

# MarsCon 2011: Days of Magic!

March 4-6<sup>th</sup> Holiday Inn & Suites  
Bloomington, MN

## Progress Report Two

Volume 13, Issue 2

December 2010

### With a Heavy Heart...

We are sad to inform you our MarsCon 2010/2011 Chair & Dark Lord, Christopher RiversBey, passed away on Thanksgiving weekend due to pneumonia and other complications. He was a gentle soul who will be greatly missed. In his words:

“Not all angels were exiled, some choose to leave. Even heaven can be a prison if one is not allowed one’s freedom. I have travelled the backroads and highways of life and seen many a sight. But once I am gone I won’t pass this way again.”

—Christopher RiversBey, February 20, 1970–November 26, 2010

The MarsCon Convention Committee will be hosting a memorial/wake for Chris on Thursday evening before the convention at 7:30 PM in the Elysium Sanctum Con Suite (named by Chris), Room 1321. All friends are welcome.



### Come Stay at Our Hotel!

2011 sees MarsCon back at the **Holiday Inn & Suites**. The room rates are **\$89 + tax** for a regular room and **\$109 + tax for suites** on any floor, including the party floor. Déjà vu.

**To reserve a room**, call 952-854-9000 or 1-800-HOLIDAY, and mention “MarsCon” to get the reduced rate. Tip: Try calling the 952 number first during regular business hours, and please let us know if you have any trouble getting the MarsCon rate so we can help.

Taking a room at the hotel is a wonderful way to **enhance your convention experience**. It gives you a home base, a place to park your stuff, to entertain friends, and to crash whenever you finish with partying throughout the convention weekend...not to mention it makes the host hotel very happy with MarsCon. The hotel is located at 3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN (34th Ave S exit from I-494).

#### Hotel Amenities:

- Free high-speed **Internet** access
- Jr. Olympic sized **pool & whirlpool spa**
- **Harvest Café and Greenhouse Lounge** offering breakfast buffets, full service lunch and dinner menu, Happy Hour specials, 5 TVs and a pool table. Kids 12 and under eat free
- **Complimentary shuttles** to transport you to or from the hotel, the Mall of America, and the airport
- **Free parking** ramp (low clearance, but an open air lot is immediately adjacent to it)
- MarsCon attendees are welcome to park in the 2-3 levels of unmarked **underground parking** spaces (which often go unused)
- **New LRT stop** Hiawatha Line (Route 55) right beside the hotel. For transit info, dial 1.800.NEW.RIDER or see <http://MetroTransit.org>
- Hotel web site: <http://www.himspairport.com/>



# These Are Our Magical Guests of Honor!



**Actor Guest of Honor Alexis Cruz** has captured audience attention for over a decade. He is a graduate of New York's prestigious High School of Performing Arts, and has since gone on to become one of the most respected young actors of his generation. A Bronx born native of New York, of Puerto Rican descent, Alexis made his first television appearance with a guest-starring role on *The Cosby Show* during its first hit season and then landed the lead role in *Gryphon* for the acclaimed PBS series, *Wonder Works*. His feature career began with roles in films such as, *The Pick-Up Artist* with Robert Downey Jr. and *Rooftops* by legendary director Robert Wise. A prestigious and prolific body of work soon followed and Alexis found himself starring opposite Anthony Quinn as his encouraging young friend, Manolo, in the Hallmark Hall of Fame television movie, *The Old Man & The Sea*. By the age of 17, he had performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall and began directing theatre at the School of Performing Arts. Cruz achieved international fame after starring in Roland Emmerich's 1994 box-office hit, *Stargate* with Kurt Russell and James Spader, in which he played the young Egyptian rebel leader, Skaara. Along with Erick Avari, he is one of only two actors to appear in both *Stargate* and its spin-off series *Stargate SG-1*, which began its 10-season run in 1997. He played Skaara, the brother-in-law of Daniel Jackson, in both productions as well as the Goa'uld Kloreel in the latter. We're so thrilled to have Alexis here at MarsCon!

