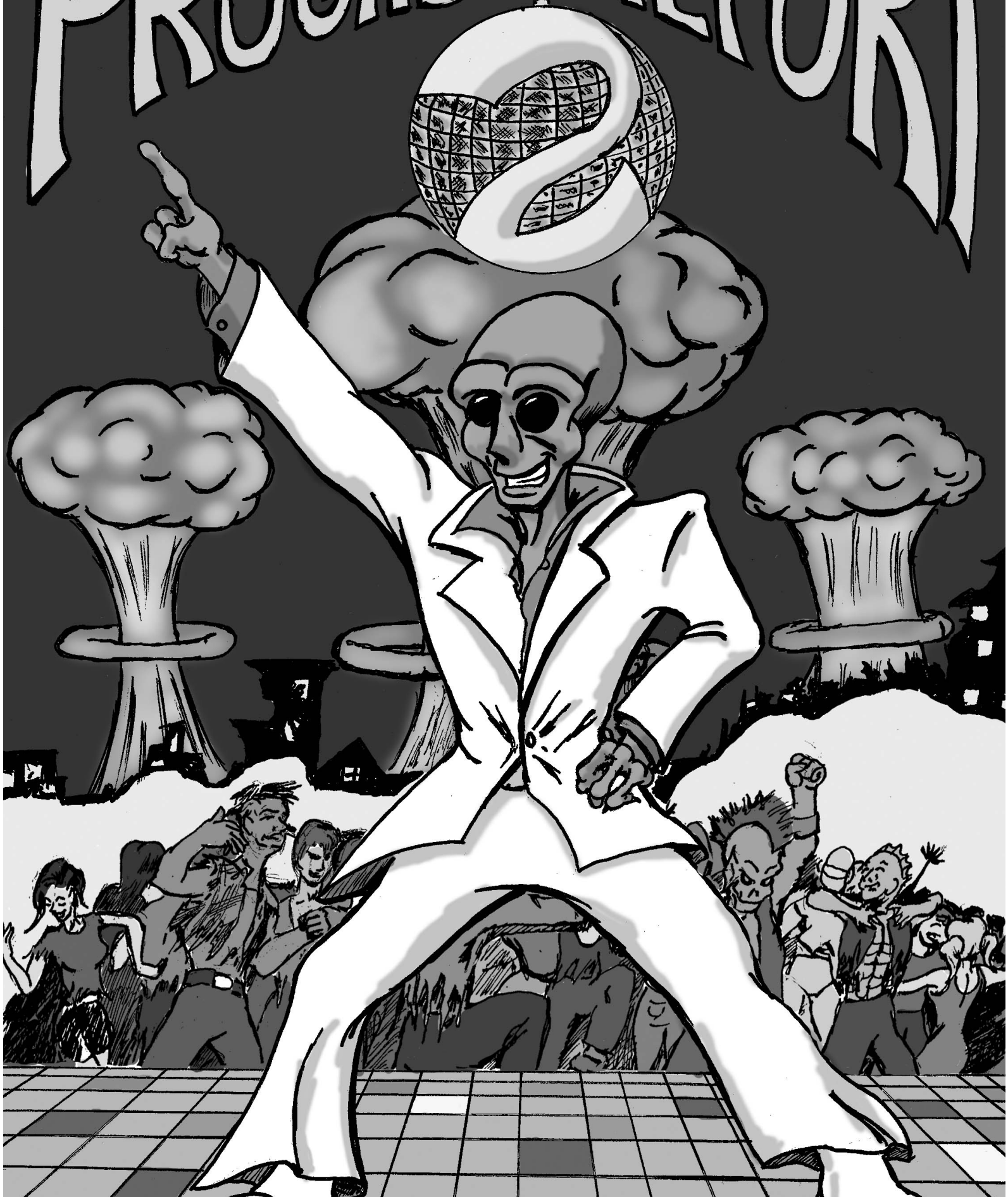


# PROGRESS REPORT



# MARS CON



# WELCOME FROM CON CHAIR 2012

First of all, let's talk about the MarsCon 5th Annual Masquerade Ball that was held Saturday, November 12, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Suites. Let us acknowledge how terrific the 5th Annual MarsCon Masquerade Ball actually was. There was dancing, and superb costumes, and movies upstairs with cake, and dancing, and a costume contest with lots of participants, and more dancing, and, yes, let there be no mistake - there was dancing....

And it could not have happened without the help and support of all the people who showed up early to set up the room and stayed late to tear down the room. All the people who went to other Cons and took posters and flyers and postcards, handing them out and sticking them up. All the people who talked to everyone they knew about the Ball, and how much fun it is.

