

MINNESOTA  
SCIENCE FICTION  
SOCIETY

MINNESOTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY PRESENTS



# minicon 38

\$45

Until  
Mar 17

18

April  
2003



**Come join us  
April 18-20, 2003  
at our new hotel,  
The Millennium  
Hotel Minneapolis!**

**Make sure to  
reserve your room soon!**

**[www.minicon.org](http://www.minicon.org)**

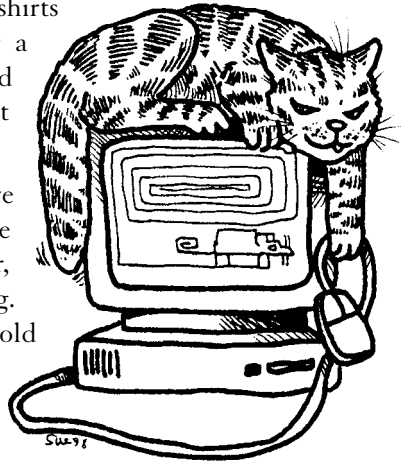
# From the Chairs

by Larry Sanderson  
and Laura Jean Fish

We're counting down to that big cutoff of March 17 when we switch to at-the-door prices. Remember, we want you to register ahead of time! Right now, you can use PayPal to register for Minicon. But if you want to use PayPal, do it now! Once we're past March 17th, we're going to close the PayPal account. At the door, we only take cash and checks. You can bring a credit card and use it at restaurants in the hotel and around town; you can't use it to register for Minicon. Minicon, after all, is priceless.

Minicon has some great Guests of Honor: Robert J. Sawyer, Carolyn Clink, Sue Mason and Steve Macdonald. We've also got great events planned. Dancing under the Stars, a Pool Party at Tranquility Base, and a host of panels that you expect to find at Minicon (walnut, oak, mahogany, maybe even some knotty pine - all well-oiled, of course). We're going to have music, music, and more music. We're cranking up the mimeo to print chapbooks from our Guests of Honor. We've got somebody else printing up new t-shirts (the last time Larry tried running a t-shirt through the mimeo, it jammed up so solid it took a service call to get the danged thing out).

We're at a new hotel this year and we think you're going to love it. We've got bheertenders shopping for bbeer, and blogtenders shopping for blog. (Note to blogtender: please hold the grenadine purchases this year.) We'd like you to register early for your room, and we want you to register often.



## Minicon 38

April 18-20, 2003  
The Millennium  
Hotel Minneapolis

Rates:	A	C	Sup.
Until 3/17/03	\$45	\$15	\$15
At the Door	\$70	\$30	

## Author Guest of Honor

Robert J. Sawyer has been deeply involved with science fiction as a fan in his local science fiction clubs and conventions and as a professional science fiction writer for over twenty years. His writing has garnered a Nebula for best novel, *The Terminal Experiment*, as well as five Hugo nominations. *Humans*, the second book in his Neanderthal Parallax trilogy should be on shelves this spring, following last year's release of *Hominids*.

## Poet Guest of Honor

Carolyn Clink has published poetry in *Analog*, *Tales of the Unanticipated*, *Tesseract*, *On Spec*, *Transversions*, and many mainstream venues. Her poems are collected in the chapbooks *Changing Planes* and *Much Slower Than Light*.

You can find more information about Rob and Carolyn at <[www.sfwriter.com](http://www.sfwriter.com)>.



## Fan Guest of Honour

Sue Mason is a member of the secret Plokta Cabal, entrusted with saving the world from technology, sobriety, and bad art. Her life involves many costume changes and last-minute t-shirt designs. She is best known for filking, fanwriting, and fabulous corsets.

## Musician Guest of Honor

Steve Macdonald is an award-winning singer/songwriter who has been a mainstay at Midwest Science Fiction conventions for over a decade. He has five albums, and has recently begun doing performances outside of SF conventions.

Steve has been a guest at conventions all across the country - from Orycon in Oregon to Contata in New Jersey.

You can find more information about Steve at his website <[www.smacdonald.com](http://www.smacdonald.com)>.

# Is it a spaceship or a dessert topping?

by Geri Sullivan

Location, location, location doesn't actually make a consuite shimmer — it's the people inside who do that. But party-friendly space certainly helps, and my-oh-my, are we looking forward to welcoming Minicon members to our new consuite at the Millennium Hotel!

Perched atop the hotel is a consuite that looks custom-built for Minicon — it could easily be a space-zeppelin, hovering over downtown Minneapolis, complete with inspiring views and comfy mingling/party areas. It's the place to go for refreshments, conversations, and interactive delights from the time Minicon starts through the dead dog party at its end.

