

How'd it go? What's next?

Inside front cover

Last Easter weekend, two fans jumped into a taxi in front of the Minneapolis Hilton and said, "We have to buy 500 condoms. Quick, take us to Sex World!" The driver grinned, "Oh, this *is* Good Friday!"

So started Minicon 34 for Neil Rest and Karen Cooper. Thanks to their volunteer efforts and a last-minute budget allocation, condoms were available in the consuite again last year. Minicon 34 was different, but it wasn't *that* different.

Minicon 34 had 1,521 members. It was a solid regional with national flair: 65% of our members live in Minnesota, and 23% more were from the Midwest. Attendees came from 31 states and two foreign countries.

It was a new convention for many who'd grown accustomed to the 23-ring Minicon of recent years. And it was a homecoming for others, especially those returning for the first time in a decade or more. For me, Minicon was friends from near and far, friends old and new. It was silly hats, radio-controlled helium blimps, the restaurant guide, and Jon Singer inviting me to smell the Toad Sweat*. It was music parties, hakosot in the consuite, the rasff party, and chocolate truffles. It was meaning to get to the costume reception, Octavia E. Butler's interview, and other programming on Saturday afternoon, but instead looking at Elise Matthesen's beadwork, hanging around with my sweetie, and listening to how Minicon was going for others. It was bouncing between the trivia bowl and the art auction Saturday night, and hearing a restaurant full of fans talking about Karyn Ashburn's fannish accent panel. It was settling into a new hotel, and finding we liked it very much indeed.

Minicon succeeded in many of its goals. We made the convention smaller, and focused it more on SF, fantasy, and fandom. Minicon had an energetic, engaging program, met its financial goals, welcomed neofans, and strengthened its connections to the international network of fans and friendships that is the bedrock of fan-run SF conventions.

We thank everyone who came, and especially everyone who made Minicon more fun for all through their own participation and contributions. Take a bow, guests of honor, volunteers, program participants, room party hosts, artists, hucksters, musicians, and friends. *Applause* Let's do it again!

Let's do it better, too. Changing Minicon is a multi-year project and there's still much room for improvement, especially toward our goals to build a larger pool of volunteers to run departments and to make Minicon more sustainable. (Volunteer early; volunteer often.) Following the convention, members offered their good ideas for improving the consuites, adding more evening programming, at-con volunteer coordination, and more. Even better, several of them volunteered to help make these things happen! We think our combined efforts will add more buzz and sparkle to Minicon 35, and invite you to join the fun.

Hope to see you at Minicon,
Geri Sullivan, Chair

* A bottle of hot pepper dessert sauce he just happened to have in his pocket.



Ashburnick
A rock on the rock

This first progress report was printed on Minn-stf's new copyprinter, and collated and mailed by volunteers. We'll be sending another PR your way in January, but do register by November 15th for the lowest membership rate. And let us know if you can lend a hand with the next mailing party, or other Minicon activities.

Thanks!

Numbers, Numbers

Thanks from Mark & Priscilla Olson

Priscilla and I want to thank you all for a most truly wonderful convention!

It was both a pleasure and a privilege to be your Fan GoHs. The pleasure part is obvious—we had a great time (and we would have had a great time even if we hadn't been FGoHs). It was also a privilege to have been Fan GoHs at a convention as pivotal as Minicon 34. For the first time, a fan group has shown us how to rebuild a large convention without crashing first. We were both deeply honored to have been a part of it.

But most of all we had fun. Minicon 34 was one of the best conventions we've ever attended and we're both looking forward to next year (we've already bought our memberships!) and we're eager to help.

—Mark and Priscilla Olson

P.S.: It was also great to finally put faces to a number of people who were previously just names in email. I do regret that we were all so busy that I hardly got a chance to do more than say "hi." We're planning on Ditto, so perhaps there'll actually be some time to talk there. —mlo

One of our goals for Minicon is to help our members get to know each other better with each convention that passes. We think that's best done person-to-person, and we hold the convention so we can do it face-to-face rather than just through the mail and electrons.

