

Issue 1

Friday afternoon

# Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 52

*"We're all bozos on this bus!"*

## Hello from the Green Room!

Welcome to Minicon 52! First things first—your uprooted editor greets you from the perpetual hubbub engine that is the **balcony of room 201**, also known as the Green Room, a hospitable place for people on programming to come and discuss their events before (and perhaps after) they occur. Due to a prior conflict, the BBT is not in the Normandale Room for now, whatever the program book and pocket program may perniciously claim, although we may reoccupy that august space late on Friday. The Submission Box is in the hallway outside. Feel free to visit!

## New leadership in the Rumpus Room

Due to an emergency appendectomy, Rumpus Room head **Bonnie Somdahl** will be unable to run children's programming this year. However, we're happy to report that the surgery went well and she is at the con, under doctor's orders to take it easy. Meanwhile, Josh More was able to secure a last-minute replacement, one **Taya Ellingworth**, who will do her noble best to keep the room afloat. Volunteers for the Rumpus Room, especially on Saturday, will be very appreciated!

It is with an extremely heavy heart that we announce the death of **Marian Turner**, long active in MN-Stf and Minicon and for many years the head of children's programming, of a long-standing heart condition. Together with Michael Kauper, she ran the M&M Daycare in Southwest Minneapolis for 18 years. Marian dearly loved Minicon. In accordance with her wishes, her body will be donated to the University of Minnesota's medical facilities. She will be missed.

## Are you on programming?

You may be wondering that! E-mails were sent out a couple of weeks ago to programming participants; however, for an unknown reason, not all of them got through. To confirm which events you volunteered for are actually happening, consult the label on the back of your badge.

## Cosplay patterns on display!

Costuming head **Melissa McConnell** has been in contact with the McCall Pattern Company regarding their new line of cosplay sewing patterns. Come by the costuming table near Registration and she'll be glad to show you a couple she's brought along (and pictures of the rest). Enticed? The costuming table has info sheets with an exclusive Minicon coupon code! And don't forget to sign up for the costume contest, Saturday at 5p.m.

## NextGen levels up

NextGen (teen space) has moved this year to the larger room below the Consuite. NextGen head **Ely McConnell** reports that the room has acquired a PS4 with games, along with several older donated game systems. There will be a Dungeons and Dragons session Friday at 8p.m. and the usual pizza and movie party at 5 on Saturday.

Bolding  
combo!  
Mother/child  
+5 points

## Corrections

- Author **Dean Lappi** has had to cancel and won't be joining us this weekend.
- **Ctein's reading** has been moved from 2 to 4:30p.m. Saturday.
- Fan GoH **Mark Oshiro** will be signing materials outside the Edina room at 2p.m. Saturday.
- The **Mega MoneyDuck Reveal** has been moved from Veranda 3/4 to Grand Ballroom East.
- **Eleanor Arnason's** name was misspelled in the program book and pocket program.

The schedule of concerts is yet to be finalized, but according to Music head **Chas Somdahl**, there are four we can count on:

- **Leprechaun Pirates** perform Friday at 8...
- **Riverfolk** performs Friday at 9...
- **Adam Stemple** performs Saturday at 8...
- and **Teresa Chandler** and the Mumble-somethings go on Saturday at 9.

## Film schedule

## Parlez party?

# Medallion Hunt =D0DEx=

The clues can be anything from straightforward obfuscation, to puns, codes or puzzles that involve math, science, pop culture references, or pretty much anything else the Dungeon Master, I mean Game Keeper, contrives. To redeem any 'medallions' you find, track

down the Cluemeister or visit the BBT office during his scheduled Hours of Redemption.

As in past years, all pennies have been hidden in public places within the hotel. No pennies are hidden in restrooms, shops, or anywhere in the Art/Dealers/Science Room. All pennies will be accessible for at least 2/3 of each day. When found, please leave the blue tape behind so others know they have found the correct place but that medallion has been claimed. Please be respectful and quiet when searching outside of convention space. Take care when searching not to disturb hotel guests or set off any emergency alarms. As an additional hunting aid, there will be a sign outside the BBT Office tracking the status of the various medallions. We're all Bozos on this bus and once you're on, it's too late to get off. Strap in and enjoy the ride!

