

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 49

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

3½ Days Sailing the Seven Skies

— or —

I'll trade you half a Thursday for a Minicon today!

Welcome to Minicon 49: Pirates and Airships!¹ The great zeppelin is on the runway (do zeppelins have runways? Well, ours do) to next year's silver convention, which the scriptures promise will comprise a full four days of fannish merriment. This year, we get three and a half! The extra half day is split between late Thursday and early Friday—your humble editor proposes "Thiday" for this awkward extension.

So what's open Thursday?

To begin with, **Registration!** The desk will be open from 7 – 10 p.m. Unlike previous years, you can register at the door on Thursday. After-hours registration will be in the Bar or Consuite as normal.

When will the **Consuite** open? According to Consuite head Hershey L., it'll open when the **Art Show** is set up! That, after all, is the biggest set-up task requiring volunteers, followed by the **Bar** and the Consuite itself. Artists may hang their art from 5–10pm. Set-up begins at 3, so if you're available Thursday afternoon, pitch in! You'll be helping Minicon to begin faster. Every minute you volunteer thus creates more Minicon.

That said, 8p.m. is a "reasonable guesstimate" for when Consuite and Bar will open. The Bar will be hosting a **Guest of Honor reception** at 8 or whenever set-up is complete. In case you've forgotten, our guests of honor this year are author **Catherynne M. Valente**, artist **Don Maitz**, and author/illustrator **Janny Wurts**.

The **Rumpus Room** has three Thursday items, all of which are curiously creature-based:

- ★ **Stuffed Animal Zoo** (3:00 – 4:00)
- ★ **Rampage**, a dexterity board game (4:30 – 5:30)
- ★ **King of Tokyo**, a dice and card game (6:00 – 7:00)

Then there's **Cinema Obscura**, which opens its doors at 8! Our film room will be showing two films on Thursday—see the program book for descriptions.

- > **Vessel** (8:00 – 9:30)
- > **Pioneer One - part 1 of 2** (9:30 – 11:00).

No concerts are scheduled for Thursday night, but there will be **open music** in the Bloomington room. Likewise, no official gaming events are scheduled for Thursday night, but **games** and **jigsaw puzzles** will be available in the Garden Court.

Location changes

- 🎵 The **Film Room** is now in Grand Ballroom East B—at the end of the programming corridor and to the right.
- 🎲 **Gaming** is returning to the Garden Court.
- 🎵 The **Teen Lounge** is now in a south side first floor cabana.

A promising start

According to pre-registration head Clay H., our prereg total is 417—up 34 from last year and the highest since Minicon 40.

On Harassment:

Harassment complaint or report? Call the Code of Conduct Committee: (763) 515-7833.

Signage rules

"The hotel is providing 4 large papered areas which are approved for signage to advertise parties or other events. These will be located near the Bloomington room, in the Grand Ballroom corridor, escalator foyer and first floor near the escalators/poolside. Any tape may be used on the papered areas.

"Only one 8.5"x11" sign may be hung on the wall vinyl per cabana room outside of the guestroom door to identify the party room. Please use 3M/Scotch safe release painter's tape for this. Minicon has a supply—you can get some at the reg desk, the consuite or from Parties head Matt Weiser. No signs may be hung on the guestroom doors. No signage in the elevators or on the escalators, per the city of Bloomington."

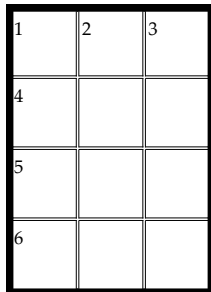
—Con co-chair Matt S.

Programming notes

- ▶ **SF Squeecast** will be at 7p.m. Saturday, not at 8.
- ▶ Wondering about Friday night's 9:30 **Live Model Drawing** event? The Art Show doors will be re-opened especially for it at 9p.m.

¹ Starring Barkhad Abdi and Logan Lerman.

Celebrate the paper in your hands with a... Compact Crossword



ACROSS

1. Touchdowns in reverse
4. DO NOT WANT
5. Search for paradise?
6. Deity and card game!

DOWN

1. Lets you play 5 Across
2. I'm sorry I couldn't do that 13 years ago.
3. Instructions for a Hitchhiker's Guide party?

Hugos past and present

The announcement of this year's Hugo nominees will again be streamed live via Ustream from Eastercon in Glasgow! It happens in the Edina room at 3:30 Saturday.

