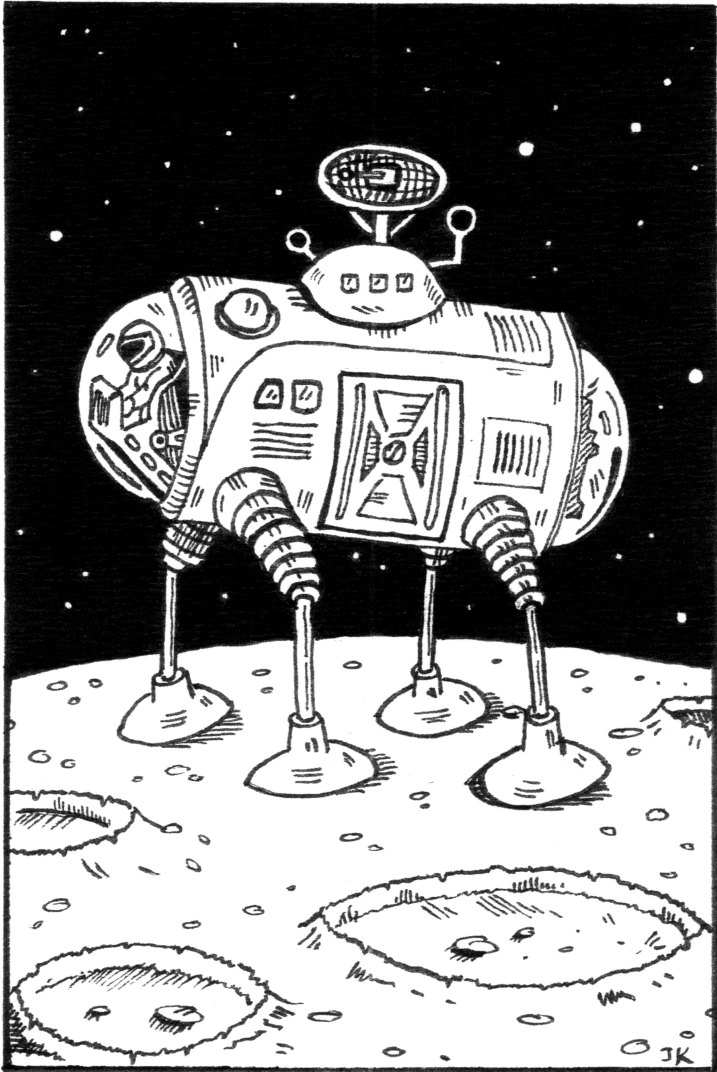


Minicon 50 The Gold Edition



*April 2–5, 2015
Progress Report 2*

Welcome!

As Minicon 50 nears, we are planning all sorts of fun. With the wonderful guests we have coming, that should be a given. I've been coming to Minicon for 22 years and to be a part of this amazing group of volunteers that will put this convention together for you is truly a pleasure. I believe Minicon 50 will be a convention to truly remember. You and your friends and family do not want to miss it. I look forward to seeing everyone and creating more memories for the next fifty years.

— Minicon 50 chair Joel Phillips

What's Minicon?

Minicon is Minneapolis's premier Easter-weekend fan-run science fiction convention with a name between 6 and 8 letters long! We hope you'll join us this year. You'll be in the company of about 600 other fans of not only science fiction, but fantasy, horror, anime, gaming, music, and many other pursuits. This is our anniversary year, and so we are calling it Minicon 50 — The Gold Edition.

Minicon features panel discussions, readings, signings, costuming, films, gaming, an art show, a dealers' room, kids' programming, a science room, music, a consuite and bar, room parties, our Medallion Hunt, and various other special events. For all that, most people say they don't come for what we have scheduled, but because they want to hang out with others like them in a place that feels like home.

This year Minicon will be April 2–5, a day longer than usual. This will bring the average number of calendar days per Minicon up to 2.98, as I'm sure you were dying to know.



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Author Guest of Honor: Jane Yolen

Jane Yolen has been called the Hans Christian Andersen of America and the Aesop of the twentieth century. She is the author of more than two hundred books for children and young adults and twenty-five for adults, as well as poetry, criticism, and books on the art of writing and the genre of fantasy. She is particularly well known for the *Pit Dragon* series of young adult fantasy novels and her *Commander Toad* series for beginning readers. Yolen's books have received numerous awards: *Owl Moon* won the Caldecott Medal, while *The Emperor and the Kite* was named a Caldecott honor book. She also received Lewis Carroll Shelf Awards for *The Emperor and the Kite* and *The Girl Who Loved the Wind* and a Golden Kite Award for *The Girl Who Cried Flowers and Other Tales*. She has also edited and compiled a number of works for both younger and older readers and has contributed to several collections and anthologies.

A folksinger and storyteller, Yolen has created works that reflect her love of music and oral folklore, including compilations of international songs, rhymes, and stories. Several of her books are autobiographical or incorporate elements from her life or the lives of her family, and her three children all contribute to her works. "I consider myself a poet and a storyteller," she once reflected. "I just want to go on writing and discovering my stories for the rest of my life because I know that in my tales I make public what is private, transforming my own joy and sadness into tales for the people."

