

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 59

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

HOW MANY CONS HAS MN-STF HAD?

What was the chair going on about at Opening Ceremonies? Is this the 100th Minnstf con or not?

We consulted the archivist. Minn-stf has had 59 Minicons, two Supercons, and a bunch of fallcons/relaxacons. But in the early aughts there was a series of CONsume/relaxacons and we were very sloppy about writing down or remembering if they were club events or just a thing Rick did. One, in 2002, was certainly a Mnstf con. We count that. Two adjacent, in 2001 and 2003, might have been. We don't count those by default. The rest, in 2000, 2004, and 2005, weren't. Ok.

Then from 1991 to 1996 there were the six ReinCONations—definitely ours and definitely conventions. As a follow-up, 1997 had Not-A-ReinCONation, a three-day roving house party. Maybe not really a con, but we count it by default since it was part of a series. Finally, we had planned to have a camping con, Worst Convergence Ever, in the summer of 2020. We had registration forms, we accepted money, then Covid hit. We never revived this con. We don't count it by default, but it was a con approved by the board.

So all in all, our count is 100, but we could take one away, or add as many as three, depending how you squint.

—Matt Strait, MinnSTF archivist.

Keeping an eye out for trouble

"There was an anti-ICE demonstration outside the hotel Thursday night. Con observers will be walking around keeping an eye on the con. Look for those wearing day-glow sashes and walkie-talkies."

—Mark (Observer) Stapleton

(See page 43 of the program book for the hotel and convention's stance on ICE.)

A new musical act: Candles Enough

"We are performing on Saturday at 4p.m. We perform an eclectic mix of original filk music, covers/medleys, & parodies. We believe there's light at the end of any tunnel and sometimes that light is giggling. Come for the geeky acoustic joy, stay for the not-so-veiled protest songs. Thanks in advance! Can't wait to check out Minicon!"

—Kelly Reich

Panel review

"Working in Someone Else's World"

Pat Wrede, Matt Leacock, and J.M. Lee discussed their experiences working in the settings of *Star Wars*, *Lord of the Rings*, and *Dark Crystal*, respectively. One common challenge of adapting to a book or board game was the struggle not to lose the magic of the original; in Lee's case, a visit to master creature-makers Brian and Wendy Froud did the trick, while Leacock carefully deconstructed Tolkien's themes in order to decide his game's core objective. Another theme was the challenge of avoiding conflicts with source material. Wrede had to repeatedly tweak her middle-grade novel as late and post-production changes were made to *The Phantom Menace*, while Lee reported the opposite problem: liberties taken in his novels wound up requiring extraordinary feats of puppet production when the *Dark Crystal* TV prequel was greenlit.

"Gamers have opinions, yes, but they've got nothing on ten-year-olds." —Patricia Wrede

"The Science Room will have opened at 2 today."

—Con-chair Matt

Medallion Hunt?

Yes, **Cluemeister J** and his minions are setting up the Medallion Hunt presently; he promises it will be out in a few hours! Look for the board outside the Normandale Room to signal its commencement.

And in the meantime... have a Frog Hunt!

Tomorrow morning, in accordance with tradition and wont, vendor **Starshine Plush** will be hiding ten colorful resin **frogs** about the size of your fist around convention space. If you find one, bring it to Starshine's booth in the Dealer's Hall to earn a fabulous prize and an exclusive badge ribbon!

New vendor

"**Coriene Ploetz** is an Oracle Card reader who has designed her own Sci Fi Oracle cards. She is in the back right corner of the vendors hall. Go check it out!"

—*Jean Mlynczak, Dealer's Head*

Those heavenly strains ♪ ♪

"For those of us checking in dealers Thursday night, we were serenaded by a music circle of artists near the registration desk. Sometime around 7p.m., there was a handful of musicians practicing. As the night wore on, more people showed up, chairs were rearranged. A few dozen people were taking turns singing and playing by 9p.m. It was beautiful to listen to the tunes which flowed through the hall."

—*Douglas Van Dyke, Jr.*

Are those comics free??

Yes! "Free comics are back! Check out the Rumpus Room for other freebies too."

—*Randy Holland*

What about this stuff?

Wow, oh wow! The promised craft supplies, yarn, cosplay, fabric, and two sewing machines have arrived and are in the Nine Mile Grill! All free to be taken? —*Jean M.*

[Editor: Con co-chair Stacey says the sewing machines have already been claimed. Otherwise, yes!]

Bill Higgins space slideshow

Here is a more specific description for "Bill Higgins Science Show" (1p.m. Sunday):

"Europa Clipper: NASA Investigates an Icy Ocean"

Europa, one of Jupiter's four biggest moons, appears to harbor a liquid ocean not far beneath its bright, icy surface. Is there life there? NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft, launched in 2024, will fly to orbit Jupiter and, making frequent flybys of Europa, will study the satellite's geology, composition, and subsurface ocean. Learn about the mission, its scientific objectives, and the suite of sophisticated instruments it will employ in the decade to come.

What is that badge name supposed to mean?

Do you have a fun badge name? Tell us the story behind it! The people who stuff your badges into the envelopes each year want to know.

Party the full nine yards

This year we have four parties planning to run Sunday night, in addition to the **Dead Dog** in the Bar: **Costumer's Conclave**, 107

Ben Lessinger Memorial Karaoke Party, 114

Marscon, 117

Minnesota Space Frontier Society, 209

And if you're still up for fun Monday, come to the **Dead Dodo party** at Clay and Hershey Harris's house — address and time online at mnstf.org.

Reg & pulse

Thursday close-of-reg stats:

493 pre-reg 236 warm 514 total

Thursday solo-Harris pulse check: 11

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@minicon59.mnstf.org.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

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