In addition to the 2014 Hugo nominees, **Loncon 3** will be presenting Retrospective Hugo Awards for eligible works from the year 1939, in honor of its 75th anniversary. This will be the fourth set of Retro Hugos awarded.

Avast—'Tis the Medallion Hunt!

The Minicon Medallion Hunt, now in its ninth year, is a search for hidden booty stashed all over the hotel! Fourteen shiny pennies dating back to the ripe old year of nineteen hundred and seventy-three are up for grabs, some for completing challenges and some for deciphering clues and seeking them out. This newsletter ye hold in your hands be your very own treasure map!

Clues to the whereabouts of these 'medallions' will be included in each issue of the BBT. No pennies are hidden in restrooms, shops, or anywhere in the Grand Ballroom Center. Please be respectful and quiet when searching outside of convention space.

Find a penny? Redeem it with the Cluemeister! The numbered pennies are good for their face value in Dealer Dollars (good in the Art Show and Dealer's Room), while the lettered ones each win you a miscellaneous prize. If you can't track down the Cluemeister anywhere else, you'll find him in his office during the listed Hours of Redemption. He'll ask for your story of discovery, which will be told in future BBTs or at Closing Ceremonies.

As an additional hunting aid, there will be a sign outside the BBT Office tracking the status of the various medallions. It will also be used for general BBT updates.

The Black Box Challenge

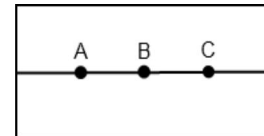
(For those kids who enjoyed playing with invisible marbles)

The Cluemeister has a new challenge in the BBT office this year—the 1978 Parker Brothers deduction game Black Box! The mystery is where the invisible balls are located; the Cluemeister will explain the rules. During each Hour of Redemption, you may probe one line to gain information and make one guess as to the location of the secretive spheres. Solve the puzzle and win a prize! Three such

puzzles, represented by pennies B1, B2 and B3, will be available over the course of the convention.

CLUES: ROUND 1

2. Chairy is scared and wants a hug.
3. What's yellow on top, wood in the middle, and silver on the bottom?
4. A thick piratey walk with rigging in this year's theme!
5. Not available yet!



6. Construct circles with radius AB.

7. Not available yet!
8. Sometimes 'X' doesn't mark the spot.

e	i	e	i	o	u	a	y	e	o
a	n	c	m	s	l	k	p	w	u
u	r	w	z	j	v	b	q	n	i
t	p	f	d	g	c	m	s	h	a

10. Canada.Burundi.Niger.Chad.Rwanda.Eritrea.Latvia. Lesotho.Vietnam

15. It's a jumble board!

20. 0.04 roentgens * (# of stairs in the main south tower staircase – # of beads that should be hanging from one of the broken light fixtures next to the second floor elevators) / half a dozen moles of whatever * 11 [theme]d grams = ?? ???

B1. Brave the baffling Black Box to bag this bauble!

EE. Stop by and try the Easter Challenge!

MAU. Self-explanatory.

TTB. Affectionately known as the Putty Challenge! Ask the Cluemeister how to attempt it.

Hours of Redemption:

Your first three chances to redeem medallions and attempt challenges will be:

- ◆ 10p.m. – 11p.m. Thu.
- ◆ 11a.m. – Noon Fri.
- ◆ 3 – 4p.m. Fri.

Got material for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box at the Coat Check near the Normandale Room at the end of the Grand Ballroom Foyer. Pens and paper are provided.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 49, Issue 1

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

© 2014 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not necessarily anyone else's.



Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 49

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Don Maitz slideshow replete with tidbits

Renowned pirate artist Don Maitz opened Minicon's programming with a fascinating slideshow full of stories about his work and interesting pirate facts. If there was a theme to his presentation, it's that each picture tells a story.

- ◆ Often only Don knows the full story behind an illustration, such as the one in which the pirates who've just taken a ship are calmly chatting with the crew while their captain is held at swordpoint. The secret? They're interviewing the crew about their captain's character in order to determine his fate.
- ◆ Don's original design for Captain Morgan was based as much as possible on the historical Henry Morgan, including the costume. He was later directed to use a more eye-catching costume from a later period, with bright red dyes, but felt guilty about it the whole time.
- ◆ Puns feature in many of Don's titles, sometimes with triple meanings. He finds it hard to resist them with female pirates, as in "Pirates Abroad" and "Hands Off My Chest".
- ◆ One of Don's paintings, depicting a marooned, half-naked pirate clutching a musket, was a modification of a drawing from life of 'a buck-naked guy'. Don said that using this drawing as his source allowed for a more detailed musculature than he would have been able to create from scratch.
- ◆ The painting "Bird's Eye View" was originally created for a rum product featuring coconut. Don was asked to draw coconuts dangling from the *ends* of the branches of a palm tree. He refused to pervert nature in this way, but compromised by drawing a bouncing coconut which he later removed from the work for display purposes.