Having also been the Minicon 25 GoH, Jane is one of four former guests returning to that role for our anniversary. For more on Jane, check out janeyolen.com.

Author Guest of Honor: Larry Niven

Larry Niven is an American novelist who is a Robert A. Heinlein, Nebula and multiple Hugo Award winner. Much of the science fiction that Mr. Niven has written over his 50+ year career as an author has had an emphasis on hard science.

Of his hundreds of published works, Mr. Niven is perhaps best known for his 1970 novel *Ringworld*, which won numerous awards and spawned multiple sequels and prequels as well as a tabletop role playing game. His other award-winning novels include *The Borderland of Sol* and *The Integral Trees*. Mr. Niven has penned numerous award-winning short stories as well: "Neutron Star," "The Jigsaw Man," "All the Myriad Ways," "Not Long Before the End," "Inconstant Moon," "The Hole Man," and "The Return of William Proxmire." He also writes in collaboration with others, giving us books like *The Mote in God's Eye* (with Jerry Pournelle) and *Dream Park* (with Steven Barnes).

Larry will be our guest of honor for the third time, returning after being pro guest

of honor at Minicons 7 and 19. For more information on Larry and his works, visit larryniven.net.

Author Guest of Honor: Brandon Sanderson

“Dreadful” — That was Brandon’s own criticism of his first effort at writing a book in his teens. He had then recently discovered science fiction and fantasy novels, devouring them voraciously. His enthusiasm led him to try to create his own fantastic worlds outside his life in his hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska, but his imagination outran his skills and he settled for readership for a while.

However, during his tenure at Brigham Young University, the writing bug returned and he was diverted from the chemistry program to a BA in English in 2000, followed by a master’s in creative writing in 2005. Brandon lives in Provo, Utah with his wife and son and frequently returns to BYU to teach creative writing classes and seminars.

After college, it did take 13(!) more efforts at novel-writing before finally selling a book, but his wordsmithing has definitely caught up with his muse! Best known for his hugely popular *Mistborn* series, he was tapped to finish the prestigious *Wheel of Time* series for the late Robert Jordan. A 6-time New York Times Hardcover Fiction Best-Seller List author, he has received numerous nominations and awards from many prestigious fantasy and fiction bodies, including the 2013 Hugo for best novella for *The Emperor’s Soul*.

Brandon should be familiar to many Miniconers, having been our guest of honor also at Minicon 45. You can learn more about him at brandonsanderson.com.

Publisher Guest of Honor: Tom Doherty

As the publisher of Tor (science fiction/fantasy), Forge (other great fiction and non-fiction), Orb (reprints of classics), Starscape (middle grade SFF) and Tor Teen (young adult SFF) titles, Tom Doherty has always been on the cutting edge of speculative fiction publishing. He’s a genre publisher who offers eBook titles DRM-free, has created imprints for middle grade readers and young adults, and pays homage to genre classics by bringing them back into print. Locus Magazine, the professional journal for science fiction and fantasy authors, has awarded him Best Publisher 21 times. Mr. Doherty does not take the credit for all of Tor’s success, however. “It’s the sum of the talent of the people who work here... Publishing doesn’t need plants and equipment the way you do in some other industries. You need the right people.”

Tom returns to us after having been our publisher guest of honor at Minicon 29. Check out Tor’s blog at tor.com to discover more about the state of the genre as well as Tor’s authors.

Artist Guest of Honor: Michael Whelan

Michael Whelan is one of the finest and most important science fiction and fantasy artists, and the only living artist inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame. For over 30 years, his art has been on the covers of countless books and record albums, and his style is credited as the driving force that moved popular science fiction and fantasy art toward realism after the surrealist period of the 1950s and 1960s.

Among his many well-deserved accolades are fifteen Hugo Awards, three World Fantasy Awards, twelve Chesley Awards, and a Spectrum Lifetime Achievement Award. Few other science fiction and fantasy artists have been as prolific or influential.

Many authors have praised his dedication to capturing the essence of the characters and stories. His hyper-realist style incorporates bold primary colors, contrasting gradients and fractal patterns. He weaves foreground and background into dramatic and dynamic compositions that convey vast amounts of space while maintaining startling clarity and detail in their subjects.

His work is the face of many popular and well-loved books including Brandon Sanderson's *The Stormlight Archive* series, Stephen King's *The Dark Tower* series, Anne McCaffrey's *Dragonflight* series, Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* series, Michael Moorcock's *Elric* books, and many others.

Musician Guest of Honor: Adam Stemple

Long-time Minnesotan Adam Stemple is a modern Renaissance man, arguably best known to Minicon alums as a musician and author.

As a musician, he has been a producer, songwriter and solo performer, along with work in well-known Minneapolis bands Cats Laughing, Boiled in Lead, and The Tim Malloys. As an author, Mr. Stemple has published novels, poems, short and mid-length fiction. His novels include *Singer of Souls*, *Steward of Song*, and several collaborative works with his mother, Jane Yolen.