Four-time Hugo Award winning **Author Guest of Honor, Lois McMaster Bujold** is best known for her Vorkosigan saga, a series of novels featuring Miles Vorkosigan, a physically impaired interstellar spy and mercenary admiral from the planet Barrayar, set approximately 1000 years in the future. Earlier titles are generally firmly in the space opera tradition with no shortage of battles, conspiracies, and wild twists, while in more recent volumes Miles becomes more of a detective. Lois has won the Hugo Award four times for *Barrayar* (1991), "The Mountains of Mourning" (1989), *The Vor Game* (1990), and *Mirror Dance* (1994). She's also been the recipient of several other awards and nominations. We're so proud to have this illustrious author with us this year!



**Artist Guests of Honor Joe & Megan Rheault** are local Twin Cities artists who are just starting to really make their mark in the art world.

Joe Rheault has worked in comics for several years and has self-published several creator-owned books such as *Tastes Like Good*, *Tastes Like Good 2: Powerlines*, *Asha in Thievin Ways*, and *The Burbs*. He is currently working on a graphic novel called *Rooftops and Masquerades*. Wife Megan Rheault graduated from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 2004 with a degree in illustration. Her illustration work includes children's books, business cards, logos, t-shirt designs, and fine art paintings. Currently Megan has two children's books on the brink of publication, both of which are done using pastels. She also works digitally as well as in acrylic. They are collaborating on the promotional artwork for MarsCon this year.

**Fan Guests of Honor Bjo & John Trimble** became famous as "the fans who saved *Star Trek*." *Star Trek* debuted on NBC in September, 1966. The network soon considered cancelling the series due to poor ratings, but a letter-writing campaign initiated by science-fiction authors, including Harlan Ellison and Frank Herbert, convinced NBC to keep the series on the air. Then in March, 1967, NBC bumped the series into the terrible timeslot of 10 p.m. Fridays. Ratings continued to drop in the second season. In December, 1967, fans Bjo and John Trimble staved off cancellation by organizing a massive letter-writing campaign that flooded NBC offices with hundreds of thousands of letters. The network decided to produce *Star Trek* for another year, which gave the series enough episodes to survive in syndication. Just think of where the whole *Star Trek* franchise would be today without their diligent efforts!



**Music Guest of Honor Worm Quartet** is a Rochester, NY-based band that forcibly staples punk and electronica together and throws them into a blender with hysterically twisted lyrics. Although in the distant past the Worm Quartet has had as many as three members, it is now a one-man band. The soloist is Tim Crist, a.k.a. --ShoEboX-. In 2004, Worm Quartet's "Great Idea for a Song" was the most requested song of the year on the *Dr. Demento Show*. In 2005 the Worm Quartet/Sudden Death collaboration "Inner Voice" took the same honor. When not performing at MarsCon, Crist might be found at his day job (as a software engineer) or adding tunes to the Funny Music Project website.



# What Does Programming Have in Store for Us?

Something magical, something fun, something we can look forward to and laugh about later...

From A-Z, Programming is:

- Anime and SF/fantasy movie viewing
- Bidding on fabulous artwork or charity auction items
- Cosplay/Masquerade and costuming demos
- Dementia concerts featuring Worm Quartet and other musical artists
- Educational talks about convention planning & pitfalls
- Fantasy Short Film Festival, debuting in AV Film Club on 13<sup>th</sup> floor
- Gaming discussions, tournaments & demos
- Hard science presentations and space exploration updates
- Information exchange about upcoming SF movies and "must-see" TV
- Judging room parties late at night
- Karaoke until the early morning
- Literary discussions with Lois McMaster Bujold and other distinguished authors
- Middle Eastern dance performances and seminars
- Nightly filk-singing in Taylor on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- Opening & Closing Ceremonies on the main stage
- Props displayed in our Prop-a-torium on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
- Question & answer sessions with Alexis Cruz of *Stargate* fame
- Rocketman discussing his air powered bike and other toys
- Steam Century Kaposia's mystery game & lounge on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
- Tasting chocolate in the Con Suite on 13<sup>th</sup> floor
- UFology and discussions about extraterrestrial possibilities
- Victorian corsetry tips in Masquerade Lounge on 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- Whip cracking with Robert Dante in the Baldwin Room on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
- X-box, Wii, and other video gaming on 13<sup>th</sup> floor
- Yesteryear tales about the "Save Star Trek" campaign with Bjo & John Trimble
- Zombie hunting and apocalypse survival advice