It's the Bob Tucker Memorial 'Smooth'

Come one, come all to the Saloon at **9p.m. Saturday**, and share in a fine 12-year-old Irish single malt.

Hallmarks of a Half Day

Minicon 50 will feature a full Thursday of conning, but what did we get this year?

- ◆ People, but not as many as Mincon usually consists of. At the close of registration Thursday night, the count was...
Warm bodies: 184
Total registration: 434
So it's safe to say things will be getting busier!
- ◆ People playing games in the hospitality area and Garden Court.
- ◆ Surprisingly early signage, including the giant program charts and papered up areas for posting.
- ◆ Music wafting through the Grand Ballroom Foyer. At one point your editor walked past the open music room and saw four guitarists going at it.
- ◆ The consuite and bar met their soft goal of opening by 8, earlier than in many a year. The faux taco fixings were a great success. The consuite then proceeded to open at noon Friday—not at 4, as the pocket program would have it, nor in the morning, as some were hoping.

Programming corrections

- 🌀 The **Hugo nominees** will be announced at **2:30 Saturday** in the Edina room, not 3:30 as previously printed.
- 🌀 **Why Fairy Tales Are for Adults Again** is scheduled for **10a.m. Sat**, not 10p.m. as stated in the program book.
- 🌀 **Catherynne Valente** will be reading and signing at **10a.m. Saturday** in Veranda 5/6.

Gaming trivia with Matt McMillan:

"Who invented Magic the Gathering, and what other games has he created?
Hint: Some are in my Game Library."
(Answer on reverse side.)

Do you believe in Magic?

Gaming head Matt M. reports that Level Up Games has donated pack prizes for Minicon's Magic the Gathering events. (One presumes booster packs, not pack animals.) He and his staff will be available and willing to teach new players all weekend.

Trivia answer: Magic the Gathering was invented by mathematics professor Richard Garfield. Among other games, Prof. Garfield designed Robo-Rally, The Great Dalmuti, and the CCGs Vampire: The Eternal Struggle, Netrunner, and BattleTech.

A neo's eye view of Minicon 48

The following idiosyncratic screed appeared in your editor's box last year, but he was unable to print it for lack of space. Enjoy this account of Minicon from an enthusiastic first-time attendee!

Little did I know what I was getting myself into when I agreed to help a friend with her business here at Mini-Con 48. From the first friendly face greeting me at registration to the colorful people I have met in the dealer room, all have been willing to share their amazing stories. I am new to Con (NOOB) and have quite a lot to learn (young Padawan). My observation so far has led me to believe that all who participate should come with an open mind. That alone will lead anyone on a path to discover the many hidden nooks (not electronic books) and krannies (not grannies or trannies) that may be just beyond the reach of eyes with blinders on (Muggle). The magic that comes, not only from the cards in the game room, extends well beyond that of the people who share in their love of this gathering. The numerous invites I have received to partake in after hours festivities are flattering. They also prove the fun loving dedication to community. The (possible illusion of) organization has been nothing short of user friendly. I want to thank all those who are, and continue to be amazing teachers to those of us who come wanting to belong and learn all the things that have made Mini-Con what it is.

—The New Girl

Medallion Hunt Results

10. This penny's clue was a string of countries, connected by dots: "Canada.Burundi.Niger.Chad.Rwanda.Eritrea.Latvia.Lesotho.Vietnam". The idea is to see periods between words and, like a good child of the Information Age, think immediately of top level country domains. Each country has a two letter domain, and stringing them together yields: 'ca.bi.ne.td.rw.er.lv.ls.vn'. Do you look at this and see 'Cabinet drawer, level seven'? **Joe P.** did! Because the Cluemeister sent copies of Issue 1 ahead of himself, this led to a Medallion Hunt first: a hunter finding a medallion before it was hidden! Joe accomplished this by leaving a pair of notes, one in each pull-out drawer in the

seventh floor foyer cabinet: "I'll be back for the penny later. -Joe." He later pointed out that for someone to find such a note would not be the world's least amusing thing.