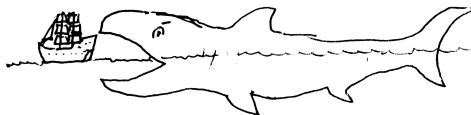
When Adam is not busy with writing and music, he is expanding his horizons with drawing, photography, and web design.



Schedule Overview

We are planning a full 4-day weekend of events, and the adjacent days also have many Minicon-related activities. Most departments will be open on Thursday when they have ordinarily been open on Friday, although a few will still wait for Friday to ramp up.

- Tuesday, March 31: Work party at Jonathan Adams & Carol Kennedy's house, 3328 Colfax Ave S, Mpls, starting at 6pm. Open to anyone willing to help out.
- Wednesday, April 1: Move-in (see *Volunteering* on page 12). Registration open in the evening, when we're set up, for preregistered members. There will be open gaming and open music.
- Thursday, April 2: Registration open 10am–10pm. Consuite opens at 10am and tentatively stays open continuously through Sunday. The bar opens at 5pm and stays open until we fall down. Rumpus Room open, but probably will have no scheduled events until Friday. The art/dealers/science room is open 3–7pm. Programming will start in the afternoon. Opening Ceremonies are at 7pm. Scheduled gaming starts in the early afternoon. Gaming, music and parties continue into the night.
- Friday, April 3: Registration open 9:30am–10pm. Consuite open all day. Bar open 5pm–late. Programming tentatively 10am–11pm. The art/dealers/science room is open 10–6pm. Cinema Obscura kicks it off with a film at 6pm. Gaming, music and parties continue into the night.
- Saturday, April 4: Registration 9:30am–8pm. Programming 10am–11pm. Consuite open all day. Bar open 5pm–late. The art/science/dealers room is open 10am–6pm. The Costume Revel will be held in the evening. Gaming, music and parties continue into the night.
- Sunday, April 5: Registration 9:30am–4pm. Programming 10am–5pm. The art/science/dealers room is open 11am–4pm. We move most of the con out after Closing Ceremonies, 4–5pm, then have the Dead Dog Party in the Minicon Bar.
- Monday, April 6: Final move-out in the morning. We will likely have the traditional Dessicated Dodo Party Monday night. Check future publications.
- Saturday, April 18: Post-mortem meeting & Devonian Ductina Party at Beth and Joel Phillips', 6323 Excelsior Blvd, St Louis Park, starting at 4pm.



Hotel

Minicon 50 will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton–Minneapolis South (affectionately dubbed the Radishtree due to our long association with this property — and the fact it changes owners every few years).

Room rates for traditional sleeping rooms and cabana rooms has remained the same at **\$92 if booked by March 15**. Suites are \$139. After that date, you will get whatever the best rate the hotel offers (typically quite a bit higher). To book your room, go to mnstf.org/minicon50/hotel, or call the DoubleTree at 800-222-8733. If calling, use the group name “Minicon” and group code “MCN”.

Special Note If You Want A Cabana Or Suite: When you reserve your room you will only be able to reserve a standard double room. If you would like a poolside cabana room or a suite (possibly for a **room party**), please go ahead with your standard reservation, then contact Matt Weiser at hotel@minicon50.mnstf.org with your confirmation number and desired room type. As hotel coordinator, Matt will handle all such requests.

Getting a room is the best way to experience Minicon! Filling our room block is how we pay the hotel for function space. If we fill enough, the space is free, which allows us to maintain our low registration rates.

Location

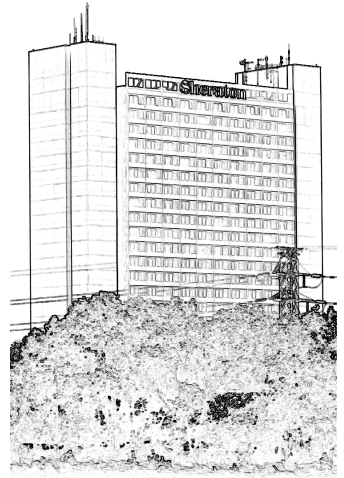
It's at **7800 Normandale Boulevard, Bloomington, MN, 55439**. This is near the northwest intersection of Highways 100 and I-494, seven miles due west of MSP International Airport. The hotel is the tallest building in the immediate area and can be easily reached via a frontage road that runs north/south, on the west side of Highway 100.

Driving Directions

From Duluth and the North: Take I-35 South to I-35W to Highway 62 West. Take Highway 100 South to Industrial Boulevard. The hotel is on your right.

From Des Moines and the South: Take I-35 North to I-35W to I-494 West, and then to Highway 100 North. Take the first exit at Industrial Blvd, go west to Normandale Blvd and turn south. The hotel is on your right.

From Eau Claire and the East: Take I-94 West to I-494 West and exit at Highway



100 North. Take the first exit at Industrial Boulevard, go west to Normandale Blvd, turn south. The hotel is on your right.