To everyone who helped, in every way that you helped - a huge "Thank You" from the 2012 Con Chair. And we are looking forward to the party next year.

In other news - we are bringing you the best possible Convention for 2012 that we can create for you. So where in that process - less than 3 months out - are we now?

So far we have as our Media Guest

of Honor the actor Claudia Christian, most notably of *Babylon 5* repute. We have not one but two (2) Author Guests of Honor, Catherine Asaro and Rob Callahan, both of whom write science-fiction, but totally different kinds. We have three, yes, count them - three (3) Artist Guests of Honor: Comic Book Artist Jon Sloan (who is in the process of creating the badge artwork you will be wearing that weekend, as well as the official 2012 MarsCon T-shirt design), and 3-D Artists Aric and Kim Stewart, who work in fused glass, each piece unique. The Music Guest of Honor, sponsored by Dementia Radio, is the group Consortium of Genius (who, as far as we can see, defy definition and description), and our Fan Guests of Honor, long-term Whovians Wes and Wendell Duellman of The Omega Podcast. And it looks like Wes and Wendell just might have a couple of surprise guests for their podcasts while they are here... but we have to wait to tell you who....

But what does that mean for you? Well, a few hundred hours of programming, for a start. Let's see... there are the panels featuring our Guests of Honor, such as "Self-Publishing" with our Special Guest, poet Alex Ness, and both our Author Guests of Honor. There are the extensive costuming panels, such as "Care and Feeding of your Wig," and in honor of Claudia Christian, the ever-popular SRO series "How to make..." which will be creating a Minbari. There are so many different panels on so many different topics....

Naturally, there will be book-signings, and photo

opportunities with the various Guests as well as Q&A sessions. Catherine Asaro has promised us some of her songs from Main Stage. And speaking of Main Stage... will, as usual, have a plethora of events to excite and amuse, including the Famous MarsCon Masquerade Costume Contest on Saturday. You don't want to compete? There is a new category for 2012 – Exhibition, for all those people who love to dress up, don't want to do the contest, but would love the opportunity to show off all their hard work!

And if you have any ideas about what you would like to see for Programming, don't hesitate to let us know! There's a link on the website made just for bright ideas and suggestions!

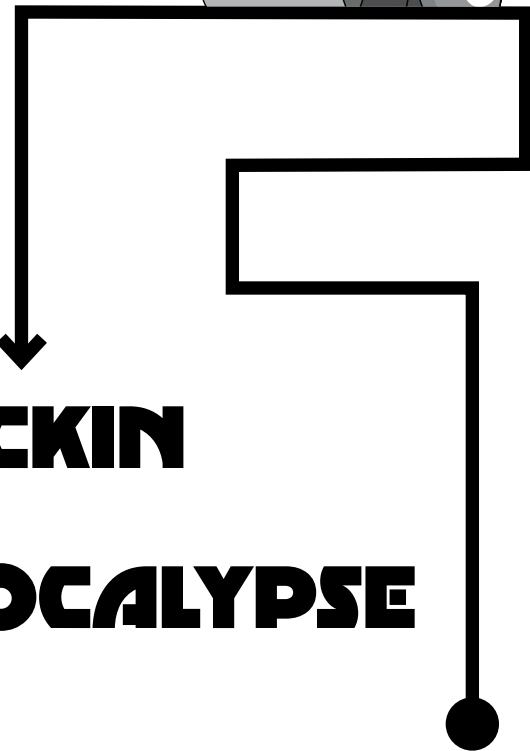
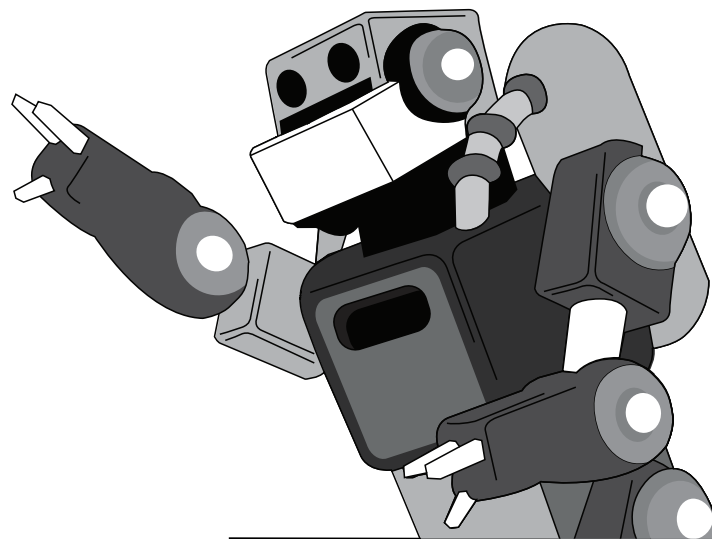
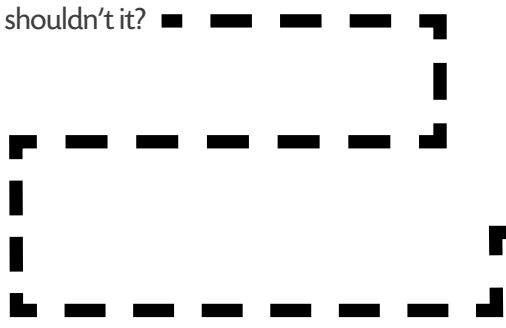
The Tardis Tea Society and the Seamstresses Guild are just two of the many room parties returning to the 13th Floor – and if you fancy hosting a room party on the 13th Floor Friday and/or Saturday night, please contact us as soon as possible, as space is limited!