## CLUES: ROUND 1

1. Many will hear me but none will hear me
2. Look at you, look at me, those who look are all I see
3. The clue here ran away, can you find it
4. The Bozo Bus is this way
5. "Halfway up the stairs is a stair where I sit"
6. Don't be an angry bird
7. Small, round, centrally located
8. I love hanging out
9. I'm sitting somewhere cool
10. I'm carrying a heavy burden
15. Something old, something new, something borrowed
20. We welcome all, we include all
- \*. The Star on a Ring puzzle; get the riveted metal stars off of the ring.
- ^. The '80s Pyramid. You must beat level 4 of this game.
- >. Beat the high score of 34 on Lightspeed (Blue) Rubiks Revolution.
- @. Get all the Buckyballs into a single 5x5x5 cube.
- !. Solve the Rubiks Pyramid.
- \$. Solve any Red level puzzle in the "Oops" game.

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**The Bozo Bus Tribune**  
Volume 52, Issue 1

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge  
Reporter – Sharon E. Kahn  
Cluemeister – J

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Issue 2

Saturday morning

# Bozo Bus Tribune

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## Opening Ceremonies...

...was short and full of laughs both raucous and awkward. **Mark Oshiro** extolled Twin Cities fandom, declaring that Minicon 52 will be his last Fan GoH gig because he's published a book and will presumably be a pro GoH from now on. Master of Ceremonies **Toni Brust** introduced **Jim Hines** warmly: "He's a big part of the reason Minicon has an anti-harassment policy." When Jim gave her a meaningful look and the crowd tittered with laughter, she went on: "I hate accidental punchlines! You know what? I'm gonna let it ride." As for Mr. Hines, he told us that he'd been intending to prepare some remarks for us, "but then the Star Wars trailer dropped." Indeed, what can you do? And Joel Phillips invited everyone who feels like **Bloody Marys and mimosas** to be outside the bar at 10 Saturday morning.

## Reality Goes Boom?

There will be a **virtual reality** demo station in the gaming area run by **Mark Richards** on Saturday. Various programs and games will be available. 2–4p.m. is reserved for sessions of "**Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes**". You are stuck in a room with a fiendish device and your friends have just found the manual. You have to describe the various pieces of the device while they have to describe back to you how to disarm it. Tick... tick... tick...

*-Mark Richards*

## And a special minis event...

Demo scenarios for **Sagamami Island Tactical Simulator (SITS)** will be offered by Brooks Flugaur-Leavitt at 4:30 Saturday in the gaming area. SITS is a 3D miniature space combat game set in David Weber's Honor Harrington universe.

## Parties to dip your toes in

(An incomplete list)

- **MarsCon 2018**, in room 210, offers White Russians and Jupiter shots. Ask for *two* spots of grenadine!
- The **cookie-tasting contest** ostensibly occurring on the patio wall of room 116 was nearly drowned out by the spirits, drums and guitar.
- In the so-called "**Ball Pit**" of Cabana 102, a lively horde of musicians encourage you to bring your instruments. And if you're bold, play **Rocksmith** next door in 103. Like Guitar Hero with actual instruments!
- **General Technics** in 108 will be partying tonight, starting whenever people show up.
- The **Social Media party** (including a wake for LiveJournal) starts at 8p.m. Saturday in 206.

## And in Krushenko's Annex (Cabana 110)...

- Saturday, 8:30 p.m. to late: Bandana Square cons party, sponsored by **Diversicon**, **Arcana** and **Con-Sarnit**.
- Sunday at 7:15: A party for readers and viewers sponsored by **Second Foundation**, an SF book-discussion group.

*-Eric Heidemann*

## In memoriam

Since Minicon 51 we've lost **John Calvin Rezmerski** (1942–2016) and **Michael Levy** (1950–2017), long-time teachers and critics of speculative fiction as well as lifelong fans. Michael Levy is especially remembered for his long-running participation in the "Year in SF" panel at Minicon, John Calvin Rezmerski is particularly remembered for his participation in the Lady Poetesses from Hell performance art group.

*(Details available on the printed schedules at the Film Room or Info Desk)*

## 2:15.....Charles Beaumont: The Life of Twilight Zone's Magic Man

**5:15.....Space: 1999 – “Breakaway” (Pilot) and “Black Sun”**

*8:30 and beyond.....We'll see!*

- x **Jean Martin** has been added to “Parenting and the Non-neurotypical Child.”
- x Matt Lauer's **Bourbon & Board Games** party Saturday night *starts* between 6 and 8p.m. and goes until whenever people leave.
- x The Consuite Second is **Rakhi Rajpal**.

