

EPGS Heroics

Newsletter of The Eastern
Pennsylvania Gaming Society

May – June 2006

EPGS meets from 10:00 AM to 9:30 PM this Saturday, May 20th, in Oxford Valley Mall's Community Room. Subsequent meetings will be June 3rd and 17th, July 1st, and the first and third Saturdays each month thereafter.

EPGS Election

Elections of EPGS officers for the next one-and-a-half year term will be held at the May 20th meeting. The candidates are:

President: Steve Cameron
Treasurer: Randy MacInnis
Editor: Frank Cunliffe
Publicity: Keith Layton
Webmaster: Steve Fitchett



Also note that Steve Cameron has a new email address: stevegamer@verizon.net.

Tikal on SpielbyWeb

By Paul Lipton

EPGS gamers! There is a Tikal game starting on www.spielbyweb.com. Look for the game I created (my name online is Pickle) called "Tikal for Grownups (EPGS)". You can't really miss it! ☺ The password is "Puss" with a capital P.

Looking forward to a good game!

GMT East Report

By Randy MacInnis

75 gamers gathered at the Crowne Plaza White Plains for a three day weekend of friendly competition March 31 - April 2, sponsored by GMT Games in their annual "let's get some face time with the East Coast customers" event. No organized tournaments were run, attendees were able to play a variety of games, almost all published by GMT as the sponsor of the event. The latest releases, *Here I Stand*, *Commands and Colors: Ancients* and *Twilight Struggle* all got a lot of play, along with an opportunity for playtesting some titles still in development. A good time was had by all, and an EPGS attendee (who shall remain anonymous) even won a free game in the door prize drawing Sunday morning. All indications are that GMT will run the event again next year; players of GMT games are advised to watch the GMT website for scheduling announcements.

Practically every game I saw was military; and I would say there were more Card Driven Wargames than hex grid. There were also several naval games played, notably Mike Nagel's *Flying Colors* and a playtest of *Fast Action Battle*, and several block games, including *Command and Colors: Ancients s*.

Cold Wars 2006 Report

By John Desmond

A well-attended event; the Lancaster Host was comfortably full, but not jam-packed. Saw more old friends than I have room to mention.

First I checked out the flea market and dealers' room. Well-stocked and crowded as always, though nothing radically new in my areas of interest. Good supplies of used and new boardgames for sale in them, respectively, both military and Euro. There was a 15% discount on most new boardgames.

I went to the seminar given by Larry Bonds and the other designers of Clash of Arms Games' Admiralty Trilogy, on their new explosives effects and resulting damage design formulae. Enlightening.

I was checking out the Ancients tournament area around dinner time, and learned that another team was needed to fill out the *De Bellis Antiquitatis* Team Cup. I was asked if I'd like to be on it, so yours truly was loaned an Early Byzantine army and sent into battle.

De Bellis Antiquitatis (DBA) is a fairly short and simple set of rules for refighting battles of the pre-gunpowder era, and a DBA tournament team has four players, one each for the Biblical, Classical, Dark Ages (me) and Medieval periods, whose combined scores are totaled for the team results. I with the Byzantines lost to the Early Hungarians, beat the Rajput Indians and the Franks, and lost in the playoff round for 3rd/4th place to a Norman force. That last would not have been so galling were not the Norman general a lad not out of middle school. ☹

Our ad-hoc team ended up placing 4th out of the eight entrants. ☺

Anyway, a good time was had by all, and Rhonda - the young lady playing our Biblical boards - seemed to have some experience in the cheerleading field and coached us to the "Best Team Cheer". My trophy megaphone (inscribed, as you've guessed, "Ra! Ra! Ra!") sits prominently in my living room.

The Washington Area *De Bellis Antiquitatis* Gamers (WADBAG), with T-shirts listing their names and the armies they commanded, got the "Best Uniforms" award.

Anyway, the WADBAGs have written "The Unofficial Guide to DBA", which may be downloaded at <http://wadbag.com/DBAGuide/default.asp>

As Phil Barker (author of *De Bellis Antiquitatis*) is noted for writing terse and somewhat convoluted prose, this Unofficial Guide is well worth reading for anyone who's not been taught the game by an experienced player. And you can't beat the price! ☺

Many thanks to the DC folk for their work on this!

