.mnstf.org](mailto:request@minicon49.mnstf.org), and we will send you a paper application. Tables are \$35, and dealers are required to be members of the con.



## *Minicon: The Next Generation*

Minicon: The Next Generation organizes activities for teens and other young fans and also runs our Teen Lounge. This year the Teen Lounge will be in a cabana room adjacent to the parties, avoiding the flow of non-teens through the Teen Lounge we had last year. Teen events will include a Nerf gun war and Breakfast for Dinner, plus more to be determined.

### *Gaming*

Well *another* year of Minicon, and another year of gaming! We will have a nice assortment of consoles, as well as a bigger library of games. New this year is HeroClix, and Star Trek: Attack Wing miniatures games. We will be hosting more Magic: the Gathering as well. We have made new friends each year by hanging out and playing either what is in our library or what you bring to share. We look forward to another year of friends, gaming, and fun! My crew and I look forward to meeting you!

–Matt McMillan, Gaming Head

### *Rumpus Room*

Rumpus Room will be back starting Thursday evening and continuing throughout the con. There will be lots of kids' programming, but also much more. Rumpus Room will feature activities suitable for young children all the way up to adults, sometimes at the same time, sometimes at different times.

Kids' programming will include lots of games and crafts. We will be doing balloon animals and paper airplanes again this year. We also will have origami, a treasure hunt, juggling, pop-ups, "Tool Time", "Monsters & S'more Monsters" (complete with pyrotechnics) and a costume workshop.

We will again have a Craft Swap. Please bring any extra craft supplies to barter or donate. We are especially in need of costume-making materials: anything that kids could dress up — fabrics, hats, skirts, vests, old costumes, etc. Toys, kids' books, and games are also welcome.

### *Costuming*

We would like to invite everyone to join the Minicon Costume Revel this year. We will be gathering in the Edina room starting at 7pm Saturday. Forms will be available for entry at event or can be printed from the [mnstf.org/minicon49](http://mnstf.org/minicon49). Trophies will be given to top scores in each experience level along with judges' favorites. No performances required, just a fun chance to show off and talk about your costumes.



# Volunteering

Minicon is totally volunteer run. We're a convention of equals: even the hardest working members of the concom (convention committee) pay for their memberships, just like you. Please help out! You could do as little as refilling a bowl of chips or as much as staffing a department for a day.

## *Before the con:*

Contact our volunteers head, Eric Forste, at [volunteers@minicon49.mnstf.org](mailto:volunteers@minicon49.mnstf.org). Let him know if you have big goals or if you'd just like to register your intent to help. Consider attending a concom meeting. Meetings are open and informal; we'd love to have you, even if you just want to watch. The next one is Saturday March 1 (see below), followed by Sunday March 23 and Saturday April 5. The details of these are yet to be determined. They will be fully announced in the Einblatt ([mnstf.org/einblatt](http://mnstf.org/einblatt)), on the Minicon Facebook page, and on the Minicon LiveJournal.

Another way to meet us is at the bimonthly Mnstf parties, announced in the Einblatt and at [mnstf.org](http://mnstf.org). The next one is a Pool Party on Sat March 1 starting at 2pm and going into the night at the DoubleTree where Minicon is held (find us near the pool). We will have a concom meeting at the Pool Party, starting at 2pm. (The party will continue long after the meeting is over!)

## *At the con:*

Arrive Thursday mid-afternoon if you can. We'll be setting up the art show, making signs, assembling the consuite/bar, collating registration material and doing anything else that needs doing. During normal con hours, look for a volunteer sign-up sheet on the registration table, but also offer to help as you see a need. Most volunteering is informal — no need to sign up ahead of time. Remember that we have no paid staff, we're all in this together!



## *After the con:*

Attend our post-mortem meeting and party (details on page 5) to give feedback on how things went and to find out how to get involved for next year's Minicon. We're always looking for people to be apprentice department heads!

# Registration

Preregistration for Minicon 49: Pirates and Airships\* is open through March 17th.

The rates are:

	Preregistered	At-the-door
Adult (21+)	\$40	\$60
Student (13-20)	\$20	\$25
Kid (6-12)	\$10	\$15
Child (0-5)	\$0	\$0
Supporting	\$15	†

† Supporting memberships can be upgraded to full memberships for an additional \$40 (total of \$55).

**Parents:** Children up to 5 do not need memberships at all, but if you want to give your little sprog a shiny badge, you may register them.

**Are you already registered?** If so, your mailing label has a ® symbol.

## Registration Hours

The hours for both preregistered members and those paying at the door are:

Thursday 7pm-10pm  
Friday 10am-10pm  
Saturday 9:30am-8pm  
Sunday 9:30am-4pm



The registration desk is in the hall outside the Grand Ballroom near the top of the escalator. Memberships for Minicon 50 (2015) can be purchased at the reg desk or at the Dead Dog party Sunday evening in the bar (room 218).

## Partial-weekend rates

We'd really like to you come for the whole weekend, but we realize that some people have other obligations or aren't yet sure if Minicon's their thing. For a taste of Minicon, \$30 on Thursday or Friday gets you a membership that lasts until 10am Saturday. You can stay the rest of the weekend for another \$30 (total of \$60). If you arrive on Saturday, we discount the at-the-door rate to \$45 since you've missed 1½ days. Sunday alone is \$20. These rates are only available at the door. If you know that you will join us at least on Saturday, it's cheaper to pre-register.