Once-local fan **Rachel Kronick** is now living in Taiwan, but she still wants to talk with us! Emily Stewart will facilitate a video chat with Rachel in Veranda 2 (off the upper Garden Court hallway) at 7p.m. Saturday.

**Tyler Tork** would like to announce a Minicon special price—free—for the Kindle edition of his novel, *Doctor Dead*, a Percy and Quincey adventure. Find it at [goo.gl/3mUZSf](http://goo.gl/3mUZSf). Reviews greatly appreciated!

Bar: 4   Outside bar: 3   Consuite: 3   Jigsaw: 4  
Counter: 1   **TOTAL: 15**

As of 10p.m. Friday at the close of registration, our count was 562, with 477 warm bodies.

**From the Cluemeister:** Sadly, this year no Dealer Dollars were printed. This year we therefore have vintage Minicon T-Shirts as prizes for Medallions 3 and above along with 1 free book donated by

The Cluemeister's first official Hour of Redemption will be noon – 1 Saturday at the BBT Office (still on the balcony of the Green Room in 201.) There will be a sign near the door with additional hours.

9. This medallion was attached to the westmost fire extinguisher (which might cause a place to be “cool”) not recessed in the wall (and thus “hanging out”) in the North Tower. Also found by **Stef**, who was just looking under everything.

## 20. Let's all socialize & play together!

Issue 3

Saturday evening

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## Added concert right now!

Music is adding a new concert: **James Kuehl** will play tonight in Bloomington at 7 p.m.

## You call that a lead story?

That was only two lines long. Weak! Let's see if we can do better. Ooh! Does your copy of this publication feel faster in your hands, as if possessed of a greater than usual sense of urgency? That would be due to the new MN-Stf laser printer debuting this year! It's quite a bit speedier than our old dino-box, but it is a monochrome, which means your editor may have to discontinue his improvident habit of bathing every issue from margin to margin in 100% toner coverage and start buying colored paper instead.

## Vatican review

"Life and Work in an Absolute (Benevolent) Monarchy", featuring Science GoH **Brother Guy Consolmagno**, was packed with both people and content. Here are some paraphrased snippets:

"When you're an elected leader, you will never be easily deposed because the people under you depend on you for their own status. But the people who do the day-to-day work are the only ones who know how to do their own jobs. So a leader can't be easily deposed but can be easily ignored."

"Being successful in power is all about personal connections, but it's also about knowing the unwritten rules, and when to use certain allies for certain tasks, so you have to know how to effectively utilize your support network... You can't believe your own hype but you can never forget you're a celebrity."

In fantasy that Brother Guy reads, he's most interested in religions that give you a reason to put up with their negative aspects.

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"We Suck: The Importance of Failure" was the funnest panel I have ever been to. Thank you to all the guests of honor who made it possible.

—Deedee Lessinger

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## The Very Last Quote From That Panel:

Brother Guy: "Someone asked me whether I ever felt like I didn't fit in in Africa. And I said 'Yes, but at least in Africa, I knew why.'"

## Trailer Park trails (but not off)

"Fastner and Larson's Trailer Park of Science Fiction & Horror" began with a heaping helping of technical difficulties, prompting the film department to send for Science head **Ben Huset** not once but twice to whip the computer into shape. This fortuitously led to an entertaining half hour, however, in which **Steve Fastner** entertained the crowd by discussing, among other things, the duo's work on paintings for underground comic book covers, their involvement in fan apas with cartoonist Ken Fletcher, the movie career of Jim Young, the pleasure of visiting the famed Bozo Bus Building for which this publication is named, and *King Kong vs. Godzilla*. The crowd joined them in loose discussion until the show started.

They began with a slideshow of their B (or C, or C-minus) movie-inspired art, then played a series of trailers for movies from the halcyon age of horror, introducing them or giving context—The Earth Dies Screaming, for example, could be seen as a precursor to Night of The Living Dead (or an amusing running joke), and Brides of Dracula was cool because in it the vampire gets killed by the shadow of a windmill.

## We'll Send the Foxes

i suggested that when the aliens come to Earth

we should send our foxes to meet them  
not as a joke  
so much  
on our visitors  
but because they are closer to being typical creatures  
of Earth than we are.