So, Philadelphians, I'll be trying to get some armies and terrain for Books 1-3 together, and perhaps the rest of the necessary troops can be raised and a 'Staff College' organized to drill the generals and form a team for the Fall-In convention (November 10-12 in Gettysburg), if not Historicon (July 20-23 in Lancaster).

Aspirants please drop me an Enote at jdesmond@fast.net.

World Boardgame Championships

WBC will also be held at Lancaster this summer from August 1 – 6. Many EPGS members will be there. For more information see <http://www.boardgamers.org>.

If you are interested in playing on an EPGS team, contact Steve Cameron at stevegamer@verizon.net.

March 2006 *What Were You Thinking?* Results

By Steve Fitchett

March Questions

1. List 5 celebrities you would like to have as friends.

Wow did this throw most people; only two names were mentioned twice. Frank Cunliffe & Eric Miller each received 2 points for saying Curt Schilling. [Editor's note: It seemed natural to select the most famous person to have been an EPGS member.] Eric Freeman & Kenneth Horan each said Harrison Ford. The best reply, according to me, was someone listed five of the six *Friends* cast.

2. List 5 cities whose names begin with the letter L.

The big answer with 9 was London. Los Angeles had 8 with Las Vegas having 6. Donna Davis, Eric Miller & Eric Freeman each had the top four answers. Donna Davis and Eric Miller had 29 points with Frank Cunliffe having 28 & Eric Freeman having 27.

3. List 5 cartoon characters used in commercials.

Bugs Bunny had 5 with Fred Flintstone and Mickey Mouse each having 4. David Bohnenberger won this question with 15 matches. [Editor's Note: Apparently Dave now spends the time formerly spent editing *Heroics* watching television.] In second was Ann Schrage with 13 and Eric Miller had 12.

4. List 5 holiday songs.

Jingle Bells and *White Christmas* both had 4 matches. A bunch of songs had 2 and a lot 0 matches. Ann Schrage, Eric Freeman and Frank Cunliffe each had 12 matches.

5. List 5 captains.

The mighty Captain Kirk led the way with 8 matches. There must be a bunch of drinkers in this crowd because Captain Morgan came in second with 5 matches. Ahab and Picard were tied for third. The one that cracked me up was Captain of Captain and Tennille. Two people actually said that. Eric Miller ran away with this, with a 22 score. Kenneth Horan captained his way to second with 19.

Person	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Total
Eric Freeman	2	27	11	12	17	69
Frank Cunliffe	2	28	7	12	17	66
Donna Davis	0	29	11	10	14	64
Kenneth Horan	2	26	6	10	19	63
Eric Miller	2	29	0	8	22	61
Ann Schrage	0	15	13	12	17	57
David Bohnenberger	0	25	15	4	13	57
Michael Zuhlke	0	17	11	4	12	44
Steve Cameron	0	22	4	4	14	44
Robert Sohn	0	0	5	0	9	14

Congratulations to Eric Freeman!!

Robert Sohn was playing the wrong game. He thought the game was *Scattergories* where you try not to match. He did a good job of that.



What Were You Thinking?

By Steve Fitchett

Game Play: The moderator will ask a number of questions. Players will respond via private email to the moderator with exactly five answers to each question.

Scoring: Players score nothing for an answer that no one else gives. For answers that other players also give, players score one point for everyone (including themselves) that gives that answer. High Score wins.

In general, specific answers do not match general answers, and vice versa. Thus if the question is "Name something you see in the spring", "robin" will not match "bird", and vice versa. The judge may make exceptions for regional dialect, normal usage, or his own whims. The moderator's decisions are final.

If you are interested in playing, then reply to me by midnight EST May 31, 2006 at surfitch@comcast.net. I will calculate the results and post the results both on the EPGS website and in the next issue of *Heroics*.

