



The GCOMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Games Club Of Maryland

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January 2003

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) UPDATES

December 2002

1. BOD E-mail Communication

Board discussions will primarily take place via e-mail with Face to face meetings called as needed.

2. Euro Mini Con

-Two GCOM members, John Weber and Keith Levy, were approached by BPA President, Don Greenwood, to run a Euro Mini Convention.

-The Board did not make any official decisions regarding GCOM running a Game Convention featuring primarily games from Europe.

-A decision was made that a committee of GCOM members led by John Weber will undertake pursuing the details of the convention. Once details have been arranged the committee will present them to the GCOM Board with hopes of getting GCOM sponsorship of the event.

January 2003

1. A BOD face to Face meeting took place on January 19th, 2003.

The plan:

- Get acquainted.
- Board Communication.
- Overview of agenda.
- Set GCOM priorities.
- Discussion of selected issues.

Minutes from the meeting are available from GCOM Secretary, Hal Hagg, upon request.

2. GCOM Monthly Newsletter to be issued to members.
(and here it is!!)

Games Club of Maryland Introduces Supporting Membership

Help support GCOM and your hobby. Supporting membership is an OPTIONAL level of membership open to ALL GCOM members.

Supporting members benefits include:

- Free GCOM business cards.
- Group game buying Discount
- \$5.00 discount on any GCOM event when a fee is charged.
- Discounts on GCOM merchandise.
- Voting rights on matters the board puts forth to supporting members.
- Ability to be on a GCOM committee
- More benefits to come.

Supporting membership fee is \$20 per one calendar year. Your money will help ensure that GCOM continues to exist and grow.

Some GCOM operating expenses are:

- Website
- Advertising
- Flyers
- Operating supplies
- Seed money for GCOM conventions & products

Payment Options: Checks made out to Rich Shipley. (The GCOM Treasurer)

Dues can be given to any GCOM Board member or GCOM Location Host. Or send to: Rich Shipley, 1241 Linkside Dr., Baltimore, MD. 21234. OR Keith Levy, 9 Augusta Wood Court, Reisterstown, MD. 21136.

Games Day 2003 is coming soon! Help Spread the Word!

Games Day is a GCOM convention!

Tell everyone you know (and don't know) about it.

An awesome convention if you have not been. A lot of fun with some GREAT camaraderie!!

Don't Miss it. Learn or play most any game.

GAMES CLUB OF MARYLAND PRESENTS GAMES DAY 2003

When: Friday, May 2nd, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 AM
Saturday, May 3rd, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 AM
Sunday, May 4th, from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM

What: Open to the public. Three days of open gaming. Some events will be pre-scheduled. Have fun, learn, bond, make friends, and compete with the best group of gamers around. The camaraderie is great!! A great convention for learning new games and playing you favorites as well. Experienced gamers and Gamemasters teach most games.

Featuring: Soft Drinks and snacks will be provided. Game sale (Details coming soon).

Some of the Games Provided: Age of Renaissance, Air Barron, Apples to Apples, Atlantic Storm, Axis and Allies, Big City, Bohnanza, Call My Bluff, Carcassonne, Citadels, Cosmic Encounter, Detroit Cleveland Grand Prix, Die Macher, El Grande, Elfenland, Evo, Euphrat and Tigris, FLUXX, Formula De, Frag, Galaxy, Guillotine, Hannibal, History of the World, La Citta, Lost Cities, Medici, Plague and Pestilence, Princes of Florence, Puerto Rico, Ra, Risk 2210, Robo Rally, Settlers of Catan, Starfarers, Taj Mahal, Tikal, Titan, Titan: The Arena, Union Pacific, and Wyatt Earp.

Pre-registration by Monday, March 3rd, 2003: All three days: \$20

Pre-registration by Friday, April 25th, 2003: All three days: \$25

Registration at the Door: All three days - \$30, Friday Or Sunday - \$10, Saturday Only - \$20

-GCOM Supporting members get \$5.00 off any of the above admission prices.