"So they'll give the aliens a sense of what they can  
expect  
before they have the greater shock  
of meeting us?"  
asked the premier.

"Yes, but," I said with a smile.  
"What I am really looking forward to  
is listening in and hearing  
how the foxes  
try to describe us."  
—Thorin N. Tatge

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## Klingon lights

Your humble bar staff would like to thank the  
crew of the IKV Rakehell for once again  
providing the structural framework to support  
our canopy of shiny shiny lights. 'IwlIj jachjaj!

## Sunday party

Ladies' Sewing Circle: 2–5p.m. Sunday in  
Room 206. —Laura Krentz

## Help Minicon reconstruct the past!

If you've been coming to Minicon for a while,  
consider filling out the attendance survey at  
<http://mnstf.org/minicon52/regsurvey.php>. It  
will help MN-Stf's archivists reconstruct lost  
registration information for older Minicons.

The italicized word you are about to read *now* is no  
longer as self-referential as it was a moment ago.

## Medallion Hunt =DoDeX= TALES FROM THE HUNT

3. This one was hidden on the North side of the  
eastern stairwell near Plaza 5 between the first  
and second floors. It was found Friday night by  
Corwin, Johanna, and Rune. Due to some

confusion, this medallion was thought to be a  
prank decoy but turned out to be a different  
medallion than the one being sought.

\$. Rune Dykstra also navigated the grid of magic  
and solved “Oops” puzzle #48.

**CORRECTION:** Medallions 7 & 9 were found  
by the bar crowd's **Stef** and **Diane**, not just Stef.

10. Stef did find this one, though. She went back  
into the exercise room to get a handwipe after  
checking dirty stairwells, and then thought to  
check behind the big “fluffy mirror,” which led  
her near the free weights. And then “it just  
clicked”: Medallion 10 was under the 5LB free  
weight on the far left side of the rack.

/=/

## CLUES: ROUND 3

4. May have been found, here's a clue just in case:  
Bill Engvall says what?

5. My covering is not very warm. I'm not near any  
bed but, the moon tucked me in the last two nights.

6. Do you want to play a game? Give it a shot and  
you'll find me.

8. I hear echos and splashes

15. I pay by Mastercard. My visa's what's keeping  
me here.

20. Everyone needs a little help sometimes. Look  
for something which will help those who need it  
all the time.

**Q:** What do you call 4 mariachi players in quicksand?  
**A:** Cuatro Cinco.

The Cluemeister's next Hour of Redemption will  
be **10– 11p.m.** in the Minicon Bar. (If you don't  
want to go in, just call “Hey J!” from the door.  
And don't forget about Bar Trivia at Midnight!)

*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 Green Room or write  
to [bbt@minicon52.mnstf.org](mailto:bbt@minicon52.mnstf.org).*

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### The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 52, Issue 3

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## Oshiro's [TBA what] coming [TBA when]!

Fan GoH **Mark Oshiro** is utterly excited about his upcoming novel, which for contractual reasons he can't tell us the name of, or the publisher for, or the release date of, or the format of publication for. But it is YA and concerns protests (and painful overreactions thereto) in a college setting. He can tell us that this book is a first for his publisher, which quite reasonably wants the drama of the announcement for itself. The editorial letter giving him the go-ahead will be arriving any time, and when the book does drop, Mark promises to "tag Minicon's Twitter and say, 'See, *this* is why I couldn't tell you!'" And it will all make sense.

## From "Jim Hines Reads":

Birthday cupcakes were served at **Jim Hines'** reading, attended by about thirty. "Yesterday was my last day of being 42," said a bittersweet Hines. "You only get one shot at that year. On the bright side, cupcakes?" He then treated us to a work in progress about aliens visiting Earth and trying to communicate with seabirds by catapulting feces, among other things. The humans they meet are, at first... less than communicative. And maybe a titch undead.

## Paraphrased excerpts from the Brother Guy interview...

**Q:** Could hypothetical extraterrestrial beings that might cause a Big Crunch (or by implication those that might have caused the Big Bang) be considered gods?

**A:** No. Okay, a flaky definition of God. Gods like those in the Greek or Norse pantheons are part of nature while making things happen in nature,

but Christianity posits a God that is supernatural and thus fundamentally different.

**Q:** Can we really believe in the resurrection of Christ?

**A:** There used to be a theory about certain meteorites that precluded the possibility they came from Mars, but when they were split open, Martian gases were found within, and we needed a new theory. If you believe that Christ wasn't resurrected because you don't believe resurrection is possible, then you're shaping the data to fit your theory.