TTB. Joe also managed to secure this one by rolling a tub of blue putty into a ball and bouncing it! Go figure.

CLUES:ROUND 2

2. Because of his emotional state, Chairy is not his usual color.

3. The Cluemeister has used this hiding place before... but they moved it!

4. By this year's theme, of course, I mean the Medallion Hunt's secret theme, not the convention's.

6. That's six semi-circles—half brown and half gray.

8. Attached to the underside of black webbing.

15.

12	3	11
10	4	5
7	8	2
6	9	1

20. It's verbal/dimensional analysis including Dalton by another name! Also see Medallion 4.

B1. Clustered in a five by five square.

MAU. Ironically, copper and zinc are not ferromagnetic.

TTB. Time to Bounce! Come to the BBT Office and try it!

Hours of Redemption:

Your next three opportunities to redeem medallions and attempt challenges will be: **9:30p.m. – 10:30p.m.**

Fri. • 1a.m. - 2a.m. Sat • 10a.m. – 11a.m. Sat.

Krahn 2a.m. Pulse Check

For Minicon 49's half day, we present half the pulse checkers at half as many hours after midnight.

2 overlooking the pool + 8 gaming on the bar patio + 10 in the consuite bar + 3 in adjoining room + At least 4 roaming around + Unknown number in consuite + Your humble roving reporter = At least 28 people awake and gaming, drinking, and/or conversing in public Minicon space at 2 a.m. Friday.

Got material for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box on the Coat Check near the Normandale Room at the end of the Grand Ballroom Foyer. Pens and paper are provided.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 49, Issue 2

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Consultant – Sharon E. Kahn

© 2014 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not necessarily anyone else's.



Issue 3

Saturday afternoon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 49

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

A rollicking arrival

Janny Wurts didn't just march into Opening Ceremony Friday evening—she bagpiped her way through two cities, out of Bloomington and into Edina. To raucous applause, Janny played three songs—"Scotland the Brave", "Amazing Grace" and one written to honor Princess Diana.

When called on to speak, Janny later explained that she had met all the most important people in her life at science fiction conventions. "Without you people, I wouldn't have a life," she told the audience.

Her piping concert is scheduled for 9 tonight.

Meanwhile, **Toni Brust** made her energetic debut as Subhead of Opening Ceremonies, (which, she vociferously insisted, is *always* plural), and **Catherynne Valente** related what may have been her earliest childhood foray into humor: "Want to hear a dirty joke? A white horse fell in the mud."

Programming review: "The Writer as Actor"

Catherynne Valente consistently demonstrated great insight in this Friday night item, which felt half like a discussion and half like an interview with actor **Heath Miller**. It was essentially an extended analogy between the lives of writers and actors.

On the one hand, Catherynne pointed out, writer's training can help actors flesh out roles because writers are accustomed to developing backgrounds for their characters. On the other hand, acting experience can help writers make their characters behave convincingly.

"Write what you know' is a great rule, said Catherynne, "but you need to know a lot to be a writer, and you need to have kind of the whole of human experience in your toolbox." She suggested that some speculative fiction writers could go even further—for example, by crawling on their stomachs to understand moving like a snake.

Heath led a pair of volunteers in an exercise in blocking, asking them to assume various poses and distances from each other and asking the audience to describe their apparent relationship. The lesson? If physical blocking makes such a difference, think how much information about a relationship a writer can

impart without dialogue.

In improvisation, 'Yes, and...' is an important phrase, and Catherynne holds that it's relevant to writers too, who must accept and build upon the stories that they themselves have crafted. "You are, in fact, doing improv with yourself," she said.

Suds and subplots

Steven Brust will be reviving an old Minicon tradition and will do an author reading at 10p.m. Saturday in the hot tub.

-Emily Stewart

Britcon Bargain

A Minicon exclusive! The chair of Brit Con (May 23 – 25 in St. Louis Park) writes:

"\$10 off all snail mail registrations until April 30. Simply print out the registration form, write "Minicon sent me" at the top, complete the form and mail it with a check for \$35 (instead of \$45). Offer is not valid for Paypal registrations.

"Also, we are taking pre-paid orders for our *FAB* shirt by Fastner & Larson. They will be available in limited quantities at Brit Con because the 9 screen process (Yes, 9 screens!) is very expensive. So, even if you can't make it to Brit Con, but you want the shirt, you can order it.

