

Minicon 34



Progress Report 3

Minicon 34 All-in-one Form

This is our All-in-one form, which replaces the separate registration, party room request, and volunteer forms. You no longer need to fill out your name and contact information again and again. We hope you will find this form simple and easy to use.

The first step is to remove this form (the outside cover) from the PR. Now, lay it on a nice flat surface and begin filling it out, especially the volunteer section. When you are done, address an envelope to: **Minicon 34, P.O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis MN 55408.** Fold this page a couple of times, insert it into the envelope you just addressed along with your registration check (**make checks payable to "Minicon"**), stick proper postage on the envelope, and send it in the mail. Simple, huh?

Volunteer

Reminder: Be sure to fill in your name and contact information (including the optional phone and/or email address, please) on the Registration portion of this form (inside back cover) so we'll be able to contact you. Thanks!

Have you worked on Minicon in the past? _____

If you did, what did you do? _____

Did you enjoy it? _____

Have you worked on other conventions? _____

If you did, what did you do? _____

Did you enjoy it? _____

What kind of things do you want to help with?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Art Show | <input type="radio"/> Operations | <input type="radio"/> Publications |
| <input type="radio"/> Badges and Signs | <input type="radio"/> Parties | <input type="radio"/> Volunteers |
| <input type="radio"/> Childcare | <input type="radio"/> Gaming | <input type="radio"/> Guest Liaisons |
| <input type="radio"/> Hotline (voice mail) | <input type="radio"/> Programming | <input type="radio"/> Info Desk |
| <input type="radio"/> WHAM! (recycling) | <input type="radio"/> Green Room | <input type="radio"/> Badger (check badges) |
| <input type="radio"/> Setup/Tear down | <input type="radio"/> Bozo Bus Tribune | <input type="radio"/> Gopher (run errands) |
| <input type="radio"/> Hucksters Room | <input type="radio"/> Restaurant Guide | <input type="radio"/> Data Entry |
| <input type="radio"/> Hotel | <input type="radio"/> Registration | |

Do you have any special skills? Any common skills? Do you have a strong back and a weak mind? A strong mind and a weak back? An extremely rich uncle?

See inside back cover for registration form & hotel reservation information ➔

Dear friends of Minicon,
(including, as always, friends we haven't met yet),

Happy New Year 1999! Wow. This is like watching the odometer as it approaches 100,000 miles. All those nines start lining up and you just know something's going to happen.

Speaking of things about to happen, Minicon is almost here. At last! Just 11 weeks from now, a few thousand science fiction fans will gather at the Minneapolis Hilton and Towers to make a weekend of Minicon magic. In doing so, we'll put to rest 18 months of fascinating (and sometimes worrisome) rumors, even as our actual activities generate fresh gossip-fodder for years to come.

There have been too many rumors about Minicon 34 for me to pick a favorite, though I was particularly taken by one I heard from a huckster at OryCon. He'd heard that Minicon 34 would have only 200 members. We're scaling back on size and activities, but just to a manageable level for a regional sf convention, and a large regional at that.

To date, Minicon 34 has 765 members. We're expecting 1,800-2,200 members, though we're also preparing for more or fewer than that.

Then there was the rumor about how only books could be sold in the Hucksters Room. Don't get us wrong; we love books. We're delighted that a third of Minicon's huckster tables will be loaded down with books for sale. But we also love all sorts of other cool stuff; and, as you'll see in the Hucksters List on page 12, Minicon will have lots of that, too.

The rumors will get stranger as the excitement surrounding Minicon cranks up a few notches, as it does every January. There's an urgency, an energy buzz, and even a sense of panic that comes as everyone working on and/or coming to the convention faces the final deadline that is Minicon itself. (With luck, the panic pops up only occasionally to keep life exciting — and, even then, there's laughter, too.)

Here are a few of the things you can do to join in the Minicon buzz and to avoid some of the usual last-minute crises:

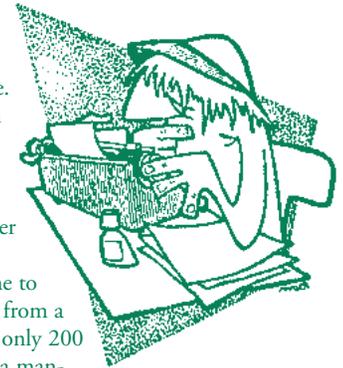
Pre-register now rather than buying your membership at the door! You'll save \$30 and we'll be able to order the right quantities of everything. If you've already registered, *remind friends of the February 14th pre-reg deadline.*

Reserve your hotel room (if you haven't yet). As of mid-December, our room block at the Hilton was 49% full for Friday and Saturday, and our smaller room blocks on Thursday, Sunday, and other nights were 56-90% full. Several suites are still available, both for room parties and on quiet floors. (Our new hotel has lots of suites.)

Volunteer! Tell us if you want to be on programming, work in the consuite, or lend a helping hand processing registrations right now. At Minicon, we'll especially need lots of help setting up Thursday evening, and with tear-down at the end of the convention

I'll close with a loud cheer for the 185 people who have volunteered so far (see page 9) and for everyone who is hosting a party, working on the convention, and/or coming to Minicon 34. We're looking forward to seeing you soon!

Until Minicon,
Geri Sullivan,



DANGER, WILL ROBINSON!

The final Minicon 34 advance-registration cutoff date is fast approaching—February 14, 1999! Registration rates are currently \$40 for attending adults and \$15 for children age 12 and under.

After February 14th you will need to pay the at-the-door rates of \$70 for attending adults and \$30 for children age 12 and under.

