

# MINICON 44



Minicon 44

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Minicon 44

April 10-12

2009



Aurora Winner  
 Karl  
 Schroeder

Hugo Winner  
 Stephan  
 Martiniere

### SETI's Seth Shostak

postmarked by 15 Nov 08: adult \$40, student \$25  
 postmarked by 15 Mar 09: adult \$44, student \$30  
 kids 6-12: \$20  
 supporting: \$15

make checks payable to: Minicon 44  
 P.O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station  
 Minneapolis, MN 55408

You can also register online at:  
[mnstf.org/minicon44](http://mnstf.org/minicon44)

**Membership Type:**

- Adult  Student (13 – 20)  Kid (6 – 12)  Child (0 – 5, Free)  Supporting
- Age and sex of kid/child (optional, used for programming): Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please contact me about:**

- Volunteering  Throwing a room party  Displaying art  Being on programming

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial / Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Address Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State / Province \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP / Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country (if not USA) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

- I do not wish to be listed as a member on the Minicon website

**Don t forget to get a hotel room!** Our room block closes on March 19.  
 See [mnstf.org/minicon44/hotel](http://mnstf.org/minicon44/hotel) or call the Sheraton at 952-835-7800 and mention Minicon.

## Hospitality

[mnstf.org/minicon44/hospitality](http://mnstf.org/minicon44/hospitality)

Minicon will again be offering some of the best food & drink at any convention, any time, any where. Our consuite will be serving a variety of tasty foods. In past years we've had Tequila Wings, Meatballs in Marinara, and Davanni's Pizza. This year? Show up and find out!

At THE SINGULARITY, our con bar (you can come in ~ but you cannot leave ... *mwa ha haa!*), we serve such quality beers as Guinness, Newcastle Brown Ale, and Summit Great Northern Porter, as well as a variety of other beers, wines, and hard cider. We vary the selection of food & drink from year to year to keep things fresh, but you can always count on the highest quality and know that some of your old favorites will be back again. *Blog!!*

## Conspiracy & Intrigue [request@minicon44.mnstf.org](mailto:request@minicon44.mnstf.org)

Have an idea for something you'd like to see or do at Minicon? Remember something from a past Minicon that you'd like to see again? (*pajamas!*) We'd love to hear your ideas. Send your suggestion to the address above, or better yet! ... You could come meet us in person at any conglom meeting. All of our meetings are informal and open to anyone at all. Point of fact? YOU are the con. We are a con of members, not attendees. FFI ~ [mnstf.org/minicon44/news](http://mnstf.org/minicon44/news)

## Volunteering [volunteers@minicon44.mnstf.org](mailto:volunteers@minicon44.mnstf.org)

Our need for volunteers comes in all shapes and sizes. If you can set aside some time during the con, please sign up in advance for volunteer shifts. Badging and registration are great ways to meet people; you get to sit in a comfy chair, and sooner or later, everybody comes by. Hospitality is also a great place to help; you can take a shift in the bar or consuite. If your typical con experience finds you somewhat resembling a recently beheaded chicken, there are opportunities just before and after the con ~ helping to collate program books, decorate, and set up and take down the facilities. These are great times to meet the conglom, by the way (*hi!*).

Volunteer opportunities don't only come in shifts. If everyone pitches in just a bit, no one will have to miss the con working.

Volunteering is often its own reward, but as a sign of our appreciation, we will once again be giving out Dealer Dollars. We have a few other surprise rewards planned as well.



# MINICON 44

April 10 ~ 12, 2009

Sheraton Bloomington South  
Bloomington, Minnesota  
[mnstf.org/minicon44](http://mnstf.org/minicon44)

Guests of Honor

Author ~ Karl Schroeder  
Artist ~ Stephan Martiniere  
Scientist ~ Seth Shostak



This thing here in your hands is the official Progress Report II for Minicon 44. It answers many of the questions of detail involved in attending the con and staying in the hotel. However ... :)

Sex and philosophy? Extraterrestrial intelligence? Visions? Tattoos? Tequila? Electric Bananas? Explosions? Conspiracy? Hugo winners? Pajamas? Are we there yet?!