**Q:** Could science someday shed light on the question of life after death?

**A:** I don't believe that at this point science can add anything to the conversation. If I had a colleague who wanted to investigate that, I would advise them to pick another topic.

**Q** (on matters of faith): Is there a test for that?

**A:** Unfortunately, most of the tests are 'Wait fifty years and see what happens'—at which point it's too late."

*Bonus fact:* His dad wanted to be a zeppelin pilot!

## Personals

Lost a camera or car keys? They are at the hotel desk.

Team Mystic! Who wants to help take down that red gym in the parking lot? Talk to Sharon in the Green Room.

Thanks again to E.S. From SUJAM!

Those of us who are dependent on closed captions are unable to squee: They are unavailable on BBC America in this hotel, and therefore not available for the Doctor Who premiere.

## Help fund an Ethel Romm scholarship!

Thank you for all the kind words for my mother, who can't be here at this Minicon. She misses the con, but just turned 92 and moved to be near my brother and her granddaughter in Washington DC. I have established a scholarship in her name, the Ethel Grodzins Romm Scholarship in Interior Design. It's endowed starting next year, but contributions will ensure a student will get the scholarship for the coming school year. Want to help? You can bid on the iPad in the Dealer's Room (at the first table, next to the pile of books for my father's scholarship in Interdisciplinary Journalism) or contribute directly to the U of M at <https://crowdfund.umn.edu/EGRScholarship>. Contributions are tax deductible. Help a student and make mom happy!

—Dave Romm

## Bar Trivia Contest

Midnight Trivia in the Bar was won for the third year running by the eight-headed **Space Barracudas** with 18 out of 21 points. Tied for second were the Bar Crowd and Kobayashi Mornu with 14 each, and James O. tied with Pam, Douglas, Douglas and Bruce for fourth with 13 points.

## They Like Anime

Asked which currently running shows they enjoy, the “We Like Anime” panelists cited *Tiger Mask W* (pro wrestling is real and U.S. Wrestlers want to destroy Japan), *Shimoneta* (dirty jokes are contraband) and *JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure* (a family’s exploits start weird and get weirder). Not sure where to get your anime? Consider subscribing to Hulu or Crunchyroll, scour thrift stores for used box sets, or use the Inter-Library Loan program.

*A note to Consuite:*

"The Consite staff at Minicon deserve the deepest thanks possible by a convention. I witnessed acts of heroism likened unto the Greek gods in relation to the cleaning and maintenance of the cooking equipment as well as the con's food supply itself. There are not words to describe the extent of their dedication except to say that I've now seen the hot dog roller thoroughly cleaned from start to finish and anyone who eats a hot dog should know that the maintenance of said machine is... eww!" —J

## Survey for Minicon 53

Hey! There is a survey so that the brand-spanking-new Minicon 53 chairs can hear your opinions at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GXH7FQS>.

—Emily Stewart

## Krahn-Gahlon 4a.m. Pulse Check

Bar: 8 Outside bar: 3 Hallway: 3 Consuite: 3+1  
By hotel bar: 2 Gaming: 4 Balcony: 3  
Seamstress' Guild: 8 Counter: 1 **TOTAL: 36**

## Reg Update

As of close of reg Saturday at 8:

593 total memberships, 563 warm bodies.

## Medallion Hunt =D0DEX=

Various puzzle-based medallions remain in the BBT Office (still on the Green Room balcony). The Cluemeister will be available there from 2–3p.m., and then at Closing Ceremonies; otherwise, people can come find him in 106. He would like all the medallions back!

## TALES FROM THE HUNT

**4. Found by John S.** It was on the sign that said “Minicon Upstairs.” If you're new, here's where you go!

**5.** It was found by Stef in the foyer of the 11<sup>th</sup> floor on the side of the window ledge. She knew it was a window from the mention of the moon.

## CLUES: ROUND 4

## 6. The Medallion Hunt J runs isn't the only game in town.

## 8. I'm on my own channel

## 15. Miranda Tate

**20.** What would elevate those who couldn't hold themselves upright to a higher plain of existence?

*This was the last issue this year! See you next time!*

# The Bozo Bus Tribune

**Volume 52, Issue 4**

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Cluemeister/Contributer – J

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