

Minicon46

April 22-24 2011 • Bloomington Sheraton South • Bloomington, MN



Minicon 46
PO Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Registration form included inside,
or register online at mnstf.org/minicon46

Pregistration and discount hotel room
deadline is March 31st.

Register for Minicon 46! 22-24 April 2011

Postmarked by 31 July 2010: adult \$40, student (13-20) \$25
Postmarked by 31 March 2011: adult \$45, student (13-20) \$30
kids (6-12): \$20
children (0-5): Free
supporting: \$15

Make checks payable to: **Minicon 46**
PO Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

You can also register online at mnstf.org/minicon46

Membership Type:

Adult Student (13-20) Kid Child Supporting
Kid/child's age: ___ sex: ___ (optional, used for programming)

Please contact me about:

Volunteering Kids' Programming
Have a cool idea for a Programming topic?
Want to participate on a Programming Panel?
Contact Programming at programming@minicon46.mnstf.org

Do not list me as a member on the Minicon website

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Badge Name _____

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

City _____ State / Province _____ ZIP / Postal Code _____

Country (if not USA) _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Dealers

At the Minicon 46 dealer's room you'll find books, artwork, t-shirts, figurines, dragons, handcrafts, clothing, games and gaming supplies, jewelry, toys, creatures, cards, movies, music, magazines, buttons...and more. A list of dealers that will be at Minicon is on the website. If you're interested in being a dealer also, email your name, product, street address and table needs to dealers@minicon46.mnstf.org.

Volunteers

Minicon is totally volunteer run. We're a convention of equals: Even the hardest working members of the concom (convention committee) pay for their memberships just like you. In fact, we don't even have an official definition of what it means to be on the concom. You're on it if you think you are. So we need your help! Your volunteer commitment can be as little as carrying a box from one end of the convention to the other or as big as heading a department. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- Contact our volunteers head, Matthew Strait, at volunteers@minicon46.mnstf.org. If you have big goals, let him know, or if you'd just like to register your intent to help out however you can at the con, it'd be great to know who you are.
- Our primary need is to schedule people to check badges at the consuite and to staff the art show. When you arrive at the con, look for a sign-up sheet on the registration table.
- Attend an upcoming concom meeting. They are announced on the Minicon Facebook page, and posted to the Minicon 46 home page at www.mnstf.org/minicon46/. Or, for an even less formal opportunity to meet concom members, come to one of the Minn-stf parties, which are announced at www.mnstf.org. The next one is Sat Feb 19 2pm until late at the Sheraton.
- At the con, remember that we're all in this together and offer to help as you can. Most volunteering is *informal* – no need to sign up ahead of time.

Minicon46

MINNESOTA
SCIENCE
FICTION
SOCIETY



Progress Report 2

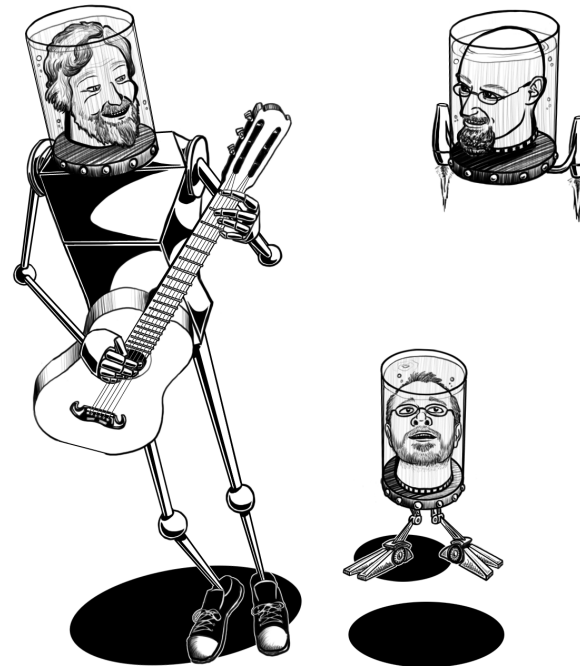
Guests of Honor

Author *in absentia* **Charlie Stross**

Author **John Scalzi**

Musician **Chas Somdahl**

Greetings, fen! This is your reminder that MINICON 46 is just around the corner.



