

Bozo Bus Tribune

Minnesota Science Fiction Society

Minicon Medallion Hunt

It's All Over but the Shouting

Only two medallions remain unclaimed as the convention comes to a close:

- 8. All you have to do is defeat the Cluemeister at the silly little game he's carrying around with him. Come on, peeps! Don't let him intimidate you like this! (Note: as it is now 5pm and the Dealers Room has closed, it is too late to win the official prize. But the Cluemeister has agreed to take on challengers who wish to play for the medallion and the honor of the battle.
- 20. The Big Kahuna remains unclaimed, but if you can scrounge together a matching set of three 'decoys', or pennies with symbols instead of numbers, you're still eligible for a special prize! Where did those things all go?

Medallion Stories: Saturday Night

10. ULUDULDRDRDRDUL

LDUDLDRUD LULDLL; It's Dinotopian footprint code! The 'footprint language' from James Gurney's Dinotopia universe is formed from pairs of three-toed prints that resemble arrows. In the original clue, each arrow was replaced with the first letter of the direction it appeared to be pointing: left, up, down or right. It's true that the dinosaur itself would have been facing the opposite direction, but then we would have been using 'F' and 'B' for 'forward and 'back' instead of 'up' and 'down'. ☺ The text spells out 'SHOESHINEARMREST', and the medallion, attached to the armrest of the shoeshine station, was found by Lisa Freitag and Steve Glennon.

15. BADGE HINTS = 10243 56798; Check the bulletin board/whiteboard for your starting point...and look for hints on 'Ask Me' badges; Minicon 43: This time it's quaternary!

This one was a little involved. In the Medallion Hunt's first year, the only undiscovered penny was hidden with a clue involving binary conversion. The following year, the Big Kahuna, also undiscovered, involved ternary conversion. The next logical step is quaternary, or base four, and the Cluemeister was determined to keep including base conversion puzzles until somebody solved one.

The board in the second floor foyer includes two copies of the text:

@~!~!##@~ #@@#@! #@!#~!~@~ @~!#~!#

There were in fact four or five hints written on the badges of convention personnel. The hint on con co-chair Matt Strait's badge reads "Let go of the Shift key", suggesting the keyboard

conversion ~=' , !=1, @=2, #=3. But another badge clue informs you that 'The tilde is a goose egg' (or according to the whiteboard, 'the tilde is a lie', meaning that it's actually just zero, being where the '0' might have fit on the keyboard. You thus get four numbers consisting of the digits 0, 1, 2, and 3, and naturally you need to convert them from base four to base ten. These numbers can then be treated as ciphertext for the original clue, which produces: BEHIND THE TGIDGS SIGN. Another badge hint suggests what TGIDGS means: the Trans-Galactic Inter-Dimensional Gourmand Society, whose party was in Cabana 106. The penny was hidden behind one of their signs, and was found about 11:45pm Saturday by the collaborative effort of Team Girls (Fiona, Delia, Corwin, Neesa, Rachel R.) with assistance from Lisa Freitag and Rob Ihinger.

Extra Credit Question

The answer is, of course, indefatigable treasure hunter Rob Ihinger.

Krahn-Gahlon 4am Pulse Check

38 still awake that we could find, most of whom were in the Gaming Area, with just a few people upstairs at the bar. Our co-chairs are still awake and one of them claims he should be counted twice because he's so energetic.

Thanks!

The Minnesota Chapter of Ninjas would like to extend their thanks to the membership of Minicon for helping make this one of their largest and most enjoyable meet-ups in some time. No fans attended the numerous ninja panels, making them a great success. The winner of the Award for Attendee Favorite Panel was 'Fashion on the Job: Anyone can hide in black but it takes a master to go unnoticed in yellow and red plaid.' The midnight Ninja costume parade was also a success, as it was witnessed by only one porter who was quickly and quietly dispatched. MCN looks forward to hosting a room party next year and hopes none of you see them there.

Artist GoH Slideshow Big Hit in Bar

You may have noticed a slideshow of striking fantasy art running continuously on the TV in the Consuite Bar. The program was a collection of art by Minicon Artist Guests of Honor, primarily Wayne Barlowe, this year's GoH in absentia. Thanks to Wayne for providing a CD of his past work and permission to display it, and to Seven for making the show actually happen.

Hall Costume Contest Winners

The original plan was for Wayne Barlowe to judge the hall costume contest. When we learned that Wayne wouldn't be attending the con, there was talk of either abandoning the contest or finding replacement judges. Miraculously, a new plan emerged spontaneously during Opening Ceremonies. Bonnie the Costume Scout would identify and photograph contest finalists and email the photos to Wayne, who would judge the contest from home. This worked brilliantly! Bonnie nominated 20 costume finalists, and Wayne has identified the eight winners: Barlowe's Best. The winning costumes are:

1. Tisiphone
2. Jay Curry
3. Tom Potter
4. Callisto
5. Ares
6. Captain Red Shirt
7. Gau'ld
8. Slytherin Student

Bambi's Nerdy Tattoo Contest Winners

The contest took place in the Consuite Bar at Midnight on Saturday, judged by tattooist Bambi of Forever Yours Tattoos. First place prize was \$100 gift certificate to Forever Yours. Second place prize was \$50 gift certificate. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who participated.

- First place: Seven ("Pi")
- Second Place: Peer Dudda ("Well-Endowed Faun")

Minicon Sends Kids to Space

Minneapolis Reach For the Stars would like to thank everyone who contributed this weekend to help us send Minneapolis public school children to Space Camp in April. We invite everyone to come to our wine and cheese party, "From Shira to Shiraz" this Thursday at the Minneapolis Photo Coop. More info at reachuplink.org.

-- Daniel Amyx (danieljamyx@aol.com)

PERSONALS

Laurel -- your laptop is in Secure Storage. Which isn't quite where it used to be, but you'll find it.

Lovely XO -- cute, small, dressed in green, sweet as sugar. Just wants someone to mesh with. Maybe we can Tam Tam together? [maybe at the Dead Dog party tonight? -- ed.]

Has it stopped snowing yet???

Rumors of Minicon's demise are greatly exaggerated! --Seven

I kissed Kelly!! --anonymous

The Bear Has Trilium
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