

A Proposal for Minicon 50

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We propose to run a convention called “Minicon 50” over Easter weekend 2015, April 6-8, with Joel as chair and Matt as assistant-chair.

We are taking the unusual step of asking for a Minicon to be approved 2.5 years in advance so that we can (1) begin inviting guests now (see below) (2) sign a 2-year hotel contract (3) generally begin confidently planning for our big anniversary.

As with Minicon 48 and 49, here's what we mean by “chair” and “assistant-chair”. Joel and Matt expect to make most decisions together. However, Joel will have priority in case of disagreement. If a decision looks like it needs to be made quickly, Joel can make it without consulting Matt, but Matt is supposed to consult Joel unless it is a very minor matter. Since Matt lives in Chicago, much of this will happen remotely. Fortunately, Matt and Joel are happy talking on the phone a lot. Matt hopes to be able to attend around half of the concom meetings in person by taking Megabus red-eyes up to Minneapolis.

The Con

We plan for Minicon 50 to be a largely similar convention to the last string of Minicons. We propose to hold it at the Bloomington DoubleTree (Sheraton (Radisson)) and for it to be an all-volunteer-run convention with the usual assortment of activities and no significant shift in policies from previous years.

GoH

Because it is the 50 Minicon, we would like it to be special. One of our current ideas is to try to re-invite one GoH from each of the decades of Minicon as well as a new GoH representing Minicon's future. Of special note, relevant to the earliness of this proposal, is that Marcon 50 (Columbus, OH) is going to be held on the *same weekend* and we believe them to have already started inviting guests, and we share many former GoH.

In our budget numbers below, we assume a total of 6 GoH, of which as many of 5 are from out of town, but none international. We assume any GoH will bring a partner, and that we will pay their way.

History

Matt, as Minn-stf archivist, has some ideas for historical displays highlighting the history of Minicon and Minn-stf. For instance:

- A display showing one book from each of our author guests of honor, starting with Gordy Dickson, Charles De Vet and Clifford Simak for Minicon 1 and going all the way through to whoever our author guests of honor are for Minicon 50 itself.
- A poster-size time line of all Minn-stf conventions including Minicons, fallcons and Supercons (and any others that Matt might not have heard of yet!).
- Program books, Runes, t-shirts, progress reports, and whatnot from the ages, including especially publications not available on the web, obscure items like fallcon progress reports, and non-flat and/or non-paper artifacts such as the miniature lead and tin figurines included

with the Minicon 21 program book. Geri Sullivan has already volunteered her set of the latter. Ideally this would include at least one artifact from each Minicon.

Length

We would *like* to make Minicon 50 a 4-day con, but are not sure that this is a good idea. Currently our plan is to keep it three days. Matt has entertained the possibility of billing it as a 3½ day convention held April 2½ -5 (meaning, perhaps, that we fully open the consuite+bar Thursday night and have programming all day Friday instead of starting in the late afternoon). We don't want to commit to either 3½ or 4 at this time, but would like to mention that they are in our back pockets.

73

The 73rd Worldcon will be held in the same year as Minicon 50. We're not quite sure what to make of this, but it seems obvious that something ought to be made of it!

Budget

We plan to leave registration rates where they are for Minicon 48 unless the results of Minicon 48 and/or Minicon 49 strongly suggest we should do otherwise.

For all numbers the follow, we assume about 30 members more than at Minicon 47. This takes into account the fact that since Minicon 42 we have been growing at about 10 members per year, and conservatively assumes that inviting more GoH than usual and being a big anniversary will not attract any additional members over our continuing trend of slow growth.

Income:

- Memberships: \$18200
- Dealers' tables: \$1000
- Profit on art show: \$100
- Profit on t-shirts: \$0
- Total: \$18200

Expenses:

- Hotel, including GoH rooms: \$4500
 - GoH rooms: \$139+tax/night, 2.5 nights/average GoH assumed.
- GoH travel: \$4000
- GoH food stipend: \$1200
- [Note: each out-of-town GoH has an estimated total cost of \$1400]*
- Badges: \$600
- Consuite+Bar: \$5500
- Publications: \$1600
- Room parties: \$400
- Anniversary festivities/historical displays: \$800

Misc: \$1400, rough possible breakdown follows:

Music: \$325

Programming and kids programming: \$75

Moving truck: \$200

Work Parties: \$200

Dealer Dollars: \$100

Youth activities: \$300

As-yet unanticipated misc: \$200

Total: \$19900

Grand total: \$1800 loss

Note that we are making a special request to lose money. We believe that the club's finances will be in roughly the same state for Minicon 50 as for Minicon 48, which means that by default, the profit target would be \$3200, representing an overall \$1000 loss by the club for the year as per Mnstf bylaw VI.4. Our request, therefore, is for the club to lose instead \$6000 in 2015.

Our understanding is that this should be ok because (a) the club started with about \$40000 in 2010 and (b) we have since then not run at as much of a loss as \$1000/year due to Minicon 46 and Minicon 47 returning more money than their targets. Obviously, we also believe that our golden anniversary is worth dropping some money to make it as awesome as possible!