Still, statistics can be enlightening as well as entertaining. Two-thirds of Minicon 34's pre-registered members checked one or more boxes in the "I am an active..." field of the registration form. Here are the break-outs by individual item checked:

I am an active:

Artist	135	Fanzine fan	58	Publisher	10
Club member	116	Huckster	60	Reader	612
Convention goer	493	Listener	291	Scientist	71
Editor	34	Musician	80	Viewer	318
Fan	410	Pro	46	Writer	166

That's a grand total of 2,900 boxes checked, or an average of 3.32 boxes per respondent, confirming once again that fans rarely confine themselves to a single interest or form of fanac. Here are just a few of the possible combinations (and the comparatively simple ones at that):

Artist & Huckster	14	Fan & Artist	53
Musician & Scientist	7	Fan & Huckster	19
Reader & Scientist	58	Fan & Pro	18
Listener & Musician	33	Fan & Reader	319
Pro & Scientist	5	Listener, Reader, & Viewer	155

We're using the same checklist on the registration form again this year—please mark all that apply, and also let us know what combinations of interests you find most intriguing. There's probably a program item or two buried in here....

Millenium Fallcon/ditto 12 October 29 – 31, 1999

Seems like Minicon is just too far away, doesn't it? You can spend Halloween weekend with many of the same folks at our fall relaxacon: *The Millenium Fallcon*. We're also teaming up this year with *ditto 12*, a small roving convention for fanzine fans, their friends, and trufans of all kinds. It'll be two conventions, with a single consuite, a light track of programming, and lots of good people, all at the Radisson Metrodome, 615 Washington Ave SE, Minneapolis.

Memberships are \$30/person; kids' memberships are \$10 for children 13 and younger. That price includes your convention T-shirt. Please make checks payable to *ditto 12*. At-the-door rates will be \$40 adult/\$15 kid, so register by 15 October 1999. Mail 'em to Karen Cooper, 101 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis MN, 55419. You can call Karen with ideas, questions, comments, and gossip at (612) 823-1497, or e-mail her at <karenc@visi.com>.

About Our Guests...

Writer Guest of Honor: Maureen F. McHugh

Maureen F. McHugh burst into the consciousness of the SF world in 1992 with her debut novel *China Mountain Zhang*, a stunningly well-realized coming-of-age tale set in a future dominated by a resurgent China. It won the Tiptree Award, the Locus Award, and the Lambda Literary Award, and was a finalist for the Hugo and the Nebula. Since then she has published two further novels, *Half the Day Is Night* and *Mission Child*, and a variety of short pieces. She won the Hugo Award in 1996 for her story "The Lincoln Train." We're delighted to bring this engaging, friendly, and outstandingly talented writer to Minicon 35.

Fan Guest of Honor: Lenny Bailes

Lenny Bailes first entered fandom as a teenager in 1960. Within just a few years, he had become active in both New York and Los Angeles fandoms, co-edited such notable fanzines as *Shangri L'Affaires* and *Quip*, and had his brain changed by the advent of psychedelic music and new memes. Following a period of relative gafiation, Lenny re-emerged in the 1980s as a reinvigorated fan, editor of the intermittent but excellent *Whistlestar*, a gentle but trenchant online commentator, and an organizer of small, high-quality SF conventions. In another but adjacent life, he is a computer journalist and inexhaustibly helpful tech advisor to the masses, and author of several books, most recently *Maximizing Windows 98*. We're amazed to be the first convention ever to ask this major longtime fan to grace us as Fan Guest of Honor.

Artist Guest of Honor: John Berkey

John Berkey has been creating some of science fiction's greatest cover art for the past 35 years. His impressionistic style is trademark Berkey and his depiction of hardware is second to none. While not as well-known to fans as many newer artists in the field, Berkey is widely admired by his fellow artists; Vincent di Fate has called him "one of the most innovative and influential of science fiction artists." This is the first time John Berkey has been a guest of honor at an SF convention. We're looking forward to honoring him and exhibiting his works at Minicon 35. (To find out more about John, turn to page 7.)



Hospitality (Consuites)

We learned a lot from what worked — and especially what didn't — with the Minicon 34 consuites, and we plan to use that knowledge to improve things this year.

Now that we know how well the smoke vents away from the smoking consuite on the 3rd floor, we're moving the non-smoking consuite to the Duluth Room so the 3rd floor consuites are closer to each other. We're collecting decorations, toys, games, and ideas to help make Minicon's biggest, longest party more hospitable and fun. We thank everyone who helped keep the consuites going at Minicon 34, and give three cheers for those who have already signed on to help make them better at Minicon 35.