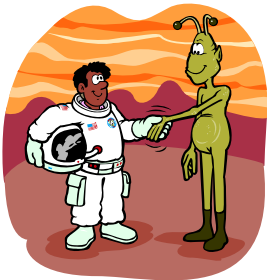
The Dementia Music Track is currently planning concerts with Possible Oscar, Devo Spice, Musical Guest of Honor Worm Quartet, Toyboat, TV's Kyle, Steve Goodie, Nuclear Bubble Wrap, The Great Luke Ski, Soggy Potato Chips, Odd Austin, and Insane Ian. Popular events "Cirque du So What?" and "Dementia Smackdown" will also be returning.

Other planned presenters thus far include: Authors Roy & Cynthia Booth, Rob Callahan, Doug Hulick, PMF Johnson, Naomi Kritzer, Catherine Lundoff, Rebecca Marjesdatter, Lyda Morehouse and Anna Waltz. Also, Baron Dave Romm, "Rocketman" Ky Michaelson, UFologist/Author Craig Lang, and "World's Fastest Whip" Robert Dante.

Check the web site often for updates on programming. If you have someone you think would enhance MarsCon programming, please send us your suggestion and contact info if available. We are especially interested in magic acts!

In addition to events lead by our wonderful Guests of Honor, MarsCon depends on you, the attendees, for much of our programming. Our online programming ideas form is located at: [http://marscon.org/2011/program\\_ideas.php](http://marscon.org/2011/program_ideas.php). It's not too late to post your ideas for events there so they have a chance at happening.

As always, MarsCon is immensely grateful for the incredible programming we receive each year from artists, authors, guests, musicians, singers, actors, fan groups, clubs and individuals. Thank you for your support!



# Masquerade & Costume Programming...

Greetings from the MarsCon Masquerade Director!

We had a lot of great costumes last year, and I'm looking forward to even more and better this coming con. In addition to the regular costume contest Saturday evening, there will be the 'secret' judges roaming the con, awarding Hall Costume Awards to unsuspecting costumed con-goers!

Costume/make-up/Prop related programming will continue in the Masquerade Lounge.

The "Creating the..." Panel (combined wig and make-up demo given by Bill Hedrick and Rae Lundquist) will return again with this year's subject—"Creating.....Voldemort".

The Masquerade contest orientation "Masquerade 101" (basic tips for entering costume contests) will return, as well as "How Did You DO That?" (an open session where costumers can display and discuss their creations).



Listed below is a partial list of additional costume related panels and demos suggested for programming in the Masquerade Lounge. PLEASE DO access the MarsCon website to submit your own suggestions. [http://marscon.org/2011/program\\_ideas.php](http://marscon.org/2011/program_ideas.php)

The Care and Feeding of Wigs and Hair; including Steam Punk/Victorian hair styles.

Prop Making; including Paper Props, and Wand Making

Costuming on a Dime (suggested by zmaj dama)

Mask Making (Mary McFadden-Lesar)

Wings, Fairy and Other Types

Pipe Cleaner Dragons and Dragon Making by Committee (Julie Bowman)

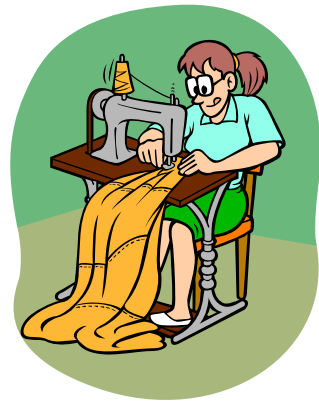
Corset Making (Heather Luca)

Henna Painting (Sara Cura)

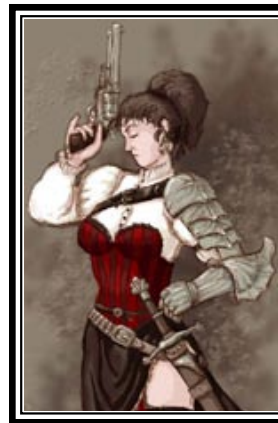
An Overview of Underwear—unmentionables through history, with emphasis on the underpinnings of the Renaissance, Age of Enlightenment, Jane Austin's Empire Era, and the Victorian Age (1500's to 1900). (Rae Lundquist)

With the rise of interest in Steam Punk / Alternative and Victorian History, there have been requests for demos on Ball Room dancing. We hope to find someone willing to instruct basic steps (how about volunteering?) There's even been discussion about a Ball/Dance on Friday evening. Let us know if you're interested, or even better, willing to instruct!