"Visit <http://www.britconmn.org/> for details."

-Greg Larsen

Wrist modeling, anyone?

Lady Dragon's Treasures, in the Dealers Room, is offering a 10% discount for anyone willing to serve as a wrist model for pictures in her Etsy site.

Amendations

- ♦ The astronomy event **M49 at M49** has been canceled due to poor weather conditions.
- ♦ **Beth Kinderman & the Player Characters** will be performing at 4, while **Wax Chaotic** goes on at 5—rather than the reverse, as printed in the book.

Arrow of Truth

You may not have noticed the giant soma cube in the Garden Court this year, because there isn't one. In its place is a large tape grid of squares filled with arrows! One square on the edge is the starting space; another in the middle is the goal! Could soma-master **Mark Richards** be behind this??

A nearby sheet of paper attached to a balloon gives the instructions. It claims there to be only one solution consisting of 9 steps. However, your editor was able to discover two separate solutions in only 7 moves! A passerby also claimed to have solved it in 7, and yet some anonymous solver has scrawled "We solved it in 6!" on the sailing sign. Did they neglect to count the final move as a 'stop'? Or is there a secret solution yet unseen by the sundry solvers?

Pennies plummeting like faulty airships!

3. *What's yellow on top, wood in the middle, and silver on the bottom?* The Cluemeister isn't quite sure, but it's at the far end of the north tower's atrium, and it used to be in the Link@Sheraton internet center. Swooshy and varnished, it might best be described as an artisanal wall. This medallion was found by one **Jack M.**, who recognized the object from the riddle as he entered the hotel.

4. Birthday boy **Richard T.** was also looking for this mysterious object with wood in the middle! What he found, though, was the bench on the second floor span between the towers, which was actually the home of Medallion 4! The huge wooden plank serving as a bench might bring to mind 'walking the plank', and the 'rigging' for said plank is simply two squares—which are, of course, are this year's Medallion Hunt's secret theme!

6. Then there was **Rob I.**, who also went for the artisan wall, thinking it was the solution to Medallion 6! The penny there was gone by the time he arrived, but on his way back, he happened to notice the rug at the northwest exit with three bisected circles, half brown and half gray! Medallion 6 was under one corner.

MAU. Many visitors to the Bozo Bus Office decided to try the Putty Challenge, in which the Time Traveler Blue putty was rolled and bounced. Everyone who managed this got a burr puzzle as a mini-prize since Medallion TTB was already claimed. But kids will be curious creatures, and they naturally asked about the gold tin of ferrous putty (Magnetic Aurium) beside it. One boy rolled and bounced this ball without realizing that the MAU penny was hidden inside it! MAU eventually went to an observant girl who left amid a crowd of puzzlers before the Cluemeister could get her name. He does recall a badge reading "**Dragon Lady**," however, and the girl who dragged her in thinks her name may have begun with M.

B1: This Black Box mystery was unraveled step by step by avid solvers, each adding to the pool of information and making one guess per hour. **John S.** was first to find the

correct solution, but he had to wait an hour before he could guess it. While he was away, the team of **Lisa F.** and **Chase M.** arrived and gave the puzzle lots of thought despite Lisa's self-admitted blurry state. John eventually showed up, but with under three minutes left, Lisa and Chase managed to solve the puzzle and claim Medallion B1.

EE. It was the Easter challenge! Twelve plastic eggs sat in a carton. To play, visitors would simply pick an egg, hoping to find the EE medallion. They were allowed to handle the eggs first; most solvers shook them, and some held them to the light. Some of the eggs held pennies with labels like NOPE or WRONG. Other had other coins, or stranger things like push pins, tissues, or a stretchy rubber frog. On the fifth-to-last egg, **Lisa F.** found a penny reading NAY wrapped in a tissue. This motivated **Chase M.** to try the last soundless egg, whereupon she found a tissue containing the EE penny!

But all the solvers would have gotten it right with a bit of lateral thinking. The solution to the Easter Challenge was the physically **EASTERnmost** egg. (That's right: so dumb, it's awesome.)

CLUES: ROUND 3

2. On the baseboard of a huge, huggy yellow chair.

5. Under an eyepatch no one is wearing.

7. In a red egg with the same symbol as the eyepatch. Who knows where Joel put it?

8. The vowels are also red, as is the penny's hiding place whether it's a vowel or not.

15. Arrange the letters in the solution to the crossword in Issue 1 according to the chart in Issue 2. Also heed the shape.