Mark your calendar, put a note on your refrigerator, tie a string around your finger, write it on the back of your slide-rule, make up a little ditty to hum, do whatever you normally do to remind yourself of important stuff, and **make sure your mailed-in registration is post-marked no later than February 14th!**

Better yet, do it today!

Minn-Stf welcomes you to



April 2-4, 1999
Minneapolis Hilton & Towers
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Writer GoH: Octavia E. Butler

One of the strongest writers in contemporary SF. Octavia is a winner of the Hugo, Nebula, and Tiptree Awards, and the author of the Patternist novels, the Xenogenesis series, the acclaimed *Parable of the Sower* and its recently-published sequel, *Parable of the Talents*, and short fiction such as "Bloodchild": works that range from the 17th Century to the far interstellar future, and possess an insightfulness, depth, and uncompromising clarity rare in any field of fiction. We are proud to bring this distinguished and fascinating writer to Minicon in 1999.

Fan GoHs: Mark and Priscilla Olson

A dynamic duo of fannish energy. Mark (who is secretly from Minnesota) chaired the 1989 Worldcon; these days he's a mainstay of NESFA Press, a leading fan-run SF specialty publisher. Priscilla Olson has overseen programming at two different Worldcons and several Boskones, and in her Copious Spare Time is a gardener, fannish sociologist, and Legion of Super-Heroes fan. Each has (separately) chaired a Boskone. Together or apart, they're well-informed, approachable all-around fans with a great range of interests. (See the spotlight article on page 5.)

Bookseller GoH: David Nee

A fount of knowledge about SF and bookselling. Dave has been a co-owner since 1977, and manager since 1988, of The Other Change of Hobbit bookstore in Berkeley, California: one of the oldest and most influential SF and fantasy bookstores in the world. Booksellers hold up half the sky, and we hope to hear more about the business (and lore) of SF from Dave's perspective.

Important Hotel Info on pgs. 10-11, How to Get There on pg. 12!



Minicon is brought to you by...

Minnesota Science Fiction Society
P.O. Box 8583
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Minn-Stf events hotline: 612-824-5559

Minicon's address:

Minicon 34
P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Email addresses: See page 13

Spotlight on Mark and Priscilla Olson

By Patrick Nielsen Hayden

Mark and Priscilla Olson are The Compleat Fans — or at any rate, in this imperfect world, as close to compleat as we're going to get.

They're print-SF fans. Both of them have been involved with NESFA Press's admirable efforts to put neglected great SF writers back into print. Mark edited their James Schmitz volume, and co-edited volumes of work by Diana Wynne Jones, Hal Clement, and James White. Mark and Priscilla together did the Zenna Henderson volume. And Priscilla, on her own, edited the Charles Harness collection.

They're club fans, pillars of the New England Science Fiction Association. Mark has served as President and Treasurer of that group; Priscilla has been Vice-President. Mark ran Boskone, NESFA's Boston-area con, in 1986; Priscilla was chair in 1992, and has run Programming any number of times — so much so that Boskone regulars tend to go to her with programming questions even when she's not running it!

Their resume as con fans and conrunners is far too long to detail. Mark is a member of that small group of fans who have survived chairing the World Science Fiction Convention — in his case, in 1989. Priscilla co-ran Programming at the 1989 Worldcon and was an assistant division head for Programming in 1992 in Orlando. They jointly ran the newsletter for the 1996 Worldcon in Los Angeles.

And Priscilla is a media fan: she's been a Trek fan since the beginning, and (according to Mark) financed her move to Boston by selling her collection of "filthy Trek zines." ("In what sense do you say 'filthy?'" this reporter asked Mark. "Yes," he replied.) Priscilla is also, notoriously, an unabashed Legion of Super-Heroes fan, and the standard condition for her running programming for any con is that she be allowed to organize a Legion panel! Needless to say, in her honor we'll be organizing a Legion panel at Minicon 34.

What not so many people know about Mark is that he grew up in Red Wing, Minnesota and attended the University of Minnesota as an undergraduate, and that his first convention was, yes, Minicon 1. He also attended the second Minicon. Aside from his well-known fannish pursuits, he's interested in history and the physical sciences, particularly astronomy. Inaccurately, but in a way that can only be described as Minnesotan, he calls himself "mostly Norwegian and dull and proud of it."

Priscilla was born in Queens and grew up on Long Island, and met Mark when he was a TA at SUNY/Binghamton and she was taking his courses. She once worked at the Bronx Zoo. Today, while Mark works in computers ("like everyone else in the world"), Priscilla teaches sixth grade at a Jewish parochial school, collects community cookbooks, and runs The Secret Garden, a fannish APA devoted to horticultural pursuits.

They're approachable, easygoing, smart people with a sense of humor about themselves, who routinely do tons of the kind of work that holds fandom together. We're honored to have them coming to Minicon 34 and we hope you'll take the time to meet them.



Minicon Policies

Minicon, like fandom in general, takes a somewhat broader view of what is acceptable behavior than the mundane world subscribes to. Still, all social gatherings have boundaries. Some of our more important boundaries are described below and on pages 8 & 14.

Weapons Policy

1. Use common sense.
2. Actual firearms, class 3 or 4 lasers, and projectile-throwing toys are not permitted at Minicon.
3. For everything else, real or prop, have a sheath, sling, or other container for it, and keep it secured when you're in a public space.
4. The above notwithstanding, Minicon reserves the right to prohibit any prop or weapon at the sole discretion of Minicon.
5. "You kill it, you eat it."