## Registration Survey

We are working to reconstruct older historical registration data. Can you help us by filling out a survey? [mnstf.org/minicon49/regsurvey.php](http://mnstf.org/minicon49/regsurvey.php)

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\*This is a funny footnote



# MINICON 49

April 17½-20, 2014

Author Guest of Honor: Catherynne M. Valente

Author Guest of Honor: Janny Wurts

Artist Guest of Honor: Don Maitz

We'll be at the DoubleTree, 7800 Normandale, Bloomington MN.

Reservations: [mnstf.org/minicon49/hotel](http://mnstf.org/minicon49/hotel) or 800-222-8733 group code "MCD".

Become a member of Minicon 49! Postmarked by March 17, 2014:

- Adult \$40
- Student (13-20) \$20
- Supporting \$15 (convert to attending for additional \$40)
- Kid (6-12) \$10
- Child (0-5) free

Can you help us with a \$10 additional donation? We use this money to keep our low membership rates in place so that more people can afford Minicon.

**Make checks to:** Minicon 49, Lake Street Station, PO Box 8297, Minneapolis, MN 55408-0297 or register at [mnstf.org/minicon49](http://mnstf.org/minicon49)

Rates at the door: \$60 full adult membership; \$45 if arriving on Saturday; \$20 on Sunday. \$25 student, \$15 kid, \$0 child. Th/F-only: \$30.

Do not list me as a member on the web or in print publications

**Please contact me, because I want to:**

- Volunteer
- Be on programming or share panel ideas
- Throw a room party
- Know more about kids' programming

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name                      Middle                      Last

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address Line 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address Line 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                                      State/Province                      Postal Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Country (if not USA)                      Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

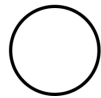
\_\_\_\_\_  
Birthdate\*: **Year**    month    day    Sex\*                      When was your 1st Minicon?\*

\* Optional: For demographics; can also help plan kids programming.

For more details about registration, see our FAQ at [mnstf.org/minicon49](http://mnstf.org/minicon49)



**MINNESOTA  
SCIENCE  
FICTION  
SOCIETY**



## *Bozo Bus Tribune & The Medallion Hunt*

The Bozo Bus Tribune is still trundling along, happy to reap the informational fruits of Minicon 49's antics and goings-on. This four-issue newsletter will be available as usual to keep convention members informed and entertained. In addition to whatever the editor drums up, anyone can submit articles, news items, personals or programming reviews.

Moreover, look to the BBT for rules and clues to the Minicon Medallion Hunt, now in its ninth year! Cryptic and creative clues will lead you to various 1973 pennies hidden around the hotel, which can be redeemed for pride and Dealer Dollars, not to mention the occasional random prize.

## *Music*

Minicon will again feature music, both in concerts and nightly music circles. There will also be music programming. We are currently working on filling our concert schedule and plan for concerts Friday and Saturday. There will be open music each night Thursday–Sunday.



## *Minn-stf*

Minicon is run by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, or Mnstf. Besides Minicon, each year Mn-stf usually holds a small convention in the fall. This year's is called METHOD Con 2 and will be held in October (exact dates TBA). We also have a pool party in the winter (March 1; see the volunteering section), and a picnic in the summer. The 2014 picnic will be Saturday, July 19 at Minnehaha Falls picnic area #2 (same as last year), starting at noon.

Besides these larger events, we also have bimonthly "meetings", where "meeting" means a party with a 5-minute announcement period. Popular activities at these parties include gaming, crafts, conversation and eating good food. You are invited! Find the schedule at [mnstf.org](http://mnstf.org).



# *Minicon 50*

## *April 2–5, 2015*

### *Progress Report 0*

Planning has also begun for Minicon 50, our golden Minicon! Minicon 50 will be 4 days, Thursday–Sunday, so that we have time to celebrate 47 years of Minicon [sic] and give you plenty of opportunity to see our *five* guests of honor: Authors Jane Yolen, Larry Niven, and Brandon Sanderson; musician and author Adam Stemple; and publisher Tom Doherty.

While Minicon 50 has one more day than usual (and a half day more than Minicon 49) and extra GoHs, we are not charging more, provided that you pre-register. The rates for all categories will be the same as for Minicon 49. See page 16 in this booklet. To cover inflation, we will, however, be raising the at-the-door rate from \$60 to \$70. Pre-registration for Minicon 50 will open at Minicon 49.

We will be in the same hotel for Minicon 50, and room rates will also continue to be the same as for Minicon 49.

To help us remember Minicons past, four of our guests of honor are drawn

from our illustrious cast of guests from the past: Larry Niven (Minicon 7), Jane Yolen (Minicon 25), Tom Doherty (Minicon 29), and Brandon Sanderson (Minicon 45). Adam comes to us for the first time as a guest of honor, but is nevertheless already well-known to many Minicon members.

We are planning for historical displays and retrospectives for the fan historian (then you'll know why it says "47 years" up there) and will touch on all of Minn-stf's various conventions, not just Minicon. For those not so interested in fan history, we'll still have readings, films, gaming, art, dealers, kids' programming, crafts, stuff for teens, science, costuming, music, parties, our Medalion Hunt, and of course our specialties of pretty-good programming and above-average food and drink.



Minicon 49  
PO Box 8297  
Lake Street Station  
Minneapolis MN 55049-0297