From St. Cloud and the West: Take I-94 East to I-494 South, to Highway 100 North. Take the first exit at Industrial Blvd, go west to Normandale Blvd, turn south. The hotel is on your right.

From the MSP Airport: Take I-494 West and merge onto Highway 100 North. Take the first exit, which will be Industrial Blvd. From there, turn left onto Normandale Blvd. The hotel is on the right.

Busing

The best options are the 6K and 540. A few other buses go nearby, but not at generally useful times. The Southdale Transit Center, 3 miles northeast of the hotel, is much better served by buses, for what that's worth.

The 6K has one run on Saturday, and arrives near the DoubleTree by 6:43am; and one run on Sunday, arriving near the DoubleTree by 6:41am. Return trips eastbound are 7:02am on Saturday and 7:03am on Sunday.

The 540 arrives on Saturday at 78th St & Picture Drive from 7:24am to 10:54pm. On Sunday, it arrives at 78th St & Picture Drive from 8:24am to 9:25pm. Return trips eastbound on Saturday are between from 7:31am to 9:31pm, and from 7:31am to 8:31pm on Sunday.

See metrotransit.org for more details and to confirm the above times.

Hotel Shuttle

The hotel runs a shuttle from/to the airport and the Mall of America. It runs about once an hour during the day and evening. Please call the hotel for the schedule.

Save the Earth on your way to the Con!

For those interested in conserving energy through car pooling and ride sharing, Carpoolworld.com offers a free matching service for clubs. Our account is set up as a user group for attendees of all our local conventions to connect for rides and riders. User name: "twin_cities_fandom", password: "mnstfrides". Check it out!

Con Layout

We are planning on the same arrangement as last year: Programming will be primarily in the 2nd floor Veranda rooms overlooking the Garden Court. The consuite and bar will be on the second floor overlooking the pool. The art show, science room, and dealers room will share the Grand Ballroom, with the Rumpus Room and Films adjacent. Large programming items and concerts will be down the hall towards the north tower in the Bloomington and Edina rooms. Gaming and some special events will be on the Garden Court.

Programming

Planning for Minicon 50 is well underway. We have great ideas for panels and events, which you can check out on the Minicon 50 Programming Brainstorm page: wiki.mnsthf.org/index.php?title=M50_Programming_Brainstorm

Got another idea? Send it to us at programming@minicon50.mnsthf.org as soon as possible.

Even with all these awesome plans, programming can't happen without you! Interested in being on a panel? Email us at programming@minicon50.mnsthf.org by **December 31**. Please let us know if you have restrictions such as "nothing before noon" or "I do not want to moderate."

Authors! Want to give a reading at Minicon 50? Please contact us at readings@minicon50.mnsthf.org. **Note:** this year, we will be organizing a mass autographing session, so you do not need to sign up for a separate signing slot.

Dealers

Minicon will once again have a dealer's room, and it will again share the large ballroom with the art show and science room, along with some central tables for socializing. The dealers room hours are Thursday 3–7pm, Friday 10–6pm, Saturday 10am–6pm and Sunday 11am–4pm.

There is still room available for dealers. If interested, send your street address and phone number to request@minicon50.mnsthf.org, and we will send you a paper application. Tables are \$35, and dealers are required to be members of the con.

Rumpus Room

Check out the Rumpus Room! We always have lots of fun ongoing and scheduled events. This year we will have a puppet stage and a workshop on deconstructing t-shirts. Back by popular demand will be the Stuffed Animal Zoo, Sugar Cube Castles, Fun Tube Light Sabers and Monsters and S'more Monsters where we construct candy monstrosities and then set them on fire! Stay tuned, many more programming items will be added.



Art Show

The Minicon 50 art show is a non-juried show open to all artists who'd like to submit artwork with a science fiction and/or fantasy theme. Regardless of what media you work in — traditional, digital, fiber, sculpture, etc. — you are welcome. Most art is for sale, although some may be just for show. Art can be bid upon or, if the artists chooses, immediately purchased at a set price.

- Wednesday setup: 3–8pm, for artists and setup volunteers only. Artists may hang their art 5–10pm.
- Thursday: 3–7pm. No direct sales until Saturday, only bidding.
- Friday: 10am–6pm. Artist reception in the evening.
- Saturday: 10am–6pm. Direct sales begin and continue through Sunday. Silent auction ends at 6pm. Pieces with 3 bids go to voice auction show at 6pm.
- Sunday: 10am–4pm. Artists may begin to pick up unsold art at 10am. Direct sales end at 4pm.

Volunteers are needed for set-up, tear down, and lunch breaks. Besides the art show proper, we are thinking about again having art-based activities and programming in the art show area, but we haven't yet finalized these plans. If you have ideas or want to run such a thing, please contact the art show head at artshow@minicon50.mnstf.org.

Calling All Young Artists!

All artists under the age of 18 can hang up to 5 pieces of their art for **free** at the Minicon art show (no hanging fees). All other art show rules apply.

Further details for artists

Please see the complete rules at mnstf.org/minicon50/artshow. Below is a summary. Note that the rules have been revised since last year. Please contact Alec Phillips, art show head, at artshow@minicon50.mnstf.org with questions.