We'll have the usual eye candy, games, and refreshments in both smoking and non-smoking areas, plus bheer and occasional buckets of blog. There's convivial space for Minn-stf and filk music circles as well as for the performance space that Jeff Schalles and Glenn Tenhoff are hosting. The Minicon Bridge will be conveniently set up in the consuite to help keep the convention running smoothly as well as add to late-night silliness and future Minicon legends. We're also delighted that Joel Phillips will be back again this year to run the Minicon bar during evening and nighttime hours.

Minicon 38 hospitality is hosting two special events that you'll want to remember when packing for the convention:

## Tranquility Base Pool Party

Minicon 38 starts with a *splash* on Friday afternoon. The Minicon 37 aliens brought some Hawaiian palm trees and other inflatable friends with them when they returned from ConJosé, the 2002 Worldcon. They invite all Minicon members to a pool party at Tranquility Base, Minicon's new swimming area in the basement of the Millennium Hotel. Come help build a beach ball tower *from* the moon...slurp non-alcoholic, tropical, grenadine-enhanced blender creations mixed by Ms. Laura Jean Fish and friends...and frolic in the buoyant waters at Tranquility Base.

## Time Travelers Ball Under the Stars

Saturday night, DJs Bob & Andy Berlien will take all interested time travelers to the 1940s to dance the night away under the stars in the Minicon dome. You're welcome to wear party attire from your own timestream, or from the era we'll be visiting. Special cocktails and other 1940s surprises likely.

## Hosting help welcome!

If you'd like to join Geri Sullivan, Sandra Childress, Joel Phillips, Jack Targonski, and the rest of the crew running the consuite, please send email to <hospitality@minicon.mnsthf.org> or write to us c/o the Minicon PO box. Likewise, if you have questions or ideas for other special events or consuite treats, please drop us a note. Thanks!



## Volunteers

by Bill Christ

Free t-shirts! (Isn't it marvelous how just mentioning the word "free" guarantees me your attention?) This year the Minicon board of directors has decided to look deep in the storage vaults and pull out some rare, classic t-shirts from previous Minicons. These shirts will be given as rewards (not bribes) to our volunteers. For each 8 hours of volunteering you will receive a classic Minicon t-shirt. Not sure what you'd like to do? The Minicon website volunteer page <[www.mnsthf.org/minicon38/Volunteer\\_Positions.html](http://www.mnsthf.org/minicon38/Volunteer_Positions.html)> lists descriptions of the positions you can choose from - everything from helping with the art show or registration to being a bartender or twinkie. Especially needed are persons to help with Thursday evening setup and Monday morning cleanup. The website also has a grid <[www.mnsthf.org/minicon38/Volunteer\\_Requests.html](http://www.mnsthf.org/minicon38/Volunteer_Requests.html)> displaying the times you can volunteer for your favorite position. We're working on creating an online signup form which should be available soon so check back shortly before the con.

# Programming Considered as Bales of Hay

by Lydia Nickerson

Let me tell you a secret. Do you know the true goal of people who run programming? It is to frustrate you. When you go to someone responsible for programming and complain that you couldn't get to all the things you wanted to because there were too many, we feel like we did a good job. Our goal is to make you feel like the proverbial donkey between two proverbial bales of hay. Not just once or twice during the convention, either, but throughout the entire convention. It's our job.

Now, we wouldn't torment a dumb beast like that. It would be cruel. However, we believe that you are smarter than a donkey and can act decisively. If there's an item you weren't able to go to but were really disappointed to miss, try checking the consuite. There will probably be someone there who did go, and will tell you all about it. In return, you can tell him all about what you saw. It's not as good as being clones with the ability to share memories, I'll grant, but it's the best technology we have at the moment.

Balance, excitement, focus! Programming so balanced that it could walk a tightrope across the Niagara Falls, but is too busy partying to bother doing something so silly. Programming that is many things to many people, but unique to itself. Silly and serious and funny and smart and just plain interesting.

This year, Steve Macdonald will appear, in concert — oh, and also play and sing. Steve has agreed to coach a 2-hour performance workshop, as well as be involved in filk-related panels.

We're not sure what Sue Mason will do for us — or to us, but we're looking forward to it. An artists' jam is likely. I'm told it's especially good on English muffins.

There will be poetry at Minicon. Our Guest of Honor Carolyn Clink is a poet, and we hope to hook her up with our own homegrown Lady Poetesses from Hell.

