

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 57

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

The mothership has landed!

BUT WHY? "Because it's fun." Well, okay, we would probably have guessed that.



Rumpus Room Revival !

It's back... Rumpus Room vets **John Wardale** and **Nora Strait** lined up a full schedule of activities this year! On Friday, "children of all ages" joined the fun by learning origami, followed by balloon creations that ranged from critters to cutlasses. Next came GoH **Tim Griffin's** concert and unique brand of musical teaching. Lastly, **Jason Spitzer** mentored aspiring medallion hunters with a mini-hunt that nabbed 14 of 16 medallions in short order. Free play and arts & crafts also flourished, with lively creations and drawings adorning the Spring Room. All ages are welcome to enjoy this weekend's other activities. Just be sure to offer your thanks to John, Nora, and other volunteers for bringing back this popular "convention within the convention." And if you're inspired, offer your ideas and skills for next year's schedule.

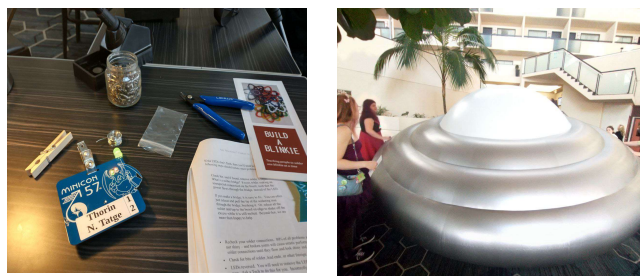
—Randy Holland

He really does have a song for any subject

"I wanted to turn to you and say, 'You have a song about whales. I know you have a song about whales. And not just any song—*that* song.'"

—Dave Stagner to Tim Griffin, on the perfect follow-up

⌌⌌The Blinkie-Building Experience⌌⌌



This editor took up a soldering iron for the first time since high school and affixed LEDs, a switch, and a battery to his badge at the \$5 **Build-a-Blinkie workshop**. They provide a kit, a workstation, and an instruction packet, and have experienced guides available to help or troubleshoot.

According to a certain experienced operative called Sir Blinkie, the tradition of blin[k/g]ing up badges began at Chicago's DucKon some 28 years ago, because fans love blinky things at parties! Some of the eventual B-a-B founders volunteered, and when the con discontinued the official program about eight years later, they were left holding the reins. Build-a-Blinkie later expanded its presence into dozens of events, including STEM nights for Scouts troops. They mourn the fact that the youth "kits and parts" market seems to have disappeared.

Sometimes, young participants come back later and report that they're into engineering now, and Sir Blinkie can't help but wonder if they made a difference. They will soon hold their largest annual event, helping 1600 students make blinky badges at the University of Illinois.

A fantasy treasure

The Art Show has received a donation of two framed prints depicting maps from **Andre Norton's Witch World** series, along with a handwritten note from Norton's assistant. When your editor last checked, this lot was criminally underbid! Proceeds go to MN-StF/Minicon. Come check them out and see the other art while you're at it!

Nebula honorees

Local author **Naomi Kritzer** and Author GoH **Ursula Vernon** have both been notified in the past two days that they are finalists for the **59th Nebula Awards!** They were reportedly elated when this was mentioned at “Retold Fairy Tales.” Vernon was honored for her novella *Thornhedge* (as T. Kingfisher), while Kritzer was honored for her novelette “The Year Without Sunshine.”

Spork it to me, baby

According to the Info Desk, anyone who has been on a panel this year has earned a volunteering spork! Report to the Volunteers Table (near Registration) to collect yours.

Playin' and scorin' with a Manticoran

Should you bear any interest in the activities of the **Royal Manticoran Navy**, enthusiasts for David Weber's *Honor Harrington* books, you can find a cadre of them spending their time in the Summer room earning “game points” this convention. Look for people wearing uniforms including the pentagonal yellow on red manticore emblem.

Upcoming scheduled game events

“Play X with Clay”

“Play Y with Clay”

“Play Z with Clay”

(Further details theoretically to be posted outside the Summer room.)

Registration Raffle

The Bar has a *Jedi: Fallen Order* Lego set of an adorable BD-1 explorer droid. This set will be raffled off to a random person who pre-registers for next year! The winner will be announced at Closing Ceremonies.

Passovers in passing

“We know that several people here at Minicon this year can only attend if Minicon (i.e. Easter) does not overlap with Passover. This will next occur in 2027 for (presumptive) Minicon 61, March 26-28, and then in 2035 for (presumptive) Minicon 69, March 23-25. This year, and in each of those years, Passover falls one month after Easter through some ancient class of calendar systems.”

—Matt Strait, con chair

Friday Reg Count

At close of registration Friday:

- 477 pre-registered
- 44 at-the-door
- 521 total members
- 430 warm bodies

///==== HOT HOTEL TIPS ====///

Feeling too hot? If the cooling system in your room is turned off for the winter, just open the window!

“Open the window? Really?”

Yes, this hotel has windows that actually open. The Hilton app offers a technology straight from the pages of SF—a digital key that lets you open your door with your phone. But beware—if you activate your digital key, *it will deactivate your card keys*. The front desk will then have to issue you new ones, and yes, this is apparently how it's supposed to work. So... do it in the other order!

Craft the puppet within

Laura Krentz encourages people to attend Saturday's all-ages Puppet-Making Workshop at 1p.m. Make a beautiful hand puppet from three boxes of inexpensive recycled materials! If you get especially elaborate, you can stay past the hour. Children should bring an adult helper to handle scissors.

Overheard: “It's my first Minicon, so I'm just so enchanted by everything.”

THE KARAOKE PARTY are the champions, apparently. Moreover, they intend to rock you.

Take a view on 2027

“There is a WorldCon Bid for MONTREAL in 2027, and we INVITE Minicon members to stop by our fan table across from COURTYARD BALLROOM 5 to get info and chat 10 – 6 p.m. FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 10 – 3 p.m. SUNDAY”

This potential con would feature historic cobblestone streets, lovely riverfront, a fabulous convention center, hilly geography, and blended memories from the last time they did it in 1997. (No wait, 2009.)

Have an announcement, a news story, a review, a personal item, or anything else for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box outside the BBT Office or write to bbt@minicon57.mnsthf.org.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 57, Issue 2

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Reporter – Randy Holland

Hot Hotel Tips – Sharon Kahn

© 2024 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not necessarily anyone else's.