The Dealer's Room, where you know you will find the perfect accoutrement to complete that outfit you have been aching to wear! And there's the Science Room, with Moon rocks and space stuff, the Propatorium with its extensive collection of props, models and reproductions, Krushenko's has all things literary, and the Movie Room is serving popcorn with the films. There's the Morgue if you're tired and need a refreshing massage, and the Con Suite, purveyor of all things sweet, the fabulous Art Show offering unique and unforgettable items, savory, and don't forget Gaming, good heavens! Don't forget Gaming!

Or maybe you like helping out? Volunteers are always welcome and necessary in planning and executing an event like this. Contact us on the website if you are interested in helping us put on this party, or simply come to Ops while you're there, and tell us – we'll be glad to see you, and there will be goodies in reward for your time, efforts and patience!

In short, everything that you have come to expect from MarsCon, and then some, will be here for 2012.

That should get us through the Apocalypse and out the other side, shouldn't it? ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



# ROCKIN THE APOCALYPSE

MarsCon 2012 Con Chairs

Jodi Klug

Ben Ellis

Fiona Eustathiades

● Love

## GUESTS OF HONOR



### Claudia Christian

Multi-talented Claudia Christian is an actor, a singer, a musician, a writer, and a director. She has appeared in over 50 films and hundreds of TV series including *The Hidden*, *The Chase*, *Clean and Sober*, *Hexed*, *Highlander*, and *NYPD Blue*.

Claudia is, perhaps, best known and loved by science fiction fans for her role as Commander Susan Ivanova in the Hugo award-winning television series *Babylon 5*. Her musical talents are showcased on five albums. Her amazing voice has been featured in Disney's feature film *Atlantis* as well as in award-winning audio books, Jaguar commercials, video games, and cartoons.



### Catherine Asaro

Renaissance woman Catherine Asaro is a scientist (Ph.D. from Harvard), a dancer who has performed on both coasts, and a bestselling, award-winning writer of science fiction and fantasy. The author of twenty-five novels, she is acclaimed for her *Ruby Dynasty* series, which combines adventure, science, romance and fast-paced action.

Her novel *The Quantum Rose* won the prestigious Nebula Award, as did her novella *The Spacetime Pool* (Analog 2008). She is a three time recipient of the Romantic Times BOOKClub Award for "Best Science Fiction Novel" and has won numerous other distinctions.

Catherine also has two music CDs out. The first, *Diamond Star*, is the soundtrack for her novel of the same name, performed with the rock band, Point Valid. The second, *Goodbye Note*, includes covers as well as originals. She performs with various musicians at club science conventions, and other venues in the US and also overseas, most recently as the Guest of Honor at Context, the New Zealand National Science Fiction Convention.



### Author Rob Callahan

Rob Callahan is a professional purveyor of made-up stories about the way we really are. His works of fiction include the novel, *Hellbound Snowballs* and the short story collections, *Grave Whisperer* and *Damaged Goods*. He has written and performed two award-winning

spoken word shows, *Idiosyncronicity* and *The Last Ditch* (co-written with Allegra Lingo), and he regularly joins the Minneapolis entertainment troupe The Rockstar Storytellers on stage. His nonfiction has graced the pages of *Secrets of the City*, *Salon.com*, *l'etoile Magazine*, *Cracked.com* and *Livestrong.com*. He is also a part-time contributor to several magazines published by Tiger Oak Publications. For more information, please visit: [RobCallahan.com](http://RobCallahan.com)

### Jon Sloan

Jon Sloan is a local cartoonist who has been writing, drawing, and promoting his comic *Sa-Bom Jim* since 2004. His works has also appeared in a number of other collaborative publications such as *Muscles & Fights*, *Uptown Girl Presents*, *The City Pages Comix Issue* (2008), *SuperfantasticaComix*, and the upcoming *Germ Warfare*. Jon is a member of The International Cartoonist Conspiracy. He has taught Cartooning and Comics workshops at two local libraries, and has been a guest creator at FallCon and SpringCon.