Programming

By Teresa
Nielsen Hayden
Programming Head

Comps & Programming

Here is Minicon's member-ship 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 complimentary membership for that participation.
2. It's possible there may be program participants who are only present to attend their program item, and won't be around for the whole convention. We intend to handle these instances with good manners and common sense.
3. Minicon offers its former guests of honor complimentary memberships. 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.

Childcare and Children's Programming

By Geri Sullivan

Our not-exactly-secret agenda is still "Better Programming, and Less of It." As before, we're going for an intense, high-level, energetic program.

Also as before, we're perfectly friendly to program items that discuss specialized subjects like media SF, or sercon litcrit, or hard science, or YA, or comics, or costuming, or any other subsets of Our Beloved Genre and Community. What we don't want are program items that no one cares about.

Some rules of thumb, in no particular order:

- We want to know what you, personally, would like to see. Don't worry if the idea seems weird or specialized. A program item one person finds interesting has an excellent chance of being interesting to others as well.
- Program items rarely fail by being too demanding or specific.
- Narrowly particular topics are frequently a good way to address general issues, but a broadly general topic is too often a way to discuss nothing at all and that badly.
- Two or three flimsy ideas can often be combined to make one good one. Send them all.
- Telling us your idea is good. Mentioning how you came up with it, and/or what you like about it, is even better. Moreover, if you loved something in the past and wish you could see it done again, go ahead and say so.
- Never state the subject of a panel as a question that can be answered "yes" or "no." (That's actually a note to ourselves, not something you need to worry about.)
- Programming aimed at newbies, stumble-ins, and kids should be as well-thought-out as programming aimed at our friends.
- We can't guarantee that an idea will be used this year, but we do guarantee that an idea we don't hear about won't get used at all.

Remember: send ideas, queries, and comments to <programming@minicon35.mnsthf.org>.

Big fun.

Minicon is arranging to have childcare for children ages 16 months and up who are members of the convention (with time/capacity limits similar to those in recent years, we expect). Minicon hires professional caregivers and also needs volunteers to help with childcare activities and services. Please check the childcare information box on the registration form if you plan to use childcare, even if you've used it in past years.

Laura Jean Fish (Childcare head at Minicon 34) is doing Children's Programming this year. (Thank you, Laura Jean!) Parents, if your children are under age 10 or otherwise need individual supervision, please plan on attending programming panels and activities with them.

Spotlight on John Berkey Artist Guest of Honor

By Greg Ketter,
ArtistGoH Liaison

Mr. Berkey has been amazing and delighting science fiction fans for over thirty-five years. His loose, impressionistic style has inspired and influenced many of today's best artists. John Berkey has drawn everything from spaceships to landscapes, from rural farm scenes to vast interstellar panoramas, and has rendered each with attention to detail. When viewed up close, they look almost unfinished, but when viewed from a distance they coalesce into tightly constructed works of art.

Many of his most recognizable works are icons of late 20th Century art. His résumé includes movie posters for *The Towering Inferno* (1974) and *King Kong* (1977); book and record covers for *Star Wars*; over 200 book covers for Isaac Asimov, Glen Cook, and Jack Williamson and many others; and magazine illustrations in *National Geographic*, *TV Guide*, *Omni*, *Life*, *Newsweek* and even *Good Housekeeping*. You might even recognize his work on postage stamps, including the "older Elvis" design.

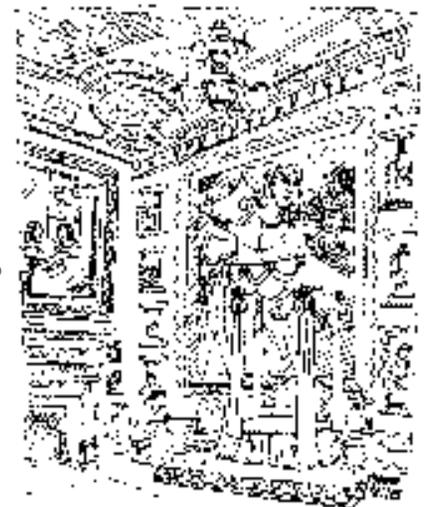
Mr. Berkey is a friendly and encouraging presence. He has been a mentor to local artists and has offered support to those just starting out. He is soft-spoken and unassuming and perhaps the most under-appreciated artist working in the SF field today. Minicon is very fortunate to have Mr. Berkey as its Artist Guest of Honor, his first such convention appearance.