Reality Policy

1. Minicon complies with all Federal, state, and local laws.
2. Minicon encourages our members to do the same.



Programming

by Beth Friedman and Teresa Nielsen Hayden

Comps & Programming

In past years, we've given complimentary memberships to some program participants. We haven't had a coherent policy, and what we've had, we've implemented inconsistently. After a great deal of discussion, the following is Minicon's new comp policy as it applies to programming participation:

1. Members of the community who are attending Minicon and participating on the program will not receive a comp for that participation.
2. It's possible there may be program participants who are only there to do their item, not for the whole con; we intend to handle these circumstances with good manners and common sense.
3. Minicon is offering its former guests of honor complimentary memberships at Minicon 34 and subsequent Minicons. This policy is unrelated to participation in the program, but the odds are darn good that if we asked you to be a guest of honor in the past, we'd like to see you on the program now.

Join the Army and See the Navy

We said last time that we want to know "what kind of intense and interesting and weird programming ideas you want to see," or be on. Of course, that's kind of ambiguous: what sort of programming is interesting?

Our working theory is that, first, programming at Minicon should be enjoyed by the people who attend. We're not doing panels for the good of the panelists' souls. Second, programming should be about things that interest the people who come to Minicon — first and foremost science fiction, fantasy, the SF community, and the works of our Guests of Honor. And related subjects. Which covers a lot of ground.

Your programming department is acquainted with a long list of Minicon regulars — easily enough to fill the program slots. But we suspect we're overlooking folks we don't know so well, people with fascinating specialized knowledge, heartfelt opinions, unusual points of view, new things to say, and jokes we haven't heard yet. We want to hear from those people. Yes, you.

A Few Notes on Good Programming

We want to avoid the kind of panel that simply asks a flat question, like "Can you write good fantasy outside of the Western mythic model?" The answer is yes, the discussion runs short, and the panelists spend the rest of the hour vamping. That's a wasted opportunity.

Any panel that starts off with any of the panelists saying "I have no idea why they put me on this panel" is probably the result of suboptimal program planning. So is any panel with a title so cutesy and convoluted that the panelists can't tell what the subject is supposed to be.

We're fond of the kind of simple panel idea (for instance, "Most Important Books Of Last Year") that serves as an opportunity for opinionated and entertaining people to hold forth. But we're also fond of the kind where the initial proposition strongly constrains the discussion, something like "Has the rising popularity of media SF changed the kind of SF that gets written?" These are very different kinds of panels: one is driven by its participants, the other by its subject.

We want to try some unusual formats, such as dialogues. Everything doesn't have to be a panel.

And we're also interested in dragging people outside their usual ghettos of interest and having them discuss something else. How about putting some hard-SF types on a panel on mythic fantasy? (Plenty of hard-SF types know a fair bit about myth.) How about putting some fantasy writers on items about space development? (Lots of fantasy writers know plenty about technology.) And so forth. How many people only know about one thing?

Send Mail Today

We expect to be assembling and finalizing Minicon 34's program in January and February. Don't wait; get in touch with us now! Tell us about the programming you want to be part of, and the programming you want to see. We have a web form at <http://www.mnsthf.org/minicon34/programming/programming-ideas.html>; or you can send email directly to programming@minicon34.mnsthf.org. We want to hear from you.

Childcare

By Dawn Marinaro

We're prepared to care for children ages 16 months and up. We are working on hiring professional caregivers again this year, but are on the lookout for volunteers to provide security, check children in and out, and do activities. If you are interested in telling stories, reading aloud, or leading a song, game, or art or science activity, please let us know. We're also looking for two assistants who would be willing to help out both at the convention and a little bit before the convention.

After taking an inventory of our childcare supplies, we find we are desperately in need of a changing table! We could also use a tape recorder and a selection of children's books and songs on tape, and we're short on small jigsaw puzzles (less than 100 pieces) and games for three- to five-year-olds. As always, kids and their parents are invited to bring storybooks to donate or share.

Please contact us at childcare@minicon34.mnsthf.org if you have any questions, or if you can donate any of these items.

Art Show

By David Wilford

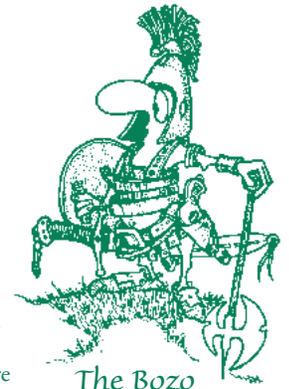
We Need You!

The Minicon Art Show doesn't spontaneously combust, er, just happen, you know. It needs to be set up, preferably ahead of time, and for that we need lots of help. The Hilton will be opening the Art Show room for setup by 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 1st (no fooling). At that time the display panels and tables will be set up, and the mail-in art then hung. Any artists or agents who wish to hang art at this time are welcome to come and help, and will get their choice of available hanging space.

Art Show Awards: We will be giving awards for the best original works of art in the Art Show at Minicon 34. There will be awards given by a panel of judges, awards given by popular vote, and an award given by the Head of the Art Show. (Wow, *I get to have some fun!*)

The Tacky Art Show Wants Your Alien Spam Sculpture Ideas! Not all art has to be serious to be of value. Anyone who has seen the immortal mounted punk unicorn heads or melted-butter sculptures can attest to the timelessness of tasteless art. If you've created a truly tacky piece of art, we want it for our special Tacky Art Show! We promise not to turn you into the Art Police, honest....

Memorial Exhibit for Crystal Hope Marvig and Anne Layman Chancellor There will be a memorial exhibit in the Art Show at Minicon 34 devoted to the late Crystal Hope Marvig and Ann Layman Chancellor. Those interested in contributing artwork or sketches, photos, personal stories or other memorable items to the exhibit may contact me via the Minicon P.O. box or via email at artshow@minicon34.mnsthf.org.