Music! Art! Poetry! What more could you want?

So, ok, ok. Robert Sawyer, our other Guest of Honor? He is a writer and a fan and from Canada. You'll find him on panel items, perhaps a reading, an autographing session, and who knows what else?

Mike Ford has agreed to answer all the difficult problems that you can manage to invent during the latest installment of Ask Dr. Mike.

We will also have Junkbox Wars Redux! Teams of fans will be faced with a small mound of junk and told to create some random object in 90 minutes. The efficacy of the object so created will be judged by an expert, and the object most like what it's supposed to be like will be the winner. Winners may have any of the items in the junk heap they covet as their prize.

We'll see you there. Programming has not yet been set in Jell-O, so there is still time to send us your brilliant idea or make a request that will cause us to have a brilliant idea. You can reach us at <programming@minicon.mnsthf.org>, or at Programming, Minicon 38, P.O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

## Children's Programming and Childcare

by Laura J. Fish

Due to a steadily decreasing use of childcare we are only focusing on Children's Programming. We will still have a paid professional to guide and assist the kids, but they will not be solely responsible for your child at any time. Please let us know who you are, the ages of your children, and their interests, so we can create program items they will enjoy. If you are interested in volunteering for Children's Programming, contact us at:  
<childrensprogramming@minicon.mnsthf.org.>

## Music Space

by Jeff Schalles

There will be a scheduled music venue on Friday and Saturday evening at Minicon 38, hosted by Jeff Schalles and Glenn Tenhoff. We are just starting to book musicians and are looking for acoustic and semi-acoustic solo performers and bands. There will be a PA available. If you're interested in performing, please email Jeff at <publications@minicon.mnsthf.org> or call him at 612-822-2656.

# Registration

by Fred A Levy Haskell

## Register Now!

Register for Minicon 38 now! It's easy! It's fun! It saves you money! It helps us plan for a great convention!

While it's true you'll qualify for the \$45 rate as late as St. Patrick's Day, why not register today? That way you'll avoid the last-minute rush... not to mention the always-irritating scrabble through the pile of important papers to find the registration form. You have the form right here right now; what could be easier than filling it out and mailing it to us with your check or money order? Then it will be all taken care of.

Cash-flow crunch? Buy a supporting membership now for \$15 and then pay only \$30 at the door. That way, we'll print up a badge for you and everything!

By registering now, you're helping us get an idea of how many people to expect; this allows us to plan how much blog we'll need to make, how many bags of pretzels and chips to order, and how many copies of the Program Book to print.

*Dr. Zyx W. Vuts says: "Registering now sure beats paying \$70 at the door!"*

## Already Registered?

Thank you!

There are letters on your mailing label in the top right corner which indicate your membership status:

ATND = Attending Membership  
SUPP = Supporting Membership  
CHLD = Child Membership

If more than one membership is associated with your name and address, the main notation will be followed by a plus sign, a number, and the letter "A" or "S" to indicate whether the additional memberships are Attending or Supporting.

## Badges

A fannish use-name is OK so long as it only contains ASCII characters. Yes, your badge name can be Galadriel; but no, it can't be Galadriel in Elvish.



## Child Memberships

Child rates are for those 12 and under who use con services; babes in arms staying with their parents are free.

## Live Outside the US?

To avoid extra charges and difficulties with currency exchange or international money orders, members living in countries other than the United States may register ahead of time without enclosing payment, and then pay the registration fee current at the time they registered in US funds at the door. (If you are not preregistered, you will be required to pay the standard \$70 at-the-door fee, regardless of country of residence.)

## Web List

This year we're offering our members the opportunity to be included on our web page listing of those planning to attend. Along with your name, we can include a link to your home page. Be sure to let us know if you want to be included, so your friends will know you'll be at Minicon 38!

The list may be found at:

[<www.mnstf.org/minicon/minicon38/members/members.shtml >](http://www.mnstf.org/minicon/minicon38/members/members.shtml).

## Fine Print

Memberships are transferable but not refundable.

Our deadlines are based on postmarks, not on receipt of registration forms. So if it's the last minute, please don't spend any extra money for overnight delivery — just make sure the postmark beats the deadline!

## Questions?

Still have questions? Email  [<registration@minicon.mnstf.org >](mailto:registration@minicon.mnstf.org), or write us at the Minicon postal address (with Attn: Registration on the envelope).