Lodging Info: Hampton Inn, 410-527-1500, 11200 York Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland. 21030.

Off Interstate 83, Exit 20 A, Shawan Road, one block from the fire hall.

Weekend Rates: \$84 per night. Rooms are two double beds, one king or queen size bed.

Mention "Games Day" to get special rate. Must book by April 4th, 2003

Alt. Lodging: EconoLodge, 410-667-4900, 10100 York Road, Cockeysville, MD. 21030. Weekend Rates: \$55 per night. Two double beds. Two miles south of fire hall.

Contact Info: Keith Levy, 9 Augusta Wood Court, Reisterstown, MD. 21136.

Voice: 410-833-4395

during the Convention Only: Cell: 443-629-5585

E-mail: GamesClubofMD@comcast.net

Website: <http://www.gamesclubofmd.org>

Pre-registration Information:

To register, send the following information to the above address. Make checks payable to Rich Shipley.

1. Your name.
2. Your e-mail address.
3. Your street address.
4. Dates you plan to attend. Friday, May 2nd, Saturday, May 3rd, Sunday, May 4th
5. Lodging Plans.

GCOM is planning to run Game Quest, a new convention whose focus will be European style games.

Where: Days Hotel and Conference Center
9615 Deerco Road, Timonium MD, 21093.

When: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 7th, 8th and 9th, 2003.

What: We are considering tournaments for the following games: Carcassonne, El Grande, Euphrat & Tigris, La Citta, Medici, Mexica, Princes of Florence, Puerto Rico, Ra, Settlers of Catan, Taj Mahal, Tikal, Traumfabrik, Union Pacific.

We will have special events for New Games (miscellaneous games) plus an Overall Individual and Team Competition with Prizes.

We need Volunteers from GCOM to help make Game Quest a success. If you have experience or would like to help in any of the following areas contact Keith Levy at gamesclubofmd@comcast.net or John Weber at JWEBER@ftc.gov

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| - Supplies | - Gaming |
| - Logo incorporating GCOM logo | - Point System for awards selection |
| - Registration | - Kiosks |
| - Advertising: computer and print | - Game Scheduling |
| - Web Page | - Game Format |
| - Trophies and Prizes | - GMs |
| - Setup/Cleanup | - Hospitality |
| - Sponsorship by Vendors | - Operations |
| | - Badges |

UPCOMING GCOM SPECIAL EVENTS

Seventh Annual Field Trip to Prezcon 2003

February 19th-23rd, 2003.

DoubleTree Hotel, Charlottesville, Virginia

www.prezcon.com

Games Club of Maryland is planning its 7th annual Field trip to Prezcon. Join the members of GCOM on its annual trip to Prezcon. It's great fun and camaraderie!!

GCOM is planning to stay on site at the Double Tree Hotel. Special rates are available for Prezcon Attendees for \$79

per night for a single, double, triple, or quad hotel room. Call the DoubleTree Hotel at (434) 973-2121 to make room reservations, and mention you are attending the Prezcon.

Pre-registration deadline is January 30th, 2003.

E-mail Keith at GamesClubofMD@comcast.net if you plan to attend.

GCOM Services

Keith Levy will be coordinating reservations for rooms if you are interested in getting a roommate or staying in a close block of rooms.

GCOM will also be offering car pooling and coordinated times of departure for those needing or willing to provide transportation or for those wishing to drive down in caravan style. Charlottesville is a three-hour drive from the Baltimore Metropolitan area.

Actual departure dates and approximate times will be announced as they are offered.

E-mail Keith at GamesClubofMD@comcast.net if you are interested in sharing a room or for carpool information.

Options available as of January 25th, 2003.

I. Rooms

A. Double Tree Hotel

Two adjoining rooms on the lobby level are currently reserved for Games Club of Maryland. There are two double beds in each room. Three to six spaces are currently available for these two rooms.

B. Dan Mathias has a room reservation also, with 2 beds and is looking for roommates. He plans on heading down on Wednesday midday, and returning Sunday late afternoon.