The Bozo Bus Tribune

By Jeff Schalles

The *Bozo Bus Tribune* is the twice-daily newsletter of Minicon. We try to balance the silliness with the serious business of running a large SF convention, mixing together highly evolved fannish jokes, poignant slices-of-convention-life, programming updates, and rumor control.

We are always looking for material, both before and during the weekend of Minicon. Cartoons, short, informative, philosophical, and simply funny articles, and party listings and reviews. The BBT is especially interested in recruiting party reviewers (it's a tough job, but someone's got to do it). We are also looking for editorial and publishing staff. If you would like to help edit, write, illustrate, or lay out the BBT (using QuarkXPress on a Mac), drop me a line care of the Minicon P.O. Box (Attn: BBT), or send email to: bbt@minicon34.mnsthf.org

Volunteers

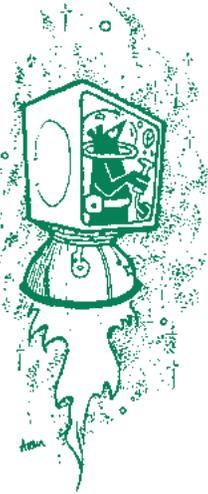
By Betsy Lundsten

So far we've heard from many people volunteering to work on the various parts of the convention. We've also been announcing work parties on the volunteers email list, and we'd like to thank all the folks who've been able to come help mail PRs and inventory the storage locker.

Right now we're working on matching people with jobs they'll like; some of you have already heard from us, and many more of you will in the very near future.

This year we're going to have a Gopher Hole for volunteers. It's going to be a place to go and unwind a little, to rest a weary head, to find someone willing to give (or get) a gentle shoulder rub or to lend a shoulder; a place for gossip and fun; and last but not least, a place to recruit volunteers. We want to give you a chance to regroup and recharge so that you'll be ready to go out and have some more fun volunteering! All volunteers are welcome.

At Minicon, the volunteers desk and the gopher hole will be open on Thursday evening for folks who are interested in working setup (and boy, are there lots of areas that need help with setup!), and all day Friday through Sunday. When you get to the convention, please stop by and see us! If you've already signed up to work, we'll have reminders available of when and where. If you'd like to sign up to work then, that's great too. And last but not least, when you see someone wearing a volunteer ribbon, say hello and show your appreciation. (Unless you've previously negotiated a more enthusiastic way to show your appreciation to a specific individual, we suggest smiling.) Volunteers are what makes Minicon happen, and if someone smiles at you, please consider yourself thanked for your necessary and much appreciated efforts!



Hospitality

By Liz Cooper and Lisa Pollard

Hospitality is the heart of Minicon and, with our new hotel, it's moving to the very heart of the convention space. The weekend-long party in the Consuite is the place to find friends, meet people, and, most of all, have fun! We'll have drinks alcoholic and non, snacks, music, and conversation, good company and a great time!

There will still be coffee (rest assured), we just don't know precisely where, yet, so, please, follow your nose or check your pocket program for more information at Minicon. There will also be smoking and non-smoking areas available, for those with a preference.

There will still be music — and, we're hoping, lots of it. Music helps make the good times roll. Musicians interested in hosting music parties can contact us at <parties@minicon34.mnssf.org> for more information.

Throwing the finest annual sf party in Minnesota takes lots (and lots) of helping hands! If you're interested in volunteering with us, please mark "Parties" on your volunteer form or send email to <volunteers@minicon34.mnssf.org>.

We're setting up the Consuite Thursday evening (volunteers welcome, as always), and will then be open and running throughout Minicon. We're looking forward to seeing *you* there!

Signage Policy

We are at a new hotel this year, and are still negotiating with the hotel regarding where and how signs and posters may be posted. Please check with the Information Desk *before* you post anything this year. (We Mean It.)



Minicon is brought to you by...

...the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, through the collective efforts of Minicon members who volunteer and work on the convention.

Terminology: **council** and **concom** members have taken on responsibility for the entire convention. They're the people working together year 'round, setting policies and hashing things through for the innumerable organizational details behind each Minicon. Most council and concom members also have specific departmental duties. **Staff** members are responsible for specific jobs within departments, some of which are very large jobs indeed. Our **advisors** cheer us on or, alternately, shake their heads in appalled amazement. **Volunteers** help out with work parties during the year, but their primary role is at the convention. **Volunteers are the lifeblood of Minicon!**

Here's who's working on Minicon 34:

Don Bailey, Advisor
Mike Bakula, Concom, Convention Services
Alice Bentley, Council, Hucksters Room Head
Andrew Bertke, Concom, Publications Head
Margo Bratton, Concom, Registration Head
Seth Breidbart, Concom, Convention Services
Corwin Brust, Staff, Convention Services, Web Page
Steven Brust, Council, Convention Services, Programming
Liz Cooper, Council, Hospitality Head
Karen Cooper, Staff, Restaurant Guide
Shahn David Dickson, Staff, Volunteers
David Dyer-Bennet, Council, Convention Services Head
Pamela Dean Dyer-Bennet, Staff, Grammarian
Beth Friedman, Council, Programming Head
Lisa Freitag, Concom, GoH Liaison
Anne K. Gay, Concom, Web Page
Charlie Horne, Staff, Art Show
Scott Imes, Staff, Postal Substation
Karen Johnson, Staff, Registration
Greg Ketter, Staff, GoH Liaison
Laurel Krahn, Council, Web Page
Fred A. Levy Haskell, Council, Bookkeeper, Minutes, Official Happy Deadwood
Susan B. Levy Haskell, Council, Treasurer
Denny Lien, Staff, Bookstore Guide
Bill Lochen, Staff, Hotel
Erin G. Lorenz, Staff, Art Show
Betsy Lundsten, Concom, Volunteers Head
Jenn Manna, Staff, Hospitality Coffee
Dawn Marinaro, Concom, Childcare Head
Erin McKee, Advisor, Art Show
Andy Murphy, Staff, Art Show
Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Council, Publications, Programming, Green Room
Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Council, Publications, Programming, Green Room
Lydia Nickerson, Council, "Project: Brainsuck" Head
Mark Olson, Advisor
Priscilla Olson, Advisor
Linda Paul, Staff, Hotel
Bruce Pelz, Advisor
Michael Pins, Concom, Publications Ad Manager
Mitchell Pockrandt, Concom, Hotel Head
Lisa Pollard, Staff, Hospitality
Scott Raun, Concom, Hotel
Victor Raymond, Advisor
Neil Rest, Staff, Dr. Whoopie
Mark Richards, Concom, Hotel
Nick Saeger, Staff, Hospitality