Rates:	Adult	Child	Supporting
Until March 17, 2003	\$45	\$15	\$15
At the Door	\$70	\$30	

## Minicon registration is now available via PayPal:

To register and pay via PayPal, go to:

[<www.mnstf.org/minicon/minicon38/registration.shtml#paypal >](http://www.mnstf.org/minicon/minicon38/registration.shtml#paypal) or follow the link from the Minicon main page,  [<www.mnstf.org/minicon/minicon38 >](http://www.mnstf.org/minicon/minicon38). Please follow the instructions there.

# Hotel

by Susan B. Levy Haskell

Minicon is moving this year to the Millennium Hotel Minneapolis, 1313 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403-2697.

The Millennium is a beautiful, newly remodeled hotel at the south end of the Nicollet Mall. It's on the skyway system if the weather is bad, but there are plenty of excellent restaurants just down the block, as well as a good one of its own. It also has 10baseT Ethernet in the bar and many of its rooms, a lovely pool, and wonderful views of the Minneapolis skyline and Loring Park. The Millennium has a spectacular suite—it's even got its own geodesic dome!

## Room rates are:

\$79 for a standard room, single/double/triple/quad, double-double or king; \$199 for a suite. These rates are good until **March 17th**, so be sure to register by then. The sooner the better!

You can reserve your room either by telephone or on the web.

**To register by phone**, call the hotel at (612) 332-6000 or (866) 866-8086 and mention Minicon or give them our group code, 1677, to make sure you're getting the right rate.

**To register on the web**, go to:

<[www.mnstf.org/minicon38/hotel.shtml](http://www.mnstf.org/minicon38/hotel.shtml)>

and follow the instructions there.

There are a limited number of suites available, and we will try to locate parties together. If you would like to have a suite or you're interested in hosting a room party please let us know at [hotel@minicon.mnstf.org](mailto:hotel@minicon.mnstf.org) (or by mailing to Minicon 38, PO Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408, attn: Hotel).

## Parking

If you're registered in Minicon's group with the hotel, the Millennium is offering a \$6.50/day rate with unlimited in/out privileges. If you are not staying in the hotel, the rate is \$13.00/day; no provision for in/out privileges is made for those not staying at the Millennium. There is additional ramp parking two blocks away in the convention center ramp at similar prices to the undiscounted price, and there is limited metered parking on the street. Meters are not enforced on Easter Sunday, but are enforced otherwise.

## Directions

From the airport, either Super Shuttle or a taxi can get you to the Millennium Hotel.

From I-94 west, take exit #233A, 11th Street (NOT 11th Avenue). Take 11th Street to 2nd Avenue. Turn left on 2nd Avenue. Turn right on Nicollet Mall. The hotel is on the right.

From I-394 east, exit 12th Street. Take 12th Street to LaSalle Avenue. Turn right on LaSalle to Grant Street. Turn left on Grant Street to Nicollet Mall. Turn left on Nicollet Mall. The hotel is on the right.

From I-35W north, take the exit marked for Route 65/Downtown exits. Follow directions to 11th Street. Take 11th Street to 2nd Avenue. Turn left on 2nd Avenue. Turn right on Nicollet Mall. The hotel is still on the right.



## Come to Minicon, Stay for Corflu

This year brings us an extremely rare conjunction of fannish conventions. The 20th incarnation of Corflu, a convention for fanzine fans, is happening one week after Minicon, and only 250 miles away. Yes, Corflu 20 will be held April 25 - 27. More information about Corflu 20 can be found at [www.mailbag.com/users/billzilla/corflu.html](http://www.mailbag.com/users/billzilla/corflu.html).

There's an informal, fannish concierge service matching out-of-town Minicon members who are also going to Corflu 20 with fans to stay with between the two conventions. It can also help with rides and other transportation options between Minneapolis and Madison. If you're interested, drop us a line at [hospitality@minicon.mnsthf.org](mailto:hospitality@minicon.mnsthf.org).

# Publications

## The Bozo Bus Tribune

With this current incarnation of the BBT now in its 10th year, it might seem that the Newszine of Record of Minicon is destined to be an enduring, if not always endearing, bastion of fannish continuity. Heck, we even got the club to buy us a new mimeo! The Bozo Bus Tribune will be published from Friday through Sunday at Minicon 38. Contributions from con attendees are always welcome and, some say, even encouraged throughout the weekend.

There will be a drop-off box for submissions on the Bridge and we can even generally provide a retro Macintosh for you to type into. Just ask on the Bridge for directions to the BBT office. Keep in mind that we keep absurdly odd hours. Also keep in mind that we cannot and will not print unsigned material. Meanwhile, just remember: the Hokey Pokey really is what it's all about!