Great programming needs great volunteers, like you! Come on down to the Masq Lounge, and sign up to volunteer. Or better yet, let us know what you'd like to help with in advance. We'd love to have you!



—Rae Lundquist  
(a.k.a. The DreamStitcher)



## Steam Century Kaposia Returns!

Steam Century Kaposia invites you to solve a steampunk mystery and participate in other events!

Explore our interactive set and talk with characters to determine the fate of an accused man in our second mystery at MarsCon.



## *Why buy custom order when you can find it on-line?*

- 1. Quality:** We use only the most suitable and durable of materials, according to your budget. Fanatical attention to details; every seam in the correct place, every zipper, button, etc. just the right size and shape. We get it right, so you are precisely who you want to be.
- 2. Selection:** Some costumes are simply not available online, and those that are, are frequently cheap and simplified knock-offs. Most costumers specialize in a particular style (Goth, Lolita, SF, RenFest). DreamStitcher has tackled just about any era or genre, from Roman and Viking, to Victorian, and beyond to Sc-Fi, and Fantasy, even Anime.
- 3. Custom fitted to you!** Not just a standard size, that “kind of” fits. Over 40 years of sewing experience can insure that each pattern is drafted to fit your unique preferences.
- 4. Price:** We can adjust the design to fit your requirements and budget, with flexible payment options. (what online company does that? And we don't charge any shipping or handling fees!)

For your next costume, contact the DreamStitcher and make an appointment for a *FREE* consultation. We will sit down and discuss the details of the outfit, take measurements, set up additional appointments for fittings, and work out a budget and payment plan.

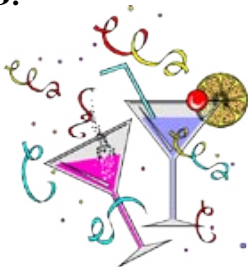


*A Costume made exactly how you want it?  
That's a DreamStitcher Costume!*

## **Parties Parties Parties!**

That is one really important piece to a great convention.

So you are asking yourself how do I help MarsCon 2011 be the most awesome convention? Why by hosting a party of course! So the next question is how do I do this?



It is fairly easy really: First pay a visit to the party request form section of the MarsCon 2011 website:

<http://marscon.org/2011/parties.php>

Then fill in the required fields, then contact the hotel and book your room. Lastly when I email you thanking you for booking your room please provide me with the confirmation number and as we get closer to the convention I will provide that information to the hotel to assure your party is placed on the 13th floor.

Get your requests in early for specific rooms or suites, as suites are limited on the party room floor.

Lastly any questions, comments, concerns please contact me at [parties11@marscon.org](mailto:parties11@marscon.org).

Thanks and I look forward to seeing your parties at the convention!

—Nicky Penwarden, Parties Head



*The U.S.S. Behr'ak, a Star Trek Club,  
Requests your presence at the*



*Admiral's  
Tea!*



*Saturday March 5, 2011, at 3 pm–6 pm  
in the Elysium Sanctum (Con Suite)  
Tea, juice and homemade  
goodies will be served*

*Everyone is welcome!  
Come, relax, refresh, and enjoy  
pleasant conversation.  
This is an excellent opportunity  
to meet others!*

# The Sweet Sweat Den

Sup dudes, I'm the new Gaming Czar, Brian LaBounty, Jr. This year, like past years, there will be many cool features, such as unlimited access to Mountain Dew and 24 hour open gaming to all willing to host anything. There will, for sure, be RPGs and quite possibly minis as well. The best way to get these is to bring them. All people willing to host games will be granted a time slot if they wish to have one, or they may try their luck at finding a table for open gaming. I can virtually guarantee someone will host D&D, Star Wars D20, and Paranoia. Forget warming your dice, prepare to melt your dice.