Laramie Sasseville, Staff, Bookstore Guide
Martin Schafer, Advisor
Jeff Schalles, Concom, Publications, *Bozo Bus Tribune*, Hero of the Revolution
Bruce Schneider, Staff, Restaurant Guide
David Schroth, Concom, Mail Handling
Joyce Scrivner, Staff, Art Show special exhibits
Davey Snyder, Concom, Volunteers
Jerry Stearns, Concom, Mark Time Award
Geri Sullivan, Council, Facilitator
David Wilford, Concom, Art Show Head
Ben Yalow, Advisor, Concom, Hotel, Treasury

And the following additional volunteers (so far!):

Aaron Horne, Adam Engelhart, Alice Ableman, Amanda Birnstengel, Amanda Perlman, Andra St Arnauld, Andy Loges, Anne Johnson, Becca Long, Ben Lessinger, Ben Stallings, Ben Zvan, Bernie Peek, Brian Lundgren, Cameron Smith, Cameron Thomas, Cate Hesser, Char Thomasson, Chip Jansen, Christopher Huntley, Claudia Slovacek, Clint Canfield, Constance Cotter, Craig Russell, Dale Yeo, Dan Solarz, Dave Brack, Dave Romm, David Bowne, David Lenander, David Perlman, Deborah Meysembourg, Deneen Gannon, Dennis Leppla, Diane Kromke, Doreen Neil, Doug Wickstrom, Douglas Hamer, Dwyann Criss, Emily Stewart, Eric Heideman, Eric Hopper, Erik Mcinroy, Estelle Moore, Gary Agin, Hilary Hertzoff, Jack Targonski, Jackie Paciello, Jeff Cawhorn, Jen Johnson, Jennifer Zalar, Jenny Vanbogat, Jeremy Harrison, Jill Peters, Jim Landis, Jim Mann, Joanna Lowenstein, Joe Fishbein, Joel Mueller, Joel Phillips, Jogn Fortier, John Day, John Garner, John McKana, Jordan Wood, Joseph "Uncle Vlad" Stockman, Joseph Menkevich, Judie Cilcain, Kae Bagneski, Karen Babich, Karen Loper, Katherine Grill, Kathy Ludeke, Ken Chambers, Kevin Austin, Larry Sanderson, Laurel Winter, Laurie Gerholz, Laurie Mann, Lea Wellner, Leslie Saunders, Linda Lounsbury, Loretta Olson, Lynn Litterer, Lyra Kalar, Magenta Griffith, Marc Paez, Marci Malinowycz, Maria Brumm, Marian Turner, Marie Listopad, Martin Grider, Mary Huntley, Mary Musachia, Michael Bean, Michael Kingsley, Michelle Huntley, Mike Rasmussen, Nathan Stohlmann, Nick Zuleger, Patric Stene, Patrick Beckfield, Peer Dudda, Peter Hentges, Rebecca Pausley, Rhona Landsman, Robert Yeo, Sarah Fowlston, Sean Novack, Sharon Dill, Sharon Leppla, Simona Fischer, Stacie Nielsen, Stephanie Bowne, Stephanie Zvan, Susan Hoppe, Teresa Guzman, Thomas Keeley, Tim Soulen, Tom Litterer, Tom Pyter, Tom Whitmore, Vicki Rosenzweig, William Ellis, William Verburg-Cunningham, ... *and you, too, we hope.*

Volunteer early; volunteer often!



Our Hotel

By Mitch Pockrandt

As you've probably read or heard by now, the upcoming Minicon 34 will be in downtown Minneapolis at the Hilton Minneapolis & Towers. (This is now the official name of the hotel! Recent corporate changes have included a new logo and hotel names that all start with "Hilton" instead of the city name.) At 1001 Marquette Ave South, the hotel occupies the full block between 10th Ave S., 11th Ave S., Marquette Ave S., and 2nd Ave S., just a few blocks north of the city's convention center. They have 821 rooms, of which we have 600 rooms blocked for Minicon. As of mid-December we have our block half-filled. So there are still "rooms at the inn," but be sure to get your reservations in soon—we could fill the remaining block by mid-February. In any case, **you must make your room reservation before March 10th** in order to be assured of getting Minicon's room rates.

This year, Minicon is handling reservations only for suites. All reservations for non-suite sleeping rooms, and any special requests associated with them, must be handled through the hotel reservations folks. (See box on the next page for reservation details and phone numbers.) The Hilton is no longer accepting non-guaranteed reservations, so you must guarantee your reservation one of two ways:

1. Guarantee it with a credit card number.

By the terms of our contract, use of this method requires no further deposit. Your room will be held until 3AM the first night of your reservation, at which point the card will be charged for that night. Some computer-printed confirmations sent from the national corporate reservations system have claimed that an early deposit is required. This is *not true*, but it keeps creeping back into the national system because corporate Hilton has been trying to make this hotel a "deposit-required" hotel starting in 1999. Fortunately, our contract explicitly covers the terms of credit-card guarantees.

