

Minicon 37
P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Progress Report 1

Registration deadline has been
moved to New Years Eve!

MINICON 37

March 29-31, 2002 at the Hilton Minneapolis in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Yes Virginia, there will be a Minicon

Minicon is a gathering of science fiction and fantasy fans sponsored by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society (Minn-Stf). The convention is held each year in (or near) Minneapolis, over Easter weekend.

Of course, that description doesn't quite do the convention justice. What is Minicon? A gathering of friends (some of whom you haven't met yet) and so much more. Last year Minicon encompassed a rocket garden, a cocktail party, bozo noses, our own version of *Junkyard Wars* (but on a smaller scale), interesting discussions about books and science and stuff, a trivia contest, Mardi Gras masks, some amazing music parties, a concert, an art show, a huckster's room, tasty (and, um, interesting) food and drink, hall costumes, room parties, and that's just the beginning.

What can you expect this year? Fun: we'll provide what we can, and we expect you to bring your own. These magical and funny and cool things that happen at Minicon happen because people bring the fun. Many of the things mentioned in the previous paragraph were planned by last year's convention committee, but they wouldn't have been as cool as they were without volunteers and without the enthusiasm of folks like you. And, of course, plenty of things are never dreamed of by the committee itself; they're things that congoers bring on their own — be it a box of clown noses or a clever series of signs or the ingredients for a really wonderful room party.

Writer Guests of Honor:

**Emma Bull
& Will Shetterly**

Fan Guest of Honor:

Arthur Hlavaty

Artist Guest of Honor:

Rick Berry

RATES:

	ADULT	CHILD	SUPPORTING
Until New Years Eve (12/31/01):	\$30	\$15	\$15
Until Valentines Day (2/14/02):	\$45	\$15	\$15
At the Door:	\$70	\$30	

For further information:

Minicon 37
P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Online:

<http://www.mnstf.org/minicon37/>
Email: request@minicon.mnstf.org

Minicon is sponsored by the **Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc.** (a.k.a. Minn-stf). For more information about Minn-stf, call the Minn-stf Hotline (612-824-5559) or visit <http://www.mnstf.org/>.

Thanks to everyone who was at Minicon 36 for helping to make it such an amazing convention. You all rock! We hope to see you again at Minicon 37. And **thanks** to everyone who visited the Minn-stf/Minicon Parties at Marscon, Wiscon, CONvergence, Diversicon, and Worldcon! We had fun and hope that you did, too.

Registration

We understand the temptation to put off registering until the next deadline or until the last possible minute, but you really make it much easier for us to put together a great convention if you register now, as opposed to later. (Big Thank yous to all of you who have already registered!) If you register early, you get a better deal financially, which is always cool. You also give us a better idea of how many people to expect so we can plan how much food we'll need to make and how many bags of pretzels to order. If you aren't sure whether or not you've registered already, the mailing label on this PR should answer that question:

If you are registered, there will be letters on the mailing label in the top right corner. What do those letters mean? ATND = Attending Membership, SUPP = Supporting Membership, CHLD = Child Membership. If more than one membership is associated with your name and address, the main notation will be followed with a plus sign, a number, and the letter "A" or "S" to indicate whether the additional memberships are Attending or Supporting. Still have questions? Email registration@minicon.mnsthf.org.

Hotel

Minicon will again be at the Hilton Minneapolis. Room rates are: \$79 for a Standard Room - single / double / triple / quad, double-double or king; \$140 for a Junior Suite; \$285 for a Parlor Suite.

Call the hotel at 612-376-1000 or 800-774-1500 to make a reservation. Be sure to mention you're with Minicon or the Minnesota Science Fiction Society to get the right rate. If you want a quiet room, ask for a room below the 16th floor. If you don't mind noise or want to be close to the parties, ask for a room on a higher floor. Reserve early, reserve often.

We are going to try to locate most, if not all, room parties on one or two floors, probably somewhere near the consuite. There are a limited number of suites available on those party floors, but you don't need a suite to hold a room party! We think having parties closer together will add to the fun.