Minicon's theme this year is ... steampunk! *Steam what?* Exactly. What is it? Who started it? Which books are quintessential steampunk? Which books make it burst at the seams? What does it look like? Does it have a sound? Graphic novels? Movies? So much to talk about.

Carpe Con!

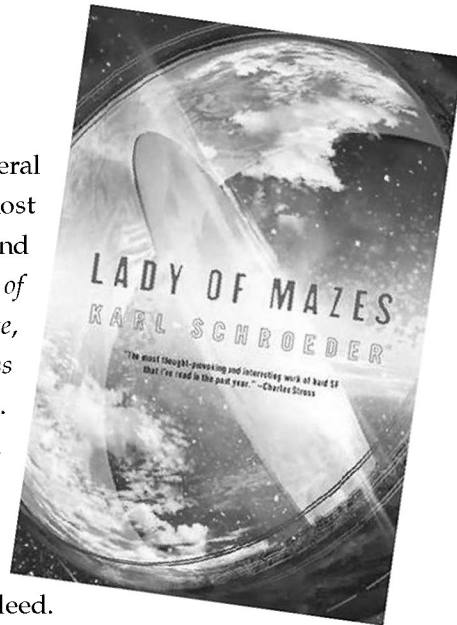
# OUR MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GUESTS

## Karl Schroeder

<http://www.kschroeder.com>



Karl has written several science fiction novels, most recently *Lady of Mazes*, and the Virga series ~ *Sun of Suns*, *Queen of Candescence*, *Pirate Sun*, and *The Sunless Country* (forthcoming). He is a two-time Aurora



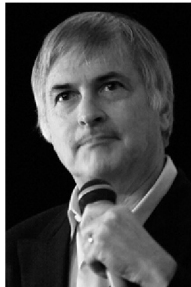
Award winner for *Permanence* and "The Toy Mill", a short story with David Nickle. A number of his works are available for download on his site. Free books?! Yes indeed.

Sayeth Karl, "I like to read SF that simultaneously entertains me and stretches my mind. I want sex and philosophy, new visions of the future and lots of explosions." Intrigued yet?

## Seth Shostak

<http://www.seti.org/Page.aspx?pid=455>

Seth is an astronomer at the SETI Institute, a research organization that runs the world's most sensitive search for extraterrestrial intelligence. He has an undergraduate degree from Princeton University, and a doctorate in astronomy from the California Institute of Technology. He's conducted radio astronomy research on galaxies, and worked at national observatories and



universities in the U.S. and Europe. He's written three books and several hundred popular articles on various topics in astronomy, technology, film, and television. He is the host of the weekly science radio show "Are We Alone?" and the inventor of the electrical banana. The what? /:-) We'll find out at the con!

## Stephan Martiniere

<http://www.martiniere.com>



Stephan is a 2008 Hugo Award winner!

His work spans ...

- ♦ movies *I, Robot*, *Star Wars* episodes 2 and 3, and *The Fifth Element*
- ♦ television shows *The Real Ghostbusters* and *The Outer Limits*
- ♦ book covers *Lady of Mazes* and *Queen of Candescence* (both Karl's) among *many* other book covers including these three Hugo winning pieces (shown left)
- ♦ video games *Cyan's Uru: Ages Beyond Myst* and *Myst V: End of Ages*

- ♦ and the collectible card game *Magic: the Gathering*

His massive volume of work is impossible to list here. Check out his site ~ it's *gorgeous!*

### Art Credits

All art herein (other than the guest photos) is Copyright © Stephan Martiniere and used with permission. All rights reserved.



# REGISTRATION

Register online  
Registration Q&A

[mnstf.org/minicon44/registration](http://mnstf.org/minicon44/registration)  
[registration@minicon44.mnstf.org](mailto:registration@minicon44.mnstf.org)

Here's the deal; you pull out the registration form conveniently included, do a bit of scribbling of names and checking of boxes, add a check and a stamp, and pop it in the mail on or before March 15th, 2009 (or register online). In return we'll give you \$16 off, three excellent guests of honor, great fun, great music, great art, and the best hospitality suite in fandom.

