

ACE Game Club Newsletter

Minutes of the Meeting of November 2, 2003

Club President Enio Lopez called the meeting to order. Dave Peterson showed the ten members that were present sample cards sent to the club by publishers. These included cards from .hack//ENEMY, Initial D, and Ophidian 2350, plus figures from Creepy Freaks.

Enio conducted the locker review. Those not present to pay were Jim Thorpe, Rich, Sergio, and Doc. Chris was assigned to locker 86. Lockers 84 and 98 were cleaned out. Lockers are available to members at the rate of \$1 per month; locker fees must be paid at club meetings.

Jim Destromp reminded the members that they voted in favor of holding a "pre-release" movie night on Thursdays. Some members are needed to install a shelf to hold the TV. Once this is done a TV, VCR, and DVD will be purchased by the club.



On December 17 the waiting will finally be over! The Return of the King will be one of the best ACE Game Club Movie Nights yet!

Enio discussed the imminent release of Mage Knight 2.0. He also talked about Critical Mass, the new set for HeroClix being released in December. Enio noted that Wizard's new Neopets decks and boosters are over-priced by several dollars. Jim mentioned that ACE does not plan to stock the new Topps/Wizkids Baseball Clix game. ACE has ordered the new Monty Python and the Holy Grail tunics. These could be used to spice up Hackmaster games-- though it would be just our luck to have the cops bust us while wearing them.

Jim said that the club tentatively plans to do a movie night for Lord of the Rings on December 17. The club's outing to Matrix Revolutions will be November 5 at 9:00 PM. The deal is that members are \$2 and non-members are \$5, but they must be a guest of and attending with a member. ACE is not a Ticketmaster! Jim has the movie release list through January but the releases don't sound as interesting as the rumors. The rumor-mill, according to Enio, includes movies of Punisher, Man Thing, and Hell Boy. Jim added that Spiderman 2 is wrapping up, and Batman, X-Men 3, Aliens vs. Predator, and maybe an LXG sequel are in the works. Will the Wyncheski brothers do a Superman movie? Be afraid, be very afraid!

Neko Con will be held next weekend in Virginia Beach. Lynn Barch promised to report back on the Anime action at Neko Con at the next club meeting. See <http://www.nekocon.com> for details.

Jim reported that the Unlimited series of Yu-Gi-Oh will be released November 13. Jim also said that he would like to run a special BattleTech (classic) tournament; he has a Drop Ship to give away as the prize. Several members hoped that this would be scheduled at an up-coming all-nighter.

Jim conducted the calendar review. Mondays are currently open. Tuesdays are Jim's Hackmaster campaign. Wednesdays are Dave Saunders' Third Edition D&D campaign. Chris Bartlett's Vampire will be starting on Thursday nights. Thursdays are the club's movie night (the game room is still available at this point). Fridays are Noel More's Hackmaster campaign and Magic the Gathering CCG. Saturdays are sanctioned Mechwarrior Dark Age at 2:00 PM, ad hoc Yu-Gi-Oh CCG, Dragonball Z CCG, and Yu-Yu Hakusho CCG. Sundays are Enio's Mage Knight, HeroClix, and IndyClix.

Enio stressed that inappropriate language in the game room needs to stop. He has had parents with younger kids in the Hero Clix group complain. It needs to stop.

Jim announced that ACE will hold a big Pre-Christmas sale on November 28-30. Wet comics will be 50% off. All comics in the bins will be half off, as will Yu-Gi-Oh, Dragonball Z, and Magic singles. New comics, action figures, and Wizkids singles will be 25% off. Games will be 15% off, including Mage Knight, Mechwarrior, and HeroClix. Note that no other discounts, such as Game club shirts, apply during the sale.



The new Critical Mass expansion for Marvel HeroClix features Silver Surfer, Rhino, and Captain Marvel.

Jim suggested that meeting attendance is down because no one has been calling members with reminders or expired memberships. He requested that Jens bring the membership list to every meeting for review. The copy posted in the game room is from September 7. The main problem is people not remembering. *[The club has been meeting the first Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM since 1996, but whose counting? -Ed.]*

Dave Peterson conducted the meeting attendance drawing. You must be present to win, and the drawing is based on the previous month's attendance roster. In other words, you must be present at two consecutive meetings to qualify. Michael Lopez won the gift certificate. He was wearing his ACE game club shirt, so his money was doubled to \$20.

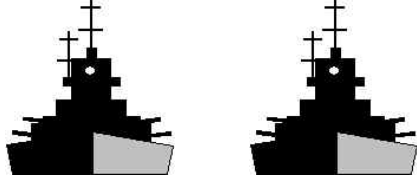
Scot Alsop pointed out that the club used to have demos and visits by Outriders. These people won't bother coming to see a club where only ten people show up for the meetings. Scot asked what happened since the days when we had forty people at club meetings? Enio said that Hunter said that it is partly because the old group of 40K players all quit playing. This was disputed. Jim said that Jimbo and his victims, er opponents, play Warhammer Fantasy during the week. The big thing is that nobody is poking members to show up-- even the Membership chair and the Treasurer are not here. Lynn agreed to help with calling expired members. She used to be a telemarketer and is psyched about it.

Jim said that he would like to see one hellacious Battletech tournament organized with the Drop Ship as a prize. This would be real Battletech rules with the same house rules for the tournament as before. Tony McVay added that he likes the rules for operating with lost arms or legs that you don't get in the new Clix version. Jim expressed his dislike of the Mechwarrior rules allowing everything

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to be pre-measured and calculated to the fraction of an inch. Dave Peterson suggested that a Solaris VII arena-style scenario would make a fun event.