The Minicon 35 Art Show will once again feature some of the best SF and fantasy artwork (both amateur and professional) in the Upper Midwest. This year we're *really* excited to have John Berkey as our Artist Guest of Honor (and the chance to show off a large exhibit of his artwork). The Art Show will be back in the same space it was in last year (and a lovely space it is), with plenty of room for both Art Show and Printshop. We'll be mailing Art Show information, rules, and forms in early January, 2000. If you're not on the Art Show mailing list and would like to be, let us know via either email <artshow@minicon35.mnsthf.org> or snailmail:

Art Show
Minicon 35
PO Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55408

Art Show

By Michael T Pins
Art Show Head



Younger after Glasgow: 19th Century Royal East India

Hucksters Room

By Giovanna Fregni
Hucksters Head

It's time to start thinking about spring again...and planning for Minicon! We've got some new ideas in the works, so check us out. Hucksters applications will be available soon, both through the Minicon PO Box and online at the website. For those of you not hooked up to the web...don't worry, snailmail applications will be given the same consideration as email. In order to give everyone enough time, **deadline for applications is Sunday, November 28 (the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend)**. All hucksters will be notified about table space before New Year's. This should give everyone ample time to buy their memberships before the March 15 cut-off date. Remember, a huckster's table at Minicon does *not* include a membership. So you must buy a membership for Minicon separately from buying a table.

We are also planning to include an **Artists' Alley** in the Hucksters' Room. These have been very popular at the furry/cartoonists conventions, and if there is enough interest, we'll have some at Minicon. Basically, there will be tables for artists to sell their prints, sign autographs, take commissions, or just sit and draw. Space at the tables will be available on an hourly basis, and available for artists only. Agents and folks selling other people's work will have to buy a regular huckster's table.

There you have it! We'll look forward to seeing you all next Easter.

Costumes

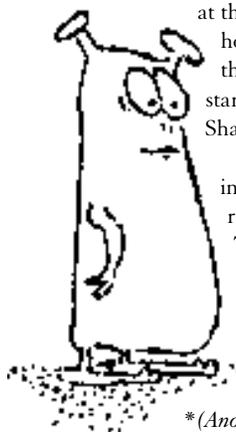
One of the great contributors to the delightful other-worldliness of Minicon is of course Costuming. Last year we enjoyed a grand turnout at the Costume Reception in the main foyer, and this year we're hoping for a similar showing at, um, whatever the costume event is this year. That is to say, we're sure there will be one, but we're just starting to talk about the what and when.* So bring your costumes! Share your talents! Explore your other selves and species!

We'll tell you more about the venue when you get there (and in PR2, we hope)! If you can't wait that long, check the web site regularly for updates. While you're at it, check out pictures Tom Hise took of the Minicon 34 Costume Reception at <http://www.mnstf.org/minicon34/costumes/>

Please send your ideas for (and offers to help with) the costuming event to <programming@minicon35.mnstf.org>.

Hall costumes are also welcome, as always.

**(Another reception? A costume ball? Something else that's up close and low-tech while promoting interaction and conversation? Film at 11.)*



Volunteers

By Sharon Kahn
Volunteers Head

Minicon is a volunteer-run convention. It takes a couple of hundred people contributing several thousand hours of work to make the con happen — everything from running a department, to setting up the Art Show, to answering questions at the Info Desk, to keeping the munchies fresh in the Con Suites.

There is also lots of work to be done before the convention starts: collating the next PR, hauling stuff to and from the storage locker, entering registrations into the database, and handling all sorts of miscellaneous jobs.

The Volunteers Department coordinates much of this activity. Most of our work is done at the con, signing people up for volunteer shifts. But the more contacting, recruiting, and scheduling we can do before the con, the more smoothly things will run when Easter weekend rolls around.

And that's the point of the Volunteer Form (attached to the Registration Form inside the back cover of this Progress Report). The information that comes in on Volunteer Forms is compiled into a contact list, which is passed on to department heads for their use in contacting willing volunteers. This has been very helpful, and we encourage anyone with even a mild interest in volunteering to fill out the form.

If all goes as it should, someone will contact you within a few weeks to confirm that your form was received. What happens after that depends on how you filled out the form. If you expressed an interest in pre-con work, you will probably be notified of the PR2 mailing party, and possibly contacted for other jobs, such as data entry. If you said you were available for setup, teardown or at-the-con work, you should be contacted in the last few weeks before the con by someone who can answer questions, assign tasks, schedule shifts, and (in some cases) schedule training or orientation meetings for volunteers a week or two before the con.

