

MINICON51

MARCH 25TH - 27TH 2016

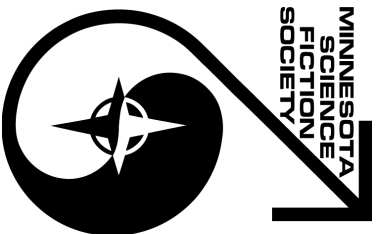


PROGRESS REPORT ONE



MINICON 51
PO Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55049-0297

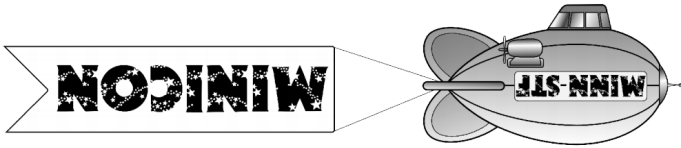
WWW.MNSTF.ORG/MINICON51



WELCOME

Minicon is a volunteer run, general science fiction convention held every year on Easter weekend in or near Minneapolis, Minnesota. Minicon is run by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, or MNStF. Attendees of Minicon can expect to find a full slate of programming (panel discussions, readings, signings, etc), costuming, films, gaming (both open & organized), a teen lounge (The Next Generation), an art show, dealers, kids' programming, a science room, folk and folk music, a consuite and bar, room parties, and various special events.

As we continue the traditions of one of the Midwest's oldest SF cons, we also look forward to establishing new traditions with a new generation of fandom.



MNSTF

Minnesota Science Fiction Society, variously abbreviated MnStF, Minn-STF, MN-STF, and other variants. It's the non-profit group that brings you Minicon. Each year, the MNStF board of directors approves the next Minicon chairperson and looks after the continuing needs of the convention.

Minstf does more than just Minicon. It also runs a small convention each year in the fall, mainly for the purpose of having something like Minicon, but without all that pesky programming and stress. This sort of convention is known in fanish circles as a relaxicon or a fallcon. Ours changes name frequently. We usually also have a couple of special meetings: the picnic and the pool party. The pool party is held in the winter, usually at the Doubletree; the picnic is in July.

Check *Einblatt* for details at www.mnstorf/einblatt.

HOTEL

Getting a room is the best way to experience Minicon! Minicon 51 will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington-Minneapolis South, 7800 Normandale Blvd, Bloomington, MN 55439

Room rates for standard rooms and cabana rooms has remained the same at \$92 for standard and cabana rooms, and suites at \$139. Please book by February 26th to ensure this rate. After that date, you will get whatever the best rate the hotel offers (typically quite a bit higher). To book your room, go to the DoubleTree Minicon group website at www.mnstf.org/minicon51/hotel or call the DoubleTree at 800-222-8733 and use the group name "Minicon" and group code "NIC".

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 Keith Malignen at hotel@minicon51.mnstf.org with your confirmation number and desired room type. As hotel coordinator, Keith will handle all suite requests.

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

☐ Can you help us with a \$10 additional donation? (This goes toward keeping our membership rates low)

Make checks payable to: Minicon 51, Lake Street Station, PO Box 8297, Minneapolis, MN 55408-0297 or register at www.mnstf.org/minicon51

Please contact me, because I want to:

☐ Volunteer ☐ Be on programming/share panel ideas ☐ Throw a room party ☐ Hear more about kids' activities ☐ Do not list me as a member on the web or in print publications

Become a member of Minicon 51! Postmarked by Feb 29, 2016:

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

REGISTRATION

MINICON 51

MARCH 25TH-27TH 2016

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

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

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code _____

Country (if not USA) Phone Number(s) _____

Email Address(es) _____

Birthdate*: month/day/year _____ Sex* _____ When was your 1st Minicon?* _____

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



PROGRAMMING

THE NEXT GENERATION

The Next Generation is a place for teens to play board games, watch movies, and hang out with other teens at Minicon. We have a lot of different board games, movies, and will have a schedule of planned events throughout the weekend.

GAMING

Hello from Gaming! As always we will have a wide assortment of video and Tabletop gaming. We have a selection of new games as well as old favorites. We will, of course, have Magic the Gathering as well.

HOSPITALITY

CONSUIITE

The consuite is a place to hang out between panels, after hours, or when you don't feel like doing anything else. It features a wide assortment of snacks, drinks and comfortable seating. Please volunteer to help in the consuite.

The consuite will be open Friday through Sunday. We plan to be open 24 hours for the entire convention until Sunday at 5pm, at which point it collapses into the bar for the Dead Dog Party. We'll have Food Events on and off throughout the convention (ever want pot roast at 2am? Now you can!) and plan on always having soda, coffee, sandwiches and snack food available. Please volunteer to help in the consuite.

BAR

The bar is the tipsy companion to the consuite - NOT to be confused with the hotel bar, you'll find it on the upper east cabana level and way more fun!

The bar will open at 4:59 pm on Friday & Saturday, and will stay open until we fall down. As always, beer, wine and cider will be on tap in a range of home-brew and commercial varieties. There will also be some wine for the fancy people, and of course we'll be serving Blog in both regular and St. Paul flavors. And back by popular demand, we'll have SF Trivia at midnight on Saturday.

Sunday evening, the bar will be dismantled and re-mantled for the Dead Dog Party. We are looking for a volunteer nightowl or two to host the Dead Dog Party late Sunday night. Please send an email to volunteers@minicon51.mnstf.org if you're interested.