### Aric and Kim Stewart

MarsCon and the MarsCon Art Show welcome Twin Cities artists Aric and Kim Stewart as our first official "Three Dimensional Artist" Guests of Honor. Both Aric and Kim Stewart are accomplished in creating beautifully fused-glass and wire wrapped-pendants, circlets, bracelets, necklaces, earrings and more. Each piece is a one-of-a-kind and each one is handmade. This husband-and-wife team creates "items for all budgets and tastes" using semi-precious stone, Swarovski Crystal and fused glass.

### Music Group The Consortium of Genius

Deep within their secret lair, four mad scientists and one smart-alecky robot are hatching an evil plot: TO ROCK the EARTH into OBLIVION! Lights, chaos, action! More than just virtuosity of musicianship, dazzling and oft bewildering visual effects, sensational representatives of mad



science, The Consortium of Genius are an industrial-strength powerhouse featuring up to ten cerebral miscreants who jolt their audience into staggering submission. The resulting evil brainchild is part musical showcase, part sketch comedy, and all hi-tech magic. The group's website is located at [www.ConsortiumOfGenius.com](http://www.ConsortiumOfGenius.com).



### Fans Wes & Wendell Duellman of the Omega Podcast

The Omega Podcast reviews many things in the Doctor Who universe and more! This podcast, based in

the Midwest of the USA, is transmitted every week... or so... The hosts, Wendell and Wes, are long-time *Doctor Who* fans. Make sure to visit The Omega Podcast website at [www.theomegapodcast.org](http://www.theomegapodcast.org)! You can also check out their YouTube page or follow them on Twitter.

## MARSCON 2012 CHARITIES

MarsCon has been hosting charity auctions and food/clothing drives since we began—14 years ago! Please consider donating items or volunteering for this year's Charity Auction. Proceeds will be split evenly between the Gordy Dickson Memorial Scholarship Fund which benefits aspiring science fiction authors and Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans which benefits veterans who are homeless or experiencing other life crises. We are also hosting a food drive for Twin Cities' Second Harvest Heartland.

If you are planning to host any charitable activities or events at MarsCon, we would be happy to include them in our program. You may contact us via e-mail: [info12@marscon.org](mailto:info12@marscon.org). Thank you for your generosity!

### BLOOD DRIVE

Here's your chance to change a life while at MarsCon - give blood! Since 2006, the USS Nokomis has been hosting successful blood drives on the Saturday of MarsCon. That makes this our 7th annual! Please take some time out of your Saturday to help the American Red Cross and USS Nokomis reach the goal. If you have questions about the donation process, see [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) USS Nokomis NCC-1858 Questions to USS Nokomis about the blood drive? Ask the Captain.

Mary M Pucel, MBA, MT(ASCP) Director, Donor Recruitment American Red Cross

**Mid-America Blood Services Division  
100 South Robert Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55107**

**P:** (651) 291-3366 **F:** (651) 291-3884  
**W:** [pucelmm@usa.redcross.org](mailto:pucelmm@usa.redcross.org)

### HOTEL PARKING

The upper two levels of parking ramp, spaces without reserve signs, and underground levels of the ramp are for parking. If you have friends or relatives coming for the day to MarsCon, after they pick up their badges at registration, they will need to go to front desk and fill out a parking slip. If they do not there will be a chance that they could be towed or a boot put on their car. Thank you for your cooperation.