But what if you fill out the form, check the checkboxes, and list your skills and preferences, and nobody calls? Here's what not to do: don't assume that your offer of help has been rejected. More likely, your form fell through the cracks somehow. Your email bounced. Or the department head who was supposed to call you just didn't do it.

Here's what to do if you offered to help and nobody contacted you. If you want to get involved early and you know what department you are interested in, contact the department head or attend one of the monthly Minicon meetings. Contact the Volunteers Department (preferably via email). Or just show up at the con and head for the Volunteers Table. (We will be open for the Thursday night work party this year, and will need lots of people for collating the pocket programs).

Note to the email-enabled: We've reactivated last year's Minicon-volunteer mail distribution list. To automatically subscribe, send a blank message to: <minicon-volunteers-subscribe@mnstf.org> For general correspondence with Volunteers, send email to: <volunteers@minicon35.mnstf.org>.



Minicon 35 Meetings

Minicon meetings are open to the public. We encourage people interested in working on Minicon to attend.

Here is our meeting schedule through the end of the year. All meetings are currently scheduled to be at DreamHaven Books, 912 W. Lake Street, starting at 1:00 pm.

Saturday, October 16th

Saturday, November 20th

Saturday, December 18th

Announcing the 2000 Mark Time Award

By Jerry Stearns

Minicon 35 will sponsor the 4th Annual Mark Time Award to honor the Best Science Fiction Audio Production on the Planet. As at Minicon 34, we will award a Gold and Silver Mark Time for Science Fiction Audio, and a Gold and Silver Ogle Award for Fantasy and Horror Audio.

Deadline for entries is February 1, 2000. Final preparations are being made, so check the Minicon PR2 or the Mark Time website for the most recent information on entering:

<http://www.mtn.org/~jstearns/MarkTime.html>

The Mark Time Award is presented by the American Society for Science Fiction Audio (ASFSA).

Criteria for Judging:

1. The degree to which the Production fits the subjective description as "science fiction," or as "horror" or "fantasy."
2. Use of Medium—sound design, location recording, "audio art." (Not just a reading.)
3. Writing—storyline, characterizations, dialogue.
4. Performances.
5. Direction.
6. Technical production.

Questions and comments should be directed to Jerry Stearns, Minicon's coordinator for the Award and for the Mark Time Radio Hour presentation at Minicon 35, at <MarkTimeAward@minicon35.mnstf.org> or 612-722-2907.

Minicon 35 Website is On Line!

By Peer G. Dudda

Minicon 35's website is at <http://www.mnstf.org/minicon35>, where you can find the latest information on Minicon 35. There's information on the GoHs, and on the hotel and how to get there. While you're at it, you can fill out a volunteer form (Make Geri very happy! Sign up, sign often!). Of course, you can also get information on how to contact us. All of this is also available here, in this PR, but will be kept updated on the site.

There's one thing at the website that you won't find in this PR — a nifty Members List. This is a Sign-Yourself-Up list, meaning you have to put yourself there if you want people to be able to find you. You can submit your name, email address, and even your webpage URL. And while you're there <<http://www.mnstf.org/minicon35/members.html>>, you can see if any of your favorite fen are listed. Please note that we will not be selling this list or handing it out to anybody; we are simply providing the space as a fun and useful resource for our fellow fen. Enjoy!

July 7, 8, 9, 2000
St. Paul Radisson



Registration Rates and Deadlines:

July 5 – Dec 31, 1999:	\$25
January 1 – May 15, 2000:	\$35
Kids 6-12 (Thru May 15):	\$15
At the Door:	\$50
Children 5 and under:	Free
Supporting Membership:	\$15/+20 at the Door

Scheduled Guests of Honor:

Neil Gaiman

Creator of "The Sandman" and "Neverwhere".

Ruth Thompson

Renowned fantasy artist.

Featuring:

Anime Room, Art Show, Cinema Rex, COF₂E₂, Dealers' Room, Gaming, Live Music, Panels, Parties, Phule's Club, Masquerade ...and More!