- Artists who actively help set up the art show on Wednesday may reserve their first choice of hanging space. Hanging space for artists not helping with set up on Wednesday cannot be reserved and is first come-first served afterwards.
- 8×10 ft pegboard panels and 3×12 ft tables will be provided for art presentation. Pegboard hooks and clips will be provided free of charge. Vertical panel space will be lit with incandescent bulbs. You may use your own hanging hardware and lighting if you choose.
- No artist registration or pre-registration is required.

- Art that is not for sale may be entered.
- Walk-in artists are accepted and encouraged.
- There is a \$0.50 per piece hanging fee for each piece of art entered in the Art Show. Minicon collects a 10% commission on all artwork sold through the Art Show and Print Shop. We do not take a commission on the first \$10 of sales for each artist.
- There will be a Print Shop for prints and reproductions. No more than 5 copies of any one work of art may be submitted. Single reproductions or prints may be entered or displayed in the art show. Multiple reproductions or prints should be presented in the Print Shop.
- Security will be provided by Minicon staff while the Art Show is open, and the Art Show will be locked at night by hotel staff.
- Minicon and its staff will not be responsible for theft or accidental damage to artwork or artist's property.
- Artists with many pieces are encouraged to download control sheets and bid sheets from mnstf.org/minicon50 and arrive with them printed and filled out. This will make your set up much quicker!



Gaming

Hello and Welcome from Minicon Gaming! This is going to be the year to top them all in gaming! We will have even more games available for you to try out. As always, we will have plenty of space if you want to share games as well. Current plans are to have a blowout in celebration of our 50th year. We have three special big events planned:

1. Giant Magic tournament (sponsored by Level Up Games).
2. Video Game Triathlon (3 day tournament with a different event each day. Prizes each day for daily winner, with a Grand Prize at the end).
3. RoboRally event (more to be announced later).

We love making new friends and hanging out with long time ones as well. We have added many new and interesting games to our library — make sure to stop by! See you there and stay tuned for more updates!

(PS: Make sure to bring your copies of Nevinryral's Disk as one of our guests is Larry Niven!)

—Matt "Cyber_Urza" McMillan, Gaming Dept Head

Volunteering

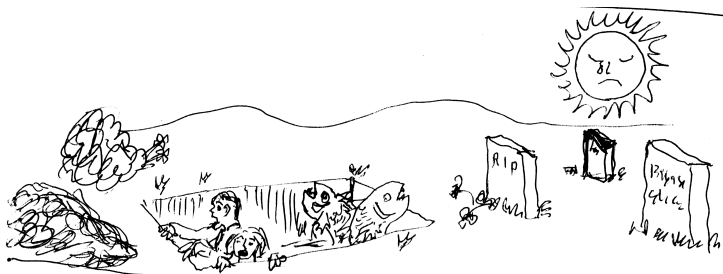
Minicon is run entirely by volunteers, and we have a wide range of activities with different levels of sociability and mobility required. Volunteering is a great way to get to know new people and get more involved in our community, not to mention that we greatly appreciate the gift of your time. Please join us by emailing volunteers@minicon50.mnsthf.org to participate. We're all in this together!

Before the con:

Consider attending a concom meeting. Meetings are open and informal; we'd love to have you, even if you just want to watch. The next one is Saturday January 24 at 1:30pm at Clay Harris's place, 3601 Towndale Dr, Bloomington. More meetings will be announced in the Einblatt (mnsthf.org/einblatt), on the Minicon Facebook page, and on the Minicon LiveJournal. Another way to meet us is at the bimonthly Mnsthf parties, announced in the Einblatt and at mnsthf.org.

After the con:

Attend our post-mortem meeting and party (details on page 6) to give feedback on how things went and to find out how to get involved for next year's Minicon. We're always looking for people to be apprentice department heads!



Bar

Beer and blog will be on offer in some capacity on Wednesday night — but probably in the consuite. The bar should officially be open on Thursday at 5pm. Also, we are looking for good, funny and interesting photos from past cons. If you have any you would like to submit, you can email us a *high res* copy of it to bar@minicon50.mnsthf.org or if you only have physical photographs we can make a digital copy of that so you will not have to sacrifice your original. The chosen ones will be on display in the bar.

Music

The long tradition of music will continue at Minicon 50 with concerts, song circles and late night jamming. Expect to also see programming featuring our music guest of honor Adam Stemple.

A Long Time Gone — Cats Laughing Reunion Concert

Beyond Conventions LLC is promoting a reunion concert to reunite musician guest of honor Adam Stemple with Lojo Russo, Minicon 19 toastmaster Steven Brust, and Minicon 37 guest of honor Emma Bull in Cats Laughing — the band that brought Adam to Minneapolis. If we succeed, the concert will be at Minicon 50, and will be recorded and available to supporters. For more information, and to support the project, see beyondconventions.com/cats.