1. Name 5 colored property spaces on a *Monopoly* Board, other than Boardwalk or Park Place.
2. Name 5 spaces on a *Monopoly* Board that would be an "incorrect" answer to the previous question.
3. Name 5 board or card games you can buy at a typical mass-market retail store (Wal-Mart, Target, etc.), other than *Monopoly*.
4. Name 5 "Localized", "Branded", or other special versions/editions of *Monopoly*.
5. Name 5 boardgames that come in a larger box than *Monopoly* does.
6. Name 5 games that you can play with a standard 52-card deck of cards, and no other components.
7. Name 5 board or card games designed to be played by children, other than *Candyland*.
8. Name 5 boardgames that do not use any dice.
9. Name 5 boardgames that do not use more than 2 dice.
10. Name 5 board or card games that can be played by more than 6 players.

The questions and results will be posted on the EPGS website at www.epgs.org/emailgames1.htm. Alternately start at the homepage, and then click on Interests, then Email Games, and finally What Were You Thinking.

EPGS *Paydirt* League Standings

AFC Division

TEAM	COACH	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	WIN %	Games Played	Games Behind	PF	PA	DIV Wins	DIV Losses	DIV Ties	Div %
x-San Diego	Alex	9	4	0	.692	13	0	251	214	6	2	0	.750
y-Pittsburgh	Steve F.	8	5	0	.615	13	0	209	136	6	2	0	.750
Cincinnati	Chris	6	5	0	.545	11	2	247	193	5	3	0	.625
Buffalo	Keith	5	6	1	.417	12	0	187	158	2	6	0	.250
Indianapolis	Dave	2	8	0	.200	10	3	171	250	1	7	0	.125

NFC Division

TEAM	COACH	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	WIN %	Games Played	Games Behind	PF	PA	DIV Wins	DIV Losses	DIV Ties	Div %
Philadelphia	Ken	5	1	0	.833	6	7	123	92	2	0	0	1.000
Seattle	Steve C.	6	4	0	.600	10	3	210	185	4	1	0	.800
NY Giants	Jim	3	2	0	.600	5	8	92	70	1	1	0	.500
Carolina	Larry	2	5	1	.250	8	5	92	158	1	4	0	.250
Minnesota	Mike	1	7	0	.125	8	5	111	187	1	3	0	.250

x = Clinched Division y = Clinched Playoffs

Unusual Rules for Determining Who Goes First

©2003-2006 Frank H. Cunliffe

In recent years it has become a tradition for some eurogames to have humorous rules to determine which player goes first to begin a game, and I have compiled the ones I have encountered and am presenting them here. If you encounter any others, please email me at fhc2@hotmail.com, following the same format of title, date, publisher, author and the exact quote of the rule. Thanks!

And thanks to Lou Kessler, Anthony Rubbo, Tom Swider and Jay Treat Sr. for help with this list.

à la carte ©1989 Moskito Spiele, Karl-Heinz Schmiel – “The player who is the best cook starts.”

Abilene ©1983 Schmidt Spiele, Roland Siegers – “The player with the largest cowboy boots (or other shoes) begins, the others follow in clockwise direction.”

Alles für die Katz ©2001 Amigo, David Parlett – “The first move is made by the person who last visited a real zoo.”

Atlantic Star ©2001 Queen, Dirk Henn – “The last player to take a cruise starts first.”

Attribute ©2002/2003 Lookout Games, Marcel-André Casasola Merkle – “The player with the highest rank on Brettspielwelt chooses the first topic. If you never heard about Brettspielwelt, have a look at www.brettspielwelt.de or simply decide randomly who goes first.”

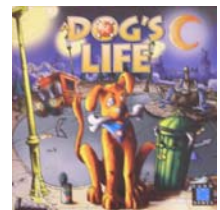
Betrayal at House on the Hill ©2004 Hasbro Avalon, Bruce Glassco – “The explorer who has the next birthday goes first. (Look on your explorer’s character card to see his or her birthday.)

Bad Babiez ©2005 Raven Distributors, Christian Zoli and Vittorio Benvenuto – “The youngest player starts first.”

Chrononauts ©2000 Looney Labs, Andrew Looney – “OK, everybody, close your eyes, quick! Your eyes are closed so that you don’t accidentally look at a clock or a watch. Now think: What time is it? Take a guess. When everyone has guessed, find out what time it really is. Whoever came closest to being correct goes first. (If you just looked at the time, you are honor bound to disqualify yourself.)” *Early American Chrononauts* (2004) Looney Labs, Andrew Looney – “All players try to guess the current time; whoever is closest goes first.”