CVG2000 Publications / Advertising Deadlines:

10/15/99:	Ads / Submissions Deadline for PR1
11/14/99:	CVG 2000 PR1 Distributed
02/27/00:	Ads / Submissions Deadline for PR2
03/28/00:	CVG 2000 PR2 Distributed
05/15/00:	Ads / Submissions Deadline for Souvenir Book and Programming Guide
July 7-9, 2000:	CVG 2000! Souvenir Book and Prog. Guide Distributed

Contact Information:

PO Box 13208, Dinkytown Station
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414
612.996.9224 (24-hour hotline)
info@convergence-con.org
<http://www.convergence-con.org>

A presentation of The Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS)

PO Box 2879, Loop Station
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0879

MISFITSNP@aol.com
<http://www.misfit.org>

Hotel

Suites

To request and reserve a suite, please contact Minicon (not the hotel). You can request a suite by sending us a note to the Minicon 35 PO Box address (Attn: Hotel) or by email to "hotel@minicon35.mnstf.org". Suite rates per night (+12% tax) are the same as the 1999 rates:

\$130	Executive King Suite
\$202	Exec. King + 1 connecting room
\$274	Exec. King + 2 connecting rooms
\$275	2-bedroom Parlor Suite

Open room parties will be given priority in suite reservations, but there are also some Executive King suites on quiet floors.

You're most likely to get the suite you want if you ask by November 30, 1999; we'll let you know by mid-February. The Hilton has 51 suites; there's a good chance at least a few will be available if you ask after November 30th.

Parking

Minicon volunteer Tony Craig is investigating the current rates of local lots and garages; we plan to have more information about this in PR2.

Minicon 35 is returning to the downtown Hilton Minneapolis & Towers at 1001 Marquette Ave South (this is the block between 10th and 11th Sts S. and between Marquette Ave and 2nd Ave S.). At the Hilton, our program rooms, the Art Show, and the Hucksters Room are centrally located around a large foyer with ample space (including tables for gaming and comfy chairs) to hang out and talk while watching for friends. We'll also again have smoking and non-smoking consuite space.

We encourage everyone to book their rooms as early as possible, and especially before March 31, 2000, when the room block will be released.

To reserve a sleeping room, please contact the Hilton directly:

612-376-1000 Hilton Minneapolis & Towers
800-445-8667 Hilton International toll-free reservations

Ask for the "Minicon" group rate. (If that doesn't work, ask for the "Minnesota Science Fiction Society" group rate.) **Our room rate is the same as the 1999 rate: \$72 per night (+12% tax) for 1-4 people in a standard guest room.** This rate is good for Wednesday, April 19, 2000 through Tuesday, April 25, 2000. (Minicon 35 is Friday, April 21-Sunday, April 23, 2000.)

The Hilton is only taking guaranteed reservations; 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. (Last year, some computer-printed confirmations sent from the national corporate reservations system claimed that an early deposit was required. This does not apply to Minicon; our contract with the Hilton Minneapolis explicitly allows credit-card guarantees with no additional deposit required.)
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 questions about the status of your reservation.

If you want a quiet room, ask for a lower floor. The open room parties will all be kept on the higher floors, so if you want your room to be on a party floor, ask for a higher floor. **Be sure to state any preferences for smoking or non-smoking room, king bed or double-double, and higher floor (party) or lower floor (quiet).** Also please let the reservations staff know of any special needs you may have, such as reserving one of their 25 handicapped-accessible rooms.

Contacting Us

Minicon 35 Email:
PO Box 8297 <request@minicon35.mnstf.org>
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55408

We have an Official Announcements mailing list that carries occasional news about Minicon. To join, send email to <minicon-announce-subscribe@mnstf.org>.

To join the Volunteers mailing list, send email to <minicon-volunteers-subscribe@mnstf.org>.

Minicon 35 Web Page: <http://www.mnstf.org/minicon35/>

Departmental Contacts:

Chair <chair@minicon35.mnstf.org>
Art Show <artshow@minicon35.mnstf.org>
Hotel <hotel@minicon35.mnstf.org>
Hucksters <hucksters@minicon35.mnstf.org>
Hospitality <hospitality@minicon35.mnstf.org>
Mark Time Award <MarkTimeAward@minicon35.mnstf.org>
Programming <programming@minicon35.mnstf.org>
Publications <publications@minicon35.mnstf.org>
Registration <registration@minicon35.mnstf.org>
Volunteers <volunteers@minicon35.mnstf.org>
Web Team <webmaster@minicon35.mnstf.org>



Advertising Rates and Publishing Schedule

There will be two Progress Reports this year. The second one will be mailed in January. PRs are mailed to approximately 3000 people. The Souvenir Book and Pocket Program are distributed to all members of the convention. Fan rates are available for non-profit groups and other non-commercial fan-run conventions and activities. We are also interested in trading ads with other conventions; please contact us.