PARTIES

If you or your organization would like to throw a party, now is the time to let us know! This year, our poolside cabana rooms — at the heart of the convention — are the same price as regular sleeping rooms so book yours now! Send an email to parties@minicon51.mnstf.org and let us know your details.

VOLUNTEERING

Minicon is entirely volunteer-run. No one is paid for helping; even the convention chairs and all the department heads pay full price for their memberships. This keeps our membership rates down, but also means that we need your help. Think of Minicon like a big party: some of us are hosting the party, but we're all in it together.

How to help out? Well, if you see something that needs doing—perhaps a bowl of chips is empty, or a programming room doesn't have enough chairs—see if you can get it done. If you're not sure how, ask the department head or nearest person who seems to know what's going on.

If everyone pitches in just a little bit — volunteering with scheduled shifts for the art show, helping out in the consuite or bar, checking badges, helping with registration, and a few other areas. If you would like to volunteer before the con, send an email to chair@minicon51.mnstf.org. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the registration desk if you decide to volunteer while at the convention.

Would you like to get *more* involved? Minicon is organized by the Minicon concom (convention committee) over the course of the year. Well, if you start showing up to meetings, you're a concom member. Meeting announcements can be found in the *Einblatt* newsletter at www.mnstf.org/einblatt.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

The convention committee (or concom) are the people that organize and run the convention. Anybody can help out on the committee as long as you're willing to put in the work to put on a great convention. If you'd like to help, please send an email to chair@minicon51.mnstf.org.

RIDE SHARE

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



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GUESTS OF HONOR

SEANAN MCGUIRE • AUTHOR

Seanan McGuire (pronounced SHAWNen MICKGWEYur) grew up to be every parent's dream: an author and a filker. However, she fulfilled so many author/filker's starry-eyed dreams by becoming wildly successful and nominated for many awards, gaining critical success and many avid fans.

She writes books, short stories, poetry, etc. under her name and an assumed name, Mira Grant. In 2010, she won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer and her novel *Feed* (as Mira Grant) was named one of Publishers Weekly's Best Books of 2010. In 2013, she was the first person *ever* to appear 5 times on the Hugo ballot.

Be nice to her before she masters something YOU want to do, and welcome Seanan (see, that time you didn't even have to try, did you?) to Minicon!

www.seananmcguire.com

SARA BUTCHER-BURRIER • ARTIST

Sara Butcher Burrier grew up in Iowa, and despite everyone's impression that all Iowans are farmers, grew up to be an artist. She attended the Minneapolis College of Art & Design. After Minnesota and Iowa, she headed off to the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland.

Sara is an illustrator of children's books, and author of *The Pixie Fairy Coloring Book* and *Watercolor Fairy Art*. Her own work focuses on the brightness and peace, inspired by birdsongs and plant life, and she is especially passionate about connecting with young people through art. In Des Moines, in addition to being an artist and author (as if that were not enough), she teaches Manga and fantasy styles of painting and illustration. As a side note, despite Convention Chai's many requests, Sara has remained adamant that art focused on Fairies, Angels, Nature, and Peace should not include Zombies.

www.sarabillustration.com

LOJO RUSSO • MUSICIAN

Whether playing festivals or front steps, coffee houses or concert halls Lojo Russo connects with her audience in a way few performers can. Making music along the muddy waters from Minneapolis to Davenport for over 15 years Russo's played in jam bands, Celtic groups, freestyle funk folk and as a solo touring artist.

Russo's style of music has always been a little bit of everything because she's always played a little bit of everything - bass in a psychedelic rock, mandolin in a Celtic group and guitar in every kind of funk, folk, jazz and jam combination you can imagine - usually taking the lead. Russo's not-so-traditional blend of roots, blues and Americana gives her music an old-timey feel with a contemporary perspective.

Her enormous stage energy, powerful voice and percussive playing style belie her small frame. This little woman puts on one heckuva big show.

www.lojorosso.com

PROGRAMMING

ART SHOW

The Minicon 51 art show is a non-juried show open to all artists who'd like to submit artwork in 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, be immediately purchased at a set price.

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, please send an email to chaiir@minicon51.mnstrf.org.

All artists under the age of 18 can hang their art for free at the Minicon art show (no hanging fees). Please limit the number of pieces you submit to 5 per person due to limited hanging space. All other art show rules apply.

If you would like to mail your artwork to the convention beforehand, please go to www.mnstrf.org/minicon51/artshow for the proper forms and Art Show guidelines.

DEALERS' ROOM

The Dealers' Room will once again be a cornucopia of SF related items. If you are interested in being an exhibitor check the website at www.mnstrf.org/minicon51/dealers for our rules and rates, or write and we'll mail a copy out to you.

MUSIC

Minicon will again feature music, both in concerts and open music circles. There will be a full slate of concerts scheduled. Once the concerts are finished, join us for open music until the last of us drop over.

RUMPU ROOM

The Rumpus Room is our place for kids programming, craftiness and other fun stuff. As always, there will be puzzles, games, toys and art materials always available to play with. There will also be structured kids activities and events all weekend.

CINEMA OBSCURA

Cinema Obscura's slate of fascinating films include some unique documentaries that should appeal to SF fans. For example, Minicon is one of only a handful of conventions that has received screening permission for *Andre Norton: The Grand Dame of Science Fiction & Fantasy*. In addition, Minicon will be screening *The Green Girl*, about Star Trek's iconic original Green Girl, Susan Oliver; *Who Are You People?* about the filming of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and *Sky Line*, a documentary about the current plan to actually build a space elevator. In addition, Cinema Obscura will be showing full-length narratives and shorts. Stay Tuned!