## PROP-A-TORIUM VI AND THE HALF-BLOOD PROPS

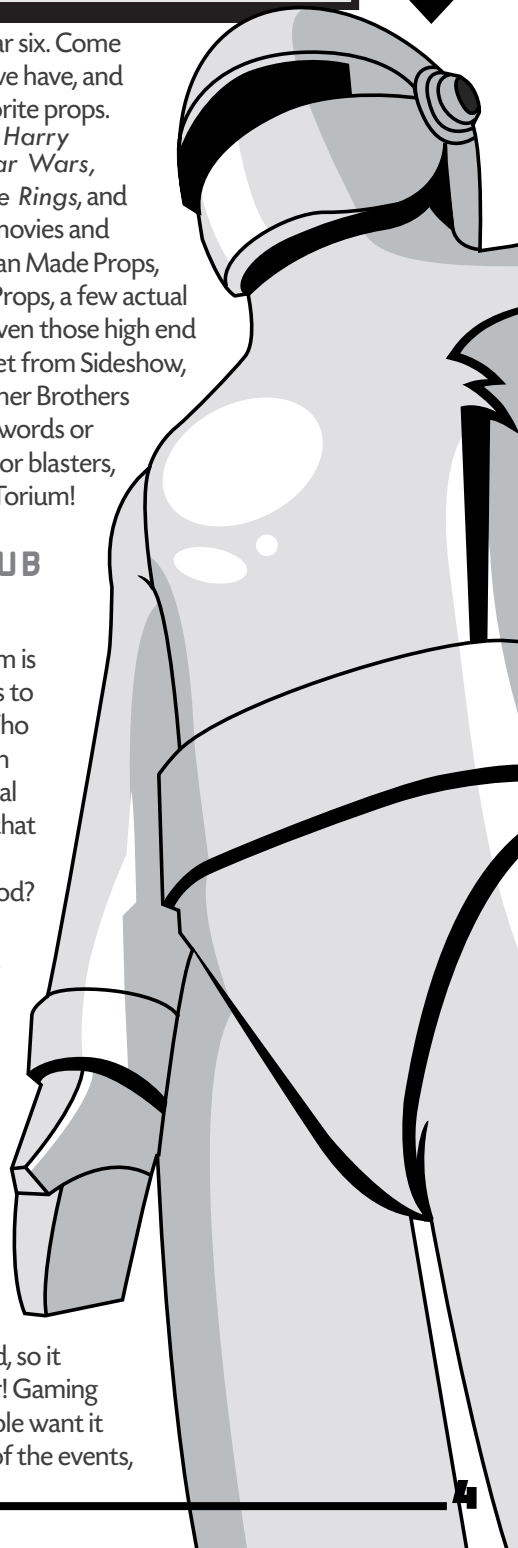
We're back for year six. Come see what new props we have, and the return of our favorite props. From *Indiana Jones*, *Harry Potter*, *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Stargate*, *Lord of the Rings*, and so much more from movies and TV shows. We have Fan Made Props, "Officially Licensed" Props, a few actual Screen-Used Props, even those high end collectibles we all covet from Sideshow, Master Replicas, Warner Brothers and more. If you like swords or lightsabers, bullwhips or blasters, come by the Prop-A-Torium!

### THE A/V CLUB ROOM

The A/V club room is looking for volunteers to help run the room. Who doesn't want to watch movies? Second annual film festival, is it true that fans can make better movies than Hollywood? See what fans can do when they are given a camera.

### SUP GAMERS!

Hello again from MarsCon Gaming! Last year was pretty cool. Most of the problems, such as the multiple rooms issues, have been fixed, so it should be even cooler! Gaming will run as late as people want it to. If you missed any of the events,



many are returning for MarsCon 2012, plus some new ones that are sure to please! Remember to get your game requests and other suggestions in at [games12@marscon.org](mailto:games12@marscon.org) or follow the link on the web site early, because space for demos and scheduled events is limited. People can sign up for any block of time to host whatever games they want, no matter how ridiculous. Any open space remaining will allow Open Gaming, which is always good. Thanks for the continued support. Remember to keep your pencils sharp, your dice clean, and your cards close, and we'll see you at MarsCon 2012!

—Brian LaBounty & Matthew Hellendrung  
(Gaming Czars)

## MARSCON MASQUERADE LOUNGE

### GREETINGS FROM THE NEW CO-HEAD OF MASQUERADE.

Actually, I'm the (old) new head of Masquerade, specifically the head of the Masquerade committee that deals with the Masquerade Lounge set-up and programming. The NEW head of the Masquerade contest itself is Bill Hedrick. Many of you have seen him and I team up to do the (combined make-up and costume demo, "Creating the ", at past MarsCons.

Over the years, programming in the Masquerade Lounge has grown substantially, from almost nothing to over 20 hours of costume related panels, demos and discussions. And I just don't have enough time to keep track of it all. So that's why I've asked Bill to take over the contest part of it, but there will still be plenty of programming related to costumes. The regulars; "Masquerade 101" (how to enter a costume contest), "Judging 101", "Care and Feeding of Wigs", "Basic Make-up", "Henna Painting". Plus some newer ones; "An Overview of Underwear", "Corsets and Crinolines", "SteamPunk Fashions", as well as prop making panels, and "Tips and Tricks for Costume Beginners".

I'd like to hear from you! Are there any costume/prop/make-up/wig related panels you'd like to see, or, better yet, like to host? We're always on the look-out for the next big thing in cosplay! Just contact me by e-mail (you can forward your message by way of the general MarsCon info email address, [info12@marscon.org](mailto:info12@marscon.org)).