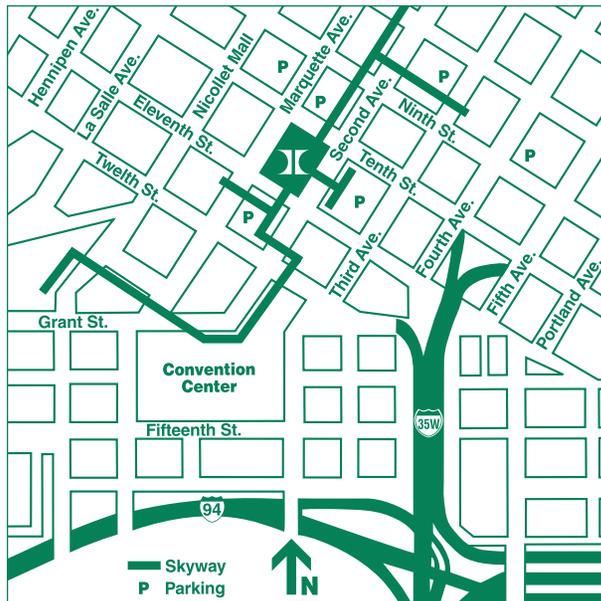
2. Guarantee it with a cash deposit. This deposit is due at the local hotel within ten days

of making your reservation. (Deposits are always handled by the local hotel.)

In either case, if you need to cancel a reservation, you must do so at least a full day before your scheduled arrival. Check directly with the local hotel (612-376-1000) if you have doubts about the status of your reservation.

To request and reserve a suite, whether a traditional two-bedroom Deluxe Parlor suite or an Executive King suite with connecting bedrooms, request what you want through Minicon *by February 14th*. You can indicate your request with your Minicon registration form, or if you have email access, you can contact us at <hotel@minicon34.mnstf.org>. We still have suites available, so let us know if you want one. Contrary to rumor, we have not been rejecting suite requests based on party content. *Everyone who requested a suite by mid-December will get one.* This includes folks from Convergence, Concussion, GT/PFRC, SF Minnesota, SFWA, TOR Books, the United Kingdom, and others. At least three other suite requesters said they intend to run music parties. There will be a variety of parties at Minicon this year, and we still have room for more. We also still have some Executive King suites on the quiet floors available for quiet party or non-party use. Contact us now!

Speaking of room parties, signs for parties are turning out to be a problem this year. Please check in with Minicon Convention Services to find out the final rules for posting signs in the Hilton. We will probably have kiosks set up as party boards.



Many people have asked about parking. There will be a good deal of parking available, but it won't be free. We're hoping to arrange a special deal with nearby garages (connected by skyway) and surface lots for Minicon members, but we haven't been able to do so yet. The surface lots are normally \$3/day on weekends. The worst-case case is the city-run garage under the hotel with 1200 spaces. Its night rate, from 4PM to 4AM, is \$4. The day rate increases hourly to a maximum of \$11.50

per 24 hours. Nearby garages are slightly less expensive. We will announce any special Minicon parking rates on our web page <<http://www.mnstf.org/minicon34>>, and, we hope, on a corner of the registration confirmation cards.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact us at the Minicon P.O. Box (Attn: Hotel) or via email at <hotel@minicon34.mnstf.org>. Hope to see you this April at Minicon!

Hilton Room Reservations

612-376-1000

Hilton Minneapolis & Towers 1001 Marquette Ave.
Weekdays 7AM–7PM, Saturdays 9AM–5PM, Sundays 10AM–4PM

800-445-8667

Hilton International toll-free reservations
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

- Ask for the *Minicon* group rate. (If that doesn't work, ask for the *Minnesota Science Fiction Society* rate.)
- Rooms are \$72/night (plus tax) for 1-4 people, from March 31–April 6. (Minicon is Friday, April 2–Sunday, April 4.)
- Check-in time: 3PM; Check-out time: 4PM Sunday & Monday; noon other days.

PLEASE SPECIFY:

- King (1 king bed) – or –
- Double-double (2 double beds) – and –
- Smoking or Non-smoking – and –
- Lower floor (to be on a quiet floor) – or –
- Upper floor (to be on a party floor) – and –
- Any special needs you may have

RESERVE ALL SUITES THROUGH MINICON

Directions to Minicon

By Doug Wickstrom

Traveling to Minicon by car:

From the south, follow I-35W into Minneapolis. Once past MN-62, move to the second lane from the left, and follow the signs for MN-65. Exit on 11th St., follow 11th to Marquette Ave., and turn right on Marquette. The Hilton is on Marquette, on your immediate right, between 10th and 11th Sts.

From the east, follow I-94 to Minneapolis, exit on 11th St., and proceed as above.

From the north, follow I-35W into Minneapolis, and follow I-94 westbound. Exit on 11th St.

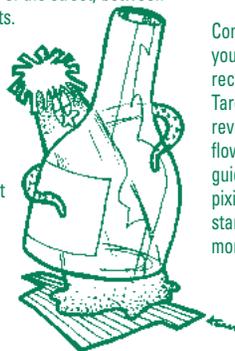
From the west, you have several choices. If you follow I-94 to downtown Minneapolis, exit at Hennepin and Lyndale, and turn left onto Hennepin at the first light. (Yes, we know the sign at Hennepin says "Dunwoody Blvd.") Turn right on 12th St., then left on Marquette Ave. Or you can take I-494 south from I-94 to I-394, and follow I-394 east to Minneapolis.