## Program Book

If you're interested in writing an article or submitting artwork for the Program Book, please drop us a line at [publications@minicon.mnsthf.org](mailto:publications@minicon.mnsthf.org).

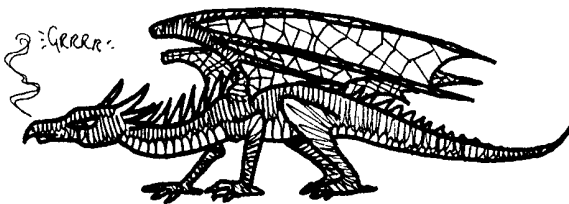
If you'd like to place an ad in the Program Book, our rates are:

	Dimensions	Fan Rate	Pro Rate
<b>Full Page</b>	7.5 x 10.25 in.	\$100	\$200
<b>Half Page</b>	7.5 x 5 in.	\$60	\$120

The fan rate applies to non-commercial fan-run or non-profit organizations.

Ads may be submitted in most commonly recognized computer graphics formats. If you are unsure, please contact us first.

Deadline for submissions is March 17, 2003.



# Chords! Words! Even notes!

by Mia McDavid

Yes, folks, Minicon 38 proudly announces the Steve Macdonald chapbook! For ease of use, this handsome volume will be comb-bound. It will be many pages and we're aiming at a price of \$10.00. Be the first one on *your* block! Check your local Minicon pocket program guide for the time and location of the release party.

## Dealers Room

by Lisa Freitag

The dealer's room is filling nicely, but there is still some space available. I have sent a letter to all prospective dealers that I know about. If you did not receive a dealer's letter, or are interested in space (at \$50.00 for each 2 1/2 by 6 foot table), please email me with a street address, and I will send you an application and add you to the mailing list. My email is <hucksters@minicon.mnsthf.org>.

## Art Show

by Peer Dudda

Minicon 38's Art Show is shaping up quite nicely. Several artists have already signed up, and they have some wonderful portfolios! What?!? You haven't added your name to the list of artists? Well, you can still do so by contacting Peer Dudda either through the Minicon postal address, or by sending an email to <artshow@minicon.mnsthf.org>. Not feeling talented enough to show off your art? Then consider volunteering! We can use help in the following areas:

- Art Show Set-Up and Tear-Down
- Coat-check/badgers
- Volunteer cashiers for print shop and Sunday
- Auctioneer (for live auction - "He's deaf, ya' know...")
- Auction Item Toters (to & from live auction)
- Constructive Advice

If you want to help out in any or all of these areas, again, contact Peer either via email or snail-mail. I look forward to seeing all of you at Minicon!

# Minicon 38 Wordseek Puzzle

by Magenta Griffith

38 Fannish words and phrases are hidden in the puzzle below – can you find them? One is in bold type, as an example. All have something to do with Minicon or fandom. The words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few are reversed, reading up rather than down, or right to left rather than left to right. They touch and intersect, but do not overlap. Good hunting!

R	A	D	I	S	S	O	N	R	E	T	T	A	N	S	E	G
Y	G	E	S	T	W	I	N	K	I	E	V	G	Y	C	U	Q
M	I	N	N	E	A	P	O	L	I	S	H	T	M	I	U	F
Z	K	A	Q	V	E	K	I	M	R	D	K	S	A	E	A	E
B	E	F	A	E	D	F	<b>M</b>	N	S	T	F	C	R	N	R	C
M	B	B	T	M	O	J	I	D	E	P	I	M	T	C	U	A
G	R	E	N	A	D	I	<b>N</b>	E	I	U	E	A	S	E	O	R
R	I	E	E	C	T	U	I	O	X	W	S	A	H	F	V	O
E	D	R	G	D	R	N	<b>C</b>	E	B	Y	V	R	O	I	M	L
E	G	T	A	O	H	P	<b>O</b>	B	L	E	D	O	W	C	I	Y
N	E	L	M	N	F	A	<b>N</b>	Z	A	U	Y	B	F	T	L	N
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M	E	T	E	S	U	E	M	A	S	O	N	J	E	F	N	N
O	G	O	S	P	H	U	J	D	K	B	R	S	A	N	I	K
I	O	L	G	F	S	O	L	G	S	T	P	A	U	L	U	D
R	P	A	T	I	C	N	L	E	N	A	P	W	S	I	M	R
X	H	U	C	K	S	T	E	R	O	T	E	Y	M	C	T	N
L	E	A	M	I	N	G	T	O	N	E	Z	E	Z	I	N	E
E	R	M	O	D	N	A	F	P	Q	P	A	R	T	I	E	S



Minicon

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