The Medallion Hunt

This year's Medallion Hunt is expected to be the last one — the Cluemeister is running out of hiding places! But that means he'll have to use all the remaining ideas in his notebook in a big heap of messy creativity. So expect the tenth and final Minicon Medallion Hunt to be a fun one.

Bozo Bus Tribune

Minicon's at-con newsletter, the Bozo Bus Tribune, will continue to provide various kinds of news and entertainment. Since the current editor took over, there have been exactly four double-sided issues each year. For an extra-long Minicon 50, however, we cannot discount the real and present danger that there will be five.

Registration

Preregistration for Minicon 50 is open through March 9th. The rates are:

| | Preregistered | At the door |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Adult (21+) | \$40 (+\$10, optionally) | \$70 |
| Student (13–20) | \$20 | \$25 |
| Kid (6–12) | \$10 | \$15 |
| Child (0–5) | \$0 | \$0 |
| Supporting | \$15 | † |

† Supporting memberships can be upgraded to full memberships for an additional \$40 (total of \$55).

Parents: Children up to 5 do not need memberships at all, but if you want to give your little sprog a shiny badge, you may register them.

Are you already registered? If so, your mailing label has a ® symbol.

Day Rates

These rates are only available at the door. If you know that you will join us at least on Friday *or* Saturday, it's cheaper to pre-register.

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Thursday | \$30 |
| Friday | \$45 |
| Saturday+Sunday‡ | \$50 |
| Sunday only | \$20 |

‡ We don't offer Saturday-only because if we did, it would still have to be \$50.

Registration Hours

The hours for both preregistered members and those paying at the door are:

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Thursday | 10am–10pm |
| Friday | 9:30am–10pm |
| Saturday | 9:30am–8pm |
| Sunday | 9:30am–4pm |

The registration desk is in the hall outside the Grand Ballroom, easily visible from the top of the escalator. Memberships for Minicon 51 (2016) can be purchased at the reg desk or at the Dead Dog party Sunday evening in the bar (room 218).

We accept cash and checks for memberships. There is an ATM in the hotel, but it will charge you a fee.

Registration Survey

We are working to reconstruct older historical registration data. Can you help us by filling out a survey? mnstf.org/minicon50/regsurvey.php

MINICON 50

April 2-5, 2015 (four days)

Author GoH: Brandon Sanderson, Larry Niven, Jane Yolen

Artist Guest of Honor: Michael Whelan

Publisher Guest of Honor: Tom Doherty

Musician Guest of Honor: Adam Stemple

Min-i-con (mĭn'ē-kŏn') *n.* A general-purpose SF con of about 500 fans with a focus on pretty good diverse programming and above average food+drink. Also features readings, signings, costuming, films, gaming, art, dealers, kids' programming, a teen lounge and teen programming, a science room, music, room parties, the Medallion Hunt, and other special events. [MINI(ATURE)/MINN(EAPOLIS) + CON(VENTION).]

We're at the DoubleTree, 7800 Normandale, Bloomington MN. Reservations: See mnstf.org/minicon50/hotel or call 800-222-8733.

Become a member of Minicon 50! Postmarked by March 9, 2015:

- Adult \$40 Student (13-20) \$20 Supporting \$15 (convert to
- Kid (6-12) \$10 Child (0-5) free attending for +\$40)

Can you help us with a \$10 additional donation?

Make checks to: Minicon 50, Lake Street Station, PO Box 8297, Minneapolis, MN 55408-0297 or register at mnstf.org/minicon50

At the door: \$70 adult membership; \$25 student, \$15 kid, \$0 child.

Do not list me as a member on the web or in print publications

Please contact me, because I want to:

- Volunteer Be on panels/share ideas Throw a party Hear about kids activities



First Name Middle Last

Badge Name (if left blank, we will use your full name)

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City State/Province Postal Code

Country (if not USA) Phone Number(s)

Email Address(es)

Birthdate*: **Year** month day Sex* When was your 1st Minicon?*

* Optional: For demographics; can also help plan kids programming.

Please take our registration survey: mnstf.org/minicon50/regsurvey.php



What's the additional \$10 thing?

We have very intentionally kept our membership rates low in order to allow fans of modest means to attend. Of course, this means we have given up the additional \$5-\$20 we could have charged you (and other cons *do* charge you). Here's the idea: If you would have happily paid us \$50 instead of \$40 if that's what we said the rate was, please check the +\$10 box and pay us \$50.

This does two things. First, it goes towards the Fan Assistance Fund (see below). If there is additional money over what is requested for the Fund, it goes towards the general Minicon fund. The general fund is also a good cause, and you don't have to just take our word for it. Minicon is run by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit, and we strive to be transparent about our finances. Please see write-ups of where your money goes published in our fanzine, *Rune*, issues 87-90, at mnstf.org/Rune/.

Fan Assistance Fund

Thanks to the generosity of our con-goers, we can offer reduced or free memberships to those who would like to attend but face financial hardships. If you would like some help with the cost your membership fee, email fanfund@minicon50.mnstf.org by Feb 1 with a brief explanation.

Code of Conduct

The Board and the Minicon 50 Code of Conduct Committee are working to revise and improve the Code of Conduct. More details will be available in PR3.