20. In the process of simplifying the Big Kahuna, you will pass by its hiding place.

B2. This puzzle stumped the Cluemeister so badly that he wanted to see how quickly others would solve it.

Hours of Redemption:

Four office hours this time: **2 – 3p.m. Sat. • 5 – 6p.m. Sat. • 10 – 11p.m. Sat. • 11a.m. – Noon Sun.**

Got material for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box on the Coat Check near the Normandale Room at the end of the Grand Ballroom Foyer. Pens and paper are provided.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 49, Issue 3

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Consultant – Sharon E. Kahn

© 2014 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not necessarily anyone else's.



Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 49

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Hugo nominee highlights

Best Novel (1595 ballots)

- ♦ *Ancillary Justice* by Ann Leckie (Orbit US / Orbit UK)
- ♦ *Neptune's Brood* by Charles Stross (Ace / Orbit UK)
- ♦ *Parasite* by Mira Grant (Orbit US / Orbit UK)
- ♦ *Warbound, Book III of the Grimnoir Chronicles* by Larry Correia (Baen Books)
- ♦ *The Wheel of Time* by Robert Jordan and Brandon Sanderson (Tor Books)

Best Novella (847 ballots)

- ♦ *The Butcher of Khardov* by Dan Wells (Privateer Press)
- ♦ "The Chaplain's Legacy" by Brad Torgersen (*Analog*, Jul-Aug 2013)
- ♦ "Equoid" by Charles Stross (*Tor.com*, 09-2013)
- ♦ *Six-Gun Snow White* by Catherynne M. Valente (Subterranean Press)
- ♦ "Wakulla Springs" by Andy Duncan and Ellen Klages (*Tor.com*, 10-2013)

Best Short Story (865 ballots)

- ♦ "If You Were a Dinosaur, My Love" by Rachel Swirsky (*Apex Magazine*, Mar-2013)
- ♦ "The Ink Readers of Doi Saket" by Thomas Olde Heuvelt (*Tor.com*, 04-2013)
- ♦ "Selkie Stories Are for Losers" by Sofia Samatar (*Strange Horizons*, Jan-2013)
- ♦ "The Water That Falls on You from Nowhere" by John Chu (*Tor.com*, 02-2013)

—The nomination of the entire *Wheel of Time* series surprised some who would have expected its final installment, *A Memory of Light*, to receive that honor instead. A Hugo nomination rule states that "a work appearing in a number of parts shall be eligible for the year of the final part", but has never been exercised on this scale before.

—Theodore Beale, who writes under the pen name Vox Day and has been accused of numerous acts of bigotry, received a nomination for his novelette "Opera Vita Aeterna". The nomination has been met with accusations of 'ballot-stuffing' and 'trolling'.

Stationgazing!

About 20 fen braved a cold wind at 10p.m. Friday in hopes of seeing the **International Space Station**. As we peered up into the sky, a few fen joked that the crew might be testing its cloaking device. Suddenly, someone yelled, "There it is!" Everyone shouted and cheered as the bright light moved steadily from the northwest until it was almost directly overhead, then disappeared. How many cons start with an ISS flyover on the first night?

-Jeanne Mealy

Have a memorable con?

RUNE, the Mnstf clubzine, will be publishing an issue this spring and would like your Minicon report. Send it, or a note saying you intend to write one, to rune@mnstf.org.

Notifications

- The **Ladies' Sewing Circle** will meet Sunday at 2p.m. in Room 206.
- A list of the shows recommended at the "Anime for Speculative Fiction Fans" panel will be available at <http://www.skjam.com> (SKJAM! Reviews) in the coming week.

Good show, Consuite!

A deluxe baked potato bar after Opening Ceremony, roast beef around 10, a wide assortment of breakfast foods Saturday morning, matzo ball soup during the day, and hot dogs in the evening? All capped off with a bravura turkey carving by last year's fan guest of honor, clad head to foot in stunning orange? This year's consuite lived up to the fabled consuites of old!

Midnight trivia in the Inn of Four Ravens

Your editor had the serendipity for the first time this year to take part in the Bar's midnight trivia contest. His team tied for second with 18 out of 25 correct. **Team Kobayashi Maru** took the first prize of five Dealer Dollars with 20 correct answers.