Enio said that was pretty much it, and asked everyone to encourage people to come to the next meeting. We need more people in attendance before we can schedule the next all-nighter. An all-nighter cannot be scheduled with this low an attendance. The meeting was adjourned.



Fifth Fleet November-December 2003 Summary, by Tracy Johnson

This includes both October and November, I don't recall sending a report at the end of October.

Iran Details:

Iran launched a Chinese-made Silkworm missile at Empty Tanker PIVOT in hex 3513 from Larak Island, damaging her.

US Allied Details:

A Surface Anti-Submarine attack was executed on a detected Chinese submarine 1 hex west of the Omani Port of Raysut but it failed. This was in retaliation of the sinking of the British carrier earlier.

B-52s from Diego Garcia launched a cruise missile attack on the Chinese air base at Kashi and did little or no damage.

Pakistan:

A combined U.S./Pakistan attack of (US) F-117s, EA-6s (PAK) Mirage-3 and F-16s were repulsed by a highly trained and motivated air patrol of (CHINESE) M-31S, M-29S, and damaged (INDIAN) S-27s. The incoming Pakistani Mirage-3 squadron was damaged.

France:

A combined U.S./French Air Anti-Submarine attack on the same submarine above was also attempted, but the wily Chinese submarine escaped again.

Saudi Arabia:

Saudi SSMs are struck the Indian Corvette Task Force just SW of Bandar Khomeni and sunk one Corvette Flotilla (FLOT1). This will lower the status to a Task Group at the end the Turn. (The Indians should not have been so far from home waters.)

The Jihad Brotherhood:

They took a pass this turn. They may be gathering intelligence or are casing a site for their next attack.

China:

Air launched missiles struck the Full Tanker "Buyuk Hun" in the open ocean Northwest of Diego Garcia and damaged her, causing a large oil slick. Environmental groups are protesting outside the Chinese embassies in Europe.

Stray Bullets, by Dave Peterson

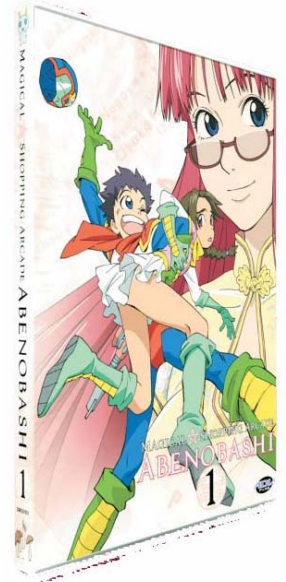
Okay, gang. Christmas is upon us and Thanksgiving is behind us. There are a few new releases this month, but in truth most publishers prefer to have their Christmas offerings out by October. Two new lines from Wizkids will shortly be heading your way: MLB SportsClix, the baseball game that puts you in charge of the starting lineup, and Critical Mass, the third expansion for Marvel HeroClix. Critical Mass adds Silver Surfer, Adam Warlock, the Brood, Norrin Radd, Rhino, Mole Man, and Terrax. If you know who all these guys are, you're sure to love Critical Mass. If not, make an appointment with the ACE comic bins.

The gaming action this month is in Mage Knight 2.0. The new system has enough options, enough cheese, and little enough painting, to make just about

everyone happy. Also look for opponents to be plentiful if you are playing HeroClix Critical Mass or Mechwarrior. Speaking of Mechwarrior, keep an eye out for the new Counterassault expansion in January, featuring triple-strength myomer, positive heat effects, and more badness from the dreaded House Liao.

Kenzer & Company released another must-have volume for your role-playing library. The World's Most Complete Arms & Equipment Guide includes detailed information on exotic and basic weapons, every-day items to give texture to your campaign, coins, food, clothing, drinks, and tools. Rules are included for both Hackmaster and d20. It's on my Christmas list, how about yours?

There are plenty of Anime releases on U.S. DVD to keep every gamer entertained through the long winter. Some excellent new releases to check out include Initial D, King of Bandit Jing, RahXephon, Angelic Layer, Haibane Renmei, and Full Metal Panic. If you are a hard-core Anime fan looking for something completely different, check out Magical Shopping Arcade Abenobashi. In this series a boy and a girl jump from world to world trying to get home to the "real" Abenobashi. But each world is a parody of a type of Anime or Sci-Fi. Shasshi and Arumi stumble through a fantasy console-game world, a sci-fi mecha world, a dinosaur world, and more. Anime fans will find characters that look suspiciously familiar from Ranma, Robotech, Power Rangers, Lum, Hong Kong martial arts shows, Digimon, Pokemon, and more. This is a 17+ rated video, so don't put it in your kids' stockings.



Tracy forwarded me a press release on the new edition of Axis and Allies. Fans of this classic board game will be treated to a shiny new version by Hasbro in 2004, complete with units that are made to look like authentic WWII vehicles, updated graphics, and tuned-up historical realism.

The rest of the new releases will have you losing sleep. Steve Jackson is re-releasing Snit's Revenge and The Awful Green Things from Outer Space. Then there's Games Workshop's new Return of the King game and miniatures, BreakKey Battle Packs, and a new line of Hamtaro finger puppets.

Have a great holiday season and buy lots of boosters, games, DVD's, books, and miniatures. I only have to pick up a couple of lumps of coal for my shopping, so I should be able to pick up a few things myself!

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\$30 thru Feb

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