Last year's convention was a wild time, as we were swept away by the energetic guests of honor Brandon Sanderson and Dan Dos Santos. This year we're having a convention filled with music and science fiction, with author Charlie Stross, author John Scalzi, and con favorite musician Chas Somdahl.

Letter from the Chair

Hi everyone. I have some unfortunate news about Minicon 46. Charles Stross, our Author Guest of Honor will not be able to attend due to a family medical emergency. I know all of you out there, like us here at Minicon, wish his family the best.

Do not fear. Though it is sad we have lost our intended Guest of Honor, we do have an author who has agreed to step in for Charlie. I'd like to thank John Scalzi for graciously giving up his limited free time to fill in for Charlie at Minicon 46. Let's all welcome him with open arms and good wishes for Charlie's family as well.

– Joel Phillips, co-chair Minicon 46

Registration

We are offering preregistration rates until March 31st:

- \$45 Adult (21+)
- \$30 Student (13-20)
- \$20 Kid (6-12)
- \$15 Supporting Membership (upgradeable at the door)



Children up to five years old are free and do not need badges, but if you want to give your little sprog a shiny badge they are available for \$0.01. Are you already registered? If so, the label on the back cover of this mailing will have your badge name.

You can register by sending us a check along with the registration form in this mailing, or register online using Paypal at www.mnstf.org/minicon46/register. Remember, after March 31st the price goes up to \$60 for adults and \$35 for students, and you won't get a pre-printed badge.

We'd like you to register as early as possible, to help us plan our events and food. Also, be sure to tell us if you'd like to volunteer at the con!

Film

Minicon is a busy time.

Two hours seems like a long time to spare for a movie.

2010's Short Film Festival

and the TV episodes & cartoons that preceded our features were audience favorites. For 2011, we focus exclusively on that shorter form: Television for SF fans. Shows you didn't know existed!

Shows you haven't seen in years! Commercial-Free!

Greater variety & shorter viewing-times for you!

Why the extra effort on our part? Because YOU'RE WORTH IT!

Consuite and Bar

The Minicon consuite is a place to spend time with friends between panels, after hours, or whenever. The consuite will feature a variety of tasty snacks, soft drinks and comfortable seating. Stop by throughout the weekend, meet new and old friends and have fun!

Down the hall at our con bar, The Singularity, we'll be serving quality bheers, cider, wines, and blog. There will be fun, trivia contests, perhaps even a beer tasting. The bar will be open from mid-afternoon until the wee hours.

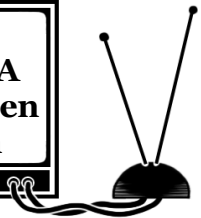
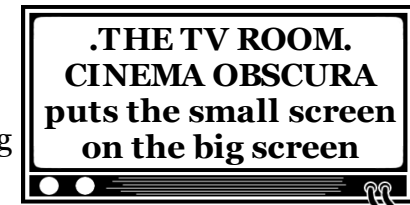
Art Show

As always, Minicon will have an art show filled with great art from both amateurs and professionals. Complete information is on the Minicon 46 website at www.mnstf.org/minicon46/artshow.

Gaming



The gaming room will be open throughout the convention. We will have Wii and PS3 games, including Guitar Hero, sanctioned and casual Magic: The Gathering events, and a large collection of other games. Stop in for open gaming and bring your friends, or join one of the scheduled events.