Progress Reports

As in recent years, PR1 was primarily sent by e-mail to save money. This one (PR2) is primarily sent on paper because you probably actually read it then. This year we are adding a third progress report, to be sent in February. It will go out primarily by e-mail like PR1. But we send all of these both by e-mail or paper as necessary, so you should get them if we have either sort of address for you. If you would like to change the way you get your progress reports, please let us know at registration@minicon50.mnstf.org.

You will get Progress Report 3 if you are a member of Minicon 50 or were a member of Minicon 47, 48 or 49. To stay on the mailing list if you weren't at any of those Minicons, you need to at least buy a supporting membership for \$15.

If you expect to get PR3 by e-mail, please make sure it won't get marked as spam by putting mnstf.org on your whitelist.

Minn-stf

Minicon is run by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, or Mn-stf. Besides Minicon, each year Mnstf usually holds a small convention in October. This year it was called METHOD Con 2. Next year's is TBA. We also have a pool party in the winter (also TBA), and a picnic in the summer. The 2015 picnic will be Saturday, July 18 at Minnehaha Falls picnic area #2 (same as 2014), starting at noon.

Besides these larger events, we also have bimonthly "meetings", where "meeting" means a party with a 5-minute announcement period. Popular activities at these parties include gaming, crafts, conversation and eating good food. You are invited! Find the schedule at mnstf.org.



Minicon 50 Members So Far

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Cezarija Abartis | Mary L Bertelson | Kathleen Culhane |
| Alice L Ableman | Andrew A Bertke | Joshua K Culver |
| Jonathan H Adams | Michael J Bird | Rachel Dachenbach |
| Rachel Eun-Ae Kennedy | Ben Bova | Beth Darst |
| Adams | Brianna C Bowne | Jason Darst |
| Joseph E Agee | David L Bowne | Mike Darst |
| Gary P Agin | Kellen E Bowne | Sandy Darst |
| Karen Ahlstrom | Stephanie L Bowne | Christopher K Davis |
| Peter Fred Ahlstrom | Torin Bowne | Jeffrey C Dege |
| Ken Akin | David E Brack | Anessa DeMers |
| Mary Jane Akin | Domenic J Brack | Mara DeMers |
| Bruce G Albrecht | Rhona H Brack | Robert E DeMers |
| Elizabeth A Alexander | Kathleen L Brady | Beth Dibble |
| Ian Nathaniel Alexander | Seth Breidbart | Brett Mathias Dibble |
| Mikal Alexander | J J Brutsman | DiAnne Elizabeth Dibble |
| Theodore Alexander | Judy L Byers | Norman N Dibble |
| Denise A Alger | Marty L Byers | Samantha DiAnne Dibble |
| Lynn C Anderson | Kaylee Chandler | Shaun M Dibble |
| Cheryl A Arko | Elizabeth Cherry | Tatiana Doherty |
| Kari Askeland | Bill Christ | Tom Doherty |
| Kevin G Austin | Katie Clapham | Pamela Dean Dyer-Bennet |
| Chaz P Barnum | David Archie Clement | Penny H Ebbitts |
| Karen Y Bastien | Elizabeth Ann Clement | David L Emerson |
| Terry Belcher | Karen E Cooper | Matt Eppelheimer |
| Joseph C Bender | Philip Cordes | Riley Eppelheimer |
| Brigitte B Berg | Jerry Wayne Corwin | Linda K Escher |
| Jessie M Berg | Benjamin D Cox | Lynn E Everling |
| Ruth Berman | Ctein | Gail Heather Fagerstrom |

Nick L Faller
Joseph M Fishbein
Beth A Fisher
Kristin A Fogard
Eric Watt Forste
Jogn L M Fortier
Lisa C Freitag
Elizabeth Furr
Dean C Gahlon
Terry A Garey
John A Garner
Curtis S Gibson
Kim A Gilligan
Jason Glaser
Steven W Glennon
Martin D Grider
Magenta Griffith
Jessica L Guggenheim
André Guirard
Justin Robert Hall
Steven L Halter
Douglas A Hamer
Christi Louise Hansen
Nancy Ann Hansen
Katey Hanson
Mary K Hanson
Clayton H Harris
Thomas C Havighurst
Eric Melville Heideman
Felicia Gail Herman
Robert Lee Hodge
Jacqueline Hopson
Stephen L Hubbard
Heidi Anne Huff
Tod D Huff
Terry Hughes
Becky Huset
Ben J Huset
Nathan Huset
Sean Huset
Delia R Ihinger
Fiona Renée Ihinger
Robert F Ihinger Jr
Bob Jackson
Scott K Jamison
Laura Jean
John S Jensen
Ruth L Jensen