In addition, Twin Cities Game Fest will be sponsoring electronic, board game, and collectible card gaming options to the most important people at the convention—you! Here is a small sample of what is to come:



- Nintendo Wii with Mario Party
- Playstation 3: Guitar Hero (various titles), Fighting Games (Street Fighter IV, Marvel vs Capcom 1 & 2, Soul Calibur IV, and more)
- Officially Sanctioned Magic Tournaments (Standard, Legacy, Sealed), Casual formats (including Quantum Leap!!!)
- Board Games (Fantasy Flight Games, Z-Man Games, Steve Jackson Games, Hasbro, Wizards of the Coast, Avalon Hill and more)

More details and schedule updates will be posted at <http://www.tgamefest.com> and the MarsCon web site <http://marscon.org/2011/> as the convention approaches. If you have a gaming suggestion or plan to run a game, please get in touch with me ASAP at [games11@marscon.org](mailto:games11@marscon.org). See you at the Con!

—Brian LaBounty (Gaming Czar) & Matt McMillan (TCGF)

## The MarsCon 2011 Charities!

Thank you for the great nominations for designated charities. A live vote was held at our October planning meeting, and the results are in! MarsCon 2011 charity auction proceeds will be split evenly between the **Gordy Dickson Memorial Scholarship Fund** which benefits aspiring science fiction authors and **Kids Need to Read**, founded by author PJ Haarsma and actor Nathan Fillion to improve literacy rates by providing new books to underfunded schools and libraries across the United States. This is a cause close to Christopher RiversBey's heart. We are also hosting a food drive for **Twin Cities' Second Harvest Heartland**. Please consider helping out in one or more of these ways:

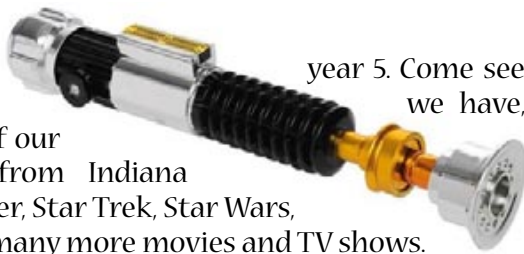
- Donate an item for the live auction. (Bright, shiny objects a fan would love)
- Donate a canned food item for the food drive.
- If you donate in the name of your favorite party room, that party will receive recognition at Closing Ceremonies.
- Bid on charity auction items. (No bid is too high.)
- Help out as a runner or organizer for the charity auction.

If you are planning to host any charitable activities or events at MarsCon, we would be happy to include them in our program as well. You may contact us via e-mail: [info11@marscon.org](mailto:info11@marscon.org). Thank you for your generosity!



## Prop-A-Torium V—The Props Strike Back!

We're back, for what new props and the return of our favorite props from Indiana Jones, Harry Potter, Star Trek, Star Wars, Stargate, and so many more movies and TV shows. We have Fan Made Props, "Officially Licensed" Props, a few actual "REAL" Props, Even those high end collectibles we all covet from Sideshow, Mater Replicas, and more If you like swords or lightsabers. bullwhips or blasters. Come by the Prop-A-Torium!



year 5. Come see we have,

## Advertise Your Club or Business!

Advertise with MarsCon, and your ad will reach an audience of SF/Fantasy fans, gamers, readers, collectors, and other like-minded beings. We are also interested in swapping ad space with other conventions.

Here are the rates for advertising in the Program Book. Please e-mail [publications11@marscon.org](mailto:publications11@marscon.org) for information about ad specs for the Program Book. Ads are due by January 31, 2011. We reserve the right to refuse any ad.