Dino Dice ©1993 Koplow Dice, (Will Niebling) – “The oldest player goes first (these are Dinosaurs!).”

A Dog’s Life ©2001 Eurogames Descartes, Christophe Boelinger – “If a lady is playing, she begins the game (even dogs can behave like gentlemen now and then!) in any other case, the youngest player begins the game.”



Dwarven Dig ©2003 Kenzer and Company, Japji Khalsa and Anthony Gallela – “Roll the die to see who will be the starting player. As an alternate method, the player with the longest beard will be the starting player.”

Eiertanz (Dancing Eggs) ©2003 Haba, Roberto Fraga – “Whoever jumps highest may start and throw red action dice [sic: die].”

Falsche Fuffziger (Funny Fifties) ©1994 2F-Spiele, Friedman Friese – “The player with the most counterfeit money in heir wallet starts the game, (if no one has any counterfeit then the layer with the most small change.)”



Finstere Flure ©2003 2F-Spiele, Friedmann Friese – “The player who looks most like the monster starts the game.”

flowerpower ©2001 Kosmos, Angelika Fassauer and Peter Haluszka – “The player with the most colorful clothing begins.”

For Sale ©1997 Ravensburger, Steffan Dorra – “The player who lives in the smallest house begins.” ©2005 Überplay, Steffan Dorra – “The player who lives in the largest house begins.”

Galloping Pigs ©2000 Abacus Spiele / Rio Grande, Heinz Meister – “Choose a starting player; we suggest the ‘piggist’ player.”

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone: Mystery at Hogwarts Game ©2000 Mattel, Inc., (unknown designer) – “The player with a birthday closest to Harry Potter’s birthday goes first. ... In the event of a tie highest roll goes first. (Harry was born on July 31st.)”



Lost Cities ©1999 Kosmos / Rio Grande, Reiner Knizia – “The oldest player goes first...”

M&M / Mars Attacks ©2000 MUSE Press (*Shred #7*), (designer unknown) – “The player whose name has the most consonants in it (as it appears on his birth certificate) is assumed to be the Martians. This is a reflection of the complete lack of vowels in the dialect of the Red Planet. I think the Hawaiians stole all their vowels a long time ago or something. ... The attack begins when the Martian player selects one of his saucers and moves it.”

Mamma Mia! ©1998 Abacus / Rio Grande, Uwe Rosenberg – “Play begins with the hungriest player.”



Management Material: General Office Edition ©2002 Zipwhaa, Dave Cook, Eric Life-Putnam and Don Moffett – “Decide which player starts by Rock / Paper/ Scissors, long division contests, dice throwing, mud wrestling, or whatever words best for you. The winner gains initial control over the Turn Marker, making them special.”

Members Only: Welcome to the Club! ©1995, 1996 Blatz, Reiner Knizia – “The player who explains the rules starts the game.”

Monkeys on the Moon, ©2002 Eight Foot Llama, Jim Doherty – “The player with the longest hair is the Starting Player.”

Nautilus ©2002 Kosmos / Mayfair, Brigitte and Wolfgang Ditt – “Whoever can remain under water the longest gets the start player disk and begins.”

New England ©2003 Goldsieber / Überplay, Alan Moon and Aaron Weissblum – “The player with the longest line of ancestors receives the starting player marker and begins the game.”

Pack of Flies ©2003 Café Games Limited, Philippe des Pallières – “On the first turn, the lightest player starts the guessing.”

Queen’s Necklace, The ©2003 Days of Wonder, Bruno Catuala & Bruno Faidutti – “Randomly determine the first player. (For instance the one who is wearing the nicest jewelry that day).”



Railroad Dice ©2003 Wassertal Spieleverlag, Jens Kappe – “The player who owns the most railway games gets the starting player tile.” (Version 2.0) “The player who has played the most railway games in his life gets the starting player tile.” (Version 1.2)

Senator (2004) Fantasy Flight, Eric Lang – “The player who has most recently seen a movie about ancient Rome begins the first debate.”