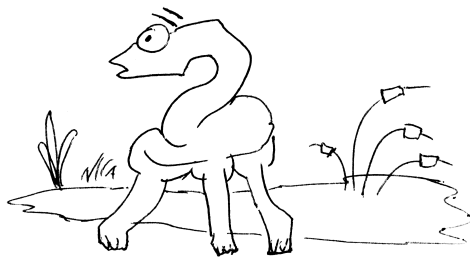
Damian Josiah Johansson
Joy Dawn Johnson
Mark Johnson
Nicholas H Johnson
Sam Jones
Kenneth J Justiniano
Rebecca S Justiniano
Kathrine L Kacner
Michael Kacner
Peter E Kacner
Sean Kacner
Sharon E Kahn
Jeanne Elizabeth Kating
Michael Thomas Kauper
Alfred B Kaye
Stephen V Kempton
Carol Ann Kennedy
Peg Kerr
Greg Ketter
William Ketter
Alexander Kimball
Beth Kinderman
David D Kingsley
Robin Kinney
Jane M Kline
Kenneth R Konkol
Rosemary Kosmatka
Laurel Krahn
Laura A Krentz
Jan G Kronholm
John S Kronholm
Rachel Evelyn Kronick
James A Kuehl
Ellen Rose Kuhfeld
Aimee A Kuzenski
Christine A LaBounty
Diane Lacey
Stacey Lynn Lam
Alicia LaMunion
Jennifer L Langer
Gregory T Larsen
Larry E Larson
Richard A Larson
Suzanne L Lavenz
Becca Leathers
Graham Leathers
Michael G Lee
Deanna R Lepsch

Andrea M Lessinger
Margaret E Lessinger
Russell Letson
Dennis Kieth Lien
Hershey A Lima
Joe A Lima
Marissa Kristine Lingen
Scott J Lohman
Alex Lundsten
Betsy Lundsten
Jason G Malgren
Keith E Malgren
Kyle E Malgren
Michael W Martin
John M Martino
Amy E McCumber
Kevin L McIntyre
John F McKana Jr
Jeanne M Mealy
Michael S Merriam
Sherry L M Merriam
Jean Marie Mlynczak
Roger Charles Mlynczak
Donald O Nelson
Julia L Nelson
Nathanael C Nerode
Charlotte M Nickerson
Lydia Drew Nickerson
Larry Niven
Walter T Noblitt
Gail O'Connor
K Cassandra O'Malley
Sherry L Oaks
Ruth A Odren
Jason E Otting
Gregg T Parmentier
Polly Jo Peterson
Alec E Phillips
Beth C Phillips
Joel D Phillips
Jory M Phillips
Rand P Phillips
Peter M Picucci
Tom Potter
Joseph S Pregracke
Audrey Price
Richard Price
Sharon Price

Irene M Raun
Scott D Raun
Maerin Renee
Lynne R Renz
Neil Rest
George W Richard
Sarah M Richard
Mark E Richards
Joelle E Riley
William Martin Rintz
Carrie Rogers
Erica A Rogers
David E Romm
Ethel Grodzins Romm
Andra J Saint Arnauld
Ronald M Salomon
Lisa G Sanders
Brandon Sanderson
Laramie K Sasseville
Pat L Scaramuzza
Martin George Schafer
Michael John Schneider
Bruce R Schneier
Michael E Schoenberg
Anastasia Acacia Elizabeth
Schroth
David William Schroth
Linda Joan Schusheim
Joselyn Louise Shackelford
Scott Edward Shjefte
Nathan J Skerbinc
Amanda C Slavik
Bradley S Slavik
Rhiannon Slavik

Richard Snyder
Daniel Richard Solarz
Bonnie G Somdahl
Chas G Somdahl
Daniel G Somdahl
Thea Danielle Somdahl
Alison Rose Sommer
Danielle Ann Sommer
Ethan J Sommer
Kaylee Rose Sommer
Cally J Soukup
Jason Spitzer
Sheldon Spitzer
Jordan Sprunger
Sam Paul Stanfield
John L Stanley
Jerry Stearns
Linda Joyce Steiner
Robert W Steiner Sr
Adam D Stemple
Elizabeth A Stemple
Ananda Stevens
Mark Adair Stevens
Diane Ruth Stewart
Emily E Stewart
Ashley Stoering
Samantha Star Straf
Eleanor Marian Strait
Kelly E T Strait
Matthew Levy Strait
Rebecca Judith Strait
Don S Stremski
Sharla Danelle Stremski
Sirena Mae Stremski

Gerri F Sullivan
Martin Summerton
Colleen Taitel-Grider
Richard O Tatge
Thorin N Tatge
Christine Elaine Thomas
William A Thomasson
Claire M Todd
Sean W Todd
James Traver Jr
Jason M Tucker
Aaron M Vander Giessen
Anthony von Krag
Dean J Wagner
Jo Walton
John F Wardale
Brian F Westley
Michael Whelan
Matthew D Whitman
Amy M Williams-Scott
Avery Caroline
Winkle-Somdahl
Zak Gregory Winkle-Somdahl
Christopher Paul Wintheiser
Melody Ann Wintheiser
Bruce Eric Yoder
Julie Ann Yoder
Jane Yolen
Bill Young
Jim Young
Patricia E Zetelumen
Phillip Ziolkowski



Minicon 50
PO Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55408-0297