II. Carpool

A. Keith Levy is planning on departing for Charlottesville on Wednesday February 19th around 09:30 AM. There is currently room for three-3 others in Keith's van.

Riders could meet at GCOM-Reisterstown or other arrangements could be made. First come first served.

B. Dominic Crapuchettes will be driving down to PrezCon on Thursday evening or Friday morning and can give a ride to anyone who wants to join him (3 people max).

Let him know if he can be of help to anyone.

III. GCOM-Known Attendance as of January 25th, 2003.

Scott Buckwalter, Dominic Crapuchettes, Lisa Goldstein, Michelle Goldstein, Don Greenwood, Eric Hymowitz, Keith Levy, Dan Mathias, Rich Shipley, Jamie Tang

"PrezCon, Inc. is proud to host its 10th annual event that has become the premier winter boardgaming convention. Over the years, PrezCon has grown from a small, regional convention to the big event it now is, drawing attendees from all over the USA, Canada, and Europe. Once again, we'll be increasing the events we're running this year (with more than 70 tournaments). The events will include some of your old favorites as well as some of the classic war games. We are starting track scheduling for 2003. What

does that mean? It means that if play German games, you will be able to play every heat of every German game we host. If you play Rail games, it will be the same and so on. This will make your convention gaming schedule easy to follow, and it will allow you to play in all your favorite games! We will be making each of these tracks it's own Ironman Championship! As in the past, the gaming facilities will be centralized in one location at the Double Tree Hotel. We expect even greater things!!!

Pre-registration for the weekend is \$50, and if we receive your registration fee by 1/30/2003 you will get a free PrezCon T-shirt or hat! Fill out the form below and submit it, then mail in your registration fee to the address below the registration form. Be sure to include your e-mail address so we can send you update information. Let us know what games you are interested in and we'll reserve a place at the table for you, though you won't be restricted to the choices you make now.

Hotel Accommodations, Area

The Winter Nationals will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in the historic community of Charlottesville, Virginia. Special rates are available for PrezCon Attendees: \$79 for a single, double, triple, or quad hotel. Call the DoubleTree Hotel at (434) 973-2121 to make room reservations, and mention you are attending the PrezCon Game Conference to get special rates. If you need assistance in getting roommates to share the cost of the hotel, our convention director, Justin Thompson, will be offering his talents in setting up roommates for the weekend. Just contact the PrezCon information line at (434) 823-7433 and leave a message for Justin. He will get back to you with names of others you can contact to share costs. Go to www.prezcon.com for more information."

OTHER LOCAL GAMING EVENTS

Winter Activation Meeting (WAM)

On Friday, January 31 through Sunday, February 2, 2003 in Baltimore, BPA will be hosting Winter Activation Meeting (WAM). The focus of this three-day event is to provide a gaming convention for two-player historical "card-driven" boardgaming. We offer the following titles as BPA tournament events: Barbarossa to Berlin and Paths of Glory (combined event), For the People, Hannibal, The Napoleonic Wars, Thirty Years War, and Wilderness Wars. The campaign games will be played for most, to allow players to play their favorites intensively. Staggered start times and "swiss open" format will allow a gamer to play a favorite game all weekend, or to enter a number of events, even returning to later rounds of events after failed attempts to win the championship in others.

Each participant will be asked to pre-register, stating their gaming preferences, in order to assist us in better planning this inaugural event.

The event is designed for experienced players of these six

games, but all gamers are welcomed to attend.
Location: Baltimore, at the Hunt Valley Marriott
Schedule: January 31 (Friday 8AM) February 2 (6:30PM),
with a Thursday night Game Designers Reception at the
restaurant bar and meeting space for open gaming.
GMs: David Dockter, Mark Herman, Rich Shipley, Stuart
Tucker, Mike Welker, and Keith Wixson
Hosts: David Dockter and Stuart Tucker
WEB SITES: BPA (www.boardgamers.org) and WAM
(www.wamconvention.com)

FARPOINT

GCOM member Chris Shockey is Co-running a game room
at the Farpoint Convention February 14-16, 2003.