If you're interested in hosting a room party or finding out more information about suites, contact the hotel department at hotel@minicon.mnsthf.org or send mail to the Minicon postal address (with Attn: Hotel on the envelope).

Volunteering

Want to meet people? Volunteer. Want to help make Minicon rock? Volunteer! Volunteering is the only way Minicon happens at all and help is always needed. You can volunteer well in advance of the convention or at Minicon. Please check off the appropriate boxes on the registration/volunteer form. You can also email volunteers@minicon.mnsthf.org to volunteer.

Programming

Planning for programming at Minicon 37 is already underway. We want your ideas. We also want to know if you want to be on panels, either as a panelist or moderator. We have a list of general ideas that we're going to post on the Web site, where you can share ideas you have about something listed or something that hasn't been thought of yet. The interest in specific ideas will help us determine what we schedule (and it also helps to know people who can talk about a topic). You can also send ideas, queries and comments to programming@minicon.mnsthf.org or send mail to the Minicon postal address (with Attn: Programming).

Huckster's Room

There will be a huckster's room at Minicon; if you've had a table in the past, you should be receiving a letter from Lisa Freitag shortly. If you don't hear anything from us soon or are concerned that you aren't on our list, contact hucksters@minicon.mnsthf.org or send mail to the Minicon postal address (with Attn: Huckster's Room).

Art Show

There'll be an art show at Minicon; we plan to have work by our Artist Guest of Honor Rick Berry on display, as well as art by lots of other artists. Interested in displaying your art at the Minicon 37 art show? You may very well receive a letter from Art Show department head Laura Borchert within the next couple of weeks. If you don't hear from us, or fear you aren't on our artists mailing list, you can contact Laura at artshow@minicon.mnsthf.org or by send mail to the Minicon postal address (with Attn: Art Show).

Minn-Stf

The Minnesota Science Fiction Society meets (usually) on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Meetings are actually casual social gatherings (a.k.a. parties), usually located at the home of a member of the group. They start at 2pm, though most people don't show up until after 4pm because I guess some of us enjoy being fashionably late. There's usually a five-minute business meeting at 5pm that consists of announcements of the location of upcoming meetings and of other events of interest. Some snacks and drinks are provided, and contributions of food and drink are encouraged, but not required. Fans tend to wander off in dinner expeditions in the evening, usually returning to the party afterwards, sometimes moving on together to a movie or some other activity. Most of these gatherings run until at least 10pm, many until midnight, some even later than that. What can you expect? Groups of people talking (of course). It's a good casual place to hang out, meet with friends. Some people stay for an hour, or for several hours; some come for an hour in the afternoon, return later in the evening. Sometimes people will play games, other times there'll be music parties, sometimes all sorts of silliness will abound. If you've had fun at Minicon, you may very well have fun at a Minn-stf gathering.

Who is welcome? You are, of course.

To find out about upcoming Minn-stf meetings and other events of interest, visit <http://www.mnsthf.org> and/or sign-up for the Minn-stf events announcement online mailing list (by sending email to events-subscribe@mnsthf.org). If you lack net access, write to us and ask to be put on the Einblatt mailing list.

Pool Party

You are invited to the Minn-stf Pool Party at the Radisson South Hotel on Saturday, December 29th, 2001 starting at 3pm and running very late (well past midnight, if we're true to form). Look for us in two of the suites at the far end of the pool. If you haven't yet registered for Minicon, we'll have forms and envelopes there so you can register before the December 31st deadline.

Web site: www.mnsthf.org

We'll be updating the Web site with information about upcoming meetings, parties, and other events. We'll also link to interesting (and useful) information about Minicon's past (and future). We have a PDF of the Minicon 37 registration form available online for you to download if you'd prefer not to use the attached form. We'll have an online discussion about programming in some format. Expect more on the Web site than we can fit in this PR.

In Our Next Progress Report

In our second progress report, we'll tell you about our fabulous guests of honor, and give more details about specific program items and other cool events. We'll probably also do all the usual things like remind you of registration deadlines and that you should make your hotel reservation and you should volunteer, but we expect y'all will already have done all those things by then because you're smart like that.

