

MarsCon 2011: Days of Magic!

March 4-6th Holiday Inn & Suites
Bloomington, MN

Progress Report One

Volume 13, Issue 1

September 2010

These Are Our Magical Guests of Honor!



Actor Alexis 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 Klorel in the latter.

Four-time Hugo Award winning Author, 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.



Artists 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.

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!



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.





A Welcome From Our Con Chair...

Greetings, All you heroes of light and knights of the dark. It is time for our Progress Report One (nicknamed PR1) for the coming year's convention. In 2011 we'll explore the Days of Magic and look to enjoy the wonders they offer. To start the festivities, we have our upcoming Masquerade Ball with the theme "Dance With Majick" (only \$10 at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Bloomington on Oct.30 @ 6pm). I am looking for the best looking Mage Guilds this time, so we will see...

Please join us, won't you?

—Christopher "Dark Lord" RiversBey



Your Con Home Away From Home!

2011 sees MarsCon back at the Holiday Inn Select. 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 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).



First Call for Programming Ideas!

This is it! This is your chance to bring something magical and fun to MarsCon! Just think of the possibilities of this theme: Days of Magic!

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. Please 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!



Volunteering Will Make You Feel So Good!

I'm taking the reigns on the Volunteer Department this year. My first time, so be gentle. You can expect the usual incentives like buttons, t-shirts, discounts and other goodies. Since this Programming hat simply refuses to leave my head though, I'd like to try 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. I want to give volunteers a chance to meet the guests too.

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

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

—Christine LaBounty



Masquerade & Costuming Programming

Hi All, from your friendly neighborhood Masquerade Director,
Rae Lundquist

Just look at what we're doing for 2011!

Our Masquerade Lounge (located in the first floor Pippin Room) contains:

- Costume related panels
- Masquerade contest registration and contest green room
- Backdrop for photography, open to all con-goers (during posted hours)
- Costume emergency first aid station (for all those last minute costume malfunctions!)
- Altar to the goddess of caffeine (constant supply of Coke and chocolate for all dedicated costumers)

Costume related panel ideas (so far):

- Masquerade 101—presentation / workmanship
- Judging 101—what judges are looking for
- How to be a judge
- Make up and prosthetics
- Prop Construction
- Creating the...(combined wig/make-up/costume demo with live model)
- Care and feeding of wigs/hair
- How to read a pattern
- From picture to perfect: How to analyze a costume project
- Mask making
- Overview of underwear
- Basic sewing tips and tricks
- Uniforms construction
- Steampunk costuming ideas
- Kimono dressing
- Anime costuming for non-anime bodies
- Crash course in corseting
- Wing construction
- Organizing a masquerade contest
- Costume show and tell



If you want to see these panels happen, please volunteer! We need you to make these work!

If you have any other great ideas for costume related panels,

please contact us. We'd love to hear from you!

Of course, we'll have a Masquerade costume contest! And we'd love to have you participate! In fact, we appreciate it so much, we give you a free photo of you/your group just for entering! Not to mention cool medals for winners! And not just presentation or costume winners, but awards for great props, and make-up too! So get going on those great costumes! More information about contest registration in the next progress report!

Love to take pictures of costumes, but hate trying to do it in crowded hallways? We have a space set aside just for picture taking in the Masquerade Lounge, with a terrific background. Open to everyone most hours of the con.

What happens if your wings start falling off or your tights start ripping? We have an app for that, or at least a solution! The Costume Emergency First Aid Station, which stocks just about everything you need for repairs (duct tape, masking tape, hot glue, staples, needles and thread, pins, safety pins...you get the idea). If you need it, we can fix it. All part of the free service to all MarsCon con-goers!

And the Altar to the Goddess of Caffeine? It's well known that most costumers thrive on a diet of Coke and chocolate, so we make sure that it is in plentiful supply. Offerings are freely available to all who come to the Masquerade Lounge.

There will be more information about the Masquerade Lounge and the Masquerade contest in the next Progress report. Any questions? Just send MarsCon an e-mail and it will be routed right to me. I'll answer ASAP!

Rae Lundquist / MarsCon Masquerade Director

(a.k.a. The DreamStitcher) email: costumell@marscon.org



MarsCon Gaming!

Hello again from MarsCon Gaming! Last year we had a great turn out and the scheduled events, plus the 24-hour open room was a blast! If you missed any of the events many are returning for MarsCon 2011, plus some new ones that are sure to please! Remember to get your game requests in at games11@marscon.org or follow the link on the web site early because space for demos and scheduled events is limited. Thanks for the continued support and remember to keep your pencils sharp, your dice clean, and your cards close, and we'll see you at Marscon 2011!

—Dan Penwarden (Gaming Head)



Parties! Parties! Parties!



Once panels are done what does one do at MarsCon? Pay a visit to the party floor of course!

Once the Art Show has been visited at MarsCon what does one do? Pay a visit to the party floor of course!

Once the Dealers Room has been visited at MarsCon what does one do? Pay a visit to the party floor of course! But first go stash your newfound items in your room so they do not get lost in the mischief and mayhem of the 13th floor.

So what have we learned from this little question session about what to do after the daytime events of MarsCon have drawn to a close? Well, that it's time to party on the 13th floor!