Free tables are available to organizations like GCOM to
recruit and inform fans at this convention, but I'm sure no
one would mind recruitment in the game room. Below is
the link for the Farpoint Flier webpage:

<http://www.bcpl.net/~wilsonr/flier.htm>

February Fragfest

February 21- 23, 2003. 928 N East St
Frederick, MD 21701-4622
48 hours of straight unstoppable game play. Bring your
computer or use ours, make sure you have a network card,
mouse, keyboard, monitors and cables. Space is limited so
register today. This is the one event you don't want to
miss.
Games Featured: Alien vs. Predator II, Battlefield 1942,
Counterstrike, Giants, Quake III, UT 2003, and much more.
For more info, go to
<http://www.thedigitalarena.com/index.php> and click on
Tournaments.

A Gazebo of Games

Wild Gazebo Productions presents A Gazebo of Games
When: Friday, February 21 - Sunday, February 23, 2003
Registration opens at 7pm Friday
Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, 121 Centennial
Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854
1-800-EMBASSY
Event/GM Deadline: Friday, November 1, 2002 If you run
12 hours of events, you will get a free weekend pass to A
Gazebo of Games.
Don't miss out! Come run and play all of your favorite
games! We will be featuring all types of gaming including
Board Games, Role Playing Games, Miniatures Games,
Collectible Card Games, Live Action Role Playing Games,
RPGA Games and Special Events!
Game Masters: Register your events by November 1st on
our website under A Gazebo of Games GM Signup at

<http://www.wildgazebo.com> or write to
info@wildgazebo.com

Reserve your room at the Embassy Suites Hotel for just
\$99 a night. Each 2-room suite includes complimentary
hot & cold breakfast in the morning and a complimentary
drink at the nightly reception. Call the hotel at 1-800-
EMBASSY and mention Wild Gazebo Productions to get
the discounted rate.
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
Hope to see you in February!

Cold Wars 2003

Is being held the weekend of March 7 - 9th, 2003 at the
Lancaster Host Resort Hotel and Convention Center, 2300
Lincoln Highway East (Route 30) in Lancaster, PA.
The Web site is: <http://www.coldwars.org>

This year more than 250 games, seminars, and other
events are scheduled. The year-long HMGS convention
theme is: "Crusade! Clashes of Culture and Ideology:
Warfare from 700 to 1700 AD."

There will be about 2,000 people there playing games with
toy soldiers for three days. Besides playing scheduled
games with toy soldiers, and ships, and tanks, and
airplanes, in the motel convention center ballrooms; there
is a large 25,000 square foot area indoor tennis barn where
they sell new soldiers, terrain, rules, boardgames (yes,
many boardgamers also play with miniatures), computer
games, military history books, military history movies and
video tapes, and all sorts of things related to wargaming.
This is called "The Dealer's Area." ("For one weekend
COLD WARS will be the world's biggest hobby store.") One
of my younger military history hobby friends who saw this
place for the first time gasped: "I'VE DIED AND GONE TO
HEAVEN!!"

They also have a "Flea Market" in a large indoor area.
Here you can see all kinds of used toy soldiers for sale;
(even complete armies for many periods of history) both
metal and plastic; painted and unpainted, and EVERY
scale: 6MM, 10MM, 15MM, 20MM, 22MM, 25MM, 30MM,
and 54MM. (These large 54s are mostly used for skirmish
gaming.) It is in this flea market area that you would be
most likely to find the greatest variety of wargames and
military history items: painted figures, rules, books,
boardgames, and magazine collections at the lowest
prices. Get there early, when the doors open. The
bargains are gobbled up in the first hour or so.

GCOM logo Products are available at
<http://www.cafeshops.com/gamesclubofmd>.
Shirts, mugs, clock, mouse pad, briefcase, backpack, tote
bag, flying disc, poster and greeting cards.

***GCOM Trivia: This is the first GCOM newsletter since
June 1998.***