Sieben Weisen, Die ©2002 Ravensburger / Alea, Reiner Stockhausen – “Der am wenigsten weise Spieler beginnt. (The wisest player begins.)”

Space Beans ©1999 Amigo Spiel / Rio Grande, Uwe Rosenberg – “Choose the most alien player to go first.”

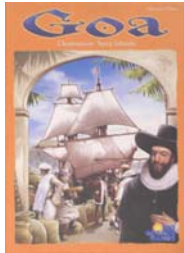


Ticket to Ride ©2004 Days of Wonder, Alan Moon – “The player who is the most experienced traveler goes first.”

Ticket to Ride: Europe ©2005 Days of Wonder, Alan Moon – “The player who has visited the most European countries in his lifetime begins the game.”

Vampire ©2000 Simba / Rio Grande, Reiner Knizia – “The player with the longest eye-teeth begins.”

The Games We Played



This month there was a tie for most played game between *Puerto Rico* and *Paydirt*, each being played seven times. *10 Days in Europe* and *Goa* tied for third with six plays, *Caylus* and *Geschenkt* tied for fifth with five plays, and *Age of Steam*, *China* and *Tsuro* tied for seventh with four plays apiece.

Puerto Rico, *Caylus*, *Age of Steam* and *China* were played at all four meetings.

Thanks to Steve Cameron and John Desmond for helping compile this information.

NEW	TITLE	PUBLISHER	MAR 18	APR 1	APR 15	MAY 6
G	<i>10 Days in Europe</i>	Schmidt / Out of the Box		6		
GP	<i>1825 Unit 3</i>	Francis Tresham	1			
	<i>Advanced Squad Leader</i>	Avalon Hill / Multi-Man				2
	<i>Age of Steam</i>	Warfrog	1	1	1	1
GP	<i>Antike</i>	Eggert Spiele	1			
G	<i>Apocalypse</i>	?				1
	<i>Ark</i>	?			1	
	<i>Ark of the Covenant</i>	Inspiration	1			
	<i>Arkham Horror</i>	Chaosium / Fantasy Flight				1
	<i>Around the World in 80 Days</i>	Kosmos / Rio Grande				1
	<i>Axis & Allies - Pacific</i>	Hasbro/Avalon		1		
	<i>Battlegroup</i>	Lost Battalion	1			
G	<i>Byzantium</i>	Warfrog			1	1
	<i>Category 5 / 6 Nimmt</i>	Amigo / US Games Systems		1		
	<i>Caylus</i>	Ystari / Rio Grande	1	1	1	2
	<i>Chariot Lords</i>	Clash of Arms	1			
	<i>China</i>	Überplay	1	1	1	1
	<i>Citadels / Ohne Furcht und Adel</i>	Hans im Glück / Fantasy Flight		1		
	<i>Command & Colors: Ancients</i>	GMT	2			1
G	<i>Corsari</i>	Piatnik			1	
	<i>Die Sieben Siegel</i>	Amigo		2		
	<i>Elasund: The First City</i>	Kosmos / Mayfair				1
G	<i>Familienbande</i>	Winning Moves			1	
	<i>Filthy Rich</i>	Wizards of the Coast		1		
	<i>Fish Eat Fish</i>	Out of the Box				1
	<i>Fluxx</i>	Looney Labs / ICE / Amigo			2	
G	<i>Fury of Dracula</i>	Fantasy Flight		1		
	<i>Geschenkt / No Thanks!</i>	Amigo / Z-Man	3	2		
	<i>Goa</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande	1		2	3
	<i>Guillotine</i>	Wizards of the Coast	1			
	<i>Hacienda</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1		
	<i>Hammer of the Scots</i>	Columbia				1
	<i>Hannibal: Rome vs. Carthage</i>	Avalon Hill				1