Nerf battle results

Hello folk!

Matt McMillan from Gaming and Delia Ihinger from Minicon The Next Generation have teamed up to provide an exciting event this year – Nerf War.

Event is in three rounds: Free-for-All, Team Elimination, and Team King of the Hill.

We had a lot of exciting play with a great group of our youth. We are hoping to have a more refined version for next year. Scores below are for participants who finished the whole event:

Final Results	
Name	Score
Tristan Legler	20
Nick Christ	14
Theodore Alexander	13
Ian Alexander	11
Isaac Schneider	11
Leo Muller	8
Domenic Brack	4
Dominic Schneider	4
Michael Hagerman	3
Rand Phillips	0

-Matt McMillan

Krahn/Gahlon 4a.m. Pulse Checks

Late Friday

Consuite: 5 • Bar: 10 • Gaming: 9

Native Silver release party: 12 • **Total: 36**

Late Saturday

Music: 14 • Gaming: 3 • *Native Silver*: 6 • Seamstress

Guild: 10 • Bar: 12 • Consuite: 3 • **Total: 48**

Registration tally

Close of registration Friday

Warm bodies: 438 • Total: 503

Close of registration Saturday

Warm bodies: 517! • Total: 544!

My Ghod, how the booty rolls in!

2. The problem with the easiest pennies is that they tend to be more visibly hidden, which means they're at risk for being taken by mundanes. This is probably the fate that met Medallion 2, which was stuck to the baseboard of a big yellow chair in the Concierge Lounge, and went missing.

5. This one was on the inside of the one of the eyepatches in the Seamstress Guild party. It was found by **Jack M.**, who remembered seeing the eyepatches on the table with the candles Friday night.

7. Up after 3a.m. in the Gaming area, the son of an otherwise anonymous member of **Amalgamated Spleen** was searching for candy. He discovered a tube of plastic eggs, opened one,

and, disappointed with the banana Laffy Taffy within, passed the egg along to his mother, who discovered it was the very receptacle that con chair **Joel P.** had chosen for Medallion 7!

8. This penny's initial clue was a grid full of letters. The vowels running along the outside defined a shape that **Chase M.**, with her eidetic memory, remembered as the new bank of red seats on one side of the pool area. The square marked with the 'y', which is only sometimes a vowel, marked the seat under which this penny was hidden. It took Chase and **Lisa F.** multiple searches to finally find it, but Chase got it in the end.

20. The Big Kahuna, found! Its first clue was a mathematical formula with several pieces. The number of steps in the south tower staircase, top to bottom, is 381. The light fixtures by the elevators would have 81 beads if they were undamaged, not counting the fobs on the ends. And the theme of the hunt, as previously noted, is squares, so we're talking square grams, whatever those are. $0.04 \text{ roentgens times } (381-81) \text{ divided by } 6 \text{ moles times } 11 \text{ square grams yields } 22 \text{ Rg}^2/\text{mole}$. But the second clue refers to the dalton, or unified atomic mass unit, equal to grams/moles and expressed simply as 'u'. Replacing g/mole with u yields the result '22 Rug'. Now, **Rob I.** had his qualms with the math involved, but he realized from the third clue that the Big Kahuna was likely to be in the stairwell—where else would he have been forced to search? He therefore started from the top and when he got to the 22nd floor landing and saw an old ratty rug, figured it was his weekend for flipping rugs—recall Medallion 6—and there it was!

B2. This Black Box challenge went faster than the first. With nine pieces of information and two balls certain, **Joe P.** figured out that a rotationally symmetrical layout of balls would be consistent and aesthetically appealing. He was right! This layout was actually taken from the Black Box rulebook, and stymied the Cluemeister utterly in solo play.

B3. The third and final Black Box layout involved a marble on each edge and one in the middle. A fortunate guess soon exposed the shy middle-dweller, however, and **John S.** eventually fought off **Rob I.** for the prize.

FINAL CLUE: ROUND 4

15. "Tote" is sufficiently alliterative. Who is 2 Down talking to? 5 Across is also a GAMES Magazine Game of the Year.

The Cluemeister will be near his office until 2p.m. Sun.

Got material for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box on the Coat Check near the Normandale Room at the end of the Grand Ballroom Foyer. Pens and paper are provided.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 49, Issue 4

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Consultant – Sharon E. Kahn

© 2014 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not necessarily anyone else's.