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

(For any specific questions about the Masquerade contest itself (rules and regs and all that), and/or hall costume awards, please contact Bill Hedrick at [masquerade12@marscon.org](mailto:masquerade12@marscon.org).)

### MASQUERADE NOTES

Greetings! I am the NEW Head of Masquerade, Bill Hedrick. I have been for several years Rae's stunt double,

and in a fit of sleep deprivation, took the job for running the Masquerade! We hope to keep the good things going and to add more fun things! One of the important additions I want to make is to add a new category to the Masquerade, a formal Exhibition class. There are a LOT of great costumes that never get on stage at MarsCon, we need to show them off to as many people as possible. I have a cunning plan to get you on to the adoring masses as painlessly as imaginable. MarsCon has always prided itself as having a friendly accessible inviting masquerade; that won't change a whit! But we will have new improved interfaces, a better photo session, and generally improving the already fun atmosphere. We will have many surprises and additions to announce in the future.

Also we need more volunteers! If you want to get behind the scenes and see just how costume-related stuff works, this is for you. You also get to spend time with amazing folks and make new friends!

Bill Hedrick - Masquerade Director

## UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Planning meetings, a.k.a. ConCom meetings, take place throughout the year. You needn't be a member of the committee to attend. We welcome visitors, representatives of other groups, and the mildly curious. We promise to not press-gang you unless you express an interest in volunteering. In that case you are so ours.

Meetings generally are held on Sundays at 1:00 PM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites (formerly Holiday Inn Select), 3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN. Here is our meeting schedule and list of important dates:

- 1/8/12—ConCom Meeting
- 1/31/12—Registration rate increases; Program Book ads deadline
- 2/12/12—Program Book articles due; Ops training
- 2/26/12—The "What did we forget?" meeting
- 3/9-12/12—MarsCon happens!

## LAST CALL FOR PROGRAMMING IDEAS!

Many thanks to everyone who helped by presenting programming at MarsCon 2011—from magical discussions, to amazing and memorable concerts and performances—programming just seems to get better and better each year. Now here is your chance to top last year's programming events and party like you've survived an apocalypse!

Please think about what you've seen and liked in past years or at past cons...or maybe what you've never seen yet that would be astounding or wonderful

to see at MarsCon 2012. Then post your idea for an event to our online programming ideas form at: [http://marscon.org/2012/program\\_ideas.php](http://marscon.org/2012/program_ideas.php).

Let us know if you wish to volunteer for this event or if you have a Guest of Honor or someone else in mind to run with your idea and make that event happen. If special tech is needed, tell us about it. There are a lot of steadfast volunteers around who can help with technical needs.

MarsCon depends on you, the attendees, for much of our programming. The best ideas always come from attendees, so please share your ideas with us.

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. I can't thank you enough!

—Christine LaBounty, Programming Chair

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS

2012 sees MarsCon back at the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites (formerly Holiday Inn Select...same hotel, different name). The room rates are \$95 + tax for a regular room and \$115 + tax for suites on any floor, including the party floor.

Reservations made by calling hotel directly at 952-854-9000 or toll-free at 1-800-227-6963 and mention "MarsCon Sci-Fi/Fantasy Convention."

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)

## HOSTING A PARTY?

An Apocalyptic Party to be held on the 13th floor of a hotel? Sign me up! What do people at MarsCon do after programming is ended for the day? After Science Room, Prop-a-torium, Dealers Room and Art Show have closed? Why, they party until the wee hours of the morning, of course!

So would you like to help make MarsCon a great con by throwing a party? Of course you would, but you are wondering how do I do this? It is fairly easy really: First pay a visit to the party request form section of the MarsCon 2012 website: <http://marscon.org/2012/parties.php> Then fill in the required fields, then contact the hotel, book your room, and send us your confirmation number.

Get your requests in early for specific rooms or suites, as suites are limited on the party room floor. There is also an option to remove furniture for a \$25 charge. Lastly any questions, comments, concerns please contact us at: [parties12@marscon.org](mailto:parties12@marscon.org).

Thanks, and we look forward to seeing your party at the convention!

## 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 [publications12@marscon.org](mailto:publications12@marscon.org) for information about ad specs for the Program Book. Ads are due by January 31, 2012. We reserve the right to refuse any ad.