GP	<i>Hog Wild</i>	R + R Games				1
G	<i>Il Principe</i>	Z-Man	1			
	<i>Ingenious / Einfach Genial</i>	Kosmos / Fantasy Flight		1		1
G	<i>Lightning War</i>	Dave Bohnenberger	1			1
	<i>Louis XIV: Intrigue in the Court ...</i>	Alea / Rio Grande		1		
	<i>Martian Rails</i>	Bob Stribula		1		2
	<i>Medici</i>	Amigo / Rio Grande	1			
	<i>Memoir '44</i>	Days of Wonder	2			
	<i>Mesopotamia</i>	Phalanx / Mayfair				1
	<i>Mexica</i>	Ravensburger / Rio Grande		1		
	<i>Modern Art</i>	Hans im Glück / Mayfair	1			
	<i>Money!</i>	Goldsieber / Rio Grande				1
	<i>Napoleon</i>	Gamma Two / Avalon Hill				1
	<i>Paths of Glory</i>	GMT	1			
	<i>Power Grid</i>	2F-Spiele / Rio Grande	1			
	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	Alea / Rio Grande	1	2		2
	<i>Ra</i>	Alea / Rio Grande		1		1
G	<i>Railroad Dice 2</i>	Wassertal		1		
GP	<i>Replay Baseball</i>	Replay Games				1
	<i>Rommel in the Desert</i>	Game Preserve / Columbia				1
G	<i>Russia Besieged</i>	L2	1			1
	<i>Russian Campaign, The</i>	L2				1
	<i>Saint Petersburg</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1		
	<i>San Juan</i>	Alea / Rio Grande		1		
	<i>Santiago</i>	Amigo				2
	<i>Scotland Yard</i>	Milton Bradley				1
G	<i>Senet</i>	?		1		1
	<i>Settlers of Catan</i>	Kosmos / Mayfair				1
	<i>SI Pro Football / Paydirt</i>	Sports Illustrated / Avalon Hill	4	2		1
	<i>Sleuth</i>	3M / Avalon Hill / Face 2 Face				1
	<i>Soldier Kings</i>	Avalanche		1		
	<i>Starship Catan</i>	Kosmos				1
G	<i>Stephensons Rocket</i>	Pegasus / Rio Grande		1		
	<i>Sticheln</i>	Amigo				1
	<i>Sword of Rome</i>	GMT				1
	<i>Taj Mahal</i>	Alea / Rio Grande				1
	<i>The Big Idea</i>	Cheapass				1
	<i>Ticket to Ride: Europe</i>	Days of Wonder	1			1
G	<i>Ticket to Ride: Marklin</i>	Days of Wonder				1
	<i>TransAmerica</i>	Winsome / Winning Moves / Rio Grande	1			
	<i>Triumph of Chaos</i>	Clash of Arms		1		
GP	<i>TriXKick</i>	TriXGames		1		
	<i>Tsuro</i>	Wizkids		1		3
	<i>Tutankhamen</i>	Amigo / Out of the Box				1
	<i>Twilight Imperium</i>	Fantasy Flight		1		
	<i>Twilight Struggle</i>	GMT	1			1
	<i>Victory & Honor</i>	Jolly Roger				1
G	<i>Vino</i>	Goldsieber / Rio Grande		1		
	<i>War of the Ring</i>	Phalanx / Fantasy Flight		1		
GP	<i>Warp 6</i>	Pair-of-Dice Games				2
20/6	TOTAL	-----	25/32	31/40	25/30	32/40

G = New Game

GP = New Game and Publisher

Military Games are Red

Railroad games are Blue

EPGS Information

Heroics is the official publication of The Eastern Pennsylvania Gaming Society, (EPGS). Contributed articles are always welcome.

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Quartermaster Corps

The following retailers have agreed to post our newsletter or an advertisement for EPGS. To show our support, we list their names here.

Abington Game & Hobby

10% discount to EPGS members
1562 Easton Road
Roslyn PA 19001
(215) 657-9550
Sun: N-3:30, Th: N-6, F-Sat: 11-8
www.abingtongh.com

Alternate Universes

10% discount to EPGS members
2034 Parker Avenue, (at McDade Blvd)
Holmes PA 19043
(610) 583-9960
Sun-Thur: N-10, Fri: N-M, Sat: 11-11
Boardgame Night: Sun 3-9.
<http://www.alternateu.com>

The Compleat Strategist

580 Shoemaker Road
King of Prussia PA 19406-4205
(610) 265-8562
M-Th: 11-7, F-Sat: 11-8, Sun: N-5
<http://www.compleatstrategist.com>

Days of Knights

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www.daysofknights.com

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