

On September 9th-11th of 2011, the Marriott Tech Center in Denver CO held the 15th annual Nan Desu Kan, the premier anime convention of the Denver area, as well as Colorado's surrounding states for that matter. On September 10th, at that very same convention, a group of bronies met up in what was the first (and hopefully annual) NDK brony meetup. Everypony whom I have talked to since has agreed on the same thing: that it was an experience of magic on the same levels as friendship.

I had been planning on attending NDK after having such a wonderful experience with it the year before, and I had just picked up on the MLP craze in the middle of summer. Same goes for my brother, who had learned about MLP:FiM from me. After watching the entire series, I started to dabble and lurk around on the Equestria Daily blog, and other sites such as PonyChan. I had noticed many of the write-ups for meetups all around the U.S. and decided to do some research into whether there was going to be one near Wyoming. Imagine my surprise to discover that there was one that was scheduled to happen at an event I was already committed to going to. So I hopped on the band wagon, sent my e-mail to the person in charge of the mailing list and prepared my body for some awesome pony times.

The day of the meet-up was upon us! My brother and I were fairly excited (this is a huge understatement). The meet-up was scheduled for 11:30, but we were there around 11:10, working off of a solid four hours of sleep. Conventions tend to interfere with sleep schedules like that. Ponies began milling around the coffee shop located in the Tech center where the convention was being held. There we ran into our now good friend SpiritofthwWolf (check out his stuff on Deviant Art!) who had been wrangled into taking charge of the entire thing, since the pony who had originally planned everything was unable to make it. We waited around the coffee shop until 11:26, by which point we had gathered a fairly large crowd.

11:30 rolled around and we moved outside since our group was too big to just stand around in the middle of the lobby. Our humble group of ponies was up to a strong 35 of us. It looked like a regular Pony Parade walking around outside, trying to find a nice place to hang out and meet everybody. Sadly, we scared away a couple of Powerpuff Girl Coplayers whom we invited to join us. We talked amongst ourselves, of things pony or nonpony (but mostly pony) related things and got to know each other.

As was inevitable when a bunch of ponies meet each other, the group eventually broke out into song. At first it wasn't very organized, but we eventually managed to get out a rendition of Winter Wrap-Up (that may or may not have been entirely on pitch, but was amazing and fun nonetheless) on camera, which ended up on Equeatria Daily before I could even finish this write-up. Of course, what does

a group such as us do when we finish a song? MORE SINGING OF COURSE!! So we proceeded to sing many different songs from the show, including Giggle at the Ghostie, What is this Place and the Theme song, but I don't think any of those managed to get on camera.

The singing faded off when a pony by the name of Metacritter showed up with tons of sheets of pocket ponies (Another hug thanks to you Metacritter!!!) for everyone, as well as scissors and tape, which went wonderfully with the pony badges that an Artist's booth at the convention had been selling (link at the bottom). The group continued to laugh and talk while they cut themselves out pocket ponies before we eventually decided to bring the meetup into a recess so ponies could go do some convention exploring and would meet back up again at the official photoshoot at 2:00. I personally got a Great and Powerful Trixie to add to my badge while I talked with a couple other ponies (Deviant Art namedrops inbound!) H.P. Lovecolt, TheRedEngineer and SpiritofthwWolf.

The photoshoot (organized by TheRedEngineer) started at two, and trust me, there were plenty of pictures to be taken. Our group had gotten even bigger since the initial meetup. The amount of cosplayers would have been large enough to make the meetup huge. We had 8 Fluttershy's, 8 Rainbow Dash's, 5 Pinkie Pies, 5 Applejack's, 3 Twilight's, a Rarity, a Derpy, 2 Big Macintosh's, a Sweetie Belle, a Spike (with full mustache), an Apple Bloom, a G&PT, a Luna, a Celestia and even a Cockatrice! That didn't include the ponies who had not come dressed in cosplay, such as my brother, myself and several others who were there taking pictures or just hanging out.

After the pictures were taken (which took a solid 45 minutes) we decided to go on another break to go and explore whatever else the convention offered. I gave Spirit the idea that we march/skip our way through the convention singing What a Magical Place. Another pony gave him an idea as to what time would be good. It was decided that the group would meet at the same place we did for the initial meetup at 10:00 p.m. that night, though everypony was invited to hang out with their fellow bronies if they wanted to do that instead of going back in.

After much exploring and conventioning, 10:00 rolled around and we began to gather en masse again. We began to march through the artist's booth areas and managed to sing the entire song twice (turns out that the song is much shorter than I remembered it being), so we moved on to Winter Wrap-up and moved throughout other areas of the convention, bringing in other people to march and sing with us. We managed to march everywhere on the hotel's lobby floor. Another group tried to steal our thunder and out-sing/march us, but we grouped together to end our march with a rendition of the Theme song and decided Bronies had officially made NDK 20% cooler for each and every one of us, which at that point

Nan Desu Kan Brony Meetup 2011

by

Atomsk Pony

had to be somewhere around 1000% cooler.

A couple kind ponies allowed the few of us who were still awake to come up and enjoy some last minute partying before the night was over. There we talked and got each other's email so we could all keep in touch. To finish the night, we decided to invade the rave that was going on around midnight. While only a few of us were still awake to make it in, we marched right in and when the music died down collectively shouted "These ponies don't want to party, they want to pa-ah-ar-tay!" And party we did. What an amazing way to spend a Saturday.

All in all it was a complete success of a meetup. A Facebook page was made (which I am now an admin of and everyone should join) for the Colorado (and Wyoming) that does not have near enough members yet. We are also working on a forum page for us as well, so we can plan future meetups (which I may also end up helping out a lot with), talk about ponies and the like, or do whatever else we see fit with. I had a fantastic time this past weekend, and it was largely in part to you guys. I want to thank everyone again for all their work that they put into it. Everypony who participated is a glorious member of our world and I look forward to doing it all again with you guys soon.

For anyone interested, the Facebook page (with some of the pictures as well as pictured of the pony badges available at the con) is here:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/273937365968750/>

The official site for Colorado (and Wyoming) Bronies is here:

<http://coloradobronies.org/>

The youtube videos of us singing can be found here:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U\\_Z3qkhXTyk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_Z3qkhXTyk)

and us marching (some of it anyway):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7Mh-Gw3bO0>