So would you like to help make MarsCon a great con by throwing a party? Of course you do 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 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.

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

Nicky Penwarden, Parties Head

[All Fairies drawn by Megan Rheault, all rights reserved]



Vote for a Charity!

Over the past twelve years, our charitable activities at MarsCon have included food drives, blood drives, clothing drives and charity auctions. Our auctions have benefitted the Camp Heartland Project, the Alzheimer's Association, the Gordy Dickson Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Fans Educational Network for Science Fiction, Family Circuits, the Standing Rock Reservation, the Minnesota Disaster Relief Fund and Twin Cities Second Harvest Heartland.

Please let us know which charity you would like us to sponsor for 2011. 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 snail mail or e-mail: info2011@marscon.org.

The live vote for designated charity will take place at our October meeting. See the "Upcoming Meetings, Events & Important Dates" section for details. Anyone who attends may vote. As always, we need donations of items to be auctioned for charity at MarsCon, and we welcome any and all who would like to volunteer for the charity auction or other charity-related activities at the convention. Thank you for your continued generosity!

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 2011 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 will 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. THANK YOU!

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 contact us by snail mail or e-mail 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



Dealer's Room

We are back again in the same location, with many previous dealers and with a few new dealers, with the greatest variety yet! Be ready to find your best treasure!

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. We also will have a special new design convention patch.

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



Upcoming Meetings, Events & Important Dates

Planning meetings for MarsCon take place throughout the year, and they are a great place to add your ideas to MarsCon 2011. 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.

September 2010—First call for programming ideas (PR1—This is it!)

October 10, 2010—Charity Vote

October 15–17, 2010—Valley Con Promo Party, Fargo, ND

October 30, 2010 (Halloween Eve)—Masquerade Ball, 6–11 PM

October 31, 2010—Registration rate increases

November 14, 2010—PR2 submissions due

December 5, 2010—Last call for Programming Ideas

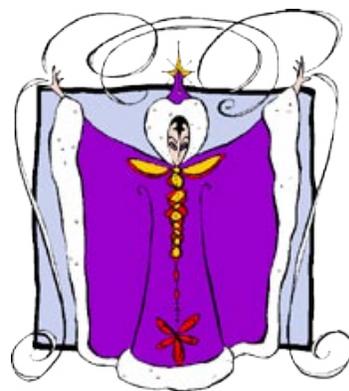
January 9, 2011—Program Book articles due

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

February 13, 2011—Last minute Programming revisions due

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

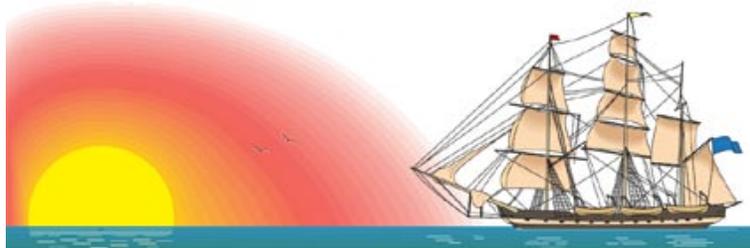
March 4–6, 2011—MarsCon happens!



Let The Sorceress of
Simply Cooking
Take You on a
Magical and Educational Tour
Of one of the Elixirs of the GODS,
Chocolate!

You will experience the subtle & sublime difference of chocolate from around the World Bazaars. Come along on the Chocolate Journey at MarsCon 2011. More Information in PR 2. Become A

~Mage of Chocolate~



You Are Cordially Invited to Attend The 4th Annual

MarsCon

In Anticipation of:

MarsCon 2011

Masquerade Ball

at the
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Bloomington, MN

Days of Magic

October 30, 2010 (Halloween Eve)

Meet & Greet at 6:00 PM, Ball Begins 7:00 to 11:00 PM

Join us for:

Only \$10 Admission!

Music with a DJ and Dancing,

Refreshments upstairs at the Movie Marathon,

Cash Bar outside in the hall,

Costume Contest with great prizes,

Lots of Fun with your friends!

Visit www.marscon.org/2011/ball for details
Sponsored by FenSF, Inc.

And Here's A Handy Prereg Form for MarsCon 2011:

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: info1@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!



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)

Name _____

Earlier Bird Special if paid by Nov. 11th, 2010:

Cost \$25 Each: _____ Cash _____ Check _____

Regular Cost if paid between Nov. 12th, 2010 and Feb. 20th 2011:

Cost \$30 Each: _____ Cash _____ Check _____

Late Sign Up between Feb. 21th, 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

Registrations after February 20th go up to \$40 each, with some limited availability after start of Marscon 2011.

Information available by emailing jemswenson@msn.com. Please note Snarky's in Subject line

Breakfast available starting shortly after 07:00 AM.

Dealers Room members (prepaid registrations only)—Stop in at Snarky's for Breakfast. We are looking for runners to take orders and deliver food for lunch and some suppers. If you have 2 or more people at your table, please try to send someone up to pick up food for your Snarky's resistered group or take turns coming up for food (Names will be checked). Supper meals starting about 06:30 PM and going until 09:00 PM with food available at all times of the day from 07:00 AM—Midnight. Some supper deliveries will be done, but if at all possible, please stop in for food.

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