After MN-100, stay in the second lane from the left, exit onto 12th St., follow 12th St. to Marquette, and turn left onto Marquette.

To Minicon by rail:

From the Midway Amtrak depot, either take a cab to the *Downtown* Minneapolis Hilton, or take a westbound #16 MCTO bus to Minneapolis. Transfer at Marquette Ave. to any bus headed southwest on Marquette (against the normal flow of car traffic) and get off at 10th St. The Hilton is on the other side of the street, between 10th and 11th Sts.

Please note that as of this writing, rail service is every other day in each direction (east from Seattle, west from Chicago).



To Minicon by air, excepting airships:

From Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, take a cab to the *Downtown* Minneapolis Hilton, an Airport Limousine (actually a van), or a northbound #7 MCTO bus downtown and transfer at Marquette as above. (For airship travel, see our PR #2.)

Time travellers, dimension hoppers, Burroughs buggy travelers, and Tardis users, set your coordinates to:

$\alpha=450000$, $\beta=790113$,
 $\theta=007915$, $\epsilon=632244$,
 $\zeta=JONES$, $\phi=WEBBER$.

Convert units as necessary for your particular technology. Timeline recognition factor = Neil Armstrong II. Tardis users, please remember to reverse the polarity of the neutron flow. Hitchhikers, please consult your guide. If coming by starship, or using pixie dust, the directions are "Second star to the right, and straight on till morning," also known as "thataway."

Hucksters

Whatever it is, you'll likely find it in the Minicon Hucksters' Room

Minicon is very pleased to welcome many returning hucksters and 13 newcomers this year, a few of whom are back after not being able to come for several years. Here are the fans and businesses who have tables in the Minicon 34 Hucksters Room:

Artifacts
Black Dragon Books
Bronze Age Enterprizes
Captive Elements
David S. Cargo
Crossroads Bazaar
Darlene P. Coltrain & Steven Vincent Johnson
Dancing Wolf Studio
Dodeka Records/The Secret Empire
The Dragon Never Sleeps
DreamHaven Books & Comics
Evenstar Bookstore
Felix Needleworthy
Fo' Paws
Giovanna Fregni
Gemini Glass
Honeck Sculpture

Jabberwocky Graphix
Kyril's Cavern
Lodestone Audio Theatre
Erin McKee
MO'R Designs
Nene Tina Thomas
Nyssa's Rainbow
Off World Designs
Pegasus Publishing
Philip Kaveny Bookseller
Ravenwing Wearable Art
Sign of the Unicorn
Software Toys and Tees
Tarot by Annie & Tambourines by Liz
Tatterdemalion Studios
20th Century Books
Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Bookstore
Leo Watrin
Whimsey Winks

Michael Z. Williamson
Robin Wood
Breakout by category:
Books new and used: 9 hucksters, 27 tables
Clothing: 6 hucksters, 11 tables
Jewelry: 6 hucksters, 7 tables
Art: 6 hucksters; 11 tables
3-D Art: 3 hucksters, 4 tables
Audio: 2 hucksters; 4 tables
Other Cool Stuff: 7 hucksters; 17 tables

As you can see, we'll have quite a variety! We've created a waiting list of interested hucksters and will assign any last few tables that might be available 4-6 weeks before Minicon, after the room layout is finalized with the hotel.

Write to us:

Minicon 34
P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55408

Email: <request@minicon34.mnssf.org>

To join our infrequent Official Announcements mailing list: send email to <minicon-announce-subscribe@mnssf.org>

Minicon's web page: <http://www.mnssf.org/minicon/>

Departmental contacts:

Art Show <artshow@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Bozo Bus Tribune <bbs@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Childcare <childcare@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Executive Council <council@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Guests of Honor <guests@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Hotel <hotel@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Hucksters <hucksters@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Parties (Hospitality) <parties@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Programming <programming@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Publications <publications@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Registration <registration@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Treasury <treasury@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Volunteers <volunteers@minicon34.mnssf.org>
Web pages <webgeek@minicon34.mnssf.org>

Program Book Ads

Send camera-ready copy to Michael Pins c/o Minicon 34, P.O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis MN 55408. Electronic files can be sent to <publications@minicon34.mnssf.org>; please discuss this with us in advance so we can agree on file specifications. Note: We are interested in trading ad space with other conventions. Please write to Publications for further information.

Rates from our Program Book, a souvenir book which will be given to every member of Minicon 34, will be:

Ad Size	Fan Rate	Pro Rate
Full page (7.5" X 10.25")	\$150	\$300
Half page (7.5" X 5")	\$75	\$150

The deadline for space reservations is February 1, 1999; the deadline for camera-ready art or electronic files is February 15.

Tentative Schedules

Set-up for Minicon 34 begins Thursday evening. The convention officially runs from Friday, April 2 through Sunday, April 4, 1999. Here's the tentative schedule of major functions.

Registration

Thursday: 8PM-11PM (pick up preregistrations only)
Friday: 10AM-10PM
Saturday: 10AM-3PM

Art Show

Thursday: 6AM-10PM, Art Show setup and walk-in artist check-in.
Friday: 10AM-7PM, walk-in artist check-in.
2AM-7PM, Art Show/Print Shop open.
9AM-10PM, Art Show Tour
Saturday: 10AM-11 am, walk-in artist check-in.
10AM-6PM, Art Show/Print Shop open.
8 PM-10PM, Voice Auction.

Sunday: 10AM-3PM, art pickup. Artist check-out. Print Shop open.
3PM-6PM, Artist check-out. Art Show tear-down; mail-in art packed.

