

Issue 1

Friday noon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 53

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

New hotel headline

Welcome to Minicon 53! You may have noticed that not everything in your DoubleTree by Hilton is where you left it. Never fear! We have in fact downscaled this year to a more Minicon-sized hotel—or to put it another way, we downscaled our intersectional interstate from 494 to 394. But what's in a digit? Everything Minicon has to offer is still here.

But where is it all? you ask in your italic voice.

Registration: On the 2nd floor overlooking the back end of the pool area. (In fact, most of the con is at the far end of the hotel from the lobby—you may want to park on that side!)

Programming rooms: Just past registration!

Green Room: In 232, across from registration.

Consuite: Take the elevators to the 14th floor and turn left, following the sign.

Parties: The Seamstress Guild and Bar are on the 2nd floor, overlooking the pool; the rest are together on the 3rd floor in a hallway to the right.

Art & Dealers: In the Courtyard Ballrooms on the 1st floor, under the Bar area. Enter at either end. Fan tables will be positioned outside.

Rumpus Room, Science and BBT: In the Seasons rooms under programming—you'll have to walk down a hall. Past the lower atrium. Past the restaurant. Past the ATM. *Then* you walk down the hall. There's also a covert staircase leading down from the programming area.

Is there free wi-fi? Yes! Use either the Attwifi or hhonors network. If you have a room, just enter your room number and last name; otherwise you can use the promo code 'wifi2018'. It should work anywhere in the hotel.

On Featured Artist Jon Arfstrom

Minicon is honored this year to feature the surreal art of Jon Arfstrom. Jon is a Minnesota artist who worked full time as a commercial artist for decades. In his spare time—another six to eight hours every night—he worked on his “real” career as a fine artist. He created gorgeous watercolor landscapes and portraits and kept an intricate sketch diary. But we are featuring his other works, mostly acrylics on hardboard, of fantasy landscapes entirely from his own imagination.

Jon sent ink drawings and paintings to the magazine *Weird Tales* when he was a teenager. This is enough to win the admiration of many pulp and magazine collectors around the world. But they may not know of his unpublished fantasy work, the unsurpassed paintings he called “surreals.”

Jon died in 2015 in Anoka, MN at the age of 87. He left behind rooms stacked with surreal paintings, watercolors, and around 70 diaries. With the help of the Anoka County Historical Society, his family has been collecting and organizing his work.

We are delighted to have his wife, Norma; his daughter Tory Arfstrom-Ferrey; his son Gary; and his son-in-law Mark Ferrey at Minicon. At 10a.m. in the Park 2 room, Mark will talk about his specialty, environmental science, though he also is an artist. This will be followed at 11:30 by a slide show of Jon's work, narrated by Norma and Tory.

The Arfstrom Clan has a table in the Art Show/Dealer's Room. They will be delighted to tell you stories about Jon and his art, including the time when Jon wanted to destroy the painting we used on the cover of the program book. Be sure to admire Norma's badge, featuring a nude drawing Jon did of her sometime in the 50s. They have prints and cards available for sale. And they promised to bring one of the sketch diaries, which they will let you look through if you are very, very careful.

-Lisa Freitag

Fannish Family Feud

Fan **Mike Riley** wants your snap reactions! He's been running room parties in the Chicago area for years, but wanted something more participatory than movie and TV screenings... so he came up with the idea of **Fannish Family Feud**, based on the popular game show and the Geek Out board game. It was a success at Capricon, and now you can play here at Minicon (**8p.m. Saturday, The Bar**). The 25-question survey will be available for those who want to inform his next game (hopefully at Penguicon in May).

The Bozo Bus Tribune salutes modern cofounder **Dave E Romm**, who passed away in September. Together with Sharon Kahn and Jeff Schalles, Dave started putting out BBTs back at Minicon 28, a revival of less formal prior efforts. Why? Perhaps to inform the membership, or perhaps just for a chance to use obscure equipment such as the electrostencil. Dave later assisted Marian Turner and her child news team in putting out the Minicon Howler.

For many more memories of Dave, please attend the **memorial service** immediately following Minicon 53. And for more physical mementos (or just free stuff), you can find boxes of freebies from his estate on the fan tables outside the Dealer's Room.

Programming clarification

Going to the "EV and Hybrid Vehicles" event (4p.m. Friday)? Head out the door near the Season Rooms (at the "tail end" of the hotel) to find the right part of the parking lot.

What is that beautiful music?

It may well be the harpist in the Art Show who randomly approached the department head and offered to play Friday night to enhance the mood!

Right hand for pitch, left hand for volume!

What's this? A party review in Issue 1? Thursday night parties at Minicon are a rarity, but your editor was beckoned by the resonant tuba sounding over the atrium. The **Unconventional CONventional Music Room** in room 326 aims to be a place that always sounds weird. Hosts Nico and Terry will be glad to let you fiddle with the modular synthesizers, chord wave station and vocal effects box, or even try out a hundred-year-old tuba... but you'll need a defter hand than this editor's to coax sweet harmony from the theramin.

And speaking of weird instruments...

Are you a musician who would like to help introduce Minicon's younger members to the joys of making music? If so, please bring instruments to share at the **Instrument Petting Zoo!** This hands-on panel in the Orchard Room gives kids (from 4-5 Friday) and teens (from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Saturday) the chance to test out playing various instruments, from the commonplace to the bizarre. The Instrument Petting Zoo won't work without a wide assortment of instruments to choose from, so bring anything fun you can think of and be sure to tell your friends!

-Beth Kinderman

And on yet another musical note:

Terrace 1 will open for an **Early Music Circle** at 8:30 Friday and Saturday nights. This will include a bit of overlap with concerts. Eventually, musicians may choose to integrate with the main Music Circle in the **Orchard Room**.

What about the Medallion Hunt?

Oh, don't worry, it's coming, though it may be a bit smaller this year. Clues will be in Issue 2.

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@minicon53.mnstf.org.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

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