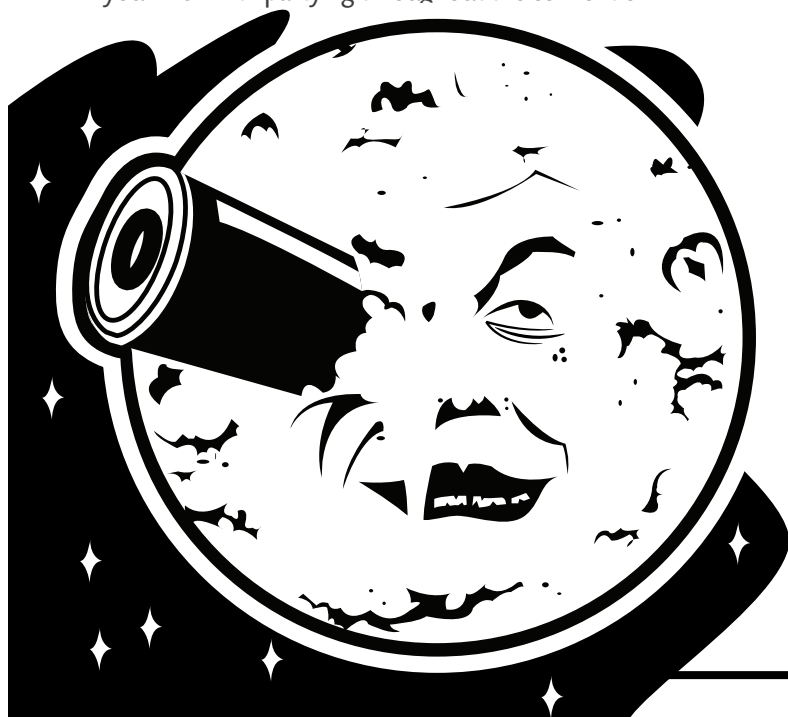
### Program Book Fan Group / Pro

Full Page (7" x 8.5") .....	\$60-\$85
Half Page (7" x 4.25") .....	\$30-\$50
Business Card .....	\$15-\$25

**VOLUNTEER.  
IT'S A COOL THING TO DO.**

Volunteers can expect the usual incentives like buttons, t-shirts, discounts and other goodies.

There may be a few scheduled events for volunteers as well, like drawings for prizes, set times for certain Snarky's



meals, celebrity meet & greets and a party 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 us a line in email or join us for a meeting. If you would like to donate a prize for volunteers, please get in touch with us asap at [volunteer12@marscon.org](mailto:volunteer12@marscon.org). Remember, MarsCon is completely run by volunteers, so your contributions make this convention happen.

## BECOMING A SPONSOR

Completely, crazy-nuts about MarsCon? Find yourself wishing you could do a little more to keep the party going or make it better? YOU CAN! Please consider becoming a MarsCon 2012 Sponsor. Giving a little extra money along with your registration will go far in improving the quality and variety of everything we offer, as in:

*More chocolate for Con Suite;*

*More Guests to entertain you;*

*More equipment for Main Stage;*

*More variety in Programming;*

*More exhibits in the Science Room;*

*More space for Parties and Games;*

*More movies for AV Film Club;*

*More prizes for Costumes/Karaoke.*

Sponsors may be rewarded with special badge ribbons, acknowledgment in the Program Book, and the exuberant gratitude of all your fellow fen. Or, if you prefer, sponsorship can be kept quiet. We will still love you. Sponsors are welcome to request that funds be spent on a particular department or event.

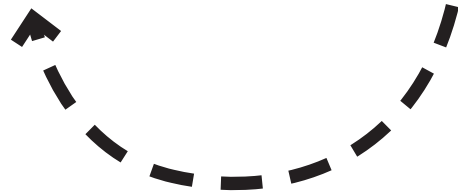
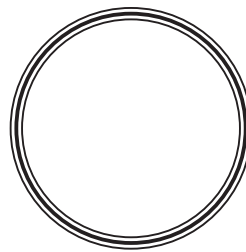
## CON CHAIR 2013

Psst! Hey, you! Yeah, you! Listen, I can't say much. mum's the word and all that, but, I hear that 2013, being the 15th Anniversary of MarsCon, is gonna be stupendous. We have lined up some terrific Media Guests, some awesome Author Guests. O, it's gonna be good...but....I can't tell you about it yet.\*argh\*

But you are gonna HAVE to be there..or be a rectangular shape. **Really.**

**Earth**

**Mars**



**The Martians  
are Coming!**





# RATES FOR MARSCON 2012

	1 31 12	At the door
Through	1 31 12	At the door
Adult	\$45	\$60
Child	\$20	\$25
Supporting	\$25	-
Sponsor	\$75	\$75

\*Supporting members pay a reduced rate through 1|31|12 to hold tickets and then complete the purchase by paying an additional \$25 at any time up to and including at the door.