Hucksters Room

Thursday: 6PM-11PM, setup.
Friday: 10AM-6PM, open for business.
Saturday: 10AM-6PM, open for business.
Sunday: 10AM-3PM, open for business.

Programming

Friday: 2PM-10PM
Saturday: 11AM-10PM
Sunday: 11AM-3PM

Childcare

Friday: 5PM-10PM
Saturday: 11AM-11PM
Sunday: 12NOON-5PM

Contacting us



Minicon-L is an *unofficial* mailing list for people who want to talk about Minicon. (Polish your Shield of Umor; asbestos suits can be useful, too.)

Send email to:
<minicon-l-subscribe@mnssf.org>
A digest version is also available:
<minicon-l-digest-subscribe@mnssf.org>

Art credits

Denise Boie: Cover
ATom (Arthur Thomson):
3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13
Ken Fletcher: Official
Mpls. in '73 blimp
Jim Odbert:
Minn-Stf logotype
Jeff Schalles:
10 (map), 11 (photo)

Art Direction & Design:
Andrew Bertke
Layout & Print Coordination:
Jeff Schalles
Progress Reports 2
and 3 edited by
Patrick Nielsen Hayden
Printing: Impressive
Print, St. Paul, MN

Registration

By Margo Bratton



REGISTRATION RATES <i>Membership type</i>	Through 14-Feb-99	At the door
Adult Attending	\$40	\$70
Child (age 12 & under)	\$15	\$30
Supporting	\$15	N/A

How to register

Complete the form in this progress report and mail it along with your membership check (written in US currency on a \$US account, payable to "Minicon"). The registration form is also available on the Minicon web page; however, you'll need to print it and mail it with your check. On-line registration is not available.

Minicon will send a confirmation of your membership to the address you give us on the registration form. We expect to mail confirmations first class no later than March 10, 1999.

Coming to Minicon from a foreign country?

Fans living outside the US can pay at the door at the pre-registration rate. Please bring proof of foreign residency and pay in US dollars or travellers checks. We'd love to know you're coming; please send us your completed registration form and indicate you'll pay when you arrive.

Have you moved?

If this PR was forwarded to you, please let Minicon know your current address by registering at this time or by sending us a change-of-address notice. Otherwise you may not receive future mailings.

Name badges

Your Minicon registration badge will have your first and last name on it as well as whatever badge name you choose (badge names are optional). If you have special needs for what goes on your badge, please include a note describing your requirements with your registration.

Supporting Memberships

Supporting members of Minicon 34 will receive progress reports published after they joined, and the convention program book and pocket program will be sent after Minicon.

Supporting memberships can be converted to Attending for \$25 at the door. If you think you'll come to Minicon but are short of cash right now, a supporting membership is a good way to avoid the high at-the-door rate. And it helps Minicon better estimate how many members we'll have, so we don't run out of program books, or munchies in the suite.

Bounced checks

We expect to deposit all checks within one month of their receipt at the Minicon P.O. box. Bounced checks are subject to a \$15 fee and must be cleared before you will be allowed to pick up your Minicon membership badge.

Badge Policy

Minicon uses badges to identify our members. Without your badge, you may be denied the benefits of your membership; therefore, please keep it with you at all times while at Minicon. If you find a lost badge, please bring it to the Convention Office. And if you lose your badge, come to the Convention Office. If we have your badge, we'll return it to you as soon as we can verify your identity, or, if we don't have it, for \$25 we'll issue you a replacement.

In the unlikely event of a member refusing to be a responsible member of the convention, Minicon reserves the right to revoke the membership.

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Postal Code _____

My address has changed since I last received a Minicon mailing.

Membership type: _____ Until 14-Feb-99

- Adult \$40
 - Drinking badge (21 and over)
 - Non-drinking badge
- Child (12 and under) \$15
- Supporting membership \$15

Specify membership type, including drinking or non-drinking badge for adult memberships. (Legal drinking age in Minnesota is 21; proof of age is required at Minicon.) If you don't specify, you will be given a non-drinking badge. Memberships are transferable, but are not refundable.

Optional Information:

Badge name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Preferred time and method of contact _____

Please mark all that apply:

I am an active:

- Artist
- Club member
- Con goer
- Editor
- Fan
- Fanzine fan
- Huckster
- Listener
- Musician
- Pro
- Publisher
- Reader
- Scientist
- Viewer
- Writer

I'd like:

- To be on the program
- Art show exhibit info
- Hucksters room info
- Child care info

Hotel rooms

Room Rates:

Single - Quad (1-4 people) \$72	Executive King suite \$130
Exec. King w/connecting room . . \$202	2-bedroom Deluxe Parlor suite . . \$275
(Room tax is additional; currently 12%)	

Reserve sleeping rooms directly from the Minneapolis Hilton and Towers. Call 612-376-1000 or 800-445-8667 no later than March 10, 1999. (Note: the hotel may sell out before then.) Be sure to request the group rate for **MINICON**. If that doesn't work, ask for the rate for the **MINNESOTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY**.

Reserve Executive King and Parlor suites through Minicon by February 14th. Open room parties have priority, but there are also some Executive King suites on quiet floors. Please fill out your name and contact info in the Registration section of this form, indicate the kind of suite you want and your arrival and departure dates, and tell us about your party or plans for the suite (elaborate in an attached letter if desired):

Arriving: _____ Executive King Suite
 Departing: _____ Exec King w/connecting bedroom
 2-bedroom Deluxe Parlor Suite
 Party name/theme/sponsors/days/special needs: _____

Minicon 34

Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55408

*Be Our Valentine:
register by 14 February 1999 and save!*



**April 2-4, 1999
PR #3**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Minicon 34
Minnesota Science Fiction Society
P.O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55408