

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 59

“We’re all bozos on this bus!”

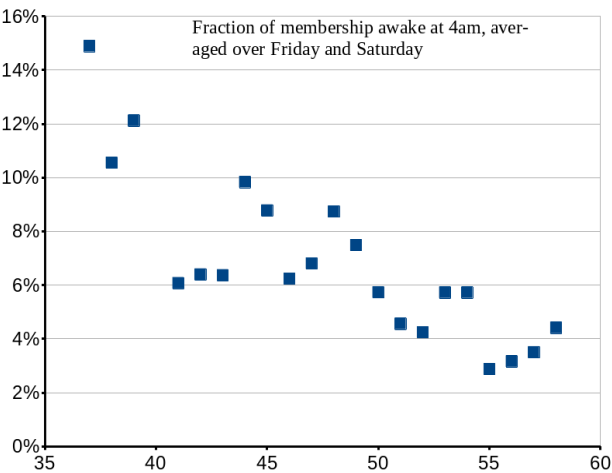
A History of Minicon Pulse Checks

Someone asked me last year how the 4a.m. pulse checks compared to previous years. I had no idea! So I looked through the archives!

The Bozo Bus Tribune has been published continuously, mostly, since Minicon 28, but the first recorded 4a.m. pulse check I could find was at Minicon 37. “Traditionally, 4am Sunday morning finds Laurel Krahn and Dean Gahlon prowling around the hotel checking for ongoing signs of life, and frequently complaining about the lack thereof.” One might reasonably assume that this is a use of the fannish “traditionally”, meaning they had also done it at Minicon 36. That year the Krahn-Gahlon pulse check found “too many to count” at 4a.m., and 64 at 5a.m. Saturday night.

Starting with Minicon 38, there has mostly been a pulse check both Friday and Saturday nights. The peak 4a.m. pulse checks have been Minicon 39, with 73 people awake, and Minicon 50 with... 73 people awake. Really, 73. You can’t make this stuff up.

From nights with multiple pulse checks, your intrepid archivist has been able to estimate what a 4a.m. pulse check *would* have given when only a 3a.m. or 5a.m. or 6a.m. one was done. Similarly, we can fill in the holes when only Friday or Saturday was pulse-checked. And from this: behold, a graph.



Note the disappointing overall downward trend, but the encouraging recent upwards trend since the covid-break.

—Matt Strait, MN_STF archivist

Saturday night Solo-Strait 4a.m. pulse check

Gamers: 19 Bar: 14 Total: 33

(Several gamers professed a goal of staying up for the pulse check, then crashing)

Casual crossword

A reader sent in this crossword for your enjoyment! It’s rather easy... making it ideal for Sunday morning. :)

Across							Down						
1. Final stage in chess							1. CPR expert						
8. Annual gathering of science fiction and fantasy fans (where you are right now)							2. Medical research org.						
9. "I've had enough!"							3. Double-helix molecule						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	4. ___hub (version control platform)						
8							5. Cooling units (Abbr.)						
9							6. "Excusez-___" ("Pardon me")						
							7. Tree creature in "The Lord of the Rings"						

If you like crosswords and supporting mutual aid, check out midisforminnesota.com.

MEAD FLAVOR SUGGESTIONS WANTED

As many have discovered, the bar has mead from **Bumbling Fools Meadery**. They’ve graciously offered to make a custom mead flavor for us next year. So if you’ve got something in mind, drop by the bar and make your suggestion.

Examples of flavors they’ve made: “Warriors Drink” (w/Prune juice), Asparagus, “Two Ravens” (Hibiscus, Earl Grey Tea, Hops), and Peeps (yes, Peeps).
—Jim McGuire

They Have Friends Everywhere

<= Star Wars/Pandemic Escape Room =>

Fifty-three M59 rebels on ten escape teams battled the Empire Friday and Saturday evenings. Team One finished with the best time, a stunning 28 minutes, while simultaneously solving both solution paths (huge respect to this team's **Kari Askeland**, **Bill Young**, **Rachel+River+Joseph Kieltyka**, and **GOH Matt Leacock**). Other shout outs to Team Eight's **Poff**, who solved the Rubik's Cube in under ten minutes, and Team Ten's **Cory** for activating the radio. In all, three of the ten teams finished their mission in the forty-five minute time limit. The other seven came oh-so-close, but everyone left smiling, the only mission that mattered.

—Randy Holland

From “Naomi and Greg are F***ing Angry”

100 people attended this item, making it one of the hottest of the con. Some notable points:

Naomi Kritzer claimed that recent Twin Cities protests have been mediagenic: “You get more favorable coverage the longer you can remain non-violent. There is a point at which non-violent protest stops working, but we aren't there yet, so non-violence remains the better strategy.” She admitted it is exhausting to be persistently angry for so long, and had trouble sleeping until she took up visualizing the laying aside of her burdens before going to bed.

We learned that people from around the country have been visiting **Greg Ketter** and his store, Dreamhaven, often while in town to see their own kids in the area. Many report being anti-Trumpers who hail from conservative places, and it's reassuring for them to learn how many of them there are.

At one point in response to an attendee's suggestion, the audience was invited to take a breath, count to three, and then shout in unison, “I'm angry!” They did. They were.

Several opportunities and resources were suggested for those who want to help fight ICE and fascism, including defend612.com.

Crossword solution:

1	E	2	N	3	D	4	G	5	A	6	M	7	E
8	M	I	N	I	C	O	N						
9	T	H	A	T	S	I	T						

Saturday reg

Total paid: 605
Warm bodies: 571
(5% more than last year)

Another name story

“My badge name is a condensation of my regular name with an exclamation point after it inspired by the *Shazam!* comic books. And backwards, it's 'magics'!” —SKJAM!

Closing time reminders

Vendors and authors are only open until 2p.m. today; if you want to stock up on trinkets, toys, games, jewels, and of course books; please visit by 2. The Science Room also closes at 2. Visit for a large display of the Artemis II mission, including live video!

Overheard at a panel

The understated **Karl Gallagher** was on fire with quips in “Are the Classics Still Classics?” (2:30 Sat.)

- “A bad adaptation will probably bring in more readers than a good advertising campaign.”
- “They say the Golden Age of Science Fiction is 12 years old.”
- “There are people who look for bad characterization in reviews as a sign that they'll like that book.”

Emma Bull also wondered whether there are still “entry level” science fiction books for readers who aren't necessarily kids... preferably as interesting as the likes of Niven.

Q: How many of the “10 colorful frogs” hidden around the con have been found?

A: ALL the Frogs have been found!

—TJ van Starshine Plosh

Silver Peepers?

Minicon member **Kathy Sidles** has won 3rd place in the St. Paul Pioneer Press Peeps Diorama Contest with her submission depicting a Silver Sneakers session at the local Y... made out of Peeps, of course. Stay tuned for a possible diorama activity next year here at Minicon!

It's been three times and a half! See you all next year!

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 59, Issue 4

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

© 2026 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not necessarily anyone else's.