Program Book	Fan Group	Pro
Full Page (7" x 8.5")	\$60.00	\$85.00
Half Page (7" x 4.25")	\$30.00	\$50.00
Business Card	\$15.00	\$25.00



# Snarky's Café—Marscon 2011

3 Hot Meals, Sandwiches & Salads Available During Marscon  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday—Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

***Available by Paid Registration Only to those who work the MarsCon convention (Not Attendees) Badges will be checked!***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Regular Cost if paid between Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011:**

Cost \$30 Each: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Sign Up between Feb. 21<sup>th</sup>, 2011 through Marscon (limited number available.):**

Cost \$40 Each: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the area of the convention where you will be working:**

Con Com Member \_\_\_\_\_ Dealer's Room \_\_\_\_\_ Party Rooms \_\_\_\_\_ Art Room \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_ (5 hrs Minimum time volunteering) Helpers for Guests of Honor \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Drink: Hot Tea \_\_\_ Coffee \_\_\_ Decaf Coffee \_\_\_ Pepsi \_\_\_ Diet Pepsi \_\_\_ Lemonade \_\_\_

Mt. Dew \_\_\_ Green Tea \_\_\_ Water \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: Jan Swenson, with note in Memo—Snarky's**

**Mail form & payment to:**

**Snarky's Café**

**c/o Jan Swenson**

**5601 Judy Ln**

**Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-2925**

Information available by emailing [jemswenson@msn.com](mailto:jemswenson@msn.com). Please note Snarky's in Subject line

***All food from Snarky's is bought from the money from Snarky's Registrations—not from Con Funds.***

## Dealers' Room

The Dealers' Room has had a great response by many previous dealers and some new dealers with a great variety of wonderful merchandise. We're trying to give fans all you ask for and more!

## MarsCon Sales

Again, Offworld Designs will have our Con-themed T-shirts, plus some new and different embroidered merchandise. They also have many limited edition items. A new Con Patch is available, designed by our recently passed beloved ConChair, Christopher Rivers Bey. The patch will be available at our sales table. This is a very limited edition, so you need to buy at the Con or you could lose out.

—Karen Uecker & Juana Mann,  
Co-Heads of Dealers' Room and  
MarsCon Sales



## Volunteer. It's a cool thing to do.

Volunteers can expect the usual incentives like buttons, t-shirts, discounts and other goodies. There will be a few scheduled events for volunteers as well, like drawings for prizes, set times for certain Snarky's meals and at least two (2!) parties for volunteers.

If you are already planning to volunteer for a particular department/activity at or before the con, feel free to contact the head of that department directly. If you are undecided and want to talk about what you can do as a volunteer for MarsCon ahead of time, drop me a line in email or catch me at a meeting. If you would like to donate a prize for volunteers, please get in touch with me asap. [volunteer11@marscon.org](mailto:volunteer11@marscon.org)

Remember, MarsCon is completely run by volunteers, so your contributions make this convention happen. Thank you and see you soon!

--Christine LaBounty





## Days of Magic!

### Upcoming Meetings, Events & Important Dates

Meetings generally get started at 1:00 PM at the Holiday Inn Select, 3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN. We welcome potential volunteers, representatives from other groups, and even the mildly curious to attend and contribute to planning.

January 9, 2011—Planning meeting; Program Book articles due

Feb 27, 2011—The “what did we forget!?” meeting

January 31, 2011—Registration rate increases; Program Book ads due

March 4-6, 2011—MarsCon happens!

February 13, 2011—Planning meeting; Last minute Programming revisions due

#### Rates for MarsCon 2011

Cut off Dates:	End of 2010 Con	10/31/10	1/31/11	At the Door
Teen/Adult	\$30	\$35	\$45	\$60
Child (6-12)	\$15	\$15	\$20	\$25
Supporting*	\$15	\$20	\$25	†
Sponsor	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75

\*Supporting members pay a reduced rate through 1/31/11 to hold tickets and then complete the purchase by paying an additional \$25 at any time up to and including at the door.

Please mail the form below with your payment (no cash, please) to the following address:

MarsCon, P.O. Box 21213  
Eagan, MN 55121

or register through our website using Paypal.

E-mail: [info@marscon.org](mailto:info@marscon.org)

Website: <http://marscon.org/2011>

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites: 952-854-9000 or 1-800-HOLIDAY

## MarsCon 2011 Preregistration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I need information about:  Dealers' Room  Art Show  Gaming  Masquerade  Party Room

#### Badge Type:

- Teen/Adult
- Child (6-12)
- Supporting
- Sponsor

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Badges will not designate Adults over 21. Expect to be asked for a valid ID at all parties serving alcohol.

#### Please email me:

- Mars Today updates
- Progress reports as PDFs
- I want to volunteer! Please contact me!



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