You can register online with Paypal or mail the form below with your payment to the following address: **(no cash, please)**

**Marscon**  
**P.O Box 21213**  
**Eagan, MN 55121**

**E:** [info12@marscon.org](mailto:info12@marscon.org)

**W:** <http://marscon.org/2012>

**Crowne Plaza Hotel:** 952-854-9000

## MARSCON REGISTRATION FORM

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

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

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

Address(2): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**I WANT TO VOLUNTEER! PLEASE CONTACT ME!**

**Please E-mail me:**  MarsToday updates  Progress Reports as PDFs

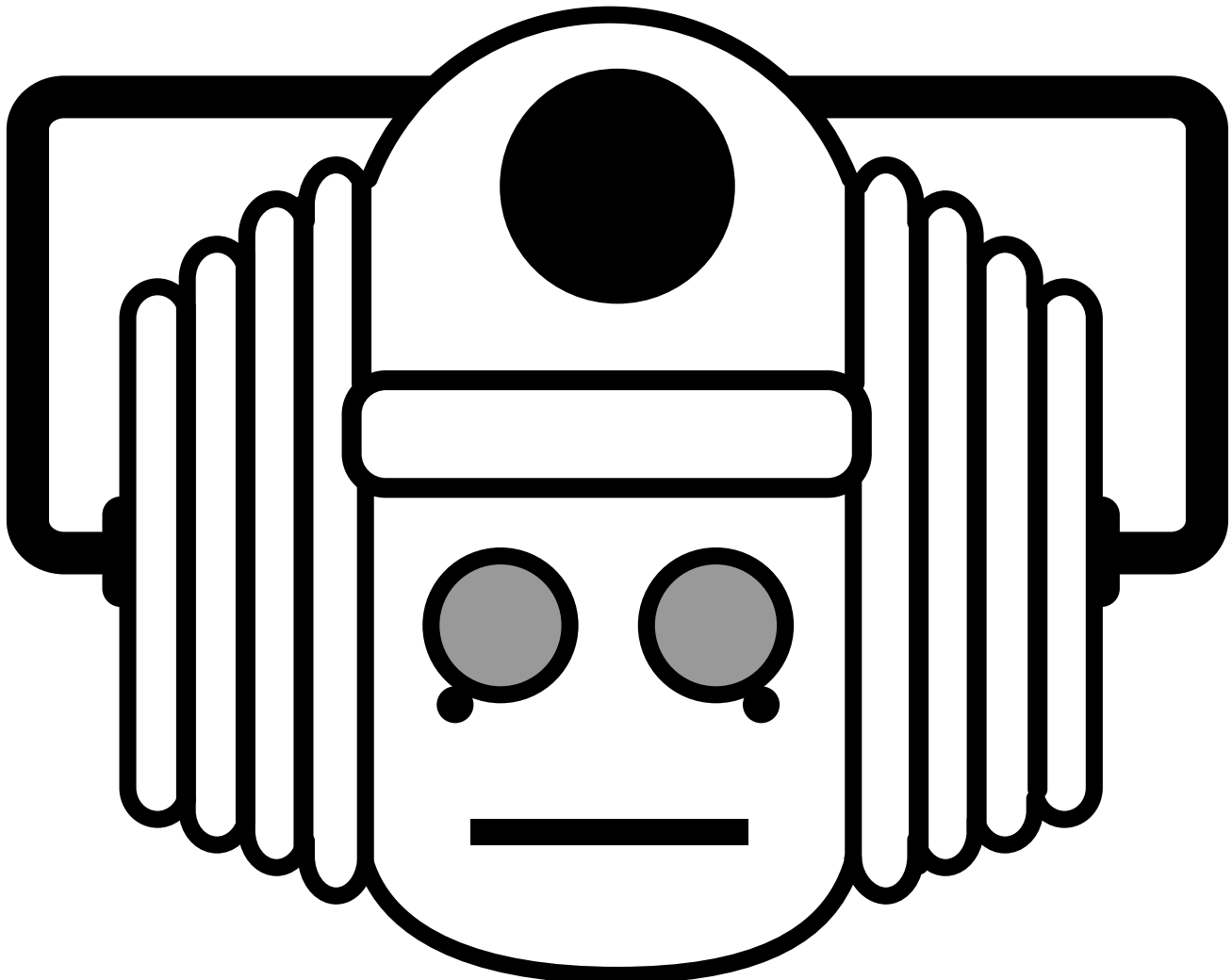
I want information about:  Dealer's Room  Art Show  Gaming Room  Masquerade  Party Room

© 2011 FenSF, PR 2

### Badge Type:

Adult  Child (6-12)  Supporting

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



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