Granted, there are downsides to registering early. You'll end up with extra money, and you'll miss the excitement of spending 4:00-5:00 PM on March 15th frantically searching the cat hidey-holes for the form you have in your hands right now. Our advice? Register. After all, you can always take up jousting for the adrenaline.

If you're a bit tight after the holidays, we understand. As in the past, a supporting membership is available. But what have we done for you lately? Brand new, hot off the presses ... we've introduced the student rate. We want to see the shining faces of young, up and coming worker minions. (*D'oh! inside voice ~ outside voice*) I meant to say fans of course :). Seriously though, we heartily encourage budding fans to participate in our fantastic community.

There are a few tidbits of information regarding rates not included on the registration form, so here they are ...

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| At the door | Adult ~ \$60 ♦ Student ~ \$35 ♦ Kid ~ \$20 ♦ Child ~ free      |
| Supporting  | \$15 before 3/15 + \$40 at check in = \$55                     |
| Day rates   | Fri. ~ \$30 ♦ Sat. ~ \$40 ♦ Sun. ~ \$20 ♦ a day is 10am - 10am |

## Thinking Ahead

Here's another money-saving opportunity! When you check in at Minicon 44, look in your registration packet for M45's registration form. You'll find pens, envelopes, and a handy drop box right there at the registration table. You'll get the lowest rate that will ever be available, and you'll know you're set for 2010 a whole year ahead.

## Deciphering your Mailing Label

Your mailing label is personalized! In the upper right corner there is a number that indicates when you last registered for Minicon. If it's "44", you are registered for this year. Anything else means that we're missing you, and folks are wondering if you ditched us for Cowboy Feng's. So, what ARE you doing this Easter? *hint hint* :)



## Calling all Pros

Are you an attending professional? Authors, artists, musicians, scientists, editors, and others of fannish interest all included. If so, we'll list you as such in our program book and on our website. Drop us a line at the registration email address and let us know who you are and what you do.

Book a room  
Hotel Q&A

[mnstf.org/minicon44/hotel](http://mnstf.org/minicon44/hotel)  
[hotel@minicon44.mnstf.org](mailto:hotel@minicon44.mnstf.org)

Minicon 44 will return to its ancestral home ~ the Sheraton Bloomington South. It is the *perfect* hotel for a con ... nostalgia, great little social spaces, free parking, and if you can identify *any* fannish activity not seen around the pool area ... I'll eat my shorts!

### Room Rates

Standard Room ~ \$89 ♦ Poolside Cabana ~ \$99 ♦ Suite ~ \$289

Reserve your room at the link above where you can also get directions, see photos of the hotel space, and much more. Or phone 952-835-7800, and be sure to mention Minicon to get our special room rates. These rates are only available until March 19th. No really ... the hotel will enforce this.

Warning: If you book your hotel room through an independent broker rather than using one of the methods above, you'll likely get a higher rate and we will be unable to work with the hotel to fix this. Also, your stay won't be credited towards our room block, which is what keeps the hotel happy with us.

We're working to better accomodate our members with allergies. The hotel has agreed to turn off the fragrance machines a couple of days before the con.

## Parties

[parties@minicon44.mnstf.org](mailto:parties@minicon44.mnstf.org)

While the Consuite and the Bar are possibly the best known rooms by the pool, they're not the only things happening there. As usual, the cabana rooms will host parties on both floors. If you would like to host a room party, please contact Kelly at the address above *before* you make your reservation with the hotel. Include the names of all hosts, the name of your party, what nights you'd like the room for, and which floor you'd prefer. This will ensure that you get a cabana room at the Minicon rate. If you call the hotel directly, you may be told that cabanas are not available.

Thanks to all our fabulous hosts who have already signed up to run parties. While there is limited space for parties, rooms are still available, so sign up today!

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## Dealers' Room

[dealers@minicon44.mnsthf.org](mailto:dealers@minicon44.mnsthf.org)

Books, artwork, jewelry, gaming supplies, books, comics, clothing, handcrafts, music, books, movies, shawls, cards, t-shirts, books, buttons, magazines, toys, songbooks, dragons, and poetry; we could go on, but you get the idea. Did we mention books? A wide variety of items to suit all tastes can be found in the Minicon Dealers' Room, so be sure to save time for Shopping!  
*I need a new D20, mine's stuck on "1", for frell's sake!*

Future Minicon dealers! Email the address above and let us know who you are, what you sell, your street address (*required*), and whether you wish to arrange a table rental. A paper application will be mailed to you.