Programming

Minicon Programming will continue to expand horizons, inform, and amuse. 2011 programming includes panels, Guest of Honor interviews, roundtable discussions, and author readings and signings. Informal events are in the mix too. These include Garden Court activities, the annual Medallion Hunt, and planned events in the Consuite and Bar. Join in as we continue the tradition of excellent, informative programming that Minicon is known for!

As always, the programming department would appreciate your help. To volunteer with the programming department, write to programming@minicon46.mnsthf.org. If you just want to brainstorm or sign up as a panelist, see the Programming page at www.mnsthf.org/minicon46/programming.

Costuming

The main costuming events of Minicon 46 will begin with the Fentasia Awards and conclude with the Fenfare Parade. But any and all geek garb is welcomed! If you wear anything other than your normal street clothes, please join us in our costuming events. We want YOU!

Performance bits are encouraged but not required. These events are meant to be fun, informal, and easy. If you'd like to do a bit, please let the Costume team know in advance or at the Con.

More information on the Fentasia awards and the Fenfare Parade is available at www.mnsthf.org/minicon46/costuming.



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Hotel

Reserve your room early for the best rates. The Sheraton Bloomington Hotel is giving us a rate of \$89 for both regular rooms and the poolside cabanas, but only if they are reserved by March 31. After that, the room rates go up to \$94 for regular rooms and \$99 for cabanas.

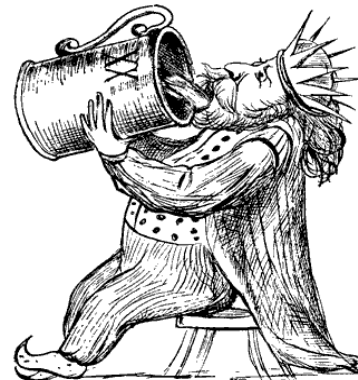
If you're interested in a poolside cabana, it's best to contact our parties head at parties@minicon46.mnsthf.org. They know which cabanas will be blocked out for room parties, so they can put you in a prime spot to host a party or steer you toward a quieter poolside room.

To reserve any other rooms, call the Sheraton at 952-835-7800 and tell them that you are part of Minicon 46, or book online at www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/minicon46.

The more rooms we fill, the more the hotel likes us and the lower Minicon registration rates can potentially be. So help Minicon by reserving your room today.

Parties

We'd prefer all parties to be in the north pool-side cabanas. To reserve any cabana for any reason, email parties@minicon46.mnsthf.org – they are keeping track of the party rooms, and they can make arrangements for you with the hotel. Just let us know the party title, description, and hours for the program book, and our party head would also like to know your hosts' names!



Author Guest of Honor in absentia Charles Stross

Charles Stross is our Author Guest of Honor at Minicon 46. He is a recent Hugo winner for his novella "Palimpsest", and has a string of hit science fiction books including *Saturn's Children*, *Accelerando*, *Singularity Sky*, the *Merchant Princes* series, and the *Laundry* series.



Due to an illness in Charlie's family he will not be able to attend Minicon this year. But we are still dedicating this con to him and to celebrating his body of work.

Best place for more info on Charlie is on his blog at www.antipope.org/charlie/.



Author Guest of Honor John Scalzi

The role of Charles Stross at Minicon 46 will be played by John Scalzi, and he will be here to handle the Author Guest of Honor duties. Although he's here to help us celebrate all things Stross, Scalzi fans will be able to meet with this Hugo and Campbell award winner and enjoy his presence at the con. If you want to know more about John Scalzi, look on his blog at whatever.scalzi.com.

Musician Guest of Honor Chas Somdahl

Chas Somdahl is our Musician Guest of Honor, and he is a well-known favorite at conventions across the country. A musician of eclectic taste, he plays both kinds of music – folk *and* folk – but often digresses into rock and bluegrass and more, with familiar songs, songs that are a little less than familiar, and original music.



Chas will be leading the Guest of Honor Jam Band concert. He'll also be performing at the con as part of the group Riverfolk, and will likely appear at the late night music circles and jam sessions.