	Fan Rate	Pro Rate	Reservation Deadline
PR 2 full page (4.75" x 7.75")	\$ 125	\$ 200	11-Dec-1999
PR 2 half page (4.75" x 3.75")	\$ 75	\$ 125	
Souvenir Book full page (7.5" x 10.25")	\$ 150	\$ 300	1-Mar-2000
Souvenir Book half page (7.5" x 5")	\$ 75	\$ 150	

Art

Glenn Tenhoff is the featured artist of this Progress Report. Thank you, Glenn! We are delighted with Glenn's cover art and the illustrations on pages 2, 9, and 15. (Look for color versions on the Minicon web page.) Additional fillos by Steve Stiles, page 7, and ATom, pages 3, 5, 8, & 13. Blimp by Ken Fletcher; Minicon 35 type by Andrew Bertke. We hope other artists are interested in contributing to upcoming publications as well. Please contact <publications@minicon35.mnstf.org> if you would like to see your art in Progress Report 2, the Souvenir Book, or the Pocket Program.

Publications

By Anne Gay
Publications Head

Thank You!

Thanks to Andrew Bertke for the initial design of this PR; Patrick Nielsen Hayden for copyediting; Geri Sullivan for layout; Jeff Schalles for printing, to Magenta Griffith for catching our biggest error before printing, and to everyone who looked over the PR and made valuable suggestions.

Registration

By Fred A.
Levy Haskell
Registration Head
(Pre-con)



How to Register

Complete* a registration form and mail it, along with your membership check payable to Minicon (in US currency on a \$US account), to:
Minicon 35, PO Box 8297
Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408

The registration form is available in the progress reports, on the back of Minicon flyers at various other conventions, and on the Minicon web page <<http://www.mnstf.org/minicon35/>>. However, we do not have on-line registration, so if you go to the web page for the form you'll have to print it out and mail it with your check.

Minicon will send a confirmation of your membership to the address you provide on the registration form. We expect to mail confirmations first class no later than April 1, 2000 (and sooner, we hope; you can help by registering by November 15, 1999, which saves you money, too).

*Registration Form Tricky Bits:

Filling out the Registration form should be pretty simple, but there are a few new features we'd like to point out.

1. **"First Name," "Middle Name/Initial," and "Last Name":** Please use the separate fields for your first and last names. You don't have to give us your middle name or initial, but it helps us distinguish quickly between similar names.
2. **Minicon Mailing ID (MMID):** If you have received a Progress Report, postcard, or other mailing from us recently, you'll see a string of letters and numbers on the first line of the label—this is your MMID number. It's a randomly assigned ID number, which we hope will help us keep track of people in the mailing list, ensure prompt address updates, and avoid duplication. If you would be so kind as to write this number on your registration form, it will help us a lot.
3. **Email address and all those phone numbers**—really are optional. However, it sure makes it easier for us to get in touch with you in a hurry if we have to. It's especially nice if you're volunteering for something, since communicating with volunteers is the first step in a happy and healthy relationship with them. Of course, surface mail will work, so you don't actually have to provide any of this information if you don't want to. Further, we'll do our best to respect any preferred time and method of contact notes you make.
4. **Name badge options**—more choices this year; see overleaf for details.

Coming to Minicon from a foreign country?

Please send us your completed registration form so we'll know you're coming—we'll even get a membership badge ready for you. However, to save wear-and-tear on the international banking community, fans living outside the US may pay at the door at the pre-registration rate instead of sending money with your registration form. (Please bring proof of foreign residency and pay in US dollars or US-dollar travellers checks.)

Have you moved?

If this PR was forwarded to you, please let Minicon know your current address. The hippest way to do this is to register, but you may send us a change-of-address notice if you'd prefer. Remember to include your Minicon Mailing ID number from your address label!

Supporting Memberships

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 souvenir books or munchies.

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 in order to pick up your Minicon membership badge.

**Registration form
(plus fold-over flap with volunteer form)**