# PROGRAMMING

Programming Q&A [programming@minicon44.mnsthf.org](mailto:programming@minicon44.mnsthf.org)

Minicon is well-known far and wide for the caliber of its programming. We have discussion panels, kid and young adult activities, slideshows, panels, readings, signings, more panels, interviews, workshops, and even more panels. Our most excellent guests will be featured on a number as well. If you'd like to see what's brewing so far ~ or even better, contribute ideas of your own ~ check out our programming page at [mnsthf.org/minicon44/programming/](http://mnsthf.org/minicon44/programming/)

Think programming is just panels? Think again! Returning "rogue" programming includes late-evening bar activities Geek Trivia and Bambi's Nerdy Tattoo Contest (its introduction last year was a *rousing* success!). Ongoing events are Minicon's 4th annual Medallion Hunt and the slideshow at THE SINGULARITY featuring all that fantastic art of Stephan's, both of which last the entire con.

**Kids!** Minicon features several hours of special Kids' Programming on Saturday. Kids of all ages will have an opportunity to hot glue a really tall pile of junk, take techie stuff apart, and participate in other nifty activities. Best of all? Richard Tatge's *amazing* bubble show!

**Yuri!** A very special event will be held Sunday evening (April 12th) as part of our Dead Dog activities. Minicon will participate in the international Yuri's Night celebrations that mark the anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's historic first human space flight. FFI ~ [yurisnight.net](http://yurisnight.net)



## Art Show

[artshow@minicon44.mnsthf.org](mailto:artshow@minicon44.mnsthf.org)

Minicon has a long history of featuring fine art and fine artists. Art is a thread that runs through every part of Minicon, from our publications, through our full-color badges, to our con t-shirt; even our dealer dollars are often kept as collectors' items.

And yet, it gets better. We have a space absolutely filled with great art, both fannish and professional. Piece after piece of stunning artwork, some for sale, all for the gawking. From paintings and photography to jewelry and sculpture, you'll be treated to a great variety of great art all through the con.



## Costumes

[mnsthf.org/minicon44/costumes](http://mnsthf.org/minicon44/costumes)

Art can be seen, heard, or at Minicon, even worn. Klingons, faeries, Cylons, werefolk, Vampire Hunter D, Reavers, Pikachu, the face of Beau, Xena, Dr. Evil, gothpunk, and cyber punk, and steampunk, oh my! To welcome costumers to Minicon, our roving judges will be presenting hall costume awards throughout the con. Visit the site to see pics of last year's finery. Be warned ... there *will* be a pajama award.

## Music

[music@minicon44.mnsthf.org](mailto:music@minicon44.mnsthf.org)

The long tradition of fine music at Minicon lives on. Top-notch stage acts will play to eager listeners in a music club atmosphere, and for the more intimate experience, open circles run into the wee hours. Like last year, our programming will include musical themes on subjects such as jamming and song writing. Stage concerts, showcase jams, open music circles, music programming ... at Minicon, there is music to be found nearly every minute of every day.

## Gaming

[gaming@minicon44.mnsthf.org](mailto:gaming@minicon44.mnsthf.org)

After a fantastically successful change in venue last year, we're returning our gaming area to the center of the action, near the pool. You'll be able to crush your opponents without mercy (*Who dealt this crap?!*), all while enjoying the goings-on and engaging in fine conversation. We'll be bringing back some old gaming favorites, but if there are any games you'd like to see featured, please email us your suggestions. *Kill the orcs!*

## Film Room

[request@minicon44.mnsthf.org](mailto:request@minicon44.mnsthf.org)

The film room returns this year with a new lineup of movies, combining the new and shiny with the obscure and bizarre. New this year we are moving the room close to the consuite and snacks will be provided. Fun and hilarity 99.44% guaranteed.